

# Nebraska Agriculture



FUN FACTS

Brought to you by: The Nebraska Department of Agriculture

# Agriculture is EVERYWHERE!

Nebraska agriculture contributes billions of dollars to our economy each year. Products we use in our everyday lives come from plant and animal by-products produced by farmers and ranchers.

## Health



Medicine  
Surgical Sutures  
Ointments  
Latex Gloves  
X-Ray Film  
Gelatin for Capsules  
Heart Valves



## Personal Care

Shampoo  
Cosmetics  
Lotions  
Fingernail Polish  
Toothpaste



## Transportation

Fuel  
Lubricants  
Antifreeze  
Tires  
Upholstery



## Manufacturing

Detergents  
Paper  
Ink



## Education

Crayons  
Textbooks  
Chalk  
Desks  
Pencils  
Paper



## Sports

Uniforms  
Baseball Bats  
Leather Equipment  
Shoes  
Football







**There are 12 eggs hidden in the pages of this book. Can you find them all?**



# EGGS

It takes 24-26 hours for a hen to produce an egg; there are 30 minutes between each egg-producing cycle.

Egg shells may have as many as 17,000 tiny pores over their surface. Through them, the egg can absorb flavors and odors. Storing them in their cartons helps keep them fresh!

Eggs that are a week or so old are easier to peel than very fresh eggs when cooked in the shell.

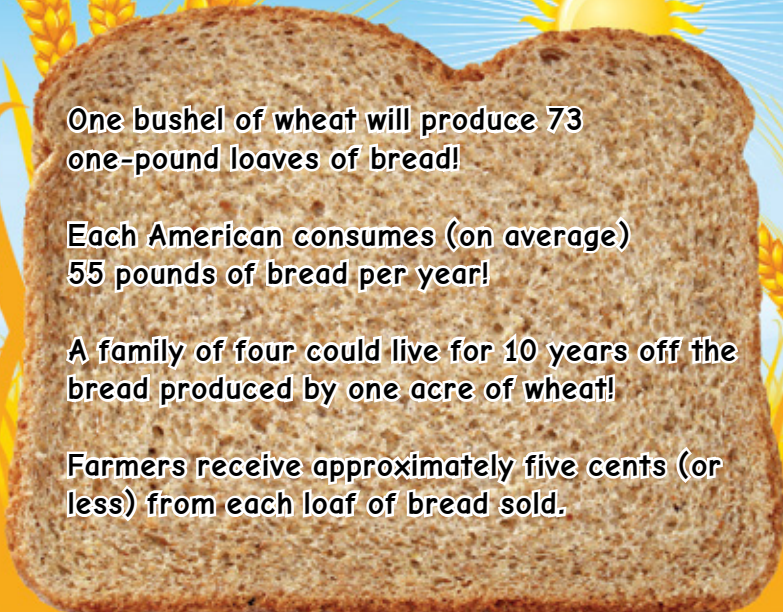
# WHEAT

One bushel of wheat will produce 73 one-pound loaves of bread!

Each American consumes (on average) 55 pounds of bread per year!

A family of four could live for 10 years off the bread produced by one acre of wheat!

Farmers receive approximately five cents (or less) from each loaf of bread sold.



# BEEF COWS

There are several cattle breeds that are bred for beef production, including black Angus and red Hereford.



What cut of beef is your favorite?



Steak



Roast



Hamburger

## CATTLE FACTS:

Cattle are “ruminants,” or cud-chewing animals. They eat hay, corn, soybeans, grass, wheat, and silage.

Each cow eats about 25 pounds of grain, 60 pounds of silage, 30 pounds of hay, and drinks about 25 gallons of water each day.

A cow’s stomach has four compartments: the rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum.





Hamburger from a single steer will make about 720 quarter-pound hamburger patties.

On average, each American eats about 68 pounds of beef per year!



In addition to meat, cattle are the source of thousands of by-products, including leather, medicine, fertilizer, cosmetics, and tires.



Cattle outnumber people four to one in Nebraska.

Nebraska consistently ranks #1 in the nation for red meat production.

**One cowhide can produce 144 baseballs!**





# Corn

## DID YOU KNOW?



A single bushel of corn will sweeten more than 400 cans of soda.

Farmers grow corn on every continent, except Antarctica.

Each tassel on a corn plant releases as many as 5 million grains of pollen.



Most of the corn you see growing in the fields is not corn people eat, but is produced to feed livestock.



Guess how many kernels are on an average ear of corn.

Answer: 800

Nebraska is a major producer of corn and ethanol.

