



SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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My Fellow South Dakotans,

Advances in biotechnology, animal husbandry, machine technology and even social media have all greatly affected the way farmers and ranchers operate. The rapid changes in these fields have a huge impact on the agriculture industry, and many of the producers and processors are scrambling to keep up.

The agriculture of my grandparent's and even parent's generation is gone. Agriculture is a global business with an ever expanding number of consumers. However, we can still retain the fundamental traditions and skillsets that our forefathers have taught us, such as being good stewards of the land. This knowledge passed down from generation to generation coupled with new technological advances help South Dakotans to produce better products, have higher yields, protect against more diseases and pests, and get consumers reengaged in agriculture.



South Dakota farmers, ranchers, producers, and processors will continue to supply the world with top quality products. Producers must continue to adapt and adjust to changing technology, as they have done throughout history, in order to remain successful. In addition, we need to continue to grow our relationships with consumers, whether they are located across the fence line or across the world.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service does a phenomenal job of gathering data and distributing the facts we use every day to make agriculture an ever stronger industry in South Dakota. I hope you take as much pride in this publication as I do, and use the information to help carve out a brighter future for all South Dakotans.

Respectfully,

Walt Bones
Secretary of Agriculture