

South Dakota Agriculture

the common thread

2014



Crops, Forestry & Conservation

South Dakota Farm and Ranch Family Facts

- The average size of a farm or ranch in South Dakota is 1,395 acres.
- 98% of farms and ranches in South Dakota are family owned and operated.
- More than 2,500 South Dakota farms have been in the same family for more than 100 years.
- The average age of a South Dakota farmer or rancher is 57 years.
- There are 46,000 producers in South Dakota on 31,000 farms or ranches.
- Each year, one South Dakota producer raises enough food to feed 155 people in the U.S. and abroad.

Agriculture is South Dakota's #1 industry. 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 plows and mules 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.

Our South Dakota farmers and ranchers have always been stewards of the land, looking for better practices and safer methods to grow crops for the world. In the last 50 years, crop production has increased greatly in South Dakota as our farmers have embraced new technologies, better hybrids and more efficient land-use practices. Today, farmers are using less crop protectants while bringing in higher yields than ever before. South Dakota producers are committed to providing food, feed, fiber and fuel for the world.

South Dakota's Forestry Industry

- 558.4 million trees in forestland
- 1.9 million acres of forestland
- 17 wood/paper manufacturing facilities
- 3,188 people employed in the forestry industry



FACT

Farmer and rancher advanced conservation activities have improved the health of nearly four million acres of cropland and grassland across the state.

FACT

In the last three years, more than 1,500 South Dakota farms and ranches participated in the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) through the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

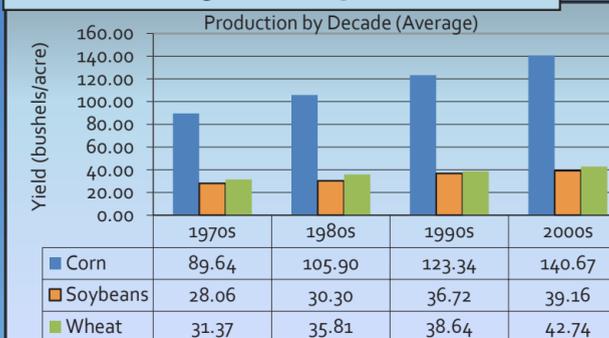


South Dakota consistently ranks in the top ten for production of several crops.

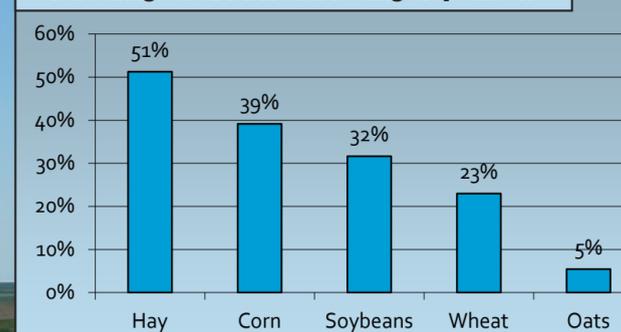
Product	2012 National Rank
Alfalfa	5
Sunflowers	2
Hay	9
Flaxseed	2
Oats	7
Wheat	6
Corn	6
Soybeans	9



Average Annual Crop Yields



Percentage of SD Farms Harvesting Crops (2007)



South Dakota Acres Harvested

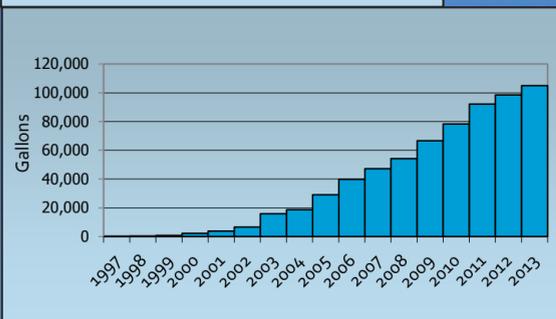
5.3 million acres of corn
 4.71 million acres of soybeans
 3.1 million acres of hay
 2.28 million acres of wheat
 1.85 million acres of alfalfa
 623,000 acres of sunflowers
 50,000 acres of oats
 30,000 acres of millet
 12,900 acres of pulse crops

Agriculture's Impact on South Dakota

South Dakota's agriculture industry has a **\$214 billion** economic impact each year. With more than **19 million** acres of cropland and **23 million** acres of pastureland, our farmers and ranchers are one of our economy's key drivers. In addition to generating **20 percent** of our state's economic activity, production agriculture and its value-added industries employ over **122,000** South Dakotans. This economic impact is a direct result of our production capacity and investment in value-added industries. Businesses ranging from ethanol plants and livestock feeding operations to farmers markets and wineries are capitalizing on agriculture's competitive and comparative advantages for economic development in South Dakota.



