

# Agriculture Is The Show-Me State's Top Industry

The Missouri agricultural economy is alive and well, according to reports from state officials.

A study commissioned by the Missouri Department of Agriculture and the Missouri Farm Bureau showed agriculture is still the top economic industry in the Show-Me State.

Agricultural products, which include crops, livestock, forestry and fishery production; agriculture inputs and services; food and related products manufacturing and forestry products manufacturing, brought in a whopping \$88.4 billion in revenue in 2016.

In addition, agricultural jobs employed more than 378,000 Missourians, who earned a collective \$17.5 billion in labor income. Agricultural companies also contributed \$2.2 billion in state and local taxes, and \$4 billion in federal taxes.

While crops amounted for a hefty portion of revenue, the biggest contributing industry was food and related products manufacturing. Breweries were the top economic contributors, raking in nearly \$3 billion, with oilseed production and pet food manufacturing rounding out the top three, coming in at just over \$2 billion each.

Missouri consistently ranks as one of the top performing agricultural economies in the nation. In 2015, the Show-Me State ranked 13th in the U.S. for gross profit. Missouri ranks in the top-five states for number of farms, biodiesel

production, beef production, turkey inventory and rice acres harvested.

The report also provided an outlook for future agricultural possibilities in the state. Due to growing consumer interest in locally-grown produce, fruit and vegetable production will be in demand. Produce farming provides a good opportunity for a new generation of farmers to get their start, especially with produce farms generally having a smaller geographic footprint.

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Read the entire report, including a county-by-county breakdown, at <http://agriculture.mo.gov/economicimpact/>.

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In addition to analyzing agriculture, forestry, and related economic activity at the state level, county level and congressional district results are available in separate reports at <http://agriculture.mo.gov/economicimpact/>.

