

# A Look at Illinois Agriculture



## Illinois

Capital: Springfield  
Population: 12,901,563  
Founded: December 3, 1818 (21<sup>st</sup> State)  
State Bird: Cardinal  
State Tree: White Oak  
State Flower: Violet  
Number of Counties: 102  
Largest City: Chicago Population: 2,896,016

### Climate



- The climate of Illinois is good for crop growth.
- Hot summers help plants grow and cold winters help soil replenish itself.
- Southern Illinois typically receives 40" of rain each year and Northern Illinois typically receives 34".
- Winds from the Gulf of Mexico bring most of the rain and snow to Illinois.
- The Northern part of Illinois averages 25°F in January and 75°F in July. The Southern part of Illinois averages 36°F in January and 79°F in July.

### Crops



- Corn and soybeans are the top Illinois crops.
- Corn plants grow seven to ten feet tall.
- Corn is harvested using a combine.
- Most corn is used for livestock feed, but can also be used for ethanol (a fuel additive), plastics, foods, and much more.
- Illinois produces enough corn each year to fill a train of box cars stretching more than 7,600 miles from here to Hong Kong.
- Most soybeans are used for livestock feed but can also be used for soybean oil, medicines, soy ink, paints, cosmetics, and much more.
- Illinois ranks #2 in the U.S. for both corn and soybeans.
- Illinois leads in the production of pumpkins and horseradish, both of which are specialty crops.

### Soil



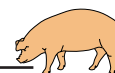
- The average depth of top soil in Illinois is 12.6".
- Illinois has some of the richest and most productive soil in the world.
- All living things depend on soil as a source of food, so it is the responsibility of each generation to use soil wisely.
- "Drummer" soil series has been designated the official state soil.
- Illinois has approximately 1,500 different soil types.

### General



- In 2008, there were 75,900 farms in Illinois.
- Each Illinois farmer feeds 156 people.
- In Illinois, 30.8 million acres of land is used for agricultural purposes. 3.3 million acres are urban and built up land. 1.9 million acres are rural transportation and governmental lands.
- Illinois' current director of Agriculture is Tom Jennings.

### Animals



- There are 1,380,000 cattle, 4,050,000 pigs, 69,000 sheep and 200,000 horses in Illinois.
- Illinois dairy cattle produce over 1.8 million pounds of milk each year.
- Illinois poultry producers produce over 1.4 million eggs each year.



**Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom**  
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