



- Agriculture has over a \$70 billion economic impact in Alabama.
- Alabama has more than 44,000 farms covering 8.9 million acres.
- One out of every 4.6 jobs in the state relates to agriculture and forestry. Nearly 600,000 Alabamians work directly or indirectly in the industry.
- U.S. farms are 97 percent family owned. Farm and ranch families comprise just 2 percent of the U.S. population.
- Today, each U.S. farmer feeds 155 people, compared to 26 people in 1960.

## Alabama Ag By the Numbers



## Innovations In Ag

- Today's farmers produce 262 percent more food with 2 percent fewer inputs (labor, seeds, feed, fertilizer, water, etc.) compared with 1950.
- Farms operated by women nearly tripled from 5 to 14 percent in the past 30 years.
- There are currently 10 genetically modified organisms (GMOs) commercially available in the U.S.: alfalfa, apples, canola, corn, cotton, papaya, potatoes, soybeans, squash and sugar beets.
- Careful stewardship by farmers spurred a nearly 50 percent decline in cropland erosion by wind and water since 1982.



### Alabama Farmers Federation

A Member of American Farm Bureau Federation  
 P.O. Box 11000 • Montgomery, AL 36191  
 (334) 288-3900 • [www.AlfaFarmers.org](http://www.AlfaFarmers.org)

Soybeans



Cotton



Greenhouse, Nursery & Sod



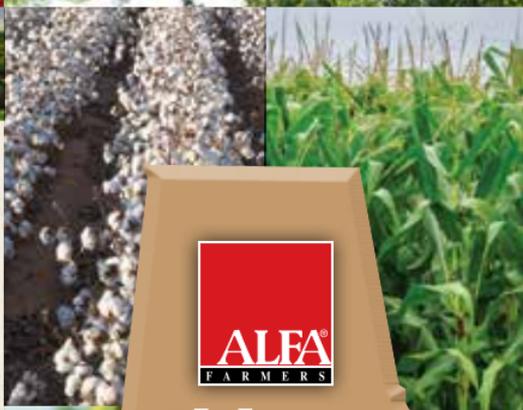
Beef Cattle



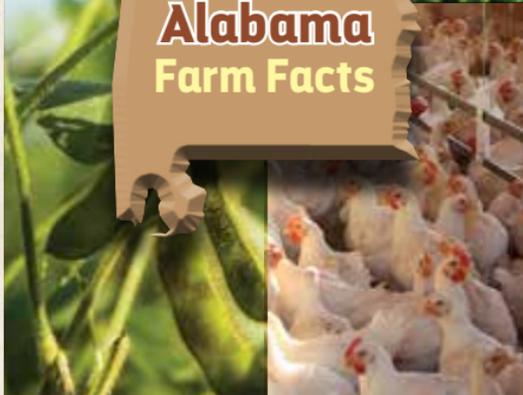
Poultry



## Top Five Commodities



## Alabama Farm Facts





## Crops

- Cotton is the state's most abundant row crop and is grown in 59 of Alabama's 67 counties.
- About half the peanuts produced in the U.S. are grown within a 100-mile radius of Dothan.
- Over 4 million acres are devoted to forage production in the state. Forageland acreage exceeds the acreage of all other crops combined.
- Over 50 percent of Alabama corn is grown in six northern counties: Colbert, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone and Madison.
- Alabama farmers grow about 300,000 acres of soybeans each year. About 85 percent of the world's soybeans are processed into soybean meal and oil.



## Horticulture

- Alabama's green industry, which includes nursery, greenhouse, turfgrass, sod, lawn and landscaping operations, contributes almost \$2.9 billion annually to Alabama's economy. It provides jobs for more than 43,000 Alabamians.
- Peaches are the state's leading commercial fruit, two-thirds of which are grown in Chilton County.
- The queen honeybee is the official state agricultural insect. Bees pollinate 80 percent of flowering crops, which constitute one-third of the American diet.
- Alabama ranks third in the U.S. in sod production, with approximately 18,000 acres of sod.
- More than 1,750 acres of sweet potatoes are grown annually on 67 Alabama farms.
- Approximately 16,340 acres on 1,081 Alabama farms are planted in pecan trees.



## Forestry

- Forestry is Alabama's largest industry. Alabama has 23 million acres of timberland, accounting for 69 percent of the state's total land area.
- Enough lumber grows in Alabama forests to build and furnish nearly 3 million homes.
- Alabama ranks third in the contiguous U.S. in timberland acreage, trailing only Georgia and Oregon.
- Alabama ranks first in pulp production and third in paper production in the U.S.
- Alabama forests generate over \$21 billion in timber production and processing revenue. The industry provides over 122,000 jobs statewide.
- Loblolly pine is the most prevalent forest type and occupies 8.5 million acres in Alabama forests.



## Animal Agriculture

- Alabama processes over 21 million broilers (meat-type chickens) weekly, making the state the second-largest broiler-producing state in the nation.
- Poultry has a \$15.1 billion impact on the state's economy. The industry generates more than 65 percent of agricultural commodity sales and employs more than 86,000 people.
- Alabama ranks second in the country for catfish production. Catfish farming adds over \$104 million to Alabama's economy annually.
- There are approximately 1.2 million cattle in Alabama — or one cow for every three people. Cattle is a \$2.5 billion industry in the state and are raised in all 67 counties.
- There are approximately 100,000 pigs in Alabama, ranking it the 29th state for hog production.