



Take A
Closer Look at
Alabama Agriculture

Livestock, & Poultry & Aquaculture

chicken



beef



dairy



Feeding The World



Channel Catfish

Each year, the average American consumes about 25 gallons of milk, 255 eggs, 50 pounds of pork,

66.1 pounds of beef, 60 pounds of chicken and 1 pound of catfish (based on boneless weight).

- While the United States has 10 percent of the world's cattle, it produces nearly 25 percent of the world's beef supply.
- Burgers account for three-fourths of all beef sales in restaurants; 8.2 billion are served in the U.S. each year.
- There are 1.3 million beef cattle in Alabama.
- Today, there are about 70 dairy farms in Alabama; 10 years ago there were more than twice that number.
- Dairy cows give an average of 6.5 gallons of milk per day. That's more than 100 glasses of milk.
- Twenty-five gallons of milk can make nine gallons of ice cream, 25 pounds of cheese or 11 pounds of butter.
- Besides catfish, Alabama aquaculture farmers raise shrimp, tilapia and crawfish.
- Pork is the world's most widely eaten meat, comprising 42.6 percent of meat consumption.



- Poultry products account for about half of Alabama agriculture exports on a dollar-value basis.
- Alabama ranks second in the U.S. in total food fish sales behind Mississippi.
- Eggs are one of today's best food buys. A dozen large eggs weighs 1.5 pounds. So, at 90 cents a dozen, eggs are only 60 cents per pound.
- There are 23,700 acres of catfish ponds in production in Alabama, which produce 131 million pounds of catfish a year valued at more than \$98 million.
- There are about 160,000 pigs and hogs in Alabama with a value of \$14.7 million.
- Nearly 40 drugs and pharmaceuticals are derived from pork products.
- Alabama poultry growers market more than 1 million birds per year, making the state the nation's third-largest poultry producer. Alabama's laying hen flocks produce about 2 billion eggs a year.

Farm Fact

It takes about 36 days or five weeks for most Americans to earn enough disposable income to pay for their food for the entire year.

Row Crops

fiber



food

From Fertile Fields

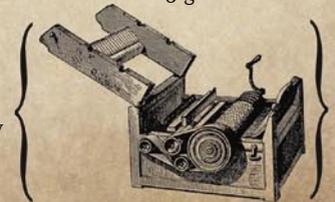
Last year, Alabama farmers harvested 560,000 acres of cotton, producing 680,000 bales; 163,000 acres of peanuts, producing 407.5 million pounds; 165,000 acres of corn for grain, producing 11.9 million bushels; and 150,000 acres of soybeans, producing 3 million bushels.

Farm Fact

America's farmers are the world's most productive. Today, each U.S. farmer produces food and fiber for 143 people in the United States and abroad.

- One bale of cotton can make 215 pairs of jeans, 249 bed sheets, 690 terry bath towels, 1,217 T-shirts, 3,085 diapers or 313,600 \$100 bills.
- Two-thirds of the weight of harvested cotton is cottonseed, which is used in animal feed and to produce cottonseed oil, which is used in foods like cooking oil and salad dressing.
- About half of the peanuts grown in the United States are grown within a 100-mile radius of Dothan, Alabama.
- Alabama has 1,800 peanut farmers who employ an additional 4,000 full-time employees.
- Half of the U.S. corn crop is used for animal feed.

- Americans consume 700 million pounds, or 3.3 pounds per person, of peanut butter per year....that's enough to coat the floor of the Grand Canyon.
- There are about 810 peanuts in an 18-ounce jar of peanut butter.
- One bushel of corn (56 pounds) provides 31.5 pounds of starch or 33 pounds of sweetener or 2.8 gallons of fuel ethanol or 22.4 pounds of fiber polymer plus 13.5 pounds of gluten feed and 1.5 pounds of corn oil.
- Corn is used in adhesives, building materials, cleaning products, lubricants, packaging materials, plastics and water treatment materials.
- A farmer gets about 3 cents for every box of Wheaties®, 10 cents for every box of corn flakes, 5 cents for every loaf of bread and 41 cents for every cotton dress shirt.
- A 60-pound bushel of soybeans yields about 48 pounds of protein-rich meal and 11 pounds of oil or 1.5 gallons of biodiesel.
- More soybeans are grown in the United States than in any other country in the world.

