

Nebraska Agriculture Fact Card

February 2021

Nebraska's Top National Rankings

- 1st Commercial cattle slaughter, 2020 – 6,982,000 head
Great Northern bean production, 2020 – 1,332,000 cwt. (67,668,724 kg)
Popcorn production, 2017 – 368,620,976 lbs. (165,879,439 kg)
- 2nd Beef and veal exports, 2020 – \$1,296,170,000
All cattle and calves, Jan. 1, 2021 – 6,850,000 head
All cattle on feed, Jan. 1, 2021 – 2,720,000 head
Commercial red meat production, 2020 - 7,910,900,000 lbs. (3,588,323,879 kg)
Ethanol production, 2020 – 2,176,000,000 gallons
Pinto bean production, 2020 – 1,779,000 cwt. (90,377,372 kg)
Proso millet production, 2020 – 3,000,000 bushels (68,040,000 kg)
Light red kidney bean production, 2020 – 212,000 cwt. (10,770,097 kg)
Bison, 2017 – 28,047 head
- 3rd Corn for grain production, 2020 – 1,790,090,000 bushels (45,468,286,000 kg)
Corn exports, 2019 – \$958,700,000
Cash receipts from all farm commodities, 2019 – \$21,436,242,000
Grain sorghum production, 2020 – 13,650,000 bushels (346,710,000 kg)
All hay production, 2020 – 6,370,000 tons (5,778,766,794 kg)
- 4th Beef cows, Jan. 1, 2021 – 1,900,000 head
Total animal products exports, 2018 – \$1,848,400,000
Cash receipts from all crops, 2019 – \$9,537,120,000
Cash receipts from all livestock and products, 2019 – \$11,899,121,000
All dry edible bean production, 2020 – 3,607,000 cwt. (183,244,060 kg)
Alfalfa hay production, 2020 – 3,268,000 tons (2,964,679,730kg)
Land in farms and ranches, 2019 – 44,900,000 acres (18,170,385 ha)
- 5th Soybean exports, 2019 – \$1,357,300,000
Soybean production, 2020 – 294,120,000 bushels (8,004,622,860 kg)
Sugar beet production, 2020 – 1,417,000 tons (1,285,480,777 kg)
Harvested acres of principal crops, 2020 – 19,471,000 acres (7,879,634 ha)
- 6th Agricultural exports, 2019 – \$6,293,900,000
Commercial hog slaughter, 2020 – 7,963,800 head
- 7th Sunflower production, 2020 – 46,110,000 lbs. (20,915,144 kg)
All hogs and pigs on farms, Dec. 1, 2020 – 3,650,000 head
Pork exports, 2020 – \$426,036,000
- 8th Organic cropland acres, 2019 - 146,803 acres (362,758 hectares)
- 12th Winter wheat production, 2020 – 34,030,000 bushels (926,143,465 kg)

Nebraska Ag Facts

- Cash receipts from farm marketings contributed more than \$21.4 billion to Nebraska's economy in 2019 and 5.8% of the U.S. total.
- Nebraska's 10 leading commodities (in order of value) for 2019 cash receipts are cattle and calves, corn, soybeans, hogs, dairy products (milk), misc. crops, hay, wheat, chicken eggs, and potatoes.
- Every dollar in agricultural exports generates \$1.28 in economic activities such as transportation, financing, warehousing and production. Nebraska's \$5.8 billion in agricultural exports in 2019 translate into \$7.4 billion in additional economic activity.
- Nebraska's top five agricultural exports in 2019 were soybeans and soybean products, beef, corn, pork, and ethanol.
- Nebraska had 45,700 farms and ranches during 2019; the average operation consisted of 982 acres (397 ha).
- In 2020, Nebraska ranked second in ethanol production capacity, with 25 operating plants having production capacity of more than 2.2 billion gallons. Approximately 35% of Nebraska's 2019 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 44.9 million acres (18,170,385 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*