

# USDA, NASS, Illinois Field Office



P.O. Box 19283 • Springfield, IL 62794-9283 • Telephone - 217/492-4295  
 • Fax - 800/811-3913 • www.nass.usda.gov/il

## ILLINOIS AGRICULTURE

This report highlights the importance of Agriculture in Illinois and contains information that was published as of March 1, 2008. In 2007, there were 72,500 farms utilizing more than 27 million acres or about 77 percent of the total land area in the state. Approximately 90 percent of Illinois agricultural land could be used to grow crops.

About 1.5 million Illinois workers are employed in the food and fiber system, ranking it as one of the top states in dependency on agriculture. In addition to farming, Illinois is a leading state in agricultural related industries, such as soybean processing, meat packing, dairy manufacturing, feed milling, vegetable processing, machinery manufacturing, foreign exports, and service industries.

Crop and livestock statistics date back to the beginning of this country with the issue of the first official monthly crop report over 130 years ago. From the beginning, statistics on crops, livestock, prices, and other subjects have informed both buyers and sellers, helping to keep agricultural markets efficient and helping to maintain a "level playing field" for all. Illinois farm operators and agricultural service firms form the backbone of this system by voluntarily reporting the data needed to compile the many reports.

### THE FARMER

The 2002 Census of Agriculture showed the average Illinois farm operator was 55.1 years of age. The average value of land and buildings on each farm was \$913,251. Machinery and equipment were valued at \$102,242. The average farm sold products valued at \$105,115 and had production expenses of \$85,259. About 64 percent of the farm operators considered farming to be their principal occupation.

### PRODUCTIVITY

Illinois farm families are industrious and their work shows it. On a peak spring day, they may plant nearly 800,000 acres of corn or 500,000 acres of soybeans. With fewer than 4 percent of the farms in the U.S., they produce about 17 percent of the soybeans, 17 percent of the corn, 7 percent of the pigs, and account for nearly 6 percent of the agricultural exports.



### ILLINOIS FARMS AND FARMLAND

| Year | Number of farms | Land in farms |       |
|------|-----------------|---------------|-------|
|      |                 | 1,000 acres   | Acres |
| 1960 | 159,000         | 30,700        | 193   |
| 1970 | 128,000         | 29,500        | 230   |
| 1980 | 107,000         | 28,800        | 269   |
| 1990 | 83,000          | 28,400        | 342   |
| 2000 | 77,000          | 27,500        | 357   |
| 2001 | 75,000          | 27,500        | 367   |
| 2002 | 73,000          | 27,500        | 377   |
| 2003 | 73,000          | 27,500        | 377   |
| 2004 | 72,800          | 27,400        | 376   |
| 2005 | 72,500          | 27,300        | 377   |
| 2006 | 72,400          | 27,300        | 377   |
| 2007 | 72,500          | 27,300        | 377   |

### STATE RANKING

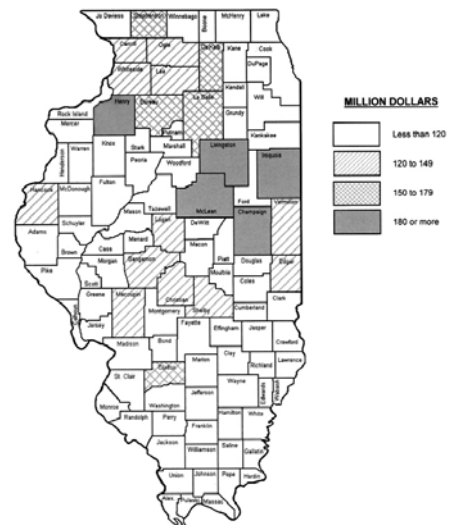
Illinois usually ranks second in both corn and soybean production and fourth in hog production. Generally it is one of the top five states in cash income, crop cash receipts, and total value of farm real estate. It is normally one of the top ten states in number of farms, production of winter wheat, oats, grain sorghum, and sweet corn.