There are over 20 operating ethanol plants in Nebraska.





## what makes it POP?

Americans today consume 17.3 billion quarts of popped popcorn each year. The average American eats about 63 quarts.



Popcorn pops because the water is stored in a small circle of soft starch in each kernel. As the kernel is heated, the water heats, and the droplet of moisture is turned to steam. The steam builds up pressure until the kernel finally explodes to many times its original volume.



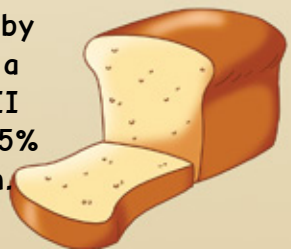
Microwave popcorn's kernels are usually larger than other popcorn kernels, and the packaging is designed for maximum popping power.



Nebraska consistently ranks first in the nation in popcorn production.

Popcorn has been used as an ingredient in pudding, candy, soup, and salad.

While the first breakfast cereal was made by adding sugar and milk to popped popcorn, a shortage of baking flour after World War II forced bread makers to substitute up to 25% of wheat flour with ground popped popcorn.



# DAIRY COWS

It takes about 20 minutes to milk a cow.



A dairy cow consumes 35 gallons of water, 20 pounds of grain and concentrated feed, and 35 pounds of hay or silage (a mix of corn and grass) in just one day!

A typical, full-grown Holstein cow weighs about 1,400 pounds and produces 60 pounds of milk daily.



One day's worth of milk can produce 2.6 pounds of butter, 7 gallons of milk, or 6 pounds of cheese.

It takes about 1.4 gallons of milk to make 1 gallon of ice cream.



Milk is also used to manufacture glue, paint, and plastics.



- One cow can produce 200,000 glasses of milk in its lifetime.
- In one year, a dairy cow produces 1,500 gallons, or 6,000 quarts of milk.
- The average U.S. dairy cow produces 22.5 quarts of milk per day. That's 16,000 glasses of milk per year - enough for about 40 people.





# PIGS

Heart valves from pigs are used to replace damaged or diseased human heart valves.

The average American eats 46 pounds of pork each year.

Most pigs are raised in barns to protect them from the weather.

A pig can run a 7-minute mile!



Pigs can't sweat because they don't have sweat glands. That is why they roll around in mud, to cool off!



A baby pig, or piglet, weighs about 3.5 pounds at birth and will double its weight in just seven days!

# SOYBEANS



Soybean production in the United States was increased after George Washington Carver discovered that the soybean crop was great for nutrient depleted soils. He developed over 300 uses for the soybean, such as edible oil and meal.

Soybeans were first brought to America in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

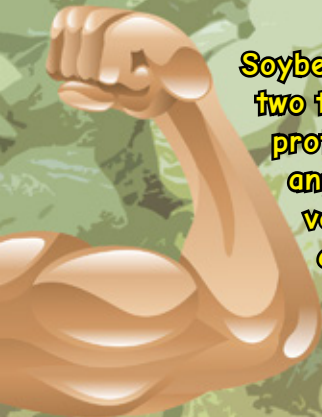
Today, the U.S. grows about 70 million acres of soybeans annually.

Common soybean food products include soy flour, soy milk, tofu, soy sauce, soy cheese, and baby formula.

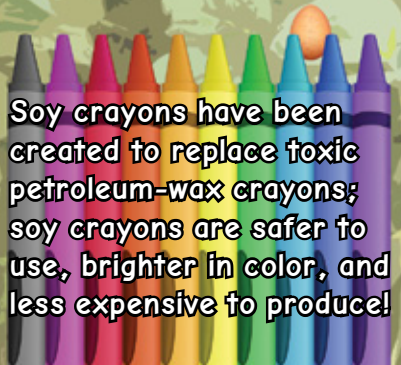
Soybeans are used in products like oils, soaps, cosmetics, plastics, inks, animal feed, and biodiesel fuel.



Soybeans can produce two times as much protein per acre than any other major vegetable or grain crop. This is great for building strong muscles!



Soy crayons have been created to replace toxic petroleum-wax crayons; soy crayons are safer to use, brighter in color, and less expensive to produce!





# DRY EDIBLE BEANS

## What are dry edible beans?

The name refers to both beans that are dry packaged in sealed bags and those that are precooked in cans. Dry edible beans include many different types of beans, such as the pinto, kidney, navy, lima, and black bean.



The lima and pinto beans were first cultivated over 5,000 years ago by ancient Mexican and Peruvian civilizations.



