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January 1 Cattle Inventory Down Slightly

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2021 totaled 93.6 million head, slightly below the 93.8 million head on January 1, 2020.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 40.6 million head, were slightly below the 40.7 million head on January 1, 2020. Beef cows, at 31.2 million head, were down 1 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.44 million head, were up 1 percent from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2021 totaled 20.0 million head, slightly below the 20.0 million head on January 1, 2020. Beef replacement heifers, at 5.81 million head, were up slightly from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.60 million head, were down 2 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.58 million head, were 1 percent above a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2021 totaled 16.6 million head, up slightly from January 1, 2020.

Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2021 totaled 2.21 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2020.

Calves under 500 pounds as of January 1, 2021 totaled 14.2 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2020.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.7 million head on January 1, 2021. The inventory is up slightly from the January 1, 2020 total of 14.7 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head accounted for 81.4 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2021, down 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 25.7 million head, was slightly below January 1, 2020.

Calf Crop Down 1 Percent

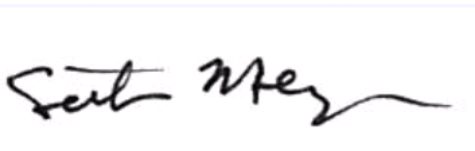
The 2020 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 35.1 million head, down 1 percent from the previous year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2020 were estimated at 25.8 million head, down 1 percent from the first half of 2019. Calves born during the second half of 2020 were estimated at 9.39 million head, 27 percent of the total 2020 calf crop.

Revisions

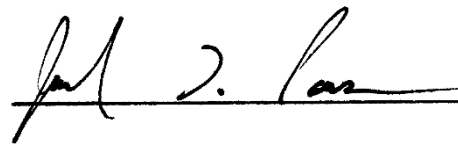
All inventory and calf crop estimates for July 1, 2019, January 1, 2020, and July 1, 2020 were reviewed using calf crop, official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. Based on the findings of this review, July 1, 2019 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.3 percent. January 1, 2020 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.7 percent and 2019 calf crop decreased by 1.3 percent. July 1, 2020 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.8 percent and 2020 calf crop decreased by 1.9 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 29, 2021.



Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Seth Meyer



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Joseph L. Parsons

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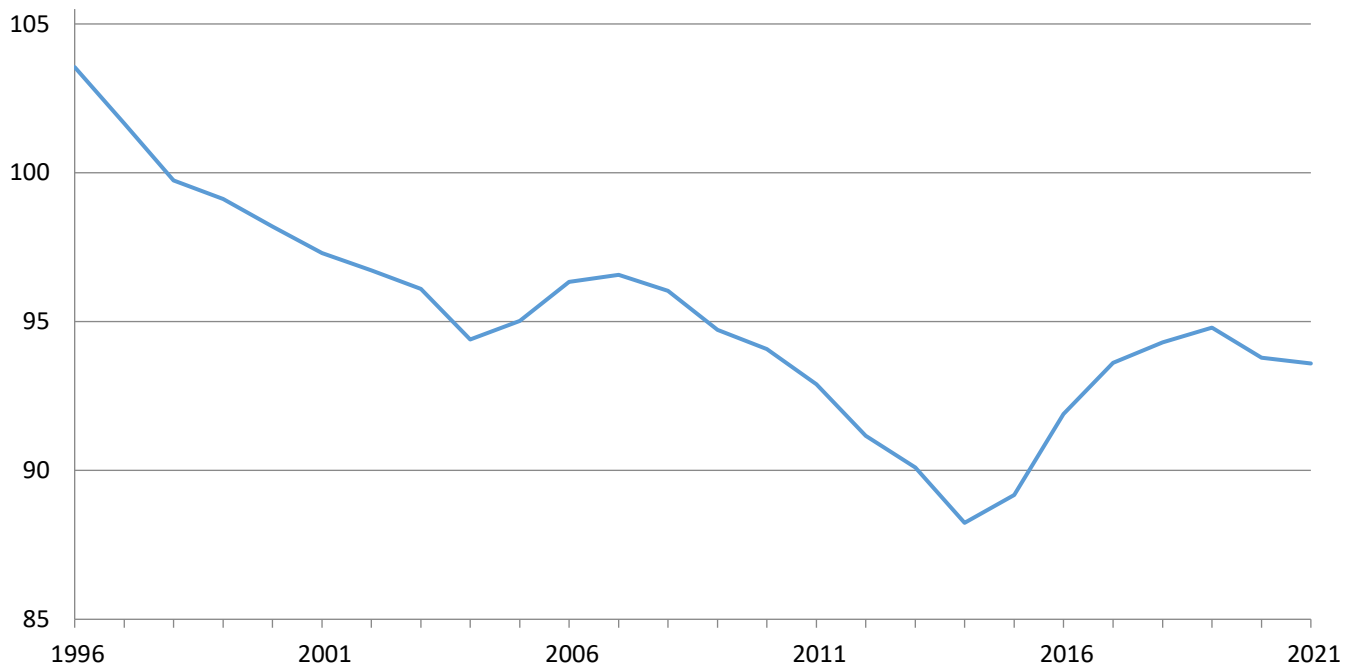
Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: January 1, 2020 and 2021

