



Released February 1, 2013, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

January 1 Cattle Inventory Down 2 Percent

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2013 totaled 89.3 million head, 2 percent below the 90.8 million on January 1, 2012. This is the lowest January 1 inventory of all cattle and calves since the 88.1 million on hand in 1952.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 38.5 million, were down 2 percent from the 39.4 million on January 1, 2012. This is the lowest January 1 inventory of all cows and heifers that have calved since the 36.8 million head in 1941.

- Beef cows, at 29.3 million, were down 3 percent from January 1, 2012.
- Milk cows, at 9.2 million, unchanged from January 1, 2012.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2013 and the change from January 1, 2012, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.1 million, down 1 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.4 million, up 2 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.6 million, down 2 percent.
- Other heifers, 9.2 million, down 3 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 15.8 million, unchanged.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, down 2 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 13.8 million, down 2 percent.
- Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.4 million, down 5 percent.
- The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots was 25.5 million, up 1 percent.

Calf Crop Down 3 Percent

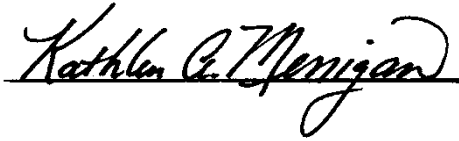
The 2012 calf crop was estimated at 34.3 million head, down 3 percent from 2011. This is the smallest calf crop since the 33.7 million born during 1949. Calves born during the first half of 2012 are estimated at 25.0 million, down 3 percent from 2011.

Revisions

All inventory and calf crop estimates for July 1, 2011, January 1, 2012, and July 1, 2012 were reviewed using calf crop, official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. Based on the findings of this review, small adjustments of less than one-half percent were made to previously released inventory estimates by class.

State level estimates were reviewed and changes were made to reallocate inventory estimates to the United States total.

This report was approved on February 1, 2013.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Kathleen A. Merrigan



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Hubert Hamer

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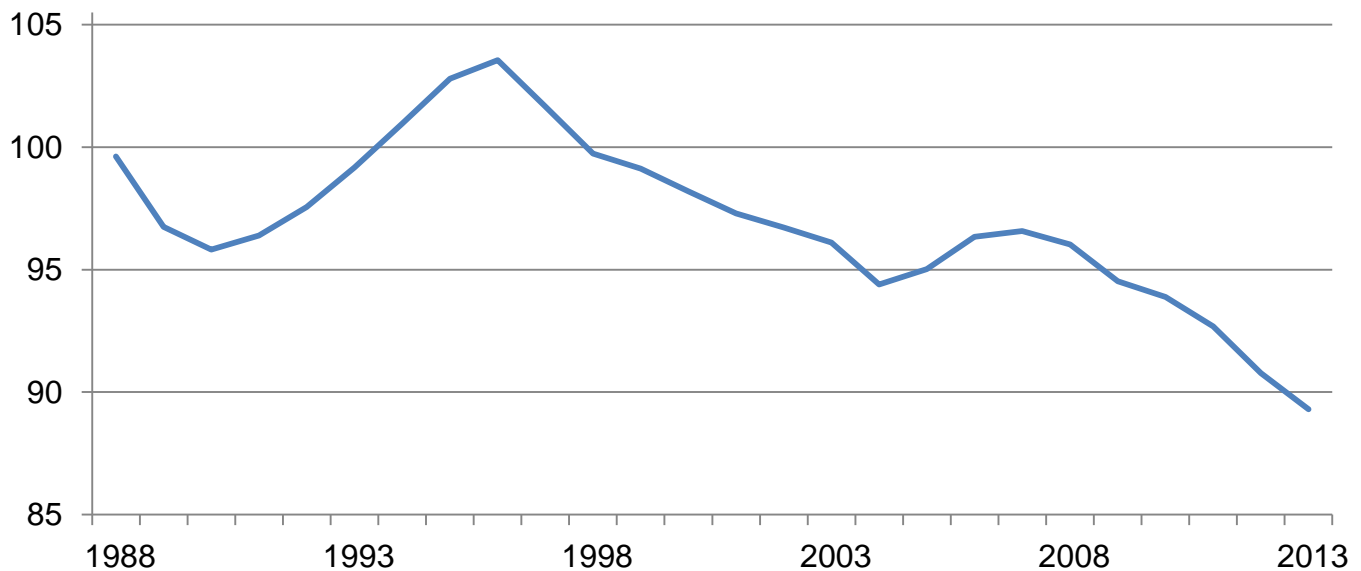
Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: January 1, 2012 and 2013

