



About

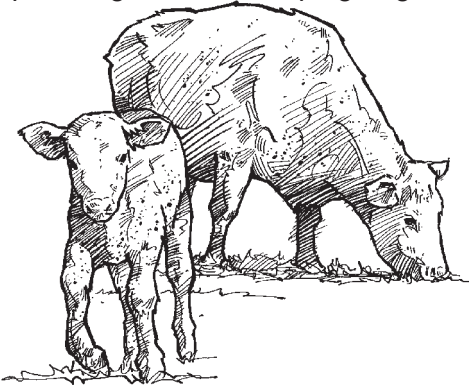
BEEF CATTLE

COMFORT & HOUSING

During the hot summer months farmers provide shady areas for their beef cattle to get out of the sun. They make sure that cool, clean water is available. In the winter months beef cattle grow longer and thicker hair to help keep them warm. Farmers provide hay to the beef cattle when snow is covering the ground. Shelter is also provided so the beef cattle can get out of the weather and stay dry. Some beef animals will stay in a dry lot called a feedlot. They are fed a specially balanced diet to increase meat quality.

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

Beef cattle spend their days in three ways: They spend eight hours sleeping, eight hours eating and



eight hours chewing their cud. Typically one beef cow in Indiana needs up to 1.5 acres on which to graze. Beef cattle like to stay in

groups and typically have a group leader. The one exception to this is when the beef cow is getting ready to deliver her calf. At that time she will then go off on her own.

SAFETY & WELL-BEING

Beef cattle are able to graze land that is too hilly, too rocky, too steep, or too dry for growing food crops. The grass on these areas where cattle graze helps to prevent soil erosion. Feedlots and handling areas are designed to provide comfort and sufficient space for beef cattle.

BEEF CATTLE: IMPORTANT TO INDIANA

12,000 PRODUCERS OWN
227,000 HEAD OF BEEF CATTLE

HEALTH & NUTRITION

Beef Cattle are able to eat food that people cannot eat. They are ruminant animals, which means they have a stomach that has four parts. They are able to eat plants like grass, hay, and corn stalks. Farmers check their cattle daily to make sure they are eating and drinking. If their beef animals appear to be sick, they work with a veterinarian to treat the cattle. Beef cattle are typically on a vaccination program to keep them healthy and ensure wholesomeness of the product.

