Cattle

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January 1 Cattle Inventory Up Slightly

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2019 totaled 94.8 million head, slightly above the 94.3 million head on January 1, 2018.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.1 million head, were 1 percent above the 40.9 million head on January 1, 2018. Beef cows, at 31.8 million head, were up 1 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.35 million head, were down 1 percent from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2019 totaled 20.2 million head, slightly above the 20.2 million head on January 1, 2018. Beef replacement heifers, at 5.92 million head, were down 3 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.70 million head, were down 1 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.60 million head, were 3 percent above a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2019 totaled 16.6 million head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2018.

Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2019 totaled 2.26 million head, up slightly from January 1, 2018.

Calves under 500 pounds as of January 1, 2019 totaled 14.5 million head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2018.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.4 million head on January 1, 2019. The inventory is up 2 percent from the January 1, 2018 total of 14.1 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head accounted for 81.3 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2019, 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) is 26.4 million head. This is 1 percent above January 1, 2018.

Calf Crop Up 2 Percent

The 2018 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 36.4 million head, up 2 percent from last year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2018 were estimated at 26.6 million head, up 3 percent from the first half of 2017. Calves born during the second half of 2018 were estimated at 9.80 million head, 27 percent of the total 2018 calf crop.

Revisions

All inventory and calf crop estimates for January 1, 2018, and July 1, 2018 were reviewed using calf crop, official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. January 1, 2018 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.1 percent and 2017 calf crop decreased by 0.1 percent. July 1, 2018 all cattle and calves were decreased by 0.2 percent, all cows and heifers that have calved decreased by 0.2 percent, and 2018 calf crop decreased by 0.3 percent.

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

This report was approved on February 28, 2019.

Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Robert Johansson

Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Joseph L. Parsons

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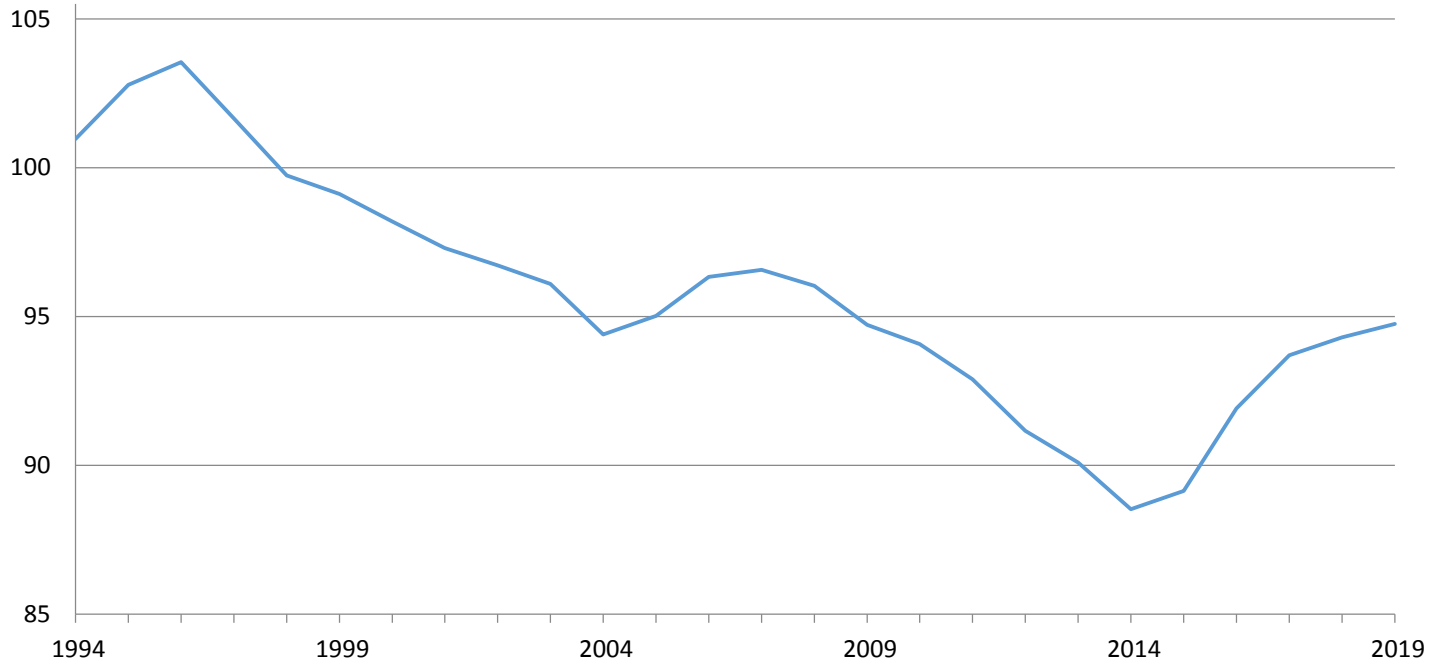
Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: January 1, 2018 and 2019

