

Farming in the USA

Sheep farming in Colorado (western USA)

Colorado is one of the largest sheep-producing states in the USA. The majority of Colorado is made up of mountains and dry plains. Colorado has an arid climate. Winter is dry and cold, spring has occasional heavy rain showers and summer and autumn are hot and dry.

It is difficult to grow crops easily in this type of climate but sheep can thrive in these conditions.



There are also areas of grassland and forest that provide plenty of food for the sheep. Sheep are bred for meat and their high-quality wool fleeces.

Citrus fruit farming in Florida (south-eastern USA)

Florida oranges are thought to be some of the best in the world as the weather is perfect for growing sweet, juicy oranges.

Florida has a tropical climate that is hot and humid, perfect for citrus farming. There is enough rainfall for the fruit trees to thrive and lots of hot, sunny weather to ripen the fruit. There is also little chance of frost because Florida is one of the warmest parts of the USA.



Because of the tropical climate, there are only two seasons in Florida, a dry season that lasts from November to April and a wet season that lasts from May to October.

Florida has very sandy soil that is perfect for citrus fruit trees. It drains water away quickly and is also deep enough for strong root growth.

Dairy farming in the north-eastern USA

The area in the north-east and midwest of the USA is known as the Dairy Belt, which is within the temperate and cold climate zones of the USA.

The states in the Dairy Belt (Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and New York) have four clear seasons like we do in the UK, with warm summers and cold winters. Dairy farming is well suited to this climate.

The summer season in the Dairy Belt is shorter than those of other states, so it is difficult to grow crops. However, grass grows quickly in the Dairy Belt because there is plenty of rainfall.

The grass is used to feed the dairy cows and is either eaten fresh in the summer or in the form of hay during the winter months.

Arable farming in Kansas (central USA)

Wheat is grown in 42 of the 50 states of the USA, with Kansas usually producing the most wheat. Kansas grows almost 20% of all wheat grown in the United States. It is sometimes known as the Wheat State. Kansas has around 20,000 farmers who grow wheat.

Kansas is in the temperate zone of the USA. It has very hot summers and changeable winters: some are warm and wet, and some are very cold. Due to this climate, Kansas wheat farmers grow Hard Red Winter Wheat. They plant the crop in autumn and then harvest it during the summer. This type of wheat relies on autumn rains to feed it and help it develop its roots. It then uses the long, hot summers to ripen slowly.

Most of the state of Kansas lies on the great central plain of the USA. This is a huge area of land that is fairly flat with gentle, rolling hills.

The flatness of the plain makes it easy for large farm vehicles to work the land.