### THE CLIMATE

Illinois lies midway between the Continental Divide and the Atlantic Ocean and some 500 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico. The climate is typically continental with cold winters, warm summers, and frequent short-period fluctuations of temperature, humidity, cloudiness, and wind direction. The excellent soil and well-distributed annual precipitation of 32 to 48 inches favors a very high standard of agricultural production.

### FARM INCOME

#### TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS - 2006



### ILLINOIS FARM REAL ESTATE VALUES, JANUARY 1

| Year          | Value per acre farmland and buildings | Cropland rent per acre |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| ---Dollars--- |                                       |                        |
| 1960          | 316                                   | NA                     |
| 1970          | 490                                   | 36.40                  |
| 1980          | 2,041                                 | 107.00                 |
| 1990          | 1,405                                 | 99.40                  |
| 2000          | 2,260                                 | 119.00                 |
| 2002          | 2,350                                 | 122.00                 |
| 2003          | 2,430                                 | 123.00                 |
| 2004          | 2,610                                 | 126.00                 |
| 2005          | 3,330                                 | 129.00                 |
| 2006          | 3,800                                 | 132.00                 |
| 2007          | 4,330                                 | 141.00                 |

# CROPS

Corn, soybeans, and wheat are the major field crops grown in Illinois, accounting for over 90 percent of the cultivated acres. An abundance of other crops is also grown, including hay, grain sorghum, oats, apples, peaches, sweet corn, pumpkins, melons, popcorn, horseradish, asparagus, green beans, peas, potatoes, nursery crops, and numerous other items.

Farm marketings of crops account for about 79 percent of the total farm marketings. Corn accounts for about 52 percent of the total crop marketings and soybeans 39 percent. Cash receipts from marketing of all crops totaled \$6.8 billion in 2006.

## ILLINOIS CROP PRODUCTION, 2007

| Commodity               | Acres harv. | Yield per acre | Production    | Illinois' rank among states |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------|
|                         | 1,000 acres | Bushels        | 1,000 bushels |                             |
| Corn                    | 13,050      | 175            | 2,283,750     | 2                           |
| Soybeans                | 8,150       | 43             | 350,450       | 2                           |
| Winter Wheat            | 890         | 57             | 50,730        | 10                          |
| Grain Sorghum           | 77          | 81             | 6,237         | 9                           |
| Oats                    | 24          | 68             | 1,632         | 17                          |
| Apples (million pounds) |             |                | 4.9           | 25                          |
| Peaches (tons)          |             |                | 90            | 24                          |
|                         |             | Tons           | 1,000 tons    |                             |
| Alfalfa Hay             | 380         | 3.7            | 1,406         | 21                          |
| Other Hay               | 300         | 1.7            | 510           | 35                          |
| Snap Beans, Processing  | 12.3        | 4.65           | 57.1          | 4                           |
|                         |             | Cwt.           | 1,000 cwt.    |                             |
| Sweet Corn, Fresh Mkt.  | 6.6         | 110            | 726           | 10                          |
| Potatoes, Summer        | 6.1         | 400            | 2,440         | 3                           |
| Cabbage, Fresh Market   | 0.8         | 280            | 224           | 14                          |

## CROPS: RECORD HIGHS FOR ILLINOIS THROUGH 2007

| Crops               | Year of record | Record high   |
|---------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Corn:               |                |               |
| Yield Per Acre      | 2004           | 180 bu.       |
| Production (thous.) | 2007           | 2,283,750 bu. |
| Soybeans:           |                |               |
| Yield Per Acre      | 2004           | 50 bu.        |
| Production (thous.) | 2004           | 495,000 bu.   |
| Wheat:              |                |               |
| Yield Per Acre      | 2006           | 67 bu.        |
| Production (thous.) | 1989           | 105,020 bu.   |
| Grain Sorghum:      |                |               |
| Yield Per Acre      | 2004           | 109 bu.       |
| Production (thous.) | 1985           | 36,190 bu.    |
| Oats:               |                |               |
| Yield Per Acre      | 2003           | 89 bu.        |
| Production (thous.) | 1917           | 207,000 bu.   |
| All Hay:            |                |               |
| Yield Per Acre      | 1990           | 3.7 tons      |
| Production (thous.) | 1956           | 5,065 tons    |

