

FACTS ABOUT DELAWARE

HISTORY -- Though small in area, Delaware has the distinction of having had the flags of four nations floating over its soil since white men first set foot on it in 1609. It was first claimed by the Dutch by virtue of Henry Hudson's discovery of what is now Delaware Bay in that year, and the establishment of a Dutch colony in 1631. This colony was completely destroyed by Indians less than a year later, and no attempts at settlement were then made until 1638 when the Swedish government established a colony on what is now the site of Wilmington, the land being purchased from the Indians. The Dutch again acquired the territory in 1655 and held it until 1664 when it came under the sovereignty of England, passing in 1682 to the ownership of William Penn, and remaining an English colony until the outbreak of the Revolutionary War in 1776.

Delaware became the first state in the Union by first ratifying the Constitution on December 7, 1787. Its people took an active part in the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. A slave-holding state, it remained faithful to the Union in the Civil War although the southern part was largely Confederate in sympathy.

GEOGRAPHY -- Delaware is next to the smallest of the states, with a land area of only 1,965 square miles. The greater portion of the state is part of the coastal plain, low and level country, the northern part rising to the Piedmont plateau and the foothills of southeastern Pennsylvania to a maximum elevation of 440 feet. The soil is sandy for the most part, very fertile and easily tilled.

The entire state lies on a peninsula between Chesapeake and Delaware Bay and in the South Atlantic group of states. It is bounded on the north by Pennsylvania, on the east by Delaware Bay, New Jersey, and the Atlantic Ocean, on the south by Maryland, and on the west by Maryland and Pennsylvania.

There are numerous rivers, most of them small, and only the Delaware and Christina are navigable. Many parts of the state are well forested and located

in the southern part is the Great Cypress Swamp covering 30,000 acres, lying partly in Maryland.

CLIMATE -- The climate of Delaware is moderate, with few extremes in temperatures, but characterized by a high humidity during the months of July and August. In the northern part of the State the average temperature in February is 31 degrees and in July, 73 degrees. The mean annual temperature is 52 degrees. In southern Delaware, the corresponding mean temperatures are from three to four degrees warmer. There are generally no spring frosts after April 1, and autumn frosts do not usually come until after October 10. The rainfall is abundant and the average annual precipitation is from 43 to 45 inches. There are few high winds, and tornadoes and earthquakes are practically unknown.

POPULATION -- The population of Delaware was 266,605 in 1940 and there has been an estimated five per cent increase since that time. More than half the people of the state live in the city of Wilmington



Main Street in one of Delaware's small towns, trade and market centers for farm areas nearby.



A commercial poultry-farm. Sussex county, Delaware raises more broilers than any other county in the U.S. For big-city markets nearby, Delaware farms also produce large quantities of vegetables, fruits, dairy products.

and its suburbs. Of the total population, 47.7 per cent lived in rural communities. Most of the people are native-born, those of foreign birth numbering 16,885 or six per cent of the total. Negroes comprise 13.5 per cent of the state's population, with other minority races numbering less than one per cent. There is only one city (Wilmington) with a population of more than 6,000.

AGRICULTURE — Delaware has a rich and diversified agriculture with major emphasis on the production of truck and vegetable crops, dairy products, fruits, poultry, eggs and small grains. With a favorable climate, fertile soil, and long growing season, farming is on a year-around basis.

The state is a market garden for large metropolitan areas near by. Trucks deliver Delaware produce to New York City in about five hours, to Baltimore and Philadelphia in about two and one-half hours.

Delaware had 8,994 farms in 1940, of which 7,772 were less than 180 acres in extent. Land in farms totalled 896,000 acres, the average farm being 99.6 acres. Farm-owners numbered 5,401, and tenants 2,929, the latter operating 32.6 per cent of the land under



Canneries like this are found in many of the smaller towns in the truck-farming and orchard areas. Other small-town industries include crate and basket-making, creameries, shirt and garment factories.

cultivation. Total farm income in the state amounted to \$41,612,000 in 1941, of which \$8,918,000 came from the sale of crops, and \$29,925,000 from the sale of livestock and livestock products.

In the northern part of the state dairying and general type farming predominate, with corn, wheat, hay, and soy-beans among the crops grown. The central and southern parts of the state are the major vegetable, fruit and poultry producing areas.

Income from truck crops in 1942 amounted to more than two million dollars, with 39,190 acres devoted to such crops. The state produced more lima beans in 1941 than any other state in the union, and other leading vegetable crops include cantaloupes, tomatoes, asparagus, cucumbers, green peas, and sweet potatoes.

A large amount of farm products---vegetables, fruits and eggs---is marketed at farm roadside stands along the main highways, some of which remain open the year around. Another seasonal occupation among farmers in southern Delaware is the making and shipping of holly wreaths and other evergreen decorations. A

farm family sometimes makes as much as \$200 from this sideline during the season.

