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January 1 Cattle Inventory Down 3 Percent

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2023 totaled 89.3 million head, 3 percent below the 92.1 million head on January 1, 2022.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 38.3 million head, were 3 percent below the 39.4 million head on January 1, 2022. Beef cows, at 28.9 million head, were down 4 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.40 million head, were up slightly from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2023 totaled 19.2 million head, 4 percent below the 19.9 million head on January 1, 2022. Beef replacement heifers, at 5.16 million head, were down 6 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.34 million head, were down 2 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.67 million head, were 3 percent below a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2023 totaled 16.1 million head, down 3 percent from January 1, 2022.

Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2023 totaled 2.03 million head, down 4 percent from January 1, 2022.

Calves under 500 pounds as of January 1, 2023 totaled 13.6 million head, down 3 percent from January 1, 2022.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.2 million head on January 1, 2023. The inventory is down 4 percent from the January 1, 2022 total of 14.7 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head accounted for 82.5 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2023, up 1 percent from the previous year. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds (outside of feedlots) at 25.3 million head, was 3 percent below January 1, 2022.

Calf Crop Down 2 Percent

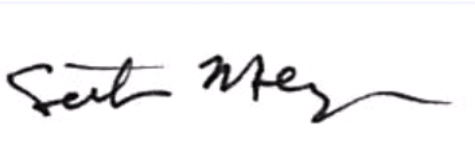
The 2022 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 34.5 million head, down 2 percent from the previous year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2022 were estimated at 25.3 million head, down 2 percent from the first half of 2021. Calves born during the second half of 2022 were estimated at 9.16 million head, 27 percent of the total 2022 calf crop.

Revisions

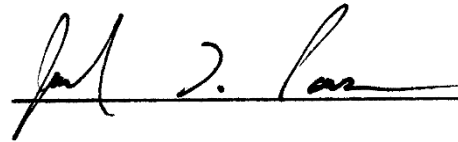
All inventory and calf crop estimates for July 1, 2021, January 1, 2022, and July 1, 2022 were reviewed using calf crop, official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. Based on the findings of this review, January 1, 2022 all cattle and calves increased by 0.2 percent and 2021 calf crop increased by 0.2 percent. July 1, 2022 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.2 percent and 2022 calf crop decreased by 0.4 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, 2023.



Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Seth Meyer



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Joseph L. Parsons

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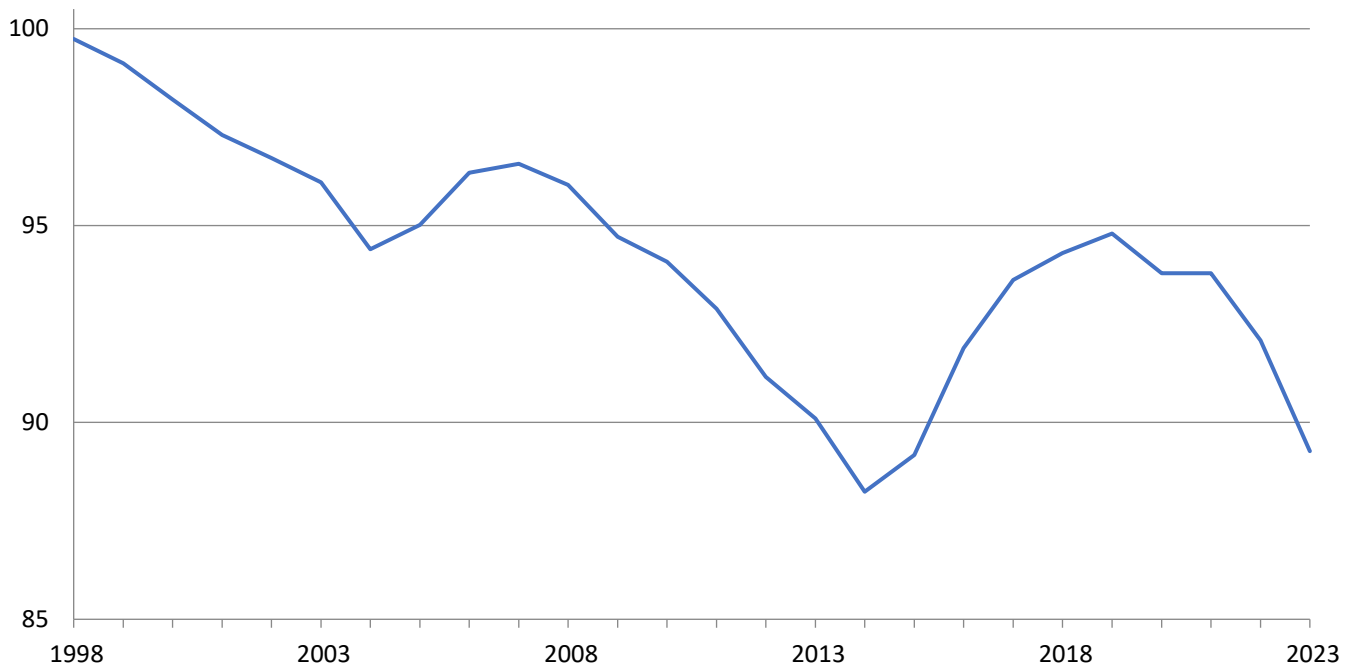
Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: January 1, 2022 and 2023

