

The Situation in Kenya

Livestock Farming and the Competitive Environment

Kenyan livestock farming is primarily composed of bovine animal rearing, beef and dairy cattle in particular as well as poultry farming, all of which are done both on a commercial and small scale basis. While some of the small scale livestock farming is done by farmers in and around their homesteads, a large percentage is done by Kenya's pastoral communities on a nomadic basis. These include, most notably, the Maasai and Turkana communities who migrate occasionally in search of pasture and water as well as to market their cattle, primarily for beef, skins and hides. Ranching is common in the Rift Valley region, with Kajiado, Narok and Samburu containing the most ranches respectively. Other regions include Nyanza, Eastern and Coast areas. Common beef cattle reared in Kenya include Charolis, Hereford and Boran.

Dairy farming is most prevalent in Central Kenya where the climate is most conducive. The main breeds reared in the country are Friesian, Jersey, Guernsey and Ayrshire. Milk processing is a booming sector locally, with the largest processors being Brookside, New Kenya Co-operative Creameries (NKCC), Githunguri and Sameer processing 1.5 million kilograms daily.

Leather, hides and skins as by-products of livestock farming account for about KES 10.6 billion of revenue contributions to the Kenyan economy and provide over 22,000 jobs both directly and indirectly. Leather footwear and tanning sub-sectors account for the majority of consumers of the aforementioned products, with 14 tanneries in existence in Kenya and an additional 8 expected to be set up. These include African Lily, Rift Valley Leather, Gonzala Leathers...

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