

# A Look at *West Virginia* Agriculture

Capital: Charleston

Population: 1,819,777

Founded: June 20, 1863 (35<sup>th</sup>)

State Bird: Cardinal

State Tree: Sugar Maple

State Flower: Rhododendron

Number of Counties: 55

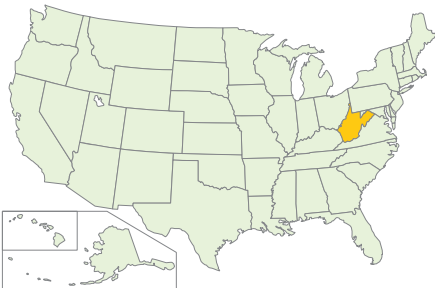
Largest City: Charleston - 50,381

Nickname: Mountain State

Number of Farms: 23,200

Average Farm Size: 157 acres

Total Farmland: 3.7 million acres



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## Climate & Soil

- West Virginia gets approximately 4" of rain each month.
- The average temperature in January is 34° F.
- The average temperature in July is 72° F.
- West Virginia is known for shallow, clayey, and acidic soil.
- River flood plains provide blacker more fertile soils and limestone bedrock helps neutralize soil acidity.

## Crops & Livestock

- The state ranks 10th for apple production, 12th for trout production, 14th for turkey production, 15th for peach production within the United States.
- Hay, grown to feed the state's livestock, is the #1 crop, providing 2% of West Virginia's total agricultural receipts.
- Other major crops of West Virginia are apples, corn for grain, soybeans and tobacco.
- Peaches and wheat are also grown in the state.
- Broilers (young chickens) are the state's #1 agricultural commodity, generating about 31% of West Virginia's total agricultural receipts.
- Beef cattle and calves produce about 21% of the state's total agricultural receipts.
- Chicken eggs, dairy products, and turkeys are other major livestock products produced by the State of West Virginia.
- Sheep and lambs, hogs, farm chickens, honey, farm-raised fish, and wool are also produced in West Virginia.

## General

- Approximately 95 percent of West Virginia farms are family-owned; the highest in the U.S.
- The state is the third most-forested state within the nation. Total forested area is 12 million acres.
- In terms of revenue generated West Virginia's top five agricultural products are broilers (young chickens), cattle and calves, hay, dairy products, and turkeys.