

# Livestock's Impact in South Dakota

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- Annually 1.8 billion pounds of milk is produced in South Dakota.
- There are about 3.7 million head of cattle in South Dakota this equates to about 4.5 head of cattle for every person in the state.
- In 2008, South Dakota fed 83 million bushels of corn to livestock in the state.
- The production of ethanol used 291 million bushels of corn last year.
- South Dakota hogs consume 28.8 million bushels of corn and 7.1 million bushels of soybeans annually.

## South Dakota Statistics

## National Rank

Number of Farms	31,169	29
Avg. Farm Size	1,401 acres	6
Avg. Net Income per Farm	\$71,160	12

## South Dakota Livestock

All Cattle & Calves Inventory, 2008	3,687,728 head	8
Cattle & Calves Sold	2,745,227 head	
Market Value, Cattle & Calves Sold	\$2,307,618,000	8
Milk Cows Inventory, 2008	86,243 head	
Market Value, Milk & Dairy Products Sold	\$279,765,000	24
Hogs & Pigs Inventory	1,490,034 head	11
Hogs & Pigs Sold	4,487,708 head	
Market Value, Hogs & Pigs Sold*	\$381,360,000	11

**Market Value of all Livestock Sold & their Products \$3,186,953,000**

**Market Value of all Crops Sold \$3,383,497,000**

**Total Market Value of all Agricultural Products Sold \$6,570,450,000**

*Information taken from the 2007 Census of Agriculture.*

*\*Value does not reflect some SD counties where data is withheld to avoid disclosing individual farm information.*



This publication brought to you by:  
Ag United for South Dakota  
and South Dakota soybean farmers.



# Importance of Agriculture in South Dakota

Agriculture has long been South Dakota's leading industry, and livestock production is an important part of that industry. Agriculture has a \$21.3 billion impact on the state's economy; nearly double that of the next leading industry. Livestock production made up \$5.7 billion of that total.

South Dakota's farm and ranch families are the number one reason our state has remained a leader in agricultural and livestock production. Their commitment to producing a safe and healthy product while protecting the land and water in their community has helped make South Dakota the ideal place to live, work and raise a family.

Agriculture is not only our leading industry, but a respected tradition in South Dakota. Many generations have made their living from the land; let's not prevent future generations from having that same opportunity. When we work together, we can keep our family farms and ranches growing.



Ag United was developed through a collaboration of farm organizations that support livestock production and development and includes the South Dakota Cattlemen's Association, South Dakota Corn Growers Association, South Dakota Dairy Producers, South Dakota Farm Bureau, South Dakota Pork Producers Council and the South Dakota Soybean Association.



# The Value of Livestock Production in Bennett County

Statistics		Rank*
Population, 2007 Estimate	3,574	45
Number of Farms	265	54
Avg. Farm Size	1,280 acres	14
Land in Farms	753,263 acres	21
Avg. Age of Principle Operator	57	
Avg. Net Income per Farm	\$12,880	57

Livestock		
All Cattle & Calves Inventory	42,603 head	44
Cattle & Calves Sold	26,104 head	49
Market Value, Cattle & Calves Sold	\$20,114,000	49
<b>Local Economic Impact</b> (multiplier: 1.99**)	\$40,026,860	

**Market Value of all Livestock & their Products Sold** **\$20,369,000**

**Crops** **\$17,759,000**

The leading crops in Bennett County are wheat and hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop. 3,192,000 bushels of wheat were harvested on 71,592 acres and 115,300 of hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop were harvested on 62,035 acres in Bennett County. The market value of all crops sold in Bennett County equals **\$17,759,000**.

**Total Market Value of all Agricultural Products Sold** **\$38,128,000**

*Information taken from the 2007 Census of Agriculture.*

*\* A statewide ranking out of 66 counties in South Dakota.*

*\*\* A multiplier is a tool used to measure the additional economic activity generated by direct livestock sales in a given community.*

*Multiplier values obtained from the Economics Dept. at South Dakota State University*

All livestock operations of 1,000 Animal Units (AU) or more must meet or exceed all state regulations, established by the DENR. In addition, each county may establish regulations through their local zoning plan.

*1,000 AU = 1,000 beef cattle, 700 dairy cows or 2,400 feeder-to-finish hogs.*

**Soybean Production** – In 2009 the South Dakota soybean crop was just over 175 million bushels on 4.2 million acres for an average of 42 bushels per acre. The nation's largest farmer owned soybean processing plant in Volga produces 600,000 tons of soybean meal each year as well 40 million gallons of soybean oil.

## Livestock Production a Viable Option for South Dakota Farm Families

The average annual living expenses for a family of four in South Dakota are nearly \$40,000, but the average annual net income from farm and ranch activities in South Dakota is only \$31,169. In order for South Dakota's farm and ranch families to make a living farming full-time, we must allow and encourage these families to grow their businesses.

Many families are also welcoming home high-school and college graduates who want to return to the farm. With farm land prices at record highs, livestock production is a more feasible way to incorporate returning children and their young families into the family farm.

South Dakota has an abundance of land, feed resources, and dedicated farm families to continue to be a national leader in livestock production. Let's not promote poverty by fighting against South Dakota's farm and ranch families who want to expand the life they love. Rather, let's promote prosperity by appreciating and supporting them as they produce food for the world while investing in South Dakota's future.

### Human & Animal Population Density – County Comparison

	Lancaster County, PA	Sioux County, IA	Minnehaha County, SD	Bennett County, SD
Area in sq. miles	949	768	809	1,185
Population, 2008	498,465	32,351	175,272	3,574
Population per sq. mi.	497	43	183	3
All Cattle	270,577	228,000	68,000	42,603
Milk Cows	97,300	22,000	5,157	NA
Hogs & Pigs	355,000	1,150,000	61,333	NA

**Please note:** Lancaster County in Pennsylvania has almost **500** people per square mile while Bennett County has only **3**. However, Lancaster County also has a tremendous livestock population; they have **6** times more cattle than Bennett County. In Sioux County, Iowa the population is larger than 63 of the 66 in South Dakota, yet they have over half as many hogs as the entire state of South Dakota

*Information taken from 2007 Census of Agriculture.*