Class	2022	2023	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves	92,076.6	89,274.1	97
All cows and heifers that have calved	39,360.1	38,320.4	97
Beef cows	29,983.1	28,917.9	96
Milk cows	9,377.0	9,402.5	100
All heifers 500 pounds and over	19,916.0	19,172.5	96
For beef cow replacement	5,481.5	5,163.7	94
Expected to calve ¹	3,339.5	3,168.7	95
For milk cow replacement	4,440.6	4,337.2	98
Expected to calve ¹	2,826.2	2,769.4	98
Other heifers	9,993.9	9,671.6	97
Steers 500 pounds and over	16,704.7	16,131.6	97
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,109.6	2,029.0	96
Calves under 500 pounds	13,986.2	13,620.6	97
All cattle on feed	14,694.6	14,157.3	96
	2021	2022	Percent of previous year
Calf crop	35,165.9	34,464.5	98

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, 2022 and 2023

State	All cattle and calves			All cows and heifers that have calved		
	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	1,260.0	1,250.0	99	675.0	680.0	101
Alaska	18.0	18.0	100	8.0	8.0	100
Arizona	960.0	960.0	100	365.0	370.0	101
Arkansas	1,700.0	1,630.0	96	910.0	870.0	96
California	5,200.0	5,200.0	100	2,400.0	2,390.0	100
Colorado	2,650.0	2,620.0	99	840.0	845.0	101
Connecticut	47.0	46.0	98	23.0	23.0	100
Delaware	12.0	10.2	85	4.5	3.8	84
Florida	1,630.0	1,620.0	99	1,000.0	980.0	98
Georgia	1,050.0	1,030.0	98	570.0	570.0	100
Hawaii	144.0	150.0	104	80.0	83.0	104
Idaho	2,550.0	2,500.0	98	1,150.0	1,110.0	97
Illinois	1,000.0	1,000.0	100	420.0	420.0	100
Indiana	810.0	790.0	98	370.0	360.0	97
Iowa	3,860.0	3,650.0	95	1,130.0	1,100.0	97
Kansas	6,500.0	6,250.0	96	1,590.0	1,490.0	94
Kentucky	2,030.0	1,930.0	95	1,010.0	940.0	93
Louisiana	775.0	750.0	97	460.0	445.0	97
Maine	74.0	75.0	101	36.0	36.0	100
Maryland	165.0	157.0	95	83.0	80.0	96
Massachusetts	38.0	33.0	87	17.5	16.5	94
Michigan	1,120.0	1,100.0	98	530.0	530.0	100
Minnesota	2,210.0	2,180.0	99	820.0	815.0	99
Mississippi	910.0	860.0	95	485.0	455.0	94
Missouri	4,090.0	4,110.0	100	2,010.0	2,010.0	100
Montana	2,210.0	2,160.0	98	1,310.0	1,280.0	98
Nebraska	6,800.0	6,500.0	96	1,860.0	1,760.0	95
Nevada	445.0	430.0	97	275.0	265.0	96
New Hampshire	31.0	31.0	100	14.5	14.5	100
New Jersey	24.0	25.0	104	12.0	13.0	108
New Mexico	1,310.0	1,310.0	100	745.0	725.0	97
New York	1,420.0	1,430.0	101	720.0	730.0	101
North Carolina	780.0	740.0	95	400.0	380.0	95
North Dakota	1,870.0	1,750.0	94	950.0	890.0	94
Ohio	1,320.0	1,250.0	95	560.0	540.0	96
Oklahoma	5,200.0	4,600.0	88	2,160.0	2,020.0	94
Oregon	1,250.0	1,240.0	99	630.0	630.0	100
Pennsylvania	1,340.0	1,370.0	102	660.0	660.0	100
Rhode Island	3.6	3.9	108	1.6	1.6	100
South Carolina	310.0	315.0	102	167.0	168.0	101
South Dakota	3,800.0	3,550.0	93	1,770.0	1,720.0	97
Tennessee	1,760.0	1,680.0	95	920.0	870.0	95
Texas	12,700.0	12,500.0	98	5,050.0	4,950.0	98
Utah	790.0	740.0	94	425.0	410.0	96
Vermont	250.0	245.0	98	135.0	132.0	98
Virginia	1,390.0	1,300.0	94	670.0	630.0	94
Washington	1,140.0	1,170.0	103	485.0	475.0	98
West Virginia	370.0	375.0	101	193.0	196.0	102
Wisconsin	3,500.0	3,400.0	97	1,570.0	1,550.0	99
Wyoming	1,260.0	1,240.0	98	690.0	680.0	99
United States	92,076.6	89,274.1	97	39,360.1	38,320.4	97

