



TEXAS  
CATTLE FEEDERS  
ASSOCIATION

# Ports-to-Plains Conference

October 2025

806.358.3681



[www.tcfa.org](http://www.tcfa.org)



@txcattlefeeders



# THE BEEF LIFECYCLE

The beef lifecycle is a unique food production system. It takes anywhere from 1.5 to 2 years to bring beef from pasture to plate, depending on production method. Top priorities for everyone in the beef supply chain include healthy animals, environmental care, and safe, nutritious, high-quality protein for consumers.



## SEEDSTOCK/COW-CALF

Hundreds of thousands of seedstock and cow-calf ranches breed cattle and raise calves. The cows nurse their calves and then calves graze on grass pastures with their mothers. For decades, producers have invested in cattle genetics to improve animal health, efficiency and beef quality. Ranches are located in all 50 states and are 95% family-owned.



## STOCKER & BACKGROUNDER

Calves transition from mostly milk to eating a variety of grasses, hay and other plant-based feeds. Weaned calves may move to stocker or backgrounder farms and ranches where supplemental feed, including vitamins and minerals, is provided to meet their changing nutritional needs.

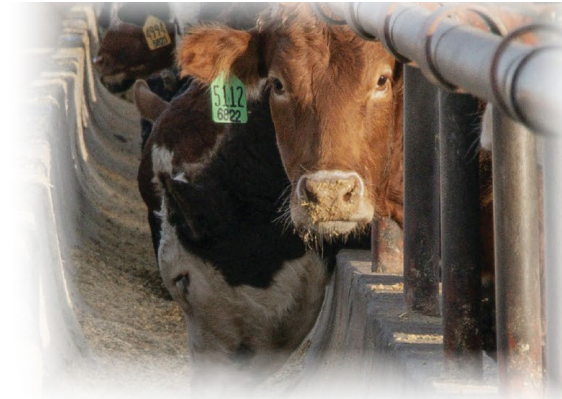


## MARKETING CATTLE

Cattle producers may work with an auction market to sell their cattle to other beef producers or feedyards. In addition to live auctions, advances in technology allow auctions to be hosted through video and the internet. Cattle producers may also sell their cattle through private treaty directly to another cattle producer or packer.

## FEEDYARD

Between 6 and 12 months of age, most cattle are moved to a feedyard where they spend an average of six months. Staff, including nutritionists, veterinarians and trained cowboys, care for the animals daily. Cattle have constant access to water and eat at feed bunks where they are fed a balanced diet that may include grains (e.g., corn, sorghum, wheat and soybean meal), roughage (e.g., hay and grass) and food production and renewable fuel by-products (e.g., distillers grains).



## PACKING PLANT

Once cattle reach market weight usually between 18 to 24 months of age, they are sent to a packing plant, also called a processing facility. United States Department of Agriculture inspectors oversee the implementation and enforcement of animal welfare and food safety standards from the time the animals arrive at the plant until the final beef products are shipped to grocery stores and restaurants in the U.S. and abroad.

