

Office of the Director

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Dear Friend:

On the pages that follow, you will find a thorough accounting of Illinois agricultural performance. The *Illinois Agricultural Statistics Annual Summary* is an accurate and authoritative source of information about our top industry and a valuable tool for producers, processors, buyers, and suppliers alike.

From grain to livestock, the *Annual Summary* not only quantifies our production, but also presents the data in a manner that lends itself to useful comparisons. For example, producers can find out how Illinois stacks up against other states, how their county rates against other counties, and even how their production compares to the average of other farmers in their home county.



The *Annual Summary* also contains information about agricultural exports, alternative crops, farm real estate, population, and income, fertilizer and chemical usage, and weather trends, including vital precipitation levels and temperature readings by district. Indeed, the statistical data is as diverse as the industry itself.

There is plenty Illinois agriculture can be proud of. Despite challenging market conditions, Illinois remains one of the leading commodity producing, processing, and exporting states in the United States. This publication will help you understand why. I also hope it helps put our farm economy in proper perspective so we can better plan for a prosperous future.

Sincerely,



Joe Hampton
Director, Illinois Department of Agriculture