



## Colorado Proud Fun Facts

*Did you know?*

### AGRICULTURE

- There are more than 34,000 farms and ranches in Colorado encompassing 31.7 million acres. That's nearly half of the state's total land area.
- Colorado farmers and ranchers help to feed the world, exporting \$1.8 billion in products. Canada, Mexico, Japan, Korea and China receive the largest share of Colorado food 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.
- 71% of the state's \$7.4 billion in agricultural cash receipts is attributed to livestock.
- One of Colorado's top agricultural commodities is hogs, with 700,000 pigs in the state valued at \$184 million.
- Colorado's sheep and lamb totals rank third in the nation and Colorado wool production is also third.

### FIELD CROPS

- Colorado's production of sunflowers ranks sixth in the nation. Who knew?
- Sugarbeet production in Colorado totaled 958,000 tons in 2015 ranking Colorado eighth nationally.
- 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 nearly 1 million acres of corn for grain in 2015.
- Hay is another top crop in Colorado. In 2015 Colorado produced 4.3 million tons of hay valued at more than \$780 million.
- Colorado is well known for its production of pinto beans. The state ranks eighth nationally in dry bean production.

### FRUIT CROPS

- Colorado's leading fruit crops are peaches and apples, accounting for more than \$30 million annually.
- Warm days and cool nights help bring out the sweetness in Colorado grown fruit.
- Colorado produced 22 million pounds of peaches in 2015.
- Since 1980, Colorado's wine industry has grown from one to more than 140 licensed wineries. Statewide production of Colorado wines has increased to 1.49 million liters. This amount translates into 165,000 cases of wine, or an estimated \$33.1 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.

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## **VEGETABLE CROPS**

- There are approximately 50,000 acres in the San Luis Valley in southwestern Colorado dedicated to 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.
- Colorado produces more than 2 billion pounds of potatoes annually, ranking the state fifth in the nation for potato production.
- In 2015, Colorado's vegetable crops (onions, cabbage, sweet corn) were valued at nearly \$50 million.
- Colorado produces nearly 150 million pounds of onions each year.
- Annual production of sweet corn totals more than 60 million pounds with a value of \$9.3 million.
- Colorado produced 65 million pounds of cabbage in 2015 valued at \$11 million.
- Other vegetable crops grown in Colorado include carrots, lettuce and spinach.

## **DAIRY/EGGS**

- In 2015, Colorado's 145,000 milk cows produced more than 436 million gallons of milk. Moo...
- There are 4.5 million layers in Colorado producing more than 1.3 billion eggs each year.

## **OTHER INTERESTING FACTS**

- Rocky Ford Cantaloupe™ have been grown in the Arkansas River Valley since 1887.
- Over 40 aquaculture producers (fish farmers) and distributors are licensed by the Colorado Department of Agriculture.
- There are 29,000 bee colonies in Colorado producing nearly 1.5 million pounds of honey every year.