



## STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, GOVERNOR

It is again my pleasure to welcome you to take part in reviewing the information in this book put together by the National Agricultural Statistics Service. The state of South Dakota relies on the information in this bulletin to track the changes in agriculture in South Dakota. Agriculture continues to be the strongest economic engine in our state, and we are encouraged by the data we see in this year's report. We continue to remain strong nationally in our primary products and yet hold value in some of our minor crops.



Agriculture has had to be innovative to remain viable in an increasingly competitive marketplace. We continue to look at every avenue to pursue growth and viability. The energy opportunities that have developed in our state involve more farm families than any other state in our nation. This true entrepreneurial spirit is what South Dakota was founded on.

We continue to see advancements in agriculture and research that will help our farmers and ranchers remain viable and an integral part of South Dakota's economy. This publication helps guide us as we pursue the new opportunities that we find in our state.

Producers can use this information as a tool in determining what they plant and how they market their production. Planting and marketing decisions will become increasingly important in a very competitive global marketplace.

I want to thank the families that take the time to help provide the information we find in this publication. With their assistance, agriculture will continue to be the cornerstone of our statewide economy.

Sincerely,

M. Michael Rounds