Class	2018	2019	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves	94,298.0	94,759.7	100
All cows and heifers that have calved	40,898.3	41,119.1	101
Beef cows	31,466.2	31,765.7	101
Milk cows	9,432.1	9,353.4	99
All heifers 500 pounds and over	20,217.8	20,230.0	100
For beef cow replacement	6,108.2	5,924.9	97
Expected to calve [1]	3,763.0	3,543.9	94
For milk cow replacement	4,768.3	4,701.5	99
Expected to calve [1]	3,036.4	3,005.7	99
Other heifers	9,341.3	9,603.6	103
Steers 500 pounds and over	16,528.2	16,632.7	101
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,252.3	2,263.0	100
Calves under 500 pounds	14,401.4	14,514.9	101
All cattle on feed	14,146.0	14,370.9	102
	2017	2018	Percent of previous year
Calf crop	35,758.2	36,402.7	102

[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, 2018 and 2019

State	All cattle and calves			All cows and heifers that have calved		
	2018	2019	Percent of previous year	2018	2019	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	1,340.0	1,300.0	97	720.0	710.0	99
Alaska	15.0	16.0	107	6.4	7.0	109
Arizona	1,020.0	1,020.0	100	410.0	420.0	102
Arkansas	1,760.0	1,780.0	101	930.0	940.0	101
California	5,200.0	5,150.0	99	2,410.0	2,380.0	99
Colorado	2,850.0	2,850.0	100	980.0	975.0	99
Connecticut	50.0	47.0	94	25.0	24.0	96
Delaware	17.0	15.0	88	7.5	6.5	87
Florida	1,630.0	1,680.0	103	1,010.0	1,030.0	102
Georgia	1,060.0	1,070.0	101	570.0	580.0	102
Hawaii	144.0	142.0	99	77.0	77.0	100
Idaho	2,420.0	2,500.0	103	1,110.0	1,120.0	101
Illinois	1,150.0	1,200.0	104	490.0	500.0	102
Indiana	860.0	880.0	102	395.0	390.0	99
Iowa	4,000.0	3,950.0	99	1,170.0	1,170.0	100
Kansas	6,300.0	6,350.0	101	1,660.0	1,690.0	102
Kentucky	2,160.0	2,130.0	99	1,090.0	1,070.0	98
Louisiana	820.0	800.0	98	485.0	470.0	97
Maine	81.0	78.0	96	40.0	40.0	100
Maryland	193.0	197.0	102	93.0	94.0	101
Massachusetts	38.0	37.0	97	18.0	17.5	97
Michigan	1,160.0	1,150.0	99	530.0	530.0	100
Minnesota	2,350.0	2,320.0	99	820.0	820.0	100
Mississippi	930.0	900.0	97	510.0	485.0	95
Missouri	4,350.0	4,250.0	98	2,170.0	2,140.0	99
Montana	2,550.0	2,500.0	98	1,510.0	1,460.0	97
Nebraska	6,800.0	6,800.0	100	1,970.0	2,000.0	102
Nevada	465.0	470.0	101	270.0	275.0	102
New Hampshire	36.0	33.0	92	17.0	16.0	94
New Jersey	29.0	30.0	103	15.0	15.0	100
New Mexico	1,510.0	1,480.0	98	815.0	805.0	99
New York	1,480.0	1,450.0	98	730.0	725.0	99
North Carolina	800.0	800.0	100	415.0	410.0	99
North Dakota	1,860.0	1,830.0	98	980.0	1,000.0	102
Ohio	1,300.0	1,310.0	101	560.0	560.0	100
Oklahoma	5,100.0	5,300.0	104	2,130.0	2,190.0	103
Oregon	1,270.0	1,320.0	104	660.0	670.0	102
Pennsylvania	1,620.0	1,600.0	99	740.0	730.0	99
Rhode Island	5.0	4.7	94	2.4	2.1	88
South Carolina	340.0	345.0	101	189.0	200.0	106
South Dakota	4,000.0	4,050.0	101	1,870.0	1,940.0	104
Tennessee	1,830.0	1,800.0	98	950.0	950.0	100
Texas	12,500.0	13,000.0	104	5,050.0	5,200.0	103
Utah	790.0	810.0	103	435.0	440.0	101
Vermont	260.0	255.0	98	143.0	140.0	98
Virginia	1,480.0	1,440.0	97	720.0	710.0	99
Washington	1,160.0	1,180.0	102	510.0	510.0	100
West Virginia	395.0	390.0	99	210.0	205.0	98
Wisconsin	3,500.0	3,450.0	99	1,560.0	1,560.0	100
Wyoming	1,320.0	1,300.0	98	720.0	720.0	100
United States	94,298.0	94,759.7	100	40,898.3	41,119.1	101