Delaware is an important poultry producer and in 1940 the sale of chickens and eggs netted more than 7 million dollars, or 29 per cent of the total farm income for the state. Sussex county produces more broilers than any other county in the United States. Delaware hatcheries have a capacity of approximately three million eggs every three weeks during the hatching season, and baby chicks are shipped to all parts of the country.

Apples are the major fruit crop and the state produces an average of more than a million and a half bushels per year. The state is also an important peach and strawberry-raising area, a total of 4,500 acres being devoted to the latter crop in 1941.

Dairying is another important source of farm income, particularly in the northern part of the state where most of the milk and other dairy products are



*Dairy herds in northern Delaware provide milk for nearby
Wilmington and Philadelphia.*

trucked to New York, Philadelphia and other large cities.

Farmers of the state have the active co-operation and assistance of the State Board of Agriculture and the State University in increasing production and promoting better agricultural methods. The University offers a four-year course in agriculture. The Grange is the leading farm organization in the state.

Delaware farms as a rule offer year-around employment and there is a considerable demand for seasonal workers during the summer and fall months.

INDUSTRY -- Industrial activity in Delaware is concentrated for the most part in the city of Wilmington, although small manufacturing and processing plants are found also in less populous communities. Canneries are located in more than 30 towns; shirt and garment factories offer seasonal employment to many workers, especially women; the making of baskets and crates is an important small-town industry in the vegetable-growing areas.

The state in 1939 had 429 manufacturing establishments, and the leading industrial products included chemicals, leather, processed foods, iron and steel products, paper, wearing apparel, textiles, and hosiery. There is an extensive lumber industry and several thousand workers are employed in paper mills. Fishing is also important, large catches of shad, herring, rock, and sturgeon being taken from the Atlantic, and Delaware Bay yielding oysters, clams, crab and lobster.

TRANSPORTATION -- Delaware has excellent transportation facilities by rail, water and highway. Three major railroads and four major hard-surfaced highways link the state with metropolitan areas outside and provide fast transportation in moving its dairy products, fruit and vegetable crops to market. Wilmington is an important port for ocean-going commerce, and the Delaware river and several inland canals also provide water transportation.

EDUCATION -- The state maintains an excellent system of public schools in addition to the State

University and institutions for the care and education of the physically handicapped. Standards for teachers are high and ninety per cent of the school children are housed in new and modern school buildings. The state has also established a system of schools to bring trade and vocational training within reach of every child in the state. These schools are tuition-free.

RECREATION -- Delaware offers a wide range of facilities for sports and recreation. More than fifty fresh-water lakes beckon fishermen, boatmen and picnickers. There are several bay and ocean resorts, best known of which is Rehoboth Beach.

TOWNS AND CITIES IN DELAWARE

DOVER -- The state capital. Population 5,517. A marketing and shipping center for vegetables, fruits, other farm products. Located in the central part of the state about 45 miles from Wilmington. Industries include canneries and small plants manufacturing hosiery, mattresses, automobile bodies. Has modern 50-bed hospital; good public schools; public library; more than 35 acres of park and picnic grounds. A very stable community; has had only three mayors in 21 years. Power plant, water works and sewage disposal plant are municipally owned and city tax rate is very low.

NEWARK -- The University of Delaware is located here. The city in 1940 had a population of 4,502 and it is situated in the northeastern corner of the state, 17 miles from Wilmington, and three miles from the point at which the boundaries of Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey meet. A canning center for corn, peas and tomatoes grown on farms nearby. Nearly 1,000 persons are employed at two plants for the manufacture of fibre and fibre products. Other manufactured products are paper, chemical containers, concrete blocks, buttons. The University of Delaware is a state-supported institution with low tuition fees. In connection with the University there is an Agricultural experiment station with a 217-acre farm. Life of the community centers around the University.

NEWCASTLE -- Located on the Delaware river six miles south of Wilmington, Newcastle is the terminus of the ferry across the river to New Jersey. Its 1940 population was 4,414. Manufactured products include rayon, fibre specialties, steel and aircraft. The surrounding farm area is devoted to production of vegetables, fruit, poultry and dairy products. There is a good harbor and a considerable fishing industry.

WILMINGTON -- Only large city in the state; located on the west bank of the Delaware river in the northern part of the state, 30 miles southwest of Philadelphia, 70 miles northeast of Baltimore, about 115 miles from New York City. The 1940 population was 112,504, most of the people being native-born but representing many nationalities, very few Japanese or Chinese. Negroes numbered 14,256. Principal manufactured products are chemicals, dyes, film, rayon, cellophane, pyralin, explosives, disinfectants, plastics, paper, leather goods and textiles. By reason of its excellent harbor, the city is important in commerce and has a large foreign and domestic trade. Industries also include shipyards, rolling mills, machine shops, aircraft plants, railroad shops and tobacco processing plants. Surrounding the city is a rich agricultural area producing vegetables, fruits and poultry, with many farmers selling direct to the consumer in an open-air market nine blocks long. The city has an excellent public school system, a 180,000-volume public library, eight modern hospitals, several museums, many places of historical interest, numerous public parks and playgrounds, facilities for nearly all types of sports and recreation.