



### **Agriculture Is Vital to South Dakota's Economy**

- In 2014 South Dakota's agriculture industry contributed more than \$12 billion to the state's economy.
- South Dakota has 32,000 farms and 43.3 million acres of farmland. More than 56 percent of farms are less than 500 acres, with an average farm size of 1,352 acres.
  - 18,048 farms have less than 500 acres.
  - 4,229 farms have between 500-1000 acres.
  - 9,712 farms have over 1000 acres.
- South Dakota grown soybeans are processed into meal and oil at a locally owned processing plant in Volga. Nearly four million acres are planted within the state, producing 100 million bushels annually.
- Two types of sunflowers are grown in South Dakota—oilseed and confectionery. The confectionery variety is used for human consumption and birdseed. The state ranks second in sunflower seed and oil production in the United States.
- In South Dakota there are approximately 17,000 ranchers and cattlemen that produce 3.7 million head of cattle each year.

### **Crop Insurance Is Vital to South Dakota's Agricultural Sector**

- Crop insurance protected \$4.4 billion of liability on growing crops in South Dakota in 2015. There were 16 million acres insured and \$185 million was paid to farmers in indemnities for production and/or revenue losses.
- The top commodities (liability) for crop insurance protection in 2015 were:
  - Corn - \$2.2 billion, protecting 5.2 million acres.
  - Soybeans - \$1.5 billion, protecting 5 million acres.
  - Wheat - \$439 million, protecting 2.6 million acres.
- The private crop-hail insurance product provided an additional \$956 million in liability protection on growing crops in South Dakota.