

Florida is Cattle Country

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FLORIDA has a long and colorful history of cattle ranching. The state has supported cattle grazing since the arrival of Spanish explorers almost 500 years ago, and many ranching families are into their 6th and 7th generations. Native American culture in Florida is tightly linked to the cattle industry, with the regional Seminole and Miccosukee tribes managing large ranches.

Until the 1930's many Florida cattle were descended from the early Spanish herds. Known as cracker cattle, they are now preserved as a rare breed. Today, the breeds that dominate Florida beef production have both European and Indian heritage.

5.4+
million
acres of Florida land are used for pasture and rangeland. That's
15.6%
of the state's total land area.

In January 2018, Florida had
1.63 million
cattle and calves, including
886,000
beef cows.

Feeding the World

Florida's cattle produce over
231 million
pounds of beef per year, providing
334 million
meals to consumers.¹

Cattle by-products are used in millions of everyday things such as
cosmetics, crayons, bandages, sheetrock and leather goods.

They also provide important medicines and supplements such as
insulin, heparin² and vitamin B12.

Driving the Economy

In CY 2017, the Florida cattle industry and allied industries supported
118,191
full-time and part-time jobs.

\$16.8 billion
in output or revenues.

\$7.65 billion
in value added or Gross State Product.

pastures and rangelands also support recreational activities such as

fishing, hunting and wildlife viewing.

\$4.64 billion
in labor income (wages, salaries, benefits, business-owner income).

\$712 million
in state and local tax revenues.

\$1.16 billion
in federal tax revenues.



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>

¹Figures contributed by UF/IFAS sources.
²Iowa State University, Date Unspecified. Cattle By-Products. <https://bit.ly/2NBuYo>

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