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2018 and 2019 (continued)

State	Beef cows that have calved			Milk cows that have calved		
	2018	2019	Percent of previous year	2018	2019	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	714.0	705.0	99	6.0	5.0	83
Alaska	6.1	6.8	111	0.3	0.2	67
Arizona	200.0	215.0	108	210.0	205.0	98
Arkansas	924.0	935.0	101	6.0	5.0	83
California	670.0	650.0	97	1,740.0	1,730.0	99
Colorado	812.0	797.0	98	168.0	178.0	106
Connecticut	5.0	4.5	90	20.0	19.5	98
Delaware	2.5	2.0	80	5.0	4.5	90
Florida	886.0	914.0	103	124.0	116.0	94
Georgia	485.0	499.0	103	85.0	81.0	95
Hawaii	75.0	75.5	101	2.0	1.5	75
Idaho	510.0	506.0	99	600.0	614.0	102
Illinois	397.0	415.0	105	93.0	85.0	91
Indiana	208.0	209.0	100	187.0	181.0	97
Iowa	950.0	950.0	100	220.0	220.0	100
Kansas	1,504.0	1,529.0	102	156.0	161.0	103
Kentucky	1,033.0	1,017.0	98	57.0	53.0	93
Louisiana	473.0	459.0	97	12.0	11.0	92
Maine	10.0	11.0	110	30.0	29.0	97
Maryland	46.0	50.0	109	47.0	44.0	94
Massachusetts	6.5	7.0	108	11.5	10.5	91
Michigan	102.0	108.0	106	428.0	422.0	99
Minnesota	365.0	370.0	101	455.0	450.0	99
Mississippi	501.0	477.0	95	9.0	8.0	89
Missouri	2,086.0	2,059.0	99	84.0	81.0	96
Montana	1,497.0	1,448.0	97	13.0	12.0	92
Nebraska	1,910.0	1,941.0	102	60.0	59.0	98
Nevada	238.0	242.0	102	32.0	33.0	103
New Hampshire	4.5	4.0	89	12.5	12.0	96
New Jersey	9.0	9.5	106	6.0	5.5	92
New Mexico	483.0	480.0	99	332.0	325.0	98
New York	105.0	100.0	95	625.0	625.0	100
North Carolina	370.0	367.0	99	45.0	43.0	96
North Dakota	964.0	985.0	102	16.0	15.0	94
Ohio	296.0	307.0	104	264.0	253.0	96
Oklahoma	2,088.0	2,150.0	103	42.0	40.0	95
Oregon	536.0	545.0	102	124.0	125.0	101
Pennsylvania	215.0	225.0	105	525.0	505.0	96
Rhode Island	1.6	1.4	88	0.8	0.7	88
South Carolina	174.0	186.0	107	15.0	14.0	93
South Dakota	1,751.0	1,818.0	104	119.0	122.0	103
Tennessee	910.0	914.0	100	40.0	36.0	90
Texas	4,520.0	4,655.0	103	530.0	545.0	103
Utah	338.0	340.0	101	97.0	100.0	103
Vermont	15.0	14.0	93	128.0	126.0	98
Virginia	633.0	631.0	100	87.0	79.0	91
Washington	235.0	230.0	98	275.0	280.0	102
West Virginia	203.0	198.0	98	7.0	7.0	100
Wisconsin	285.0	290.0	102	1,275.0	1,270.0	100
Wyoming	714.0	714.0	100	6.0	6.0	100
United States	31,466.2	31,765.7	101	9,432.1	9,353.4	99

