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January 1 Cattle Inventory Down Slightly

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2020 totaled 94.4 million head, slightly below the 94.8 million head on January 1, 2019.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 40.7 million head, were 1 percent below the 41.0 million head on January 1, 2019. Beef cows, at 31.3 million head, were down 1 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.33 million head, were down slightly from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2020 totaled 20.1 million head, slightly below the 20.2 million head on January 1, 2019. Beef replacement heifers, at 5.77 million head, were down 2 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.64 million head, were down 1 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.71 million head, were 1 percent above a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2020 totaled 16.7 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2019.

Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2020 totaled 2.24 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2019.

Calves under 500 pounds as of January 1, 2020 totaled 14.7 million head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2019.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.7 million head on January 1, 2020. The inventory is up 2 percent from the January 1, 2019 total of 14.4 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head accounted for 81.5 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2020, up slightly from the previous year. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds (outside of feedlots) at 26.4 million head, was slightly below January 1, 2019.

Calf Crop Down 1 Percent

The 2019 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 36.1 million head, down 1 percent from last year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2019 were estimated at 26.4 million head, down slightly from the first half of 2018. Calves born during the second half of 2019 were estimated at 9.71 million head, 27 percent of the total 2019 calf crop.

Revisions

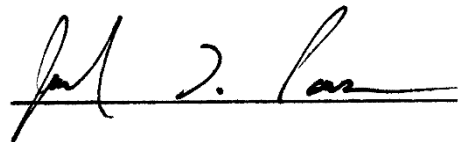
All inventory and calf crop estimates for July 1, 2018, January 1, 2019, and July 1, 2019 were reviewed using calf crop, official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. Based on the findings of this review, July 1, 2018 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.2 percent. January 1, 2019 all cattle and calves increased slightly, all cows and heifers that have calved decreased by 0.2 percent, and 2018 calf crop decreased by 0.2 percent. July 1, 2019 all cattle and calves were decreased by 0.1 percent, all cows and heifers that have calved decreased by 0.2 percent, and 2019 calf crop decreased by 0.7 percent.

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

This report was approved on January 31, 2020.



Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Robert Johansson



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Joseph L. Parsons

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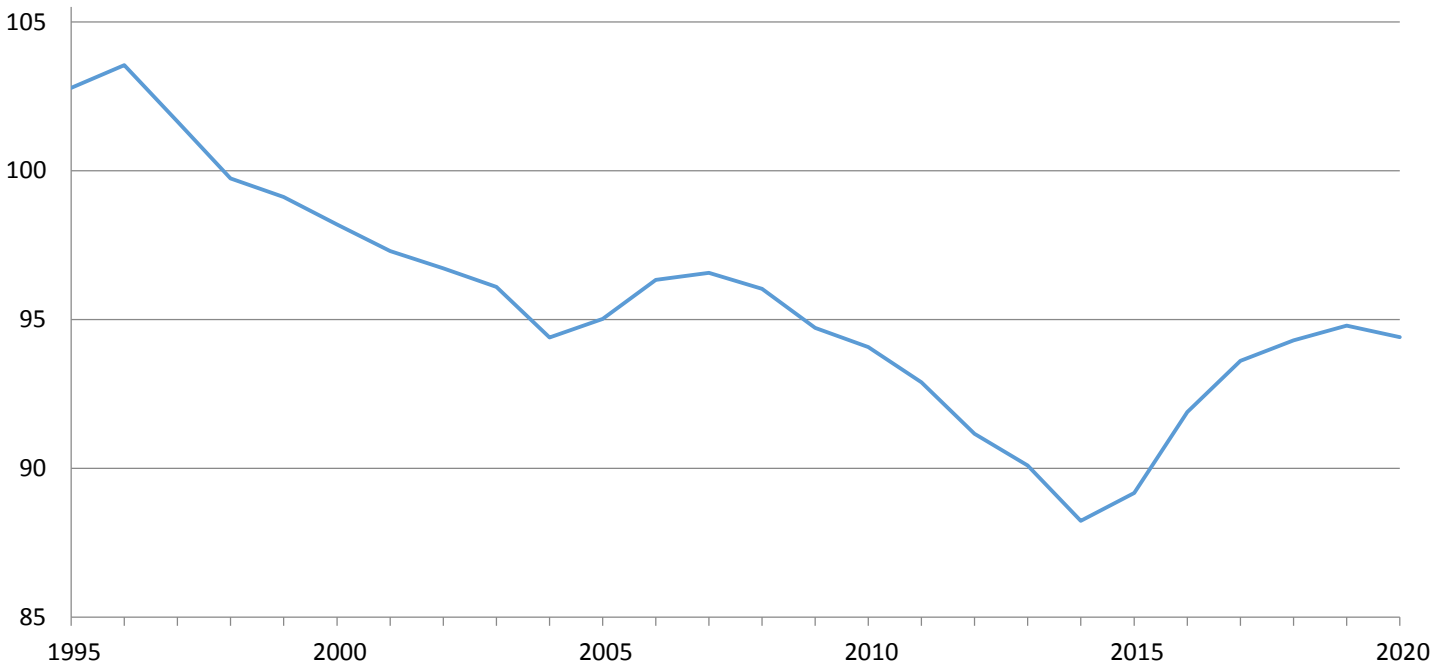
Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: January 1, 2019 and 2020