Class	2020	2021	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves	93,793.3	93,594.5	100
All cows and heifers that have calved	40,681.3	40,598.0	100
Beef cows	31,338.7	31,157.6	99
Milk cows	9,342.6	9,440.4	101
All heifers 500 pounds and over	20,024.4	20,000.1	100
For beef cow replacement	5,808.9	5,812.1	100
Expected to calve ¹	3,500.4	3,546.6	101
For milk cow replacement	4,684.0	4,604.5	98
Expected to calve ¹	2,971.4	2,915.9	98
Other heifers	9,531.5	9,583.5	101
Steers 500 pounds and over	16,541.2	16,597.8	100
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,237.4	2,210.5	99
Calves under 500 pounds	14,309.0	14,188.1	99
All cattle on feed	14,657.7	14,707.4	100
	2019	2020	Percent of previous year
Calf crop	35,591.6	35,135.5	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, 2020 and 2021

State	All cattle and calves			All cows and heifers that have calved		
	2020	2021	Percent of previous year	2020	2021	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	1,300.0	1,290.0	99	700.0	700.0	100
Alaska	17.0	17.0	100	8.0	7.5	94
Arizona	960.0	980.0	102	390.0	390.0	100
Arkansas	1,730.0	1,770.0	102	920.0	930.0	101
California	5,150.0	5,150.0	100	2,380.0	2,390.0	100
Colorado	2,750.0	2,650.0	96	960.0	860.0	90
Connecticut	49.0	47.0	96	25.0	24.0	96
Delaware	15.0	13.0	87	6.0	5.5	92
Florida	1,680.0	1,690.0	101	1,020.0	1,040.0	102
Georgia	1,090.0	1,090.0	100	600.0	590.0	98
Hawaii	140.0	142.0	101	76.0	77.0	101
Idaho	2,470.0	2,500.0	101	1,130.0	1,120.0	99
Illinois	1,090.0	1,050.0	96	460.0	440.0	96
Indiana	840.0	850.0	101	370.0	385.0	104
Iowa	3,850.0	3,650.0	95	1,120.0	1,110.0	99
Kansas	6,400.0	6,500.0	102	1,610.0	1,650.0	102
Kentucky	2,110.0	2,090.0	99	1,070.0	1,030.0	96
Louisiana	780.0	775.0	99	465.0	455.0	98
Maine	80.0	76.0	95	39.0	37.0	95
Maryland	179.0	177.0	99	89.0	88.0	99
Massachusetts	34.0	37.0	109	15.5	17.0	110
Michigan	1,150.0	1,140.0	99	520.0	540.0	104
Minnesota	2,260.0	2,140.0	95	810.0	800.0	99
Mississippi	920.0	920.0	100	490.0	490.0	100
Missouri	4,300.0	4,300.0	100	2,160.0	2,110.0	98
Montana	2,500.0	2,450.0	98	1,440.0	1,430.0	99
Nebraska	6,750.0	6,850.0	101	1,980.0	1,960.0	99
Nevada	480.0	470.0	98	280.0	275.0	98
New Hampshire	32.0	32.0	100	15.0	15.5	103
New Jersey	28.0	25.0	89	14.0	13.0	93
New Mexico	1,430.0	1,390.0	97	810.0	800.0	99
New York	1,460.0	1,420.0	97	730.0	720.0	99
North Carolina	810.0	800.0	99	410.0	410.0	100
North Dakota	1,880.0	1,950.0	104	1,010.0	990.0	98
Ohio	1,290.0	1,260.0	98	550.0	560.0	102
Oklahoma	5,150.0	5,300.0	103	2,150.0	2,230.0	104
Oregon	1,280.0	1,250.0	98	660.0	650.0	98
Pennsylvania	1,520.0	1,430.0	94	700.0	690.0	99
Rhode Island	4.3	3.5	81	1.8	1.5	83
South Carolina	340.0	330.0	97	190.0	178.0	94
South Dakota	3,900.0	4,000.0	103	1,910.0	1,940.0	102
Tennessee	1,810.0	1,790.0	99	940.0	930.0	99
Texas	12,900.0	13,100.0	102	5,150.0	5,300.0	103
Utah	820.0	800.0	98	455.0	440.0	97
Vermont	250.0	245.0	98	137.0	134.0	98
Virginia	1,450.0	1,390.0	96	700.0	670.0	96
Washington	1,200.0	1,140.0	95	510.0	500.0	98
West Virginia	395.0	375.0	95	205.0	195.0	95
Wisconsin	3,450.0	3,450.0	100	1,570.0	1,570.0	100
Wyoming	1,320.0	1,300.0	98	730.0	710.0	97
United States	93,793.3	93,594.5	100	40,681.3	40,598.0	100

