



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA
M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, GOVERNOR

My Fellow South Dakotans:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this statistical report of agricultural progress in South Dakota. This publication exemplifies the spirit of cooperation that enables our agricultural industry to compete in world markets while continuing to feed our nation and adapt to changing consumer demand.



The state of South Dakota works closely with the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service to bring this information to you. However, these government agencies depend upon cooperation from thousands of farmers, ranchers, businessmen and other organizations to assist in gathering the statistics.

South Dakota ranks near the top among the states in the production of several products, but in my view, we rank *first* in the spirit of cooperation. That spirit has been a hallmark of our state since the days of early settlement and just may be one of the most valuable "products" grown in our rural communities.

I congratulate all the hard-working men and women in South Dakota agriculture at every level for a job well done. We are progressing and we are doing it together in some difficult times.

We are all grateful for the many and bountiful contributions of agriculture. When agriculture does well, South Dakota does well. I look forward to working with my many friends in agriculture as we make this great state even better for all who live here.

Sincerely,

M. Michael Rounds