

## BACKGROUND

Nebraska was the fifth-largest agricultural exporting state in the country in 2016, exporting \$6.6 billion of agricultural goods. Nebraska tops the nation in beef exports, is the third-largest exporter of corn, feed and other grains, and processed grain products, and the fifth-largest exporter of soybeans and soybean meal. Other Nebraska products exported include ethanol, popcorn, wheat, pork, dry edible beans, and a host of other commodities and processed products. *Table 1.* lists Nebraska export values of select commodities and processed products for 2016. *Figure 1.* tracks Nebraska export values of several of the same commodities from 2000-2016. Total Nebraska agricultural exports increased nearly three times over that period. Nebraska agricultural exports are dominated by soybeans, beef, and corn, yet soybean meal, wheat, and pork also provide consistent export sales over time. It's easy to see that Nebraska's exports of agricultural goods play a key role in putting dollars into producers' pockets and fueling the state's agricultural economy.

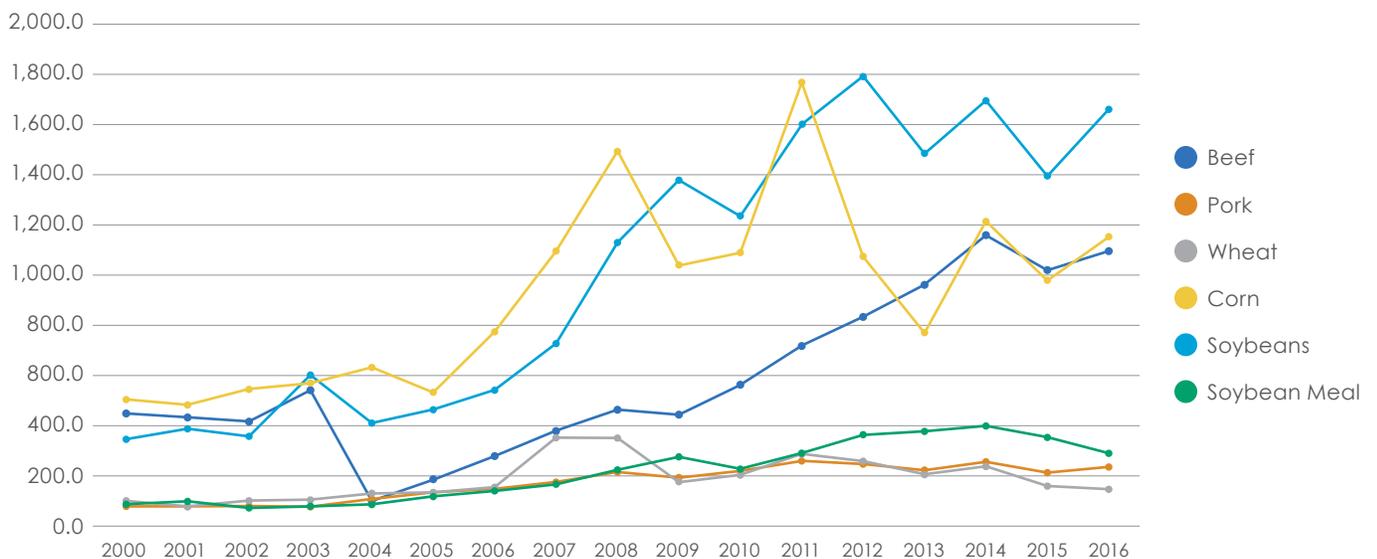
**TABLE 1. NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS – 2016 (MILLIONS \$)**

Soybeans	Corn	Beef and Veal	Distillers Dried Grains	Soybean Meal	Ethanol	Pork	Wheat	Grain Sorghum*
\$1,661.8	\$1,162.8	\$1,091.5	\$302.3	\$297.4	\$287.3	\$230.9	\$121.1	\$32.9

Data sources: USDA Economic Research Service; USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (Global Agricultural Trade System);  
USDA National Agricultural Statistic Service

\*Estimated using MY 2016/2017 U.S. export data and Nebraska percentage of total U.S. production for grain sorghum.

**FIGURE 1. NEBRASKA COMMODITY EXPORTS, 2000-2016 (MILLION \$)**



Source: USDA Economic Research Service; USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (Global Agricultural Trade System)

The bulk of Nebraska's agricultural exports go to our North American trading partners, Mexico and Canada. The American Farm Bureau estimates that these two countries combined, purchase 45 percent of Nebraska's agricultural exports alone. Other countries which are large importers of Nebraska agricultural products include Japan, China and Hong Kong, South Korea, and the European Union. Collectively, these countries including Mexico and Canada account for 70 percent of exports from Nebraska.

## VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO NEBRASKA PRODUCERS

The amount of dollars trade in agriculture is putting into producers' pockets can be measured in many ways. One way is to reflect export value on a per-unit basis. A per-unit basis expresses the value of commodity exports in terms similar to prices received by farmers and ranchers. *Table 2.* shows the estimated per-unit values of Nebraska exports for select commodities. The per-unit values were calculated by dividing 2016 export values for each commodity by the respective crop production or livestock numbers in the state. The per-unit value for soybeans includes the value of soybean meal exports, while the per-unit value of corn includes the value of ethanol and distillers dried grains exports. These processed goods are included to reflect the overall value of the exports attributable to that commodity. The resulting figures provide a reasonable expression of the value of agricultural exports to producers in Nebraska. Clearly, the figures in *Table 2.* demonstrate exports of these commodities are key contributors to the value received by producers of these commodities.

**TABLE 2. PER-UNIT VALUE OF NEBRASKA EXPORTS, 2016\***

Soybean**	Beef	Corn**	Pork	Wheat
\$6.27/bu.	\$169.22/hd.	\$1.03/bu.	\$68.00/hd.	\$2.04/bu.

*\*Estimates based on 2016 export data and USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service 2016 commodity production or animal inventory data.*

*\*\*Includes value of soybean meal, ethanol, and distillers dried grains in per-unit value estimates.*

Other ways to measure the value of exports to Nebraska producers is to apportion the value of total agricultural exports across counties or estimate a per-farm value for exports. Data on the value of Nebraska agricultural exports exist, but data on the value of exports to Nebraska counties does not. Counties do not share equally in the benefits generated by agricultural exports. Each county is unique in the commodities produced, processed, and sold. Thus, the importance of export markets for counties and the sensitivity of a county's agriculture to these markets will vary.

To shed light on the relative magnitude of agriculture exports to Nebraska counties, state total commodity export values were allocated to counties based on each county's share of total state production. Commodity export values for each commodity were then summed to estimate the total value of exports for a county. Commodities included in the analysis are corn, beef, pork, soybeans, soybean meal, wheat, dry edible beans, ethanol, and distillers grains. This analysis also estimated a per-farm value in each county for exports. The per-farm value is calculated by dividing the estimated total export value calculated for each county by the number of farms in the county reported in the 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture. The resulting per-farm figures provide another way to demonstrate the relative importance of exports.

Both estimates should be "taken with a grain of salt" and are not meant to denote exact dollar figures for county exports or per-farm value. Tracing the value of commodity exports back to a county is fraught with difficulty. For example, a commodity could be produced in one county, sold to an

elevator in another county, and processed in a third county, dispersing the value of the exports across all three counties. Rather, the estimates are meant to provide an approximation of the significance of exports by commodity to counties and producers. The appendix provides a further discussion of the approach used and difficulties of tracing export value for those readers interested. Finally, not all counties have estimates for each commodity because data was lacking for some counties.

Table 3. lists the estimated total value of exports for each county in descending order. Table 4. lists the estimated per-farm export value in descending order. Figure 3. plots the county total export values on a map while Figure 4. plots the per-farm values. Platte county edges out Cuming county as the county which received the most value from agricultural trade in 2016. Over \$148 million of value accrued to Platte county due to agricultural exports sales in 2016, and \$141 million accrued to Cuming county. Rounding out the top five counties are Custer, Holt, and Antelope counties, each with estimated export values of nearly \$130 million or more in 2016. The top five counties had one commonality, they had significant exports in at least one of the livestock sectors. For four counties, it was beef. In fact, beef was the top commodity exported in three of the counties in terms of value. In Platte county, pork was the third-largest commodity in terms of value exported. In total, 11 counties derive more than \$100 million in value from export sales. At the other end of the spectrum, Hooker, Arthur, and Thomas counties are the least reliant on trade with export values of less than \$5 million.

The importance of trade looks different when measuring on a per-farm basis. On this scale, Phelps county scores as the most reliant on trade with an export value per-farm just short of \$266,000. Other counties more reliant on trade on a per-farm basis are Kearney, Fillmore, Clay, and Boone counties, each with an export value per-farm of \$185,000 or more. The diversity of commodities produced along with the size and productivity of crop farms in these counties no doubt contributes to the high per-farm export values for these counties. Exports are the least important to farmers and ranchers on a per-farm basis in Dawes, Kimball, and Boyd counties.

