

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.*

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.



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



The Value of Livestock Production in Mellette County

Statistics		Rank*
Population, 2008 Estimate	1,982	60
Number of Farms	216	61
Avg. Farm Size	2,128 acres	7
Land in Farms	729,778 acres	22
Avg. Age of Principle Operator	57.5	
Avg. Net Income per Farm	\$13,725	56

Livestock		
All Cattle & Calves Inventory	48,404 head	38
Cattle & Calves Sold	29,458 head	47
Market Value, Cattle & Calves Sold		
Local Economic Impact (multiplier: 1.99**)	-	
Milk Cows Inventory	21 head	51
Market Value, Milk & Dairy Products Sold	63,000	40
Local Economic Impact (multiplier: 1.99**)	\$125,370	

Market Value of all Livestock & their Products Sold \$46,560,000

Crops \$6,708,000

The leading crops in Mellette County are hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop and wheat. 87,000 tons of hay and haylage, grass silage, and greenchop were harvested on 56,724 acres and 850,000 bushels of wheat were harvested on 22,586 acres in Mellette County. The market value of all crops sold in Mellette County equals **\$6,708,000**.

Total Market Value of all Agricultural Products Sold \$53,268,000

*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	Mellette County, SD
Area in sq. miles	949	768	809	1,307
Population, 2004	498,465	32,351	175,272	2,083
Population per sq. mi.	497	43	183	1
All Cattle	270,577	228,000	68,000	48,404
Milk Cows	97,300	22,000	5,157	21
Hogs & Pigs	355,000	1,150,000	61,333	NA

Please note: Lancaster County in Pennsylvania has almost **500** people per square mile while Mellette County has only **1**. However, Lancaster County also has a tremendous livestock population; they have **6** times more cattle than Mellette 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.