

WHEAT

Are you looking for the waving, golden Kansas wheat? You won't see it all year long. Most Kansas wheat is winter wheat, planted in the fall and dormant in the winter. Wheat is green in the fields until just before it is ready to be harvested in June and July when it turns its brilliant gold color.

- 10 million acres of Wheat are planted in Kansas every year
- Wheat is an important crop for Kansas farmers & the state's economy. It is the largest crop planted in Kansas.
- Wheat is a major component of a healthy diet and you probably eat it in some form every day.
- Nearly 1/5 of the wheat produced in the United States is grown in Kansas
- Kansas farmers produce about 400 million bushels of wheat a year with a value of \$1 billion



A Guide to **CROPS** in Southeast Kansas

For more information on Kansas Agriculture, visit the K-State Research & Extension Web site at www.oznet.ksu.edu or the Kansas Department of Agriculture Web site at www.ksda.gov.



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Getting to Know your Kansas Crops

For anyone unfamiliar with driving along Kansas' miles of scenic roads, the sites will be amazing and inspiring. In this brief brochure, you'll find some fun facts about the crops you will see in Southeast Kansas. You'll most likely see wheat, corn, milo, sunflowers or soybeans planted in Kansas. You may see many fields that appear to be full of "dead" plants. This is when a crop is at it's ripest and ready to harvest; it's supposed to look that way.

MILO

- Kansas farmers plant an average of 3.5 million acres of milo every year.
- Milo is typically planted in May or June and harvested when the heads turn a distinct dark red color in August and September.
- In 2000 the Kansas Department of Agriculture reported that an average of 59 bushels per acre were harvested from 3.5 million acres in Kansas generating over 330 million dollars in revenue.
- In the U.S. milo is primarily used to feed livestock



SUNFLOWERS

Kansas is the sunflower state and more and more sunflowers are being harvested here. We were originally named the sunflower state because the wild sunflower is so abundant.

- Kansas farmers plant an average of 300 thousand acres of sunflowers each year.
- Sunflowers are harvested for their seeds as a healthy snack or an ingredient. A specific oil-seed sunflower is used for birdseed.
- Sunflower oil is also harvested from the plant
- When the sunflower is budding it follows the sun. When the flower's yellow petals open up it faces east.

SOYBEANS

- Kansas farmers plant an average of 3 million acres of soybeans every year; worth an estimated \$500 million
- Soybeans, also referred to as beans, are typically planted in April and harvested in October
- Soybeans are used in several products we use every day including crayons, newspaper ink and more than a thousand other ways.
- One common use of soybeans planted in Kansas is to feed livestock.



CORN

- The United States produces half the world's total corn crop, double that of any other crop in the U.S.
- Kansas plants 3.5 million acres of Corn every year
- Corn is typically planted in April and harvested in September
- Corn has three main purposes: food, livestock food & raw material for industrial products
- Corn is used in many food products, and is also used to make oil, syrups, sugars, soap, starches and many more.
- Corn can be fermented and distilled to make products such as ethyl & butyl alcohol that eventually produce ethanol gasoline that runs the motors in your car.
- The origin of corn is unknown. The oldest dating corn to be found is from 5000 BC and came from Mexico.

