



ILLINOIS

TOP 5 CROPS: ILLINOIS

1. CORN
2. SOYBEANS
3. WHEAT
4. MELONS
5. PEACHES

Crop Protection Leaders

Illinois is home to eight leading crop protection companies: AMVAC Chemical Corporation, BMO Capital Markets, Exponent, Inc., GROWMARK, Inc., Monsanto Company, Nufam Americas, Inc., Vance Publishing, and Winfield Solutions, LLC. These companies provide thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Prairie State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 8 to 20 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Illinois's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Illinois's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$ 23.5 million to \$1.8 billion, depending upon the product.

CropLife America: Helping to Feed a Hungry World

America's crop protection industry is helping to feed a hungry world, decrease food costs, drive our economy, and protect our environment.

Crop protection technologies help control the thousands of weed species, harmful insects, and numerous plant diseases that afflict crops and threaten both the abundance and the safety of our food supply.

- The crop protection industry is one of the most highly-regulated in the U.S. today, ensuring the safety of users and consumers, and reducing environmental impacts. As the nation and the world confront the threat of climate change, the industry stands at the forefront of sustainable agriculture, helping farmers do more with less through innovation, while protecting the soil and natural habitats of the land they farm.
- Crop protection products help American farmers improve agricultural productivity, generating robust crop yields that drive local economies and create jobs from the farm, to the distribution system, to the grocery stores and restaurants who sell these plentiful foods. The strong crop yields made possible by crop protection also help keep food costs down so American families can afford meals for their table.

In Illinois, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$17.8 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

Agriculture in Illinois: Driving the State Economy

Agriculture is a vital part of Illinois' economy, employs 950,758 people, and ranks 6th in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.

76,860
FARMS

76,860 farms cover 26,775,100 acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

\$13
BILLION

Illinois agricultural products have an annual market value of more than \$13 billion, including 80% from crop production valued at \$10.8 billion.

RANKS
2ND

Illinois ranks second in corn production, producing more than 18% of the nation's corn with a value of \$4.1 billion.

Without crop protection, the vital economic impact of Illinois' agricultural industry would be virtually devastated.

CROP PROTECTION IN THE PRAIRIE STATE

Ensuring Illinois' Robust and Healthy Food Supply

The food supply nourishing Illinois families—and exported around the globe—is fundamentally reliant upon crop protection technologies.

Every spring and summer, plant diseases reproduce in countless numbers, infecting – and ultimately killing – Illinois crops. Each year, **2.5 million weeds** prepare to emerge on every acre of Illinois' cropland, competing with crops for water, nutrients, space, and sunlight. And across Illinois, crop feeding insects reproduce in countless numbers, feeding on crops, reducing yields, making crops unmarketable, and in some cases killing the plant entirely.

These infestations threaten Illinois' food supply, economy, environment, and health of our citizens. Crop protection products stem those threats, preventing crop loss and protecting the agricultural base.

Safeguarding Illinois' Environment and its Citizens

Few industries play a greater role in driving sustainable agriculture than crop protection.

Crop protection technologies enable Illinois farmers to manage weeds without plowing or tilling the soil, reducing erosion and avoiding runoff into rivers and streams, while also reducing fuel consumption. Nationwide, this practice saves **337 million gallons of tractor fuel annually**, and prevents **356 billion pounds of disturbed soil** from eroding into rivers and streams.

In Illinois, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 9,962,000 acres, preventing 48.7 billion pounds of soil erosion annually.

Planting more acres of arable farmland decreases animal habitats, impacting biodiversity. Crop protection technologies enable Illinois farmers to do more with less, reducing the need to convert additional acreage for crops.

Many invasive weeds and nuisance plants grow back when mowed or pulled. Far from being a simple annoyance, weeds kill native plants, suffocate lakes, and plug reservoir intakes, destroying the natural habitats of fish, birds, and mammals. Crop protection products are indispensable weapons, enabling Illinois growers to successfully preserve several endangered species populations that had nearly vanished.

Crop protection also guards the health of the food supply that sustains Illinois families and the world.

The ever-increasing reach of the global economy has allowed infectious agents like salmonella and E. coli to enter our food supply. The U.S. commitment to crop protection technologies serves as a first line of defense, attacking these threats and generating a safe, healthy, and robust food supply for Illinois and the nation.

What would the Prairie State's food supply look like **WITHOUT crop protection?**

NO CORN

The delicious sweet taste of corn is a classic American summer experience, but without crop protection technologies, more than a quarter of Illinois' top crop would disappear.

NO SOYBEANS

It seems like every day a new study demonstrates the extraordinary health benefits of soybeans, and in fact, because of their variety of uses (oil, tofu, etc.) they are actually the second most valuable U.S. agricultural export. Without crop protection, imagine what a 40% reduction in Illinois' soybean crop would do to our agricultural export strength (not to mention the millions of vegetarians who rely on it for protein).

NO APPLES

Apples fill children's lunchboxes and offer a healthy midday snack. Without crop protection, the ruinous impact of the insects and plant diseases would virtually wipe out Illinois' entire apple crop.