



# South Dakota Department of Agriculture

523 East Capitol Avenue, Pierre, SD 57501-3182  
(605) 773-3375 (605) 773-5926 FAX

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

My Fellow South Dakotans:

As I assume the leadership role for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture, I have become increasingly aware of the opportunities and challenges that we face in South Dakota. These challenges and opportunities can only be met with sound, logical decisions which must be based on reliable information like that found in the South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service annual bulletin. The information in this publication is an important tool for all of us.



The second goal of the Governor's 2010 Initiative is to increase the Gross State Product. The data in this bulletin helps us by providing the yardstick by which we measure our success. Reliable and sound data is the way in which we can determine if we are truly moving the State of South Dakota forward with our initiatives.

Our opportunities, as producers, will continue to expand in the near future. We will have a new farm bill that will focus more funding on energy and conservation than ever before. It will be up to us to utilize that knowledge and the best data available to continue to make a living in agriculture.

The resources that we have available will help us craft the direction we will take in the future. It is important that we have good information as we develop policies that will affect our children. We need to ensure that all components of agriculture are represented in our decision-making and the annual bulletin helps us to track not only the major commodities grown in South Dakota but also the impacts we receive from some of the minor crops.

Corn, soybeans, wheat, cattle and swine will most likely be our mainstays for agriculture in South Dakota but new energy crops and specialty crops may hold the key to sustainability for some of our farms and ranches in the future.

We have a wealth of business opportunities before us and need to continue to explore these new ideas for the future growth and development of our state. If we want our children and grandchildren to enjoy the same opportunities we have had in agriculture, then we need to explore the many new business opportunities available.

I want to thank everyone that helped provide the information in this bulletin which allows us to make sound decisions and to base our policies and business assumptions upon. It is this spirit of cooperation that makes the State of South Dakota a great place to work and live.

Sincerely

*Bill Even*

Bill Even

**Agriculture – South Dakota's #1 Industry**