

Leather – Key Facts



AQC and its partners have prepared this document to provide information about leather based on scientific and factual evidence.

LOCALISATION



- 47% of global leather exports in value come from Europe (30% from Italy, 17% from the rest of Europe).
- Thanks to its commitment to quality, sustainability and craftsmanship, Europe remains the cornerstone of the global leather industry.
- 69% of tanneries in Europe have been certified for environmental, social and governance good practice by independent certification bodies, such as the Leather Working Group, the Sustainable Leather Foundation, ICEC and Oeko-Tex.

CIRCULARITY



- Bovine leather is made with a by-product of the meat industry.
- 60% of cattle hides are turned into leather worldwide each year, meaning that 40% go to waste.
- Leather is a fully biodegradable material, with the time to biodegrade depending on the type of tanning and finishing used.

CLIMATE



- 51 million tonnes of beef and veal were consumed worldwide in 2024.
- 40 million tonnes CO₂ are emitted yearly from hides that go to waste (=annual emissions from 8.7 million cars).
- 8 kg CO₂eq per m² are emitted on average during production of bovine leather in Europe.

SOCIAL - EUROPE



- 30'000 people work in the leather industry.
- More than 90% of tannery workers have permanent employment contracts.
- 50% of leather workers remain in their companies for more than 10 years.

AQC MEMBERS LEATHER BRACELET SUPPLY CHAIN MAPPING 2025 – BOVINE LEATHER



- 67% of the farming countries are known and are located primarily in Europe.
- 92% of the slaughtering countries are known, located primarily in Europe.
- 90% of the bovine skins used have a known origin.



AQC FOUNDING MEMBERS

www.aqc-asso.ch

American alligator Key Facts

ECONOMIC & SUSTAINABILITY VALUE



- 5 million *Alligator mississippiensis* live in the wild in the Southeastern United States thanks to dedicated conservation programs and ranching systems, after facing endangerment.
- In 1979, the species was listed in CITES Appendix II, enabling regulated trade. It remains on the list due to similar appearance to other species, not because of population risk.
- 100% of the traded alligators' products are used, providing a range of valuable resources, including leather, meat, pet food ingredients and pharmaceutical materials.
- The 1st natural capital accounting model being developed for a wildlife-based industry, the American alligator program measures both ecological and economic value.

EGG COLLECTION & RANCHING PROGRAM



- 1 obligation: farmers and ranchers must legally contribute to conservation to keep their permits.
- Unlike most crocodilian species, the American alligator rarely breed successfully in captivity. This is why licensed farms collect wild eggs under strict regulation and hatch them in controlled environments.
- 85% is the average hatching success rate on farms, far higher than in the wild.
- 5% of farm-hatched juveniles are released into the wild at 1.2 meters to support population stability. This strategy compensates for low juvenile survival rates in the natural habitat and helps sustain a healthy wild population.

CLIMATE



- 1% of the earth's surface is covered by wetlands.
- 20% of the organic carbon in the world's ecosystems is stored in wetlands. Damaged wetlands release carbon.
- More than 80% of Louisiana's wetlands are privately owned. Selling alligator eggs provides income for landowners who conserve wetlands and protect habitat.

SOCIAL SOUTHEAST UNITED STATES



- 25,000 jobs across farming, manufacturing, egg collection, supply chain, retail and tourism, contributing to economic stability for rural and coastal communities.
- Community-based conservation through regulated harvest and monitoring programs.
- Traditional knowledge passed on through generations of trappers, ranchers, and tanners.
- A cultural heritage symbol of the American South and Louisiana wetlands.

AQC MEMBER LEATHER BRACELET SUPPLY CHAIN MAPPING 2025



- 97% of the exotic material used is *Alligator mississippiensis* leather.
- 100% of the farms are known.
- 100% of the farms are ICFA or SRCP certified.

THANK YOU TO THE ORGANISATIONS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS DOCUMENT