**TABLE 3. ESTIMATED TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EXPORT VALUE**

County	Export Value	County	Export Value	County	Export Value	County	Export Value
Platte	\$148,152,226	Gage	\$93,092,590	Burt	\$73,552,374	Harlan	\$53,794,406
Cuming	\$141,461,874	Clay	\$87,310,671	Cass	\$73,358,304	Howard	\$51,327,524
Custer	\$139,235,451	Hamilton	\$86,792,668	Lancaster	\$71,738,923	Cherry	\$49,629,568
Holt	\$132,299,241	Madison	\$85,674,960	Wayne	\$71,336,401	Nance	\$49,380,610
Antelope	\$129,327,144	Seward	\$85,027,493	Saline	\$69,684,761	Perkins	\$48,851,445
Boone	\$119,441,920	Adams	\$84,077,903	Polk	\$69,512,104	Webster	\$48,847,679
Dawson	\$118,207,323	Kearney	\$83,054,522	Jefferson	\$69,274,577	Frontier	\$44,877,783
Saunders	\$108,254,218	Dodge	\$81,618,388	Hall	\$63,626,102	Nemaha	\$44,564,456
Phelps	\$107,698,019	Butler	\$81,440,845	Richardson	\$62,733,166	Valley	\$43,378,200
Cedar	\$106,675,713	Colfax	\$81,222,577	Dixon	\$62,628,350	Furnas	\$42,757,271
Lincoln	\$100,415,629	Knox	\$75,875,760	Chase	\$59,031,410	Franklin	\$42,268,968
York	\$97,614,321	Otoe	\$75,204,604	Merrick	\$58,591,306	Morrill	\$42,232,523
Buffalo	\$95,077,720	Pierce	\$75,149,228	Nuckolls	\$58,347,836	Greeley	\$40,128,238
Fillmore	\$94,340,386	Thayer	\$75,122,396	Washington	\$56,515,156	Pawnee	\$40,040,862

County	Export Value	County	Export Value	County	Export Value	County	Export Value
Gosper	\$38,890,281	Johnson	\$29,048,095	Keya Paha	\$15,205,393	Blaine	\$7,934,286
Keith	\$38,789,610	Sheridan	\$27,809,865	Banner	\$14,131,624	McPherson	\$6,883,837
Red Willow	\$35,313,801	Thurston	\$27,507,948	Douglas	\$13,604,288	Grant	\$5,245,968
Sherman	\$34,907,119	Cheyenne	\$27,208,299	Kimball	\$11,876,329	Loup	\$5,083,038
Brown	\$34,797,810	Hitchcock	\$26,749,179	Dawes	\$11,507,286	Thomas	\$4,484,457
Scotts Bluff	\$33,319,777	Rock	\$24,680,354	Garden	\$10,661,162	Arthur	\$4,399,844
Box Butte	\$31,773,555	Hayes	\$21,903,796	Deuel	\$10,250,072	Hooker	\$3,642,568
Dakota	\$31,442,034	Wheeler	\$19,460,852	Logan	\$9,712,099		
Stanton	\$30,520,460	Sarpy	\$18,369,627	Garfield	\$9,613,038		
Dundy	\$29,750,300	Sioux	\$16,753,284	Boyd	\$8,287,711		

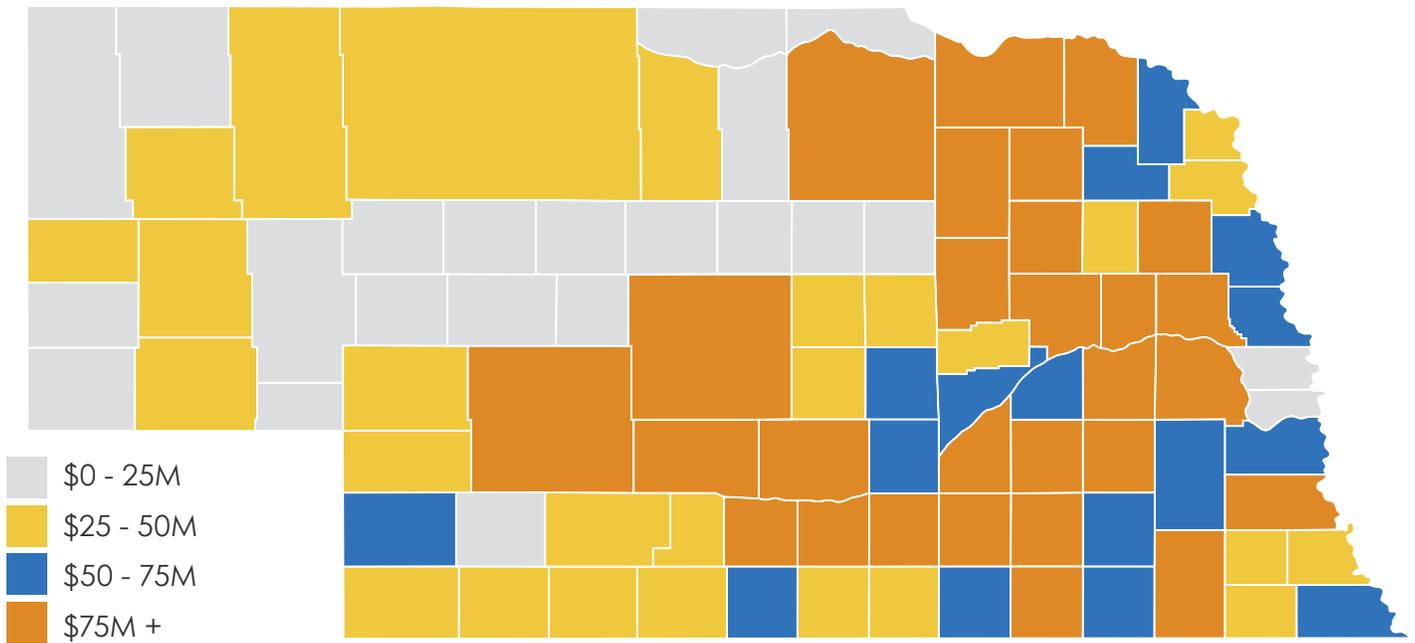
Source: Nebraska Farm Bureau estimates.

