

KANSAS

At a Glance

Published by Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh
in collaboration with the
Kansas Department of Commerce and Kansas Historical Society

Kansas People

The people of Kansas are one of the state's greatest assets. Kansans are good, strong, industrious and dedicated to their beliefs.

Long before statehood, Kansans have been "humanistic"—devoted to helping others. The very birth of the state was surrounded by controversy over Kansans' pursuit of a humanistic goal: the abolition of slavery. The territorial period of Kansas was characterized by constant struggle between abolitionists and proslavery forces (many of the latter were from out of state). In the 1850s and 1860s, an "underground railroad" existed in Kansas—the "railroad" consisted of groups of people who hid and aided escaped slaves.



Edward P. McCabe

The various abolitionist activities in Kansas made the state a haven for African-Americans after the Civil War. Nicodemus, a town in western Kansas primarily comprised of African-Americans, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976. The town benefitted from the leadership of **Edward P. McCabe**, who served as secretary in 1878 and county clerk in 1880. Elected state auditor in 1883, McCabe became the first African-American elected to a statewide office in Kansas and served in that post until 1887.

During the "cattle town" days in Kansas, several lawmen in the state gained national fame. **James Butler "Wild Bill" Hickok** was active in Kansas in the 1860s and 1870s, serving part of that time as city marshal in the cattle town of Abilene. **Wyatt Earp** served as a lawman in Wichita and Dodge City during the 1870s. **"Bat" Masterson** served during the same era as Sheriff of Ford County, where Dodge City is located. **William Frederick ("Buffalo Bill") Cody** earned his nickname while hunting buffalo to supply meat to laborers on the Kansas Pacific Railroad. Cody, an Indian scout and Pony Express rider, lived much of his life in Kansas.



"Buffalo Bill"
Cody

Noted U.S. botanist and chemist **George Washington Carver**, called the "foremost agricultural scientist of the age," lived in Kansas during his youth and homesteaded in Ness County for a time.

Around the turn of the century, **Carry Nation**, Medicine Lodge, became nationally known as a symbol of the temperance movement. She is best known for destroying illegal saloons with her famous hatchets.



Carry Nation

Well-known artists from Kansas include **Henry Worrall** of Topeka, who painted portraits and Kansas landscapes during the 1860s. He was known for his contributions to popular magazines of the day. **John Stuart Curry** of Jefferson County was another well-known Kansas artist.

Among Curry's works are several murals in the Kansas Capitol. Artist

Sven Birger Sandzen immigrated to the United States from Sweden in 1894 to teach at Bethany College in Lindsborg. A museum there honors him. The provocative drawings of **Elizabeth "Grandma" Layton**, Wellsville, have earned her national recognition. Layton drew pictures of herself, reflecting the joys and pains of being a woman and of growing older in a society that seems to value being male and young.

Kansas has produced a president of the United States, a vice president, and unsuccessful major party nominees for both positions. **Dwight D. Eisenhower**, who was raised in Abilene, was commander-in-chief of the Allied Armies in Europe during World War II and U.S. president from 1953-61. He is buried in Abilene. Topekan **Charles Curtis**, who was part Kansa Indian, served as the first Native American vice president of the United States under Herbert Hoover.



Dwight D.
Eisenhower

Curtis served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1893 to 1907 and served in the U.S. Senate from 1907 until he was elected vice president in 1929. As Senate Majority Leader under President Woodrow Wilson in 1919, Curtis led the floor fight for women's suffrage. **Alf Landon**, Independence, was Kansas Governor from 1933-1937. In 1936, as the Republican presidential nominee, Landon lost to Franklin D. Roosevelt by one of the greatest margins in American political history. **Bob Dole**, Russell, U.S. Senator from 1969-1996 and Senate Republican leader for 12 years, was the Republican candidate for vice president in 1976 and the Republican candidate for president in 1996.



Charles Curtis

Kansas' motto, "To the Stars Through Difficulties," has taken on even greater significance in view of the accomplishments of four native sons. **Clyde Tombaugh**, Burdette, discovered the planet Pluto in 1930. A generation

Kansas People

later, **Ron Evans**, St. Francis, was pilot of the command module during the flight of Apollo 17 to the moon. Evans was the first of three Kansas astronauts. **Joe Engle**, Chapman, was commander of the Space Shuttle Columbia's second mission. **Steve Hawley**, who was born in Ottawa and raised in Salina, was a mission specialist aboard the maiden flight of the Space Shuttle Discovery.



