

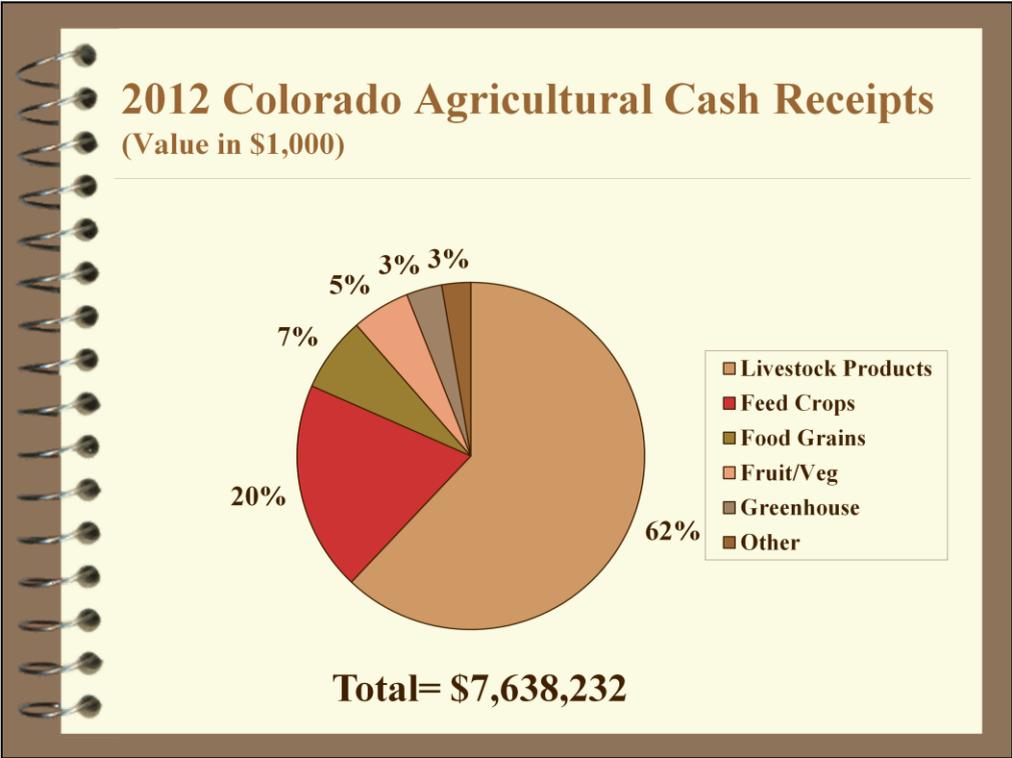


It's easy to see why Colorado is well-known for its scenic beauty. Colorado is the 8th largest state in area encompassing 66.3 million acres. We also have more than 36,000 farms and ranches that account for 31 million acres, that's nearly half the state! Colorado...it's agricultural!

Colorado Farm Trends 1930-2010

Year	On-Farm Population	Total Population	% On-Farm
1930	284,000	1,035,000	27.4
1940	251,692	1,125,296	22.4
1950	211,000	1,325,089	15.9
1960	128,000	1,753,947	7.3
1970	104,000	2,209,596	4.7
1980	59,000	2,889,735	2.0
1990	45,118	3,309,500	1.4
2000	46,341	4,301,261	1.1
2010		5,029,196	

Although on-farm population has decreased consistently, production has increased substantially due to improved practices and equipment.

