

A Look at *Colorado* Agriculture

Capital: Denver

Population: 4,301,261

Founded: August 1, 1876 (38th)

State Bird: Lark bunting

State Tree: Blue Spruce

State Flower: Rocky Mountain

Columbine

Number of Counties: 64

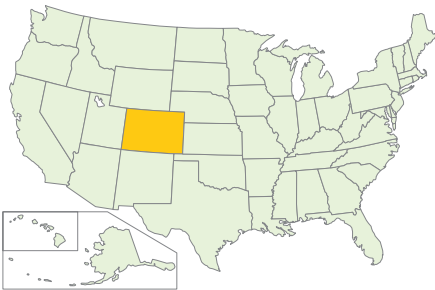
Largest City: Denver - 554,636

Nickname: The Centennial State

Number of Farms: 36,500

Average Farm Size: 853 acres

Total Farmland: 31.6 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Colorado's climate is generally dry and sunny. It is a semi-arid state averaging 15" of precipitation.
- Colorado has dry winters, wetter springs and summer, highly changeable weather, often windy and the occasional monstrous thunderstorms with damaging hail.
- Because of the difference in altitude found in the state there is a large range of temperatures.
- The soils in the eastern plains regions and the valley of the western mountains are the most fertile in the nation.
- Colorado's State soil is "Seitz soil" that consists of very deep, well drained, slowly permeable soils that were formed from igneous, sedimentary and volcanic rocks. Seitz soils are found on mountains, mainly in southwestern and central Colorado.

Crops & Livestock

- Colorado ranks first nationally in production of proso millet. This annual grass is grown as a grain crop and is used for bird and livestock feed.
- Colorado's production of sunflowers ranks fourth in the nation.
- The San Luis Valley is the largest and highest alpine valley in the world capable of producing crops. Elevation in the valley ranges from 7,400 to 8,000 feet.
- Colorado produces more than 100 million pounds of pinto beans each year.
- Colorado's leading vegetable crops are potatoes, cabbage, and onions.
- Peaches, apples, and cantaloupe are Colorado's largest fruit crops.
- Cattle and Calves is Colorado's number one agricultural commodity with 2.6 million head of cattle in the state.
- Colorado's sheep, lamb and wool production rank fourth in the nation.
- Colorado's 130,000 dairy cows produced more than 2.5 billion pounds of milk. Moo...
- Over 4 million layers in Colorado producing more than 1 billion eggs each year.
- There are over 40 aquaculture producers (or fish farmers) in this state.
- There are 36,000 bee colonies in Colorado producing 2.7 million pounds of honey every year.

General

- Agriculture contributes over \$7 billion dollars to the Colorado state economy annually.
- There are more than 105,000 jobs in Colorado related to agribusiness.