



NASS Programs

2014 Cattle Survey

About the Survey

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the Cattle Survey once a year in January to collect information on inventory of beef and dairy cattle, calf crop, and cattle on feed operations.* NASS publishes the results in the *Cattle* report.

NASS will next release the results of the survey on January 31, 2014. The survey results provide a current measure of cattle inventories nationwide.

All previous *Cattle* reports are available online at:
http://bit.ly/NASS_Cattle.

**In March 2013, NASS suspended the July Cattle Survey and resulting report due to reduced funding caused by sequestration. The report remains suspended for FY14.*

Response Confidentiality

All information NASS collects in this survey will be kept strictly confidential, as required by federal law. The results of this survey will be available in aggregate form only, without revealing any information that may identify individual operations.

How NASS Collects Data?

NASS will conduct the Cattle Survey in every state except Alaska.

In January, NASS will mail the survey to more than 40,000 cattle operations.

The survey asks producers to provide information about their beef and dairy cattle inventories, calf crop, and cattle on feed operations.

Producers who receive the survey may respond in either of the following ways:

- Online – Secure, online reporting is the most timely, cost-effective option. The cover letter includes instructions for this easy option.
- By mail or fax – Producers fill out the survey questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided or via fax.

A NASS representative will contact producers who do not respond to offer the option of a telephone or personal interview.

Who Uses The Information?

Cattle producers, agribusinesses, and policymakers use data from the cattle survey as a critical decision-making tool. For instance:

- Producers use the information to determine production and marketing strategies and plan purchases and capital investments.
- Processors, warehouse and storage companies, and the transportation sector rely on the reports to anticipate future volume.
- Analysts use data on breeding stock inventory and calf crop to forecast the expansion and contraction of beef supplies.