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2018 and 2019 (continued)

State	All heifers 500 pounds and over					
	Beef cow replacement		Milk cow replacement		Other	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	125.0	121.0	3.0	2.0	37.0	32.0
Alaska	1.4	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.7
Arizona	36.0	35.0	105.0	115.0	29.0	20.0
Arkansas	160.0	156.0	4.0	4.0	71.0	75.0
California	125.0	125.0	780.0	760.0	175.0	205.0
Colorado	175.0	170.0	100.0	110.0	550.0	560.0
Connecticut	2.0	1.5	9.5	9.0	1.5	1.5
Delaware	0.7	0.6	2.0	1.6	0.4	0.3
Florida	115.0	130.0	40.0	35.0	30.0	25.0
Georgia	95.0	90.0	25.0	30.0	25.0	30.0
Hawaii	12.0	11.5	1.0	1.0	5.0	5.0
Idaho	120.0	110.0	310.0	340.0	210.0	220.0
Illinois	70.0	70.0	47.0	45.0	98.0	95.0
Indiana	50.0	45.0	75.0	80.0	45.0	50.0
Iowa	165.0	160.0	135.0	125.0	550.0	560.0
Kansas	280.0	280.0	140.0	170.0	1,490.0	1,420.0
Kentucky	145.0	130.0	45.0	45.0	115.0	130.0
Louisiana	90.0	83.0	4.0	4.0	20.0	23.0
Maine	4.0	3.0	15.0	14.0	3.0	3.0
Maryland	12.0	13.0	28.0	30.0	10.0	8.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	7.0	6.5	1.0	1.0
Michigan	24.0	25.0	176.0	160.0	30.0	40.0
Minnesota	100.0	95.0	290.0	255.0	175.0	170.0
Mississippi	92.0	90.0	7.0	5.0	40.0	40.0
Missouri	355.0	345.0	40.0	40.0	205.0	205.0
Montana	390.0	380.0	7.0	8.0	223.0	232.0
Nebraska	375.0	365.0	15.0	15.0	1,520.0	1,530.0
Nevada	42.0	42.0	12.0	11.0	30.0	29.0
New Hampshire	1.5	1.3	7.0	6.5	0.5	0.7
New Jersey	2.1	2.5	3.2	3.3	1.2	0.7
New Mexico	105.0	95.0	130.0	125.0	95.0	85.0
New York	45.0	40.0	350.0	335.0	50.0	50.0
North Carolina	63.0	60.0	17.0	20.0	22.0	20.0
North Dakota	191.0	197.0	9.0	8.0	240.0	210.0
Ohio	70.0	70.0	121.0	125.0	59.0	55.0
Oklahoma	410.0	400.0	25.0	20.0	510.0	520.0
Oregon	95.0	110.0	70.0	65.0	100.0	115.0
Pennsylvania	60.0	65.0	310.0	290.0	60.0	55.0
Rhode Island	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
South Carolina	28.0	37.0	6.0	5.0	9.0	8.0
South Dakota	435.0	385.0	45.0	40.0	500.0	550.0
Tennessee	135.0	145.0	25.0	25.0	80.0	75.0
Texas	800.0	740.0	250.0	260.0	1,470.0	1,690.0
Utah	70.0	70.0	50.0	50.0	60.0	65.0
Vermont	5.0	4.5	57.0	55.0	6.0	6.5
Virginia	100.0	93.0	40.0	37.0	70.0	61.0
Washington	52.0	57.0	123.0	123.0	115.0	120.0
West Virginia	37.0	32.0	3.0	3.0	18.0	20.0
Wisconsin	80.0	80.0	700.0	680.0	50.0	60.0
Wyoming	160.0	160.0	4.0	4.0	136.0	126.0
United States	6,108.2	5,924.9	4,768.3	4,701.5	9,341.3	9,603.6