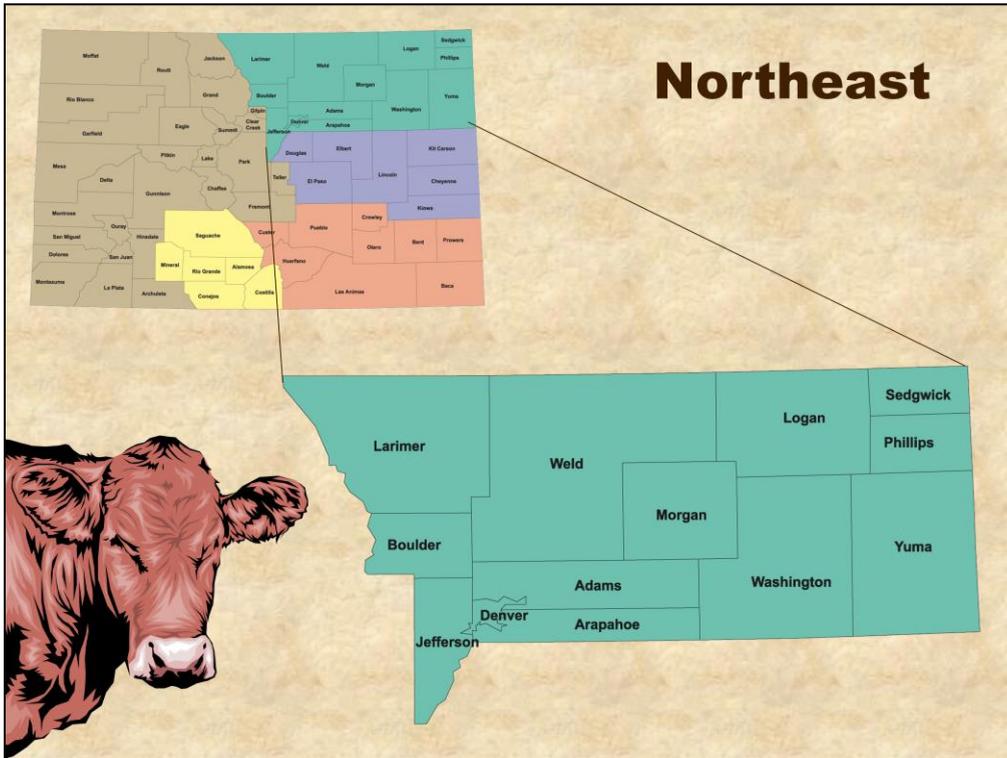


Colorado's agricultural cash receipts, the value of goods sold from farms and ranches, totaled \$7.6 billion in 2012 with approximately 60% from livestock.

Colorado Agriculture

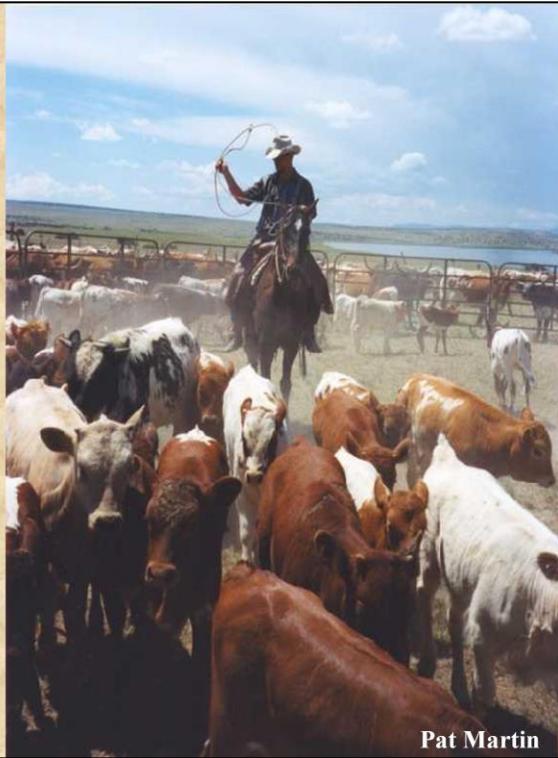


We'll be taking a tour around the state to show you agriculture's best in each area. We've divided the state into five regions: Northeast, Eastern High Plains, Arkansas Valley, San Luis Valley and the Western Slope.



We'll start with the Northeast.

Cattle & Calves
is Colorado's
number one
agricultural
commodity.



Cattle and Calves is Colorado's largest agricultural commodity.



Colorado is the **fifth** largest cattlefeeding state with more than **one million head** of cattle on feed in 2012.

Colorado is the fifth largest cattlefeeding state with more than one million head of cattle on feed in 2012. Weld and Yuma counties are the top two counties in Colorado for cattle inventory.

Colorado Cattle Industry

- ☞ Cash receipts of more than \$3 billion.
- ☞ Cash receipts represent 48% of all agricultural receipts.
- ☞ State ranks 10th nationally in number of cattle & calves.
- ☞ 12,000 beef producers in-state.
- ☞ Nearly 1/3 of Colorado's counties are "economically dependent" on the cattle industry.

In addition, Colorado's cattle industry provides cash receipts of more than \$3 billion representing 48% of all agricultural cash receipts. The 12,000 in-state beef producers help make Colorado 10th nationally in number of cattle calves. Nearly 1/3 of Colorado's counties are "economically dependent" on the cattle industry.



Colorado's 135,000 milk cows produce 3 billion pounds of milk each year resulting in \$594 million in cash receipts.



Corn, a very minor commodity crop early in Colorado's history, advanced to become one of the top-producing grain crops in the state, valued at nearly \$1 billion. While the majority of corn in Colorado is used to feed livestock, the potential to add value to corn by converting its starch, protein and oil to price-competitive, environmentally-safe products is becoming more of a reality each year. Ethanol, sweeteners, corn-based bags, eating utensils and dishware are obtained through this process.