Class	2019	2020	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves	94,804.7	94,413.3	100
All cows and heifers that have calved	41,044.1	40,651.3	99
Beef cows	31,690.7	31,316.7	99
Milk cows	9,353.4	9,334.6	100
All heifers 500 pounds and over	20,210.0	20,114.4	100
For beef cow replacement	5,884.9	5,771.9	98
Expected to calve ¹	3,528.9	3,499.4	99
For milk cow replacement	4,701.5	4,637.0	99
Expected to calve ¹	3,005.7	2,931.4	98
Other heifers	9,623.6	9,705.5	101
Steers 500 pounds and over	16,757.7	16,671.2	99
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,253.0	2,237.4	99
Calves under 500 pounds	14,539.9	14,739.0	101
All cattle on feed	14,367.9	14,667.7	102
	2018	2019	Percent of previous year
Calf crop	36,312.7	36,059.6	99

¹ Replacement heifers expected to calve during the year.

All Cattle and Calves Inventory – United States: January 1

Million head



Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2019 and 2020

State	All cattle and calves			All cows and heifers that have calved		
	2019	2020	Percent of previous year	2019	2020	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	1,300.0	1,310.0	101	710.0	700.0	99
Alaska	16.0	17.0	106	7.0	8.0	114
Arizona	1,020.0	970.0	95	420.0	395.0	94
Arkansas	1,780.0	1,740.0	98	940.0	920.0	98
California	5,150.0	5,200.0	101	2,360.0	2,390.0	101
Colorado	2,850.0	2,800.0	98	970.0	960.0	99
Connecticut	47.0	49.0	104	24.0	25.0	104
Delaware	15.0	15.0	100	6.5	6.0	92
Florida	1,680.0	1,680.0	100	1,030.0	1,020.0	99
Georgia	1,070.0	1,100.0	103	580.0	600.0	103
Hawaii	142.0	140.0	99	77.0	76.0	99
Idaho	2,500.0	2,490.0	100	1,120.0	1,130.0	101
Illinois	1,190.0	1,100.0	92	490.0	460.0	94
Indiana	880.0	840.0	95	385.0	370.0	96
Iowa	3,950.0	3,900.0	99	1,150.0	1,120.0	97
Kansas	6,400.0	6,450.0	101	1,690.0	1,600.0	95
Kentucky	2,130.0	2,130.0	100	1,070.0	1,070.0	100
Louisiana	800.0	780.0	98	470.0	460.0	98
Maine	78.0	80.0	103	40.0	39.0	98
Maryland	197.0	179.0	91	94.0	89.0	95
Massachusetts	37.0	34.0	92	17.5	15.5	89
Michigan	1,160.0	1,150.0	99	530.0	520.0	98
Minnesota	2,320.0	2,280.0	98	820.0	800.0	98
Mississippi	900.0	920.0	102	485.0	490.0	101
Missouri	4,250.0	4,350.0	102	2,140.0	2,160.0	101
Montana	2,500.0	2,500.0	100	1,460.0	1,440.0	99
Nebraska	6,800.0	6,800.0	100	2,000.0	1,980.0	99
Nevada	470.0	480.0	102	275.0	280.0	102
New Hampshire	33.0	32.0	97	16.0	15.0	94
New Jersey	30.0	28.0	93	15.0	14.0	93
New Mexico	1,480.0	1,450.0	98	805.0	810.0	101
New York	1,450.0	1,470.0	101	730.0	730.0	100
North Carolina	800.0	810.0	101	410.0	410.0	100
North Dakota	1,830.0	1,900.0	104	990.0	1,010.0	102
Ohio	1,310.0	1,290.0	98	560.0	550.0	98
Oklahoma	5,300.0	5,200.0	98	2,190.0	2,140.0	98
Oregon	1,310.0	1,280.0	98	660.0	660.0	100
Pennsylvania	1,600.0	1,530.0	96	730.0	700.0	96
Rhode Island	4.7	4.3	91	2.1	1.8	86
South Carolina	350.0	340.0	97	200.0	190.0	95
South Dakota	4,050.0	3,900.0	96	1,940.0	1,900.0	98
Tennessee	1,800.0	1,810.0	101	950.0	940.0	99
Texas	13,000.0	13,000.0	100	5,200.0	5,150.0	99
Utah	810.0	820.0	101	440.0	455.0	103
Vermont	255.0	250.0	98	140.0	137.0	98
Virginia	1,440.0	1,450.0	101	710.0	700.0	99
Washington	1,180.0	1,200.0	102	510.0	510.0	100
West Virginia	390.0	395.0	101	205.0	205.0	100
Wisconsin	3,450.0	3,450.0	100	1,560.0	1,570.0	101
Wyoming	1,300.0	1,320.0	102	720.0	730.0	101
United States	94,804.7	94,413.3	100	41,044.1	40,651.3	99

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2019 and 2020 (continued)