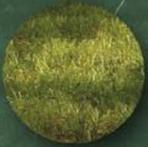


Whitney Cotton Gin

Horticulture

flowers & plants

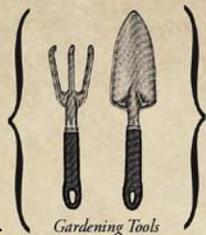
sod production



fruits & vegetables

The Beauty And The Bounty

Greenhouse, nursery and sod comprise the fastest-growing segment of Alabama's agricultural industry, increasing from cash receipts of \$31 million in 1975 to \$276 million in 2005.



- The green industry has a total economic impact of \$1.9 billion in Alabama. There are more than 2,500 greenhouse, nursery and sod businesses in the state, employing more than 30,000 workers.
- Alabama is ranked third in sod production in the United States and 16th in greenhouse and nursery sales.
- Alabama is known as the azalea capital of the world.
- Leyland cypress trees, widely known as the Southern Christmas tree, account for 60 percent of Alabama Christmas tree production.
- Alabama's Auburn University boasts the nation's largest collegiate horticulture department of its kind.
- Alabama ranks fifth in sweet potato production, seventh in pecan production, ninth in peaches, 11th in blueberries, 14th in fresh-market tomatoes, 15th in fresh-market watermelons, 26th in sweet corn, 27th in honey and 33rd in Irish potatoes.

- Thanks to the "Buy Fresh, Buy Local" program, the popularity of farmers markets is growing. In 1999, there were 17 farmers markets in Alabama; today there are 95.
- Tuskegee University has teamed with NASA to grow sweet potatoes, peanuts and salad crops in space.
- About one-third of all food in the human diet is derived from insect-pollinated plants, and honeybees are responsible for 80 percent of that pollination.
- Alabama is home to an emerging citrus industry, with 100 acres of commercial satsuma groves producing 3.5 million pounds of fruit each year.
- Pecans are Alabama's official state nut. Commercial growers farm about 12,000 acres capable of producing about 15 million pounds a year.
- Alabama peach producers will harvest more than 20 million pounds of the fruit in a good year.

Farm Fact

Ninety-eight percent of all U.S. farms are owned by individuals, family partnerships or family corporations. Just 2 percent of America's farms and ranches are owned by non-family corporations.

Forestry & Wildlife

managed forests



wildlife habitats



wood products



Stewards Of The Land

Farmers, ranchers and other landowners have installed 1.54 million miles of conservation buffers to improve soil, air and water quality; enhance wildlife habitat; and create scenic landscapes.

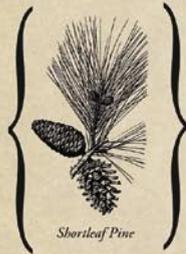
🌿 Farmers have enrolled 37 million acres of their land in the Conservation Reserve Program to protect the environment and provide habitat for wildlife.

🌿 Farmers and ranchers produced a net increase of 263,000 acres of wetlands from 1997 to 2003 — a net gain of 44,000 acres per year.

🌿 More than half of America's agricultural producers intentionally provide habitat for wildlife.

🌿 Farmers have reduced the erosion rate by water on U.S. croplands by more than 40 percent since 1982.

🌿 For the past decade, American farmers have utilized conservation tillage practices on 109 million acres of cropland, or 37 percent of total U.S. acres farmed. The goal is to reduce soil loss and energy use while maintaining crop yields and quality.



🌿 Seventy-one percent of Alabama is covered with forests. That's 23 million acres or an area about the size of Indiana.

🌿 Alabama forests grow 16 million trees, or about 4,000 trees for every man, woman and child in the state.

🌿 Enough lumber exists in Alabama's forests to build and furnish nearly 4 million homes.

🌿 Ninety-five percent of Alabama's forest acres are privately owned.

🌿 Alabama's forest industry employs about 13 percent of Alabama's total workforce, either directly or indirectly.

