

Pennsylvania Agriculture

A Close-up on Cattle



Pennsylvania's 58,000 farm families continue to be the stewards of more than 7.6 million acres of farmland. With \$7.5 billion in cash receipts annually from production agriculture, Pennsylvania farmers and agribusinesses are the leading economic driver in our state. Additionally, today's American farmer feeds about 155 people worldwide. The population in PA is 12,805,537. In comparison, the population of cattle and calves is 1,620,000. The ratio equates to 12.6:1--people to cattle.

PA Cattle Industry Facts

- Commercial red meat production, in PA during January 2015, totaled 111.2 million pounds. Beef production was 101.7 million pounds live weight while veal production was 3.19 million pounds live weight.
- As of January 1, 2017, milk cow inventory in PA totaled 525,000 while beef cows totaled 180,000 head.
- According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture:
 - Cattle inventory in PA is valued at \$717 million, ranking 22nd nationally.
 - All cattle in PA totaled 1,626,000 head, ranking 19th in the country for cattle inventory.
 - PA was home to nearly 25,100 cattle farms, including 11,800 beef cattle farms.
 - PA ranked 14th among all states in commercial red meat production.

**Courtesy of USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service, Annual Statistical Bulletin*

Beef Nutrition Facts

- A single serving of lean beef is three ounces, or about the size of an iPhone or deck of cards.
- A single serving of lean beef provides 10 essential nutrients in around 150 calories, on average, and about half of the Daily Value for protein.

A Commitment to Quality

Farmers across the country are committed to quality and PA is no exception, evidenced through the Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program.



The PA BQA program is designed to bring best management practices to the farm that will ensure a safe, wholesome product for consumers. Based on recommended national guidelines and scientific research, the program also helps beef producers enhance their product and maximize marketability. PA currently boasts more than 4,000 beef and dairy producers that are certified in the state's program.

PA BQA Objectives and Guidelines are based on the following:

- Set production standards in the operation that can be met or exceeded.
- Establish systems for data retention and record keeping, which will allow validation of management activities and fulfill the program goal.
- Provide hands-on training and education for participants to meet or exceed the guidelines of the BQA program in order to realize the benefits of the program in performance, economics, meat quality and animal care.
- Help provide technical assistance through BQA trained professionals.