



Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers
"Growing Communities...One Farmer at a Time"

Contact:

Aaron Putze, APR
Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers
515-225-5531
aputze@supportiowasfarmers.org

Mark Imerman, Department of Economics
Iowa State University
515-294-5781
mdimerman@iastate.edu

FARMING REMAINS GROWTH INDUSTRY FOR IOWA, STUDY SHOWS

Iowa State University research funded by Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers shows agriculture is responsible for 25 percent of Iowa's industrial output

DES MOINES, IA – Oct. 4, 2005 – Farming and agri-food industries remain a large and vital part of the Iowa economy. A recent Iowa State University study, funded by the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers (CSIF), shows that 25 percent of all Iowa industrial output – commercial, manufacturing, financial, government services – leaves the state in the form of agri-food products.

"The study shows that the agri-food industry continues to be broadly and deeply integrated throughout the Iowa economy," says Mark Imerman, Department of Economics, Iowa State University and study-team member. "Farm output continues to grow and provides a strong seed for related agri-food industries."

Crop and livestock farming employs one in 15 Iowans. Far from being insignificant, however, it's the base for a much larger complex of agri-food industries in the state. Farming, food processing, the production of farm machinery, crop protection products and fertilizer and supplying all of the inputs needed by each of those industry segments, add up to a large portion of Iowa's industrial output. In fact, 25 percent of all Iowa industrial output leaves the state in the form of agri-food sector outputs.

Other research highlights include:

- One of every 10 Iowans is employed by farming, food processing or the farm input industries.
- One of every four dollars (\$46.7 million of \$185.8 million) of Iowa's industrial output is exported from the state as an agri-food product.
- Approximately one of every eight dollars in personal income in the state comes from exported agri-food products.
- Agricultural production and food processing generate 8.22 percent of Iowa's gross state product, the highest percentage share in the nation. Gross state product is the value-added measure of the state's total overall economic activity. Value-added is the value of the products sold minus the value of the inputs purchased to manufacture the products sold.
- More than 18 percent of the Iowa's total value added is contained in agri-food products exported from the state.

“The study's key finding is not that Iowa is dependent upon agriculture, but rather that it is agriculturally capable and that its citizens are able to reap the advantages of that capability,” says Kirk Leeds, executive director of the Iowa Soybean Association and president of the Coalition's board of directors.

The study made use of data from several sources, including the Census of Agriculture, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and Labor Statistics, the Iowa Department of Workforce Development, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the IMPLAN economic modeling system available from the MIG, Inc.

Additional research details, including the economic impact of farming and related industries for each county in Iowa, can be found at the CSIF web site, www.supportiowasfarmers.org.

The Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers was founded and is funded by the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Iowa Poultry Association and Iowa Soybean Association. Its mission is to help Iowa's communities prosper by offering livestock farmers timely assistance in following regulations and enhancing neighbor relations.

For more information, contact the CSIF at 1-800-932-2436 or www.supportiowasfarmers.org.

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About the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers

The CSIF was launched May 11, 2004. Its mission is to grow Iowa communities one farmer at a time. Six prominent farm groups founded and help fund the organization: Iowa Cattlemen's Association, Iowa Corn Growers Association; Iowa Farm Bureau, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Iowa Poultry Association and Iowa Soybean Association. For more information about the Coalition's services and the importance of livestock farming in Iowa, log on to www.supportiowasfarmers.org.