## ILLINOIS CROP PRODUCTION

| Year                 | Acres planted for all purposes | Acres harvested | Yield per harv. acre | Production  |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------|
|                      |                                |                 | ---Thous.---         | Bushels     |
| <b>CORN</b>          |                                |                 |                      |             |
| 1960                 | 10,425                         | 9,985           | 68                   | 678,980     |
| 1970                 | 10,310                         | 9,940           | 74                   | 735,560     |
| 1980                 | 11,700                         | 11,440          | 93                   | 1,063,920   |
| 1990                 | 10,600                         | 10,400          | 127                  | 1,320,800   |
| 2000                 | 11,200                         | 11,050          | 151                  | 1,668,550   |
| 2005                 | 12,100                         | 11,950          | 143                  | 1,708,850   |
| 2006                 | 11,300                         | 11,150          | 163                  | 1,817,450   |
| 2007                 | 13,200                         | 13,050          | 175                  | 2,283,750   |
| <b>SOYBEANS</b>      |                                |                 |                      |             |
| 1960                 | 5,013                          | 4,973           | 26.0                 | 129,298     |
| 1970                 | 6,848                          | 6,800           | 31.0                 | 210,800     |
| 1980                 | 9,400                          | 9,350           | 33.5                 | 313,225     |
| 1990                 | 9,200                          | 9,100           | 39.0                 | 354,900     |
| 2000                 | 10,500                         | 10,450          | 44.0                 | 459,800     |
| 2005                 | 9,500                          | 9,450           | 46.5                 | 439,425     |
| 2006                 | 10,100                         | 10,050          | 48.0                 | 482,400     |
| 2007                 | 8,200                          | 8,150           | 43.0                 | 350,450     |
| <b>WINTER WHEAT</b>  |                                |                 |                      |             |
| 1960                 | 1,617                          | 1,577           | 29.0                 | 45,733      |
| 1970                 | 1,075                          | 1,030           | 37.0                 | 38,110      |
| 1980                 | 1,600                          | 1,570           | 49.0                 | 76,930      |
| 1990                 | 2,050                          | 1,850           | 48.0                 | 88,800      |
| 2000                 | 950                            | 920             | 57.0                 | 52,440      |
| 2005                 | 630                            | 600             | 61.0                 | 36,600      |
| 2006                 | 930                            | 910             | 67.0                 | 60,970      |
| 2007                 | 1,000                          | 890             | 57.0                 | 50,730      |
| <b>GRAIN SORGHUM</b> |                                |                 |                      |             |
| 1960                 | 19                             | 14              | 50                   | 700         |
| 1970                 | 30                             | 20              | 56                   | 1,120       |
| 1980                 | 100                            | 83              | 59                   | 4,897       |
| 1990                 | 210                            | 195             | 75                   | 14,625      |
| 2000                 | 90                             | 85              | 95                   | 8,075       |
| 2005                 | 85                             | 83              | 92                   | 7,636       |
| 2006                 | 75                             | 72              | 89                   | 6,408       |
| 2007                 | 80                             | 77              | 81                   | 6,237       |
| <b>OATS</b>          |                                |                 |                      |             |
| 1960                 | 1,912                          | 1,867           | 51                   | 95,217      |
| 1970                 | 935                            | 612             | 56                   | 34,272      |
| 1980                 | 280                            | 230             | 61                   | 14,030      |
| 1990                 | 600                            | 170             | 68                   | 11,560      |
| 2000                 | 75                             | 55              | 73                   | 4,015       |
| 2005                 | 60                             | 40              | 79                   | 3,160       |
| 2006                 | 60                             | 40              | 77                   | 3,080       |
| 2007                 | 35                             | 24              | 68                   | 1,632       |
| <b>ALL HAY</b>       |                                |                 |                      |             |
|                      |                                |                 | Tons                 | Thous. tons |
| 1960                 |                                | 2,171           | 2.16                 | 4,682       |
| 1970                 |                                | 1,230           | 2.69                 | 3,303       |
| 1980                 |                                | 1,160           | 3.07                 | 3,558       |
| 1990                 |                                | 900             | 3.72                 | 3,348       |
| 2000                 |                                | 830             | 3.13                 | 2,594       |
| 2005                 |                                | 730             | 2.96                 | 2,159       |
| 2006                 |                                | 760             | 3.30                 | 2,508       |
| 2007                 |                                | 680             | 2.82                 | 1,916       |

# LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY

Cash receipts from livestock and products marketings account for about 21 percent of total farm marketings and totaled \$1.8 billion in 2006.

