For statistical purposes the counties of Illinois are grouped into nine Agricultural Statistics Districts (shown on the map at right). These groupings represent divisions of approximately equal size with similar soils, growing conditions and types of farming.

When it is not possible to collect sufficient data to make accurate county estimates, then estimates are made for each Agricultural Statistics District.
Dear Friend:

Thank you for your interest in the 1990 "Illinois Agricultural Statistics Annual Summary." Agriculture is the leading industry in Illinois. We face constant challenge in accurately communicating the story of our highly successful production system to the consumers who are the end-users of our efforts.

We have the finest system in the world and we will continue to face the challenge to make it even better. In the course of their operations, our farmers uphold the obligation of stewardship and the protection of our natural resources, while keeping pace with the ever increasing production demand.

The information on the following pages outlines the statistical profile of Illinois agriculture, the state’s "Number One" industry. The Department is repeatedly questioned regarding agriculture’s scope and economic impact both here in Illinois, and in relation to other agriculturally-based states. This material provides answers and documentation for many of those questions.

Perhaps the most important purpose served by the statistical summary is its role as a marketing tool for Illinois farmers. Economic and financial difficulties continue to force many to struggle making accurate information even more important to management decisions.

The cooperative effort of state and federal statisticians and many thousands of Illinois farm families and agribusinesses is needed to compile the facts and figures in this book. Many thanks for their continued support and assistance in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

John F. Rundquist
Director
Dear Friend:

This 1990 edition of the Illinois Agricultural Statistics Bulletin gives cause to wonder what the future holds for Illinois Agriculture. The beginning of the 21st century has been a reference point for many futuristic predictions. Numerous goals relating to the environment, social structure and economics of agriculture and rural America will be judged on that date. In Illinois we have statistical records dating back to the early 19th century. Through these statistics we are able to track and measure the tremendous progress and dramatic changes that have occurred in agriculture. The next ten years promise to be just as exciting and challenging for agriculture and the Illinois Agricultural Statistics Service looks forward to collecting, analyzing and publishing the data that will guide the decision-making and eventually measure the full extent of change and progress of Illinois agriculture.

The Illinois and U.S. Departments of Agriculture have cooperated since 1925 in the gathering, summarizing and issuing of agricultural statistics for Illinois. This cooperation has improved and extended the use of agricultural statistics and done so in a way to make the work most effective while avoiding duplication of effort.

The agricultural statistics and information in this publication are based on voluntary reports from thousands of Illinois farm operators, many agricultural firms and county agricultural officials. Our office staff and enumerators join me in extending a sincere thank you to all of our volunteer reporters.

This publication presents the latest in Illinois Agricultural Statistics. If there are questions about this data or suggestions for improvement, please contact us.

Sincerely,

Fred S. Barrett
State Statistician