



Florida Cattle

Driving the Economy

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The state of Florida has a long and colorful history of cattle ranching.

Currently, there are **5.4+ million** acres of pasture and rangeland, representing **15.6%** of the state's total land area, used predominantly for beef and dairy cattle production.

As of January 2018, Florida had an inventory of **1.63 million** cattle and calves, including **886,000** beef cows.

Florida's cattle contribute **231 million** pounds of beef annually. Which is the equivalent of **334 million** meals to consumers.¹

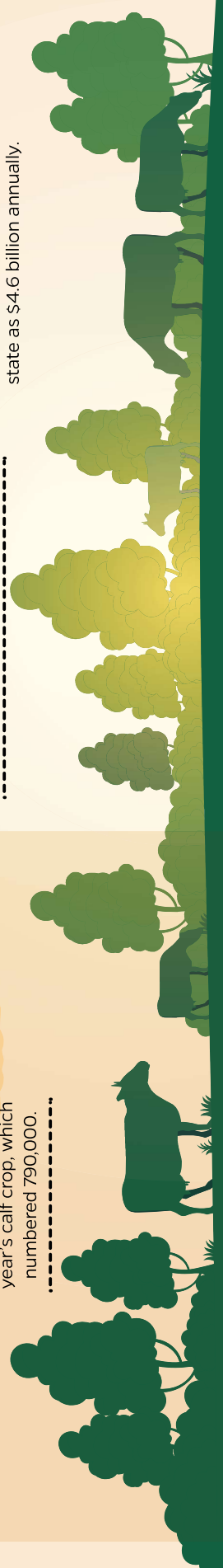
In CY 2017, Florida producers received **\$502 million** from sales of cattle and calves. Most of the revenue came from sale of the year's calf crop, which numbered 790,000.

According to a UF/IFAS report, in CY 2017, for all Florida cattle industry groups and activities, statewide economic contributions included

118,191 full-time and part-time jobs,
\$16.8 billion in industry output or revenues,
\$7.65 billion in value added or Gross State Product, and
\$4.64 billion in labor income (employee wages, salaries, benefits, business owner income).

In addition, the industries contributed **\$712 million** in state and local government tax revenues and **\$1.16 billion** in federal tax revenues.

- In addition to commodity production and commercial services in the cattle and allied industries, pastures and rangelands in Florida support a variety of recreational activities, including fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing.
- Some large cattle ranches in Central and South Florida have partnered with the Water Management Districts to provide on-site water impoundment as a low-cost option to enhance water quality and reduce flooding.
- Other non-marketed ecosystem services offered by cattle ranches include provision of wildlife habitat, maintenance of biodiversity, air and water purification, carbon storage, moderation of extreme weather events, generation and preservation of soils, and control of agricultural pests.
- Although the ecosystem services mentioned above have not been formally valued, UF/IFAS economists recently estimated their value to the state as \$4.6 billion annually.



Source: Hodges, A.W., Court, C.D., Rahmani, M. and Stair, C.A. 2019. Economic Contributions of Beef and Dairy Cattle and Allied Industries in Florida. In 2017. University of Florida/IFAS, Food and Resource Economics Department. <https://bit.ly/2C4Hhbw>
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