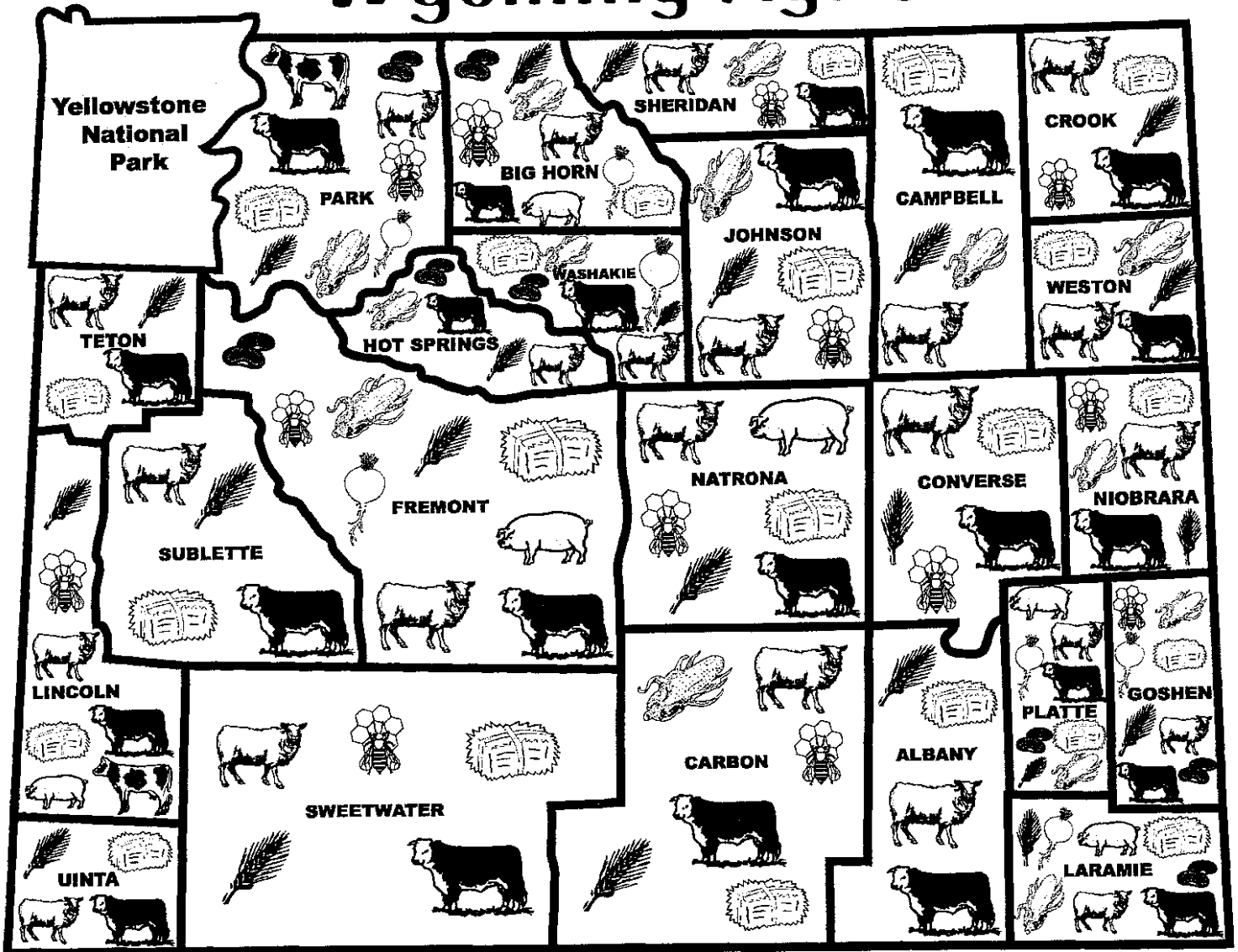
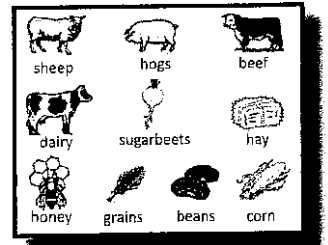


Wyoming Agriculture



KEY



Beef Across the United States – Learn about Wyoming

According to Wyoming Ag Statistics 2008 there were 1,320,000 head of cattle and calves in Wyoming on January 1, 2008 worth a \$1.35 billion. The Wyoming inventory of beef cows was 733,000 head. In 2006, Wyoming's population was 515,004. That means there are approximately 2.5 cattle for every person in Wyoming.

In 2007, 8,800 farms and ranches were operating in Wyoming with a total land area of 34.4 million acres. Wyoming ranks eighth in the nation in total land in farms and ranches and first in average size of farms and ranches, with an average of 3,780 acres. The Federal government owns 50% of Wyoming's landmass, while 6% is controlled by the state. Over 91% of the land in Wyoming is classified as rural. Most operations have between 1 and 49 head of cattle and calves and 300 operations in the state have more than 1,000 head. Nearly all Wyoming farms and ranches are family owned operations.

Agriculture is the third major industry in Wyoming. The total impact of agriculture in Wyoming is almost \$1.5 billion. The cattle industry is by far the largest component of Wyoming agriculture, accounting for 69 percent of all cash receipts in 2007. Cattle also led the way in 2007 in terms of value of production at \$447.4 million. Wyoming ranks 24th in the nation for the number of cattle and calves and 21st for the number of cattle on feed. Goshen, Platte and Fremont counties have the highest livestock inventories.

Most of Wyoming's agricultural products are sold to entities outside the state. Ranchers and farmers spend nearly all their dollars locally, which allows their money to circulate around the state. Ranching and farming provide essential economic revenues for most of the rural economies on the state. The value of the ag sector output in Wyoming annually approaches or exceeds one billion dollars. The top seven Wyoming cash receipts for crops, livestock and related products in 2007 were cattle, hay, hogs, sheep and wool, sugar beets, corn and wheat.

Wyoming is one of three states entirely bounded by straight lines. It is the ninth largest state in the United States containing 97,914 square miles and is made up of 23 counties. From the north border to the south border it is 276 miles; from the east to the west border, 375 miles. The Great Plains meet the Rocky Mountains in Wyoming. The state is a great plateau broken by a number of important mountain ranges. In the northwest are the Absaroka, the Owl Creek, Wyoming, Gros Ventre, Wind River and the Teton ranges. In the north central are the Big Horns; in the northeast, the Black Hills; and in the southern portion of Wyoming, the Laramie, Medicine Bow and Sierra Madre ranges.

The Continental Divide cuts through Wyoming from the northwest to the south central border. Rivers east of the Divide drain into the Missouri River Basin and eventually the Atlantic Ocean. They are the Platte, Wind, Big Horn and the Yellowstone rivers. The Snake River in northwest Wyoming eventually drains into the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean, as does the Green River through the Colorado River Basin. Tourists come to see our national parks and monuments, historic sites and century-old forts, stunning scenery, small town life, summer rodeos, first-class ski resorts, vast clear landscapes and a chance to enjoy life at a slower pace. Our farmers and ranchers are not only eye-catching images on a western landscape, but the wide open spaces of their farmlands and ranchlands allow for those breathtaking views everyone enjoys.

Sources: Wyoming Ag Statistics 2008
Wyoming Department of Agriculture
Wyoming State Government website