



# A Look at *Michigan* Agriculture

Capital: Lansing

Population: 9,909,877

Founded: January 26, 1837 (26<sup>th</sup>)

State Bird: American Robin

State Tree: White pine

State Flower: Apple Blossom

Number of Counties: 83

Largest City: Detroit - 688,701

Nickname: Great Lakes State

Number of Farms: 51,000

Average Farm Size: 193 acres

Total Farmland: 9.95 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- Michigan has many microclimates which support the growth of over 300 commodities on a commercial basis, making the state the second most agriculturally diverse state in the nation.
- Michigan has nearly 10 million acres of farmland with 2.3 million acres of those acres enrolled in some form of conservation program through the Natural Resource Conservation Service.
- The Kalkaska Series of soil, which cover over 750,000 acres in both the upper and lower peninsulas and 29 of 83 counties was named the state soil on December 4, 1990.
- The soil series supports the growth of hardwood timber trees like sugar maple, yellow birch and Christmas trees.

## Crops & Livestock

- Michigan is the national leader in the production of tart cherries, having grown 158 million pounds, or 63% of the U.S. total in 2015.
- Michigan also ranks 1st nationally for the production of pickling cucumbers, dry beans (black, cranberry, navy, small red), hostas, Easter Lilies, begonias, geraniums, petunias, blueberries and Niagara grapes.
- Michigan is 2nd nationally for asparagus, carrots, celery, snap beans, squash and asparagus.
- Michigan ranks 3rd in the nation in apple production with about 1 billion pounds in 2015.
- Michigan harvested 159,000 acres of vegetables in 2012 with a farm gate value of \$463 million.
- In 2015, Michigan led the nation in the value of sales for 14 crops including Impatiens (flats and hanging baskets), Begonia hanging baskets, Geraniums (hanging baskets and potted plants), Potted Easter Lilies, and Petunias(baskets, flats and pots).
- Approximately 428,000 dairy cows produced more than 11.2 billion pounds of milk each year. Michigan ranks 5th nationally in milk production.
- Egg production in 2015 totaled 3.84 billion eggs from 15 million laying hens.
- There were more than 1.12 million cattle in the state in 2014 and 1.2 million hogs, 76,000 sheep and 11,300 dairy goats.

## General

- Production agriculture, food processing and related businesses employ 923,000 Michiganders nearly 22% of the state's workforce.
- Agriculture is Michigan's second largest industry, generating \$101.2 billion annually to the state's economy.
- Michigan exports about one-third of its agricultural commodities each year, generating nearly \$3.2 billion annually.