## ILLINOIS LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY PRODUCTION, 2007

| Item               | Unit       | Number | Illinois' rank among states |
|--------------------|------------|--------|-----------------------------|
| <b>Inventory:</b>  |            |        |                             |
| Hogs & Pigs 1/     | Thou. Head | 4,150  | 4                           |
| Cattle & Calves 2/ | Thou. Head | 1,240  | 27                          |
| Beef Cows 2/       | Thou. Head | 427    | 25                          |
| Milk Cows 2/       | Thou. Head | 103    | 21                          |
| Sheep & Lambs 2/   | Thou. Head | 68     | 25                          |
| <b>Production:</b> |            |        |                             |
| Pig Crop           | Thou. Head | 8,192  | 4                           |
| Calf Crop          | Thou. Head | 500    | 26                          |
| Lamb Crop          | Thou. Head | 62     | 21                          |
| Turkeys Raised     | Thou. Head | 2,700  | 15                          |
| Milk Production 3/ | Mil. Lbs.  | 1,958  | 20                          |
| Egg Production     | Mil. Eggs  | 1,357  | 19                          |
| Wool Production    | Thou. Lbs. | 370    | 23                          |

1/ As of 12/1/07 2/ As of 1/1/08 3/ Milk production statistics are for 2006.

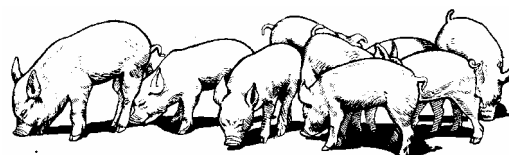


## LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY: RECORD HIGHS FOR ILLINOIS THROUGH 2008

| Item                      | Year of record | Record high      |
|---------------------------|----------------|------------------|
| Hogs & Pigs Inventory     | 1963/1964      | 7,748,000        |
| Cattle & Calves Inventory | 1957           | 4,149,000        |
| Milk Cow Inventory        | 1935           | 1,231,000        |
| Sheep & Lambs Inventory   | 1931           | 975,000          |
| Chicken Inventory         | 1927           | 28,236,000       |
| Milk Production           | 1945           | 5.8 billion lbs. |
| Egg Production            | 1955           | 3.0 billion eggs |
| Turkeys Raised            | 1990           | 4,460,000        |
| Wool Production           | 1942           | 6.6 million lbs. |

## NUMBER OF ILLINOIS FARMS WITH LIVESTOCK AND DAIRY

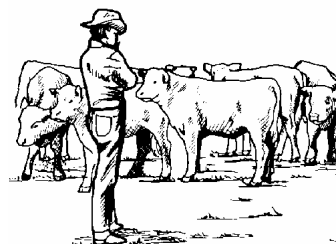
| Year             | Cattle  | Milk Cows | Hogs   | Sheep  |
|------------------|---------|-----------|--------|--------|
| -----Number----- |         |           |        |        |
| 1960             | 115,000 | 52,000    | 92,000 | 26,000 |
| 1970             | 68,000  | 16,000    | 50,000 | 13,000 |
| 1980             | 50,000  | 6,500     | 30,000 | 7,000  |
| 1990             | 33,000  | 3,700     | 15,300 | 4,500  |
| 2000             | 25,000  | 2,100     | 5,100  | 2,400  |
| 2004             | 20,000  | 1,500     | 3,400  | 1,900  |
| 2005             | 19,800  | 1,400     | 3,100  | 2,000  |
| 2006             | 19,700  | 1,300     | 2,900  | 2,000  |
| 2007             | 19,700  | 1,200     | 2,800  | 2,000  |