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2018 and 2019 (continued)

State	Steers 500 pounds and over		Bulls 500 pounds and over		Calves under 500 pounds	
	2018	2019	2018	2019	2018	2019
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	40.0	45.0	50.0	45.0	365.0	345.0
Alaska	0.5	0.7	2.4	3.0	3.7	3.1
Arizona	275.0	295.0	20.0	20.0	145.0	115.0
Arkansas	110.0	115.0	60.0	60.0	425.0	430.0
California	620.0	600.0	70.0	70.0	1,020.0	1,010.0
Colorado	810.0	830.0	55.0	55.0	180.0	150.0
Connecticut	2.0	1.5	0.5	0.5	9.5	9.0
Delaware	2.1	2.6	0.3	0.4	4.0	3.0
Florida	20.0	20.0	55.0	60.0	360.0	380.0
Georgia	35.0	37.0	35.0	33.0	275.0	270.0
Hawaii	11.0	10.5	4.0	4.0	34.0	33.0
Idaho	310.0	320.0	40.0	40.0	320.0	350.0
Illinois	195.0	245.0	25.0	25.0	225.0	220.0
Indiana	104.0	110.0	16.0	17.0	175.0	188.0
Iowa	1,390.0	1,360.0	70.0	70.0	520.0	505.0
Kansas	2,020.0	2,010.0	95.0	95.0	615.0	685.0
Kentucky	195.0	225.0	70.0	70.0	500.0	460.0
Louisiana	23.0	27.0	31.0	30.0	167.0	163.0
Maine	4.0	4.0	1.5	1.5	13.5	12.5
Maryland	17.0	14.0	4.0	5.0	29.0	33.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	7.0	7.0
Michigan	180.0	170.0	15.0	15.0	205.0	210.0
Minnesota	475.0	485.0	35.0	35.0	455.0	460.0
Mississippi	48.0	52.0	38.0	38.0	195.0	190.0
Missouri	410.0	385.0	120.0	125.0	1,050.0	1,010.0
Montana	210.0	240.0	105.0	100.0	105.0	80.0
Nebraska	2,480.0	2,380.0	110.0	110.0	330.0	400.0
Nevada	40.0	39.0	15.0	15.0	56.0	59.0
New Hampshire	2.0	1.5	0.5	0.5	7.5	6.5
New Jersey	2.1	2.5	1.0	1.0	4.4	5.0
New Mexico	130.0	130.0	40.0	35.0	195.0	205.0
New York	47.0	47.0	18.0	18.0	240.0	235.0
North Carolina	33.0	35.0	30.0	30.0	220.0	225.0
North Dakota	260.0	245.0	70.0	65.0	110.0	105.0
Ohio	210.0	215.0	30.0	30.0	250.0	255.0
Oklahoma	990.0	1,050.0	155.0	180.0	880.0	940.0
Oregon	145.0	160.0	40.0	40.0	160.0	160.0
Pennsylvania	130.0	135.0	25.0	25.0	295.0	300.0
Rhode Island	0.5	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.8
South Carolina	10.0	10.0	16.0	14.0	82.0	71.0
South Dakota	730.0	730.0	110.0	105.0	310.0	300.0
Tennessee	150.0	130.0	60.0	65.0	430.0	410.0
Texas	2,620.0	2,720.0	340.0	340.0	1,970.0	2,050.0
Utah	80.0	85.0	25.0	25.0	70.0	75.0
Vermont	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	42.0	42.0
Virginia	160.0	155.0	40.0	39.0	350.0	345.0
Washington	200.0	200.0	20.0	20.0	140.0	150.0
West Virginia	41.0	42.0	15.0	14.0	71.0	74.0
Wisconsin	380.0	360.0	30.0	30.0	700.0	680.0
Wyoming	175.0	150.0	40.0	40.0	85.0	100.0
United States	16,528.2	16,632.7	2,252.3	2,263.0	14,401.4	14,514.9