Class	2012	2013	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Cattle and calves	90,768.5	89,299.6	98
Cows and heifers that have calved	39,387.4	38,515.2	98
Beef cows	30,157.9	29,295.3	97
Milk cows	9,229.5	9,219.9	100
Heifers 500 pounds and over	19,337.8	19,128.9	99
For beef cow replacement	5,261.6	5,360.6	102
Expected to calve ¹	3,221.3	3,280.3	102
For milk cow replacement	4,622.0	4,550.7	98
Expected to calve ¹	3,064.9	2,928.4	96
Other heifers	9,454.2	9,217.6	97
Steers 500 pounds and over	15,832.5	15,812.7	100
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,096.0	2,055.8	98
Calves under 500 pounds	14,114.8	13,787.0	98
Cattle on feed	14,121.4	13,351.7	95
	2011	2012	Percent of previous year
Calf crop	35,313.2	34,279.0	97

¹ Replacement heifers expected to calve during the year.

Cattle Inventory – United States: January 1

Million head



Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2012 and 2013

State	All cattle and calves			All cows that have calved		
	2012	2013	Percent of previous year	2012	2013	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	1,210.0	1,220.0	101	660.0	660.0	100
Alaska	13.0	12.0	92	6.0	5.3	88
Arizona	920.0	900.0	98	370.0	365.0	99
Arkansas	1,670.0	1,600.0	96	920.0	860.0	93
California	5,350.0	5,300.0	99	2,400.0	2,390.0	100
Colorado	2,750.0	2,600.0	95	890.0	850.0	96
Connecticut	49.0	48.0	98	23.0	24.0	104
Delaware	19.0	18.0	95	8.5	8.5	100
Florida	1,710.0	1,660.0	97	1,060.0	1,030.0	97
Georgia	1,020.0	1,020.0	100	590.0	570.0	97
Hawaii	140.0	132.0	94	80.0	72.0	90
Idaho	2,220.0	2,370.0	107	1,050.0	1,090.0	104
Illinois	1,070.0	1,120.0	105	430.0	460.0	107
Indiana	860.0	810.0	94	370.0	365.0	99
Iowa	3,900.0	3,850.0	99	1,100.0	1,130.0	103
Kansas	6,100.0	5,850.0	96	1,570.0	1,460.0	93
Kentucky	2,150.0	2,240.0	104	1,070.0	1,100.0	103
Louisiana	790.0	780.0	99	470.0	470.0	100
Maine	86.0	85.0	99	42.0	43.0	102
Maryland	200.0	192.0	96	95.0	92.0	97
Massachusetts	41.0	39.0	95	19.0	19.0	100
Michigan	1,110.0	1,120.0	101	480.0	490.0	102
Minnesota	2,360.0	2,390.0	101	830.0	840.0	101
Mississippi	950.0	910.0	96	500.0	500.0	100
Missouri	3,900.0	3,650.0	94	1,950.0	1,850.0	95
Montana	2,500.0	2,600.0	104	1,470.0	1,520.0	103
Nebraska	6,450.0	6,300.0	98	1,940.0	1,860.0	96
Nevada	470.0	460.0	98	265.0	260.0	98
New Hampshire	35.0	33.0	94	18.0	17.0	94
New Jersey	31.0	31.0	100	15.5	16.0	103
New Mexico	1,390.0	1,340.0	96	770.0	710.0	92
New York	1,410.0	1,400.0	99	710.0	700.0	99
North Carolina	810.0	820.0	101	405.0	410.0	101
North Dakota	1,690.0	1,790.0	106	880.0	940.0	107
Ohio	1,280.0	1,230.0	96	570.0	560.0	98
Oklahoma	4,500.0	4,200.0	93	1,830.0	1,800.0	98
Oregon	1,300.0	1,280.0	98	670.0	650.0	97
Pennsylvania	1,610.0	1,610.0	100	700.0	690.0	99
Rhode Island	4.5	4.6	102	2.4	2.4	100
South Carolina	370.0	355.0	96	200.0	190.0	95
South Dakota	3,650.0	3,850.0	105	1,700.0	1,780.0	105
Tennessee	1,970.0	1,830.0	93	1,000.0	960.0	96
Texas	11,900.0	11,300.0	95	5,000.0	4,450.0	89
Utah	800.0	770.0	96	420.0	405.0	96
Vermont	260.0	270.0	104	143.0	146.0	102
Virginia	1,490.0	1,610.0	108	760.0	780.0	103
Washington	1,110.0	1,150.0	104	480.0	485.0	101
West Virginia	390.0	410.0	105	205.0	210.0	102
Wisconsin	3,400.0	3,450.0	101	1,530.0	1,530.0	100
Wyoming	1,360.0	1,290.0	95	720.0	700.0	97
United States	90,768.5	89,299.6	98	39,387.4	38,515.2	98

