



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | GEORGE D. GREIG, SECRETARY

February 2013

Dear Friend of Pennsylvania Agriculture:

Since the first person sowed the first seed and harvested the first crop, agriculture has been the foundation of every civilization. It remains the world's most important industry, and the numbers within this report tell its story. The numbers are a reflection of the work of more than 62,000 Pennsylvania farm families who produce affordable food, fiber and fuel. They show how Pennsylvania is a national leader in the production of important agriculture products. They underscore the significance of the agriculture industry to the state's economy.

Pennsylvania's agriculture receipts are valued at \$6.7 billion. Led by Chester County, the state ranks first nationally in mushroom production, with mushroom farmers growing 62 percent of the *Agaricus* mushrooms produced in the United States. Our fruit growers produce more than \$79.7 million worth of apples and wine grapes valued at \$5.7 million each year. We are a dairy powerhouse, with about 541,000 head of cows producing 10.6 billion pounds of milk. Pennsylvania also ranks in the top five nationally in trout, pumpkin, Christmas tree and egg production.

This is just a sample of the useful information in this report, representing most segments of Pennsylvania's diverse agriculture industry. The numbers found within these pages will help farmers and agribusinesses plan and make important business decisions. Others in the industry will utilize these reports to advocate for agriculture. At the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, we will use this report to make policy decisions and create programs that keep farmers farming.

The Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture is proud to support the mission and work of the Pennsylvania Office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service – its administration, statisticians, technicians, enumerators and clerical staff. It is through their commendable efforts that we have this accurate and detailed portrait of Pennsylvania's leading economic driver.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring the success of Pennsylvania's agriculture industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George D Greig".

George D. Greig  
Secretary