

CONCEPT An Agribusiness Animal System is a business in the agriculture industry that works with animals such as livestock, small animals or even exotic animals. The purpose of this type of system is to raise animals for food, entertainment or personal companionship.

REAL WORLD CONNECTIONS

In Nebraska, our economy is heavily reliant upon the agriculture industry. Nebraska leads the nation in beef production and is one of the top five states in pork production. Additionally, in all 93 counties in Nebraska you can find beef cattle being raised. The Agribusiness Animal System pathway is prevalent all around our state from the raising of animals for food purposes to companies that work to protect animal health.



BACKGROUND

LIVESTOCK - Farm animals that can be used for food or companionship

SMALL ANIMAL - Dogs, cats, hamsters, rabbits, guinea pigs, etc

The domestication of animals can be traced back to 11000 to 9000 BC. Animals were first domesticated for the purpose of meat, milk and furs. Throughout the centuries, as we have evolved, animal systems have become more specialized in the raising of animals for specific purposes.

DATA

NEBRASKA'S AG FACTS

- Nebraska's 10 leading commodities (in order of value) for 2021 cash receipts are cattle and calves, corn, soybeans, hogs, dairy products (milk), hay, wheat, misc. crops, chicken eggs and dry edible beans.
- In 2020, every dollar in agricultural exports generated \$1.03 in economic activities such as transportation, financing, warehousing and production. Nebraska's \$7.1 billion in agricultural exports in 2020 translates into \$7.4 billion in additional economic activity.
- Nebraska's top five agricultural exports in 2021 were soybeans and soybean products, corn, beef, ethanol, and pork.
- Nebraska had 44,800 farms and ranches during 2021; the average operation consisted of 1,000 acres.
- Livestock or poultry operations were found on 48% of Nebraska farms.
- One in four jobs in Nebraska are related to agriculture.



Make sure it measures up

EXAMPLES

Nebraska has a multitude of livestock animals that are part of the agribusiness system. Red meat or beef production is one of Nebraska's top animal commodities. Our state ranks first in the United States in beef production. On Nebraska farms you can also find dairy cattle, pork, sheep, goats, chickens, llamas and horses. All of these animals are part of the agribusinesses dealing with animals. Additionally, there is also small animal production such as dog breeding, cats, hedgehogs, etc, that are part of the companion animals sector of the agribusiness animal systems pathway.



APPLICATION

Animal agriculture is all around us. If you want to experience animal agriculture there are numerous farm tours that can be accessed online and even some can be done in person. Your local 4H and FFA chapters will also have resources and information on how you can become more involved and learn about animal systems. Showing livestock is a massive part of FFA. Students who otherwise may not have the opportunity to house, feed and care for an animal can have that experience within FFA. Students are taught discipline, responsibility and a sense of accomplishment while caring for their animals. In FFA, students also participate in contests like public speaking, job interview skills, livestock judging and farm business management.



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