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2012 and 2013 (continued)

State	Beef cows that have calved			Milk cows that have calved		
	2012	2013	Percent of previous year	2012	2013	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	650.0	651.0	100	10.0	9.0	90
Alaska	5.5	4.9	89	0.5	0.4	80
Arizona	180.0	175.0	97	190.0	190.0	100
Arkansas	909.0	851.0	94	11.0	9.0	82
California	620.0	610.0	98	1,780.0	1,780.0	100
Colorado	759.0	715.0	94	131.0	135.0	103
Connecticut	4.5	6.0	133	18.5	18.0	97
Delaware	3.5	4.0	114	5.0	4.5	90
Florida	940.0	908.0	97	120.0	122.0	102
Georgia	512.0	490.0	96	78.0	80.0	103
Hawaii	78.1	69.9	90	1.9	2.1	111
Idaho	469.0	510.0	109	581.0	580.0	100
Illinois	331.0	360.0	109	99.0	100.0	101
Indiana	195.0	191.0	98	175.0	174.0	99
Iowa	895.0	925.0	103	205.0	205.0	100
Kansas	1,447.0	1,328.0	92	123.0	132.0	107
Kentucky	995.0	1,028.0	103	75.0	72.0	96
Louisiana	452.0	454.0	100	18.0	16.0	89
Maine	10.0	11.0	110	32.0	32.0	100
Maryland	43.0	41.0	95	52.0	51.0	98
Massachusetts	7.0	6.5	93	12.0	12.5	104
Michigan	109.0	113.0	104	371.0	377.0	102
Minnesota	365.0	375.0	103	465.0	465.0	100
Mississippi	486.0	486.0	100	14.0	14.0	100
Missouri	1,857.0	1,757.0	95	93.0	93.0	100
Montana	1,456.0	1,506.0	103	14.0	14.0	100
Nebraska	1,884.0	1,805.0	96	56.0	55.0	98
Nevada	236.0	231.0	98	29.0	29.0	100
New Hampshire	4.0	3.5	88	14.0	13.5	96
New Jersey	8.0	9.0	113	7.5	7.0	93
New Mexico	435.0	390.0	90	335.0	320.0	96
New York	100.0	90.0	90	610.0	610.0	100
North Carolina	360.0	364.0	101	45.0	46.0	102
North Dakota	862.0	922.0	107	18.0	18.0	100
Ohio	300.0	290.0	97	270.0	270.0	100
Oklahoma	1,778.0	1,754.0	99	52.0	46.0	88
Oregon	547.0	527.0	96	123.0	123.0	100
Pennsylvania	160.0	155.0	97	540.0	535.0	99
Rhode Island	1.3	1.5	115	1.1	0.9	82
South Carolina	184.0	174.0	95	16.0	16.0	100
South Dakota	1,610.0	1,688.0	105	90.0	92.0	102
Tennessee	950.0	912.0	96	50.0	48.0	96
Texas	4,565.0	4,015.0	88	435.0	435.0	100
Utah	330.0	315.0	95	90.0	90.0	100
Vermont	10.0	12.0	120	133.0	134.0	101
Virginia	664.0	686.0	103	96.0	94.0	98
Washington	217.0	221.0	102	263.0	264.0	100
West Virginia	195.0	200.0	103	10.0	10.0	100
Wisconsin	265.0	260.0	98	1,265.0	1,270.0	100
Wyoming	714.0	694.0	97	6.0	6.0	100
United States	30,157.9	29,295.3	97	9,229.5	9,219.9	100