The United States is the world leader in dry edible bean production. Our farmers plant from 1.5 to 1.7 million acres of dry edible beans. These beans are sold both here in America, and are also shipped to markets all over the world.

Nebraska is a top producing dry edible bean state, especially in Great Northern bean and pinto bean production.



## GRAIN SORGHUM

Grain sorghum is one of Nebraska's main four row crops.

Another name for grain sorghum is milo.

Sorghum is gluten free, and is used in many foods for people with wheat allergies.

Sorghum originated in Africa.





# SHEEP & GOATS

Meat from goats is called chevon.

Meat from sheep is called lamb or mutton.

Goat meat is included in many ethnic dishes around the world.



Some goats provide mohair, other goats provide milk.



One sheep will produce eight pounds of wool each year. That's enough to make a three-piece suit!

# SUGAR BEETS

Sugar beets have been grown in Nebraska for over 100 years.

By-products from sugar beets are molasses and beet pulp, both of which are used in livestock feed.



Fifty-five percent of the world's sugar production comes from sugar beets, and 45 percent comes from sugar cane.



A grain of sugar under a microscope looks just like a jewel, and it reflects light from 14 facets.

# FRUITS & VEGGIES



Fruit and veggie farmers sell their produce at farmers' markets, roadside stands, U-pick operations, and at grocery stores.

Across Nebraska, there are over 80 farmers' markets, nearly 290 roadside stands, and approximately 55 U-pick operations.

Nebraska farmers grow a variety of fruits and veggies, including tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, pumpkins, squash, onions, berries, and sweet corn.



# FARM EQUIPMENT



One large new tractor may cost as much as \$200,000!



With a tractor and a plow, a farmer can plow an area the size of one acre (a football field) in just 12 minutes!



Farm equipment includes tractors, combines, planters, mowers, loaders, hay balers, and spreaders – just to name a few.

A corn planter can plant about 24,000 seeds per acre!



# POTATOES

Potatoes are the leading vegetable crop in the U.S.

NASA sent spuds into space to see if they would grow in zero gravity on the space station. They grew just fine. Given light, water and fertilizer, potatoes will grow anywhere.

On average, each American consumes almost 130 pounds of fresh and processed potatoes annually.

Potatoes are actually about 80% water.

Potatoes have recently been called nature's superfood, and they will be important in helping to feed the world's population in the 21st century.

If you only had one thing to eat, potatoes have enough vitamins, minerals, and protein to sustain normal health all by themselves.

Potatoes are grown in sandy soil statewide, from Columbus in the east to Kimball in western Nebraska.

Nebraska grows on average 800 million pounds of potatoes on 20,000 acres.

Potatoes contribute \$50-\$70 million annually to Nebraska's diversified agricultural economy.

About one-third of the state's potato production is processed into potato chips (140 million pounds by one company alone).



# FUN ON THE FARM!

CORN  
CROP  
HARVEST  
MEAT  
NEBRASKA  
POULTRY  
TRACTOR  
WHEAT  
WINDMILL

T	E	E	T	P	W	J	C	V	K
C	Y	C	N	V	I	K	T	T	H
O	J	Z	E	M	N	D	A	P	A
R	I	T	B	B	D	E	Z	O	R
N	O	R	R	I	M	J	K	U	V
D	R	A	A	W	I	C	Y	L	E
X	W	C	S	H	L	C	B	T	S
R	Q	T	K	E	L	R	O	R	T
M	D	O	A	A	D	O	H	Y	F
K	Z	R	C	T	B	P	B	K	Z

Word Search!

Help the  
animals  
back to the  
barn!



# WORD JUMBLE



1. teawh \_\_\_\_\_
2. tletac \_\_\_\_\_
3. yheon \_\_\_\_\_
4. gesg \_\_\_\_\_
5. falafla \_\_\_\_\_
6. norc \_\_\_\_\_
7. eotapsot \_\_\_\_\_
8. sigp \_\_\_\_\_
9. ehpes \_\_\_\_\_
10. mhgueros \_\_\_\_\_
11. pcoornp \_\_\_\_\_
12. agsot \_\_\_\_\_
13. ruags etbse \_\_\_\_\_
14. limk \_\_\_\_\_
15. ybosensa \_\_\_\_\_
16. yrd seban \_\_\_\_\_



All of these words  
are animals, crops,  
and products that are  
produced in Nebraska!  
Can you unscramble  
them all?



