

A Look at North Carolina Agriculture



North Carolina

Capital: Raleigh
Population: 8,856,505
Founded: November 21, 1789 (12th State)
State Bird: Cardinal
State Tree: Pine
Number of Counties: 100
Largest City: Charlotte, Population: 584,658
Nickname: The Tarheel State

Climate



- North Carolina has a broad range of climate conditions due to its three distinct regions: the Appalachian Mountains, the Piedmont, and the Coastal Plains. This topographical variety along with the presence of the Gulf Stream off the coast, gives our state the largest climate variability of any state east of the Mississippi.
- The growing season ranges from 130 days in the northern mountains to 242 days along the coast.

Monthly average temperatures range from a high of

- 88.3°F to a low of 27.3°F.

Soil



- There are over 400 different soils in North Carolina.
- A variety of crops flourish on almost all of the soils in North Carolina if they receive proper management.
- Cecil soils occur on the largest number of acres of the soils with the type location in North Carolina. They make up 1,601,740 acres in the state.
- About half of the acreage is cultivated, and the rest is used for pasture or forest.
- The most common crops are small grains, corn, cotton, and tobacco.

General



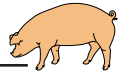
- The highest point in North Carolina is Mount Mitchell at 6,648 feet above sea level. The lowest point in North Carolina is at the shore where North Carolina meets the Atlantic Ocean: sea level. Moving west, the next 2/5 of North Carolina, about 200 miles wide, consists of a piedmont plateau. In the west, the land slopes upward from gentle to rugged rolling hills to the high southern Appalachian Mountains containing the Blue Ridge and Great Smokey Mountains.
- North Carolina had 48,000 farms in 2006. A total of 8,800,000 acres of North Carolina's land is in farms. The average size of a farm is 183 acres.
- North Carolina's agriculture industry, including food, fiber, flowers and forestry, contributes over \$68.3 billion annually to the state's economy. Agriculture accounts for 19% of the state's income and employs over 20% of the work force.

Crops



- North Carolina ranks number one nationally in the production of flue-cured tobacco and sweet potatoes.
- The state ranks 2nd in the production of Christmas trees and cucumbers for pickles.
- The greenhouse/nursery industry is the number one crop producer in North Carolina, followed by tobacco, cotton, soybeans, corn, sweet potatoes, wheat, peanuts, blueberries, cucumbers, and a wide variety of other crops.

Animals



- Hogs and pigs, broilers, turkeys, and cattle and calves are the main animals raised by North Carolina farmers.
- North Carolina ranks second in the nation in the production of hogs, pigs and turkeys; third in net farm income, trout, poultry and egg production; and, fourth in the production of blueberries, greenhouse/nursery, and strawberries.



North Carolina Agriculture in the Classroom
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