Tennessee Agriculture Top Ten

The volunteer state has 10.9 million acres dedicated to 76,000 agriculture operations. The average size farm in the Volunteer state is 143 acres.

The Volunteer state’s leading agriculture commodities, based on cash receipts for 2013 were:

1. Oil Crops: Oil crops such as cottonseed and especially soybeans are extremely valuable to Tennessee’s economy. These commodities earned $815.82 million for 2013. Dyre County was the number 1 soybean producing county followed by 10 other west Tennessee counties.
2. Cattle and calves: Approximately 1.8 million cattle and calves are raised on 43,000 Tennessee farms. Generating $690.78 million for 2013. Cattle and calves are among the states most lucrative livestock commodities. Tennessee was home to 864,000 beef cows in 2014, ranking 9th in US for number of beef cows.
3. Corn: Field Corn raked in $583.2 million for 2013. This vital crop is frown to feed livestock throughout Tennessee and the U.S.A.
4. Broilers: An impressive 172.8 million broilers or chickens grown for meat are raised in Tennessee. Broilers brought in $544.55 million during 2013. Tennessee ranked 14th in US for broilers and 34th for other poultry production.
5. Cotton: Tennessee farmers raised 235,000 acres of cotton harvesting 430,000 bales or enough to make 50.52 million pairs of jeans. The Natural fiber earned $301.8 million for 2013.
6. Wheat: Tennessee’s most important food grain generated $259.5 million during 2013. Gibson count planted the most wheat at 44,000 acres. Wheat is also the primary food grain grown in US, 42 states.
7. Milk: Tennessee is home to numerous dairies producing 15.98 pounds of milk daily per cow, for a total of 767 million pounds of milk during in 2013. Milk brought in $163.83 million. Tennessee ranked 29th in US for numbering of milk cows and 31st for milk produced.
8. Tobacco: Tennessee tobacco farmers raised 44.57 million pounds during 2013. The average price was $2.37 per pound contributing a grand total of $105.38 million to the state’s economy. Tennessee ranks 2nd in Burley and Dark tobacco production in US.
9. Vegetables and melons: Grown in greenhouses, gardens and fields. Tennessee vegetables and melons earned $90.98 million for 2013. This produce is sold at farmers marketing on-farm markets, retail grocery stores and for processing.
10. Hogs: Hogs brought home the bacon, $60.32 million for 2013. Tennessee was home to a total of 180,000 hogs and ranked 25th for the number of hogs raised in US.

Tennessee ranks in US production of agricultural products:

2nd meat goats, mules, burros and donkeys

3rd fresh market tomatoes

6th equine or horses and ponies

15th milk goats

31st sheep and lambs

33rd honey

A recent survey of US families revealed there influences on food purchases: 89% taste, 71% price, 67% healthfulness and 30% sustainability.

Pick Tennessee Products Farmers Market Shopping Tips:

* Buy sweet corn early in the morning
* Store tomatoes with the stem end up, as it grows on the vine
* Go green bring your own shopping bags
* Your knows the best cantaloupe
* Winter squash varieties keep will if stored in a cool dry place
* Always purchase produce that looks fresh as possible
* Always look for the “Pick Tennessee Products” logo

The single greatest agricultural challenge farmers/ranchers have ever faced is whether we can feed 9 billion people that are expected to live on our planet by 2050.

Reference:

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