

A LOOK at Illinois Agriculture



Illinois

- Capital: Springfield
- Population: 12,419,293
- Founded: December 3, 1818
- State Bird: Cardinal
- State Tree: White Oak
- State Flower: Violet
- Number of Counties: 102
- Largest City: Chicago Population: 2,896,000

● 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 inches of rain each year and Northern Illinois typically receives 34 inches.
- 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

- 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.
- The Illinois state soil is “Drummer.”
- Illinois has approximately 1,500 different soil types.

● General

- In 2000, there were 78,000 farms in Illinois.
- Each Illinois farmer feeds 129 people.
- In Illinois, 31.6 million acres of land is used for agricultural purposes. 2.5 million acres are urban and built-up land. 1.8 million acres are rural transportation and governmental lands.
- Illinois has 56,343 square miles of land.
- Illinois’ current director of Agriculture is Charles A. Hartke

● Animals

- There are 1,510,000 cattle, 4,050,000 pigs, 74,000 sheep and 200,000 horses in Illinois.
- Illinois dairy cattle produce over two million pounds of milk each year.
- Illinois poultry produces 876 million eggs per year.

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