

Bred Better: Texas Livestock & Genetics



Texas is a production powerhouse across many livestock sectors. Beef, milk, broilers, and eggs are all top 10 commodities for the state. Exploring animal agriculture in Texas more broadly, you'll find the state is also a top producer of sheep, goats, pigs, and horses.

From livestock genetics to final products, Texas is a state where animal agriculture shines.

Cattle is King

Texas is home to 13 million cattle and calves, ranking it first in the U.S. in total cattle numbers. It also has the broadest spectrum of producers and variation in production environments. The beef cattle industry is by far the largest sector in the Texas agriculture industry.

With cattle that can perform across a variety of climates, and some breeds that were developed right here in the Lone Star State, there's a lot of potential for Texas genetics to help influence your herd's performance.

Whether you are interested in exporting live animals or securing genetic/genomic material, like semen or embryos, there are a variety of ranches and genetics companies that can work with you to determine what breed and animals will help you meet your breeding and reproductive goals.



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Dairy

Texas is known for dairy production, ranking fourth in the U.S. and fifth for the number of dairy cows with nearly 600,000. Most of Texas' dairies are in the panhandle of the state, where the low humidity levels help improve milk production and fertility. More than 95% of Texas dairies are family-owned and -operated.



Sheep and Goats

The Texas landscape is well suited to the flocks of sheep and goats that you will see across the state. The pasture and rangeland available here make these small ruminant animals a practical choice for both meat and fiber production. In fact, Texas is the primary mohair region of the U.S. (and ranks second in the world) with a herd of 61,000 angora goats producing over 152,000 kg (335,000 pounds) of mohair annually.

Increasingly, Texas is also exporting both the products from our sheep and goats as well as live animals and genetics abroad.



Equine

Texas horses know how to work – and play. Whether they are part of the crew on farms and ranches, performing in races and rodeos, or giving their human caretakers some great views and experiences, horses here are always in motion.

As with our cattle, there are many operations around the world where horses have a lineage that includes Texas stallions or mares. With some of the top breeders and working horse operations around, it has never been easier to bring some of that Texas performance to global pastures.



More Information

Contact the Texas Department of Agriculture for more information about Texas agricultural products at GoGlobal@TexasAgriculture.gov.