

Florida Department of Agriculture
and Consumer Services

Charles H. Bronson, Commissioner



Dear Friends of Agriculture,

Agriculture is a vital part of Florida's heritage, economic foundation, and future potential. We are fortunate to live in one of America's leading agricultural states that produces a wide range of commodities. Florida's 44,000 farmers grow more than 280 different crops on a commercial scale with cash receipts totaling over \$7 billion. Agriculture has an economic impact on our state estimated at more than \$50 billion annually.

In my job as Commissioner of Agriculture, I am delighted to serve the people who produce the food for America and the world. As Floridians our lives are enhanced by the safe, fresh bounty that our farmers and ranchers provide year-round.

I hope you find this portrait of Florida's pre-eminent industry informative. Just a few miles from the beauty of our beaches and the thrill of our tourist attractions is another Florida. This is the home of the Florida farmer and rancher. Welcome to it and enjoy.

Sincerely,

CHARLES H. BRONSON
Florida Commissioner of Agriculture

Florida Agricultural Facts

Florida's nearly 44,000 commercial farmers are among the most productive in the world, furnishing the nation with a dependable and safe food supply, and providing an economic base for the State.

In 2000, Florida farmers utilized 10.3 million of the State's nearly 35 million acres to produce more than 4.7 billion pounds of vegetables and more than \$22 million of livestock feed.

Florida ranks No. 9 nationally in the value of farm products with 2000 sales of \$6.96 billion and No. 2 in production of fresh vegetables with sale of \$1.5 billion.

State ranchers and herdsmen rank among the top 26 states in the production of beef, poultry and pork, with livestock and product sales topping \$1.5 billion in 2000.

In addition, Florida's Thoroughbred industry has produced 41 North American champions, 72 equine millionaires, 18 Breeder Cup and 17 Classic winners, including Triple Crown-winner, Affirmed, in 1978.

To get the job done, Florida farmers employed more than 94,000 farm workers in 2000 and paid them \$3.4 billion. Florida farmers rank 4th nationally in realized net farm income with \$2.4 billion in 2000.

Florida Phosphate Facts

Of all the phosphate in commercial production ...

● **90 percent** is used for fertilizer for the production of food and fiber

● **5 percent** is used for livestock feed supplements

● **5 percent** is used for vitamins, soft drinks, toothpaste, film, light bulbs, bone china, flame-resistant fabrics, and optical glass

Florida is the world leader in phosphate rock production, annually producing 75 percent of the U.S. supply and 25 percent of the world supply.

Florida Agricultural Exports

Florida ranked 12th nationally in 1999-2000 in the export of agricultural products, valued at \$1.2 billion.

Year	Value in Millions
1999 - 2000	\$1,233,400
1998 - 1999	\$1,127,800
1997 - 1998	\$1,093,800
1996 - 1997	\$1,212,000
1995 - 1996	\$1,221,500
1994 - 1995	\$1,027,900
1993 - 1994	\$1,016,900
1992 - 1993	\$972,200
1991 - 1992	\$974,500
1990 - 1991	\$932,900

The Role of the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services protects and promotes the state's agriculture industry that supports over 314,000 jobs in the state's economy. It is the lead agency for consumer protection, food safety and pesticide regulation, and plays a major role in Florida's environmental programs.

A broad spectrum of programs protects and promotes Florida agriculture. These include inspecting food products and livestock, investigating and prosecuting agricultural thefts, marketing Florida products, operating farmers' markets, carrying out tests, and eradicating pests and diseases.

Consumer protection runs the gamut – from responding to consumer complaints and inspecting food processing facilities and retail food stores – to testing consumer products and certifying the accuracy of weighing and measuring devices. Department inspectors also verify that amusement rides meet safety standards.

Environmental activities include developing best management practices, conducting tree-planting programs, testing water wells and groundwater for pesticides and nitrates, and managing more than 800,000 acres of state-owned forest lands.

