

Food & Agriculture

Efficient, high-tech operations are the norm in Delaware's agriculture and food production sector.

Agriculture & Food Production

Delaware is one of the country's leading producers of broiler chickens, generating more than \$1 billion in sales annually. Leading poultry processors such as Perdue, Allen Harim and Mountaire have significant operations in Delaware, and the industry supports more than 8,500 jobs statewide. With highly productive soil and generations of skilled farmers, the state also is a significant producer of lima beans, soybeans, field corn, watermelon, peas, sweet corn and potatoes, as well as dairy. In addition, Delaware's location on the eastern seaboard allows a thriving seafood industry, especially in crabs, clams and oysters.

Agriscience & Precision Agriculture

Delaware's agriculture, advanced chemicals and life sciences sectors work closely together. Delaware-based life sciences companies utilize biologists, animal scientists and chemists to produce pharmaceutical products for agribusiness. Multinational companies support Delaware agriculture by advancing research and development in areas like crop breeding, digital ag and more, while farms adapt sophisticated precision agriculture technology. At the University of Delaware, internationally renowned scientists work alongside students to tackle the biggest issues facing agribusiness, both in the classroom and on the school's 350-acre laboratory farm that provides hands-on experience with animals, crop plants, wetlands, forests, greenhouses and a working dairy.



"There's a lot of scientific talent in this area. The quality of life is high, the environment in which people live is lovely, the schools are good – there's just a lot to be said about the benefits of working and living in Delaware."

– Kathleen Shelton
Vice President and CTO
FMC



Key Facts

1st

Delaware ranks first in the United States for agricultural value sold per acre.

1B

More than \$1 billion of cash receipts are generated from 2,300 Delaware farms on 530,000 acres.

2nd

Delaware ranks second in the nation for agricultural value sold per acre.

40%

A total of 40% of Delaware land use is devoted to agriculture production.

8th

Delaware is a leading producer of broiler chickens and ranks 8th in the United States in poultry industry sales.



Delaware is one of the top producers of lima beans in the United States.

Why Delaware?



"With a location that puts us within a day's drive of one-third of the U.S. population and our highly productive soils, Delaware is positioned to be a foodshed for the eastern United States."

- Ed Kee

Former Secretary of Agriculture
State of Delaware



"Delaware's just such an awesome place. You can be in Wilmington and to the beach within an hour and a half. It's a really awesome place to be in business, and it's a really awesome place to live."

- Katey Evans

Co-Founder
The Frozen Farmer

Notable Employers



Industry Drivers

- Delaware Farm Association
- Delaware Soybean Board
- Delaware State University College of Agriculture and Related Sciences
- Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc.
- Produce Marketing Association
- University of Delaware College of Agriculture & Natural Resources

About DPP

Delaware Prosperity Partnership leads Delaware's economic development efforts to attract, grow and retain businesses; to build a stronger entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem; and to support private employers in identifying, recruiting and developing talent.

Contact

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