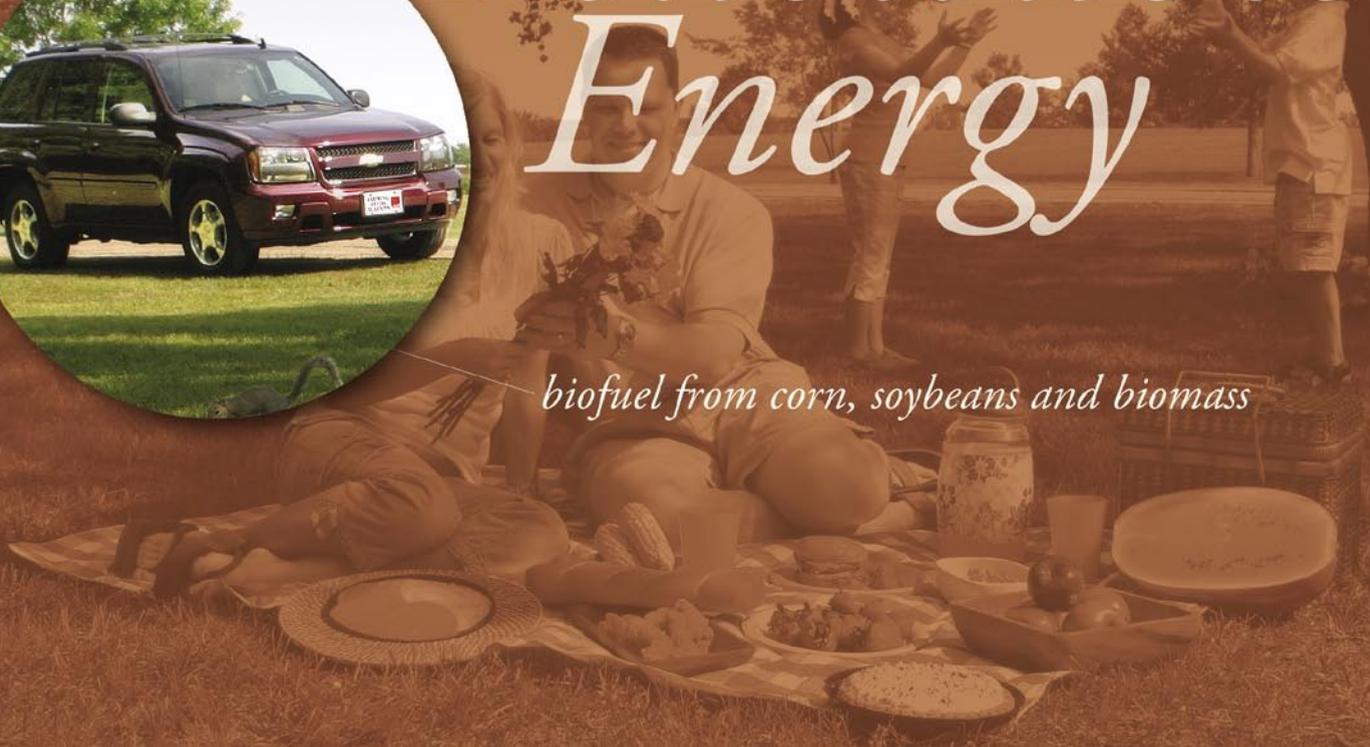
🌿 Hunting and fishing is a \$2.4 billion dollar industry in Alabama and is growing every year.

Farm Fact

Farmers and ranchers receive only 19 cents out of every retail dollar spent on food, while 81 cents go to off-farm costs associated with marketing, processing and distributing food. In 1980, farmers received 31 cents out of every food dollar.

Renewable Energy

biofuel from corn, soybeans and biomass



Growing Independence

America's farm fields don't just produce fuel for our bodies. Crops such as corn and soybeans are used to produce fuel for our vehicles. Renewable fuels contribute to a cleaner environment, reduce pollution and reliance on foreign oil and contribute to the stability of the rural farm economy by creating commercial markets for crops.

- More than 100 companies manufactured and distributed biodiesel by Jan. 2007, and 77 new plants were planned.
- More than 800 filling stations make biodiesel available to the public, and 1,700 petroleum distributors carry it nationwide.
- About 90 percent of U.S. biodiesel is produced from soybean oil. In 2006, 5 percent of soybean oil produced in the U.S. was used for biodiesel production, and a jump to 13 percent was expected in 2007.
- Biodiesel production has increased from 500,000 gallons in 1999 to 75 million gallons today.

Farm Fact

U.S. consumers spend just 10 percent of their disposable income on food, compared to 14 percent in Japan, 20 percent in Israel, 26 percent in China, 38 percent in the Philippines and 55 percent in Indonesia.

- With a record production of 4.9 billion gallons of ethanol in 2006, nearly 2 billion bushels of corn and 15 percent of the grain sorghum crop were used to produce fuel for our vehicles.
- In 2006, 111 ethanol plants were in operation in the United States, with 78 new plants under construction.
- One in every eight rows of corn went into ethanol production in 2005.
- Cellulosic ethanol derived from grasses and agricultural waste, rather than corn, offers great potential as a renewable energy source.
- Alabama is a national leader in research for using switchgrass to produce ethanol and provide an alternative to coal in steam plants that generate electricity.
- Recycled oil is being used by Alabama farmers to heat poultry houses.
- Alabama researchers are developing technology that will utilize poultry litter, forestry waste and other agricultural byproducts to produce energy.





Alabama Farmers Federation
A Member of American Farm Bureau Federation



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