



# STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

## M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, GOVERNOR

My Fellow South Dakotans,

It is hard to overestimate the importance of agriculture to our state. As South Dakota's number one industry, agriculture has an annual economic impact of more than \$21.3 billion and employs at least 173,000 people. Yet for South Dakotans, working the land is more than just an occupation—it is an integral part of our heritage.

That is why I am proud to introduce this year's installment of *South Dakota Agriculture*. These pages contain valuable information for producers and offer insight into our state's agricultural progress. By studying the statistics contained within, we can better understand where we have been, and thus, better plan for the future. Reliable information is the most important management tool at our disposal and is essential for maintaining viability in these times of uncertainty and market volatility.



Once again, the National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) has done an excellent job of compiling this useful publication. I would like to thank the NASS staff for their hard work and the thousands of producers who responded to their surveys. This resource would not exist without your willing participation.

Ever since the first homesteaders arrived in search of a better life from the land, agriculture has been the foundation of our state. Our agricultural roots run deep and form the backbone of South Dakota. I am proud to serve our state and am committed to preserving this way of life for future generations of South Dakotans.

Sincerely,

M. Michael Rounds