Colorado Proud Fun Facts
Did you know?

AGRICULTURE

- There are nearly 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 nearly $2 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 2.8 million head of cattle in the state.
- 68% of the state's $6.8 billion in agricultural cash receipts is attributed to livestock.
- One of Colorado's top agricultural commodities is hogs, with 750,000 pigs in the state valued at $166 million.
- Colorado's sheep and lamb totals rank third in the nation and Colorado wool production ranks fourth.

FIELD CROPS

- Colorado's production of sunflowers ranks third in the nation. Who knew?
- Sugarbeet production in Colorado totaled more than 1 million tons in 2017 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 more than 1 million acres of corn for grain in 2017.
- Hay is another top crop in Colorado. In 2017 Colorado produced 4.1 million tons of hay valued at more than $700 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.
- Warm days and cool nights help bring out the sweetness in Colorado grown fruit.
- Colorado produced 21.5 million pounds of peaches in 2017.
- Since 1978, Colorado's wine industry has grown from one to more than 150 licensed wineries. Statewide production of Colorado wines has increased to 1.61 million liters. This amount translates into 179,000 cases of wine, or an estimated $35.8 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.

(over)

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.
- Colorado produces more than 150 million pounds of onions each year.
- Other vegetable crops grown in Colorado include carrots, cabbage, lettuce, squash, spinach, sweet corn, and so much more.

DAIRY/EGGS

- In 2017, Colorado's 166,000 milk cows produced more than 485 million gallons of milk. Moo…
- There are 4.6 million layers in Colorado producing more than 1.4 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 33,000 bee colonies in Colorado producing nearly 1.5 million pounds of honey every year.