

145 Animal Feed Plants — California Leads U.S. 2026

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U.S. animal feed manufacturing is concentrated in one state — not where you'd expect

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THE DATA

145

Animal Feed Plants (2022)

California hosts the highest number of animal feed plants among all U.S. states, according to the 2022 U.S. Census County Business Patterns.

This concentration suggests California is not just a consumer of agricultural output but a foundational node in the U.S. food production network. The sheer scale of feed manufacturing infrastructure implies deep integration with livestock, dairy, and aquaculture sectors that extend far beyond state borders. This is not a sign of inefficiency — it's a strategic infrastructure advantage.

01

Feed Plants as AgTech Hubs

California's 145 feed plants are not isolated factories — they are embedded in a dense ecosystem of biotech, AI-driven logistics, and precision farming. These facilities are increasingly equipped with real-time monitoring, AI-optimized batching, and predictive maintenance systems, turning them into de facto nodes in the broader agtech data network. Their geographic concentration enables faster feedback loops between field data, animal health, and feed formulation, accelerating innovation cycles.

02

The Hidden AI Infrastructure

The real strategic value of California's feed plant density lies not in volume alone, but in the data-rich environment they create. Each plant generates real-time data on feed composition, animal consumption, and output quality — data that can train AI models for optimal livestock nutrition, disease prediction, and supply chain resilience. This makes California not just a production center, but a training ground for the next generation of AI models in animal health and sustainable protein systems.

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