**TABLE 4. ESTIMATED TOTAL PER-FARM EXPORT VALUE**

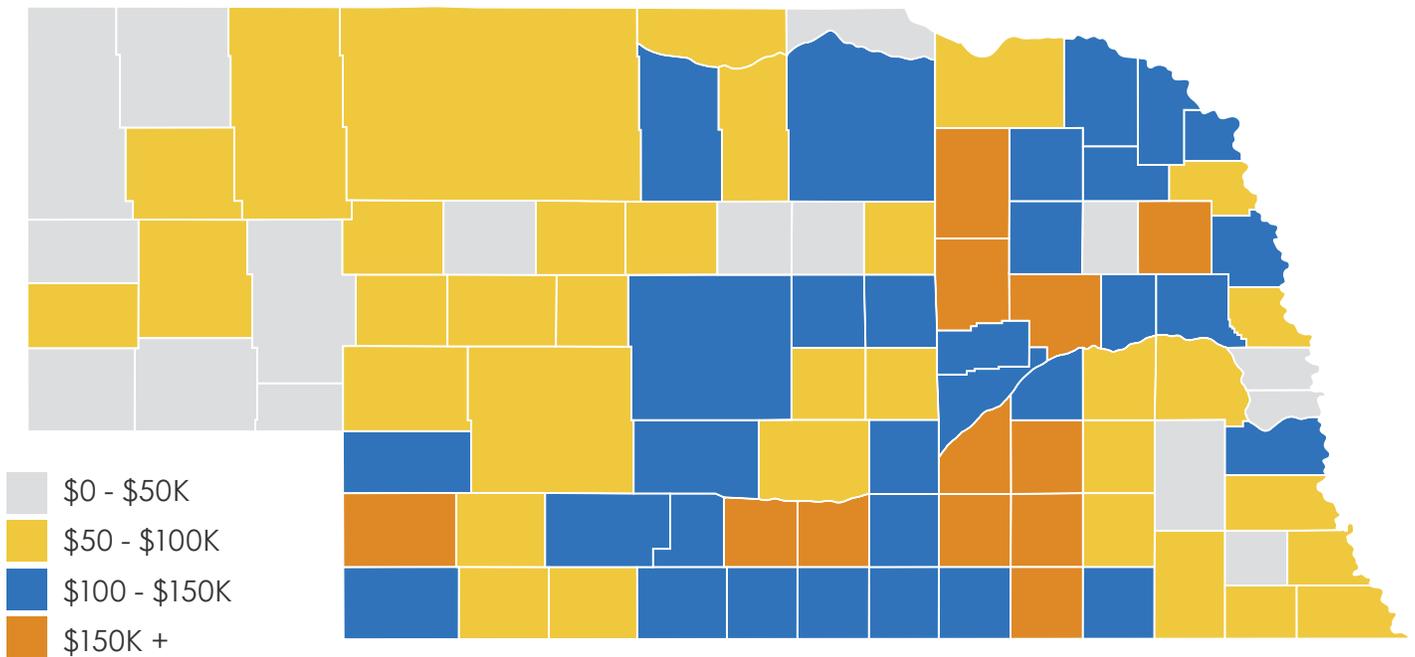
County	Per-farm Value	County	Per-farm Value	County	Per-farm Value	County	Per-farm Value
Phelps	\$265,921	Perkins	\$123,988	Hayes	\$93,207	Keya paha	\$62,317
Kearney	\$241,437	Merrick	\$119,088	Saline	\$92,175	McPherson	\$58,337
Fillmore	\$199,873	Dundy	\$118,527	Buffalo	\$90,896	Sheridan	\$51,884
Clay	\$191,051	Wheeler	\$115,479	Saunders	\$89,912	Arthur	\$51,762
Boone	\$184,894	Madison	\$113,778	Hitchcock	\$89,462	Thurston	\$51,545
Thomas	\$173,894	Cedar	\$113,605	Cherry	\$87,684	Johnson	\$49,485
Chase	\$172,606	Pierce	\$111,003	Red Willow	\$87,194	Stanton	\$49,306
Antelope	\$168,614	Jefferson	\$110,485	Lincoln	\$85,972	Cheyenne	\$49,023
Platte	\$157,274	Furnas	\$109,915	Seward	\$85,713	Sioux	\$47,325
Cuming	\$154,097	Dixon	\$109,874	Richardson	\$85,235	Sarpy	\$46,387
Hamilton	\$151,735	Washington	\$107,905	Sherman	\$84,316	Hooker	\$44,421
Gosper	\$149,578	Hall	\$107,295	Otoe	\$83,840	Deuel	\$43,249
Harlan	\$149,428	Dodge	\$106,412	Morrill	\$82,485	Garfield	\$42,535
Polk	\$149,167	Brown	\$106,090	Howard	\$75,260	Garden	\$40,847
Adams	\$148,285	Thayer	\$103,917	Valley	\$74,953	Lancaster	\$39,073
Dawson	\$146,659	Holt	\$103,439	Pawnee	\$74,149	Loup	\$36,833
Colfax	\$146,611	Greeley	\$103,157	Gage	\$73,707	Scotts Bluff	\$34,492
Frontier	\$141,570	Custer	\$102,984	Banner	\$73,220	Douglas	\$34,354
Nance	\$139,100	Cass	\$100,353	Knox	\$70,255	Boyd	\$31,156
Webster	\$137,715	Keith	\$99,973	Wayne	\$68,836	Kimball	\$29,543
Nuckolls	\$134,132	Rock	\$99,920	Box Butte	\$68,183	Dawes	\$23,341
Burt	\$131,343	Nemaha	\$98,812	Blaine	\$67,814		
Dakota	\$129,391	York	\$98,287	Grant	\$65,574		
Franklin	\$125,056	Butler	\$96,953	Logan	\$65,181		