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2022 and 2023 (continued)

State	Beef cows that have calved			Milk cows that have calved		
	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	2022	2023	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	672.0	678.0	101	3.0	2.0	67
Alaska	7.8	7.8	100	0.2	0.2	100
Arizona	171.0	175.0	102	194.0	195.0	101
Arkansas	905.0	866.0	96	5.0	4.0	80
California	680.0	665.0	98	1,720.0	1,725.0	100
Colorado	638.0	642.0	101	202.0	203.0	100
Connecticut	4.5	4.5	100	18.5	18.5	100
Delaware	1.7	1.2	71	2.8	2.6	93
Florida	895.0	888.0	99	105.0	92.0	88
Georgia	487.0	478.0	98	83.0	92.0	111
Hawaii	79.2	82.4	104	0.8	0.6	75
Idaho	498.0	449.0	90	652.0	661.0	101
Illinois	339.0	341.0	101	81.0	79.0	98
Indiana	184.0	173.0	94	186.0	187.0	101
Iowa	905.0	860.0	95	225.0	240.0	107
Kansas	1,421.0	1,315.0	93	169.0	175.0	104
Kentucky	966.0	895.0	93	44.0	45.0	102
Louisiana	451.0	437.0	97	9.0	8.0	89
Maine	10.0	11.0	110	26.0	25.0	96
Maryland	42.0	40.0	95	41.0	40.0	98
Massachusetts	8.0	7.5	94	9.5	9.0	95
Michigan	96.0	98.0	102	434.0	432.0	100
Minnesota	360.0	360.0	100	460.0	455.0	99
Mississippi	478.0	449.0	94	7.0	6.0	86
Missouri	1,941.0	1,945.0	100	69.0	65.0	94
Montana	1,299.0	1,270.0	98	11.0	10.0	91
Nebraska	1,802.0	1,703.0	95	58.0	57.0	98
Nevada	244.0	232.0	95	31.0	33.0	106
New Hampshire	4.0	4.5	113	10.5	10.0	95
New Jersey	7.8	8.9	114	4.2	4.1	98
New Mexico	453.0	446.0	98	292.0	279.0	96
New York	100.0	100.0	100	620.0	630.0	102
North Carolina	361.0	341.0	94	39.0	39.0	100
North Dakota	935.0	876.0	94	15.0	14.0	93
Ohio	312.0	290.0	93	248.0	250.0	101
Oklahoma	2,121.0	1,981.0	93	39.0	39.0	100
Oregon	505.0	507.0	100	125.0	123.0	98
Pennsylvania	190.0	195.0	103	470.0	465.0	99
Rhode Island	1.1	1.1	100	0.5	0.5	100
South Carolina	158.0	159.0	101	9.0	9.0	100
South Dakota	1,600.0	1,533.0	96	170.0	187.0	110
Tennessee	893.0	844.0	95	27.0	26.0	96
Texas	4,425.0	4,300.0	97	625.0	650.0	104
Utah	330.0	318.0	96	95.0	92.0	97
Vermont	15.0	14.0	93	120.0	118.0	98
Virginia	599.0	563.0	94	71.0	67.0	94
Washington	224.0	221.0	99	261.0	254.0	97
West Virginia	188.0	191.0	102	5.0	5.0	100
Wisconsin	295.0	280.0	95	1,275.0	1,270.0	100
Wyoming	681.0	671.0	99	9.0	9.0	100
United States	29,983.1	28,917.9	96	9,377.0	9,402.5	100