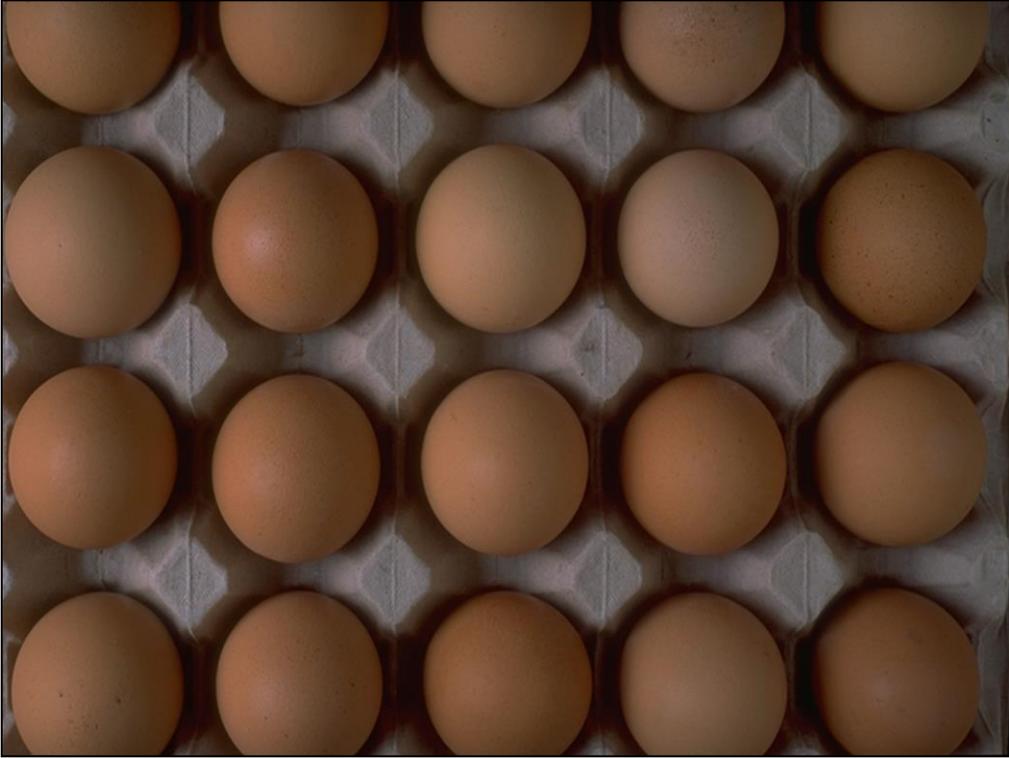
Colorado ranks 5th among states in production of storage onions. Storage onions refer to all varieties other than green onions. In 2012, Colorado produced nearly 300 million pounds of onions valued at \$40 million.



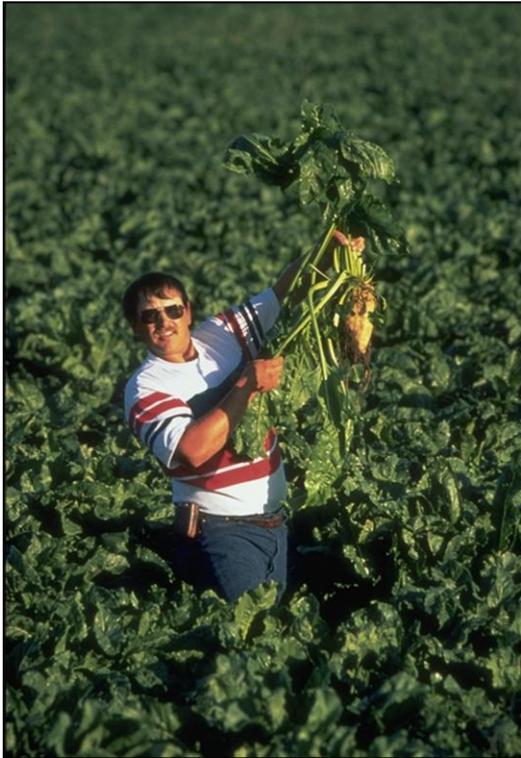
Colorado produces a variety of products in greenhouses including vegetables, bedding plants and cut flowers. In 2012, cash receipts for all nursery and greenhouse products in Colorado totaled \$253 million.



The dry bean industry produced 83 million pounds of dry edible beans in 2012 with a value of \$33 million. 82% of the production is pinto beans and 10% Light Red Kidney.



The egg industry generated more than \$96 million in 2012. There are more than 4 million layers in Colorado producing more than 1 billion eggs each year.