Steve Hawley

Many Kansas women have achieved important "firsts." **Lucy Hobbs Taylor**, the first fully-trained female dentist in the world, practiced dentistry in Lawrence from 1867 to 1907. In 1887, the town of Argonia chose **Susanna Madora Salter** as its mayor—the first female mayor in the country. **Lutie Lytle**, Topeka, was the first African-American female to be admitted to the practice of law in the U.S. (1897).

Nellie Cline of Larned was the first female lawyer to appear before the U.S. Supreme Court, April 4, 1918. **Kathryn O'Loughlin** was the first female elected to represent Kansas as a member of the U.S. Congress. A Democrat, she served from 1932 to 1934. Aviatix **Amelia Earhart** of Atchison was the first female granted a pilot's license by the National Aeronautics Association and the first female—and only the second person—to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. She disappeared during her 1937 attempt to fly around the world. **Georgia Neese Clark Gray**, a Topeka banker and business woman, was the first female appointed U.S. Treasurer. She served in that position from 1949-53. Supreme Court Justice **Kay McFarland** is the first female to serve on the state's high court. McFarland was appointed to the Kansas Supreme Court in September 1977 by Governor Robert Bennett and became Chief Justice in 1995. In 1973, McFarland became the first female ever elected district judge.



Amelia Earhart

In 1978, Kansas elected its first female U.S. Senator. **Nancy Kassebaum Baker**, daughter of former Kansas governor and 1936 presidential nominee Alf Landon, became the first female from any state to be elected in her own right to a full term in the U.S. Senate.



Kay McFarland

A number of outstanding athletes have come from Kansas. Kinsley native **Peter Mehringer** won a gold medal at the 1932 Olympic games in the light heavyweight wrestling competition. Also in the 1930s, **Glenn Cunningham** of Elkhart held the world record in the mile run.



Nancy Kassebaum Baker

Another Kansan, **San Romani**, was Cunningham's teammate in the 1936 Olympics. In the 1960s, **Jim Ryun**, Wichita, set a new world record for the mile run, becoming the first American mile titlist in 30 years. He also held

world records for 1500 meters and the half mile. Ryun was named the World's Outstanding Athlete in 1966 and 1967, and was a three-time Olympian. In boxing, **Jess Willard** of Emmett was the world heavyweight boxing champion during the World War I era. One of major league baseball's greatest right-handed pitchers and a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, **Walter "Big Train" Johnson**, was a native of Humboldt. **Lynette Woodard**, Wichita, became the women's college career scoring record holder as a senior at the University of Kansas. She captained the 1984 U.S. Olympic team that won the gold medal in Los Angeles. In 1985, she became the first female Harlem Globetrotter.



Lynette Woodard

Dean Smith, an Emporia native, was head basketball coach at the University of North Carolina from 1961-1997. Smith, who played basketball at the University of Kansas, coached the U.S. Olympic basketball team to a gold medal in 1976. Professional golfer **Jim Colbert** honed his game in Kansas. He won the Kansas state junior golf title at age 11 and placed second in the 1964 NCAA tournament while a student at Kansas State University. In 1965, he won the Kansas Amateur title, and that fall he qualified for the PGA tour. **Marilyn Smith**, a Topeka native, has 22 career victories on the Ladies Professional Golf Association circuit. She is a founder and charter member of the LPGA.

Kansas also has had its share of prestigious prize winners. **Earl Sutherland**, who was born in Burlingame, won the Nobel Prize for physiology and medicine in 1971. Four individual Pulitzer Prize winners have been Kansans. In 1923, famed Kansas journalist **William Allen White**, editor and publisher of the *Emporia Gazette*, was awarded a Pulitzer for his editorial "To an Anxious Friend." **William Inge**, a native of Independence, was a Pulitzer winning playwright. He wrote "Picnic," "Bus Stop" and "Come Back, Little Sheba." **Gordon Parks**, born in Fort Scott, won the 1973 Pulitzer Prize in photography. He is a world-renowned photographer, writer and motion picture producer. Parks wrote the books "The Learning Tree" and "A Choice of Weapons," and he directed the movie "Shaft." **Brian Lanker**, a photographer for the *Topeka Capital-Journal*, won a Pulitzer Prize for photography in 1973. As an organization, the *Hutchinson News* received a Pulitzer Prize in 1965 for its role in securing reapportionment of state legislative districts in Kansas.