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2012 and 2013 (continued)

State	Heifers 500 pounds and over					
	Beef cow replacement		Milk cow replacement		Other	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	95.0	105.0	6.0	4.0	39.0	31.0
Alaska	1.6	1.3	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1
Arizona	35.0	22.0	70.0	73.0	15.0	25.0
Arkansas	115.0	129.0	5.0	7.0	60.0	54.0
California	110.0	110.0	840.0	780.0	220.0	220.0
Colorado	155.0	130.0	75.0	85.0	510.0	520.0
Connecticut	2.5	2.0	9.5	9.0	0.5	0.5
Delaware	0.7	0.7	3.3	3.0	0.5	0.6
Florida	115.0	115.0	35.0	35.0	30.0	25.0
Georgia	71.0	74.0	31.0	28.0	32.0	28.0
Hawaii	10.0	10.0	1.0	2.0	6.0	4.0
Idaho	90.0	120.0	300.0	310.0	190.0	210.0
Illinois	56.0	60.0	47.0	48.0	117.0	82.0
Indiana	31.0	41.0	70.0	56.0	59.0	48.0
Iowa	140.0	150.0	160.0	120.0	620.0	680.0
Kansas	250.0	230.0	85.0	100.0	1,550.0	1,370.0
Kentucky	135.0	150.0	45.0	50.0	145.0	160.0
Louisiana	81.0	77.0	6.0	5.0	24.0	21.0
Maine	3.0	2.5	16.0	15.5	3.0	2.0
Maryland	12.0	9.0	28.0	29.0	8.0	9.0
Massachusetts	3.0	2.0	6.0	6.0	1.0	1.0
Michigan	27.0	28.0	158.0	157.0	45.0	47.0
Minnesota	90.0	100.0	285.0	280.0	185.0	180.0
Mississippi	82.0	78.0	7.0	7.0	36.0	35.0
Missouri	270.0	270.0	40.0	40.0	240.0	220.0
Montana	415.0	435.0	8.0	8.0	212.0	187.0
Nebraska	385.0	350.0	15.0	20.0	1,420.0	1,380.0
Nevada	41.0	36.0	10.0	9.0	37.0	30.0
New Hampshire	1.5	1.2	6.5	6.5	0.5	0.8
New Jersey	2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	1.5	1.0
New Mexico	75.0	75.0	120.0	125.0	90.0	100.0
New York	38.0	41.0	320.0	320.0	42.0	44.0
North Carolina	65.0	72.0	21.0	23.0	26.0	25.0
North Dakota	183.0	207.0	10.0	13.0	200.0	205.0
Ohio	55.0	55.0	120.0	125.0	70.0	65.0
Oklahoma	320.0	280.0	20.0	20.0	470.0	400.0
Oregon	110.0	122.0	75.0	68.0	95.0	85.0
Pennsylvania	45.0	55.0	315.0	310.0	55.0	65.0
Rhode Island	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1
South Carolina	36.0	35.0	6.0	7.0	15.0	12.0
South Dakota	320.0	315.0	35.0	55.0	540.0	545.0
Tennessee	150.0	145.0	30.0	25.0	100.0	70.0
Texas	550.0	600.0	210.0	200.0	1,520.0	1,550.0
Utah	65.0	61.0	53.0	50.0	47.0	62.0
Vermont	4.0	4.5	54.0	59.0	5.0	6.5
Virginia	95.0	124.0	40.0	35.0	55.0	76.0
Washington	54.0	46.0	120.0	109.0	111.0	135.0
West Virginia	36.0	36.0	5.0	5.0	26.0	25.0
Wisconsin	70.0	75.0	690.0	700.0	40.0	55.0
Wyoming	165.0	171.0	5.0	4.0	140.0	120.0
United States	5,261.6	5,360.6	4,622.0	4,550.7	9,454.2	9,217.6