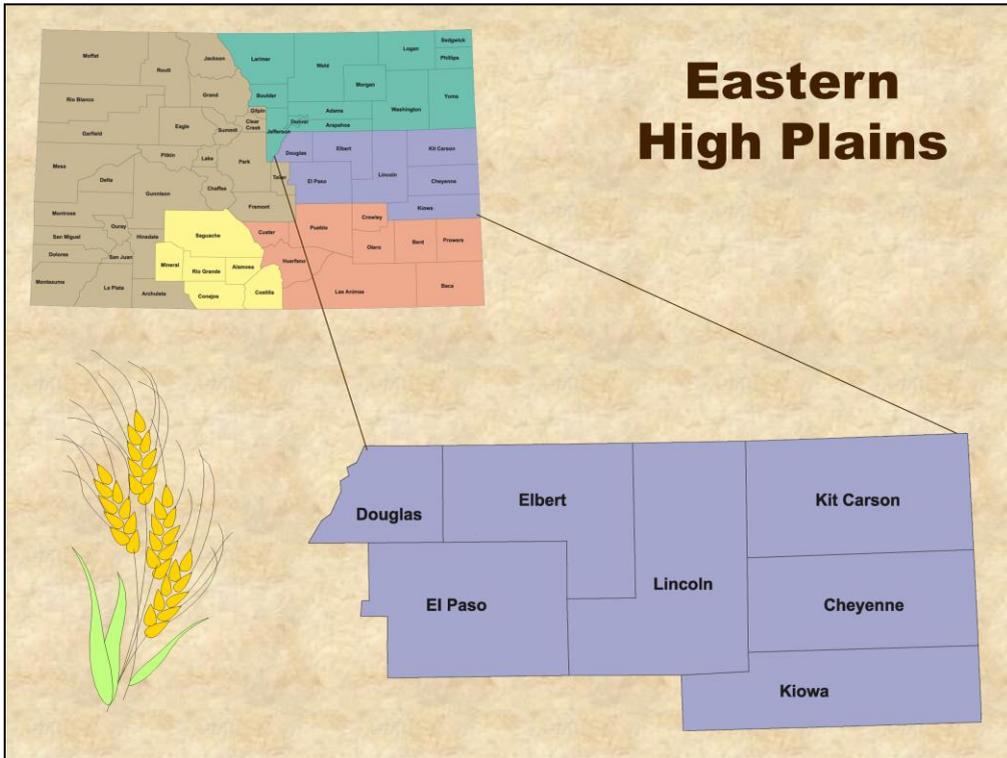


✓ Colorado ranks 8th in the U.S. for sugarbeet production.

✓ Colorado produces 944,000 tons/year.

✓ Weld, Yuma and Logan counties are primary production areas.

Colorado's production of 944,000 tons of sugarbeets ranks the state 8th in total U.S. production. The primary production areas are Weld, Yuma and Logan counties.



Eastern High Plains



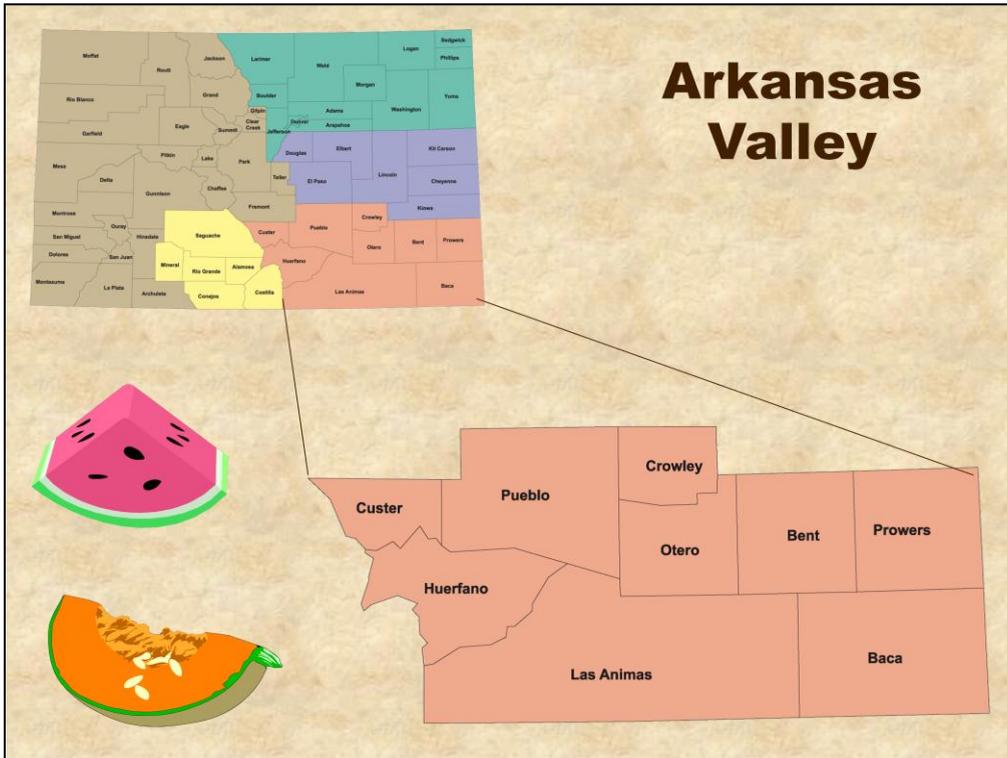
In 2012 Colorado produced 75 million bushels of wheat valued at \$600 million.



