

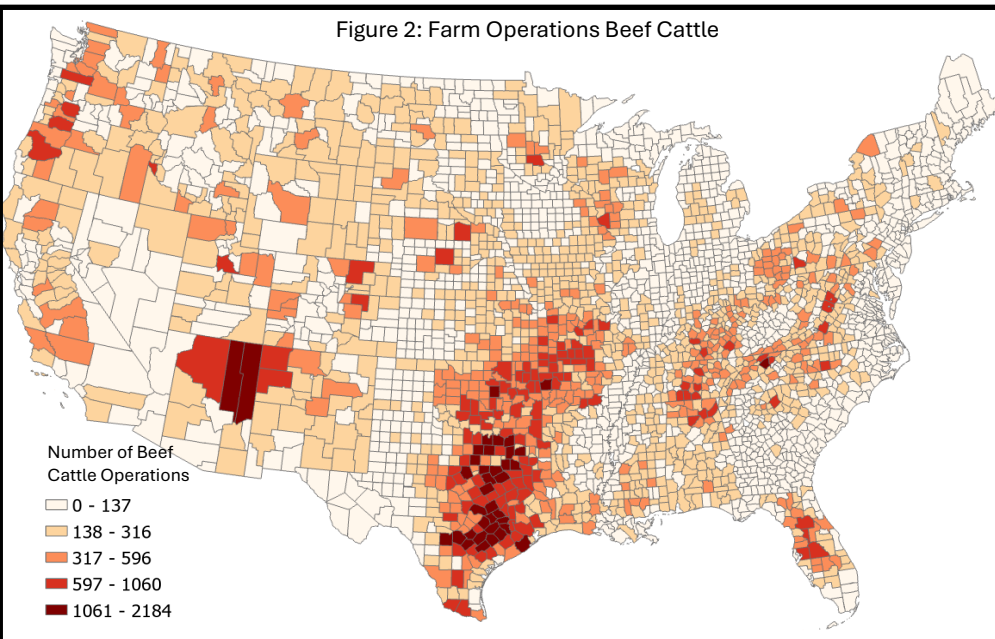
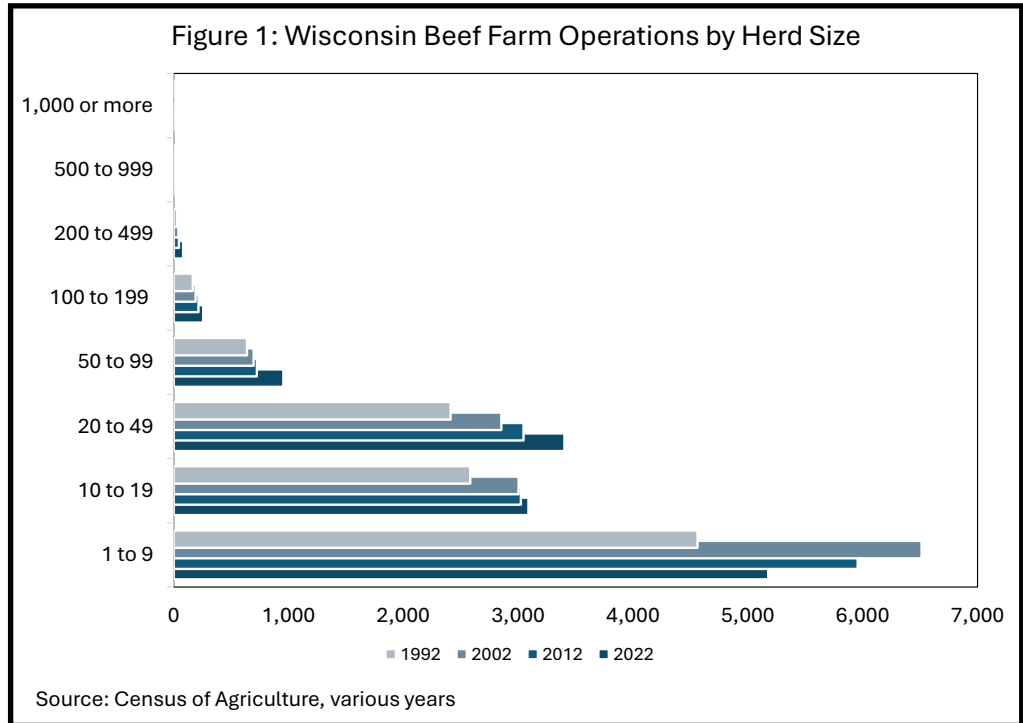
Beef Production