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2020 and 2021 (continued)

State	Beef cows that have calved			Milk cows that have calved		
	2020	2021	Percent of previous year	2020	2021	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	696.0	697.0	100	4.0	3.0	75
Alaska	7.7	7.3	95	0.3	0.2	67
Arizona	194.0	194.0	100	196.0	196.0	100
Arkansas	915.0	925.0	101	5.0	5.0	100
California	655.0	670.0	102	1,725.0	1,720.0	100
Colorado	771.0	659.0	85	189.0	201.0	106
Connecticut	5.5	5.0	91	19.5	19.0	97
Delaware	2.2	1.8	82	3.8	3.7	97
Florida	904.0	929.0	103	116.0	111.0	96
Georgia	519.0	509.0	98	81.0	81.0	100
Hawaii	75.3	76.4	101	0.7	0.6	86
Idaho	490.0	474.0	97	640.0	646.0	101
Illinois	378.0	356.0	94	82.0	84.0	102
Indiana	194.0	194.0	100	176.0	191.0	109
Iowa	905.0	890.0	98	215.0	220.0	102
Kansas	1,443.0	1,477.0	102	167.0	173.0	104
Kentucky	1,021.0	983.0	96	49.0	47.0	96
Louisiana	455.0	445.0	98	10.0	10.0	100
Maine	11.0	10.0	91	28.0	27.0	96
Maryland	47.0	45.0	96	42.0	43.0	102
Massachusetts	5.5	7.0	127	10.0	10.0	100
Michigan	93.0	100.0	108	427.0	440.0	103
Minnesota	365.0	345.0	95	445.0	455.0	102
Mississippi	482.0	482.0	100	8.0	8.0	100
Missouri	2,083.0	2,035.0	98	77.0	75.0	97
Montana	1,428.0	1,419.0	99	12.0	11.0	92
Nebraska	1,922.0	1,900.0	99	58.0	60.0	103
Nevada	249.0	245.0	98	31.0	30.0	97
New Hampshire	4.0	4.5	113	11.0	11.0	100
New Jersey	9.3	8.6	92	4.7	4.4	94
New Mexico	480.0	463.0	96	330.0	337.0	102
New York	105.0	95.0	90	625.0	625.0	100
North Carolina	369.0	370.0	100	41.0	40.0	98
North Dakota	995.0	975.0	98	15.0	15.0	100
Ohio	298.0	302.0	101	252.0	258.0	102
Oklahoma	2,109.0	2,189.0	104	41.0	41.0	100
Oregon	533.0	525.0	98	127.0	125.0	98
Pennsylvania	220.0	215.0	98	480.0	475.0	99
Rhode Island	1.2	1.0	83	0.6	0.5	83
South Carolina	179.0	168.0	94	11.0	10.0	91
South Dakota	1,783.0	1,799.0	101	127.0	141.0	111
Tennessee	909.0	900.0	99	31.0	30.0	97
Texas	4,570.0	4,685.0	103	580.0	615.0	106
Utah	358.0	345.0	96	97.0	95.0	98
Vermont	13.0	14.0	108	124.0	120.0	97
Virginia	626.0	595.0	95	74.0	75.0	101
Washington	228.0	221.0	97	282.0	279.0	99
West Virginia	199.0	190.0	95	6.0	5.0	83
Wisconsin	310.0	310.0	100	1,260.0	1,260.0	100
Wyoming	724.0	702.0	97	6.0	8.0	133
United States	31,338.7	31,157.6	99	9,342.6	9,440.4	101

