Iowa’s Agriculture: A Sustainable System

Producers in Iowa benefit from nearby valuable resources, making the state more sustainable than others. Livestock producers enjoy savings on feed transportation. Crop producers benefit from available manure as an alternative to expensive commercial fertilizer.

Higher oil prices cause higher transportation costs for other regions

Higher oil and natural gas prices lead to higher commercial fertilizer prices

Iowa’s crop and livestock producers offer each other key resources locally. Corn and soybean crops feed the livestock, which provide manure nutrients for these same crops.

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Contact information

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Along with making use of local resources, beef, swine, dairy and poultry operations have a positive impact on the state’s economy.

**Beef**
- Impact of 1,000-head beef feedlot
  - Utilizes 1,900 acres of Iowa crops (1,400 acres corn, 350 acres soybeans, and 150 acres alfalfa) and co-products
  - Generates enough recycled nutrients in manure to provide 76% of N, 55% of P, and 76% of K needed for the above acres, thus lessening the demand for petroleum-based fertilizers
  - Employs one full-time operator, thus enabling a beginning farmer to enter local agriculture
  - Consumes 330 acres of corn and distillers grains from over 800 acres of corn
  - Provides approximately 1100 acres of phosphorus (P) and potassium (K) and 270 acres of nitrogen (N) nutrient on a corn-soy rotation each year ($46,000 in 2006)

**Pork**
- Impact of 2,400-head grow-finish swine operation
  - Provides 0.5 full-time wage, thus enabling a beginning farmer to enter local agriculture
  - Consumes corn and soybean meal from 285 acres of corn and 350 acres of soybeans
  - Provides the fertilizer requirements for approximately 510 acres managed in a corn-soybean rotation
  - Provides 0.5 full-time wage, thus enabling a beginning farmer to enter local agriculture
  - Consumes corn and soybean meal from 285 acres of corn and 350 acres of soybeans
  - Provides the fertilizer requirements for approximately 510 acres managed in a corn-soybean rotation

**Dairy**
- Impact of 500-cow dairy
  - Utilizes 1,900 acres of Iowa crops (1,400 acres corn, 350 acres soybeans, and 150 acres alfalfa) and co-products
  - Generates enough recycled nutrients in manure to provide 76% of N, 55% of P, and 76% of K needed for the above acres, thus lessening the demand for petroleum-based fertilizers
  - Employs one full-time operator, thus enabling a beginning farmer to enter local agriculture
  - Consumes 330 acres of corn and distillers grains from over 800 acres of corn
  - Provides the fertilizer requirements for approximately 510 acres managed in a corn-soybean rotation

**Egg**
- Impact of 100,000 laying hen operation
  - Employs 1.8 full-time local people
  - Consumes approximately 95,000 bushels of corn and 860 tons soybean meal a year
  - Produces approximately 19.3 tons of N, 43.4 tons of P, and 27.6 tons of K that is applied to crop lands in Iowa

### Economic Impact

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sectors</th>
<th>Total Sales</th>
<th>Labor Income</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Agriculture</strong></td>
<td>$2,439,058</td>
<td>$211,500</td>
<td>4.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beyond the Farm</td>
<td>$874,188</td>
<td>$248,127</td>
<td>7.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production Total</td>
<td>$3,313,246</td>
<td>$459,627</td>
<td>11.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production &amp; Processing Total</td>
<td>$6,890,587</td>
<td>$933,234</td>
<td>24.3</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Source for all species’ data: IMPLAN Model for Iowa

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**Economic Impact of 2,400 Head**

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Sectors</th>
<th>Total Sales</th>
<th>Labor Income</th>
<th>Jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>$1,351,518</td>
<td>$136,282</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beyond the Farm</td>
<td>$1,888,418</td>
<td>$283,882</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production Total</td>
<td>$4,262,542</td>
<td>$614,940</td>
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**Economic Impact of 500 Cows**

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<th>Sectors</th>
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<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
<td>$1,945,442</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beyond the Farm</td>
<td>$713,288</td>
<td>$203,313</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production Total</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production &amp; Processing Total</td>
<td>$6,798,245</td>
<td>$1,000,861</td>
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</table>

**Economic Impact of 100,000 Hens**

<table>
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<th>Sectors</th>
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<th>Jobs</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Agriculture</td>
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<td>Beyond the Farm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production Total</td>
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<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Production &amp; Processing Total</td>
<td>$3,589,403</td>
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**Egg Production and processing are combined**