## ILLINOIS LIVESTOCK, DAIRY, AND POULTRY INVENTORY NUMBERS, JANUARY 1

| Year                 | Hogs & Pigs 1/ | Cattle & Calves | Beef Cows | Milk Cows | Sheep & Lambs |
|----------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| -----1,000 head----- |                |                 |           |           |               |
| 1960                 | 7,469          | 3,981           | 668       | 648       | 722           |
| 1970                 | 6,842          | 3,325           | 785       | 347       | 386           |
| 1980                 | 6,950          | 2,700           | 699       | 235       | 173           |
| 1990                 | 5,700          | 1,750           | 493       | 177       | 159           |
| 2000                 | 4,050          | 1,510           | 480       | 120       | 74            |
| 2006                 | 4,000          | 1,330           | 446       | 104       | 69            |
| 2007                 | 4,200          | 1,340           | 427       | 103       | 70            |
| 2008                 | 4,150          | 1,240           | 427       | 103       | 68            |

1/ December 1, preceding year for 1970-2008.



## ILLINOIS PRODUCTION OF SELECTED COMMODITIES

| Year | Milk      | Eggs    | Turkeys raised | Wool       |
|------|-----------|---------|----------------|------------|
|      | Mil. lbs. | Million | Thousand       | Thou. Lbs. |
| 1960 | 4,229     | 2,397   | 1,034          | 4,787      |
| 1970 | 2,850     | 1,820   | 832            | 2,232      |
| 1980 | 2,540     | 1,266   | 474            | 1,327      |
| 1990 | 2,559     | 793     | 4,460          | 925        |
| 2000 | 2,094     | 944     | 2,900          | 520        |
| 2004 | 1,978     | 1,044   | 2,900          | 405        |
| 2005 | 1,958     | 1,210   | 2,900          | 385        |
| 2006 | 1,978     | 1,307   | 2,700          | 370        |

NA-Not Available.

# ECONOMICS

## PRICES RECEIVED BY ILLINOIS FARMERS 1/

| Commodity         | 1960  | 1970  | 1980  | 1990 | 2000  | 2007 2/ |
|-------------------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|---------|
| ---Dollars---     |       |       |       |      |       |         |
| Corn, bu.         | 1.00  | 1.37  | 3.14  | 2.3  | 1.91  | 4.05    |
| Soybeans, bu.     | 2.23  | 2.90  | 7.62  | 5.8  | 4.62  | 11.00   |
| Wheat, all, bu.   | 1.74  | 1.30  | 3.93  | 2.7  | 2.09  | 5.45    |
| Oats, bu.         | .61   | .66   | 1.82  | 1.0  | 1.33  | 2.80    |
| Hay all,baled,ton | 19.50 | 24.50 | 55.50 | 70.  | 83.00 | 123.00  |
| Sorghum, bu.      | .82   | 1.12  | 2.94  | 2.0  | 1.93  | 3.89    |
| Beef Cattle, cwt. | 22.10 | 27.50 | 62.30 | 75.  | 67.70 | 85.60   |
| Calves, cwt.      | 23.90 | 33.70 | 72.20 | 11   | 115.0 | 119.00  |
| Hogs, cwt.        | 15.40 | 23.20 | 38.50 | 53.  | 40.40 | 46.70   |
| Lambs, cwt.       | 18.10 | 27.00 | 58.80 | 53.  | 72.00 | 87.60   |
| Milk Cows, head   | 207   | 303   | 1,200 | 1,1  | 1,290 | 1,720   |
| Milk, cwt.        | 3.76  | 5.49  | 12.90 | 12.  | 12.30 | 14.10   |
| Turkeys, lb.      | .26   | .25   | .48   | .42  | .41   | .48     |
| Table Eggs, doz.  | .29   | .35   | .53   | .65  | .47   | .36     |
| Wool, lb.         | .44   | .33   | .69   | .35  | .08   | .26     |

1/ Marketing year average prices. 2/ Preliminary.

