



COLORADO
Department of Agriculture

COLORADO **AGRICULTURE**



It's not just a state, but a
STATE OF MIND

Coloradans love our land, our mountains, our sunshine and our bright blue skies. We are adventurous. We are creative and innovative. We are hard-working. Wherever you go in Colorado, mountains or plains, you know instantly that there's something different, something special here.

COLORADO AGRICULTURE

is much more than just high-altitude farming. It's a way of life that you can sense with every bite of flavorful Colorado beef, tender Colorado lamb, juicy Western Slope peaches and sweet Rocky Ford melons. Our crisp, dry mountain air, abundant sunny days, varied water conditions and soil types, and diverse growing environments make Colorado an ideal landscape for growing a wide range of grains and specialty crops, raising and processing livestock, and producing dairy and eggs. As a result, Colorado is one of the top agricultural states in the United States. We annually export about \$2 billion in agricultural products, giving people around the world a taste of Colorado.

Agriculture drives our state and our state of mind. Colorado agriculture is spread across 38,900 farms and ranches on nearly 32 million privately owned acres. Agriculture in Colorado contributes \$47 billion annually to our economy and employs more than 195,000 people. We are an agricultural state. You can sense it in our people, see it in our landscape and taste it in our food.



\$47
BILLION
TO COLORADO'S
ECONOMY

32
MILLION
ACRES

38,900
FARMS
AND RANCHES

EMPLOYS MORE THAN
195,000

INNOVATIVE AGRICULTURE

Colorado's Department of Agriculture is as varied as our state's terrain. Created in 1933, the Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) strives to serve and support the lives of those who are involved in agriculture. The Commissioner's Office oversees CDA's eight divisions that support, protect and regulate our state's agriculture industry.

The **Animal Health Division** works with the livestock industry, veterinary medical organizations, and state and federal agencies to protect the health, welfare and marketability of Colorado livestock.

The **Inspection and Consumer Services Division** provides economic protection to agriculture producers to ensure that consumers receive products that are safe, properly labeled and sold in an honest manner.

The **Markets Division** identifies and offers opportunities for food and agricultural companies to market and sell their products locally, nationally and internationally, collects market news from around the state, oversees eight market orders, and conducts size and grade produce inspections.

The **Laboratory Services Division** conducts chemical, microbiological and instrumental analysis of samples related to animal food and health, pesticides, soil, fertilizer, groundwater, industrial hemp and marijuana, and is the primary source of measurement and standards for CDA and other agencies.

The **Brands Division** protects Colorado's livestock industry by inspecting and verifying ownership, recording brands, and licensing livestock sales barns, packing plants and alternative livestock farms.

The **Conservation Services Division** helps farmers, ranchers and other landowners manage natural resources effectively for sustained agriculture production and environmental health.

The **Plant Industry Division** provides crop production, environmental health and expert certification services, including organic certifications, nursery stock inspections, seed inspection and certification, and more.