The swine industry produced 2.7 million pigs in 2012 with cash receipts totaling \$225 million.



The state ranks 7th nationally in sunflower production. The eastern plains grew 55 million pounds of sunflowers in 2012.



Arkansas Valley



Cantaloupe production in 2012 totaled 23 million pounds ranking Colorado 7th in the nation. The Rocky Ford melon is recognized nationally for its quality and sweetness.

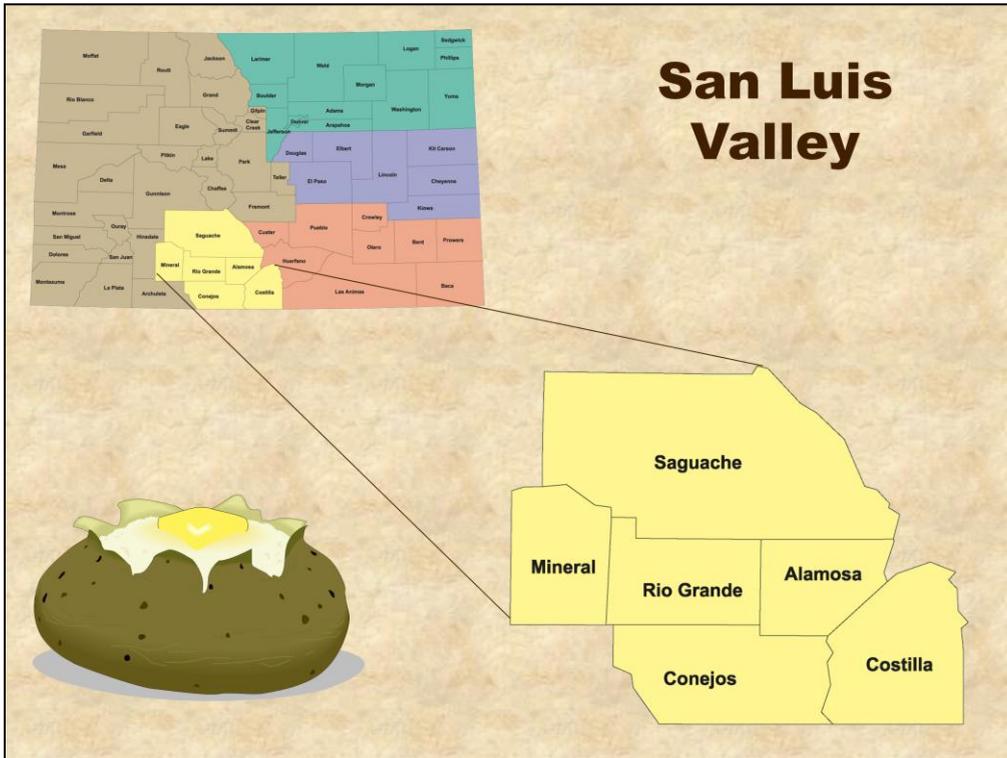
✓ Hay is one of Colorado's top crops with its value totaling more than **\$860 million**.

✓ The Arkansas Valley produced **540,000 tons** of hay in 2012.



Jane Sindell Reece

Hay is one of Colorado's top crops with its value totaling more than \$860 million. The Arkansas Valley produced more than 540,000 tons of hay in 2012.



San Luis Valley



Colorado produces over 2 billion pounds of potatoes annually, ranking the state 5th in the nation. The San Luis Valley, in south central Colorado, produces over 90% of the crop with its fall potatoes. The Valley's fertile soil, pure air, warm summer days and cool nights help provide a virtually pest-free growing environment for the fresh-grown stock. The remaining 10%, grown in the northeastern part of the state, is summer potatoes, in which Colorado ranks 4th nationally. Look for Colorado's specialty potatoes including a purple variety.



The state's production of **nearly 7 million bushels** of barley helps make Colorado one of the top beer producing states in the nation.