State	Beef cows that have calved			Milk cows that have calved		
	2019	2020	Percent of previous year	2019	2020	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	705.0	696.0	99	5.0	4.0	80
Alaska	6.8	7.7	113	0.2	0.3	150
Arizona	215.0	202.0	94	205.0	193.0	94
Arkansas	935.0	915.0	98	5.0	5.0	100
California	630.0	665.0	106	1,730.0	1,725.0	100
Colorado	792.0	771.0	97	178.0	189.0	106
Connecticut	4.5	5.5	122	19.5	19.5	100
Delaware	2.0	2.2	110	4.5	3.8	84
Florida	914.0	904.0	99	116.0	116.0	100
Georgia	499.0	519.0	104	81.0	81.0	100
Hawaii	75.5	75.3	100	1.5	0.7	47
Idaho	506.0	495.0	98	614.0	635.0	103
Illinois	405.0	378.0	93	85.0	82.0	96
Indiana	204.0	194.0	95	181.0	176.0	97
Iowa	930.0	905.0	97	220.0	215.0	98
Kansas	1,529.0	1,433.0	94	161.0	167.0	104
Kentucky	1,017.0	1,021.0	100	53.0	49.0	92
Louisiana	459.0	450.0	98	11.0	10.0	91
Maine	11.0	11.0	100	29.0	28.0	97
Maryland	50.0	47.0	94	44.0	42.0	95
Massachusetts	7.0	5.5	79	10.5	10.0	95
Michigan	108.0	93.0	86	422.0	427.0	101
Minnesota	370.0	355.0	96	450.0	445.0	99
Mississippi	477.0	482.0	101	8.0	8.0	100
Missouri	2,059.0	2,083.0	101	81.0	77.0	95
Montana	1,448.0	1,428.0	99	12.0	12.0	100
Nebraska	1,941.0	1,922.0	99	59.0	58.0	98
Nevada	242.0	249.0	103	33.0	31.0	94
New Hampshire	4.0	4.0	100	12.0	11.0	92
New Jersey	9.5	9.3	98	5.5	4.7	85
New Mexico	480.0	480.0	100	325.0	330.0	102
New York	105.0	105.0	100	625.0	625.0	100
North Carolina	367.0	369.0	101	43.0	41.0	95
North Dakota	975.0	995.0	102	15.0	15.0	100
Ohio	307.0	298.0	97	253.0	252.0	100
Oklahoma	2,150.0	2,099.0	98	40.0	41.0	103
Oregon	535.0	533.0	100	125.0	127.0	102
Pennsylvania	225.0	220.0	98	505.0	480.0	95
Rhode Island	1.4	1.2	86	0.7	0.6	86
South Carolina	186.0	179.0	96	14.0	11.0	79
South Dakota	1,818.0	1,773.0	98	122.0	127.0	104
Tennessee	914.0	909.0	99	36.0	31.0	86
Texas	4,655.0	4,570.0	98	545.0	580.0	106
Utah	340.0	358.0	105	100.0	97.0	97
Vermont	14.0	13.0	93	126.0	124.0	98
Virginia	631.0	626.0	99	79.0	74.0	94
Washington	230.0	228.0	99	280.0	282.0	101
West Virginia	198.0	199.0	101	7.0	6.0	86
Wisconsin	290.0	310.0	107	1,270.0	1,260.0	99
Wyoming	714.0	724.0	101	6.0	6.0	100
United States	31,690.7	31,316.7	99	9,353.4	9,334.6	100

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2019 and 2020 (continued)

