



Released January 29, 2016, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

January 1 Cattle Inventory Up 3 Percent

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2016 totaled 92.0 million head. This is 3 percent above the 89.1 million head on January 1, 2015.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 39.6 million head, are 3 percent above the 38.6 million head on January 1, 2015. Beef cows, at 30.3 million head, are up 4 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.32 million head, are up slightly from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2016 totaled 19.8 million head. This is 3 percent above the 19.3 million head on January 1, 2015. Beef replacement heifers, at 6.29 million head, are up 3 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.82 million head, are up 2 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 8.71 million head, are 3 percent above a year earlier.

All Calves under 500 pounds in the United States as of January 1, 2016 totaled 14.1 million head. This is 4 percent above the 13.5 million head on January 1, 2015. Steers weighing 500 pounds and over totaled 16.3 million head, up 4 percent from one year ago. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over totaled 2.14 million head, up 2 percent from the previous year.

Calf Crop Up 2 Percent

The 2015 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 34.3 million head, up 2 percent from last year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2015 were estimated at 24.8 million head. This is up 2 percent from the first half of 2014. The calves born during the second half of 2015 were estimated at 9.50 million head, 28 percent of the total 2015 calf crop.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 13.2 million head on January 1, 2016. The inventory is up 1 percent from the January 1, 2015 total of 13.0 million head. Cattle on feed, in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head, accounted for 80.2 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2016. This is down 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) is 25.9 million head. This is 5 percent above one year ago.

Revisions

All inventory and calf crop estimates for July 1, 2014, January 1, 2015, and July 1, 2015 were reviewed using calf crop, official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. Based on these findings July 1, 2014 cattle and calves decreased by 0.6 percent and 2014 calf crop decreased by 1.1 percent. January 1, 2015 cattle and calves decreased by 0.7 percent, cows and heifers that calved decreased by 1.0 percent, and July 1, 2015 cattle and calves decreased by 0.2 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, 2016.



Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Robert Johansson



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
James M. Harris

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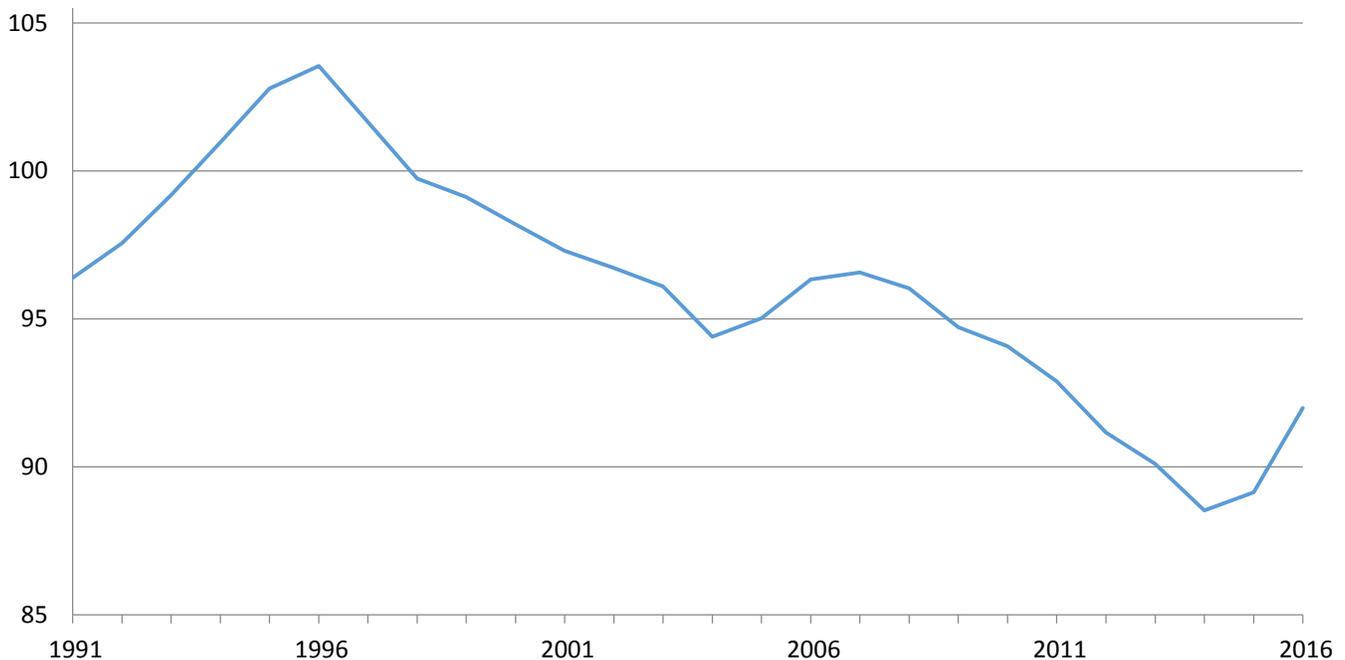
Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: January 1, 2015 and 2016

