

Nebraska Agriculture Fact Card

A cooperative effort of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture,
USDA, NASS, Nebraska Field Office, Nebraska Bankers Association

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Nebraska's Top National Rankings

- 1st Beef and beef product exports, 2017 – \$1,264,739,056
Commercial red meat production, 2018 – 8,108,300,000 lbs. (3,677,863,014 kg)
Commercial cattle slaughter, 2018 – 7,453,900 head
Great Northern bean production, 2018 – 975,000 cwt. (49,532,287 kg)
All cattle on feed, Jan 1, 2019 – 2,750,000 head
Popcorn production, 2012 – 353,711,118 lbs. (160,440,664 kg)
- 2nd All cattle and calves, Jan. 1, 2019 – 6,800,000 head
All hay production, 2018 - 6,985,000 tons (6,336,685,409 kg)
Pinto bean production, 2018 – 1,488,000 cwt. (75,593,890 kg)
Proso millet production, 2018 – 2,848,000 bushels (77,509,744 kg)
Light red kidney bean production, 2018 – 268,000 cwt (13,615,029 kg)
Bison, number of head, Dec. 31, 2012 – 23,152
- 3rd Corn for grain production, 2018 – 1,787,520,000 bushels (45,405,104,260 kg)
Corn exports, 2017 – \$1,021,300,000
Cash receipts from all livestock and products, 2017 – \$12,463,811,000
- 4th Beef cows, number head, Jan. 1, 2019 – 1,941,000
Cash receipts from all farm commodities, 2017 – \$21,334,419,000
Land in farms and ranches, 2017 – 45,200,000 acres (18,291,791 ha)
- 5th Soybean exports, 2017 - \$1,532,500,000
Soybean production, 2018 – 333,350,000 bushels (9,072,300,992 kg)
Alfalfa hay production, 2018 – 3,655,000 tons (3,315,760,225 kg)
Harvested acres of principal crops, 2018 – 19,419,000 acres (7,858,590 ha)
Cash receipts from all crops, 2017 – \$8,870,608,000
Grain sorghum production, 2018 – 15,980,000 bushels (405,910,740 kg)
Sugar beet production, 2018 – 1,407,000 tons (1,276,408,929 kg)
Egg and egg product exports, 2017 - \$24,987,246
Pork and pork product exports, 2017 - \$479,016,596
- 6th All dry edible bean production, 2018 – 3,249,000 cwt. (165,056,820 kg)
Agricultural exports, 2017 – \$6,397,400,000
Commercial hog slaughter, 2018 – 7,874,000 head
- 7th Sunflower, production, 2018 – 47,380,000 lbs (21,491,206 kg)
All hogs and pigs on farms, Dec. 1, 2018 – 3,500,000 head
- 8th Winter wheat production, 2018 – 49,490,000 bushels (1,346,895,095 kg)

Nebraska Ag Facts

- Cash receipts from farm marketings contributed over \$21 billion to Nebraska's economy in 2017 and 5.7% of the U.S. total.
- Nebraska's ten leading commodities (in order of value) for 2017 cash receipts are cattle and calves, corn, soybeans, hogs, dairy products (milk), wheat, hay, chicken eggs, potatoes and dry beans.
- Every dollar in agricultural exports generates \$1.28 in economic activities such as transportation, financing, warehousing and production. Nebraska's \$6.4 billion in agricultural exports in 2017 translate into \$8.19 billion in additional economic activity.
- Nebraska's top five agricultural exports in 2017 were soybeans, beef and veal, corn, feeds and fodders, and processed grain products.
- Nebraska had 47,400 farms and ranches during 2017; the average operation consisted of 954 acres (386 ha).
- In 2017, Nebraska ranked second in ethanol production capacity, with 25 operating plants having production capacity of more than 2 billion gallons (757,80,242 daL). Approximately 40% of the state's 2018 corn crop was utilized in ethanol production.
- Livestock or poultry operations were found on 49% of Nebraska farms.
- The top five counties ranked by agricultural sales in 2012 were Cuming, Custer, Dawson, Lincoln, and Phelps.
- In 2015, Nebraska was 12th nationally in certified organic cropland acres (85,172) (34,468 ha.) and in 2011, ranked 8th in certified organic pasture acres (53,174) (21,519 ha).
- 1 in 4 jobs in Nebraska are related to agriculture.
- The average age of a Nebraska principal operator was 55.7 in 2012.
- During the 5-year period between 2007 and 2012, Nebraska experienced a 5% increase in the number of farms and a 10% increase in the number of new farmers.
- From east to west, Nebraska experiences a 4,584 foot elevation difference and the average annual precipitation decreases by one inch every 25 miles, allowing Nebraska to have a diverse agricultural industry from one side of the state to the other.

Nebraska's Natural Resources

- Nebraska's farms and ranches utilize 45.2 million acres – 91% of the state's total land area.
- Nebraska is fortunate to have aquifers below it. If poured over the surface of the state, the water in those aquifers would have a depth of 37.9 feet (11.6 meters). The state has 96,509 registered, active irrigation wells supplying water to over 8.3 million acres of harvested cropland and pasture. Of the total cropland harvested during 2012, 44 percent was irrigated.
- Nearly 80,000 miles of rivers and streams add to Nebraska's bountiful natural resources.
- There are nearly 23 million acres (9,307,806 ha) of rangeland and pastureland in Nebraska – half of which are in the Sandhills.

Sources: USDA NASS, Lincoln, NE, USDA ERS, USDA FAS
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