



*South Dakota Department of Agriculture*

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**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

My Fellow South Dakotans:

The statistics in this publication are valuable. They are a measure of our accomplishments and a map to our future.

Every good plan for the future requires knowing where we have been and where we are currently. Every good idea for a new product is based on knowledge of the resources we have at hand. This report provides that key information.

A ready, reliable and abundant supply of raw material is critical to most processing or manufacturing enterprises. Developers of new projects need these statistics.



The bulk commodities produced by the hard work of our farmers and ranchers contribute about \$6 billion to our economy each year, but that is only a small portion of their potential economic impact. Transforming commodities into products (such as ethanol) adds to their economic impact on our state.

South Dakota often ranks number two nationally in honey production. Much of our high quality honey is sold in bulk to people outside South Dakota and blended with lower quality honey. That is an opportunity.

We produce an abundance of beef, but much of it is finished and processed outside of our state. That is an opportunity.

We produce an abundance of corn, and although we process much of it into ethanol, the distillers grain (a valuable livestock feed) is mostly shipped out of state. That is an opportunity.

In many areas we can expand our processing and product development to capture a greater share of the end value of our resources. This report is a guide to seeking an opportunity to do that.

We greatly appreciate the cooperation of everyone who provides these statistics and congratulate the South Dakota Agricultural Statistics office on a job well done.

Sincerely,

Larry E. Gabriel  
SD Secretary of Agriculture