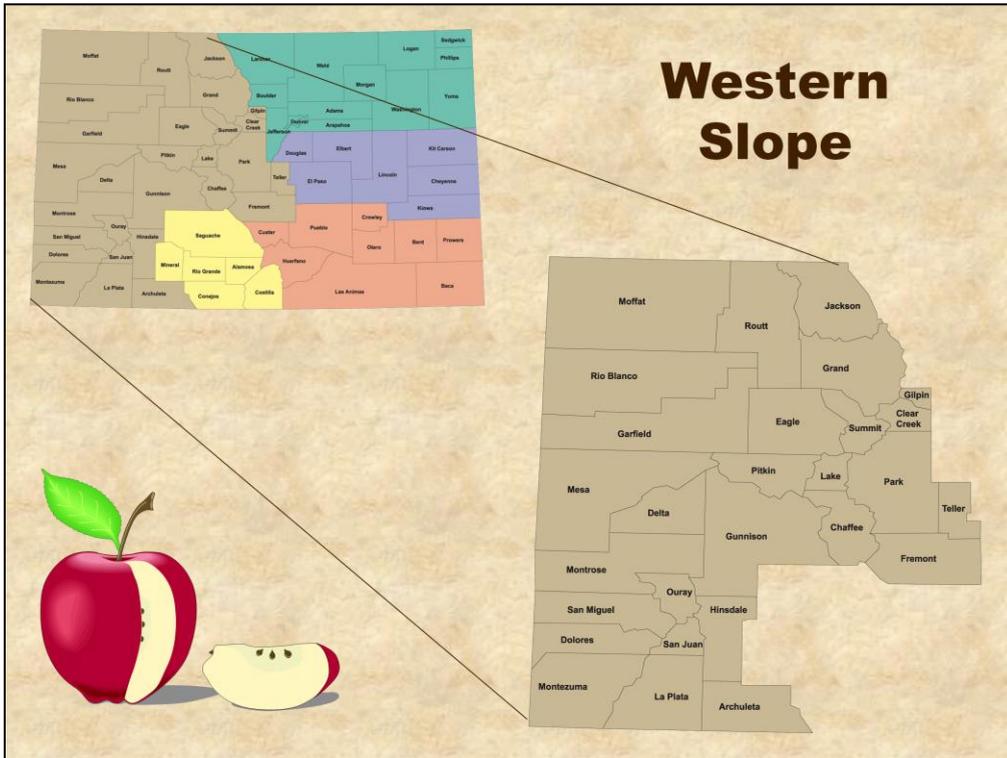
Cheers!



The state's production of nearly 7 million bushels of barley helps make Colorado one of the top beer producing states in the nation.



Colorado is one of the nation's top lettuce producing states.



Western Slope

Western Slope



Apples are one of Colorado's top fruit crops, with 17 million pounds produced in 2012 valued at \$5 million. Apple varieties produced in Colorado include Honey Crisp, Braeburn, Gala, Gold Delicious, Fuji, Red Delicious, and Jonathans.



Colorado's Western Slope produced 34 million pounds of peaches in 2012, valued at \$25 million. The high quality crop, produced primarily in Mesa County, is in national demand.



The majestic valleys of Colorado's Western Slope are blessed with warm days, cool nights and low humidity...conditions perfect for the cultivation of wine grapes which produce award-winning wines. Winemaking began in Colorado more than a century ago. Since 1980, Colorado's wine industry has grown from one to more than 100 licensed wineries. Statewide production of Colorado wines has increased to 1.3 million liters. This amount translates into 124,000 cases of wine, or an estimated \$28 million in retail sales.



Colorado's 240,000 head of market sheep and lambs provide a national ranking of 2nd.

