South Dakota’s farmers and ranchers are good stewards of the land, committed to feeding the world while protecting and preserving our precious natural resources. South Dakota producers provide not only our nation, but the world, with the food, feed, fiber, and fuel it depends on. Advances in technology allow farmers and ranchers to produce more food with fewer inputs and give producers additional tools to ensure that each acre is utilized to its highest potential, whether that is as cropland, grazing land, or habitat.

South Dakota has:
- 277 million acres in forestland
- 1.96 million acres of forestland
- 110,000 acres of oats
- 1.4 million acres of hay
- 2.2 million acres of wheat
- 1.7 million acres of alfalfa
- 540,000 acres of sunflowers
- 200,000 acres of sorghum
- 9,000 acres of flaxseed

South Dakota consistently ranks in the top ten for production of several crops

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product</th>
<th>2017 National Rank</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oats</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunflowers</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flaxseed</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popcorn</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corn</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hay</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

South Dakota grows a wide variety of specialty crops, including garlic, aronia berries, and hops.

FACT

More than 7 million acres in South Dakota is enrolled in the Conservation Stewardship Program, which works with producers to increase soil health and water quality on their cropland and pastures. More acres are enrolled in South Dakota than in any other state in the nation.

FACT

South Dakota consistently ranks in the top ten for production of several crops.

The average age of a South Dakota farmer or rancher is 56 years.

Agriculture is a major contributor to South Dakota’s economy. Our farm and ranch families take great pride in being stewards of the land and providing the world safe, nutritious, healthy food. Agriculture is more than a job to our producers — it is a career, a tradition, a passion, and a way of life. The longevity of South Dakota’s family operations shows the dedication and resiliency our farmers and ranchers possess. South Dakota always has been and will continue to be an agricultural state. Our producers are progressive, coming from growers and mailers to no-till drills and combines equipped with Global Positioning Systems. Although the tools have changed, agriculture remains the common thread linking the citizens, businesses and communities of our state.

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Agriculture has a $26.5 billion impact on South Dakota’s economy.

115,651 South Dakotans are employed in the agriculture industry. That’s 1 in 5 South Dakotans!

5 million acres of corn
9 million acres of soybeans
110,000 acres of oats
2.2 million acres of wheat
2.1 million acres of alfalfa
540,000 acres of sunflowers
200,000 acres of sorghum
5,000 acres of flaxseed

Unless otherwise cited, all facts are from the United States Department of Agriculture’s Service of the USDA.
### United States Department of Agriculture

#### National Agricultural Statistics Service

**South Dakota Rank in U.S. Agriculture**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Commodity and Date</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Beef, inventory, Census of Agriculture, 2012</td>
<td>33,837</td>
<td>head</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Wheat, production, 2016</td>
<td>9,020,000</td>
<td>bushels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Sunflower, oil, production, 2016</td>
<td>56,760,000</td>
<td>pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Hogs and Pigs, production, 2016</td>
<td>19,880,000</td>
<td>pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Sunflower, All, production, 2016</td>
<td>1,057,020,000</td>
<td>pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Soybeans, production, 2016</td>
<td>9,204,000</td>
<td>units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Flaxseed, production, 2016</td>
<td>144,000</td>
<td>bushels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Millet, Proso, production, 2016</td>
<td>1,646,000</td>
<td>bushels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Safflower, production, 2016</td>
<td>20,350,000</td>
<td>pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sorghum for Stlage, production, 2016</td>
<td>520,000</td>
<td>tons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**South Dakota livestock producers take great pride in caring for their animals and their operations. They take responsibility for delivering safe and nutritious beef, pork, lamb, poultry, and dairy products to consumers in a sustainable manner by combining quality assurance techniques with common sense animal husbandry practices. Our producers are always looking for new ways to improve the methods they use in animal care. As our global population climbs to 9 billion people by 2050, South Dakota farmers and ranchers stand ready to supply the protein the world needs.**

**RANK COMMODITY AND DATE NUMBER UNIT**

- **Hogs and Pigs, All**
  - Production, 2016: 9,020,000 bushels, 13.1
- **South Dakota Department of Agriculture | 523 E Capitol Ave Pierre, SD  57501 | 605-773-5425 | agmail@state.sd.us | http://sdda.sd.gov**

---

**Annual Livestock Inventory**

- **Sheep and Lambs**: 250,000
- **Cattle and Calves**: 3.9 million
- **Poultry**: 4.1 million
- **Beef Cows**: 1.5 million
- **Laying Hens**: 2.8 million
- **Milk Cows**: 47,250,000
- **Dairy Cows**: 117,000
- **Sorghum for Silage**: 520,000 tons
- **Sorghum for Grain**: 825,930,000 bushels
- **Safflower**: 144,000 bushels
- **Sunflower**: 271,000,000 bushels
- **Flaxseed**: 380,000 bushels
- **Wheat**: 4,174,000 bushels
- **Corn for Grain**: 19,880,000 bushels
- **Wheat, Winter**: 1,756,000 tons
- **Wheat, Spring**: 3,400,000 tons
- **Sunflower, All**: 19,880,000 bushels
- **Soybeans**: 225,915,000 bushels

**FACT**

- One pig produces 45 pounds of bacon.**

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**Economic Impact of the Livestock Industry**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beef</td>
<td>$1 billion</td>
<td>$4.4 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pork</td>
<td>$1 billion</td>
<td>$2 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poultry</td>
<td>$1 billion</td>
<td>$1.7 billion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FACT**

- In 2016, milk cows in South Dakota produced 3.5 billion pounds of milk. That’s almost 300 million gallons!

**FACT**

- As a leading livestock state, South Dakota ranks near the top in several production areas.

**FACT**

- South Dakota is home to more than 15,000 beef producers.