State	All heifers 500 pounds and over					
	Beef cow replacement		Milk cow replacement		Other	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	116.0	114.0	2.0	2.0	37.0	44.0
Alaska	1.4	1.2	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.4
Arizona	35.0	30.0	115.0	110.0	20.0	15.0
Arkansas	156.0	150.0	4.0	3.0	75.0	70.0
California	115.0	120.0	760.0	750.0	215.0	200.0
Colorado	170.0	165.0	110.0	115.0	570.0	580.0
Connecticut	1.5	2.0	9.0	9.5	1.5	1.5
Delaware	0.6	0.7	1.6	1.8	0.3	0.5
Florida	130.0	130.0	35.0	35.0	25.0	25.0
Georgia	90.0	90.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	35.0
Hawaii	11.5	11.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	5.0
Idaho	110.0	120.0	340.0	330.0	220.0	210.0
Illinois	70.0	60.0	45.0	45.0	95.0	90.0
Indiana	45.0	41.0	80.0	70.0	50.0	45.0
Iowa	155.0	145.0	125.0	115.0	560.0	620.0
Kansas	280.0	250.0	170.0	140.0	1,420.0	1,570.0
Kentucky	120.0	125.0	45.0	40.0	130.0	115.0
Louisiana	83.0	82.0	4.0	3.0	23.0	20.0
Maine	3.0	3.5	14.0	14.0	3.0	3.5
Maryland	13.0	11.0	30.0	26.0	8.0	8.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	6.5	6.5	1.0	1.0
Michigan	25.0	23.0	160.0	170.0	40.0	37.0
Minnesota	95.0	95.0	255.0	225.0	170.0	170.0
Mississippi	90.0	90.0	5.0	5.0	40.0	43.0
Missouri	335.0	335.0	40.0	35.0	205.0	230.0
Montana	380.0	390.0	8.0	5.0	232.0	230.0
Nebraska	365.0	370.0	15.0	30.0	1,530.0	1,510.0
Nevada	42.0	44.0	11.0	10.0	29.0	33.0
New Hampshire	1.3	1.3	6.5	6.5	0.7	0.7
New Jersey	2.5	2.2	3.3	3.1	0.7	1.2
New Mexico	95.0	80.0	125.0	140.0	85.0	85.0
New York	40.0	40.0	335.0	345.0	45.0	40.0
North Carolina	60.0	63.0	20.0	18.0	20.0	23.0
North Dakota	197.0	182.0	8.0	8.0	210.0	240.0
Ohio	70.0	65.0	125.0	120.0	55.0	60.0
Oklahoma	400.0	370.0	20.0	20.0	520.0	540.0
Oregon	110.0	105.0	65.0	70.0	115.0	120.0
Pennsylvania	65.0	60.0	290.0	275.0	55.0	55.0
Rhode Island	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
South Carolina	37.0	26.0	5.0	4.0	8.0	11.0
South Dakota	385.0	360.0	40.0	45.0	550.0	460.0
Tennessee	145.0	125.0	25.0	25.0	75.0	85.0
Texas	740.0	770.0	260.0	270.0	1,690.0	1,610.0
Utah	70.0	85.0	50.0	50.0	65.0	60.0
Vermont	4.5	4.5	55.0	55.0	6.5	5.5
Virginia	93.0	93.0	37.0	33.0	61.0	64.0
Washington	57.0	55.0	123.0	125.0	120.0	135.0
West Virginia	32.0	34.0	3.0	3.0	20.0	22.0
Wisconsin	80.0	90.0	680.0	690.0	60.0	50.0
Wyoming	160.0	160.0	4.0	4.0	126.0	126.0
United States	5,884.9	5,771.9	4,701.5	4,637.0	9,623.6	9,705.5

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2019 and 2020 (continued)

