



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

DENNIS DAUGAARD, GOVERNOR

My Fellow South Dakotans,

As I travel across the state, I continually marvel at the economic development activities underway due to our ever-increasing agricultural productivity. New grain bins, farrowing barns, dairies, and other facilities demonstrate the remarkable progress of modern agriculture.

Farms in South Dakota are changing, and innovation is essential to continue our thriving agriculture community. In the last decade, the average farm size has increased from 1,377 acres to almost 1,400. Yields for our corn, hay, soybeans, and wheat have increased as well. We remain in the top ten producing states for those crops, and also for alfalfa, sunflowers, flaxseed, oats, and other crops, as well.

The increases in crop production have been matched by productivity in the livestock sector. Today we produce more beef, pork, milk, and turkey than ten years ago and in many cases, we do it with fewer head of livestock.

Tracking change over time is an important aspect of sound management and the National Agriculture Statistics Service continues to compile and disseminate vital information that helps our producers become better managers. The figures point to strong success over the past several years, and I'm confident South Dakota agriculture will continue to thrive in the years to come.



Sincerely,

Dennis Daugaard