

"KOSCIUSKO COUNTY"

INDIANA'S LEADER

IN

LIVESTOCK

PRESENTED TO

THE

KOSCIUSKO LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

BY

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*No
Record*

Kosciusko County is recognized in Indiana as the state's leading livestock producer. While much of the county's population has shifted from rural to urban, few people have kept up with the many changes in the livestock industry. Even those involved in agriculture are not fully aware of even the basics of, for example, of collecting eggs in a modern laying house. To make this experience of seeing inside livestock facilities possible to those who do not have access to them, a presentation on film is needed.

The video, titled "Kosciusko County - Indiana's Leader in Livestock" provides a concise thirty minute overview of some of the major livestock enterprises presently operating in the county. The film offers information about each enterprise through on-site interviews with an owner or manager at each farm. The species covered in the presentation includes chickens, turkeys, ducks, veal calves, dairy cattle, beef cattle, and hogs.

The purpose of the film is to raise public awareness of the inner workings of modern livestock production and emphasize the importance of this industry to our county. At each location the operator of the systems explains the stages of production, answers questions about his business, discusses important management factors, and tells how and why his enterprise is suited to Kosciusko County.

How did Kosciusko County become the state's leading producer? There are many factors, but diversity, soil type, and the application of mechanization and technology are three discussed here.

This county ranks in the top ten in Indiana in the production of most of the major livestock commodities. This high volume output combined with the broad diversity of enterprises has contributed greatly to our success. The following table shows how Kosciusko County ranks in each category.

<u>Type of Livestock</u>	<u>State Ranking *</u>
Ducks	1
Hens and Pullets	2
Cattle and Calves	2
Milk Cows	6
Veal	3
Hogs and Pigs	9

The presence of specialty livestock enterprises such as ducks and veal, as well as the presence of two extremely large hen and pullet corporations contribute greatly to the sales volume totals of our county.

The soil types in the county are typically classified in the average to poor category. Land values and crop yields tend to be average or below. Since our producers are working with this somewhat marginal land, their emphasis is on diversifying the farm and concentrating on higher livestock numbers.

The availability of high technology equipment from within the county has also enhanced large scale animal production. Industries such as Chore Time-Brock at Milford supply many of our producers with feeders, waterers, ventilation fans, temperature controls and other automation devices. This type of equipment has enabled producers to process expanded volumes with reduced labor.

The video "Kosciusko County - Indiana's Leader in Livestock" captures the present methods of producing livestock on film. Vocational Agriculture students or others in the general public making career choices will find visible, practical information in this presentation. Civic groups and new residents to the county will find the content of the film to be educational and informative.

* Gross Cash Farm Income by Counties 1982 USDA

(Purdue University) May 1986, pp. 13-20.

The film may be viewed at Warsaw Community Public Library, or by contacting Joe Kessie at 267-9615 or Jon Schaeffer at 353-8145.