

from the Ogallala aquifer or from the playas (Pantex 1996:10.1, 10.2).

Livestock

Table 4.4.1.2–5 shows the beef cattle feedlots, open range cattle, and dairy operations located within a 80-kilometer (50-mile) radius of the plant. The beef cattle industry in the Texas Panhandle has four distinct aspects that are affected by precipitation levels and the local and future market prices for beef. These are:

- Cow-calf operations on open range.
- Grazing of stockers on pasture.
- Feedlot operations.

- Slaughter and meat-packaging operations.

The number of calves grazed on wheat pastures during the winter and spring varies significantly based on how the weather affects wheat growth. The number of cow-calf pairs/beef cows recorded in the January 1, 1994 inventory of Texas Agricultural Statistics for the counties within the 80-kilometer (50-mile) area were as follows: Armstrong, 63,000/5,000; Briscoe, 17,000/9,000; Carson, 73,000/9,000; Castro, 283,000/11,000; Deaf Smith, 681,000/15,000; Gray, 114,000/9,000; Hansford, 251,000/8,000; Hartley, 213,000/6,000; Hutchinson, 40,000/7,000; Moore, 189,000/6,000; Oldham, 79,000/12,000; Potter, 51,000/6,000; Randall, 170,000/9,000; Roberts, 35,000/9,000; Sherman,

TABLE 4.4.1.2–5.—Beef Cattle by County Within the 80-Kilometer (50-Mile) ROI Surrounding Pantex Plant

| COUNTY | COUNTY TOTALS | | FARMS WITH 100 HEAD OR MORE | |
|------------|---------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| | FARMS | CATTLE | FARMS | CATTLE |
| Armstrong | 154 | 39,840 | 67 | 36,638 |
| Briscoe | 40 | 5,368 | 14 | 4,474 |
| Carson | 209 | 62,257 | 104 | 61,045 |
| Castro | 18 | 18,324 | 11 | 18,045 |
| Deaf Smith | 115 | 123,075 | 74 | 121,398 |
| Donley | 131 | 26,049 | 35 | 22,383 |
| Gray | 179 | 72,760 | 69 | 69,156 |
| Hartley | 23 | 29,147 | 11 | 2,019 |
| Hutchinson | 124 | 65,943 | 52 | 63,760 |
| Moore | 147 | 153,876 | 90 | 151,831 |
| Oldham | 25 | 20,494 | 17 | 20,179 |
| Potter | 104 | 20,290 | 37 | 29,107 |
| Randall | 327 | 145,409 | 125 | 138,459 |
| Roberts | 26 | 9,675 | 16 | 9,265 |
| Swisher | 122 | 81,447 | 65 | 79,123 |

Source: Pantex 1996:10.2