Wine Production in South Dakota



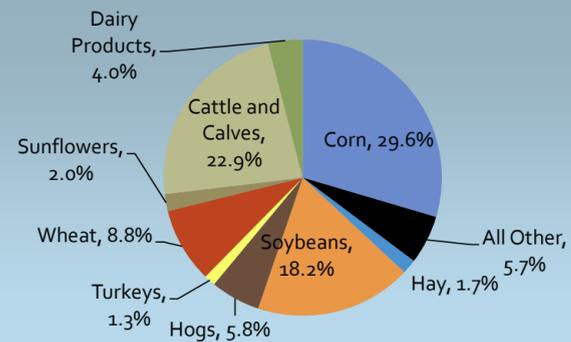
FACT

South Dakota wineries have produced over 3.3 million bottles of wine since 1997.

FACT

In South Dakota, corn average yields increased from 109 bushels in 2001 to 132 bushels per acre in 2011.

South Dakota Cash Receipts (2011)



Data courtesy of USDA NASS, SD Corn, USDA NRCS, SDSU



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Animal & Value-Added Agriculture

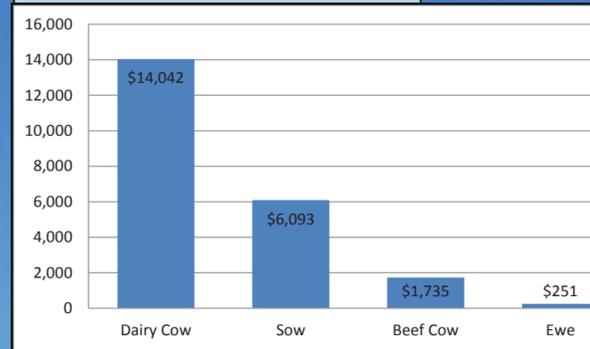
South Dakota livestock producers take great pride in caring for their animals and their operations. They take responsibility for delivering safe and nutritious beef, pork, lamb, poultry and dairy products to consumers in a sustainable manner by combining quality assurance techniques with common sense 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** in the next 40 years, South Dakota farmers and ranchers stand ready to supply the protein the world needs.



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

Product	2013 National Rank
Bison	1
Calves born	5
Sheep and Lambs	6
Cattle and Calves	9
Pigs Born	9
Hogs	11

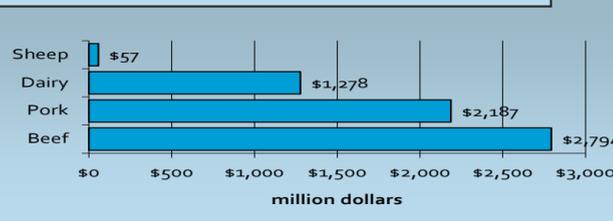
Economic Impact per Animal



FACT

In 2012, South Dakota produced over 265 million pounds of manufactured cheese products.

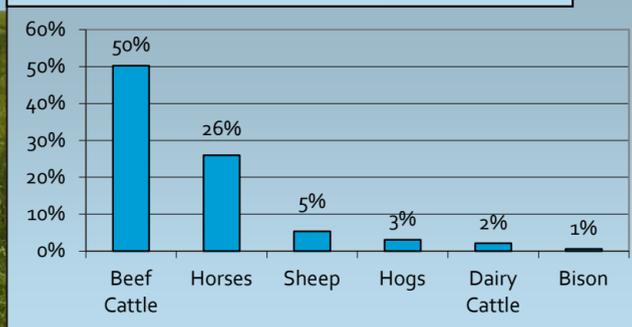
Economic Impact of the Livestock Industry



FACT

South Dakota produces more than 1.96 billion pounds of milk per year.

Percentage of SD Farms Raising Livestock



Annual Livestock Inventory

- 3.85 million cattle and calves
- 1.2 million hogs and pigs
- 92,000 dairy cows
- 275,000 sheep and lambs
- 38,700 bison
- 2.288 million laying hens
- 270,000 honey bee colonies
- 4.6 million turkeys

FACT

In 2012, hog and pig production in South Dakota brought \$621,419,000 to the state.

FACT

South Dakota has nearly 5 beef cattle for every state resident.

FACT

The average beef cow herd size in South Dakota is 235 head.



Ag United