

Fact Sheet: Wheat & Feed Grains

- The U.S. produces more corn than milk, soybeans, wheat, sugar cane, sugar beets and potatoes combined.
- Corn is a grain, not a vegetable. It counts toward the recommended three daily servings of whole grains.



- Farmers grow corn on every continent except Antarctica.
- Alabama farmers harvested 315,000 acres of corn planted for grain in 2016. Corn silage acreage totaled 7,000 acres.
- In 2016, U.S. corn production totaled 37.8 million bushels, valued at \$132.3 million.
- U.S. corn used for silage totaled 112,000 tons in 2016.
- Popcorn is a special variety of field corn that contains a small amount of water inside a thick-walled casing; when heated, steam builds until the kernel explodes.
- A corn field the size of a football field makes a year's supply of oxygen for 131 people.

- There are 16 kernels of corn in each row and over 800 kernels on one single cob.
- Juices and soft drinks like Coca-Cola and Pepsi contain corn sweeteners. A bushel of corn can sweeten 400 cans of soft drink.
- Wheat is a member of the grass family that produces a dry, one-seeded fruit commonly called a kernel.
- Wheat was first planted in the U.S. in 1777 as a hobby crop and is now grown in 42 states.
- In the U.S., one acre of wheat yields an average of 40 bushels.
- One bushel of wheat contains approximately one million individual kernels, weighing about 60 pounds and yielding 42 pounds of white flour or 60 pounds of whole-wheat flour.
- The 2016 Alabama wheat crop totaled 170,000 acres.
- U.S. wheat totaled 11.9 million bushels in 2016, with a value of \$52.95 million.
- Fifty-thousand all-purpose acres of oats were planted in the U.S. in 2015, and 20,000 acres of oats were harvested.
- The State Wheat and Feed Grains Checkoff collects 1 cent per bushel of grain to fund research, marketing and education.

Sources:

Beef2live.com

Marylandgrain.com

NASS.USDA.gov

Wheatworld.org

ALABAMA

WHEAT & FEED GRAIN PRODUCERS

A DIVISION OF ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION