



STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA

M. MICHAEL ROUNDS, GOVERNOR

My Fellow South Dakotans,

As I travel throughout our state, I continue to be amazed by the extent of agriculture in South Dakota. From cattle ranches to soybean fields, ethanol plants to saw mills, dairy farms to Farmers Markets, agriculture remains the cornerstone of our state's economy and reflects a proud heritage of people who earn their living from the land.

Once again I am pleased to introduce this year's installment of South Dakota Agriculture. Modern crop and livestock production depends heavily on reliable information, and this publication continues to be an important resource for South Dakota producers.

The National Agriculture Statistics Service (NASS) has done an excellent job compiling this data. Without the hard work of the NASS staff and the thousands of farmers and ranchers who responded to their surveys, this useful information would not be available. Thank you for your strong commitment to a job done right.

In recent years, agriculture has faced a host of challenges. Yet as we have demonstrated for generations, South Dakotans know how to view these obstacles as opportunities. Our state's farmers and ranchers continue to look forward with optimism, and I believe agriculture has a bright future.

An old farmer once told me, "All real wealth comes from the land." And he was right. The oxygen we breathe, the food we eat, the fuel we use to run our machines and create electricity, and the clothes we wear all come from the land. Our task is to make sure we continue to use the land wisely so it will always be there for future generations.

Sincerely,

M. Michael Rounds