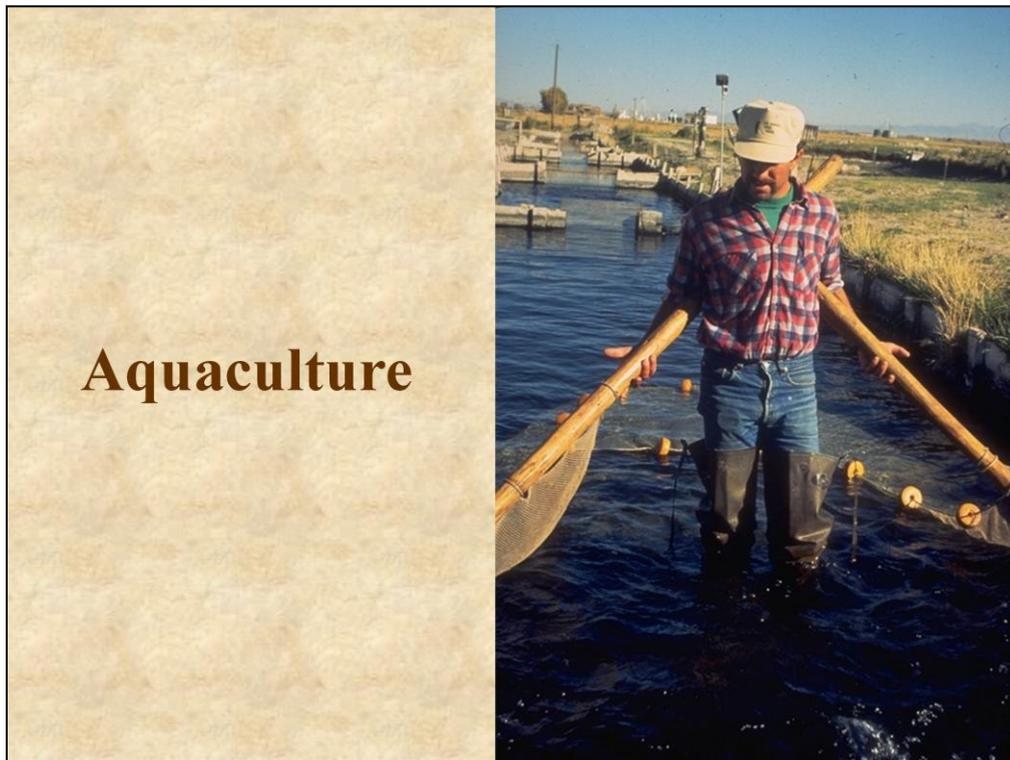


Colorado
produces
2.5 million
pounds of wool
annually.

In addition, we're the 3rd largest wool-producing state with 2.5 million pounds. The primary production area is on the Western Slope in Moffat, Montrose and Rio Blanco counties.



There are 145,000 horses in Colorado. The Colorado horse industry produces goods and services totaling \$443 million.



Colorado farmers and ranchers continually strive to diversify their operations in order to stabilize and grow. In addition to the traditional livestock and crop productions, Colorado growers have expanded their horizons to include Aquaculture.

Over 40 aquaculture producers (or fish farmers) and distributors are licensed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture. Trout, Striped bass, tilapia and alligators are produced at aquaculture facilities across the state.



Bison production is also rapidly increasing to help fill the growing market for specialty meat.



Licensed facilities in Colorado also raise elk. In addition to meat products, these animals are raised for breed stock and harvest of the velvet antlers.

Colorado Agriculture

- ☞ Feeds state, nation and world; maintains open space and provides wildlife habitat.
- ☞ Provides more than \$40 billion to the state's economy annually.
- ☞ 36,000+ farms and ranches occupy nearly half of the state's 66 million acres.
- ☞ Agribusinesses provide more than 170,000 jobs in Colorado.
- ☞ Export more than \$1 billion in agricultural products each year.

Having highlighted the beauty of open lands and the variety of agricultural products, it's important to recognize the economic contribution agriculture plays in Colorado. The farm and food system is an important component of Colorado's economy. Colorado agribusinesses contribute \$40 billion to the state's economy and employ over 170,000 Coloradans.



Colorado's agriculture faces several major issues in its present and its future. Wind and water erosion are reduced through appropriate tillage methods.



These no-till dry edible pinto beans are shown planted into the prior year's corn residues east of Hudson, CO. The residues protect the young seedlings from damaging June deluge-type rainstorms and late spring winds. The soil surface is protected from drying and crusting. In the furrow bottoms, the soil remains cool, keeping weeds from germinating.



Modern irrigation methods, such as center pivot irrigation and surge irrigation, assist in water conservation efforts through use of low-angle, low-pressure systems.



The biological pest control program, housed in the Department of Agriculture's Insectary in Palisade, provides an opportunity to decrease agriculture's reliance on chemical pest control technology by establishing colonies of beneficial insects which offer a permanent pest control solution. This beetle, *Cyphocleonus askates*, is released to attack and control knapweed which is invasive to the land.



The farmer and rancher go to great lengths to protect their land and products. There are other concerns, however, which have a significant impact on our state's farmland. Development such as new housing, roads and shopping malls contribute to the decline of agricultural land. Between 1997 and 2002, 1.2 million acres of ag land was converted to other uses. This acreage is equal to an area 17 miles wide and 109 miles long (about the distance from Denver to Pueblo).



The U.S. has the safest food supply in the world. Colorado's food supply is grown and processed under government inspection so that consumers can buy food with confidence.



