



History of Meat Industry

- Food gathering became food cultivation about 10,000 to 16,000 years ago.
- With the advent of fire and preservation methods, meat processing was established (1000 BC)
- Cattle, hogs and sheep are not native to the Americas
- Animals were brought to North America by explorers such as Columbus and Cortez

What is the goal of Animal Agriculture?

Production of food and fiber

History of the Meat Industry

- Early preservation of meat was done by "packing" it in barrels with salt ---> "meat packing industry" 1635
- 1641, William Pynchon in Springfield, Massachusetts was first meat packer exporting salt pork
- Uncle Sam – meat packer that supplied meat to army soldiers during the war of 1812
- The oldest meat packing company still in business is believed to be the William Underwood Company of Westwood, MA.

Where was the meat industry originally located? Why?

Chicago and later Cincinnati
Proximity to river

Upton Sinclair's The Jungle

Book about working conditions in
the meat industry

History of the Meat Industry

- Chicago's first livestock markets were taverns that provided stock pens for dealers who brought cattle to the city to trade. Chicago's first recorded slaughterhouse began operations in 1827.
- First Federal Meat Inspection laws were enacted in the 1880's. The first meat inspection law was passed in 1891 authorizing voluntary inspection of livestock and meat intended for interstate and foreign commerce

History of the Meat Industry

- Meat Inspection Act 1906
 - Upton Sinclair's book the Jungle brought into focus the practices of the day. This created the environment which resulted in the Meat Inspection act
 - Meat Inspection act requires ante- and post-mortem inspection as well as product inspection
 - The Nineties brought massive changes in the Inspection system.
 - 1996 Mega Regs
 - 1998 HACCP

US Meat Industry

- The meat and poultry industry is the largest component of both the nation's agricultural sector and food marketing industry
- Employ nearly half a million people
- Contributes over \$90 billion in annual sales to the GNP

North American Meat Companies

- ConAgra Inc., Omaha
 - Beef, pork, lamb, poultry and seafood
- Cargill Meat Sector, Minneapolis
 - Beef, pork and poultry
- Tyson Foods, Inc., Springdale
 - Poultry and seafood
 - IBP, Inc., Dakota Dunes
 - Beef and pork
- Sara Lee Packaged Meats, Chicago
 - Beef, pork and poultry
- Farmland Foods, Inc., Kansas City, MO
 - Beef and pork
- Smithfield Foods, Inc., Smithfield, VA
 - Pork and lamb
- Hormel Foods Corp., Austin, MN
 - Pork and turkey
- Oscar Mayer Foods, Madison, WI
 - Beef, pork and poultry
- Perdue Farms, Inc., Salisbury, MD
 - Chicken

Which large meat packer was recently bought out by a poultry company?

IBP