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2012 and 2013 (continued)

State	Steers 500 pounds and over		Bulls 500 pounds and over		Calves under 500 pounds	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	55.0	50.0	45.0	50.0	310.0	320.0
Alaska	0.4	0.5	2.9	2.9	1.8	1.7
Arizona	300.0	290.0	20.0	20.0	110.0	105.0
Arkansas	110.0	125.0	60.0	55.0	400.0	370.0
California	610.0	620.0	70.0	70.0	1,100.0	1,110.0
Colorado	930.0	840.0	50.0	45.0	140.0	130.0
Connecticut	2.4	2.0	0.6	0.5	10.5	10.0
Delaware	2.4	1.9	0.4	0.3	3.2	3.0
Florida	20.0	20.0	60.0	55.0	390.0	380.0
Georgia	34.0	39.0	27.0	26.0	235.0	255.0
Hawaii	6.0	7.0	5.0	4.0	32.0	33.0
Idaho	300.0	275.0	35.0	40.0	255.0	325.0
Illinois	210.0	240.0	25.0	25.0	185.0	205.0
Indiana	99.0	91.0	21.0	19.0	210.0	190.0
Iowa	1,300.0	1,250.0	60.0	60.0	520.0	460.0
Kansas	1,910.0	1,970.0	90.0	85.0	645.0	635.0
Kentucky	200.0	225.0	70.0	75.0	485.0	480.0
Louisiana	23.0	18.0	28.0	30.0	158.0	159.0
Maine	5.5	5.0	1.5	1.5	15.0	15.5
Maryland	16.0	15.0	4.0	4.0	37.0	34.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	9.0	8.0
Michigan	173.0	174.0	17.0	14.0	210.0	210.0
Minnesota	465.0	470.0	35.0	35.0	470.0	485.0
Mississippi	61.0	41.0	39.0	39.0	225.0	210.0
Missouri	360.0	350.0	100.0	100.0	940.0	820.0
Montana	210.0	230.0	90.0	100.0	95.0	120.0
Nebraska	2,280.0	2,250.0	100.0	100.0	310.0	340.0
Nevada	42.0	46.0	14.0	13.0	61.0	66.0
New Hampshire	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.5	6.5	6.0
New Jersey	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	5.0
New Mexico	110.0	80.0	35.0	35.0	190.0	215.0
New York	40.0	36.0	15.0	19.0	245.0	240.0
North Carolina	39.0	32.0	34.0	33.0	220.0	225.0
North Dakota	255.0	255.0	57.0	60.0	105.0	110.0
Ohio	190.0	185.0	25.0	20.0	250.0	220.0
Oklahoma	920.0	870.0	120.0	120.0	820.0	710.0
Oregon	155.0	157.0	40.0	36.0	155.0	162.0
Pennsylvania	145.0	170.0	25.0	25.0	325.0	295.0
Rhode Island	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.8
South Carolina	11.0	10.0	16.0	15.0	86.0	86.0
South Dakota	690.0	720.0	90.0	90.0	275.0	345.0
Tennessee	160.0	125.0	70.0	65.0	460.0	440.0
Texas	2,370.0	2,500.0	330.0	300.0	1,920.0	1,700.0
Utah	90.0	75.0	20.0	22.0	105.0	95.0
Vermont	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	47.0	47.0
Virginia	160.0	195.0	40.0	40.0	340.0	360.0
Washington	180.0	190.0	19.0	17.0	146.0	168.0
West Virginia	43.0	48.0	14.0	14.0	61.0	72.0
Wisconsin	360.0	350.0	30.0	30.0	680.0	710.0
Wyoming	180.0	160.0	40.0	40.0	110.0	95.0
United States	15,832.5	15,812.7	2,096.0	2,055.8	14,114.8	13,787.0