Florida Farms and Acreage

Number of Farms	Year	Farm Acres
44,000	2000	10,300,000
45,000	1998	10,400,000
36,566	1987	11,194,090
36,109	1977	13,016,000
35,586	1967	14,031,998
45,100	1957	15,236,512

Farmland Utilization

Utilization (1997)	Acres	% of State
Total State Acres	34,558,261	100.0
Farm Acres	10,545,217	30.5
Range-Pastureland	4,069,927	11.7
Woodland	2,132,308	6.1
Field Crops	1,044,100	3.0
Improved Pastureland	895,684	2.6
Citrus Groves	857,681	2.5
Vegetable Fields	350,800	1.0
Others	1,194,217	3.4
Commercial Forests	13,007,235	37.6
National/State Forests	3,541,747	10.2
Urban/Suburban/Industrial	7,842,560	22.7

Florida's Leading Farm Crops in 2000

Total in Millions	
Oranges -----	\$1,387
Foliage and Floriculture -----	\$798
Tomatoes* -----	\$507
Sugar Cane -----	\$442
Milk -----	\$384
Cattle and Calves -----	\$371
Green Peppers -----	\$245
Chickens -----	\$227
Grapefruit -----	\$193
Strawberries -----	\$168
Snap Beans* -----	\$122
Eggs -----	\$108
Cucumbers* -----	\$107
Sweet Corn* -----	\$105
Potatoes -----	\$88
Tangerines -----	\$55
Peanuts -----	\$54
Tropical Fish -----	\$52
Watermelons -----	\$45
Squash* -----	\$43
Cotton -----	\$28
Radishes -----	\$28
Tobacco -----	\$25
Cabbage* -----	\$19
Hay -----	\$18
Avocados -----	\$15
Eggplant* -----	\$14
Honey -----	\$13
Tangelos -----	\$10
Temples -----	\$9
Hogs -----	\$7
Feed Corn -----	\$4

* Fresh Product

Florida Leads the U.S. in the Production of 6 Citrus Commodities

Florida is the nation's overwhelming leader in citrus production, accounting for more than 82 percent of the annual U.S. production in 1999-2000.

In fact, Florida is the world leader in grapefruit production, accounting for 42.6 percent of the planet's production. The state ranks second only to Brazil in the production of oranges, accounting for 16.1 percent of the world production.

Today, Florida citrus growers cultivate a record 106.7 million trees on 832,275 acres.

About 95 percent of oranges grown in Florida are processed into orange juice. During the 1999-2000 season, Florida produced more than 1.4 billion gallons of orange juice.

Citrus accounts for 24 percent of Florida farm sales.



Florida is the Fresh Winter Vegetable Center of the U.S.

Florida is the United States winter vegetable plate, providing 80 percent of the fresh vegetables grown in the U.S. during January, February and March of each year.

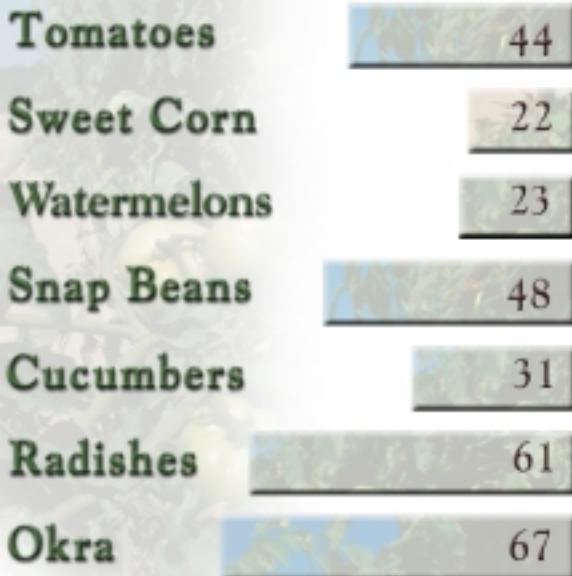
Year-round, Florida ranks No. 2 nationally in the U.S. production of fresh vegetables, accounting for 13.1 percent in 2000.

Florida farmers grew more than 4.7 billion pounds of fresh vegetables, melons and berries, and sold them for \$1.54 billion during the 1999-2000 season.

Vegetables accounted for 20.9 percent of Florida's agricultural sales in 2000.