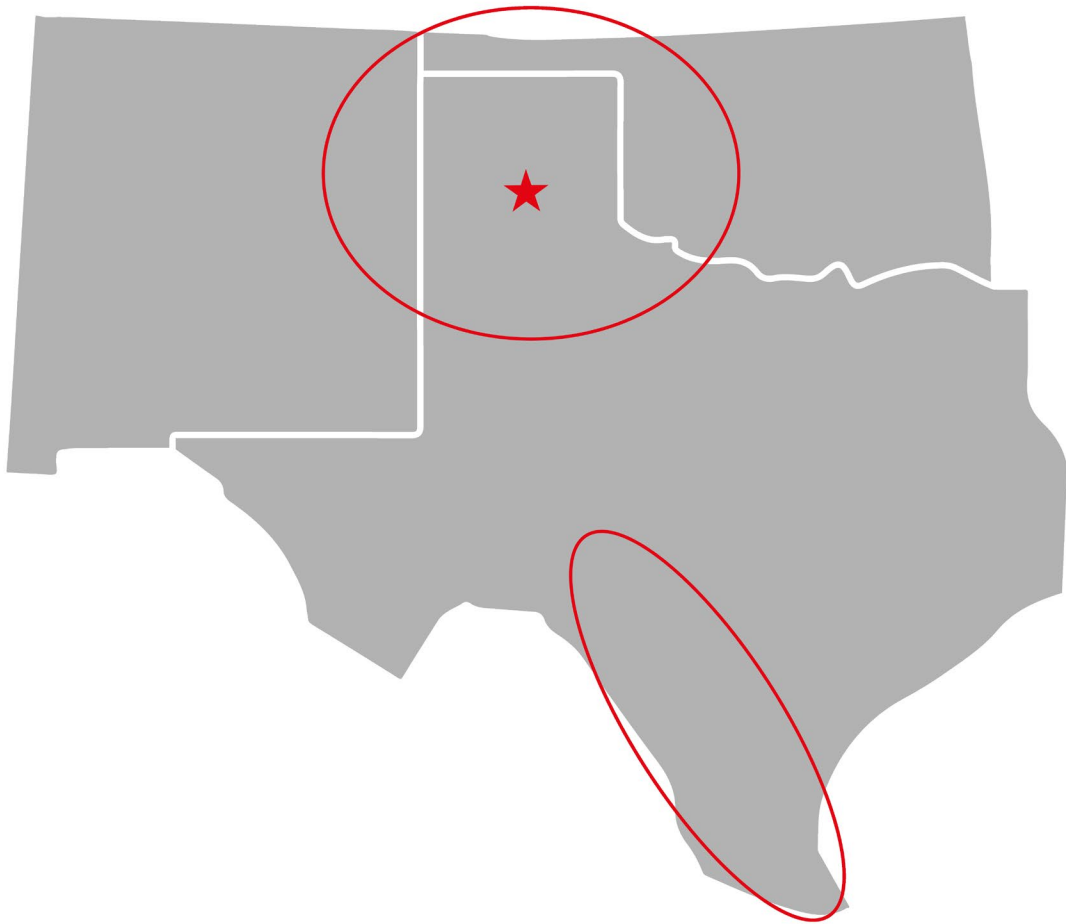


## CONSUMERS

The high-quality, sustainable beef produced in the TCFA region is sought after by beef consumers throughout the U.S. and world. On average, families in the U.S. consume 58 pounds of beef per person every year. While most of the beef produced in the U.S. is consumed in the U.S., approximately 12% of U.S. beef and beef by-products are exported to other countries. Scan the QR code to see a list of common beef by-products.