Calf Crop – States and United States: 2017 and 2018

State	2017	2018	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	630.0	620.0	98
Alaska	4.5	5.0	111
Arizona	310.0	320.0	103
Arkansas	790.0	800.0	101
California	1,880.0	1,860.0	99
Colorado	830.0	840.0	101
Connecticut	17.5	16.5	94
Delaware	7.0	6.0	86
Florida	790.0	820.0	104
Georgia	480.0	510.0	106
Hawaii	60.0	60.0	100
Idaho	960.0	960.0	100
Illinois	420.0	430.0	102
Indiana	340.0	360.0	106
Iowa	1,090.0	1,110.0	102
Kansas	1,430.0	1,500.0	105
Kentucky	990.0	970.0	98
Louisiana	370.0	360.0	97
Maine	30.0	29.0	97
Maryland	70.0	75.0	107
Massachusetts	17.0	16.0	94
Michigan	410.0	420.0	102
Minnesota	790.0	800.0	101
Mississippi	400.0	385.0	96
Missouri	1,960.0	1,940.0	99
Montana	1,480.0	1,450.0	98
Nebraska	1,700.0	1,750.0	103
Nevada	220.0	220.0	100
New Hampshire	13.5	12.0	89
New Jersey	9.5	10.0	105
New Mexico	630.0	610.0	97
New York	550.0	560.0	102
North Carolina	365.0	365.0	100
North Dakota	960.0	930.0	97
Ohio	490.0	490.0	100
Oklahoma	1,950.0	2,050.0	105
Oregon	630.0	620.0	98
Pennsylvania	600.0	610.0	102
Rhode Island	2.2	2.2	100
South Carolina	147.0	169.0	115
South Dakota	1,840.0	1,900.0	103
Tennessee	850.0	860.0	101
Texas	4,400.0	4,750.0	108
Utah	375.0	385.0	103
Vermont	105.0	102.0	97
Virginia	640.0	630.0	98
Washington	440.0	440.0	100
West Virginia	195.0	185.0	95
Wisconsin	1,430.0	1,420.0	99
Wyoming	660.0	670.0	102
United States	35,758.2	36,402.7	102