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2022 and 2023 (continued)

State	All heifers 500 pounds and over					
	Beef cow replacement		Milk cow replacement		Other	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	108.0	107.0	2.0	2.0	50.0	46.0
Alaska	1.5	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.5
Arizona	25.0	26.0	120.0	125.0	25.0	24.0
Arkansas	135.0	118.0	3.0	3.0	72.0	74.0
California	115.0	115.0	760.0	730.0	225.0	225.0
Colorado	135.0	135.0	115.0	115.0	590.0	585.0
Connecticut	2.0	2.0	9.5	9.5	1.5	1.0
Delaware	0.6	0.2	1.2	0.9	0.3	0.4
Florida	125.0	125.0	30.0	30.0	25.0	20.0
Georgia	100.0	90.0	25.0	20.0	25.0	28.0
Hawaii	11.0	11.5	1.0	1.0	5.0	5.0
Idaho	95.0	85.0	350.0	340.0	225.0	235.0
Illinois	55.0	56.0	41.0	38.0	90.0	93.0
Indiana	35.0	35.0	60.0	62.0	45.0	48.0
Iowa	160.0	130.0	120.0	120.0	590.0	540.0
Kansas	270.0	240.0	160.0	180.0	1,710.0	1,630.0
Kentucky	125.0	115.0	35.0	35.0	110.0	130.0
Louisiana	80.0	77.0	3.0	3.0	19.0	19.0
Maine	4.0	3.5	13.0	11.0	3.0	5.0
Maryland	9.0	8.0	26.0	23.0	6.0	6.0
Massachusetts	3.0	2.0	5.5	4.0	1.0	1.5
Michigan	23.0	19.0	152.0	140.0	45.0	41.0
Minnesota	85.0	80.0	210.0	200.0	145.0	160.0
Mississippi	91.0	83.0	5.0	4.0	38.0	38.0
Missouri	300.0	305.0	30.0	30.0	230.0	235.0
Montana	320.0	310.0	4.0	4.0	186.0	186.0
Nebraska	350.0	320.0	30.0	30.0	1,580.0	1,530.0
Nevada	38.0	35.0	9.0	9.0	28.0	26.0
New Hampshire	1.2	1.1	6.0	6.0	0.8	0.9
New Jersey	1.5	1.6	2.8	2.2	1.2	1.1
New Mexico	70.0	70.0	125.0	115.0	70.0	75.0
New York	40.0	37.0	330.0	340.0	40.0	38.0
North Carolina	62.0	60.0	14.0	17.0	26.0	20.0
North Dakota	182.0	162.0	8.0	8.0	230.0	215.0
Ohio	65.0	55.0	120.0	120.0	60.0	65.0
Oklahoma	400.0	390.0	20.0	20.0	540.0	390.0
Oregon	100.0	105.0	55.0	50.0	120.0	120.0
Pennsylvania	51.0	53.0	195.0	200.0	49.0	52.0
Rhode Island	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
South Carolina	29.0	30.0	5.0	4.0	9.0	10.0
South Dakota	370.0	350.0	40.0	30.0	495.0	440.0
Tennessee	120.0	120.0	20.0	15.0	85.0	90.0
Texas	710.0	640.0	240.0	240.0	1,690.0	1,700.0
Utah	70.0	65.0	55.0	50.0	60.0	55.0
Vermont	4.5	5.0	52.0	53.0	6.5	6.0
Virginia	89.0	80.0	35.0	34.0	69.0	64.0
Washington	55.0	55.0	130.0	125.0	130.0	155.0
West Virginia	30.0	29.0	2.0	2.0	22.0	23.0
Wisconsin	85.0	80.0	660.0	630.0	85.0	90.0
Wyoming	145.0	140.0	5.0	6.0	135.0	129.0
United States	5,481.5	5,163.7	4,440.6	4,337.2	9,993.9	9,671.6

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2022 and 2023 (continued)

