



# SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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My Fellow South Dakotans,

Agriculture is not just crops in the ground and livestock in the field. It encompasses so much more than what the naked eye can see. South Dakota's agriculture industry employs over 122,000 people in South Dakota, including bio-engineers and marketing consultants. The diversity of agriculture is limited only by our imagination.

Innovative ideas have urged agriculture to re-define itself and review what other areas can be improved upon. For example, livestock operations are able to use nutrient management to benefit local crop farmers, who utilize the product to increase production and lower input costs. Crop farmers can sell their distillers grain for livestock fodder, consuming a by-product which used to be thrown away. Mutually beneficial relationships like this can be found throughout agriculture. The next big idea may be as simple as finding a way you can help your neighbor.



Value-added agriculture is an expanding field in South Dakota. South Dakota is diverse in its agricultural products and by adding more production in South Dakota, we benefit by making South Dakota products a commodity to be desired.

This publication shows the changes agriculture production has taken in our state over the past several years. There is a challenge out there to all of agriculture to feed the world. I know South Dakotans will rise to the challenge of making more food and making it more affordable.

Sincerely,

Lucas Lentsch  
Secretary of Agriculture