Gordon Parks

Other notable Kansans include industrialist **Walter P. Chrysler**, who established the Chrysler Corporation in 1925. Chrysler was born in Wamego and grew up in Ellis. **Ben Hibbs** was editor of the *Saturday Evening Post* from 1942-1961 and senior editor of *Reader's Digest* from 1962-1972. **Senator Arthur Capper**, the 20th Kansas governor and a U.S. Senator, established the Capper Foundation in 1959. The foundation provides programs and services for children with disabilities, including physical, occupational and speech therapy, and academics for kindergarten through high school.

Kansas is named after the Kansa Indians. Kansa means “People of the South Wind.”

Kansas entered the Union on January 29, 1861, marking the end of a long period of exploration and settlement, and following a brief but bloody and bitter struggle between early settlers over extending slavery.

The region that is now Kansas had been inhabited by a diverse Native American population for thousands of years before the Spanish explorer Francisco Vasquez de Coronado arrived in 1541. Lured by tales of wealth in a place called Quivira, he traveled to Kansas land from New Mexico. Coronado found no gold, only rich land.

By the late 18th century, France claimed all of the Louisiana territory, which included most of Kansas and 12 other future states. In 1803 the United States purchased the territory from France, completing the largest acquisition of land added to the U.S. at one time. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark

camped on the Kansas side of the Missouri River while exploring the new purchase in 1804. In 1821, Missouri trader William Becknell risked a westward journey, and the Santa Fe Trail was born. The Oregon Trail, used by emigrants

during the middle decades of the 1800s, crossed the northeastern section of the state.

Passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Act in 1854 opened these territories to white settlement, also giving rise to the struggle between proslavery and free-state forces. As these forces came into conflict, acts of terrorism were committed on both sides. The fiery abolitionist John Brown was at the heart of the conflict. At the same time, the federal government began the forced removal of Native American tribes from Kansas. Although most tribes were removed by 1871, white settlement on the Western frontier resulted in periodic violence that continued until 1878. Today, four recognized tribes maintain reservations in Kansas—the Prairie Band Potawatomi, Kickapoo, Iowa, and Sac and Fox. However, dozens of tribes are represented by the thousands of Native Americans residing in the state. The rich Indian heritage of Kansas can be seen in the many place names of Indian origin.

In 1857, gold fever struck as word spread of rich deposits near Pike’s Peak, Kansas. In response to the need for better forms of communication, the Leavenworth freighting firm of Russell, Majors and Waddell established the Pony Express in 1860. The route led across the northeastern corner of Kansas. The Pony Express became

obsolete in October 1861 with the completion of the transcontinental telegraph.

Several attempts were made to draw up a constitution under which Kansas might be admitted to statehood. Both free-state and proslavery constitutions were drafted. In July 1859, a free-state constitution was drafted that fixed the present boundaries of the state. In April 1860, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to admit Kansas. The Senate, under proslavery domination, refused. Thus, statehood for Kansas became a national issue. Following the election of Abraham Lincoln and the secession of Southern states from the Union, the Kansas bill was passed on January 29, 1861, making Kansas the 34th state of what at the time was a rapidly disintegrating Union.

More than 20,000 Kansans served in the Civil War, including 2,080 African-American troops (most of them actually came from Arkansas and Missouri). Throughout



DAVID MATHIAS

The state’s most famous work of art is this mural, completed in 1940 by native-born John Steuart Curry (1897-1946). The mural, which is 31 feet by 11-1/2 feet, is located on the second floor of the Kansas Capitol. The central figure is John Brown, who is surrounded by free-state and proslavery forces. The two figures at their feet symbolize the 1.5 million Civil War dead and wounded. During this turbulent Territorial era, Kansas was known as “Bleeding Kansas.”

the war, Kansas suffered guerilla raids and skirmishes. The most notable was William C. Quantrill’s attack on Lawrence August 21, 1863.

When the Union Pacific Railroad reached Abilene in 1867, long-horned cattle were driven to Kansas where they were fattened on native buffalo grass before being shipped to market. The next two decades saw the rise of the notorious cow towns, including Abilene and Dodge City. With the passage of the Homestead Law in 1862, Congress opened a floodgate of white settlement.

Life was hard for early Plains settlers. Scarce resources, crop failures and periodic droughts were followed in 1874 by an invasion of grasshoppers that devoured every bit of vegetation in their path. Also in 1874, Mennonite immigrants from Russia introduced “Turkey Red” wheat, which would provide the basis for the preeminence of Kansas as a wheat producing state.

