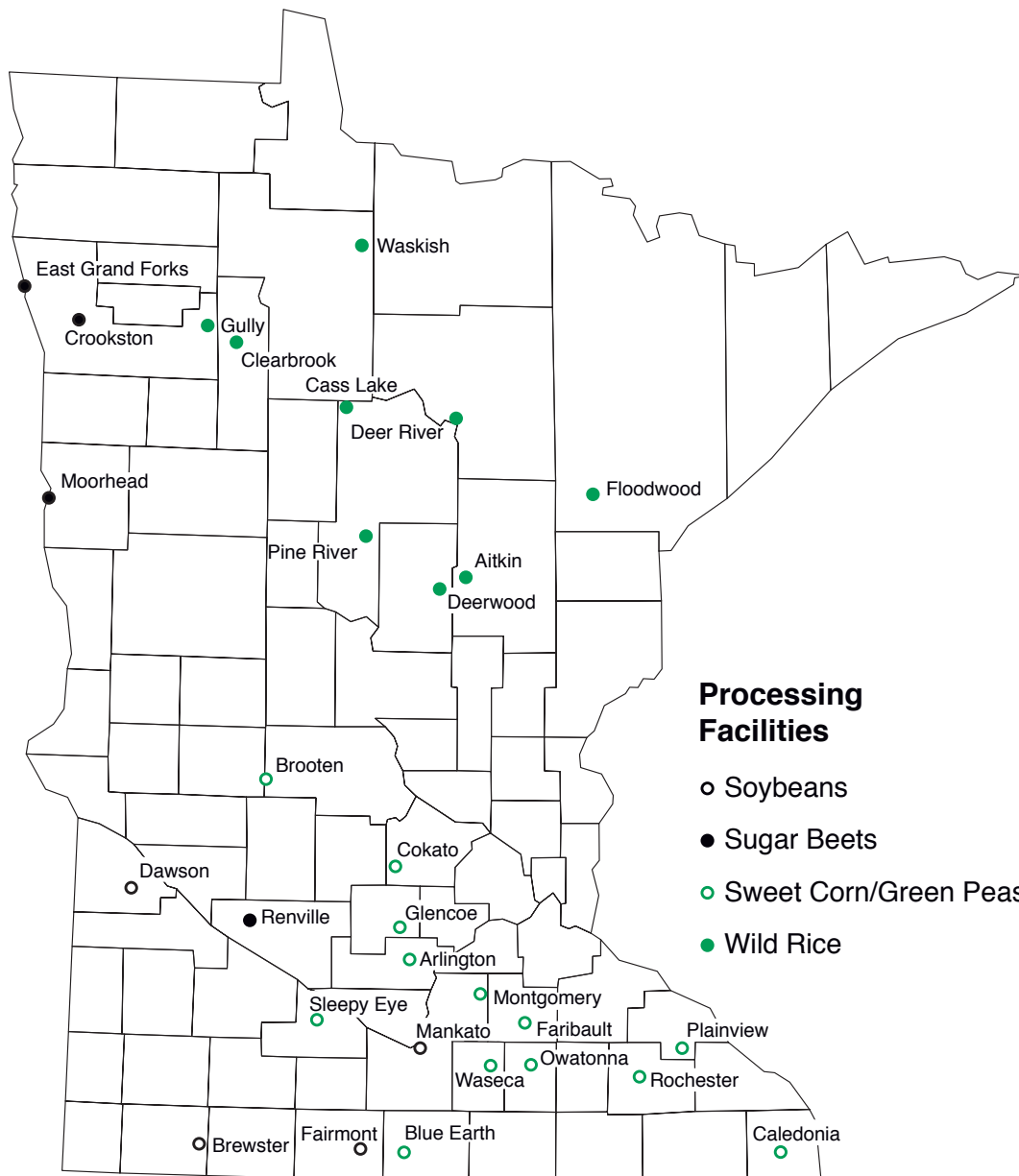


Processing of Selected Crops, 2005

Crop processing is an important part of the state's agricultural industry. In 2004, Minnesota ranked first nationally in the production of sugarbeets, sweet corn and green peas for processing, second in the production of cultivated wild rice and fourth in soybean production. Sugarbeets are processed into several types of food-grade sugar and molasses, as well as beet pulp for livestock feed. All of the sugarbeets grown in Minnesota are processed by farmer-owned cooperatives. Wild rice, an aquatic plant and Minnesota's official state grain, has been important in Ojibwe life for thousands of years in a region that today comprises much of northern Minnesota. Most wild rice is now cultivated. Commercial-scale wild rice production requires large flooded areas that double as waterfowl habitat. Soybeans are processed for animal feed, human food products, and oil for soy ink, biodiesel and other uses.



Source: Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture
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