Calf Crop – States and United States: 2011 and 2012

State	2011	2012	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	560.0	610.0	109
Alaska	4.0	3.8	95
Arizona	290.0	260.0	90
Arkansas	800.0	760.0	95
California	2,030.0	2,100.0	103
Colorado	800.0	760.0	95
Connecticut	20.0	18.0	90
Delaware	7.0	6.0	86
Florida	890.0	860.0	97
Georgia	470.0	480.0	102
Hawaii	65.0	61.0	94
Idaho	910.0	960.0	105
Illinois	380.0	390.0	103
Indiana	310.0	330.0	106
Iowa	1,050.0	1,050.0	100
Kansas	1,420.0	1,250.0	88
Kentucky	960.0	980.0	102
Louisiana	375.0	370.0	99
Maine	31.0	32.0	103
Maryland	80.0	76.0	95
Massachusetts	18.0	18.0	100
Michigan	390.0	385.0	99
Minnesota	780.0	790.0	101
Mississippi	385.0	400.0	104
Missouri	1,820.0	1,740.0	96
Montana	1,470.0	1,500.0	102
Nebraska	1,690.0	1,720.0	102
Nevada	215.0	205.0	95
New Hampshire	15.0	15.0	100
New Jersey	11.0	10.0	91
New Mexico	620.0	580.0	94
New York	530.0	530.0	100
North Carolina	350.0	370.0	106
North Dakota	860.0	870.0	101
Ohio	490.0	480.0	98
Oklahoma	1,850.0	1,670.0	90
Oregon	630.0	610.0	97
Pennsylvania	590.0	590.0	100
Rhode Island	2.2	2.2	100
South Carolina	160.0	150.0	94
South Dakota	1,620.0	1,710.0	106
Tennessee	920.0	880.0	96
Texas	4,650.0	3,900.0	84
Utah	365.0	365.0	100
Vermont	115.0	117.0	102
Virginia	640.0	670.0	105
Washington	430.0	420.0	98
West Virginia	185.0	195.0	105
Wisconsin	1,380.0	1,370.0	99
Wyoming	680.0	660.0	97
United States	35,313.2	34,279.0	97

Total Number of Cattle on Feed – States and United States: January 1, 2012 and 2013

[Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes]