State	Steers 500 pounds and over		Bulls 500 pounds and over		Calves under 500 pounds	
	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	45.0	50.0	45.0	50.0	345.0	350.0
Alaska	0.7	0.6	3.0	3.9	3.1	2.8
Arizona	295.0	275.0	20.0	20.0	115.0	125.0
Arkansas	115.0	120.0	60.0	62.0	430.0	415.0
California	610.0	630.0	60.0	60.0	1,030.0	1,050.0
Colorado	830.0	790.0	55.0	55.0	145.0	135.0
Connecticut	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	9.0	9.0
Delaware	2.6	2.6	0.4	0.4	3.0	3.0
Florida	20.0	25.0	60.0	55.0	380.0	390.0
Georgia	37.0	43.0	33.0	32.0	270.0	270.0
Hawaii	10.5	10.0	4.0	4.0	33.0	33.0
Idaho	320.0	310.0	40.0	40.0	350.0	350.0
Illinois	245.0	240.0	25.0	20.0	220.0	185.0
Indiana	115.0	113.0	17.0	16.0	188.0	185.0
Iowa	1,390.0	1,320.0	70.0	60.0	500.0	520.0
Kansas	2,060.0	2,100.0	95.0	85.0	685.0	705.0
Kentucky	225.0	220.0	70.0	70.0	470.0	490.0
Louisiana	27.0	25.0	30.0	30.0	163.0	160.0
Maine	4.0	5.0	1.5	1.5	12.5	13.5
Maryland	14.0	11.5	5.0	3.5	33.0	30.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	7.0	6.0
Michigan	180.0	175.0	15.0	15.0	210.0	210.0
Minnesota	485.0	520.0	35.0	30.0	460.0	440.0
Mississippi	52.0	58.0	38.0	39.0	190.0	195.0
Missouri	395.0	420.0	125.0	120.0	1,010.0	1,050.0
Montana	240.0	250.0	100.0	105.0	80.0	80.0
Nebraska	2,380.0	2,390.0	110.0	120.0	400.0	400.0
Nevada	39.0	40.0	15.0	15.0	59.0	58.0
New Hampshire	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	6.5	6.5
New Jersey	2.5	2.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	4.5
New Mexico	130.0	105.0	35.0	30.0	205.0	200.0
New York	47.0	55.0	18.0	20.0	235.0	240.0
North Carolina	35.0	40.0	30.0	31.0	225.0	225.0
North Dakota	255.0	275.0	65.0	70.0	105.0	115.0
Ohio	215.0	220.0	30.0	30.0	255.0	245.0
Oklahoma	1,050.0	1,020.0	180.0	170.0	940.0	940.0
Oregon	160.0	145.0	40.0	40.0	160.0	140.0
Pennsylvania	135.0	130.0	25.0	20.0	300.0	290.0
Rhode Island	0.4	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.7
South Carolina	10.0	12.0	14.0	13.0	76.0	84.0