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2020 and 2021 (continued)

State	All heifers 500 pounds and over					
	Beef cow replacement		Milk cow replacement		Other	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	119.0	103.0	2.0	2.0	44.0	45.0
Alaska	1.2	1.5	0.1	0.1	0.4	0.3
Arizona	25.0	25.0	115.0	120.0	15.0	15.0
Arkansas	150.0	158.0	3.0	3.0	70.0	74.0
California	120.0	125.0	760.0	750.0	210.0	205.0
Colorado	155.0	130.0	115.0	120.0	570.0	570.0
Connecticut	2.0	1.9	9.5	9.0	1.5	1.1
Delaware	0.7	0.6	1.8	1.5	0.5	0.3
Florida	130.0	130.0	35.0	30.0	25.0	25.0
Georgia	90.0	100.0	30.0	30.0	30.0	25.0
Hawaii	11.0	11.5	1.0	1.0	5.0	5.0
Idaho	130.0	100.0	330.0	370.0	200.0	210.0
Illinois	60.0	65.0	45.0	45.0	90.0	95.0
Indiana	41.0	38.0	75.0	77.0	45.0	46.0
Iowa	145.0	155.0	115.0	125.0	600.0	520.0
Kansas	250.0	270.0	140.0	150.0	1,550.0	1,590.0
Kentucky	125.0	135.0	40.0	40.0	110.0	120.0
Louisiana	82.0	80.0	3.0	3.0	20.0	22.0
Maine	3.5	4.0	14.0	13.0	3.5	3.0
Maryland	11.0	7.5	26.0	23.5	8.0	5.0
Massachusetts	2.0	3.0	6.5	6.0	1.0	1.0
Michigan	23.0	20.0	175.0	160.0	32.0	40.0
Minnesota	95.0	80.0	235.0	200.0	160.0	160.0
Mississippi	90.0	95.0	5.0	5.0	43.0	39.0
Missouri	335.0	335.0	35.0	35.0	220.0	230.0
Montana	390.0	380.0	5.0	4.0	230.0	206.0
Nebraska	370.0	350.0	30.0	30.0	1,500.0	1,580.0
Nevada	44.0	43.0	10.0	10.0	33.0	35.0
New Hampshire	1.3	1.3	6.5	6.0	0.7	0.7
New Jersey	2.2	1.6	3.1	2.9	1.2	0.9
New Mexico	80.0	75.0	140.0	135.0	80.0	70.0
New York	40.0	40.0	345.0	340.0	40.0	35.0
North Carolina	63.0	61.0	18.0	15.0	23.0	24.0
North Dakota	182.0	204.0	8.0	11.0	230.0	235.0
Ohio	70.0	70.0	120.0	125.0	65.0	55.0
Oklahoma	370.0	410.0	20.0	20.0	530.0	500.0
Oregon	105.0	100.0	70.0	60.0	120.0	105.0
Pennsylvania	60.0	63.0	275.0	220.0	55.0	52.0
Rhode Island	0.5	0.2	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
South Carolina	26.0	32.0	4.0	6.0	11.0	9.0
South Dakota	360.0	370.0	45.0	50.0	460.0	500.0
Tennessee	125.0	130.0	25.0	25.0	85.0	75.0
Texas	800.0	820.0	280.0	300.0	1,550.0	1,580.0
Utah	85.0	75.0	50.0	55.0	60.0	55.0
Vermont	4.5	5.0	55.0	53.0	5.5	6.0
Virginia	93.0	90.0	33.0	36.0	64.0	70.0
Washington	57.0	50.0	127.0	115.0	136.0	135.0
West Virginia	34.0	32.0	3.0	2.0	22.0	22.0
Wisconsin	90.0	80.0	690.0	660.0	50.0	60.0
Wyoming	160.0	155.0	4.0	4.0	126.0	126.0
United States	5,808.9	5,812.1	4,684.0	4,604.5	9,531.5	9,583.5

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2020 and 2021 (continued)