The beginning of the “exoduster” movement in 1878 brought thousands of African-Americans to settlements such as Dunlap, Singleton and Nicodemus.

Social, industrial and political progress opened the 20th century. Kansas, now in its second hundred years, takes pride in its fine schools, its leadership in the field of agriculture, and its rapid economic development.

Facts & Symbols

State Song

“Home on the Range” (Adopted in 1947)

Lyrics by Dr. Brewster Higley,
music by Dan Kelly

“Oh, give me a home where the buffalo roam,
Where the deer and the antelope play,
Where seldom is heard a discouraging word
And the sky is not clouded all day.”



DEPT. OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

State Insect
Honeybee



KANSAS WILDFLOWER SOCIETY

State Flower
Wild native sunflower



DEPT. OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

State Reptile
Ornate box turtle



SUZANNE L. COLLINS

State Amphibian
Barred tiger salamander



DEPT. OF WILDLIFE & PARKS

State Bird
Western meadowlark



GERALD J. WIENS

State Tree
Cottonwood

State Soil

Harney Silt Loam

State Nicknames

Wheat State, Sunflower State, Jayhawker State

Time Zones

Most of Kansas is located in the Central Standard Time zone; a small portion of western Kansas is in the Mountain Standard Time zone.

Population

The estimated population of Kansas is 2,688,418 (as of April 1, 2000). The 10 largest cities in Kansas and their populations are:

| | | | |
|---------------|---------|------------|--------|
| Wichita | 344,284 | Lawrence | 80,098 |
| Kansas City | 146,866 | Salina | 45,679 |
| Overland Park | 149,080 | Manhattan | 44,831 |
| Topeka | 122,377 | Hutchinson | 40,787 |
| Olathe | 92,962 | Shawnee | 47,996 |



SUZANNE L. COLLINS

State Animal
American buffalo

Facts & Symbols

Great Seal of the State of Kansas



The Great Seal of the State of Kansas was established by a joint resolution adopted by the Kansas Legislature May 25, 1861. The seal is described in the resolution as follows:

“The east is represented by a rising sun, in the right-hand corner of the seal; to the left of it, commerce is represented by a river and a steamboat; in the foreground, agriculture is represented as the basis of the future prosperity of the state, by a settler’s cabin and a man plowing with a pair of horses; beyond this is a train of ox-wagons, going west; in the background is seen a herd of buffalo, retreating, pursued by two Indians, on horseback; around the top is the motto, ‘Ad astra per aspera,’ and beneath a cluster of thirty-four stars. The circle is surrounded by the words, ‘Great seal of the state of Kansas. January 29, 1861.’”

The design for the Great Seal of Kansas was submitted by John J. Ingalls, a state senator from Atchison. Ingalls also proposed the state motto, “Ad Astra per Aspera,” Latin for “To the Stars Through Difficulties.” Ingalls went on to become a U.S. Senator and gained nationwide acclaim in the 1860s as an orator.

Kansas State Flag

The Kansas state flag, adopted by the Kansas Legislature as the official state flag in 1927, is a rectangle of dark-blue silk with the state seal at its center. Above the seal is the state crest, a sunflower (the state flower) resting on a twisted bar of blue and gold, representing the Louisiana Purchase. The word “Kansas,” added in 1961, is below the seal in gold, block lettering.

The history of the state is written in the flag. Thirty-four stars in the constellation on the state seal signify Kansas as the 34th state admitted to the Union. Rolling hills identify terrain near Fort Riley, and a steamboat represents navigation when the Kansas River was used to deliver supplies to Manhattan and Fort Riley. Indians hunting bison, teams of oxen and a pair of prairie schooners suggest the advance of the frontier, while plowed fields before a log cabin represent agriculture.

The flag was first displayed in 1927 at Fort Riley by



Governor Ben Paulen in the presence of troops from Fort Riley and the Kansas National Guard.

There are few formal guidelines for the state flag; however, custom and some state laws dictate certain procedures. State law provides that the flag is to be used “on every and all occasions, when the state is officially represented.”

Kansas state flags may be purchased from the Office of the Secretary of State.

Government

Kansas became the 34th state in the Union on January 29, 1861. The state government of Kansas is based in Topeka, which has served as the state capital since 1861.

