



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, GOVERNOR

My Fellow South Dakotans:

It is my pleasure to report to you that despite continuing impacts of the region's lingering drought, our state increased agricultural production in several areas last year.

South Dakota ranked second in the nation for 2004 production of sunflowers, honey, oats and millet and third in the nation for alfalfa hay, flax, rye and lambs.

South Dakota increased sunflower seed production to 606.7 million pounds and ranked second in the nation in production of that commodity.

Our rank in honey production last year rose from fourth to second place. Honey producers in our state reported 22.6 million pounds.

Both corn and soybean production increased from the previous year. Corn production was 539.5 million bushels while soybean growers produced 140.1 million bushels.

We're moving forward in agriculture development as well as production. We've funded 21 feasibility or marketing studies with the Value-Added Subfund in the past 2 years in areas such as bio-diesel, beef processing, oilseed crushing, custom dried forage and using swine for diabetes research.

In the past year, ten new dairy production facilities have been built, representing \$40 million in new investments in South Dakota. The South Dakota Certified Beef program was approved by the legislature, and a new turkey processing facility is near completion in Huron. The plant will process a large portion of the 4.5 million turkeys raised in our state annually.

I congratulate all the hard-working men and women involved in South Dakota agriculture for a job well done. The statistics show you have moved forward and made progress in some difficult times.

You are a vital component of our state's economy and we are all grateful for your contributions.

Sincerely,

M. Michael Rounds

