Kansas ranked third nationally with 6.25 million cattle on ranches and in feedyards as of January 1, 2016. That's over twice the state's human population of more than 2.9 million. (National Ag Statistics & United States Census Bureau)

Cattle and calves represented 54.1% of the 2014 Kansas agricultural cash receipts. (National Ag Statistics)

Cattle and calves generated $9.6 billion in cash receipts during 2014. (USDA Economic Research Service)

Kansas ranked sixth nationally in beef cow numbers as of January 1, 2016, with 1.49 million head. (National Ag Statistics)

Kansas ranks second nationwide in commercial cattle processed with 5.9 million head in 2014. (National Ag Statistics)

Kansas ranks third in the value of beef and veal exported at $787.8 million in 2014. (National Ag Statistics)

Meat packing and prepared meat products manufacturing make up the largest share of the food processing industry in the state. This industry provides employment for over 18,799 people in Kansas. (Kansas Department of Agriculture)

Kansas ranked second in fed cattle marketed with 4.82 million in 2012. That represents more than 19% of all cattle fed in the United States. (Kansas Ag Statistics)

Updated: Kansas ranked third in fed cattle placements with 4.4 million in 2015. That represents 22.1% of all cattle placed in a feedlot in the U.S. The original figure is only gathered in census data, so 2012 is the most recent figure.

Kansas ranked third in total red meat production in 2014. Beef represented nearly 5.1 billion pounds of the total. (National Ag Statistics)

Kansas companies that produce, process, distribute and sell meat and poultry products employ as many as 25,449 people and generate an additional 59,543 jobs in supplier and ancillary industries. These include jobs in companies supplying goods and services to manufacturers, distributors and retailers, as well as those depending on sales to workers in the meat industry. (Kansas Department of Agriculture)

The meat and poultry industry were responsible for as much as $21.7 billion in total economic activity in Kansas during 2013. (Kansas Department of Agriculture.)

Kansas ranks fourth in hides and skins exported from the U.S., totaling $285.9 million in 2013. (National Ag Statistics)

In 2012, Kansas had 27,600 farms with cattle and calves. (National Ag Statistics) This metric is only taken during the census, so 2012 is the most recent statistic. The actual count is 27,568.

Kansas has 46 million acres of farm ground; however, not all of this land can be used to grow crops. Cattle are the ideal mechanism for efficiently utilizing grasses and plants growing on the 15.5 million acres of Kansas pastureland. These acres are not suited for the production of cultivated crops and would be wasted if it were not for ruminants, such as cattle, turning these resources into essential protein and nutrients for human use. (National Ag Statistics) This metric hasn't been updated since 2012.