

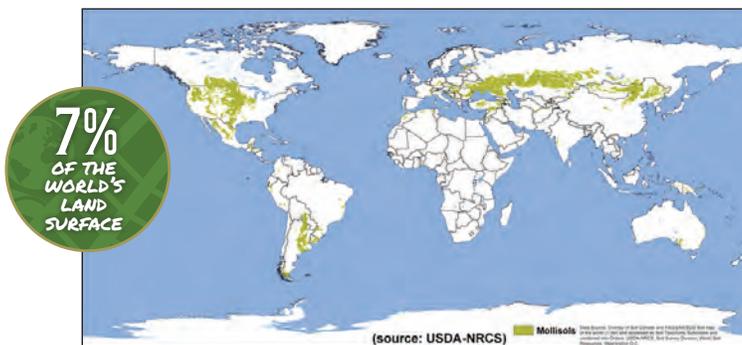
SO WHY IOWA?

It's pretty simple, actually. Iowa is known as the Breadbasket, the Grainbelt, the Hogbelt, the Heart of the Heartland. Whatever name you prefer, we are smack dab in the middle of *one of only three locations* in the world blessed with the most fertile classification of soil—Mollisol.

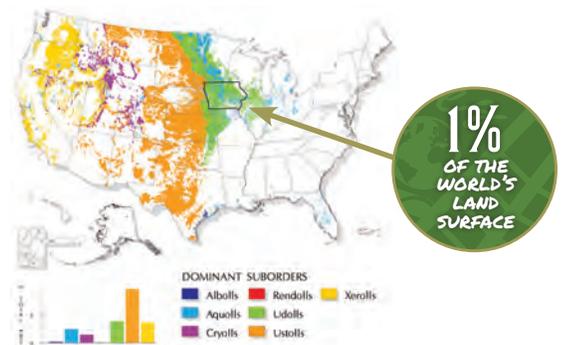
Mollisol soil — best-suited for raising grain, which can then be fed to livestock—covers only *seven percent* of the land surface on the globe. Largely, Mollisol soils are the food-producing centers of the world—the prairies in the USA, the steppes of Russia and the pampas of Argentina.

Mollisols have seven dominant suborders, with the most fertile—Udolls soil—dominating Iowa's land surface. Udolls cover about *one percent* of the world's land surface.

GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF MOLLISOLS



MOLLISOLS—UDOLLS



E-I-E-I-OOOOO!

Iowa's Udolls soil is the very reason we are home to 87,000 farms and the fact that we annually lead the nation in corn and soybean production. The state's farmers produced an astounding estimated 2.74 billion bushels of corn and 566 million bushels of soybeans in 2016.

That grain and other feedstuffs is then fed to the state's 3.9 million cattle and calves, 1.2 million fed cattle, 965,000 beef cows, 215,000 dairy cows and 22.4 million hogs and pigs, plus poultry, turkeys, sheep and goats, making our state the second largest food producer in the nation.



Source: NASS, USDA



Shell Rock, Iowa

Homegrown Iowa

IOWA FARMERS KEY TO US FOOD SECURITY

The challenge remains high for Iowa's farmers to continuously improve food affordability, availability, quality and safety. In fact, the most recent Global Food Security report shows the U.S. now trails Ireland as the world's most food-secure nation.

Economic recovery and double-digit growth in personal incomes across lower- and middle-income countries are helping with food affordability, according to the Global Food Security report. But more efficient and innovative food production and sustainable supply chains, it says, are needed to support shifting food preferences and growing demand.

China has experienced a 54% increase in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per head since 2012, while economies in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia have also grown rapidly. By 2050, however, a 50 percent boost in agricultural production will be needed to satisfy the world's 10 billion people. Increased consumption of fruits, vegetables and meat will also necessitate shifts in agricultural outputs, taxing already strained natural resources.

Even in the heart of the world's richest food-producing area, food security in Iowa continues to be a festering issue. For 1 in 8 Iowans, hunger is a reality. Many people believe that the problems associated with hunger are confined to small pockets of society, certain areas of the country, or certain neighborhoods. But the reality is much different.

