South Dakota Agriculture

the common thread

2016 South Dakota Department of Agriculture

Crops, Forestry & Conservation

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 Family Farms and Ranches

98 % of South Dakota farms and ranches are family owned and operated

The average size of a farm/ranch in South Dakota is 1,374 acres

The average age of a South Dakota farmer or rancher is 57 years

1916 — 2016

Each year, one SD producer raises enough food to feed 155 people in the U.S. and abroad

More than 3,000 South Dakota farms have been in the same family for 100 years or more

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 posess. 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.

South Dakota's Forestry Industry

- 573 million trees in forestland[+]
- 1.95 million acres of forestland[+]
- 17 wood/paper manufacturing facilities[♦]
- 3,471 South Dakotans employed in the forestry industry[♦]

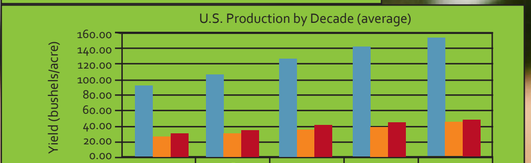
Photo: SD Tourism

Photo: Katie Bernat

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

Product	2016 National Rank
Sunflowers	1
Oats	2
Alfalfa	3
Flaxseed	3
Proso Millet	3
Corn	6
Wheat	6
Soybeans	7

Average Annual Crop Yields



	1970s	1980s	1990s	2000s	2010s
Corn	89.64	105.90	123.34	140.67	153.33
Soybeans	28.06	30.30	36.72	39.16	44.16
Wheat	31.37	35.81	39.64	42.74	45.05

Photo: SD Tourism

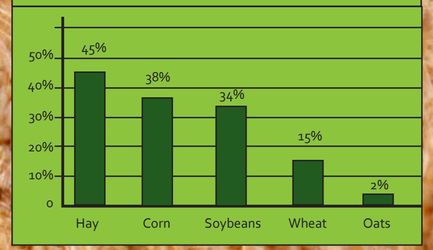
FACT

Of South Dakota's 49 million acres of land and water, almost 4% is forestland.[+]

Photo: SD Tourism

Photo: SD Tourism

Percentage of SD Farms Harvesting Crops*



* Values based on most recent US Census of Agriculture (2012)

[+]Data from USDA Forest Service

[♦]Data from American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA)

South Dakota Acres Harvested

5 million acres of corn
5.1 million acres of soybeans
3.4 million acres of hay
2.2 million acres of wheat
1.9 million acres of alfalfa
662,000 acres of sunflowers
145,000 acres of oats
61,000 acres of millet
11,600 acres of pulse crops

Photo: SD Tourism

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
National Agricultural Statistics Service