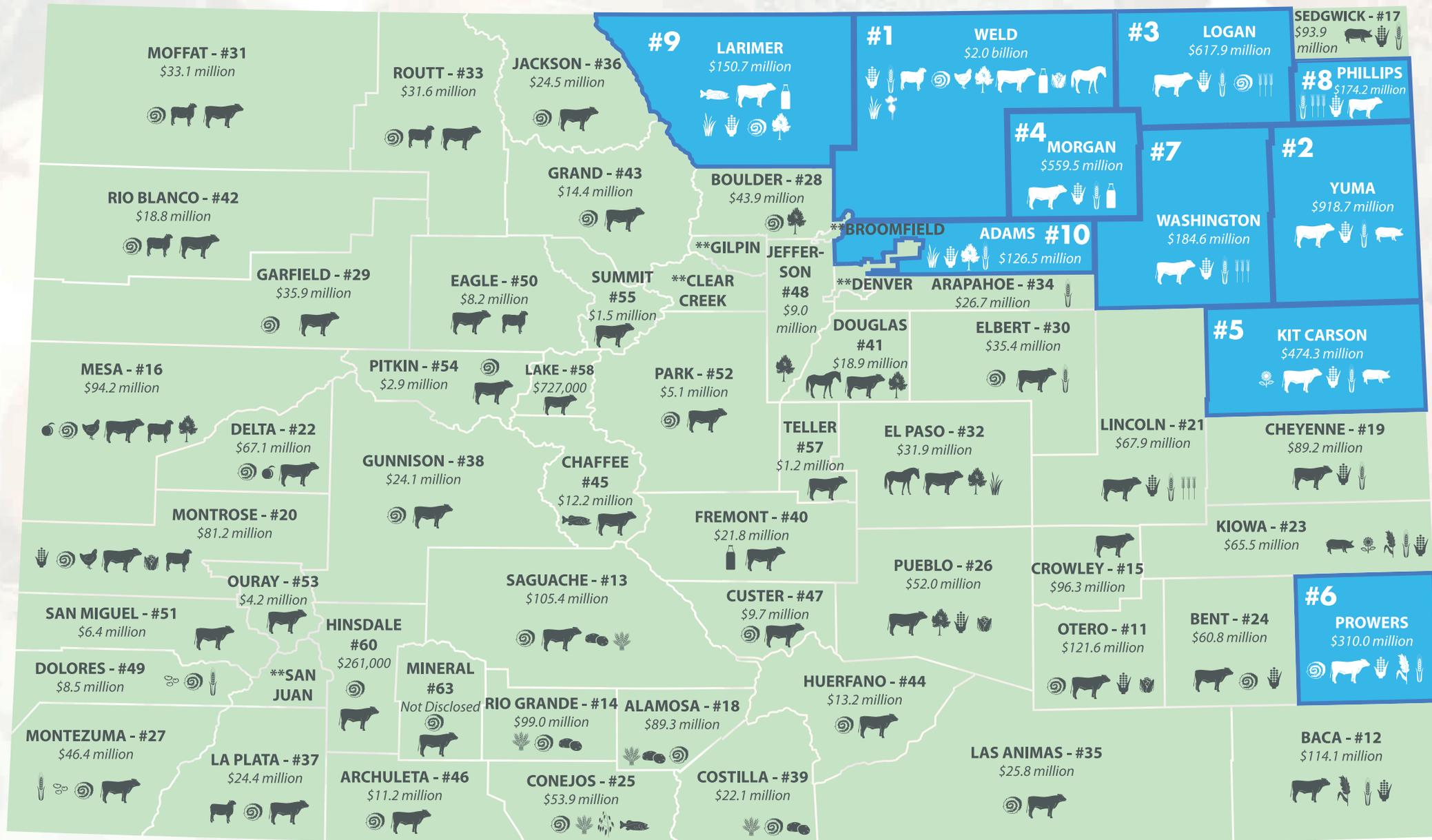
The **Colorado State Fair** creates an annual entertaining, inspiring and inter-generational event that highlights the preservation, promotion and exposition of the state's vibrant and diverse agriculture, industry and culture.

Advancing Colorado Agriculture

The Colorado Department of Agriculture's mission is to strengthen and advance Colorado agriculture, promote a safe and high-quality food supply, protect consumers, and foster responsible stewardship of the environment and natural resources.



A GLIMPSE OF COLORADO'S AGRICULTURE*

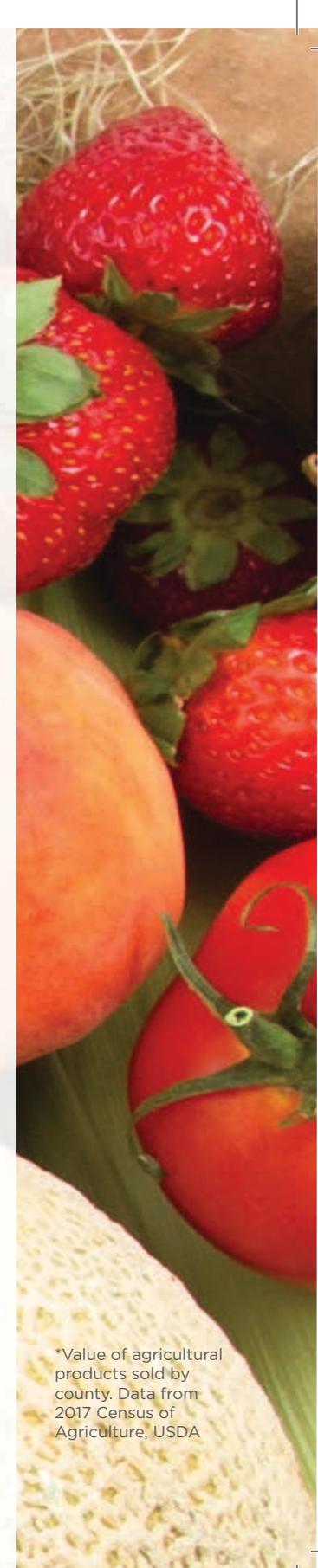


- | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| Aquaculture | Dry Beans | Millet | Sod |
| Barley | Fruits | Nursery | Sorghum |
| Cattle | Hay | Oats | Sugarbeets |
| Corn | Hogs | Poultry & Eggs | Sunflowers |
| Dairy | Horses | Potatoes | Vegetables |
| | | Sheep | Wheat |

** #56 DENVER Not Disclosed
 #59 BROOMFIELD \$613,000
 #61 GILPIN \$216,000
 #62 CLEAR CREEK \$174,000
 SAN JUAN Not Available

BLUE AREAS
 are top ten agricultural
 counties in Colorado.