State	Steers 500 pounds and over		Bulls 500 pounds and over		Calves under 500 pounds	
	2020	2021	2020	2021	2020	2021
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	45.0	50.0	50.0	45.0	340.0	345.0
Alaska	0.6	0.7	3.9	4.3	2.8	2.6
Arizona	275.0	285.0	20.0	20.0	120.0	125.0
Arkansas	115.0	120.0	62.0	60.0	410.0	425.0
California	620.0	630.0	60.0	60.0	1,000.0	990.0
Colorado	780.0	810.0	50.0	45.0	120.0	115.0
Connecticut	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	9.0	9.0
Delaware	2.6	2.4	0.4	0.4	3.0	2.3
Florida	25.0	25.0	60.0	55.0	385.0	385.0
Georgia	43.0	43.0	32.0	32.0	265.0	270.0
Hawaii	10.0	10.0	4.0	4.0	33.0	33.5
Idaho	300.0	290.0	40.0	40.0	340.0	370.0
Illinois	240.0	205.0	20.0	20.0	175.0	180.0
Indiana	108.0	113.0	16.0	15.0	185.0	176.0
Iowa	1,300.0	1,210.0	60.0	60.0	510.0	470.0
Kansas	2,080.0	2,090.0	85.0	90.0	685.0	660.0
Kentucky	215.0	225.0	70.0	65.0	480.0	475.0
Louisiana	25.0	26.0	30.0	30.0	155.0	159.0
Maine	5.0	5.0	1.5	1.5	13.5	12.5
Maryland	11.5	17.5	3.5	3.5	30.0	32.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	6.0	7.0
Michigan	175.0	176.0	15.0	14.0	210.0	190.0
Minnesota	520.0	490.0	30.0	30.0	410.0	380.0
Mississippi	58.0	56.0	39.0	40.0	195.0	195.0
Missouri	410.0	430.0	120.0	120.0	1,020.0	1,040.0
Montana	250.0	245.0	105.0	100.0	80.0	85.0
Nebraska	2,380.0	2,470.0	120.0	110.0	370.0	350.0
Nevada	40.0	39.0	15.0	15.0	58.0	53.0
New Hampshire	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	6.5	6.5
New Jersey	2.0	1.9	1.0	0.7	4.5	4.0
New Mexico	100.0	90.0	30.0	30.0	190.0	190.0
New York	55.0	42.0	20.0	18.0	230.0	225.0
North Carolina	40.0	44.0	31.0	31.0	225.0	215.0
North Dakota	275.0	315.0	70.0	70.0	105.0	125.0
Ohio	220.0	200.0	30.0	30.0	235.0	220.0
Oklahoma	1,010.0	1,060.0	170.0	170.0	900.0	910.0
Oregon	145.0	155.0	40.0	40.0	140.0	140.0
Pennsylvania	135.0	135.0	20.0	20.0	275.0	250.0
Rhode Island	0.5	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.7
South Carolina	12.0	13.0	13.0	13.0	84.0	79.0
South Dakota	710.0	700.0	110.0	110.0	305.0	330.0
Tennessee	155.0	150.0	60.0	65.0	420.0	415.0
Texas	2,650.0	2,610.0	350.0	360.0	2,120.0	2,130.0
Utah	80.0	85.0	25.0	25.0	65.0	65.0
Vermont	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	41.0	40.0
Virginia	165.0	160.0	40.0	39.0	355.0	325.0
Washington	205.0	190.0	20.0	20.0	145.0	130.0
West Virginia	44.0	44.0	15.0	14.0	72.0	66.0
Wisconsin	340.0	360.0	30.0	30.0	680.0	690.0
Wyoming	155.0	170.0	45.0	40.0	100.0	95.0
United States	16,541.2	16,597.8	2,237.4	2,210.5	14,309.0	14,188.1