ANSWERS - Word Jumble: 1. Wheat, 2. Cattle, 3. Honey, 4. Eggs, 5. Alfalfa, 6. Corn, 7. Potatoes, 8. Pigs, 9. Sheep, 10. Sorghum, 11. Popcorn, 12. Goats, 13. Sugar Beets, 14. Milk, 15. Soybeans, 16. Dry Beans  
Ag-cademics: 1. d, 2. a, 3. b, 4. b, 5. d, 6. c, 7. a, 8. c



# Ag-cademics



1. A cow's stomach has how many compartments?

a. 1  
b. 2  
c. 3  
d. 4



3. A family of four could live how many years off the bread produced by one acre of wheat?

a. 2      c. 7  
b. 10     d. 1



5. How many pounds of wool does an average sheep produce per year?



a. 4      c. 10  
b. 17     d. 8

7. Americans eat \_\_\_\_\_ pounds of beef per year?

a. 68  
b. 72  
c. 56  
d. 60



2. About how many kernels are on an ear of corn?

a. 800  
b. 1,000  
c. 300  
d. 47



4. A piglet typically weighs how many pounds at birth?

a. 5  
b. 3.5  
c. 7  
d. 1



6. Generally, how many gallons of milk does a dairy cow produce each year?

a. 2,000  
b. 1,000  
c. 1,500  
d. 1,300



8. Farmers use this type of machinery to harvest crops:

a. Planter  
b. Spreader  
c. Combine  
d. Mower







# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

## Across

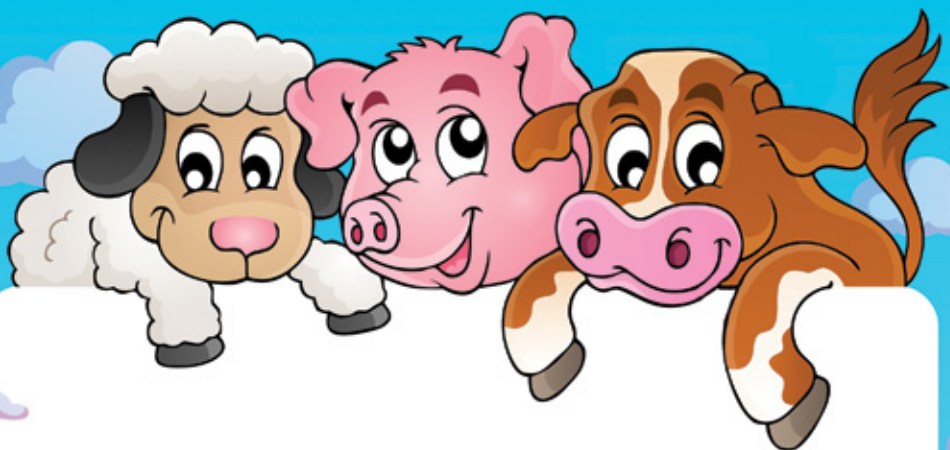
2. Americans eat 17.3 billion quarts of popcorn every \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Egg shells have up to 17,000 tiny \_\_\_\_\_ on their surface.
8. It takes 20 minutes to \_\_\_\_\_ a cow.
9. One bushel of corn sweetens 400 cans of \_\_\_\_\_.
11. It can take 24 \_\_\_\_\_ for a hen to lay an egg.
12. Pigs can't \_\_\_\_\_, so they roll around in the mud to cool off.
14. Egg yolk contains a lot of \_\_\_\_\_ D.
15. Farmers get less than five \_\_\_\_\_ for every loaf of bread.
17. A baby pig is called a \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Cows are \_\_\_\_\_, or cud-chewing animals.
21. One acre of \_\_\_\_\_ can feed a family of four for ten years.

## Down

1. You can use soy \_\_\_\_\_ to color with.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ that are a week or so old are easier to peel than fresher ones.
4. A long time ago, breakfast \_\_\_\_\_ was made with popcorn.
6. Nebraska is a top producer of this type of dry beans.
7. A single dairy cow produces 1,500 \_\_\_\_\_ of milk every year.
10. A full-grown \_\_\_\_\_ cow weights 1,400 pounds.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ is the only continent that doesn't grow corn.
16. Cow \_\_\_\_\_ have four compartments.
18. A new \_\_\_\_\_ can cost as much as \$200,000.
20. Americans eat 68 pounds of \_\_\_\_\_ every year.







**Additional agricultural facts and activities can be found on the Nebraska Department of Agriculture Kids' Page at:**

**[www.nda.nebraska.gov/kids](http://www.nda.nebraska.gov/kids)**

