

Meat Processing in Southwest Kansas

Kansas is the third largest meat-producing state in the country, with about 17 percent of the nation's output. Each year about 3.7 million cattle are finished in 369 feedlots in southwestern Kansas, where the state's meatpacking industry is centered. Many more are shipped from nearby states to processing plants in Kansas. In recent years, the meatpacking industry in Kansas has shown steady growth (Figure 1).

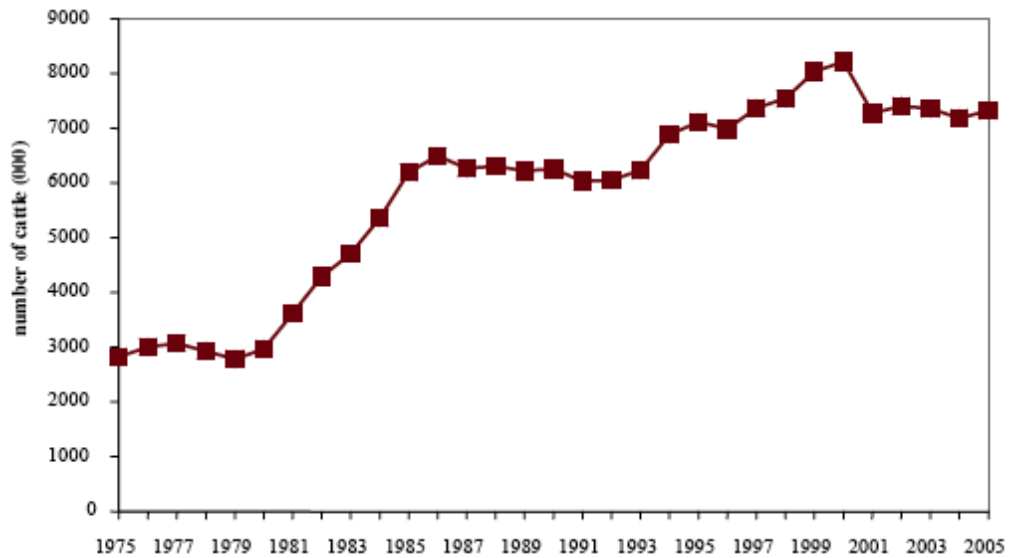


Figure 1: Cattle Slaughtered in Kansas

Researchers predict that the trend line will remain fairly flat in the foreseeable future. Additional capacity will be built in neighboring states.

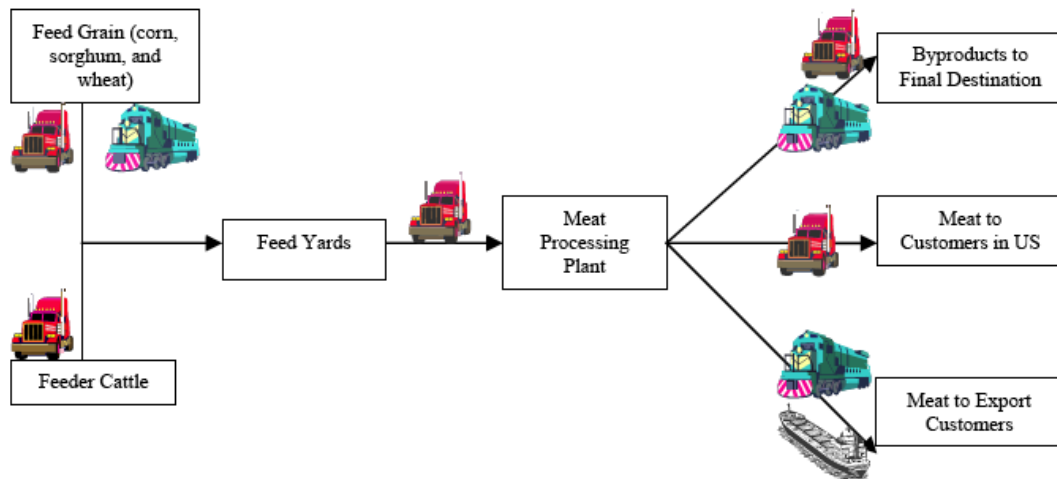


Figure 2: Meat Processing Supply Chain

Cattle from Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Tennessee, New Mexico, California and Oregon are trucked to Kansas for finishing (Figure 2). Kansas is a desirable location for feeding because it is close to the source of feed grains and has a climate that allows cattle to prosper. Four of the nation's major meat packers are located in the region.

In addition to cattle, the major input in the feeding operation is feed. Each animal consumes about 28 pounds of feed per day (Figure 3).

Alfalfa Hay (Lbs./day)	Com (Lbs./day)	Grain Sorghum (Lbs./day)	^a Supplements (Lbs./day)	Total (Lbs./day)
3.4	14.4	9.6	0.8	28.2

Figure 3: Daily Feed Consumption per Animal

A typical animal spends 150 days in the feedlot so many pounds of feed are consumed:

$$3,700,000 * 150 * 28.2 = 15,651,000,000 \text{ pounds.}$$

While some grain is moved into the state by train most moves entirely by truck and all moves ultimately by truck.

Once the cattle are at market weight they are shipped by truck to the processing plants. The output of the plants are boxed beef for the domestic market, which moves entirely by truck; boxed beef for the export market (about 10 percent of the total), which moves by rail and ship to its final market; and byproducts, which move about half by truck and half by rail. The final destinations for domestic meat include all of the major population centers of the country. Byproducts move to most parts of the country and to Mexico.

	Annual Truck Loads
Feeder cattle	49,614
Feed	365,392
Finished cattle (Kansas)	82,392
Finished Cattle (out of state)	56,416
Processed meat	107,308
Byproducts	35,760
Total	696,882

Figure 4: Annual Truck Loads in the SW Kansas Meat Industry

Adding all of the inputs and outputs together yields nearly 700,000 annual truckloads moving to and from feedlots and processing plants in southwest Kansas.

Trucking is the preferred mode of transporting live cattle and processed meat because the higher service characteristics of the mode. The specialized equipment needed and the

perception of greater security. A driver attends the truck, while a train is not attended. Service is also the driver of the choice of trucking for the movement of grains.

In the movement of byproducts, which are less time sensitive, price tends to be the determining factor in the choice of modes.

Source: Bai