## FARM VALUE SHARE OF RETAIL FOOD PRICES, U.S., 2000

| Product                 | Percent | Product               | Percent |
|-------------------------|---------|-----------------------|---------|
| Beef, choice            | 49      | Apples, red delicious | 21      |
| Pork                    | 31      | Potatoes              | 17      |
| Chicken, broiler        | 48      | Corn, canned          | 22      |
| Milk                    | 34      | Tomatoes, canned      | 7       |
| Eggs                    | 53      | Flour, wheat          | 19      |
| Cheese, Natural cheddar | 29      | Bread                 | 5       |

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA

## ILLINOIS CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MARKETINGS

| Commodity             | 1970  | 1980  | 1990  | 2000  | 2006  |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| ---Million dollars--- |       |       |       |       |       |
| All Commodities:      | 2,809 | 7,951 | 7,779 | 7,019 | 8,636 |
| Crops                 | 1,499 | 5,627 | 5,336 | 5,346 | 6,841 |
| Livestock             |       |       |       |       |       |
| Dairy & Poultry       | 1,310 | 2,324 | 2,443 | 1,672 | 1,795 |
| Selected Commodities: |       |       |       |       |       |
| Corn                  | 774   | 2,712 | 2,691 | 2,649 | 3,594 |
| Soybeans              | 574   | 2,438 | 2,023 | 2,081 | 2,510 |
| Hogs                  | 592   | 1,036 | 1,206 | 788   | 803   |
| Cattle                | 491   | 884   | 800   | 532   | 596   |
| Dairy Products        | 153   | 324   | 326   | 255   | 277   |
| Wheat                 | 44    | 268   | 230   | 135   | 190   |
| Other                 | 143   | 215   | 416   | 483   | 666   |

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA

## ILLINOIS AG SECTOR OUTPUT AND INCOME

| Year                  | Ag Sector output 1/ | Net value added 2/ | Net farm income 3/ |
|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ---Million dollars--- |                     |                    |                    |
| 1950                  | 1,927               | 1,017              | 734                |
| 1960                  | 2,129               | 836                | 534                |
| 1970                  | 2,908               | 1,104              | 630                |
| 1980                  | 7,347               | 1,916              | 112                |
| 1990                  | 8,462               | 3,811              | 1,508              |
| 2000                  | 7,993               | 4,011              | 1,561              |
| 2004                  | 11,635              | 6,296              | 4,022              |

1/ Gross value of the commodities and services produced.

2/ Contribution of the agricultural sector to the National economy.

3/ Farm operators' share of income from the sector's production.

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA

# AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS

## PER CAPITA CONSUMPTION, U.S.

| Food Group          | 1970  | 1980  | 1990  | 2000  |
|---------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Beef 1/             | 79.6  | 72.1  | 63.9  | 64.5  |
| Pork 1/             | 48.0  | 52.1  | 46.4  | 47.8  |
| Chicken 1/          | 27.4  | 32.7  | 42.4  | 53.2  |
| Turkey 1/           | 6.4   | 8.1   | 13.8  | 13.7  |
| Eggs 2/             | 39.5  | 34.8  | 30.2  | 32.4  |
| Cheese 2/           | 11.4  | 17.5  | 24.6  | 30.0  |
| Fresh Fruits 2/     | 101.2 | 104.8 | 116.3 | 127.2 |
| Fresh Vegetables 2/ | 152.9 | 149.3 | 167.2 | 200.4 |

1/ Pounds of boneless, trimmed meat. 2/ Pounds.

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA

## VALUE OF ILLINOIS FARM EXPORTS

| Commodity Group       | 1980    | 1990    | 2000    | 2006    |
|-----------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| ---Million dollars--- |         |         |         |         |
| Wheat & Products      | 165.8   | 235.3   | 122.9   | 122.3   |
| Feed grains           | 1,862.9 | 1,435.7 | 935.9   | 1,378.8 |
| Soybeans & Products   | 1,437.9 | 979.5   | 1,110.0 | 1,255.2 |
| Live Animals & Meat   | 50.2    | 129.5   | 264.0   | 365.9   |
| Other                 | 128.0   | 326.4   | 252.9   | 664.9   |
| TOTAL                 | 3,644.8 | 3,106.4 | 2,842.5 | 3,787.1 |

Source: Economic Research Service, USDA