



Colorado Proud Fun Facts

Did you know?

AGRICULTURE

- There are more than 37,000 farms and ranches in Colorado encompassing nearly 32 million acres. That's nearly half of the state's total land area.
- Agriculture in Colorado provides \$1 billion in exports annually with Mexico, Japan, Canada and Taiwan receiving the largest share of Colorado products.
- There are more than 105,000 jobs in Colorado related to agribusiness, contributing \$16 billion annually to Colorado's economy.
- Colorado agriculture is more than just food. Farmers and ranchers help create products in construction, manufacturing, health care, education, transportation and personal care including: X-ray film, paper, shoes, soaps, cosmetics, hydraulic brake fluid, ball bearings, bandages, piano keys, plastics, insulation, linoleum, crayons, footballs, tires, perfume, detergents and shaving cream.

LIVESTOCK

- Cattle and Calves is Colorado's number one agricultural commodity with more than 2.7 million head of cattle in the state.
- Approximately 68% of the state's \$6.3 billion in agricultural cash receipts are attributed to livestock.
- Colorado's sheep and lamb totals rank fourth in the nation while Colorado wool production is also fourth.

FIELD CROPS

- Colorado's production of sunflowers ranks fifth in the nation. Who knew?
- Sugarbeet production in Colorado totaled 758,000 tons in 2008 propelling Colorado to the number eight spot nationally.
- Colorado's four leading crops of corn, wheat, hay and potatoes accounted for 89 percent of the total value from all field crops in Colorado (excluding sugarbeets) in 2008 and are valued at nearly \$2 billion.
- There are approximately 60,000 acres in the San Luis Valley in southwestern Colorado dedicated to fall potato production.
- The San Luis Valley is the largest and highest commercial agricultural valley in the world. Elevation in the Valley ranges from 7,400 to 8,000 feet above sea level.
- There are approximately 25 potato warehouses in Colorado, mostly in the San Luis Valley, that pack and ship potatoes to the nation's fresh market.
- "Quality at its Peak" is the Colorado potato slogan. Colorado potatoes adhere to both a Federal Marketing Order and State Potato Marketing Order (only state to have both) that allow for quality control regulations, advertising and potato research as well as a final USDA Federal-State inspection.
- Colorado ranks first in production of proso millet. This annual grass is grown as a grain crop and is used for bird and livestock feed in the U.S.
- Colorado producers harvested more than 1 million acres of corn for grain in 2008. The average yield per acre was 137 bushels.
- Hay is another top crop in Colorado. In 2008 Colorado produced 4 million tons of hay valued at \$612 million.
- Colorado is well known for its production of pinto beans. The state produces an average of 73 million pounds of pinto beans each year.

(over)

VEGETABLE CROPS

- Colorado's greenhouse vegetables are grown under 4.2 million square feet of glass.
- In 2008, Colorado's vegetable crops were valued at \$81 million.
- Colorado's leading vegetable crop is onions with production totaling 285 million pounds.
- Sweet corn is the second largest vegetable crop produced in the state in terms of value, with annual production of 124 million pounds and a value of \$19.4 million.
- Colorado produced 92 million pounds of cabbage in 2008 valued at \$9.8 million.
- Other vegetable crops grown in Colorado include carrots, lettuce and spinach.

FRUIT CROPS

- Colorado's leading fruit crops are peaches, apples and pears, accounting for \$23 million annually.
- The high-altitude at which Colorado apples are grown makes them taste better, consistently winning taste tests in supermarkets and at trade shows.
- Colorado produced 28 million pounds of peaches, 13 million pounds of apples, and 3.8 million pounds of pears in 2008.
- Since 1980, Colorado's wine industry has grown from one to more than 80 licensed wineries. In 2008, statewide production of Colorado wines increased to 995,989 liters. This amount translates into 110,665 cases of wine, or an estimated \$17 million in retail sales.
- Colorado's grape growing regions range in elevation from 4,000 to 7,000 feet and are among the highest vineyards in the world.

DAIRY/EGGS

- In 2008, Colorado's 128,000 milk cows produced more than 2.9 billion pounds of milk. Moo...
- There are nearly 4 million layers in Colorado producing more than 1 billion eggs each year.

OTHER INTERESTING FACTS

- Over 40 aquaculture producers (fish farmers) and distributors are licensed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.
- There are 27,000 bee colonies in Colorado producing more than 1 million pounds of honey every year.