



For Your In**FARM**ation

Ohio farmers feed the world. They raise animals and crops that provide safe, healthy and affordable food to consumers in Ohio, across the United States, and even around the world! It takes a lot of farms and farmers to get the job done.

Here are some amazing facts that will give you some idea of just how awesome **agriculture** is in Ohio:

- Ohio has nearly 75,000 farms.
- Ohio has 14 million acres of land being used for agricultural purposes—more than half the land area in the state.
- Agriculture adds \$98 billion a year to Ohio's **economy**.

No wonder agriculture is Ohio's #1 industry!

Want to learn more?

Turn the page to find more interesting facts and figures about **livestock** farming in Ohio. ►



Farmers & Ohio's Economy

Have you ever thought about where the food you eat comes from? Chances are, quite a bit of it comes from right here in the Buckeye state.

Market

**Producers
Sellers**

**Consumers
Buyers**

Important foods such as meat, dairy foods, vegetables, fruits and grains are produced at local farms throughout Ohio. Farmers who raise the animals and crops that become the food we eat are called **producers**. People who purchase and eat the food from Ohio's farms are called **consumers**. Together, these buyers and sellers of Ohio's farm food products make up a **market**. And in Ohio, this agricultural market is an important part of our state's economy.

Foods that are produced locally are not only tasty and healthy—but **affordable**, too. So, the next time you enjoy a hamburger, piece of cheese or corn on the cob, think about the thousands of Ohio farm families working hard to put safe, healthy, locally grown food on your plate.

Ohio livestock farmers produce more than food.

Here are some other products made of materials that come from farms:



GLOVES
PAINTBRUSHES
GLUE
WALLETS

Can you think of any more examples?



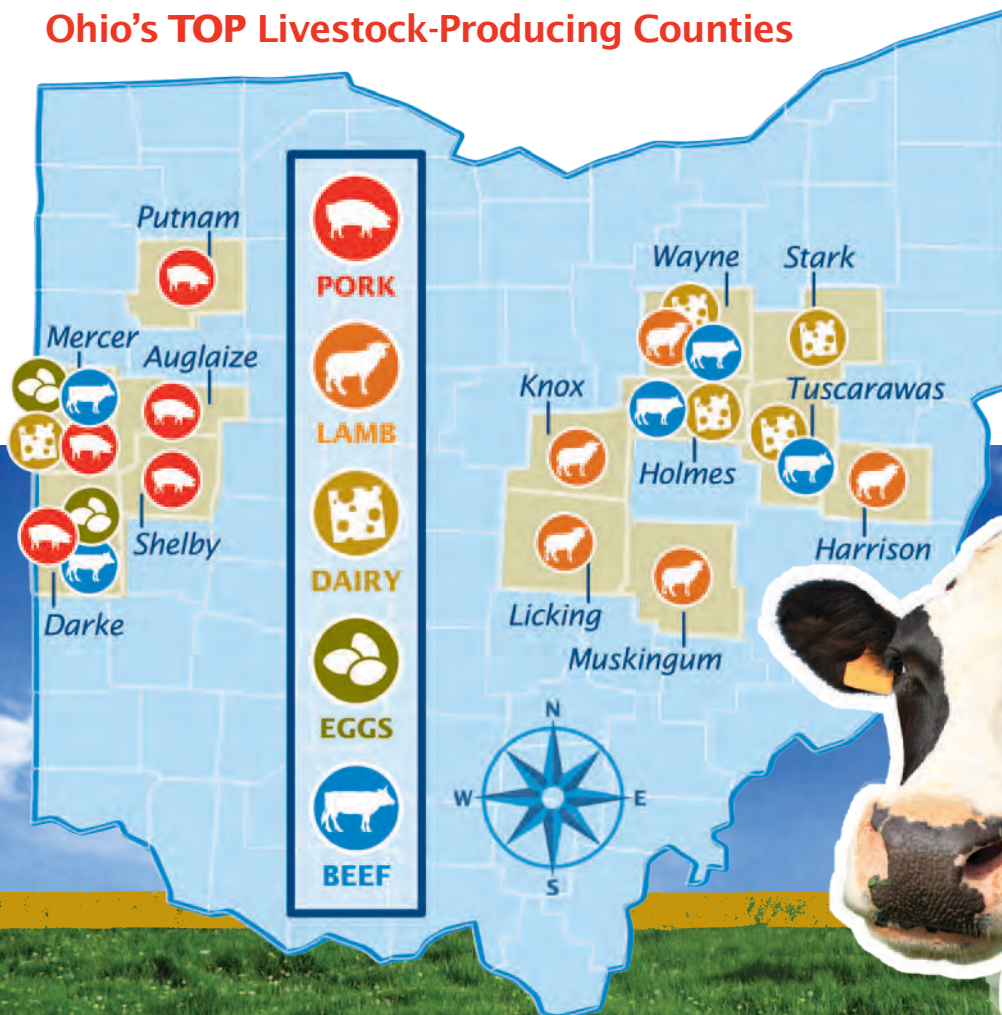
So, What Is Livestock Farming Anyway?

