

A Look at Tennessee Agriculture



Tennessee

Capital: Nashville
Population: 5,319,654
Founded: June 1, 1796 (16th State)
State Bird: Mockingbird
State Tree: Tulip Poplar
State Flower: Iris
Number of Counties: 95
Largest City: Memphis Population: 596,725

Climate



- The climate of Tennessee is good for crop growth.
- Hot summers help plants grow and moderate winters help soil replenish itself.
- Tennessee typically receives 50" of rain each year.
- Winds from the Gulf of Mexico bring most of the rain and snow to Tennessee.
- Tennessee averages 40°F in winter and 78°F in summer. West Tennessee averages 5" of snow while north-eastern Tennessee gets 16".

Crops



- Tobacco, soybeans and cotton are the top Tennessee crops.
- Tobacco plants grow five to seven feet tall.
- Cotton is harvested using a picker.
- Most Cotton is used for fiber (lint) but can also be used for livestock feed, oil production, plastics, foods, and much more. (seed)
- Tennessee has more species of trees than any other state.
- Most soybeans are used for livestock feed but can also be used for soybean oil, medicines, soy ink, paints, cosmetics, and much more.
- Tennessee ranks #1 in the U.S. for hardwood and #3 in horses.
- Tennessee leads in the production of nursery & floriculture, both of which are specialty crops.

Soil



- Tennessee has 3 regional land types:
 - West: row crop land
 - Middle: fertile rolling land
 - East: hilly to mountainous.
- All living things depend on soil as a source of food, so it is the responsibility of each generation to use soil wisely.
- The Tennessee state rock is Limestone.
- Tennessee is home to Milan No-till Field Day the largest field day devoted to conservation tillage.

General



- In 2000, there were 90,000 farms in Tennessee.
- Each Tennessee farmer feeds 129 people.
- Tennessee has 42,244 square miles of land. (27 million acres)
- In Tennessee, 21.7 million acres of land is used for agricultural purposes including forestry. (80%)

Animals



- There are 2,150,000 cattle, 230,000 pigs, 2,210,000 chickens and 190,000 horses in Tennessee.
- Tennessee dairy cattle produce over 1,405,000 pounds of milk each year.
- Tennessee poultry produces 278 million eggs per year.



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