

# Livestock Facts

## Common Breeds

## Birth

## Growth

## Market

### Beef Cattle

Angus  
Hereford  
Charolais  
Simmental



A female parent is called a **cow**, and a male is a **bull**.

A cow is pregnant for 9 months before she gives birth to 1 **calf**.

Beef calves spend the majority of their lives eating grass and forage on a range or pasture before they spend the last 3-6 months in a feedlot eating a diet specialized for growth.

Beef calves are ready for market when they are **18-22 months old** when they weigh about **1200-1400 pounds**.

### Dairy Cattle

Holstein  
Jersey  
Ayrshire  
Brown Swiss



A female parent is called a **cow**, and a male is a **bull**.

A cow is pregnant for 9 months before she gives birth to 1 **calf**.

A young female calf is called a heifer. She is raised to maturity and bred to have her first calf around 2 years of age.

Female cows produce milk after the birth of their first calf. They produce about **8 gallons** of milk per day for about **10 months**, then they have a break until they have another calf.

### Sheep

Suffolk  
Hampshire  
Rambouillet  
Targhee



A female is called a **ewe**, and a male is a **ram**.

A ewe is pregnant for a little less than 5 months. She usually gives birth to 1-3 **lambs**.

Lambs spend the first several months of life with their mothers eating grass and forage on a range or pasture. After weaning, they continue growth on the range or in a feedlot.

Lambs are ready for market when they are **8-10 months** of age. They will weigh about **120 pounds**.

Breeding ewes and rams are sheared yearly.

### Pig

Yorkshire  
Hampshire  
Duroc  
Chester White



A female parent is called a **sow**, and a male is a **boar**.

A sow is pregnant for a little less than 4 months before she gives birth to 8-11 **piglets**.

Baby pigs spend the first month of life with their mothers before they are weaned and continue growth on a "feeder-finisher" farm.

Pigs are ready for market when they are about **6 months old**. They weigh **240-280 pounds**.

### Chicken

Broilers (Meat)  
Cornish Rock  
Layers (Eggs)  
White Leghorn  
Rhode Island Red



A female is called a **hen**, and a male is a **rooster**.

Baby **chicks** hatch from their eggs after 21 days of incubation.

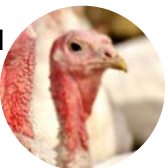
Chickens grow rapidly. They stay in the incubator for the first day of life, then they are moved to a growing barn.

Broilers are ready for market at **6 weeks** old when they weigh about **5 pounds**.

Chickens raised for eggs (layers) begin laying between **4 and 5 months** of age.

### Turkey

Broad-breasted  
White



A female is called a **hen**, and a male is a **tom**.

Baby **chicks** hatch from their eggs after 28 days of incubation.

Turkeys grow rapidly. They stay in the incubator for the first day of life, then they are moved to a growing barn.

Turkeys are ready for market between **14-18 weeks** old. A hen will weigh about **20 pounds**, and a tom can weigh up to **40 pounds**.

# From Farm to You

## Processing

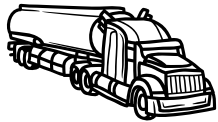
## Distributor

## Store



Cattle are shipped by farmer to the market to be sold.

Animal is harvested. The beef is chilled, butchered, and packaged in a facility inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).



Cows are milked on the farm. The milk is cooled and shipped from the farm to a processing plant.

Milk is pasteurized, homogenized, and bottled or processed into other dairy products like cheese, butter, ice cream, etc.



Market lambs are shipped by farmer to the market to be sold.

Animal is harvested. The meat is chilled, butchered and packaged in a facility inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Wool is packed into bales and sent to a wool mill.



Market hogs are shipped by farmer to the market to be sold.

Animal is harvested. The pork is chilled, butchered, cured, and packaged in a facility inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).



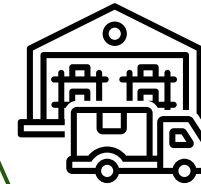
Full-grown broiler chickens are shipped by farmer to the processing plant.

Broilers are harvested. The meat is chilled, butchered, and packaged in a facility inspected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Eggs from layers can be collected, cleaned, chilled, and packaged on the farm or sent to another facility.



Turkeys are shipped by farmer to the market to be sold.

Animal is harvested. The meat is chilled, butchered, and packaged in a facility inspected by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA).



Final product (meat, milk, eggs, wool, etc.) is sold in bulk quantities to a buyer who will distribute it to a retail store.



Retail product is sold to consumers.

# What Livestock Produce

## Products

About **500 pounds** of beef such as ground beef, ribs, steaks, roasts, and more



An average dairy cow in the United States produces **2400 gallons** of milk per year to provide milk and dairy products like butter, yogurt, and cheese



About **50 pounds** of meat such as lamb chops, rack of lamb, and leg



Breeding ewes and rams are sheared yearly. One ewe or ram can produce about **8-10 pounds** of wool.

About **150 pounds** of pork such as bacon, sausage, ribs, pork roast, ham, and pork chops



About **3.5 pounds** of meat such as breasts, drumsticks, thighs, wings, and whole roasted chickens



Laying hens produce an average of 250 eggs per year.

About **10-25 pounds** of meat can be harvested from each bird. Turkey can be processed into sandwich meat, ground turkey, or left whole.



## Byproducts

Cattle, pig, and sheep hides are used to make leather.



Animal fats can be used for animal feeds, rubber, paints, candles, soap, or cosmetics.



Blood, bone, and meat scraps can be used for pet food and animal feeds.



Hair can be used for paintbrushes. Gelatin comes from animals and is used in jello, gummy candy, and marshmallows.



Some human medications (blood thinners, hormone replacements, vaccine ingredients) and medical products (like suture materials) are derived from animal byproducts.



Livestock manure is used for crop fertilizer to supplement soil nutrients or to create biodiesel.

