

Cattle were brought to Australia in the First Fleet in 1788 and although most escaped into the bush, a host of later importations, mainly of British dairy and beef breeds, developed the national cattle herd to a significant force in the economy by the 1880's. In fact, cattle were noted in the St. George district in the late 1840's. The sale of Burgoora station situated near St. George's Bridge in 1850 included a mixed herd of 1900 cattle.

The country around St. George is suited to most breeds of cattle. There is extensive grazing country suited to the fattening of beef cattle with numbers varying according to cattle prices and weather patterns. Agricultural statistics of 2001 records 169,105 head of cattle being in the Balonne shire.

The main aim of a beef cattle enterprise is the efficient production of beef. The main enterprises are breeding and fattening, breeding and selling stores, and buying and fattening stores. The class of country usually determines the types of enterprise. Breeding is carried out on the poorer country and fattening on the better country.

Fat cattle are sent to markets in Dalby and Toowoomba; the majority of store cattle go to Roma and Goondiwindi. In recent years the feedlot industry has opened up with individual feedlots on many properties in the district.