Florida Leads U.S. in the Sale of Six Fresh Vegetables

Commodity % of U.S. Sales



1999 Florida County Farm Cash Receipts

Total in Millions

Palm Beach	\$983	Brevard	\$51
Dade	\$470	Putnam	\$45
Hillsborough	\$437	Sumter	\$45
Hendry	\$430	Holmes	\$40
Polk	\$360	Madison	\$38
Collier	\$340	Santa Rosa	\$36
Manatee	\$291	Clay	\$34
Highlands	\$288	Flagler	\$33
Orange	\$272	Sarasota	\$31
DeSoto	\$260	Duval	\$30
St. Lucie	\$245	Nassau	\$30
Hardee	\$224	Columbia	\$29
Lake	\$192	Hernando	\$28
Martin	\$188	Baker	\$27
Okeechobee	\$172	Walton	\$26
Marion	\$159	Jefferson	\$23
Indian River	\$141	Seminole	\$23
Lee	\$140	Escambia	\$22
Suwannee	\$139	Bradford	\$21
Volusia	\$130	Calhoun	\$17
Osceola	\$128	Hamilton	\$16
Pasco	\$103	Washington	\$14
Gadsden	\$101	Union	\$14
Glades	\$76	Pinellas	\$12
Levy	\$71	Okaloosa	\$11
Charlotte	\$68	Citrus	\$9
Alachua	\$64	Leon	\$8
Jackson	\$63	Dixie	\$7
Lafayette	\$62	Taylor	\$6
Gilchrist	\$60	Wakulla	\$5
Broward	\$54	Bay	\$3
St. Johns	\$53	Liberty	\$1

Gulf, Monroe, Franklin less than \$1 million

Florida Agricultural Cash Receipts and Other Income

Year	Total in Billions
1999	\$7.495
1997	\$6.119
1994	\$6.048
1990	\$5.701
1987	\$5.308
1977	\$2.623
1967	\$1.130

Florida: Number 2 Horticulture State

Florida is the nation's second leading horticulture state with greenhouse/nursery sales of more than \$1.4 billion annually.

Florida ranks No. 2 in floriculture with sales of more than \$775 million in 2000 and No. 1 in sales of foliage plants with sales of more than \$366 million in 2000. Florida is the leading domestic producer of house plants, ferns and gladioli.

Florida growers produce more than 94 percent of the nation's cut ferns, valued at more than \$64 million; more than 64 percent of the cultivated cut greens, valued at \$36 million; and more than 31 percent of the hanging baskets, valued at more than \$24 million.

The state is also a major producer of woody ornamentals, shrubs, potted plants, cut flowers, and bedding and garden plants.



Florida Timber Land is a Valuable Asset

The most recent Florida survey indicated there are 16,549,012 forest acres, of which 13 million acres are commercial forests covering 47.8 percent of the state's 34,558,261 land acres.

14.9 billion cubic feet of standing timber

4.3 billion	cords of pulp wood
790 million	board feet of saw logs
126.9 million	cubic feet of industrial wood
109 million	board feet of veneer logs
1.9 million	millings and posts
\$8.6 billion	manufactured products value
\$3.3 billion	mill value
\$1.2 billion	annual payroll
\$429 million	timber harvested value

The Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Forestry, was responsible for the planting of 129,332,000 trees in 1997. Since 1928, the reforestation project has planted 5.8 billion trees.

Florida Among the Leaders in Livestock Production

Florida livestock production is a major contributor to the nation's supply of beef, poultry, eggs and milk. Florida's livestock industry had record gross receipts of almost \$1.4 billion in 2000.

Florida ranks third in the Southeast and 11th nationally in the production of beef calves, supplying 711,000 head a year for midwest feedlots. Florida's beef cattle had annual sales of more than \$371 million.

Florida dairies supplied almost 2.5 billion pounds of milk in 2000 with a value of \$384 million.

Florida's chicken and egg receipts in 2000 were \$336 million, of which broiler receipts accounted for \$226 million.

Florida is a Major Seafood and Aquaculture Producer

Florida consistently ranks among the top 12 states in fresh seafood production with an average harvest of over 96 million pounds with a dockside value of more than \$189 million.

Florida producers sold \$77.3 million of aquaculture products in 2001. Tropical fish dominates Florida's aquaculture industry as the No. 1 commodity with \$51.5 million in sales in 2000.

Top 10 Counties in Seafood Harvest

Rank	Total Pounds	Value
1. Monroe	17,559,021	\$50,948,872
2. Pinellas	11,904,194	\$20,575,095
3. Brevard	10,606,662	\$14,970,461
4. Lee	7,806,022	\$15,848,915
5. Franklin	5,577,789	\$10,588,038
6. Gulf	4,796,953	\$1,210,415
7. Duval	4,374,206	\$9,646,797
8. Collier	3,440,623	\$8,489,862
9. Manatee	3,183,115	\$2,575,004
10. Citrus	3,143,836	\$6,475,035