

UNDERSTANDING THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY



Basic Colorado Agricultural Facts



- Colorado has over 30,000 farms, covering 31 million acres, which is $\frac{1}{2}$ of the state of Colorado!
- There are more than 105,000 agricultural jobs in Colorado, which contribute \$16 billion each year!
- Colorado has lost over 2 million acres of production land in the past ten years.

Top Agricultural Counties in Colorado

1. Weld
2. Yuma
3. Morgan
4. Logan
5. Kit Carson
6. Prowers
7. Otero
8. Larimer
9. Adams
10. Alamosa

Is your county in the top ten? If not, which county is closest to you?

Colorado and the Livestock Industry

- Livestock accounts for 60% of the total agricultural cash receipts.
- Cattle and calves produce \$2.6 billion each year, and account for 2.5 million head!
- Colorado ranks fifth in the production of sheep, lamb, and wool.



Colorado and the Livestock Industry

- In 2003, hogs brought in \$200 million.
- Colorado producers have diversified to raise llamas, meat goats, domestic elk, emus, alpacas, and ostriches.



Colorado and Field Crop Production

- Colorado's production of sunflowers is fourth in the nation.
- Colorado's production of sugar beets ranks eighth in the nation.
- Corn, wheat, hay, and potatoes account for 89% of all crop revenues in Colorado (excluding sugar beets).
- Colorado ranks first in the production of proso millet.
- Colorado is in the top three states of barley produced.



Colorado and Vegetable Crop Production



- Colorado's top vegetable crop is onions, which accounts for 50% of total veggie revenues.
- Sweet corn is the second largest veg. crop, valued at \$16 mln./year.
- Colorado is also known for cabbage, potatoes, lettuce, and carrot production.

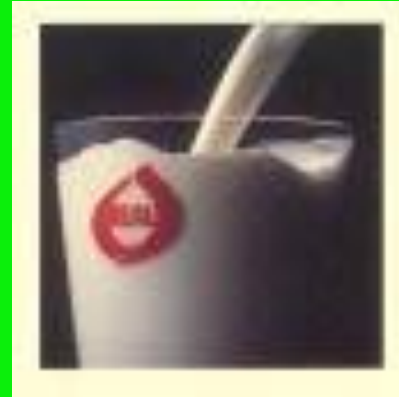
Colorado and Fruit Crop Production

- Apple's are the most common fruit grown in Colorado. Because they are commonly grown at high altitudes, they are known for their outstanding taste.
- The four leading crops are apples, peaches, pears, and tart cherries.
- Other fruits that are well-known in Colorado are watermelons, cantaloupes, grapes, and apricots, depending on the area.



Colorado and Animal Products

- In 2004, 100,000 cows produced 270 million gallons of milk.
- Our chickens produce 1 billion eggs each year.
- Colorado produces 2 million pounds of honey each year.
- Aquaculture is growing in the state, where producers raise trout, bass, tilapia, and even alligators!



Colorado and the World Market



Soybeans

- Agriculture in Colorado provides nearly \$1 billion in exports annually with Mexico, Japan, Canada, and Korea receiving the largest share of Colorado products.

Consider this scenario:

- The “average” farm operator in Colorado is a 54 year old male with a farm spanning 991 acres and worth \$757,613. An average farmer has farm machinery and equipment valued at \$87,871, raises crops worth \$41,442 annually and sells livestock, poultry, and their products valued at \$117,951. This farmer grossed \$159,393 in 2003.
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Consider this scenario:

- In 2003, this farmer paid:
 - \$42,437 for livestock and poultry
 - \$22,093 for feed
 - \$4,463 for seed
 - \$3,570 for fertilizer and lime
 - \$2,295 for pesticides
 - \$4,144 for petroleum
 - \$5,961 for repairs and maintenance
 - \$3,794 for marketing, storage, and transp.
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Consider this scenario:



- After this farmer deducted his expenses from his income and added in an average government payment of \$4,009, his net farm income was \$13,228 for 2003.
- Obviously, farming is not for everyone! In fact, only 2.2% of all Americans are directly related with production agriculture. However, over 10% of the U.S. population is involved in agriculture. Where are these jobs?

Other Areas for Careers in Agriculture

- Food Products and Processing Systems
- Plant Systems
- Animal Systems
- Power, Structure and Technical Systems
- Natural Resource Systems
- Environmental Service Systems and
- Agribusiness Systems

