



# STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

## M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, GOVERNOR

My Fellow South Dakotans:

It is hard to imagine a part of our economy that serves a more important role than agriculture. South Dakota's farmers are exceptionally good at providing us with a wide variety of high-quality food and fiber products. Increasingly, agriculture is also seen as a source of the energy we need to drive our economy and help us break our energy dependence on foreign oil.

In 2007, our ethanol plants produced more than 625 million gallons of ethanol and gained South Dakota the rank of fourth in the nation in ethanol production. In the same year, South Dakota's citizens purchased nearly 420 million gallons of gasoline. This means that, for gasoline powered vehicles, our state can already be considered energy independent. We are also moving forward in bio-diesel development and in boosting wind power production.



Agriculture is our state's dominant economic driver, accounting for over \$19.4 billion in economic activity. That is one-third of our state's economy and illustrates the importance of agriculture to our state's rural and urban communities.

The statistics provided in this publication are a valuable tool for measuring our accomplishments in agriculture. They are also a key for setting our goals; any good plan for future progress requires first knowing where we have been and how we are currently positioned.

I want to thank all the South Dakota farmers and agri-businesses who responded to the National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS) surveys and the staff at USDA-NASS that compiled this information. The production of this useful publication is only possible through their cooperation, support, and hard work.

Sincerely,

M. Michael Rounds