



A Look at *Pennsylvania* Agriculture

Capital: Harrisburg

Population: 12,763,536

Founded: December 12, 1787

State Bird: Ruffed Grouse

State Tree: Hemlock

State Flower: Mountain Laurel

Number of Counties: 67

Largest City: Philadelphia-1.5 million

Nickname: Keystone State

Number of Farms: 59,309

Average Farm Size: 130 acres

Total Farmland: 7.7 million acres



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Climate & Soil

- Pennsylvania has climates that are generally known as humid continental. There are distinct seasonal variations and an abundance of rainfall.
- Lowland Pennsylvania has comparatively long summers and mild winters, with growing seasons ranging from six to seven months. Mean annual temperature for the region is 57°F.
- In Upland Pennsylvania, summers are short and winters are comparatively severe. The growing season is confined to a frost-free period of about 130 days. The mean annual temperature is 47°F.
- Rainfall averages 42" a year.
- The best agricultural soils tend to be found in southeastern Pennsylvania.
- In the valleys of Central Pennsylvania, limestone-derived soils predominate which are some of the most productive soils in the state and are used intensively for agriculture.

Crops & Livestock

- Pennsylvania ranks the first nationally in producing mushrooms with annual production of 571 million pounds or 65% of Agaricus mushrooms grown in the United States.
- Winter wheat is an important crop grown in Pennsylvania producing 10.9 million bushels on 160 thousand acres. Buckwheat is a major crop grown in the higher elevations of the state. Other important crops include potatoes, oats, rye, barley, and a variety of vegetable crops.
- Pennsylvania also grows apples, cherries, peaches, and grapes.
- The sale of livestock products accounts for 69% of Pennsylvania's farm income.
- Milk production is the leading segment of the agricultural industry, with annual sales of 2.1 billion and 5.5% of the nation's total supply in 2010 and 2011. Pennsylvania is the fifth largest milk producing state in the United States.
- Pennsylvania ranks 13th nationally in the total value of livestock, poultry, and their products valued at \$4.6 billion in 2012.

General

- Pennsylvania ranks 27th nationally in agriculture exports valued at \$1.7 billion in 2012.