

What's Growing In Kansas?



Leading the Herd

Part four of a seven-part series on Kansas Agriculture

The Kansas cattle industry generated \$5.64 billion in cash receipts during 2004. Although Kansas is known as the "Wheat State," cash receipts for wheat total less than half those of beef. Kansas ranks second only to Texas in the number of cattle and calves with 6.65 million cattle on ranches and in feedyards. We have more feedlot cattle per square mile than Texas, but Texas has more cattle than the next six largest states combined.

Last year, Kansas had 32,000 farms with cattle and calves. Kansas ranks first in the number of commercial cattle processed, third in the value of live animals and meat exported to other countries and third in total red meat production at 5.8 billion pounds.

Cattle are **Ruminant** animals. This helps eat them with hard-to-digest foods like grass. Cattle spend up to eight hours per day eating and chewing their **cud**. The



average cow has more than 40,000 jaw movements per day. Cattle have a nine-month **gestation** period. Their babies, which weigh between 75 and 100 pounds, are called calves. Females under three years old that have

not given birth are called heifers. Males being raised for their meat and not reproduction are called steers – all other males are called bulls. Mature females are called cows.

BEEF CATTLE

The U.S. beef industry is made up of more than one million businesses, farms and ranches conducting business in all 50 states. Kansas ranks sixth in the nation with 1.56 million head of beef cattle on Kansas farms and ranches. Finney County produces the most beef cattle in Kansas. The top breeds of beef cattle found in Kansas are Angus, Simmental, Hereford and Charolais.



When people think about cattle they may just think steaks, hamburgers and roasts but 99 percent of the animal is used. Cattle by-products include oils, additives for tire manufacturing, artist paint brushes, casing for sausage products, glue, cosmetics, gum, soap, leather for clothing, furniture and sporting equipment, plus many more products. Also, more than 100 medicines used by humans come from cattle.

Beef is the number one food source for protein, vitamin B12 and Zinc. It is the number three food

source of iron behind fortified cereal and grains.

DAIRY CATTLE

In the past decade, a major expansion has occurred in the Kansas' dairy industry. At the end of 2004, Kansas ranked 18th in total milk production, 19th in dairy cows and 11th in milk production per cow. Kansas has 113,000 dairy cows on approximately 400 dairies.



In 2005, Hamilton County produced the most milk in Kansas. The top breeds of Dairy cattle are Holstein, Jersey, Guernsey, Brown Swiss and Ayrshire.

The average cow produces up to 8 gallons of milk each day. In order to make this much milk, cows need to eat approximately 80 pounds of food and drink 30 to 40 gallons of water each day. Most cows are milked at least twice each day for about 20 minutes. A Holstein cow, which is the top milk producing breed, weighs between 1,100 and 1,500 pounds when she is milking.

Almost all milk is **pasteurized, homogenized** and **fortified**. Milk contains calcium and vitamin D.

DID YOU KNOW?

- The first Angus cattle in the U.S. were brought from Scotland to Victoria, Kansas, in 1873, by George Grant.
- Over 900 different breeds of cattle have been reported in the world.
- One beef steer can equal 720 pounds of beef patties. That's enough to feed you and the person sitting beside you a hamburger every day for a year.
- Cows can see color and can detect odors up to 5 miles away.
- A 1,000 pound cow produces an average of 10 tons of manure a year.

ACTIVITIES

1. Throughout the text above are six **bolded** vocabulary words. Find the definition for each of these words.
2. List at least five foods that are good sources of calcium.
3. Go to www.mypyramid.gov and figure out how many servings of meat and milk are recommended for you each day or week.
4. Cattle outnumber humans in 9 states: Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Oklahoma, and Wyoming. In Kansas, we have 6.65 million cattle. How many more cattle are there than people in Kansas?

Sources: The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (www.beef.org), NASS (nass.usda.gov), Midwest Dairy Council (www.midwestdairy.com), Kansas Beef Council (www.kansasbeef.org), Agriculture in the Classroom (www.agclassroom.org), Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (www.ksagclassroom.org), Kansas State Universities - Animal Science & Industry (www.asi.ksu.edu), Wikipedia (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/>) and Kansas Dairy Association (www.ksdairy.org)

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