South Dakota	730.0	710.0	105.0	110.0	300.0	315.0
Tennessee	130.0	155.0	65.0	60.0	410.0	420.0
Texas	2,720.0	2,660.0	340.0	350.0	2,050.0	2,190.0
Utah	85.0	80.0	25.0	25.0	75.0	65.0
Vermont	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	42.0	41.0
Virginia	155.0	165.0	39.0	40.0	345.0	355.0
Washington	200.0	205.0	20.0	20.0	150.0	150.0
West Virginia	42.0	44.0	14.0	15.0	74.0	72.0
Wisconsin	360.0	340.0	30.0	30.0	680.0	680.0
Wyoming	150.0	155.0	40.0	45.0	100.0	100.0
United States	16,757.7	16,671.2	2,253.0	2,237.4	14,539.9	14,739.0

Calf Crop – States and United States: 2018 and 2019

State	2018	2019	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	620.0	620.0	100
Alaska	5.0	5.0	100
Arizona	320.0	300.0	94
Arkansas	800.0	790.0	99
California	1,860.0	1,880.0	101
Colorado	840.0	830.0	99
Connecticut	16.5	17.5	106
Delaware	6.0	6.0	100
Florida	820.0	810.0	99
Georgia	510.0	530.0	104
Hawaii	60.0	60.0	100
Idaho	960.0	980.0	102
Illinois	430.0	405.0	94
Indiana	350.0	335.0	96
Iowa	1,110.0	1,080.0	97
Kansas	1,500.0	1,450.0	97
Kentucky	970.0	980.0	101
Louisiana	360.0	355.0	99
Maine	29.0	30.0	103
Maryland	75.0	68.0	91
Massachusetts	16.0	15.5	97
Michigan	420.0	410.0	98
Minnesota	800.0	780.0	98
Mississippi	385.0	390.0	101
Missouri	1,940.0	1,980.0	102
Montana	1,440.0	1,420.0	99
Nebraska	1,790.0	1,800.0	101
Nevada	220.0	230.0	105
New Hampshire	12.0	12.5	104
New Jersey	10.0	10.0	100
New Mexico	620.0	630.0	102
New York	550.0	570.0	104
North Carolina	365.0	370.0	101
North Dakota	940.0	970.0	103
Ohio	490.0	485.0	99
Oklahoma	2,050.0	1,920.0	94
Oregon	620.0	610.0	98
Pennsylvania	610.0	590.0	97
Rhode Island	2.2	2.1	95
South Carolina	164.0	155.0	95
South Dakota	1,880.0	1,830.0	97
Tennessee	860.0	870.0	101
Texas	4,650.0	4,600.0	99
Utah	385.0	400.0	104
Vermont	102.0	103.0	101
Virginia	630.0	630.0	100
Washington	440.0	440.0	100
West Virginia	190.0	195.0	103
Wisconsin	1,420.0	1,440.0	101
Wyoming	670.0	670.0	100
United States	36,312.7	36,059.6	99