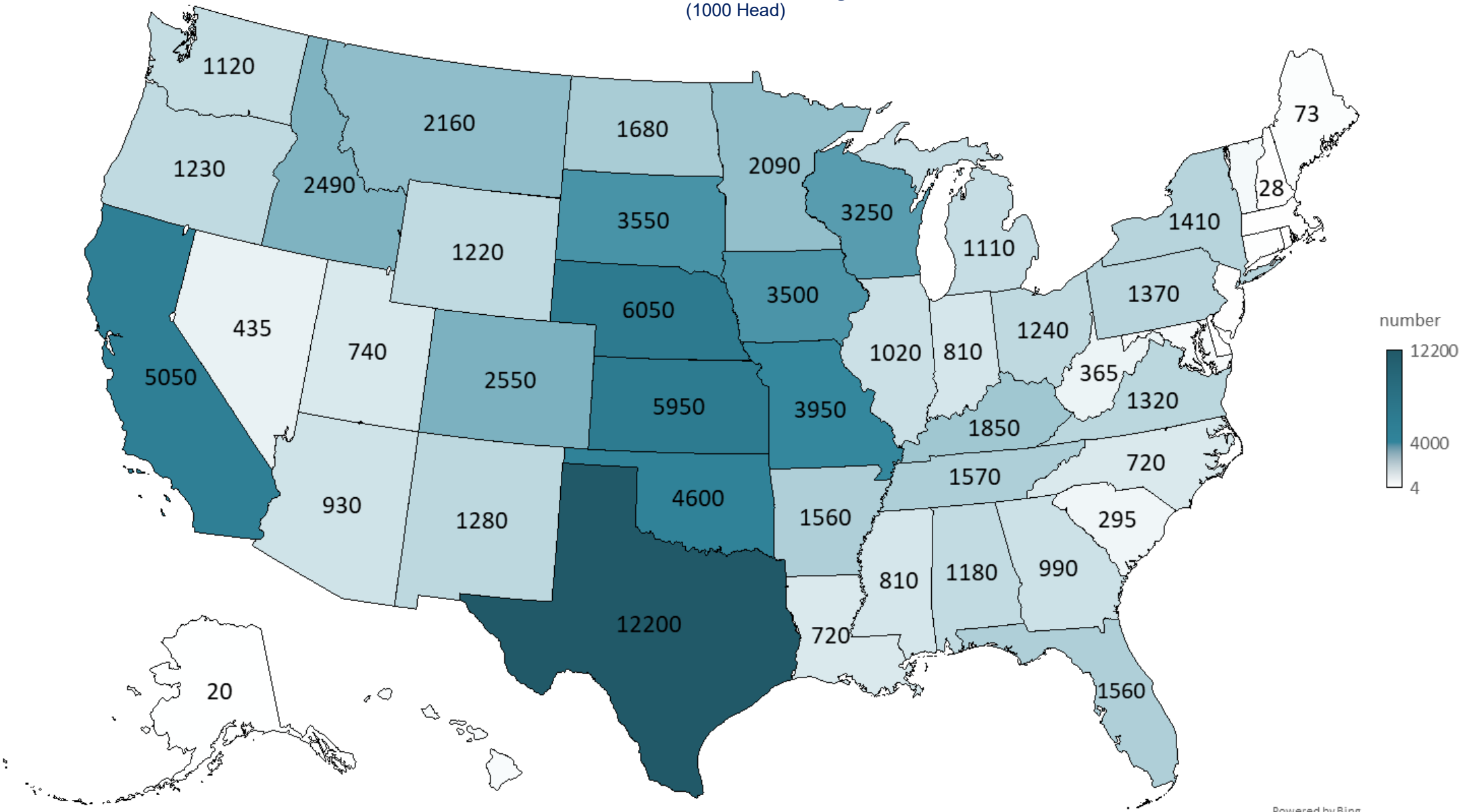
# CATTLE FEEDING COUNTRY



- 2.6 million head per year
- >25% of U.S. fed cattle
- 3.1 billion pounds of beef per year
- \$16.5 billion in direct regional economic impact
- 2,500 total jobs
- \$140 million combined payroll
- \$12 billion annual fed cattle sales
- \$9.3 billion purchases of feeders
- \$3 billion purchases of feed &

