

Colorado Agriculture

When people think of Colorado, they normally think of outdoor fun in the Rocky Mountains. Think again. Nearly half of Colorado's 66 million acres are farms and ranches. Colorado agriculture contributes over \$16 billion annually to the state's economy.

Hungry for a juicy steak? Colorado has plenty. There are close to 10,000 beef producers in Colorado. The cattle industry is the single largest agricultural industry in the state, bringing in \$3.1 billion in 2005 cash receipts.

Love a baked potato with your steak or chips with your burger? Colorado produces over 2 billion pounds of potatoes annually, making it the nation's 5th largest potato producing state. Steamed vegetables or salad with your burger and fries sound good? Colorado ranks third nationally in the production of summer lettuce.

To go with the steak and potatoes, vegetables and salad, Colorado's 5 million bushels of barley help make Colorado one of the top three beer producing states. Colorado is also home to over 64 licensed wineries and to top a wonderful meal try a delicious Rocky Ford melon, Cheers!

Colorado agriculture is more than just food. Colorado farmers and ranchers also contribute to the creation of products related to manufacturing, health care, education, recreation, transportation, construction and personal care. Yes, that's everything from detergents, x-ray film, bandages, crayons, paper, piano keys, footballs, shoes, plastics, hydraulic brake fluid, ball bearings, tires, insulation, linoleum, soaps, cosmetics, shaving cream and perfume.

Colorado agriculture helps feed the nation and the world, provide wildlife habitat, protect the environment and fuel the state economy.



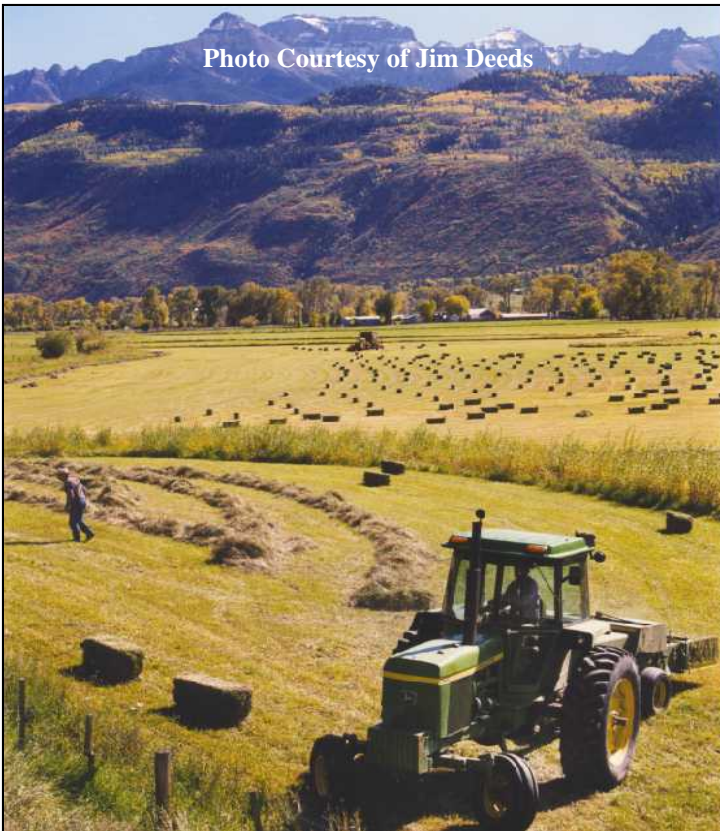
Quick Facts About Colorado's Agriculture

- Colorado's cash farm receipts for 2005 totaled \$5.4 billion. Livestock products accounted for 74% of the total while crops accounted for the other 26%.
- Agriculture continues to be a vital part of Colorado's future, playing a unique role in our economic strength, providing for over 105,000 jobs, 4.4% of the state's total; and bringing in over \$15 billion annually.
- Colorado farmers and ranchers help to feed the world, exporting nearly \$1 billion annually. South Korea, Canada, Japan, and Taiwan receive the largest share of Colorado food products.
- The array of products grown in Colorado is staggering and in some cases, untapped. Colorado farmers have diversified to grow oats, sunflowers, quinoa, grapes, mushrooms and Anasazi beans.
- Colorado ranchers have diversified to raise fish, bison, domesticated elk, ostriches, llamas, goats, alpacas, and emus. Ranking in the country's top 10 for production of more than 30 agricultural products.
- Colorado's agricultural industry has lost nearly 2 million acres of agricultural land over the last ten years.

Colorado's Top 10 Farm and Ranch Products for 2005 (Million dollars)

	Commodity	2005 Receipts
1.	Cattle & Calves	3,138
2.	Dairy	345
3.	Greenhouse & Nursery	292
4.	Corn	261
5.	Hogs & Pigs	222
6.	Hay	216
7.	Wheat	164
8.	Sheep & Lambs	127
9.	Poultry & Eggs	119
10.	Potatoes	106

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The "average" farm operator in Colorado is a 55 year old male with a farm spanning 991 acres and worth \$757,613. An average farmer has farm machinery and equipment valued at \$87,871, raises crop's worth \$45,781 annually and sells livestock, poultry and their products valued at \$130,809. This farmer grossed \$176,590 in 2005.

In 2005, this farmer paid:

- \$ 50,623 for livestock and poultry
- \$ 22,100 for feed
- \$ 5,654 for seed
- \$ 4,753 for fertilizer and lime
- \$ 2,678 for pesticides
- \$ 6,425 for petroleum
- \$ 6,263 for Repair and Maintenance
- \$ 7,633 for Marketing, Storage and Transportation

After this farmer deducted his expenses from his income and added in an average government payment of \$8,174, his net farm income was \$39,870 for 2005.

Top 10 Agricultural Counties in Colorado 2002 Sales (Million Dollars)

1. Weld	1,128
Cattle, hay, wheat, sugar beets, corn, sheep, eggs, vegetables, dairy, nursery and greenhouse	
2. Yuma	543
Cattle, corn, sunflowers, pinto beans, potatoes, wheat, hogs	
3. Morgan	448
Cattle, dairy, hogs, wheat, corn, hay, millet	
4. Logan	350
Cattle, hay, sugar beets, wheat, corn, hogs, millet	
5. Kit Carson	206
Sunflowers, pinto beans, corn, wheat, cattle	
6. Prowers	183
Watermelon, hay, cattle, sorghum, wheat, barley, vegetables	
7. Otero	106
Cantaloupe, watermelon, cattle, hay, dairy, corn, sorghum	
8. Larimer	101
Sheep, dairy, cattle, corn, bison, Nursery and greenhouse	
9. Adams	99
Wheat, sunflowers, nursery and greenhouse, wheat, dairy, vegetables, millet	
10. Alamosa	94
Potatoes, barley, hay, cattle	