All Cattle on Feed Inventory– States and United States: January 1, 2018 and 2019

[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	2018	2019	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arizona	274.0	300.0	109
California	490.0	535.0	109
Colorado	1,000.0	1,050.0	105
Idaho	265.0	295.0	111
Illinois	220.0	250.0	114
Indiana	90.0	100.0	111
Iowa	1,300.0	1,320.0	102
Kansas	2,450.0	2,430.0	99
Kentucky	17.0	16.0	94
Maryland	9.0	9.0	100
Michigan	140.0	150.0	107
Minnesota	430.0	410.0	95
Missouri	80.0	100.0	125
Montana	45.0	40.0	89
Nebraska	2,800.0	2,750.0	98
Nevada	3.0	4.0	133
New York	22.0	22.0	100
North Dakota	58.0	59.0	102
Ohio	140.0	150.0	107
Oklahoma	330.0	330.0	100
Oregon	90.0	90.0	100
Pennsylvania	85.0	100.0	118
South Dakota	470.0	425.0	90
Texas	2,650.0	2,750.0	104
Utah	20.0	23.0	115
Virginia	18.0	15.0	83
Washington	215.0	230.0	107
West Virginia	4.0	4.0	100
Wisconsin	280.0	280.0	100
Wyoming	70.0	65.0	93
Other States [1]	81.0	68.9	85
United States	14,146.0	14,370.9	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, 2018 and 2019

States	2018	2019	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas	1,500.0	1,900.0	127

Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: July 1, 2017 and 2018

Class	2017	2018	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Cattle and calves	102,100.0	103,000.0	101
Cows and heifers that have calved	41,500.0	41,800.0	101
Beef cows	32,100.0	32,400.0	101
Milk cows	9,400.0	9,400.0	100
Heifers 500 pounds and over	16,200.0	16,300.0	101
For beef cow replacement	4,700.0	4,600.0	98
For milk cow replacement	4,200.0	4,200.0	100
Other heifers	7,300.0	7,500.0	103
Steers 500 pounds and over	14,500.0	14,500.0	100
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,000.0	2,100.0	105
Calves under 500 pounds	27,900.0	28,300.0	101
Calf crop	35,758.2	36,402.7	102
Cattle on feed	12,800.0	13,300.0	104

Calf Crop and Percent of Total by Six Month Period – United States: 2017 and 2018

Period	2017		2018	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
January 1 - June 30	25,950.0	72.6	26,600.0	73.1
July 1 - December 31	9,808.2	27.4	9,802.7	26.9
Total	35,758.2	100.0	36,402.7	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 36,000 operators during the first half of January by mail, telephone, internet, and face-to-face personal interviews and 69 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 94.8 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 385,000 head, ranging from 70,000 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 ten 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	385	70	796	7	3
All cows and heifers that have calved	0.6	1.1	182	0	405	6	3
Calf crop	0.5	0.9	131	10	378	6	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.

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch ..... (202) 720-3570

Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section ..... (202) 690-2424
- Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter ..... (202) 690-8632
- Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats ..... (202) 720-0585
- Donnie Fike – Dairy Products ..... (202) 720-4448
- Heidi Gleich – Cattle, Cattle on Feed ..... (202) 720-3040
- Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows ..... (202) 720-3278
- Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs ..... (202) 720-3106

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For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

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- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and click on "National" or "State" in upper right corner above "search" box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.

- 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@nass.usda.gov.

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USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

University of Chicago – Gleacher Center
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, IL 60611
312-464-8787

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2019 Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies – Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will provide updates on recent and pending changes in statistical and information programs important to agriculture, answer questions, and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website (https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php). Contact Vernita Murray (NASS) at 202-690-8141 or vernita.murray@nass.usda.gov or Patricia Snipe (NASS) at 202-720-2248 or patricia.snipe@nass.usda.gov for information.

The Data Users' Meeting precedes the Industry Outlook Conference at the same location on Wednesday, April 24, 2019. The outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss developments and trends. For registration details or additional information about the Industry Outlook Conference, see the conference page on the LMIC website (http://lmic.info/page/meetings). Or contact Laura Lahr at 303-716-9935 or laura.lahr@lmic.info.