



SOUTH DAKOTA

TOP 5 CROPS: SOUTH DAKOTA

1. CORN
2. SUNFLOWERS
3. SOYBEANS
4. WHEAT
5. BARLEY

Crop Protection Leaders

South Dakota is home to two leading crop protection companies: Monsanto Company and Winfield Solutions. These companies provide thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Mount Rushmore State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields up to 12 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make South Dakota's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits South Dakota's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$2.5 to \$158 million, 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 South Dakota, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$21.3 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

Agriculture in South Dakota: Driving the State Economy

Agriculture generates more than one-third of South Dakota's economy, employs 107,463 people, and ranks 19th in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.

**31,169
FARMS**

31,169 farms cover 43,666,403 acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$6.5
BILLION**

South Dakota's agricultural products have an annual market value of \$6.5 billion, including 51% from crop production valued at \$3.35 billion.

**40% OF
WORKFORCE**

Agriculture in South Dakota is the state's number one industry, employing 40% of the workforce, and generating over \$645 million in annual tax revenues.

South Dakota's top crop, corn, accounts for 19.5% of the state's crop production, and 4.28% of the nation's corn production with a value of \$949,749,000. It is nationally ranked 7th in corn production.

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

CROP PROTECTION IN THE MOUNT RUSHMORE STATE

Ensuring South Dakota's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

The food supply nourishing South Dakota 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—South Dakota crops. Each year, **2.5 million weeds** prepare to emerge on every acre of South Dakota's cropland, competing with crops for water, nutrients, space, and sunlight. And across South Dakota, 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 South Dakota's food supply, economy, environment, and health of our citizens. Crop protection products stem those threats, preventing crop loss and protecting the agricultural base.

Safeguarding South Dakota's Environment and its Citizens

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

Crop protection technologies enable South Dakota 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 South Dakota, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 2,996,000 acres, preventing 10.8 billion pounds of soil erosion annually.

Planting more acres of arable farmland decreases animal habitats, impacting biodiversity. Crop protection technologies enable South Dakota 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 South Dakota growers to successfully preserve several endangered species populations that had nearly vanished.

Crop protection also guards the health of the food supply that sustains South Dakota 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 South Dakota and the nation.

What would the Mount Rushmore 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 one-quarter of this top crop for South Dakota would be ravaged by aggressive weeds and vicious crop-attacking insects, with a loss to the state's economy of up to \$63 million.

NO WHEAT

From sandwich bread to cereal, to pasta, wheat is a staple of the American diet, but without crop protection South Dakota's contribution would be reduced by up to 40%, draining anywhere from \$23 to \$220 million from the state's economy.

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 South Dakota's soybean crop would do to our agricultural export strength (not to mention the millions of vegetarians who rely on it for protein).