# Total Cattle – January 1, 2025

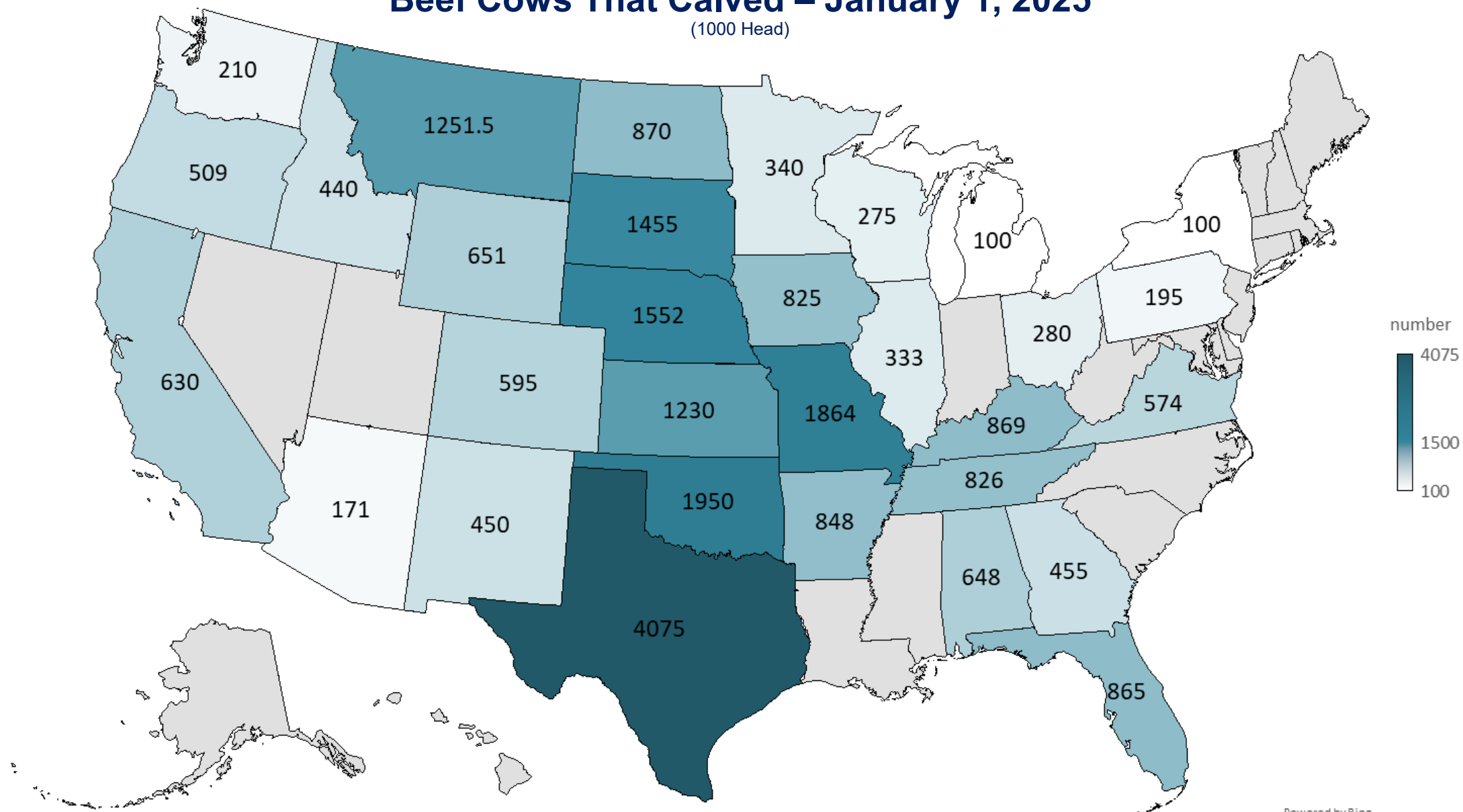
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