

# Fact Sheet: Beef



- There are approximately 1.3 million cattle in Alabama – or one cow for every three people.
  - Beef production is a \$524.5 million industry in the state. Cattle are raised in all 67 counties.
  - Alabama ranks eighth in number of beef cattle farms in the U.S. with 19,685 farms.
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- Popular cattle breeds in Alabama include Angus, Beefmaster, Brangus, Charolais, ChiAngus, Gelbveih, Hereford, Limousin, Red Angus, Santa Gertrudis, Senepol and Simmental.
  - Many byproducts come from cattle including adhesives, deodorant, cement, felt, insulation, gelatin, cosmetics, photo film and medicine.
  - The average beef herd is 37 head of cattle.
  - Beef's big 10 nutrients are protein, vitamins b6 and b12, selenium, zinc, niacin, phosphorous, choline, iron and riboflavin.
  - Carcass weights have increased steadily from 700 pounds in the 1980s to over 925 pounds in 2015, resulting in more beef produced per head. Currently, carcass weights average about 850 pounds.
  - Ninety-one percent of beef cattle farms in the U.S. are family owned or individually operated. Eleven percent are operated by women.
  - Commercial U.S. beef slaughter in 2016 totaled 30.5 million head.
  - The amount of beef consumed in the U.S. in 2016 was 25.668 billion pounds.
- Sources:  
*BeefUSA.org*  
*USDA.org*
- The top three cattle-producing Alabama counties are Montgomery County with 73,000 head; Cullman County with 60,000; and DeKalb County with 59,000.
  - Ten Alabama counties have over 30,000 head of cattle.
  - Beef cattle production ranks third behind broilers in cash receipts among Alabama farm commodities.
  - Alabama cattle producers sold \$452 million worth of cattle and calves in 2016.