A progressive yet cautious spirit has always characterized the government of Kansas. Kansas is one of the few states in the nation that does not issue revenue bonds to finance general government activities. A “cash-basis law” requires that the state operate strictly on the money available. Bond issues are allowed for capital improvements, such as major roads and buildings.

The Kansas Capitol was constructed over a period of 37 years, from 1866 to 1903, at a total cost of \$3.2 million. The Capitol is 399 feet north and south and 386 feet east and west, and 304 feet from the ground to the top of the dome. The interior consists of a basement and five floors in the central portion of the building, and a basement and four floors in the east and west wings. The Capitol currently houses the offices of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and Revisor of Statutes; the Kansas House and Senate chambers, legislative offices and administrative staff; the Capitol press corps; and the Kansas State Library.



STEPHEN SMITH

Kansas leaders have never been afraid to try new ways of doing things. The state pioneered the use of the direct primary election. Senator Bristow, the first United States senator nominated in Kansas under that system, introduced in Congress the resolution that put direct election of U.S. senators into the U.S. Constitution. Prior to that time senators were not elected by the people, but were chosen by state legislatures.

Kansas led the nation in granting suffrage to women. The first legislature in 1861 gave women the right to vote in school elections. Suffrage was extended in 1887 to city and bond elections. The rights of women were recognized in the original state constitution, which guarantees women equal privileges with men in the ownership of property and control of children. This was a tremendous advance over the rights allowed women in the Eastern states at that time. Universal suffrage was granted in Kansas in 1912 by constitutional amendment.

Kansas was one of the first states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment to the United States Constitution, March 28, 1972.

Kansas has three branches of government.

Executive Branch

The Executive Branch includes the elected state officers provided for in the Kansas Constitution: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General and members of the State Board of Education. Other elected state officers are the Commissioner of Insurance and State Treasurer. All serve four-year terms. The Executive Branch offices exist to enforce or carry out the laws enacted by the Legislative Branch.

All offices in the Executive Branch are either directly or indirectly controlled by one of the elective officers, or are special agencies created by the Legislature to function independently within state government. The Legislature has the power to abolish any state agency (except constitutional offices) at any time. Major state agencies are headed by cabinet-level secretaries, who are appointed by the governor. In recent years, the efficiency of state government has been increased by combining similar agencies and abolishing antiquated, unnecessary ones.

Legislative Branch

The State Senate and the House of Representatives make up the Legislative Branch. There are 40 senators (each representing approximately 60,000 Kansans) and 125 representatives (each representing approximately 19,000 Kansans), all elected by the voters of Kansas. Senators serve four-year terms and representatives serve two-year terms. The Legislature meets annually for 90 days starting in January.

Judicial Branch

The state’s judicial system is headed by the Supreme Court, with a chief justice and six justices. Other courts include the Court of Appeals, with a chief judge and nine judges, and 31 district courts. Each judicial district has district judges and district magistrate judges, as prescribed by law.

Kansas has 105 counties and 627 incorporated cities.

“Ad Astra,” a bronze statue of a Kansa Indian was placed on the Statehouse dome on October 10, 2002. Dr. Richard Bergen, a Salina artist, worked 14 years designing, casting, and financing “Ad Astra,” raising most of the \$1.6 million expense from private donations. The statue stands 22 feet 2 inches tall and weighs 4,420 pounds. The name is short for the Kansas motto, “Ad Astra per Aspera,” which means “to the stars through difficulty.” “Ad Astra” pays tribute to the Kansa Indians, a tribe of hunter gatherers that lived in the Topeka area, and to the state’s pioneers. “Ad Astra” is pointing his bow to the North Star to symbolize the state’s pioneers use of the star as a navigational tool enabling them to find their way.



Geography & Natural Resources

Located in the heart of the nation, Kansas is a 208 by 411 mile rectangle. It rises from fewer than 700 feet above sea level in its southeastern corner to more than 4,100 feet at its western border and has a total of 82,264 square miles. Kansas ranks 14th among the states in geographic size. Because of its distance from east to west,

The Flint Hills, located in east-central Kansas, is the largest remaining tallgrass prairie in the United States covering more than five million acres.



KANSAS TRAVEL & TOURISM

Kansas has a great variation of climate, terrain, soil and native plants and animals. Most of the state lies within a region generally called the Great Plains.

The geographic center of the contiguous 48 states of the United States is located near Lebanon, in Smith County in north central Kansas.

Kansas has five river systems and more than 50,000 streams large enough to be named. The Missouri, Kaw and Arkansas rivers are considered navigable.

