Cottonwood County

The 415,000 acres of Cottonwood County are home to 11,549 people.

- The 5 largest agricultural inventory items for Cottonwood County are corn for grain, soybeans, forage land (hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop), corn for silage, and wheat for grain (all).
- The 5 largest livestock inventories are broilers and other meat-type chickens, hogs and pigs, turkeys, cattle and calves, and sheep and lambs.
- Cottonwood County is ranked 4th in the state for broilers and other meat-type chickens, and 11th in the state for aquaculture and cattle and calves.

Source: USDA 2012 Census

Cottonwood County has…

- 415,000 total acres
- 372,767 acres in farms
- 1,434 irrigated acres
- 813 farms

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012

90% of Cottonwood County is farms.

Farm Land Use
90.3% - Cropland
9.7% - Other

Practices that farmers in Cottonwood County implement to protect natural resources include:

- Grass waterways, contour planting, and reduced tillage to protect against soil erosion.
- Nutrient management best management practice techniques, including soil sampling, precision application, and split applications to address concerns about surface and groundwater quality.

A **watershed** is an area or ridge of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers, basins, or seas.

Watersheds in the County (% of the County)
1. Cottonwood (38%)
2. Watonwan (31%)
3. Des Moines Headwaters (26%)
4. Middle Minnesota (6%)
5. Blue Earth (<1%)

Source: NRCS, USDA, and MPCA, 2007