Nebraska Livestock Facts

• $11.9 billion— the value of the Nebraska livestock industry, accounting for nearly half of Nebraska agriculture receipts.

• $3.5 billion in grain is consumed annually by Nebraska livestock, supporting Nebraska corn, soybeans and sorghum.

• 76,600 jobs are directly or indirectly associated with animal agriculture as estimated by Nebraska Public Power District economists.

• The animal industry in Nebraska has a $13.2 billion economic footprint (including direct and secondary impacts).

• 1 in 4 jobs in Nebraska are related to agriculture.

• Livestock operations generate significant amounts of tax revenue each year that helps pay for schools and community services enjoyed by everyone.

• Livestock can be a way to grow and diversify a family operation and create opportunities for new generations to live and work on the farm and in rural communities.

Livestock by the Numbers
Nebraska’s National Rankings

1st — Commercial cattle slaughter, 2020
2nd — Commercial red meat production, 2019
2nd — All cattle and calves, Jan. 1, 2021
2nd — Cattle on feed, Jan. 1, 2021
3rd — Cash receipts from all livestock, 2018
4th — Beef cows, Jan. 1, 2020
6th — All hogs and pigs on farms, 2019
6th — Commercial hog slaughter, 2019
13th — Commercial egg production, 2019
15th — Laying hens, 2019
25th — Dairy production, 2018

Courtesy of USDA NASS, Nebraska Field Office.

Supporting Nebraska’s Livestock Industry

Call for more information on how your county can be designated as livestock friendly!

Nebraska Department of Agriculture
Ag Promotion and Development
P.O. Box 94947
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509
Phone: 402-471-4876
nda.nebraska.gov/promotion/livestock_friendly
Livestock in Nebraska

Nebraska has a long history of livestock production. Even before statehood, settlers drove cattle north from Texas to graze in the Sandhills. Railhead shipping points like the one in Ogallala ensured a market for Nebraska beef.

Since those days, livestock has remained integral to our way of life. Nebraska has the natural resources to produce high quality livestock and meet consumer demand.

Today, livestock production consumes Nebraska-produced feed grains, contributes to the tax base, and provides an opportunity for young people and their families to remain in rural Nebraska.

What is the Livestock Friendly County Program?

The Livestock Friendly County Program is a voluntary program that recognizes counties that actively support and nurture the livestock industry.

Created by the Nebraska Legislature in 2003, the program helps establish a partnership between the county and the Nebraska Department of Agriculture to encourage development in the livestock sector and to recognize the significance of livestock on our rural economy.

Why a Livestock Friendly County Program for Nebraska?

Livestock production is one of Nebraska’s largest industries, contributing nearly $12 billion directly to our state’s economy; much of this in rural communities.

Livestock production also creates demand for other products and services including veterinarian, feed, hardware, construction, mechanical and many others.

How does a county apply?

The county board of commissioners/supervisors must:
• Hold a public hearing and approve a resolution to apply for the designation; and
• Complete the application form.

The county does not need to create any new documents or change their zoning regulations. All counties are welcome to apply.

Local producer and community groups can encourage their county board to submit a Livestock Friendly County application.

What are the benefits?

Every county has something to gain from pursuing the designation. Through the application process a county will evaluate its goals and how livestock can be a dynamic component in the county’s economic future.

Being designated Livestock Friendly is a sign of support for the livestock industry and all businesses in the county. This gives businesses the confidence to make long-term decisions about investing in and expanding operations.

Nebraska’s Livestock Friendly Counties

December 2021

Nebraska has 51 Livestock Friendly Counties. Want your county to be next? Call the Nebraska Department of Agriculture at 402-471-4876 for more information.