Extension
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While Wisconsin is known as the dairy state, beef production has had a long historical role in the State's agricultural economy. In 2022, 12,971 Wisconsin farmers reported activity in beef production, which is an increase over the 10,394 farms in 1992. Over the same twenty-year period, the number of beef cattle increased from 640,335 (1992) to 829,566 (2022) and total sales went from \$16.1 million

(1992) to \$1.3 billion (2022). The average sales per farms with beef operations also increased from \$1,641 in 1992 to just over \$140,000 in 2022. Despite this growth, the Wisconsin beef farm industry is dominated by what might be referred to as smaller scale operations. In 2022, 63.7% had fewer than 20 head of cattle and 39.9% had few than 10 head of cattle (Figure 1).



A mapping of the location of beef cattle operations shows the relatively high concentration in Wisconsin, particularly western Wisconsin. Note, however, that there is wide distribution of beef farms scattered across the U.S. with heavy concentrations in lower Missouri south through Texas.



State Of Wisconsin
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION



Economic Development Administration
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The presence of smaller beef farms and the wide dispersion of farms across the U.S., points to some of the production going to local or regional markets. We cannot infer from this analysis the extent to which Wisconsin beef production enters the local foods supply chain, but for many Wisconsin beef farmers local and regional markets likely play a significant role.

Using an economic model of the Wisconsin economy reflective of 2022, we assess the economic contribution of the beef farming and processing industry to Wisconsin (Table 1). Some care must be taken with the beef processing analysis because most processors in Wisconsin are not solely limited to beef and also process other animals (e.g., swine, sheep, goats, deer and other wild game and to a lesser extent bison) and our data does not allow for separating out just beef cattle processing. Also complicating the analysis is the inability to separate out dairy cull cows that also enter the stream of beef supply. Thus, the beef processing contribution analysis is likely overstated.

In total, the Wisconsin beef industry contributes just over 60,000 jobs and \$16.7 billion in industrial sales. The bulk of this contribution comes from beef processing (which, as noted, includes non-beef processing). The economic activity supported by the Wisconsin beef industry also generates \$153 in local government revenues and \$268.5 million in state government revenues

Table 1: Contribution of Beef Production to the Wisconsin Economy

	Employment	Labor Income (MM\$)	Total Income (MM\$)	Industry Sales (MM\$)
Beef Farm	24,566	\$645.2	\$1,773.3	\$3,454.3
Beef Processing	55,204	\$2,932.2	\$4,905.9	\$15,966.0
Farm-Processing	60,093	\$3,060.5	\$5,258.8	\$16,653.0
Multiplier				
Beef Farm	1.311	2.044	1.501	1.518
Beef Processing	3.717	2.587	4.081	1.741
Farm-Processing	1.789	2.112	2.206	1.455

Table 2: Contribution to Government Revenues

	Local Govt. (MM\$)	State Govt. (MM\$)	Federal Govt. (MM\$)	Total (MM\$)
Beef Farm	\$53.3	\$92.7	\$169.63	\$315.6
Beef Processing	\$142.5	\$250.1	\$688.88	\$1,081.4
Farm-Processing	\$153.1	\$268.5	\$722.62	\$1,144.2

(Table 2). In addition to these contribution estimates we also provide the underlying economic multipliers. Note that the multipliers tend to be larger for beef processing relative to beef farming; this is due to the feedback effect processors have on farmers themselves. In aggregate, the Wisconsin beef industry is significant.

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