



Colorado Proud Fun Facts

Did you know?

AGRICULTURE

- There are more than 36,000 farms and ranches in Colorado encompassing nearly 31 million acres. That's nearly half of the state's total land area.
- Agriculture in Colorado provides more than \$1 billion in exports annually with Mexico, Japan, Canada and Taiwan receiving the largest share of Colorado products.
- There are more than 170,000 jobs in Colorado related to agribusiness, contributing more than \$40 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 2.7 million head of cattle in the state.
- Approximately 60% of the state's \$5.5 billion in agricultural cash receipts are attributed to livestock.
- Colorado's sheep and lamb totals rank third in the nation and Colorado wool production is second.

FIELD CROPS

- Colorado's production of sunflowers ranks fourth in the nation. Who knew?
- Sugarbeet production in Colorado totaled more than 800,000 tons in 2011 ranking Colorado ninth nationally.
- Colorado's four leading crops of corn, wheat, hay and potatoes accounted for 94 percent of the total value from all field crops in Colorado in 2011 and are valued at more than \$2.5 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. The grain is also gaining momentum as an ingredient in gluten free foods.
- Colorado producers harvested more than 1 million acres of corn for grain in 2011.
- Hay is another top crop in Colorado. In 2011 Colorado produced more than 4 million tons of hay valued at more than \$750 million.
- Colorado is well known for its production of pinto beans. The state ranks ninth nationally in dry bean production.

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VEGETABLE CROPS

- In 2011, Colorado's leading vegetable crops (onions, cabbage, sweet corn) were valued at \$85 million.
- Colorado's leading vegetable crop is onions with production totaling nearly 300 million pounds.
- Sweet corn is the second largest vegetable crop produced in the state in terms of value, with annual production of 133 million pounds and a value of \$22.5 million.
- Colorado produced 129 million pounds of cabbage in 2011 valued at \$17.5 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 \$25 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 24 million pounds of peaches and 9 million pounds of apples in 2011.
- Since 1980, Colorado's wine industry has grown from one to more than 100 licensed wineries. Statewide production of Colorado wines has increased to 1,064,438 liters. This amount translates into 118,271 cases of wine, or an estimated \$18 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 2011, Colorado's 123,000 milk cows produced nearly 3 billion pounds of milk. Moo...
- There are 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 31,000 bee colonies in Colorado producing nearly 2 million pounds of honey every year.