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traditional ways and serve largely as tokens of their owners' wealth. Europe has about 130 million head of cattle (CT 2006, SC 2006). Cattle today are the basis of a many billion dollar industry worldwide. The international trade in beef for 2000 was over US\$30 billion and represented only 23 percent of world beef production (Clay 2004). The production of milk, which is also made into cheese, butter, yogurt, and other dairy products, is comparable in size to beef production and provides an important part of the food supply for much of the world's people. Cattle hides, used for leather to make shoes and clothing, are another important product. In India and other poorer nations, cattle are also important as draft animals as they have been for thousands of years. Newly born Angus calf with mother Concerns have been expressed about the impact of cattle on the environment. Pasture land for cattle grazing is now the largest agricultural land use worldwide. The conversion of natural environments to pasture land has threatened native plants and animals in many places; this is especially a problem in Brazil where large areas of rainforest are being cut down for cattle pasture. Cattle naturally produce methane gas though their digestive process and, because of their large numbers, this is thought to contribute to the process of global warming. Cattle keeping also can contribute to water pollution, air pollution, and soil degradation (Clay 2004). Feral cattle, domestic cattle which have returned to the wild, are also an environmental problem in many places (ISSG 2005). A large part of the grains, legumes, and other crops grown worldwide are used to feed cattle. Cattle keeping is also a big user of water, gasoline, and other energy sources. It has sometimes been asked if it would benefit humanity more if the cattle population was less and more of these resources were used to feed people directly (Clay 2004). ReferencesISBN links support NWE through referral fees Bhattacharya, S. 2003. "Cattle Ownership Makes It a Man's World." Newscientist.com. Retrieved December 26, 2006. Cattle Today (CT). 2006. Website. "Breeds of Cattle." Cattle Today. Retrieved December 26, 2006) Clay, J. 2004. World Agriculture and the Environment: A Commodity-by-Commodity Guide to Impacts and Practices. Washington, DC: Island Press. ISBN 1559633700 Clutton-Brock, J. 1999. A Natural History of Domesticated Mammals. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 0521634954 Huffman, B. 2006. "The Ultimate Ungulate Page." UltimateUngulate.com. Retrieved December 26, 2006. Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG). 2005. "Bos taurus." Global Invasive Species Database. Nowak, R. M., and J. L. Paradiso. 1983. Walker's Mammals of the World. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press. ISBN 0801825253 Oklahoma State University (OSU). 2006. "Breeds of Cattle." Retrieved January 5, 2007. Public Broadcasting Service (PBS). 2004. "Holy Cow." PBS Nature. Retrieved January 5, 2007. Rath, S. 1998. The Complete Cow. Stillwater, MN: Voyageur Press. ISBN 0896583759 Raudiansky, S. 1992. The Covenant of the Wild. New York: William Morrow. ISBN 0688096107 Spectrum Commodities (SC). 2006. "Live Cattle." Spectrumcommodities.com. Retrieved January 5, 2007. Voelker, W. 1986. The Natural History of Living Mammals. Medford, NJ: Plexus Publishing. ISBN 0937548081 Yogananda, P. 1946. The Autobiography of a Yogi. Los Angeles: Self-Realization Fellowship. ISBN 0876120834

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