Source: Nebraska Farm Bureau estimates.

**FIGURE 3. ESTIMATED TOTAL AGRICULTURAL EXPORT VALUE PER COUNTY, 2016**



**FIGURE 4. ESTIMATED AGRICULTURAL EXPORT VALUE PER-FARM, 2016**



## COUNTIES' TOP EXPORT COMMODITIES

As noted above, each Nebraska county is unique and commodities are not produced uniformly across the state. Thus, the importance of exports of a commodity will differ across counties and the sensitivity of a county's agriculture to commodity markets will vary. The estimated commodity export values can be used to look at the geographic differences of which commodities are important to a county in terms of export value. *Table 5.* lists the number of counties a commodity is tops in terms of export value. *Figure 5.* plots the top export commodity for each county.

**TABLE 5. NUMBER OF COUNTIES & TOP EXPORT COMMODITY**

Soybeans*	Beef	Corn*	Wheat
42 counties	27 counties	20 counties	4 counties

*\*\*Includes value of soybean meal, ethanol, and distillers dried grains in per-unit value estimates.*

Soybeans were the top export commodity for 42 counties, almost one-half of Nebraska's counties. Soybeans' prevalence is somewhat surprising given total corn production in Nebraska exceeded soybean production in 2016 by nearly 5.5 times (1.7 billion bushels vs. 312 million bushels). Each year nearly one-half of the soybeans produced are exported, whereas, more corn produced stays in the country and is fed to livestock or is feedstock in ethanol production. Because a greater share of soybean production is exported, it's importance to counties in terms of export value is magnified. Beef is the top export commodity for 28 counties, and corn is tops in 19 counties.

The geographical distribution of the top export commodities across the state shown in *Figure 5*. illustrates clearly the regional nature of the importance of commodity export markets. Soybeans dominate in the eastern one-third of the state. Beef dominates in the Sandhills and northern Panhandle counties, with one outlier county, Cuming county, which clearly reflects the strong feedlot sector in that county. Wheat is the top export commodity in the southern tier of counties in the Panhandle along with Hitchcock county. Corn dominates in the central Platte and southwest regions of the state.