Calf Crop – States and United States: 2019 and 2020

State	2019	2020	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	610.0	610.0	100
Alaska	5.0	5.5	110
Arizona	300.0	305.0	102
Arkansas	780.0	780.0	100
California	1,860.0	1,840.0	99
Colorado	820.0	790.0	96
Connecticut	17.5	16.5	94
Delaware	5.5	4.6	84
Florida	800.0	810.0	101
Georgia	520.0	510.0	98
Hawaii	60.0	60.0	100
Idaho	970.0	950.0	98
Illinois	395.0	375.0	95
Indiana	335.0	340.0	101
Iowa	1,080.0	1,030.0	95
Kansas	1,430.0	1,430.0	100
Kentucky	980.0	950.0	97
Louisiana	355.0	340.0	96
Maine	30.0	29.0	97
Maryland	68.0	66.0	97
Massachusetts	14.5	15.0	103
Michigan	400.0	390.0	98
Minnesota	770.0	750.0	97
Mississippi	380.0	380.0	100
Missouri	1,950.0	1,910.0	98
Montana	1,420.0	1,390.0	98
Nebraska	1,780.0	1,750.0	98
Nevada	225.0	220.0	98
New Hampshire	11.5	11.5	100
New Jersey	10.0	9.0	90
New Mexico	620.0	610.0	98
New York	550.0	520.0	95
North Carolina	365.0	365.0	100
North Dakota	950.0	920.0	97
Ohio	485.0	470.0	97
Oklahoma	1,890.0	1,950.0	103
Oregon	600.0	590.0	98
Pennsylvania	570.0	530.0	93
Rhode Island	1.6	1.4	88
South Carolina	155.0	145.0	94
South Dakota	1,810.0	1,780.0	98
Tennessee	860.0	850.0	99
Texas	4,500.0	4,600.0	102
Utah	395.0	385.0	97
Vermont	103.0	97.0	94
Virginia	630.0	600.0	95
Washington	440.0	420.0	95
West Virginia	195.0	175.0	90
Wisconsin	1,420.0	1,400.0	99
Wyoming	670.0	660.0	99
United States	35,591.6	35,135.5	99

All Cattle on Feed Inventory— States and United States: January 1, 2020 and 2021

[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	2020	2021	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arizona	255.0	265.0	104
California	540.0	555.0	103
Colorado	1,120.0	1,140.0	102
Idaho	310.0	300.0	97
Illinois	240.0	230.0	96
Indiana	105.0	115.0	110
Iowa	1,290.0	1,170.0	91
Kansas	2,580.0	2,660.0	103
Kentucky	17.0	19.0	112
Maryland	6.0	7.0	117
Michigan	165.0	185.0	112
Minnesota	400.0	400.0	100
Missouri	110.0	100.0	91
Montana	50.0	53.0	106
Nebraska	2,600.0	2,720.0	105
Nevada	3.0	3.0	100
New York	22.0	22.0	100
North Dakota	42.0	49.0	117
Ohio	170.0	150.0	88
Oklahoma	340.0	335.0	99
Oregon	95.0	105.0	111
Pennsylvania	100.0	80.0	80
South Dakota	440.0	460.0	105
Texas	2,980.0	2,890.0	97
Utah	20.0	23.0	115
Virginia	20.0	16.0	80
Washington	240.0	240.0	100
West Virginia	4.0	5.0	125
Wisconsin	240.0	250.0	104
Wyoming	70.0	74.0	106
Other States ¹	83.7	86.4	103
United States	14,657.7	14,707.4	100

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, 2020 and 2021

States	2020	2021	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas	1,610.0	1,730.0	107

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

Class	2019	2020	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves	102,600.0	102,200.0	100
All cows and heifers that have calved	41,600.0	41,400.0	100
Beef cows	32,300.0	32,050.0	99
Milk cows	9,300.0	9,350.0	101
All heifers 500 pounds and over	16,300.0	16,200.0	99
For beef cow replacement	4,400.0	4,400.0	100
For milk cow replacement	4,100.0	4,000.0	98
Other heifers	7,800.0	7,800.0	100
Steers 500 pounds and over	14,600.0	14,700.0	101
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,100.0	2,100.0	100
Calves under 500 pounds	28,000.0	27,800.0	99
All cattle on feed	13,600.0	13,600.0	100
Calf crop	35,591.6	35,135.5	99

Calf Crop by Six Month Period – United States: 2019 and 2020

Period	2019		2020	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
January 1 - June 30	26,000.0	73.1	25,750.0	73.3
July 1 - December 31	9,591.6	26.9	9,385.5	26.7
Total	35,591.6	100.0	35,135.5	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 34,900 operators during the first half of January by mail, telephone, and internet and 64 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 93.6 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 354,000 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	354	40	796	6	4
All cows and heifers that have calved	0.6	1.0	176	20	405	4	6
Calf crop	0.7	1.2	181	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
Logan Hartley – Sheep and Goats	(202) 690-3236
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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