

Nebraska Agriculture Fact Card

February 2022

Nebraska's Top National Rankings

- 1st Commercial cattle slaughter, 2021 – 7,091,600 head
Great Northern bean production, 2021 – 874,000 cwt. (44,401,249 kg)
Popcorn production, 2017* – 368,620,976 lbs. (165,879,439 kg)
Cash receipts per capita, 2020 - \$10,832
- 2nd Beef and veal exports, 2021 – \$1,811,999,179
All cattle and calves, Jan. 1, 2022 – 6,800,000 head
All cattle on feed, Jan. 1, 2022 – 2,820,000 head
Commercial red meat production, 2021 - 7,967,200,000 lbs. (3,613,861,130 kg)
Alfalfa hay production, 2021 – 3,731,000 tons (3,384,706,265 kg)
Ethanol production, 2021 – 2,296,000,000 gallons
Pinto bean production, 2021 – 1,446,000 cwt. (73,460,191 kg)
Proso millet production, 2021 – 3,840,000 bushels (87,089,735 kg)
Light red kidney bean production, 2021 – 182,000 cwt. (9,246,026 kg)
Bison, 2017* – 28,047 head
- 3rd Corn for grain production, 2021 – 1,854,640,000 bushels (47,107,856,000 kg)
Corn exports, 2020 – \$1,185,000,000
Cash receipts all farm commodities, 2020 – \$21,248,190,000, 5.8% of the U.S. total
All hay production, 2021 – 6,289,000 tons (5,705,284,830 kg)
- 4th Beef cows, Jan. 1, 2022 – 1,832,000 head
Soybean production, 2021 – 350,910,000 bushels (9,550,191,105 kg)
Grain sorghum production, 2021 – 19,780,000 bushels (502,412,000 kg)
Cash receipts from all crops, 2020 – \$10,349,015,000
Cash receipts from all livestock and products, 2020 – \$10,899,175,000
All dry edible bean production, 2021 – 2,780,000 cwt. (141,230,520 kg)
Land in farms and ranches, 2021 – 44,800,000 acres (18,129,916 ha)
Dry edible pea production, 2021 – 354,000 cwt. (17,984,030 kg)
- 5th Soybean exports, 2020 – \$1,907,300,000
Sugar beet production, 2021 – 1,397,000 tons (1,267,337,082 kg)
Harvested acres of principal crops, 2021 – 19,453,000 acres (7,872,350 ha)
Agricultural exports, 2020 – \$7,141,300,000
Total animal products exports, 2020 – \$1,677,200,000
- 6th Commercial hog slaughter, 2021 – 7,765,300 head
All hogs and pigs on farms, Dec. 1, 2021 – 3,600,000 head
- 8th Sunflower production, 2021 – 34,550,000 lbs. (15,671,616 kg)
Organic cropland acres, 2019 - 146,803 acres (362,758 hectares)
Pork exports, 2021 – \$325,778,002
- 11th Winter wheat production, 2021 – 41,160,000 bushels (1,120,189,980 kg)

Nebraska Ag Facts

- Nebraska's 10 leading commodities (in order of value) for 2020 cash receipts are cattle and calves, corn, soybeans, hogs, dairy products (milk), misc. crops, hay, wheat, chicken eggs, and dry edible beans.
- In 2020, every dollar in agricultural exports generated \$1.03 in economic activities such as transportation, financing, warehousing and production. Nebraska's \$7.1 billion in agricultural exports in 2020 translates into \$7.4 billion in additional economic activity.
- Nebraska's top five agricultural exports in 2020 were soybeans and soybean products, beef, corn, pork, and ethanol.
- Nebraska had 44,800 farms and ranches during 2021; the average operation consisted of 1,000 acres (405 ha).
- In 2021, Nebraska ranked second in ethanol production capacity, with 25 operating plants having production capacity of almost 2.6 billion gallons. Approximately 31% of Nebraska's 2021 corn crop was utilized in ethanol production.
- Livestock or poultry operations were found on 48% of Nebraska farms.
- The top five counties ranked by agricultural sales from the 2017 Census of Agriculture were Cuming, Custer, Lincoln, Dawson and Platte.*
- 1 in 4 jobs in Nebraska are related to agriculture.
- The average age of a Nebraska principal operator was 56.4 according to the 2017 Census of Agriculture.*
- 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 44.8 million acres (18,129,916 ha), 92% 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).
- Nearly 80,000 miles of rivers and streams add to Nebraska's bountiful natural resources.
- There are 22 million acres (8,915,803 ha) of rangeland and pastureland in Nebraska, half of which are in the Sandhills.

Sources: USDA NASS, USDA ERS, USDA FAS, Global Ag Trade System

Information gathered by the Nebraska Department of Agriculture, 402-471-2341

*2017 Census of Agriculture data will be updated with the release of the 2022 Census of Agriculture Report.