



A Review of Lists: The Top Beef Cattle Operations in the United States
John Paterson, Extension Beef Specialist

Readers of Prime Cuts asked me summarize how many imported cattle were coming into the US and where they were going. The first part was easy, the second part is difficult is confidential. As I was putting this information together, I starting reviewing different sources (Cattle-Fax, NASS, LMIC, National Cattlemen, ERS, AMI and Cattle Network) for the following information.

John Paterson, Editor
 Extension Beef Specialist
johnp@montana.edu
 406. 581. 3492

Clint Peck
 Director of Beef Quality Assurance
cpeck@montana.edu
 406. 671. 0851

Rachel Endecott
 Extension Beef Specialist
rachel.endecott@montana.edu
 406. 874. 8286

Mo Harbac
 Research and Education Coord.
 406. 994. 4323

Dennis Cash
 Extension Forage Specialist
 406.994.5688
dcash@montana.edu

Web pages:
www.MTBQA.org
www.Animalrangeextension.montana.edu

Question: Who are the largest seedstock producers in the US?

Top Seedstock Producers in the US		
Ranch Name	Location	Marketings
1. Vermillion	Billings, MT	4,600
2. Express	Yukon, OK	3,776
3. Stevenson Basin	Hobson, MT	3,680
4. Camp Cooley	Franklin, TX	2,984
9. DeBruycker Charolais	Dutton, MT	1,300

National Cattlemen, June 2008

Some producers did not participate in these surveys and their information is not included.

Question: Who are the largest cow-calf producers in the US?

Top Cow-calf Operations in the USA		
Ranch	Location	No. of cows
1. Deseret Cattle and Citrus	Deer Park, FL	41,000
2. J.R. Simplot	Boise, ID	28,500
3. King Ranch	Houston, TX	25,000
4. Lykes Brothers	Brighton, FL	18,890
5. Parker Ranch	Kamuela, HI	14,000
16. Dragging Y	Dillon, MT	7,178
18. Cornwell Ranch/Hinsdale Livestock Co	Glasgow, MT	6,000
20. Vermillion	Billings, MT	5,800
National Cattlemen, 2008		

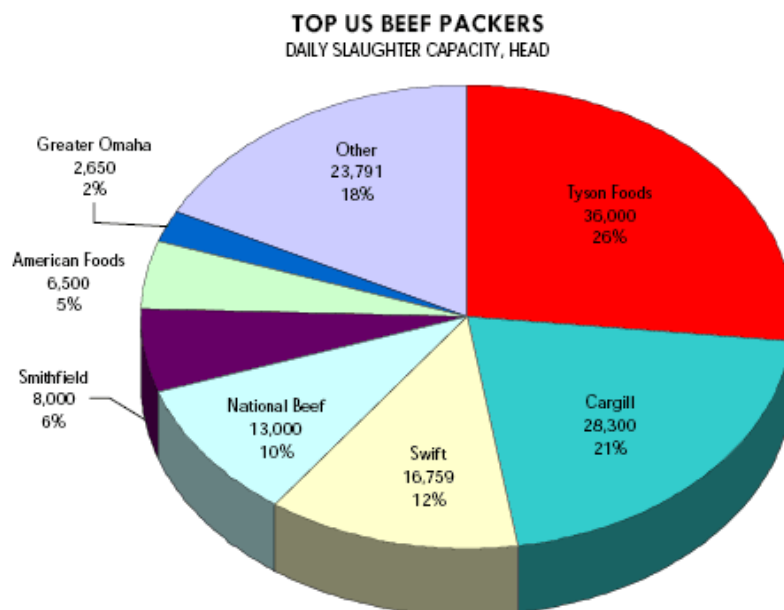
Question: Who are the largest cattle feeding companies in the US?

Top Cattle Feeding Operations in the USA				
Name	Head Office	Capacity	No. Feed Yards	Locations
1. Five Rivers Ranch Cattle Feeding	Loveland, CO	811,00	10	Kansas, Texas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Idaho
2. Cactus Feeders	Amarillo, TX	520,000	10	Texas, Kansas
3. Cargill Cattle Feeders	Wichita, KS	358,000	5	Kansas, Texas, Colorado
4. Friona, Industries	Amarillo	275,000	4	Texas
5. AzTx Cattle	Hereford, TX	242,000	5	Kansas, Texas, Colorado

Question: Who are the largest beef packers in the US?

The Top 10 Beef Packing Operations in the USA				
Company/Rank	Owner	Slaughter total	Beef Plants	Plant Locations
Tyson Foods, Inc.	Publicly traded company	N/A	9	Texas, Canada, Nebraska, Kansas, Illinois, Washington, Iowa
Cargill Meat Solutions	Cargill, Inc	N/A	10	Texas, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, California, Wisconsin, Pennsylvania, Canada
JBS Swift & Company	JBS S.A.	N/A	4	Colorado, Texas, Utah, Nebraska
National Beef Packing Company, LLC	US Premium Beef and others	N/A	3	Kansas and California
Smithfield Foods	NYSE:SFD	2 million	4	Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Arizona
American Foods Group	N/A	N/A	11	Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio, Virginia
Greater Omaha Packing Co.	Henry Davis	775,000	1	Nebraska
Nebraska Beef	Corporation	N/A	1	Nebraska
XL Four Star Beef	XL Foods	N/A	2	Nebraska, Idaho
AB Foods	AgriBeef Co.	Confidential	1	Washington

If the merger of JBS Swift, National Beef and Smithfield goes through this year, then the top ranking will change to JBS, Cargill Meat Solutions and Tyson.



Source: Steve Kay, Cattle Buyers Weekly, www.cattlebuyersweekly.com

Question: How many cattle are imported from Canada and Mexico?

Sources, numbers and the states where imported cattle entered into the USA					
Source/year	Washington	Idaho	Montana	North Dakota	Total
Canada					
2006	31,053	20,197	45,242	188,985	289,317
2007	55,863	28,062	114,802	319,725	521,716
Mexico					
	Arizona	New Mexico	Texas		
2006	284,213	341,886	603,101		1,229,200
2007	229,474	339,589	515,233		1,084,296
National Cattlemen, 2008					

Question: How does the cattle inventory of the US compare to the inventory in Canada? (104 million vs. 15.7 million)