There are 23 federal reservoirs in Kansas and 40 state fishing lakes. Kansas also has 90 wildlife areas.

Among the state's unique topographical features are the Flint Hills, a bluestem or tallgrass prairie in the east-central part of the state covering an area about 50 miles wide. It is the only extensive, unplowed tract of true prairie remaining in the U.S. The Flint Hills were a natural habitat for buffalo, once estimated in numbers of 60 to 75 million.

Chalk beds containing some of the world's most extensive specimens of pre-historic fossils are found in Logan and Gove counties.

Climate

Kansas has a varied climate with an average annual temperature of 56 degrees. Average rainfall is 27 inches a year, ranging from 40 inches in the southeast to 20 inches in the west. More than 70 percent of the annual precipitation falls between April 1 and September 30. The western half of the state has as many as 300 clear or partly clear days, while the eastern half has 275 such days. Kansas is a windy state; an average wind speed of 12.3 mph makes Dodge City one of the windiest cities in the nation.

Minerals

Kansas ranks among the top 10 mineral-producing states in the nation. Kansas leads the nation in the production of helium, ranks fifth in the production of natural gas and eighth nationally in petroleum production. Leading mineral resources in Kansas, by total dollar value of production, include: petroleum, natural gas, propane, helium, cement, salt, coal, building stone, sand and gravel, and clay and shale products.

Wildlife

Largemouth bass, bluegill, flathead catfish, Kentucky or spotted bass, striped bass and walleye are among the species of fish found in Kansas lakes and streams.

Hunting enthusiasts enjoy a wide selection of game. Kansas boasts the largest flock of prairie chickens on the North American continent. Pheasants are Kansas' staple game bird. Other wildlife include quail, turkey, duck, deer, geese, rabbit and squirrel.



RAY BRECHEISEN

The Marais des Cygnes Wildlife Area, located in the southeast region of the state, is a popular destination for hunters and bird watchers.



CHARLIE REIDEL

An aerial view of Castle Rock, located 22 miles southeast of Quinter in northwest Kansas. The 70-million-year-old chalk spire, measuring 70 feet high, can be seen for miles and has been the site of several significant fossil discoveries.

Commerce & Industry



Kansas Agricultural Products & Mineral Resources



Commerce and industry in Kansas are varied, but they are dominated by the aircraft industry and agriculture-related enterprises. Products manufactured in the state range from airplanes to pizza, from camping equipment to greeting cards and from tires to pet food. Other major industries include meat packing, mining, flour milling and petroleum refining.

The variety of commerce and industry creates a healthy state economy and a good job market. Unemployment in Kansas is consistently among the lowest in the nation. The state's location in the center of the country makes Kansas an ideal site for many businesses.

Kansas is one of the leading agricultural states in the country. Nearly 50 million acres of Kansas land are devoted to farming. Leading crops and livestock products are wheat, grain sorghums, forage sorghums, sorghum silage, corn, soybeans, sugar beets, oats, alfalfa hay, barley, alfalfa seed, wild hay, lespedeza seed, dehydrated alfalfa, cattle, sheep and hogs.

Kansas is the leading state in wheat production, growing approximately one fifth of all the wheat produced in the United States. Kansas produces more wheat than the exporting country of Argentina. It would take a train stretching from western Kansas to the Atlantic Ocean to contain all the wheat grown in Kansas in a single year.

Kansas ranks second in beef processing and production and third in the producers of red meat in the United States. Kansas has 34,000 farms with cattle and calves.



Boeing mechanics complete assembly of a 777 twinjet cab at the Wichita plant. Wichita is known as the aviation capital of the world.

BOEING

Kansas is the world leader in the production of general aviation aircraft, with more than 30,000 workers employed by four major aerospace companies. Starting in 1917—and continuing through World War I—Clyde Cessna (Cessna Aircraft Company), Lloyd Stearman (Boeing Business Jets), Walter Beech (Raytheon Aircraft), and Bill Lear (Bombardier Aerospace-Learjet) began building aircraft in Wichita. Today, over half of the world's general aviation aircraft are manufactured in Kansas. Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company, has major commercial and military operations in Wichita, Kansas.



KANSAS WHEAT COMMISSION

Kansas farmers produce an average of 400 million bushels of wheat per year.



KANSAS BEEF COUNCIL

The value of beef sold by Kansas packers was 4.81 billion in 2000. Cattle feedyards in western Kansas are some of the largest in the country.