**FIGURE 5. ESTIMATED TOP EXPORT COMMODITY BY COUNTY, 2016**

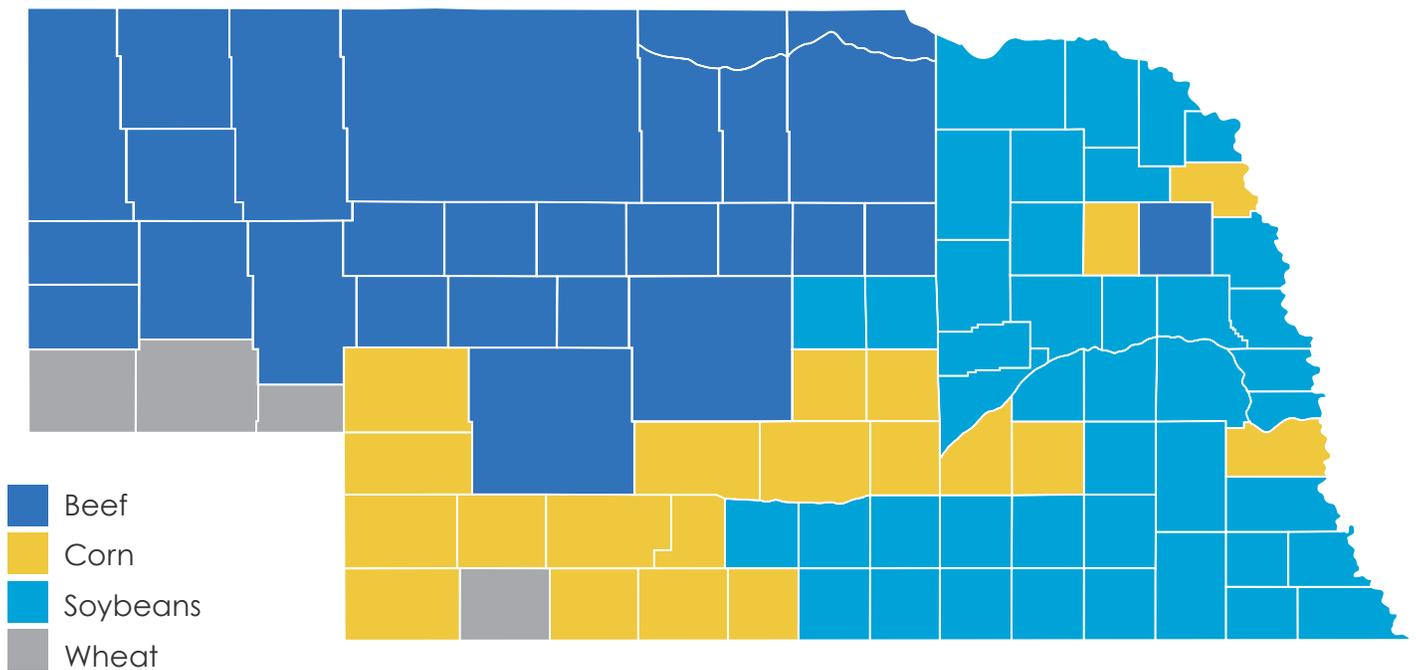


Table 6. lists the estimates of the export value of each commodity included in the analysis in each county. While Nebraska exports are dominated by the big three—soybeans, beef, and corn—Table 6. illustrates the diversity across the state in the importance of other commodities exported. Other commodities which are important include wheat and sorghum.

**TABLE 6. ESTIMATED EXPORT VALUE BY COMMODITY, 2016**

County	Beef Export Value (\$)	Corn Export Value (\$)	Pork Export Value (\$)	Sorghum Export Value (\$)	Soybean Export Value (\$)	Wheat Export Value (\$)
Adams	10,153,488	35,686,455	1,254,632	1,174,907	35,808,421	-
Antelope	19,460,853	41,823,866	14,966,653	-	53,075,772	-
Arthur	4,399,845	-	-	-	-	-
Banner	9,307,364	1,524,560	-	-	-	3,299,700
Blaine	7,445,891	488,395	-	-	-	-
Boone	16,584,031	35,837,984	19,553,513	-	47,466,393	-
Box Butte	12,353,411	10,510,084	5,364	-	-	8,904,697
Boyd	7,953,566	-	35,008	-	-	299,137
Brown	21,153,101	9,369,911	-	-	4,274,799	-
Buffalo	17,768,605	41,059,009	328,339	-	35,482,148	439,620
Burt	4,315,233	23,175,580	2,366,128	-	43,695,434	-
Butler	5,838,256	28,416,190	4,545,077	-	42,641,323	-
Cass	1,675,326	23,845,603	415,576	-	47,359,727	62,074
Cedar	21,153,101	34,818,518	6,500,428	-	44,203,667	-
Chase	16,922,481	27,570,931	-	3,447,581	4,456,131	6,346,205
Cherry	44,844,574	4,784,995	-	-	-	-
Cheyenne	9,984,264	-	565	-	400,311	16,823,160
Clay	8,799,690	30,779,825	12,056,494	1,619,948	33,857,060	197,655
Colfax	14,722,558	20,660,417	14,410,764	-	31,428,838	-
Cuming	50,767,442	31,199,363	12,825,535	-	46,669,535	-
Custer	49,921,318	43,021,661	13,306,891	-	32,307,265	678,317
Dakota	1,269,186	11,619,229	-	-	18,553,619	-
Dawes	11,507,287	-	-	-	-	-
Dawson	40,613,953	42,339,268	5,976,159	-	27,400,626	1,877,317
Deuel	3,079,891	-	3,952	-	-	7,166,229
Dixon	7,953,566	21,783,994	-	-	32,890,791	-
Dodge	7,107,442	26,578,266	4,582,343	-	43,350,338	-
Douglas	423,062	5,149,900	-	-	8,031,326	-
Dundy	11,338,062	11,733,649	-	-	1,884,224	4,794,366
Fillmore	5,330,581	39,139,651	3,964,344	1,827,633	44,078,177	-
Franklin	3,976,783	18,169,993	55,899	-	19,011,655	1,054,638
Frontier	9,815,039	16,772,222	255,500	3,969,762	8,639,950	5,425,311
Furnas	5,922,868	18,730,750	-	-	10,428,175	7,675,477
Gage	6,007,481	26,421,584	5,019,657	-	54,832,625	811,244
Garden	10,661,163	-	-	-	-	-
Garfield	7,530,504	2,082,535	-	-	-	-
Gosper	4,653,682	17,712,315	-	-	14,795,209	1,729,075
Grant	5,245,969	-	-	-	-	-

