



# TENNESSEE

## TOP 5 CROPS: TENNESSEE

1. SOYBEANS
2. COTTON
3. CORN
4. TOBACCO
5. WHEAT

### Crop Protection Leaders

Tennessee is home to eight leading crop protection companies: AMVAC Chemical Corp., BASF Corporation, Drexel Chemical Company, Eka Chemicals, Inc., Helena Chemical Company, Monsanto Company, RiceCO LLC, and Syngenta Crop Protection, Inc. These companies provide thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Volunteer State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 5 to 10 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make Tennessee's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits Tennessee's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$34.8 to \$234 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 Tennessee, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$4 billion food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

### Agriculture in Tennessee: Driving the State Economy

*Agriculture is a critical part of Tennessee's economy, employs 563,475 people, and ranks 32nd in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.*

**79,280  
FARMS**

79,280 farms cover 10,969,798 acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$2.6  
BILLION**

Tennessee's agricultural products have an annual market value of \$2.6 billion, including 44% from crop production valued at \$1.15 billion.

**RANKS  
16TH**

Tennessee's top crop, soybeans, accounts for 11.0% of the state's crop production, and 1.54 % of the nation's soybean production with a value of \$282,763,000. The state is nationally ranked 16th in soybean production.

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

# CROP PROTECTION IN THE VOLUNTEER STATE

## Ensuring Tennessee's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

*The food supply nourishing Tennessee 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 – Tennessee crops. Each year, **2.5 million weeds** prepare to emerge on every acre of Tennessee's cropland, competing with crops for water, nutrients, space, and sunlight. And across Tennessee, 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 Tennessee'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 Tennessee's Environment and its Citizens

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

Crop protection technologies enable Tennessee 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 Tennessee, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 1,410,000 acres, preventing 20 billion pounds of soil erosion annually.*

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

*Crop protection also guards the health of the food supply that sustains Tennessee 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 Tennessee and the nation.

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

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

## NO COTTON

Without the benefits of crop protection products for cotton, availability of the so-called fabric of our lives would be reduced by up to one-quarter affecting not only Tennessee's agricultural industry, but damaging the U.S. textile, apparel, and home furnishing industries, among others.

## NO WHEAT

From sandwich bread to cereal, to pasta, wheat is a staple of the American diet, but without crop protection Tennessee's contribution would be reduced by up to 40%, draining up to \$2.5 million from the state's economy.