



*South Dakota Department of Agriculture*

523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-3182  
(605) 773-3375 (605) 773-5926 FAX

**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

Fellow South Dakotans:

America has a food surplus because our agricultural industry is one of the best in the world. We could not be one of the best without accurate and timely facts about our industry.

The leaders of our state have long recognized that knowing where we are is necessary when we form goals for the future. Agricultural statistics are not merely valuable, they are essential.

Reliable facts and the best trend information we can possibly obtain are tools we must have as we make decisions about changes in production methods, adoption of new products and development of new markets.

Such information is widely used even by those not directly involved with production agriculture. Nearly every facet of our economy is touched by changes in agriculture and the shifting demographics of rural South Dakota.

We are an agricultural state, and changes in agriculture impact everyone in the state.

The South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service, under the guidance of my friend Carter Anderson, does an outstanding job of gathering and distributing the facts we use each day.

I hope you take as much pride in this document as I do, and use its information to design a brighter future for South Dakota.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Gabriel  
S.D. SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