State	2012 (1,000 head)	2013 (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)
Arizona	279.0	272.0	97
California	510.0	480.0	94
Colorado	1,170.0	1,030.0	88
Idaho	240.0	240.0	100
Illinois	160.0	160.0	100
Indiana	107.0	88.0	82
Iowa	1,300.0	1,280.0	98
Kansas	2,370.0	2,250.0	95
Kentucky	10.0	15.0	150
Maryland	10.0	10.0	100
Michigan	150.0	155.0	103
Minnesota	310.0	310.0	100
Missouri	55.0	50.0	91
Montana	32.0	38.0	119
Nebraska	2,650.0	2,550.0	96
Nevada	7.0	9.0	129
New York	25.0	25.0	100
North Dakota	60.0	45.0	75
Ohio	180.0	160.0	89
Oklahoma	380.0	350.0	92
Oregon	70.0	60.0	86
Pennsylvania	75.0	75.0	100
South Dakota	320.0	300.0	94
Tennessee	9.0	3.0	33
Texas	2,950.0	2,730.0	93
Utah	26.0	28.0	108
Virginia	23.0	23.0	100
Washington	235.0	247.0	105
West Virginia	5.0	4.0	80
Wisconsin	240.0	240.0	100
Wyoming	75.0	65.0	87
Other States ¹	88.4	59.7	68
United States	14,121.4	13,351.7	95

¹ Individual state estimates not available for states not shown, but are included in Other States.

Number of Cattle Grazing on Small Grain Pasture – 3-State Total: January 1, 2012 and 2013

States	2012	2013	Percent of previous year
	(million head)	(million head)	(percent)
Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas	1.59	1.34	84

Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: July 1, 2011 and 2012

Class	2011	2012	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Cattle and calves	100,000.0	97,800.0	98
Cows and heifers that have calved	40,600.0	39,700.0	98
Beef cows	31,400.0	30,500.0	97
Milk cows	9,200.0	9,200.0	100
Heifers 500 pounds and over	16,000.0	15,700.0	98
For beef cow replacement	4,200.0	4,200.0	100
For milk cow replacement	4,200.0	4,100.0	98
Other heifers	7,600.0	7,400.0	97
Steers 500 pounds and over	14,200.0	14,000.0	99
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,000.0	1,900.0	95
Calves under 500 pounds	27,200.0	26,500.0	97
Calf crop	35,313.2	34,279.0	97
Cattle on feed	12,200.0	12,300.0	101

Calf Crop and Percent of Total by Six Month Period – United States: 2011 and 2012

Period	2011		2012	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
January 1 - June 30	25,700.0	72.8	25,000.0	72.9
July 1 - December 31	9,613.2	27.2	9,279.0	27.1
Total	35,313.2	100.0	34,279.0	100.0

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: A random sample of United States producers was surveyed to provide data for these estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all cattle producers, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. Large producers were sampled more heavily than small operations. Data were collected from about 40,000 operators during the first half of January by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews and 77 percent of the reports were usable. Regardless of when operators responded, they were asked to report inventories as of January 1.

Estimating Procedures: These cattle estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing recommendations and analysis submitted by each State office. National and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other and with estimates from the previous year using a balance sheet. The balance sheet begins with the previous inventory estimate, adds to it estimates of births and imports, and subtracts estimates of slaughter, exports, and deaths. This indicated ending inventory level is compared to the Agricultural Statistics Board estimate for reasonableness.

Revision Policy: Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve year to year and item to item relationships. Estimates for the previous year are subject to revision when current estimates are made. The reviews are primarily based on livestock slaughter and additional foreign trade and survey data. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

Reliability: Since all cattle operators are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of estimates in this report, the "**Root Mean Square Error**" is shown for selected items in the table on the following page. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and latest estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for cattle inventory estimates over the past 10 years is 0.5 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 89.3 million head by more than 0.5 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.9 percent.

The table on the following page shows a 10 year record of the range of differences between first and latest estimates for selected items. Using estimates of all cattle and calves as an example, changes between the first inventory estimate and the latest estimate during the past 10 years have averaged 345,000 head, ranging from 0 to 830,000 head. During this period the initial inventory estimate has been above the latest estimate 6 times and below the latest estimate 3 times. This does not imply that the January 1 estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

Reliability of January 1 Cattle Estimates

[Based on data for the past ten years]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Years	
						Above latest	Below latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(number)	(number)
All cattle & calves	0.5	0.9	345	0	830	6	3
All cows	0.6	1.1	190	0	505	6	3
Calf crop	1	1.8	270	0	674	5	4

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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