State	Steers 500 pounds and over		Bulls 500 pounds and over		Calves under 500 pounds	
	2022	2023	2022	2023	2022	2023
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	47.0	46.0	43.0	44.0	335.0	325.0
Alaska	0.5	0.3	4.5	4.6	3.0	3.1
Arizona	290.0	280.0	20.0	20.0	115.0	115.0
Arkansas	115.0	115.0	55.0	55.0	410.0	395.0
California	640.0	660.0	60.0	60.0	1,000.0	1,020.0
Colorado	800.0	780.0	45.0	45.0	125.0	115.0
Connecticut	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	9.5	9.0
Delaware	2.7	2.8	0.3	0.2	2.4	1.9
Florida	25.0	25.0	55.0	50.0	370.0	390.0
Georgia	40.0	37.0	30.0	30.0	260.0	255.0
Hawaii	9.0	10.0	4.0	4.0	34.0	35.5
Idaho	320.0	300.0	40.0	40.0	370.0	390.0
Illinois	196.0	205.0	18.0	18.0	180.0	170.0
Indiana	96.0	102.0	16.0	14.0	188.0	169.0
Iowa	1,290.0	1,240.0	60.0	60.0	510.0	460.0
Kansas	2,040.0	1,990.0	85.0	85.0	645.0	635.0
Kentucky	220.0	225.0	60.0	55.0	470.0	430.0
Louisiana	23.0	25.0	30.0	30.0	160.0	151.0
Maine	4.5	6.0	1.5	1.5	12.0	12.0
Maryland	12.5	12.0	3.5	3.0	25.0	25.0
Massachusetts	2.5	2.0	1.0	1.0	7.5	6.0
Michigan	173.0	165.0	15.0	14.0	182.0	191.0
Minnesota	490.0	470.0	30.0	30.0	430.0	425.0
Mississippi	52.0	54.0	39.0	36.0	200.0	190.0
Missouri	420.0	420.0	110.0	110.0	990.0	1,000.0
Montana	210.0	215.0	95.0	95.0	85.0	70.0
Nebraska	2,550.0	2,450.0	110.0	90.0	320.0	320.0
Nevada	35.0	32.0	13.0	13.0	47.0	50.0
New Hampshire	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	6.5	6.5
New Jersey	2.2	2.5	0.7	0.6	3.6	4.0
New Mexico	100.0	115.0	25.0	25.0	175.0	185.0
New York	45.0	42.0	20.0	18.0	225.0	225.0
North Carolina	42.0	40.0	31.0	28.0	205.0	195.0
North Dakota	310.0	305.0	60.0	55.0	130.0	115.0
Ohio	220.0	205.0	30.0	25.0	265.0	240.0
Oklahoma	1,010.0	770.0	170.0	150.0	900.0	860.0
Oregon	170.0	165.0	40.0	40.0	135.0	130.0
Pennsylvania	140.0	155.0	20.0	20.0	225.0	230.0
Rhode Island	0.3	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.6
South Carolina	11.0	12.0	12.0	11.0	77.0	80.0
South Dakota	750.0	700.0	105.0	100.0	270.0	210.0
Tennessee	135.0	135.0	60.0	60.0	420.0	390.0
Texas	2,630.0	2,580.0	330.0	330.0	2,050.0	2,060.0
Utah	90.0	80.0	23.0	22.0	67.0	58.0
Vermont	5.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	44.0	42.0
Virginia	149.0	147.0	38.0	35.0	340.0	310.0
Washington	190.0	210.0	18.0	18.0	132.0	132.0
West Virginia	39.0	37.0	14.0	14.0	70.0	74.0
Wisconsin	400.0	390.0	30.0	30.0	670.0	630.0
Wyoming	160.0	165.0	35.0	35.0	90.0	85.0
United States	16,704.7	16,131.6	2,109.6	2,029.0	13,986.2	13,620.6

