

MODULE 1A PART B: STUDENT FACTSHEET – LOCATION OF THE BEEF INDUSTRY

INTRODUCTION

In countries where suitable lands to produce beef are scarce because of climate or economical circumstances e.g. where other initiatives such as producing milk are more profitable, the beef systems are much more intensive in nature. This is the situation in the European Union. Where there are no pressures on land use, the systems are less intensive e.g. Brazil. Very often, in countries with the largest surface areas, the intensive and less intensive systems co-exist.

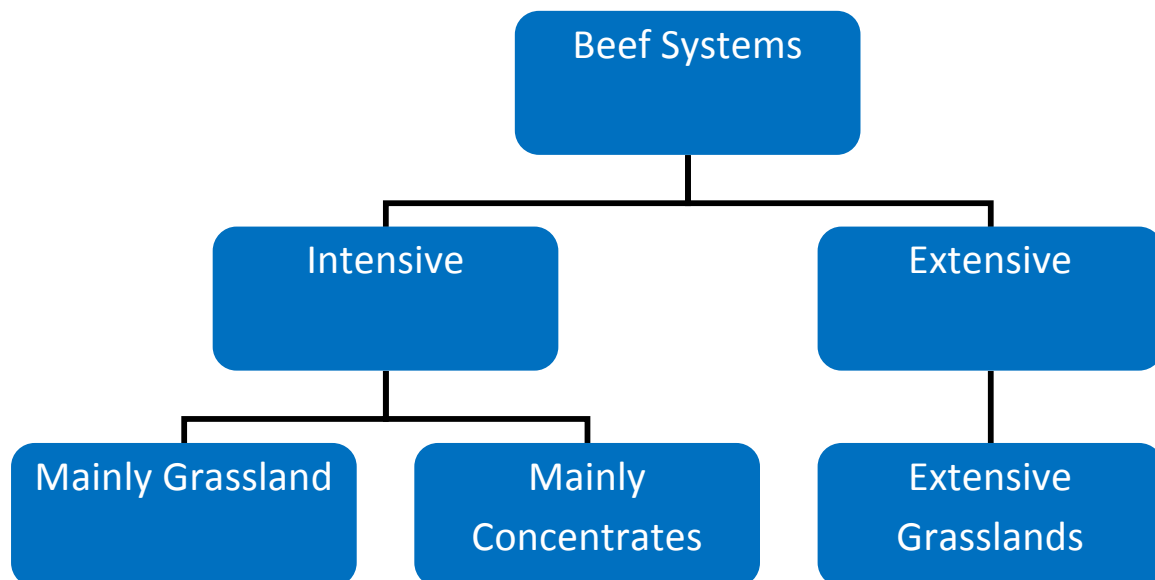


FIGURE 1: CLASSIFICATION OF BEEF PRODUCTION SYSTEMS

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Calves are produced for the beef industry on the extensive grasslands of Missouri, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, Tennessee, and Oklahoma. These are mainly cow and calf systems on large, extensive farms. In Texas, Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, California and Oklahoma, there are feeding farms (feedlot) where calves are finished for market needs, with concentrates and waste products from the food industry.

<http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/ag101/beefbackground.html>



[Photo: Cattle on the prairie]



[Photo: Feeding farms (feedlot)]

BRAZIL

The aim of the country's systems is to produce cheap beef by using extensive, natural grasslands, but also deforested lands. Environmental concerns about this issue have been raised consistently by other countries and campaigners.

CHINA

The main sources of beef production are the small family farms that use poor quality feed and crops to finish the native breeds. Since these native breeds were originally used for hauling, the meat quality is poor. Since the Government has started to extend the industry, continental European breeds were imported, and more suitable native breeds were chosen. Therefore, some feeding farms were established to finish the cattle. These are finished in enclosures, using higher quality feed and concentrates.

EUROPEAN UNION

Mainly intensive systems producing good quality meat.

AUSTRALIA

Less intensive beef farming in north and mid Australia, using British beef as well as some breeds from tropical countries. There are more feeding farms in Queensland than in the other regions.

<http://www.anra.gov.au/topics/agriculture/beef/index.html>

ARGENTINA

Production of beef on the extensive grasslands of the Pampas using British, Continental European and Tropical breeds on cow and calf systems and finishing on grasslands.

CANADA

Similar systems to the United States.

<http://www.omafr.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/index.html>