South Dakota Rank in U.S. Agriculture

U.S. RANK	COMMODITY AND DATE	NUMBER	UNIT	PERCENT OF U.S. TOTAL
1	Bison, inventory, Census of Agriculture, 2012	33,637	head	20.7
	Sunflower, All, production, 2015	1,230,040,000	pounds	42.1
2	Honey, production, 2015	19,140,000	pounds	12.2
	Oats, production, 2015	12,615,000	bushels	14.1
3	Flaxseed, production, 2015	288,000	bushels	2.9
	Hay, Alfalfa, production, 2015	4,180,000	tons	7.1
	Hay, All, production, 2015	6,580,000	tons	4.9
	Millet, Proso, production, 2015	1,891,000	bushels	13.4
4	Beans, Dry Edible, Navy, production, 2015	49,000	cwt	1.1
	Wheat, Spring, production, 2015	60,480,000	bushels	10.1
5	Beef Cows, All, inventory, January 1, 2016	1,690,000	head	5.6
	Calf Crop, inventory, 2015	1,660,000	head	4.8
	Lamb Crop, inventory, 2015	215,000	head	6.3
	Land in Farms, 2015	43,300,000	acres	4.7
	Popcorn, production, Census of Agriculture, 2012	27,686,379	pounds	3.5
	Sorghum for Silage, production, 2015	243,000	tons	5.4
6	Beans, Dry Edible, Chickpeas, production, 2015	46,000	cwt	1.8
	Corn for Grain, production, 2015	799,770,000	bushels	5.9
	Sheep and Lambs, All, inventory, January 1, 2016	255,000	head	4.8
	Sheep and Lambs, Market, inventory, January 1, 2016	55,000	head	4.1
	Wheat, All, production, 2015	103,406,000	bushels	5.0
	Wheat, Durum, production, 2015	246,000	bushels	0.3
7	Cattle and Calves, All, inventory, January 1, 2016	3,950,000	head	4.3
	Cattle on Feed, inventory, January 1, 2016	435,000	head	3.3
	On Farm Grain Storage Capacity, December 1, 2015	710,000,000	bushels	5.4
	Sorghum for Grain, production, 2015	18,260,000	bushels	3.1
	Soybeans, production, 2015	235,520,000	bushels	6.0
	Wool, production, 2015	1,750,000	pounds	6.5
8	Corn for Silage, production, 2015	5,280,000	tons	4.2
	Cropland, total, acres, Census of Agriculture, 2012	19,147,320	acres	4.9
	Principal Crops Harvested, 2015	17,253,000	acres	5.7
	Principal Crops Planted, 2015	18,100,000	acres	5.7
9	Wheat, Winter, production, 2015	42,680,000	bushels	3.1
	Pig Crop, inventory, 2015	3,803,000	head	3.2
	Hay, Other, production, 2015	2,400,000	tons	3.2
10	Off Farm Grain Storage Capacity, December 1, 2015	394,000,000	bushels	3.6
11	Hogs and Pigs, All, inventory, December 1, 2015	1,360,000	head	2.0
12	Cash Receipts from Farm Marketings, 2014	10,873,701,000	dollars	2.6
	Beans, Dry Edible, Pinto, production, 2015	51,000	cwt	0.5

* Photos courtesy of the South Dakota Department of Tourism

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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** by 2050, South Dakota farmers and ranchers stand ready to supply the protein the world needs.

FACT

In 2015, hog and pig production in South Dakota brought $453,177,000 to the state.

Photo: SDDA

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

Product	2016 National Rank
Bison	1
Calves Born	5
Sheep and Lambs	6
Cattle and Calves	7
Pigs Born	9
Hogs	11

FACT

In 2015, South Dakota produced over 278 million pounds of manufactured cheese products.

Photo: SDDA

Photo: SD Tourism

Economic Impact of the Livestock Industry*

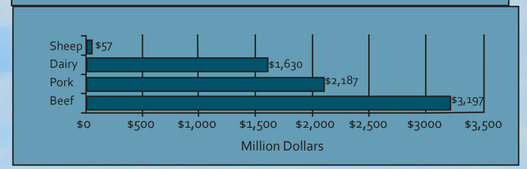


Photo: SDDA

Annual Livestock Inventory

3.9 million cattle and calves
1.4 million hogs and pigs
106,000 dairy cows
255,000 sheep and lambs
33,637 bison*
1.6 million laying hens
290,000 honey bee colonies
4.3 million turkeys

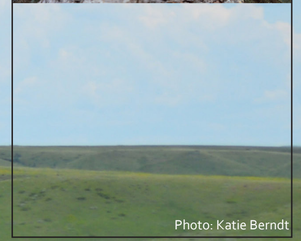
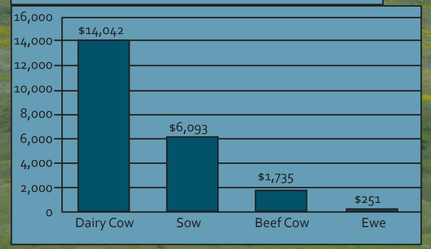


Photo: Katie Berndt

Economic Impact Per Animal**



* Values based on most recent US Census of Agriculture (2012)
** Data from South Dakota State University

FACT

South Dakota produces more than 19 million pounds of honey per year.

Photo: SDDA

FACT

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

Photo: Katie Berndt