



# WEST VIRGINIA

## TOP 5 CROPS: WEST VIRGINIA

1. APPLES
2. CORN
3. SOYBEANS
4. TOBACCO
5. HAY

### Crop Protection Leaders

West Virginia is home to two leading crop protection companies: Bayer CropScience and DuPont Crop Protection. These companies provide thousands of jobs, boosting our economy and securing our state food supply.

- In the Mountain State, an investment of \$1.00 in crop protection products yields anywhere from 6 to 13 times in direct economic returns, which the farming community can then reinvest to make West Virginia's agricultural economy even stronger.
- The net benefits West Virginia's agricultural economy gains from securing crops with various crop protection technologies ranges from \$1.9 to \$11 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 West Virginia, the crop protection industry brings these same commitments, values, and technologies to the state's **\$743 million food and agricultural economy**, safeguarding the state's food supply and protecting its environment.

### Agriculture in West Virginia: Driving the State Economy

*Agriculture is a critical part of West Virginia's economy, employs 128,216 people, and ranks 46th in the nation for total agricultural cash receipts.*

**23,618  
FARMS**

23,618 farms cover 3,697,606 acres across our state, powering a diverse agricultural economy.

**\$591.6  
MILLION**

West Virginia's agricultural products have an annual market value of \$591.6 million, including 13% from crop production valued at \$76.9 million.

**RANKS 8TH**

Today, West Virginia ranks 8th in apple production and 13th in peach production in the U.S., with a combined crop value that has averaged almost \$12 million over the past 10 years.

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

# CROP PROTECTION IN THE MOUNTAIN STATE

## Ensuring West Virginia's Robust and Healthy Food Supply

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

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

Crop protection technologies enable West Virginia 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 West Virginia, crop protection technologies enable no-till production on 48,000 acres, preventing 33 million pounds of soil erosion annually.*

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

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

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

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## NO APPLES

West Virginia's apples are the state's leading crop, filling children's lunchboxes and offering a healthy midday snack. Without crop protection, the ruinous impact of the insects and plant diseases would virtually wipe out West Virginia's entire apple crop.

## NO CORN

The delicious sweet taste of corn is a classic American summer experience, but without crop protection technologies one-fifth of this crop for West Virginia would be ravaged by aggressive weeds and vicious crop-attacking insects.

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