Class	2015	2016	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Cattle and calves	89,143.0	91,988.0	103
Cows and heifers that have calved	38,609.0	39,646.2	103
Beef cows	29,302.1	30,330.8	104
Milk cows	9,306.9	9,315.4	100
Heifers 500 pounds and over	19,261.2	19,822.3	103
For beef cow replacement	6,086.4	6,285.2	103
Expected to calve ¹	3,712.1	3,924.6	106
For milk cow replacement	4,710.4	4,824.0	102
Expected to calve ¹	3,051.2	3,116.6	102
Other heifers	8,464.4	8,713.1	103
Steers 500 pounds and over	15,629.5	16,320.4	104
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,109.4	2,142.4	102
Calves under 500 pounds	13,533.9	14,056.7	104
Cattle on feed	13,025.0	13,177.0	101
	2014	2015	Percent of previous year
Calf crop	33,522.0	34,301.7	102

¹ Replacement heifers expected to calve during the year.

Cattle Inventory – United States: January 1

Million head



Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2015 and 2016

State	All cattle and calves			All cows that have calved		
	2015	2016	Percent of previous year	2015	2016	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	1,200.0	1,250.0	104	660.0	680.0	103
Alaska	10.0	11.0	110	4.6	4.3	93
Arizona	880.0	900.0	102	370.0	375.0	101
Arkansas	1,630.0	1,700.0	104	870.0	900.0	103
California	5,100.0	5,200.0	102	2,370.0	2,400.0	101
Colorado	2,550.0	2,700.0	106	870.0	920.0	106
Connecticut	47.0	49.0	104	24.0	25.0	104
Delaware	17.0	16.0	94	7.5	7.5	100
Florida	1,680.0	1,690.0	101	1,030.0	1,040.0	101
Georgia	1,030.0	1,100.0	107	560.0	590.0	105
Hawaii	133.0	140.0	105	71.0	75.0	106
Idaho	2,280.0	2,400.0	105	1,040.0	1,100.0	106
Illinois	1,120.0	1,180.0	105	460.0	490.0	107
Indiana	870.0	890.0	102	380.0	380.0	100
Iowa	3,850.0	3,950.0	103	1,110.0	1,150.0	104
Kansas	5,900.0	6,250.0	106	1,570.0	1,630.0	104
Kentucky	2,050.0	2,170.0	106	1,060.0	1,080.0	102
Louisiana	790.0	780.0	99	480.0	465.0	97
Maine	85.0	81.0	95	41.0	40.0	98
Maryland	185.0	190.0	103	91.0	92.0	101
Massachusetts	38.0	38.0	100	18.0	18.0	100
Michigan	1,120.0	1,150.0	103	510.0	530.0	104
Minnesota	2,320.0	2,420.0	104	800.0	810.0	101
Mississippi	900.0	940.0	104	480.0	510.0	106
Missouri	4,000.0	4,100.0	103	1,940.0	2,000.0	103
Montana	2,500.0	2,650.0	106	1,510.0	1,500.0	99
Nebraska	6,250.0	6,450.0	103	1,810.0	1,910.0	106
Nevada	430.0	435.0	101	240.0	245.0	102
New Hampshire	30.0	35.0	117	17.0	18.5	109
New Jersey	28.0	28.0	100	14.5	14.5	100
New Mexico	1,330.0	1,380.0	104	730.0	740.0	101
New York	1,440.0	1,460.0	101	720.0	730.0	101
North Carolina	800.0	800.0	100	410.0	410.0	100
North Dakota	1,640.0	1,700.0	104	910.0	920.0	101
Ohio	1,240.0	1,240.0	100	550.0	550.0	100
Oklahoma	4,550.0	4,850.0	107	1,920.0	1,990.0	104
Oregon	1,300.0	1,320.0	102	650.0	660.0	102
Pennsylvania	1,530.0	1,600.0	105	680.0	710.0	104
Rhode Island	5.0	5.0	100	2.4	2.4	100
South Carolina	335.0	340.0	101	185.0	190.0	103
South Dakota	3,700.0	3,950.0	107	1,710.0	1,800.0	105
Tennessee	1,720.0	1,830.0	106	920.0	940.0	102
Texas	11,700.0	11,700.0	100	4,600.0	4,750.0	103
Utah	780.0	830.0	106	420.0	420.0	100
Vermont	260.0	260.0	100	144.0	144.0	100
Virginia	1,470.0	1,480.0	101	730.0	720.0	99
Washington	1,150.0	1,150.0	100	475.0	500.0	105
West Virginia	370.0	390.0	105	194.0	210.0	108
Wisconsin	3,500.0	3,500.0	100	1,550.0	1,550.0	100
Wyoming	1,300.0	1,310.0	101	700.0	710.0	101
United States	89,143.0	91,988.0	103	38,609.0	39,646.2	103