County	Beef Export Value (\$)	Corn Export Value (\$)	Pork Export Value (\$)	Sorghum Export Value (\$)	Soybean Export Value (\$)	Wheat Export Value (\$)
Greeley	10,153,488	13,742,687	-	-	16,232,063	-
Hall	11,676,512	34,809,241	343,584	-	16,796,766	-
Hamilton	7,022,829	44,361,707	936,175	-	34,471,958	-
Harlan	7,530,504	18,719,412	-	7,049,442	17,304,998	3,190,050
Hayes	9,307,364	12,596,432	-	-	-	-
Hitchcock	4,569,070	6,984,732	-	7,150,318	-	8,045,060
Holt	38,921,705	35,348,351	20,946,764	-	36,749,592	332,829
Hooker	3,638,333	-	4,235	-	-	-
Howard	13,707,209	19,187,397	421,787	-	17,901,073	110,058
Jefferson	4,907,519	18,583,345	9,760,382	-	35,218,621	804,710
Johnson	2,352,225	8,813,379	517,211	-	17,091,666	273,614
Kearney	13,876,434	33,798,021	-	-	34,578,624	801,443
Keith	9,476,589	18,202,978	-	-	5,997,142	5,112,901
Keya Paha	10,830,388	3,115,092	-	-	1,259,914	-
Kimball	3,249,116	2,514,132	1,694	-	-	6,111,387
Knox	21,153,101	24,911,455	-	-	29,653,162	158,043
Lancaster	3,722,946	23,082,807	1,025,105	498,445	43,180,928	228,692
Lincoln	45,690,698	35,377,214	11,010	-	17,047,745	2,288,962
Logan	4,907,519	4,804,580	-	-	-	-
Loup	4,992,132	-	90,907	-	-	-
Madison	15,737,907	28,044,070	1,560,667	-	40,332,317	-
McPherson	6,176,705	707,132	-	-	-	-
Merrick	7,699,729	21,092,324	4,127,242	1,038,428	24,633,583	-
Morrill	26,229,845	12,365,532	-	-	-	3,209,856
Nance	4,822,907	15,030,162	9,694,037	439,107	19,394,398	-
Nemaha	1,658,403	13,344,796	1,128,152	-	28,291,602	141,503
Nuckolls	6,515,155	21,310,854	1,141,986	-	27,168,471	2,211,371
Otoe	2,369,147	22,725,118	4,513,739	-	45,596,600	-
Pawnee	5,245,969	10,455,451	805,460	878,213	22,255,558	400,211
Perkins	5,753,643	31,767,336	-	-	-	11,330,466
Phelps	28,768,217	38,459,320	-	872,279	39,598,203	-
Pierce	8,799,690	27,374,047	-	1,447,865	37,527,627	-
Platte	21,999,225	41,533,179	32,008,361	-	52,611,461	-
Polk	11,676,512	23,476,575	-	-	34,359,018	-