Livestock farmers raise animals. These animals are used for food and other products. Each product has a name that you may recognize from the grocery store. For example, dairy cows produce milk, and other **breeds** of **cattle** produce meat we call **beef**. Meat that comes from pigs is called **pork**. Chickens and turkeys are called poultry. There are two kinds of chickens used for food. Some breeds of chickens, called broilers, are used for meat. Other breeds of chickens lay the eggs that we eat. Turkey generally is used only for meat.

As you can imagine, feeding the world means Ohio's livestock farmers produce a lot of food! Each year, farmers in Ohio produce:

- 7.4 billion eggs
- 338 million pounds of chicken
- 5.2 million turkeys
- 500 million pounds of beef
- 997 million pounds of pork
- 1.2 million pounds of lamb
- 600 million gallons of milk

Ohio's TOP Livestock-Producing Counties



OHIO PRIDE

Ohio is the big cheese!

We are the #1 producer of Swiss cheese in the nation.



Ohio is egg-cellent!

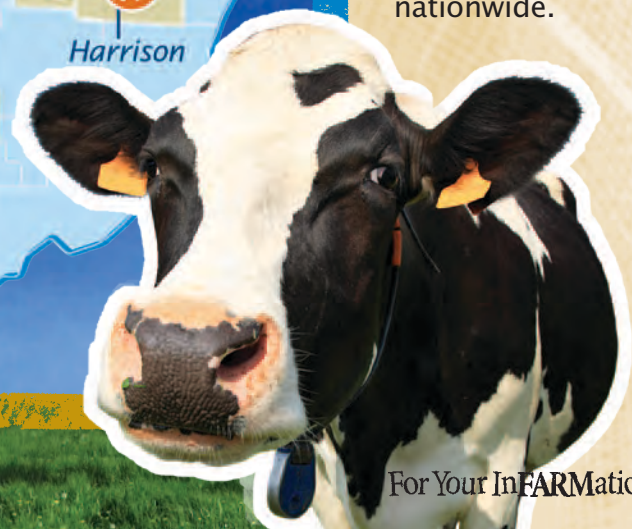
We are the second-largest egg producing state in the nation. Darke and Mercer counties are the top two egg producing counties in the United States.

Ohio is hog-wild!

We are among the top ten states in the country in pork production.

Ohio is a dairy queen!

We rank #11 in total dairy cows and #8 in ice cream production nationwide.



Keys to *Safe, Healthy Food*



Farmers across Ohio know that the food they produce must be more than delicious and affordable. It also must be safe and nutritious.

Livestock farmers raise the animals that provide the beef, pork, lamb, poultry, milk and eggs we eat. These farmers know that one of the keys to producing safe, nutritious food is to be sure the animals they are raising are cared for properly. Caring for animals means ensuring that they have proper housing, food and medical care.

Animal *housing*

Ohio's livestock farms provide animals with comfortable, safe housing that will shelter them from bad weather and protect them from disease and **predators**, and also from hurting each other. Barns, pens and stalls are kept clean and dry, with plenty of space and moving air. Temperatures are controlled to keep animals cool in the summer and warm in the winter.

Animal *feed*

Farmers make sure their animals have plenty of fresh, nutritious food and clean water. Their diets are carefully watched to make sure they are getting all the foods they need to grow and stay healthy. Just like you and your family, animals rely on healthy food from Ohio farms!





Animal *medical care*

Healthy animals produce and become healthy food that is safe for humans to eat. That's why livestock farmers throughout Ohio make sure their animals receive proper medical care from a **veterinarian**. That means regular check-ups, **vaccinations** and other steps to prevent disease, infections and other health problems. Proper veterinary care not only protects animals from disease—it also helps ensure the safety of our food supply.

As a result of all of these steps, Ohio's livestock are healthier than ever before—and that means plenty of safe, healthy, locally grown food for you and your family!



All together, the animals on Ohio's livestock farms will eat more than 100 million **bushels** of Ohio field corn this year!



