

AGRICULTURE'S ALL AROUND US!

The Science of Agriculture

Lock 1

Arkansas Agriculture Fun Facts

- Only 11.6-cents of every dollar you spend at the grocery store goes to a farmer.
- More than 30 cents of every dollar you spend will go to the processing, packaging, transporting, and energy costs of that product.
- Each U.S. farmer already feeds more than 150 people up from 43 just 50 years ago.
- Farmers are among the best stewards of the land as they realize they must protect the land for it to remain productive.
- Arkansas is one of the few states where the average per capita farm income exceeds non-farm per capita income.

Commodities

Aquaculture

- Around 11,000 acres are devoted to catfish production in Arkansas.
- The value of catfish production peaked at \$78.1 million in 2007 with 166 farms.

Beef Cattle

- Arkansas' cattle inventory exceeds 1.7 million head, with 28,292 farms in Arkansas producing cattle.
- Arkansas ranks 12th nationally in beef cows on farms.

Cotton

- Arkansas ranks 3rd in production, with around 7 percent of the U.S. crop
- Arkansas has the 4th highest yield per acre behind only California, Arizona, and Missouri.

Forestry

- Arkansas has 18,778,660 acres of forest land representing approximately 56 percent of the total land base:

- 58 percent of timberland is owned by private landowners.
- 7 percent of timberland is publicly owned.
- 25 percent of forestland is owned by the forestry industry
- Arkansas is the fifth-largest softwood lumber producing state.

Horticulture

- Almost \$50 million of horticulture products come from nursery and greenhouse products.
- More than **3** million pounds of tomatoes, the state's top vegetable crop, are produced annually.
- Peach production, Arkansas' largest fruit crop, annually tops 10 million pounds.

Pork

- More than 1.8 million pigs are produced in Arkansas annually.
- The total value of Arkansas pork production exceeds \$80 million per year.

Poultry

- Arkansas is **2nd** in the nation in broiler production,
- About 2,500 farms in Arkansas produce chickens.

Rice

- Arkansas ranks **1st** in the nation in rice production, producing close to 50 percent of the nation's rice.
- More than 60 percent of the rice produced in Arkansas is exported.

Soybeans

- Arkansas is the 10th largest soybean producing state
- Approximately 50 percent of Arkansas's crop is exported. The remainder is processed into oil and meal.

Wheat

- In Arkansas, wheat is a winter crop that is planted in the fall and harvested in the spring. It is the green fields you see in January.
- Arkansas produces soft red wheat, which is used in many confectionery products and for blending for bread products.