County	Beef Export Value (\$)	Corn Export Value (\$)	Pork Export Value (\$)	Sorghum Export Value (\$)	Soybean Export Value (\$)	Wheat Export Value (\$)
Red Willow	10,830,388	17,575,218	-	-	6,908,195	-
Richardson	5,499,806	18,832,800	3,121,617	-	35,093,131	185,812
Rock	15,568,682	3,824,800	-	-	5,286,871	-
Saline	4,399,845	25,631,987	-	1,447,865	37,766,057	439,007
Sarpy	676,899	5,813,738	1,412	-	11,877,579	-
Saunders	11,845,736	34,276,315	498,013	-	61,634,155	-
Scotts Bluff	18,614,729	13,672,592	-	-	-	-
Seward	8,207,403	27,604,947	4,810,458	-	44,285,235	119,451
Sheridan	17,768,605	6,265,230	847	-	-	3,442,632
Sherman	7,699,729	15,135,304	-	-	12,072,087	-
Sioux	16,076,357	-	-	-	-	524,767
Stanton	8,292,016	18,857,539	3,370,906	-	-	-
Thayer	5,499,806	29,384,116	722,458	-	38,198,995	1,317,021
Thomas	4,484,457	-	-	-	-	-
Thurston	7,868,953	18,792,599	846,397	-	-	-
Valley	13,030,310	14,076,668	-	-	16,075,201	196,022
Washington	4,822,907	16,923,750	2,492,607	-	32,275,892	-
Wayne	7,192,054	25,801,039	-	-	38,343,308	-
Webster	12,861,085	14,893,065	-	-	18,553,619	2,539,911
Wheeler	19,460,853	-	-	-	-	-
York	7,699,729	45,782,156	3,567,966	-	40,564,472	-

Source: Nebraska Farm Bureau estimates.

## CONCLUSION

Nebraska was the fifth-largest agricultural exporting state in the country in 2016, exporting \$6.6 billion of agricultural goods. Nebraska's exports that year were nearly three times the amount exported in 2000. Nebraska tops the nation in beef exports, is the third-largest exporter of corn, processed grain products, feed, and other grains, and the fifth-largest in soybeans and soybean meal. Agricultural exports are critical to the overall health of the agricultural economy.

This report uses various means to measure the relative value of agricultural exports to Nebraska farmers and ranchers. Estimates of per-unit values, the total dollar export values by county, and per-farm values of exports were calculated to describe the reliance of different areas of the state to trade. The report also examines the top commodity exports by value to the counties. It's no surprise given the prevalence of soybean, beef, and corn production in Nebraska, these three commodities are important at the county level in terms of export value. Somewhat surprisingly, soybeans are the most important export commodity in nearly half the state's counties despite the abundance of corn production relative to soybean production. Exports of other commodities, though, like wheat and pork, also play important roles in several counties across the state.

Darci Vetter, former chief agricultural negotiator at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, has said, "I think there is a lack of misunderstanding or even misunderstanding of how critically important trade is for the Nebraska economy." The analysis identifies which Nebraska counties potentially have the most at risk if international trade were disrupted. It is hoped this analysis will help Farm Bureau members, industry stakeholders, and policymakers better understand how much Nebraska agriculture relies on export markets.

## APPENDIX: DESCRIPTION OF ANALYSIS

The production-based approach used in the analysis is patterned after the approach formerly used by the USDA Economic Research Service (USDA-ERS) to allocate export value to states. Each county's share of total state production for a commodity was calculated and multiplied by the commodity's total export value for the state. In this way, each county's export value for a commodity can be estimated. USDA-ERS now uses a cash receipts-based methodology for allocating export value. This analysis uses the production-based methodology instead to take advantage of the most recent data available. Commodity cash receipts are only reported at the county level in the Census of Agriculture conducted every five years and the last census was performed in 2012.

The approach can provide reasonable estimates of the relative importance of exports to the counties, but it does have shortcomings. For example, the value of beef and pork exports includes other costs like processing, transportation, margins, etc. These costs are reflected in the export value attributable to a state, and will consequently be reflected in the county value estimates. In addition, the value of beef and pork exports adds value for producers of corn and soybeans, and this value is not reflected in county level values of these commodities. A commodity produced in one county can be sold in another county, and processed in a third county, further dispersing the value of the exports sold. However, even with these shortcomings, the figures can provide a reasonable approximation of the magnitude or importance of various commodity exports.

County and state-level production data for 2016 for corn, soybeans, wheat, sorghum, and dry beans comes from USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). Cattle numbers for 2016, including both cows and calves, also comes from USDA-NASS. County level data for hog numbers was not available, so a receipts-based approach was used using data from 2012 USDA Census of Agriculture. Production data was not available for all counties due to the insufficiency of the data. Thus, some counties may not have estimates for a specific commodity. Nebraska 2016 export data comes from the U.S. Census Bureau.

The analysis also sought to account for the export of products and byproducts which could be traced to a specific commodity, such as ethanol and distillers dried grains. The export value for these processed goods was apportioned to counties based on counties' production share. To estimate the value of exports of beef and veal for each county, the share of each county's cattle inventory of the state's total inventory was calculated. The estimated share serves as a reasonable proxy of the importance of beef cattle in the county. Each county's share was then multiplied by the beef and veal export value for the state to estimate the value of beef exports to the county. Using total cattle inventory blends both the cow/calf and feeding sectors of the industry in the figures, however, given the goal of the analysis is to estimate the relative importance exports to Nebraska counties, the approach taken was reasonable.



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