Our products are marketed in several ways. Growers sell through grocery stores,



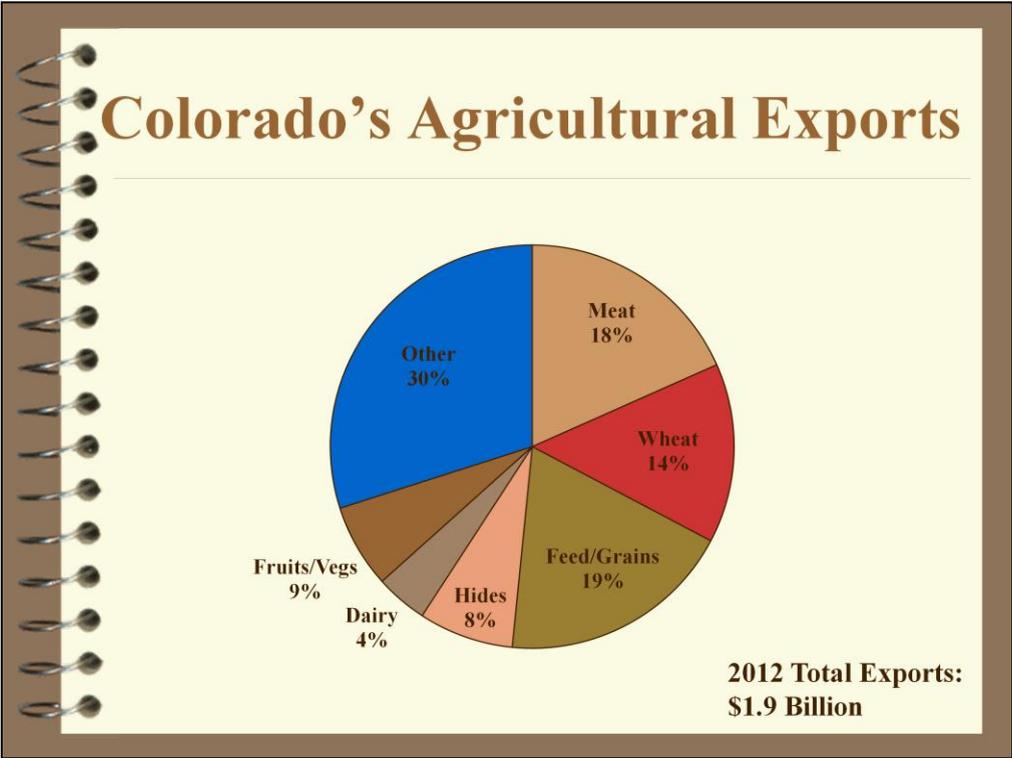
Farmers' markets,



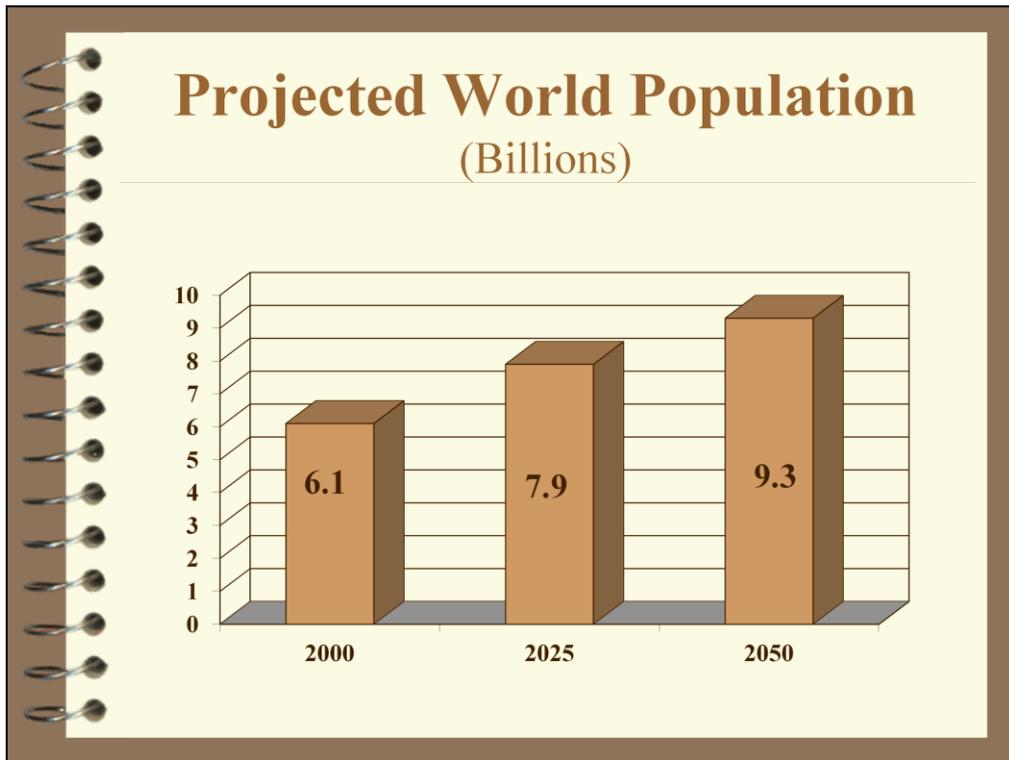
Restaurants,



And to food processors who add convenience to the raw commodity by grinding the meat and milling the grain.



Colorado also assists with world food needs, providing nearly \$2 billion in agricultural exports.



The projected world population for the year 2025 is 7.9 billion; 9.3 billion for the year 2050.

Worldwide
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Worldwide demand for food will double by the year 2050. Agriculture faces a considerable challenge--producing the world's food needs while balancing environmental concerns.



Agriculture is part of our past; part of our present.



And certainly a part of our future.



It's part of us all. Colorado...its' agricultural!

Thank You!

Special thanks are extended to the numerous Colorado agencies, organizations and commodity groups that assisted in making *Colorado...it's AgriCultural* a reality.