*Value of agricultural products sold by county. Data from 2017 Census of Agriculture, USDA



CATTLE

Cattle is king in Colorado, representing the largest segment of agriculture and contributing nearly \$4 billion in annual cash receipts. Our varied landscape, warm summer days and cool nights give our livestock an abundance of grazing and feed options. Colorado cattle have access to millions of acres of grazing land across the state. With more than 300 days of sunshine, Colorado has a mild climate, benefiting our cattle feeding industry. Plus, we have innovative and state-of-the-art processing facilities, ensuring our beef is safe to eat and delicious to taste.



CORN

Colorado has a vibrant history growing corn for livestock feed and other uses. More than a million acres across the state are dedicated to the corn crop that supplies raw materials for feed, fuel and biodegradable products in the U.S. and internationally.



DAIRY

Colorado dairy products nourish families, communities and our state. Dairy farms produce over four billion pounds of milk each year, contributing more than half a billion dollars in annual cash receipts. The dairy industry in Colorado also creates over 53,000 direct and indirect jobs, resulting in \$2.9 billion in employee compensation and well over \$3 billion in economic activity.



WHEAT

More than two million acres of wheat are planted and harvested in Colorado each year, making the crop one of Colorado's top agricultural commodities. Even with variable weather, including severe drought followed by record-setting floods, Colorado has continuously ranked high nationally as a wheat-producing state.



NURSERY & GREENHOUSE

Agriculture is much more than just plows and cows, and Colorado's greenhouse and nursery industry is proof of that. Contributing more than \$2 billion to the state's economy, greenhouses and nurseries provide seeds, plants and other resources to Colorado's agricultural landscape. Greenhouses and nurseries not only beautify and enrich our land, they contribute to our entire ecosystem and food supply.



FRUIT & VEGETABLES

Warm days, cool nights, high plains, and broad, dry plateaus give way to some of the country's sweetest, juiciest fruit and crispest, most flavorful vegetables. From peaches, apples and melons to sweet corn, chiles, potatoes and lettuce, Colorado grows a wide variety of fruit and vegetables.



HAY

Hay is an essential agricultural crop, providing feed, bedding and seed that sustain overall agriculture in Colorado, across the U.S. and worldwide. Nearly one and a half million acres across Colorado's mountain meadows and fertile plains produce a diverse range of hay, including alfalfa, grass and various mixes.



POTATOES

Colorado's majestic San Luis Valley has a love affair with potato farming. The largest alpine valley in North America is the perfect environment for potatoes to flourish with sunny summer days, cool nights, low humidity and innovative farmers. Colorado potato farmers grow over two billion pounds of fresh potatoes annually. The healthy potato is a nutritional powerhouse with complex carbs for energy, more potassium than a banana, and no sodium.



SHEEP & WOOL

Sheep are raised in nearly every state in the U.S. and Colorado ranks consistently as one of the top five sheep and wool producers year after year. Colorado feeds more lambs than any other state in the nation. Colorado's climate and geography allow our state to produce some of the best lamb and wool in the nation. Colorado Lamb is known worldwide for its mild flavor and tender cuts.



EGGS & POULTRY

Colorado hens lay more than one billion eggs a year. Just like other Colorado livestock producers, Colorado egg and poultry farmers are at the forefront of innovative poultry handling and egg processing, ensuring safely and humanely raised chickens and quality-assured farm fresh eggs. Acknowledging the diversity of consumers in the state, Colorado Egg Producers are proud to offer consumers the choice between cage, cage-free, organic, nutrient-enhanced, and brown and white eggs.



HOGS

The Colorado Pork Producers Council represents pork producers across all aspects of Colorado's vast agricultural landscape, including large production units, and individual youth pork showmen. With an estimated 1,100 pork producers across the state, the organization uses check-off resources for education, research and promotion of pork for domestic and export consumers. Pork is proven to be leaner, healthier and more ethically produced, using fewer resources than ever before. Every day we utilize practices that are good for people, pigs and the planet.



A COLORADO STATE OF MIND

Colorado Proud

Colorado Proud supports food and agricultural products that are grown, raised or made in our state. For more than 20 years, the program has been encouraging consumers to seek out and purchase products labeled with the Colorado Proud logo. With more than 2,800 members, Colorado Proud represents farmers, ranchers, food manufacturers, grocers, restaurants, retailers, schools and associations statewide. The program also educates more than 150,000 Colorado students about local agriculture and healthy eating through its annual Colorado Proud School Meal Day.



Colorado Wine

This is Colorado Wine: extensive sunshine, cool nights and dry climate are ideal for producing perfectly balanced wines. Colorado wineries have won national and international competitions, including the World Riesling Cup and the prestigious Jefferson Cup. Colorado wines have also received 90+ scores from renowned wine publications and critics. *Wine Enthusiast Magazine* even named Colorado as one of the top wine getaways in the world. The Colorado Wine Industry Development Board promotes the more than 160 wineries in our state as well as funds research through Colorado State University. Each year the Wine Board hosts the Governor's Cup competition with wine experts, Master Sommeliers and Masters of Wine from around the country to judge the best wines Colorado has to offer. From robust Cabernet Francs to crisp Rieslings, Colorado is wine country.





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