All Cattle on Feed Inventory— States and United States: January 1, 2019 and 2020

[Cattle and calves on feed are steers and heifers being fed a ration of grain, silage, hay, and/or protein supplement for slaughter market that are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. It excludes cattle being "backgrounded only" for later sale as feeders or later placement in another feedlot. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by class]

State	2019	2020	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arizona	297.0	255.0	86
California	535.0	540.0	101
Colorado	1,050.0	1,120.0	107
Idaho	295.0	310.0	105
Illinois	250.0	240.0	96
Indiana	100.0	105.0	105
Iowa	1,320.0	1,290.0	98
Kansas	2,430.0	2,580.0	106
Kentucky	16.0	17.0	106
Maryland	9.0	6.0	67
Michigan	150.0	165.0	110
Minnesota	410.0	400.0	98
Missouri	100.0	110.0	110
Montana	40.0	50.0	125
Nebraska	2,750.0	2,600.0	95
Nevada	4.0	3.0	75
New York	22.0	22.0	100
North Dakota	59.0	42.0	71
Ohio	150.0	170.0	113
Oklahoma	330.0	340.0	103
Oregon	90.0	95.0	106
Pennsylvania	100.0	100.0	100
South Dakota	425.0	440.0	104
Texas	2,750.0	2,980.0	108
Utah	23.0	20.0	87
Virginia	15.0	20.0	133
Washington	230.0	240.0	104
West Virginia	4.0	4.0	100
Wisconsin	280.0	250.0	89
Wyoming	65.0	70.0	108
Other States ¹	68.9	83.7	121
United States	14,367.9	14,667.7	102

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

Cattle Grazing on Small Grain Pasture – 3-State Total: January 1, 2019 and 2020

States	2019	2020	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas	1,900.0	1,610.0	85

Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: July 1, 2018 and 2019

Class	2018	2019	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves	102,800.0	102,900.0	100
All cows and heifers that have calved	41,800.0	41,600.0	100
Beef cows	32,400.0	32,300.0	100
Milk cows	9,400.0	9,300.0	99
All heifers 500 pounds and over	16,300.0	16,400.0	101
For beef cow replacement	4,600.0	4,400.0	96
For milk cow replacement	4,200.0	4,100.0	98
Other heifers	7,500.0	7,900.0	105
Steers 500 pounds and over	14,500.0	14,700.0	101
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,100.0	2,100.0	100
Calves under 500 pounds	28,100.0	28,100.0	100
Calf crop	36,312.7	36,059.6	99
All cattle on feed	13,300.0	13,600.0	102

Calf Crop by Period – United States: 2018 and 2019

Period	2018		2019	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
January 1 - June 30	26,450.0	72.8	26,350.0	73.1
July 1 - December 31	9,862.7	27.2	9,709.6	26.9
Total	36,312.7	100.0	36,059.6	100.0

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: A random sample of United States producers were 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 35,100 operators during the first half of January by mail, telephone, internet, and face-to-face personal interviews and 68 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 Regional Field Offices. 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 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 all cattle and calves 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 94.4 million head by more than 0.5 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.8 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 330,000 head, ranging from 40,000 to 796,000 head. During this period the initial inventory estimate has been above the latest estimate 3 times and below the latest estimate 7 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 10 years]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Years	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(number)	(number)
All cattle and calves	0.5	0.8	330	40	796	7	3
All cows and heifers that have calved	0.6	1.0	180	20	405	4	6
Calf crop	0.5	1.0	146	20	378	4	6

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@usda.gov.

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 692-0069
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Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
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Heidi Lanouette – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Suzanne Richards – Dairy Products	(202) 720-4448
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106

Access to NASS Reports

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- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

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@usda.gov.

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