In 2015, Illinois farmers produced 9.7 million acres of soybeans with an average yield of 56 bushels per acre and a total production of more than 544 million bushels.

Animal agriculture in Illinois adds $30.4 billion in economic impact and 59,700 jobs. Hogs eat 79% of the soybean meal fed in Illinois.

About 40% of our whole soybeans are crushed in Illinois, and the meal feeds livestock and poultry. The rest are exported and crushed overseas.

Illinois offers ready access to a nationwide network of railway freight companies. With 48 total railroad companies, it’s the only state in which all seven Class I freight lines operate and has more than 7,000 miles of track providing alternative routing options and competitive flexibility.

With more than 1,100 miles of navigable waterways and 65 grain elevators located along the state’s rivers, Illinois waterways and barge transport are the most energy efficient and cost effective means for moving bulk products, like soybeans. Illinois waterways move soybeans to the Gulf of Mexico for export to Asian, Latin American and European markets. Other export logistics include container and bulk shipments through the Pacific Northwest and some market activity enables movement via the St. Lawrence Seaway.

The biodiesel industry supports about 7,500 Illinois jobs. According to U.S. Energy Information Administration, as of the fourth quarter of 2018 Illinois was the nation’s fourth largest biodiesel producer with six operating biodiesel plants and an estimated annual production capacity of 177 million gallons.

Illinois is one of the top consumers of biodiesel.