“Green” Farmers Help Protect Our Land

Ohio's farmers always have cared about the **environment**. They do whatever they can to preserve the land and water. They also know quite a bit about **recycling**. For example, farmers grow crops such as corn and soybeans in their fields. Animals such as pigs eat these foods. The manure pigs produce is then used as **fertilizer** to enrich the soil. So farmers can grow more corn and soybeans in that soil. This is a perfect example of recycling!

From Ohio farms *to your plate*

Have you ever wondered where the food you buy at the grocery store or order at a restaurant comes from? Ohio livestock farmers are hard at work every day producing the food we all eat such as eggs, milk, hotdogs and hamburgers.

The food production process has **three** main **inputs**:

- ▶ the animals
- ▶ the food they are fed
- ▶ the **labor** required to care for the animals

The **output** is food for your lunch box or dinner plate!

For example, farmers feed chickens corn and soybeans. The chickens then lay eggs. Farmers gather the eggs, clean them, inspect them, package them and ship them to the store or restaurant.

Making the Grade

All livestock products are inspected and graded by the United States Department of Agriculture. This process helps farmers make sure that the food they are providing is safe and good for you. Just like in school, the higher the grade, the better quality it is. So, when you see eggs at the store marked "Grade A," you know they are the best of the best.

FYI

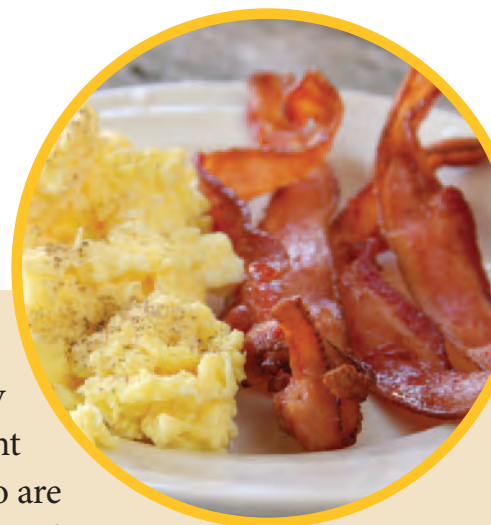
Ohio livestock farmers care for 68 million animals!



Important Source of Protein

Protein from animal foods builds strong, healthy bodies

Do you want a strong body?
Do you want energy to do all the things you enjoy?
Do you want to keep growing in a healthy way?
If you answered “yes” to any of these questions,
Ohio farmers are here to help!



One of the keys to growing up healthy and strong is to be sure you get the right amount of **protein** in your diet. The word *protein* comes from the Greek word *protas*, which means “really important.” Just how important is protein? Well, it’s found in all living cells. Your muscles, bones, blood, skin and even your hair are made of protein!

Meats such as beef, pork, chicken, turkey and lamb are excellent sources of protein. So are eggs and dairy foods such as milk, cheese and yogurt. Luckily, there are plenty of farms in Ohio producing these essential foods. Ohio farmers also produce other foods that are part of a balanced, healthy diet such as fruits, vegetables, beans and grains.

So, if you grow up strong and healthy, be sure to say “thanks” to Ohio farmers!



The average cow produces 100 glasses of milk each day!



Agriculture Can *Work* for You



As Ohio's top industry, agriculture provides thousands of jobs for people who live in our state. In fact, one out of every seven workers in Ohio has a job that is connected in some way to agriculture.



Farming is one career in agriculture, but there are many others. For example, agricultural scientists study farmland, crops and animals. They try to discover ways to improve food production and quality. Agricultural scientists usually have an area of special interest. They might be a soil scientist, a plant scientist, an animal scientist or a food scientist.



Another popular career in agriculture is **veterinary medicine**. Veterinarians care for sick and injured animals. They also work to help animals stay healthy through regular check-ups and vaccines that help prevent disease.

Like agricultural scientists, veterinarians (also called “vets”) usually have one area of special interest. For example, some vets work mostly with small animals that are pets, such as dogs, cats and hamsters. Other vets work mostly with larger farm animals, such as horses, cattle, pigs, lambs, chickens and turkeys. And some vets care for **exotic** animals, such as those you see at a zoo.



No matter what your interests are, you probably can find a career in Ohio's agriculture industry. Would you enjoy being an **arborist** (someone who studies and cares for trees)? Or, how about a career as a farm **machinery mechanic**?

Start thinking about your future now—there's sure to be a career in agriculture out there waiting for you!

For Your InFARmation is produced by the Ohio Livestock Coalition and is available free of charge to teachers and students in third-grade classrooms across Ohio. For more information, visit our website, www.ForYourInFARmation.com.