



- Farm families make up just 2% of the U.S. population.
- Today, one farmer feeds 166 people, compared to 26 people in 1960.
- Thirty-one percent of U.S. farmers are women. They farm over 300 million acres with an economic impact of \$12.9 billion.
- Alabama has more than 44,000 farms.

## AG BY THE NUMBERS

- Poultry
- Cattle
- Cotton
- Wheat and Feed Grains
- Nursery, Greenhouse, Floriculture and Sod

## TOP COMMODITIES



## RURAL DICTIONARY



**Agritourism:** Activities and attractions at farms for the general public, such as pumpkin patches and U-pick strawberries

**Apiary:** A farm that raises bees for honey and other products

**Farm:** Land cultivated to produce goods

**Inputs:** Things farmers use regularly that cost money, such as seed, feed and fertilizer

**Ranch:** Farm operation that includes livestock, such as cattle, sheep or goats

**Orchard:** Trees planted and maintained to produce food, such as peaches and apples

**Precision Agriculture:** Farming method that uses GPS, irrigation systems and drones to help increase crop yields and profitability

**Forestry:** The science of growing trees and managing forest land



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A member of the  
American Farm  
Bureau Federation



# ALABAMA AG FACTS







## ANIMAL AG

- There are about 1.29 million head of cattle and calves on Alabama farms.
- Cattle farmers produce a heap of hay each year. In 2022, 1.84 million tons of hay were harvested on 680,000 acres.
- Alabama has over 2,400 poultry producers raising chicken or eggs in 49 of the state's 67 counties.
- Poultry companies process over 23 million broilers weekly in Alabama. A broiler is a chicken raised for meat production.
- A handful of table egg producers who call Alabama home raise approximately 1.7 million laying hens.
- Pork ranks third in annual U.S. meat consumption, behind chicken and beef, averaging more than 50 pounds per person.
- Alabama catfish production ranks second in the country.
- Catfish ponds cover over 14,000 water surface acres in Alabama.



## FORESTRY

- Alabama has 23.1 million acres of forest land.
- Alabama ranks second in timber land among the lower 48 states.
- Since the 1950s, Alabama forest landowners have planted more trees than they have cut.



## GREEN INDUSTRY

- Alabama's green industry includes nursery, greenhouse, floriculture and sod production.
- Nearly 600 growers produce nearly \$300 million in annual sales.
- Alabama ranks fourth nationally in sod production, with approximately 20,000 acres.



## ROW 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. The peanut is the state legume.
- Farmers often rotate crops to promote soil health. For example, a field may cycle through cotton, peanuts and cotton again in a three-year rotation.



## SPECIALTY CROPS

- Peaches are the state's leading commercial fruit, two-thirds of which are grown in Chilton County.
- The queen honeybee is the state agricultural insect, while the sweet potato is the state vegetable.
- Alabama boasts a growing agritourism industry where the public can visit farms and participate in U-picks for pumpkins, strawberries, flowers and Christmas trees.



## AG INNOVATIONS

- 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.
- Unmanned aerial vehicles (also called drones) help farmers safely and efficiently survey crops and land, in addition to spreading and spraying pest suppressants and fertilizer.
- Chickens are humanely grown in houses, which saves water and energy as well as manpower. Modern houses allow chickens to be raised with carefully formulated feed, access to clean water, room to grow and professional veterinary care.