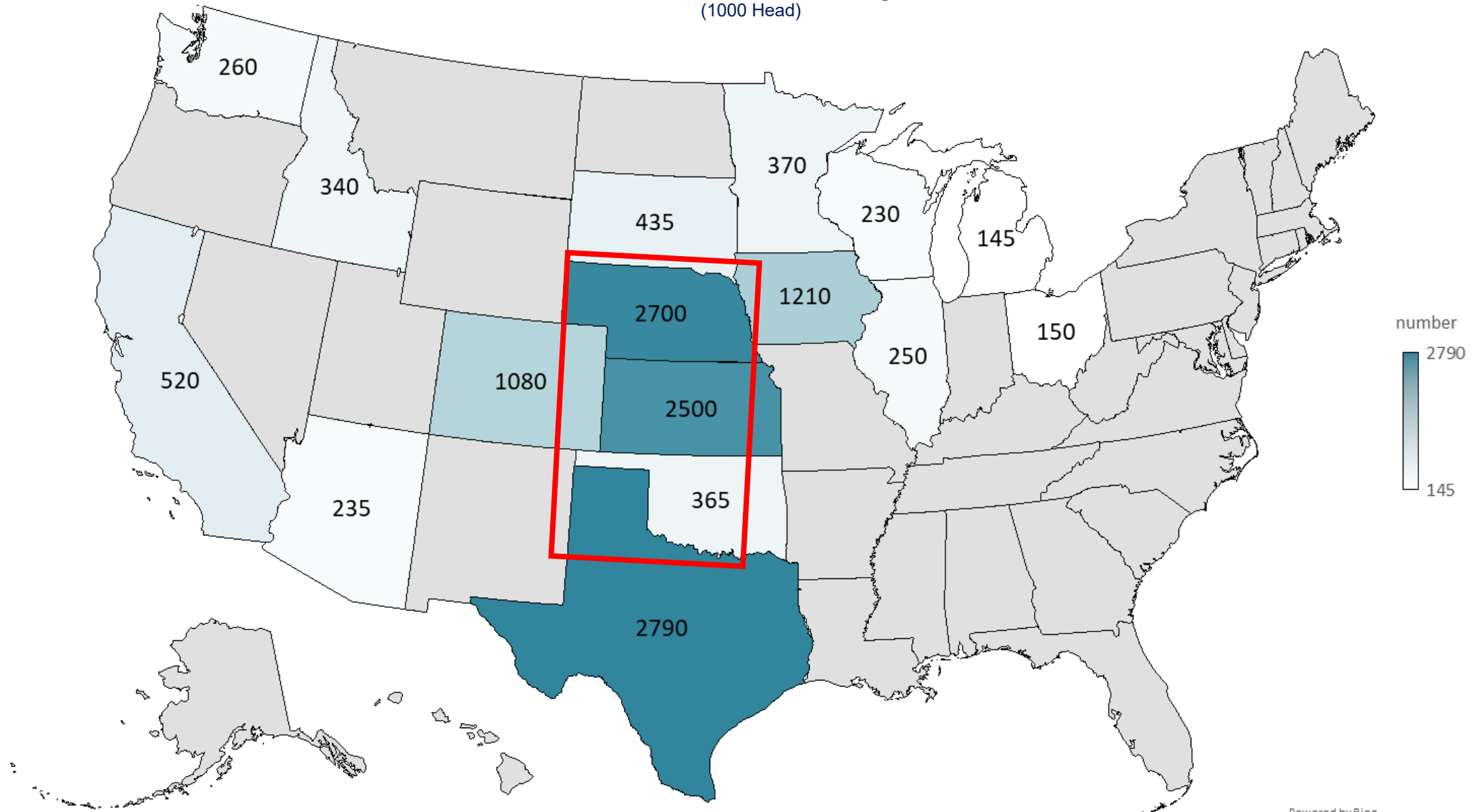
# Beef Cows That Calved – January 1, 2025