Calf Crop – States and United States: 2021 and 2022

State	2021	2022	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	600.0	580.0	97
Alaska	5.5	5.5	100
Arizona	290.0	290.0	100
Arkansas	770.0	760.0	99
California	1,920.0	1,970.0	103
Colorado	800.0	780.0	98
Connecticut	17.5	16.5	94
Delaware	3.9	3.5	90
Florida	800.0	780.0	98
Georgia	520.0	500.0	96
Hawaii	62.0	63.0	102
Idaho	990.0	950.0	96
Illinois	370.0	365.0	99
Indiana	330.0	330.0	100
Iowa	1,130.0	1,070.0	95
Kansas	1,400.0	1,370.0	98
Kentucky	980.0	920.0	94
Louisiana	355.0	340.0	96
Maine	28.0	28.0	100
Maryland	62.0	62.0	100
Massachusetts	14.5	12.5	86
Michigan	395.0	370.0	94
Minnesota	800.0	800.0	100
Mississippi	390.0	370.0	95
Missouri	1,890.0	1,890.0	100
Montana	1,310.0	1,270.0	97
Nebraska	1,670.0	1,640.0	98
Nevada	220.0	215.0	98
New Hampshire	11.0	11.0	100
New Jersey	8.0	9.0	113
New Mexico	590.0	570.0	97
New York	550.0	570.0	104
North Carolina	370.0	350.0	95
North Dakota	920.0	850.0	92
Ohio	490.0	475.0	97
Oklahoma	1,930.0	1,850.0	96
Oregon	580.0	580.0	100
Pennsylvania	510.0	520.0	102
Rhode Island	1.5	1.5	100
South Carolina	140.0	142.0	101
South Dakota	1,680.0	1,680.0	100
Tennessee	870.0	850.0	98
Texas	4,600.0	4,550.0	99
Utah	380.0	365.0	96
Vermont	102.0	99.0	97
Virginia	630.0	590.0	94
Washington	425.0	420.0	99
West Virginia	185.0	191.0	103
Wisconsin	1,410.0	1,400.0	99
Wyoming	660.0	640.0	97
United States	35,165.9	34,464.5	98

All Cattle on Feed Inventory – States and United States: January 1, 2022 and 2023

[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	2022	2023	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arizona	274.0	269.0	98
California	555.0	520.0	94
Colorado	1,160.0	1,070.0	92
Idaho	320.0	330.0	103
Illinois	210.0	220.0	105
Indiana	105.0	110.0	105
Iowa	1,170.0	1,150.0	98
Kansas	2,610.0	2,480.0	95
Kentucky	18.0	18.0	100
Maryland	8.0	7.0	88
Michigan	160.0	150.0	94
Minnesota	380.0	350.0	92
Missouri	80.0	80.0	100
Montana	43.0	40.0	93
Nebraska	2,820.0	2,780.0	99
Nevada	3.0	3.0	100
New York	22.0	23.0	105
North Dakota	39.0	41.0	105
Ohio	150.0	140.0	93
Oklahoma	315.0	280.0	89
Oregon	130.0	135.0	104
Pennsylvania	70.0	65.0	93
South Dakota	445.0	430.0	97
Texas	2,930.0	2,780.0	95
Utah	21.0	18.0	86
Virginia	17.0	14.0	82
Washington	220.0	270.0	123
West Virginia	4.0	3.0	75
Wisconsin	270.0	240.0	89
Wyoming	69.0	72.0	104
Other States ¹	76.6	69.3	90
United States	14,694.6	14,157.3	96

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, 2022 and 2023

States	2022	2023	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas	1,710.0	1,630.0	95

Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: July 1, 2021 and 2022

Class	2021	2022	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves	100,800.0	98,600.0	98
All cows and heifers that have calved	40,600.0	39,600.0	98
Beef cows	31,100.0	30,150.0	97
Milk cows	9,500.0	9,450.0	99
All heifers 500 pounds and over	15,900.0	15,600.0	98
For beef cow replacement	4,300.0	4,150.0	97
For milk cow replacement	3,800.0	3,750.0	99
Other heifers	7,800.0	7,700.0	99
Steers 500 pounds and over	14,600.0	14,400.0	99
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,000.0	2,000.0	100
Calves under 500 pounds	27,700.0	27,000.0	97
All cattle on feed	13,400.0	13,400.0	100
Calf crop	35,165.9	34,464.5	98

Calf Crop by Six Month Period – United States: 2021 and 2022

Period	2021		2022	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
January 1 - June 30	25,700.0	73.1	25,300.0	73.4
July 1 - December 31	9,465.9	26.9	9,164.5	26.6
Total	35,165.9	100.0	34,464.5	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 35,400 operators during the first half of January by mail, telephone, internet, and face-to-face personal interviews and 65 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 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 321,000 head, ranging from 40,000 to 796,000 head. During this period the initial inventory estimate has been above the latest estimate 4 times and below the latest estimate 6 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	0.9	321	40	796	6	4
All cows and heifers that have calved	0.5	1.0	175	20	356	2	8
Calf crop	0.8	1.4	215	20	468	3	7

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
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Anthony Fischer – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Suzanne Richards – Dairy Products	(202) 720-4448
Suzanne Richards – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4448

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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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