



# CORN

## Fact Sheet



- ~ An ear of corn has an average of 800 kernels in 16 rows.
- ~ Some ears of corn can have as few as 12 or as many as 20 rows of kernels.
- ~ A bushel of corn weighs 56 pounds and contains about 72,800 kernels.
- ~ Over 99% of the corn grown in the United States is field corn.
- ~ Less than 1% of the corn grown in the U.S. is sweet corn or popcorn.
- ~ Field corn is used as livestock feed and is made into many products such as those listed below.

### How CORN is used

Companies that refine or process corn separate the kernels into different parts, or components. Oils, starch, and protein are extracted from these components, then processed to create all the products that we can make from corn.

- Antibiotics** may contain cornstarch or dextrose created from cornstarch
- Beef cattle** - ground corn or distillers grain leftover from ethanol production is often part of cattle feed
- Candy** often contains corn syrup, starch, or dextrose
- Cereal** often contains corn flour or corn syrup
- Chickens** - corn is used to feed poultry
- Cosmetics** - lipstick and makeup often include cornstarch
- Crayons** may contain dextrin derived from starch as a binder
- Dairy cows** are often fed distillers grain leftover from ethanol production
- Export** - corn is exported, or sold, to other countries like Japan and Mexico
- Fabric** can be made with corn-based fibers
- Fireworks** can contain cornstarch
- Fuel** - ethanol, often blended with gasoline, is made from corn
- Glass cleaner** can be made from corn ethanol
- Glue** may contain dextrin made from cornstarch
- Hand Sanitizer** is made with ethanol (ethyl alcohol)
- Hogs** - ground corn is an important part of hog feed
- Instant tea** may contain crystalline fructose from corn
- Ketchup** is sweetened with corn syrup
- Leather** - corn syrup and dextrose are used in tanning, or making hide into leather
- Packing material** - biodegradable "peanuts" are made from starch
- Paint** may contain cornstarch and dextrans
- Paper** contains cornstarch for printability
- Peanut butter** is often sweetened with corn syrup
- Pet food** often contains protein-rich corn meal
- Plastics** can be made from PLA (polylactic acid) converted from cornstarch
- Salad dressing** may contain cornstarch, syrup, or oil
- Soft drinks** are often sweetened with corn syrup
- String** may contain dextrin from cornstarch
- Tires** can be made using cornstarch
- Toothpaste** can contain Sorbitol, a sweetener from corn



Although the exact order may change from year to year, the top ranking corn-producing states are:

Iowa 🌽 Illinois 🌽 Nebraska 🌽 Minnesota 🌽 Indiana