Right now, 12.6% of Iowans are struggling with hunger. This translates to over 389,250 Iowans, *including 139,850 children*, being forced to make tough decisions about providing food for their families or paying their rent or mortgage, paying for transportation, or paying for medical bills. These are choices that no one should have to make.

Food insecurity occurs whenever the availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food, or the ability to acquire acceptable foods in socially acceptable ways, is limited or uncertain. In future issues, we'll share information on the additional efforts Iowa Select Farms and the Deb and Jeff Hansen Foundation make on providing resources to food insecure families. We're passionate about making a difference, and helping Iowan's get back on their feet.



KEY TAKEAWAY

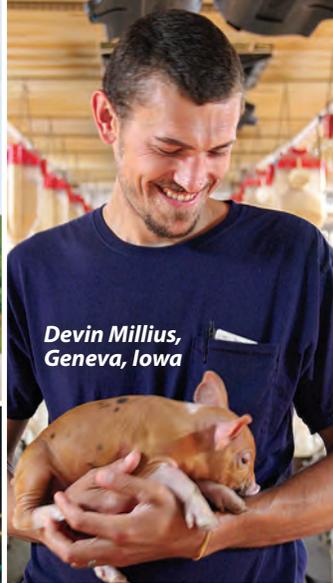
If there is one topic that unites every single Iowan, it's food. While less than 2% of us produce food in Iowa, *every Iowan eats*. Even as Iowa and U.S. farmers continue to earn top marks for their highly productive food systems, we need to keep growing and advancing agriculture in the United States. Much of that challenge rests on the shoulders of Iowa farmers.

We welcome your feedback and questions any time at jsorenson@iowaselect.com. Feel free to jot me a note, call 641-648-4479, or follow us on Facebook/ IowaSelect for more information about Iowa farming and Iowa Select Farms.

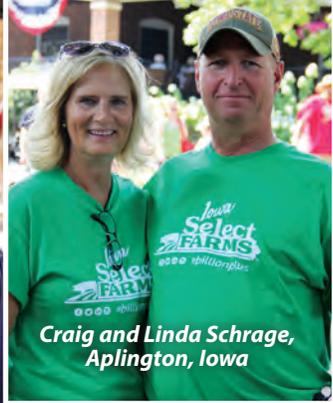




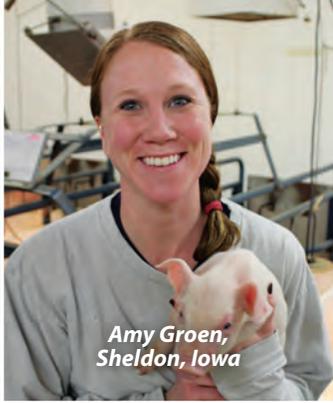
Ackley, Iowa



Devin Millius,
Geneva, Iowa



Craig and Linda Schrage,
Aplington, Iowa



Amy Groen,
Sheldon, Iowa



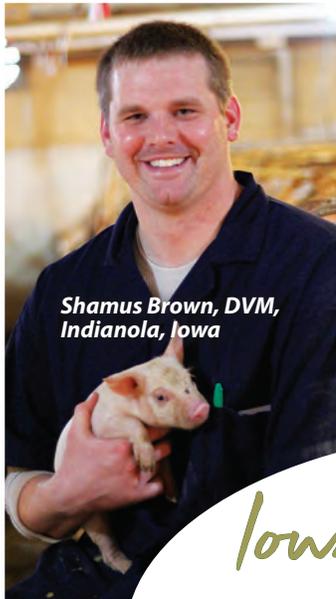
Clint Dohman,
Parkersburg, Iowa



Amy Carpenter,
Allerton, Iowa



Shell Rock, Iowa



Shamus Brown, DVM,
Indianola, Iowa



Churdan, Iowa



Cassandra Jass, DVM,
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