

Missouri Ag Statistics

Agriculture continues as a solid base for the economy of Missouri. The State's 106,000 farms produced and sold about \$4.97 billion worth of crops, livestock, poultry and aquaculture in 2003, up 17 percent from 2002. Livestock and poultry accounted for about 53 percent of the agricultural output, down 1 percentage point from 54 percent in 2002 while crops made up the other 47 percent of the total.

The wide range of climate, topography and availability of irrigation water in the State results in considerable variability in crops produced. Soybeans and corn are by far the dominant crops in Missouri, being particularly important in the northern half of the State and in the southeast (Bootheel). The Bootheel is the most intensively cropped area with its high percentage of tillable, level land, long growing season and plentiful irrigation water. Cotton and rice are predominant crops in some southeastern counties. Hay is the most widely produced crop, ranking third in total value in the State, although normally only about 10 percent of the hay is sold. Hay is easily the major crop in the southwest and south-central districts where tillable land is limited, while a major proportion of farms in the rest of the State also raise hay.

Missouri is one of the leading livestock states in the nation. Cow-calf production fits in with crop production on many farms across the State, but beef operations are of major importance in the central, southwest, and south-central districts. Hog production is also widespread, but especially concentrated in the north-central and west-central districts. Broilers and turkeys are dominant in the southwestern counties.

Note the importance of Missouri to the nation's agriculture as shown by the following:

TEN percent of the U.S. TURKEYS are raised in Missouri.
SEVEN percent of the U.S. CATTLE OPERATIONS are in Missouri.
SIX percent of the U.S. SOYBEANS are grown in Missouri.
FIVE percent of the U.S. FARMS are in Missouri.
FOUR percent of the U.S. HOG OPERATIONS are in Missouri.
FOUR percent of the U.S. GRAIN SORGHUM is grown in Missouri.
Missouri is the SECOND leading state in BEEF COWS.
Missouri is the SECOND leading state in NUMBER OF FARMS.
Missouri is the SECOND leading state in HAY PRODUCTION (excluding alfalfa).
Missouri ranks SIXTH in RICE PRODUCTION.
Missouri ranks SEVENTH in SOYBEAN PRODUCTION.
Missouri ranks SEVENTH in WATERMELON PRODUCTION.
Missouri ranks NINTH in CORN PRODUCTION.
Missouri ranks TENTH in COTTON PRODUCTION.
Missouri ranks ELEVENTH in WINTER WHEAT PRODUCTION.
Missouri ranks TWELFTH in GRAPE PRODUCTION.
Missouri ranks FIFTEENTH in EGG PRODUCTION.
Missouri ranks TWENTY-FIRST in MILK PRODUCTION.

From Missouri Farm Facts, Missouri Agricultural Statistics Service