(1000 Head)

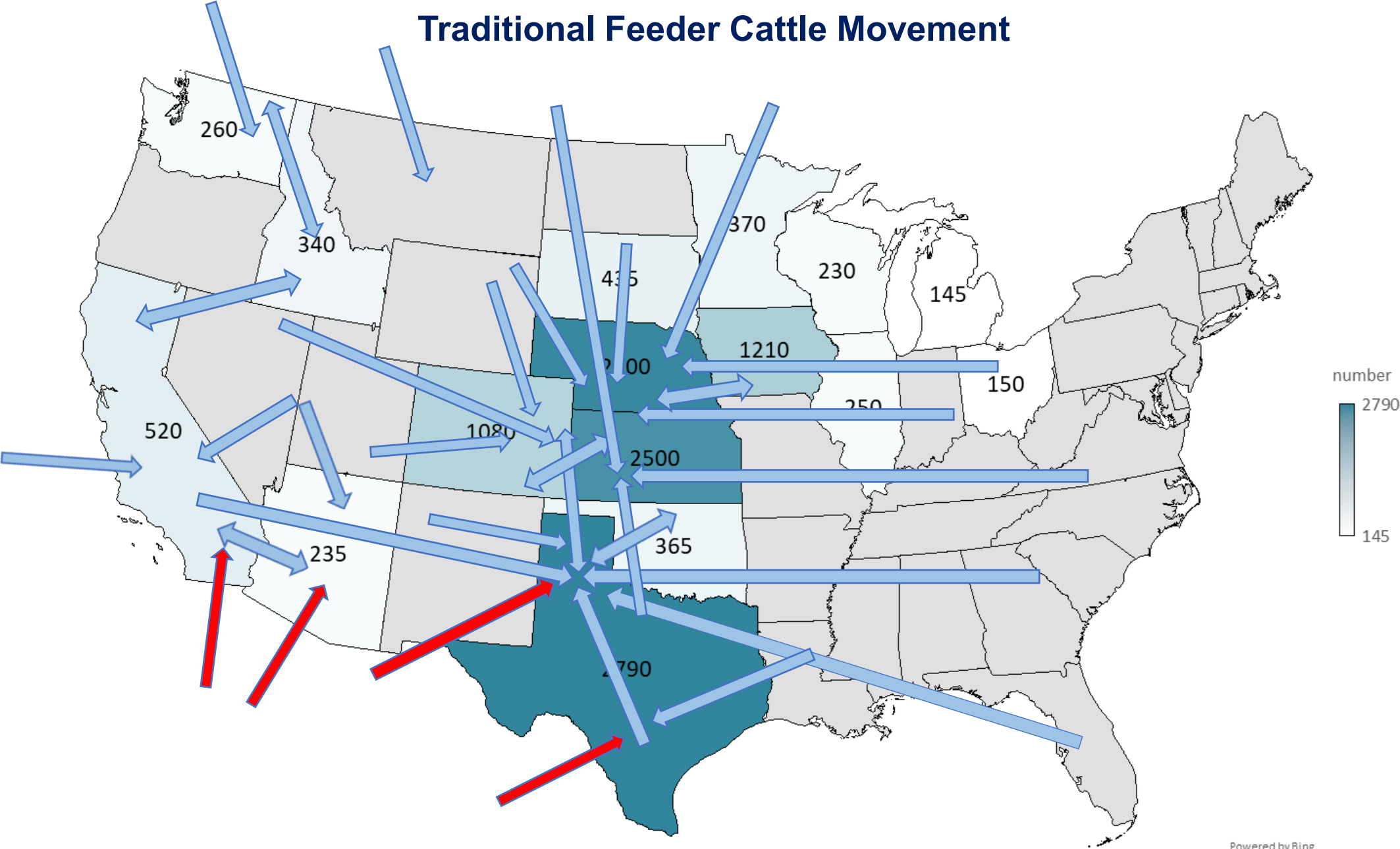


# Cattle on Feed – January 1, 2025

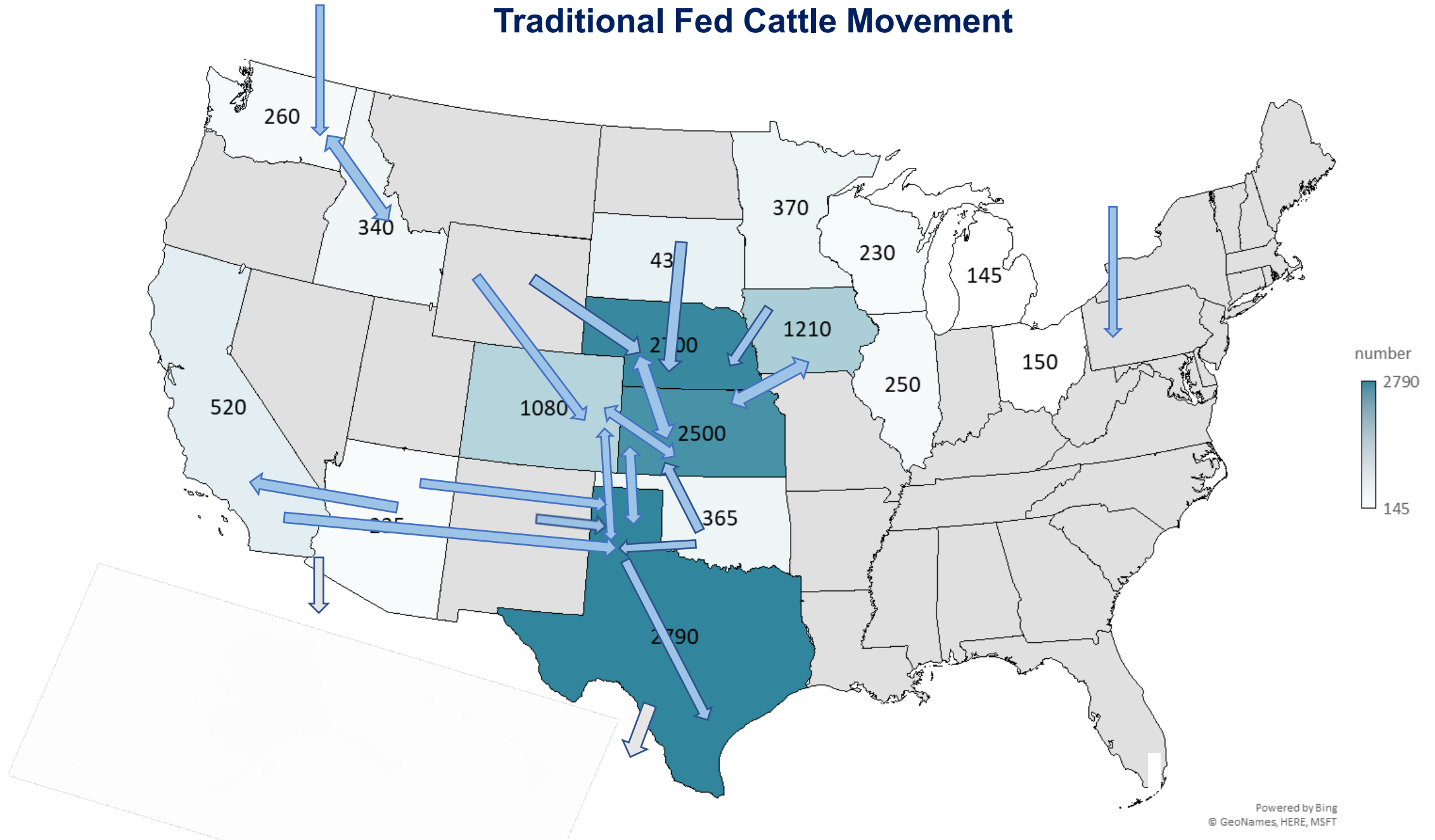
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# Traditional Feeder Cattle Movement



## Traditional Fed Cattle Movement





# TRANSPORTATION

Cattle feeders depend on the trucking and railroad industries to transport feedstuffs and cattle to and from feedyards.

Animal welfare and human safety are top priorities when safely hauling livestock.

The key to safely hauling live animals is to stop as infrequently as possible and to keep the trailer moving to provide ventilation.





# BEEF QUALITY ASSURANCE

TCFA was the first state cattlemen's association to implement a Beef Quality Assurance Program (BQA).

Science-based animal care practices that encompass nutrition programs, veterinary care, animal handling, and the judicious use of antibiotics as prescribed by a veterinarian.

TCFA also led the development of the Beef Quality Assurance Transportation Training Program which emphasizes driver safety and includes basic driver fatigue prevention, recognition and management techniques.





# LIVESTOCK HAULERS

Livestock haulers have a proven safety track record.

On an average annual basis between 2013 through 2015, livestock haulers accounted for 6.6% of all CDL holders, but were involved in less than 1% of total crashes involving large trucks.



# TRANSPORTATION POLICY

## TCFA SUPPORTS:

- flexibility under the Department of Transportation's current Hours of Service Rule
- increasing the maximum commercial motor vehicle weight to 97,000 lbs. for agriculture haulers that add a third trailer axle
- investments in infrastructure







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Thank you.

Questions?

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Josh Winegarner  
Director of Government Relations  
Texas Cattle Feeders Association  
(806) 683-2966 josh@tcfa.org

806.358.3681



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