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2015 and 2016 (continued)

State	Beef cows that have calved			Milk cows that have calved		
	2015	2016	Percent of previous year	2015	2016	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	652.0	673.0	103	8.0	7.0	88
Alaska	4.3	4.0	93	0.3	0.3	100
Arizona	175.0	180.0	103	195.0	195.0	100
Arkansas	863.0	893.0	103	7.0	7.0	100
California	590.0	625.0	106	1,780.0	1,775.0	100
Colorado	725.0	772.0	106	145.0	148.0	102
Connecticut	5.0	6.0	120	19.0	19.0	100
Delaware	2.5	2.5	100	5.0	5.0	100
Florida	906.0	915.0	101	124.0	125.0	101
Georgia	479.0	505.0	105	81.0	85.0	105
Hawaii	68.8	72.8	106	2.2	2.2	100
Idaho	461.0	513.0	111	579.0	587.0	101
Illinois	366.0	396.0	108	94.0	94.0	100
Indiana	199.0	196.0	98	181.0	184.0	102
Iowa	900.0	940.0	104	210.0	210.0	100
Kansas	1,427.0	1,488.0	104	143.0	142.0	99
Kentucky	997.0	1,021.0	102	63.0	59.0	94
Louisiana	466.0	452.0	97	14.0	13.0	93
Maine	11.0	10.0	91	30.0	30.0	100
Maryland	42.0	43.0	102	49.0	49.0	100
Massachusetts	5.5	6.0	109	12.5	12.0	96
Michigan	107.0	118.0	110	403.0	412.0	102
Minnesota	340.0	350.0	103	460.0	460.0	100
Mississippi	468.0	500.0	107	12.0	10.0	83
Missouri	1,851.0	1,912.0	103	89.0	88.0	99
Montana	1,496.0	1,486.0	99	14.0	14.0	100
Nebraska	1,756.0	1,852.0	105	54.0	58.0	107
Nevada	212.0	217.0	102	28.0	28.0	100
New Hampshire	3.0	4.5	150	14.0	14.0	100
New Jersey	7.5	7.5	100	7.0	7.0	100
New Mexico	407.0	425.0	104	323.0	315.0	98
New York	105.0	110.0	105	615.0	620.0	101
North Carolina	363.0	363.0	100	47.0	47.0	100
North Dakota	894.0	904.0	101	16.0	16.0	100
Ohio	282.0	284.0	101	268.0	266.0	99
Oklahoma	1,880.0	1,953.0	104	40.0	37.0	93
Oregon	525.0	534.0	102	125.0	126.0	101
Pennsylvania	150.0	180.0	120	530.0	530.0	100
Rhode Island	1.5	1.5	100	0.9	0.9	100
South Carolina	170.0	175.0	103	15.0	15.0	100
South Dakota	1,611.0	1,690.0	105	99.0	110.0	111
Tennessee	873.0	896.0	103	47.0	44.0	94
Texas	4,130.0	4,290.0	104	470.0	460.0	98
Utah	324.0	325.0	100	96.0	95.0	99
Vermont	12.0	13.0	108	132.0	131.0	99
Virginia	637.0	629.0	99	93.0	91.0	98
Washington	198.0	223.0	113	277.0	277.0	100
West Virginia	185.0	201.0	109	9.0	9.0	100
Wisconsin	275.0	270.0	98	1,275.0	1,280.0	100
Wyoming	694.0	704.0	101	6.0	6.0	100
United States	29,302.1	30,330.8	104	9,306.9	9,315.4	100

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2015 and 2016 (continued)

State	Heifers 500 pounds and over					
	Beef cow replacement		Milk cow replacement		Other	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	112.0	105.0	3.0	3.0	30.0	37.0
Alaska	0.9	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.6
Arizona	34.0	39.0	65.0	68.0	21.0	28.0
Arkansas	150.0	182.0	4.0	3.0	51.0	70.0
California	130.0	120.0	770.0	790.0	140.0	130.0
Colorado	170.0	200.0	100.0	105.0	470.0	460.0
Connecticut	2.5	2.5	8.0	8.5	0.5	1.0
Delaware	0.7	0.5	2.5	2.1	0.7	0.4
Florida	130.0	125.0	35.0	40.0	30.0	25.0
Georgia	90.0	105.0	27.0	30.0	30.0	28.0
Hawaii	11.0	11.5	1.0	1.0	5.0	5.0
Idaho	120.0	140.0	320.0	320.0	170.0	190.0
Illinois	64.0	67.0	52.0	50.0	99.0	98.0
Indiana	50.0	50.0	80.0	80.0	44.0	51.0
Iowa	180.0	190.0	130.0	120.0	630.0	610.0
Kansas	290.0	280.0	90.0	120.0	1,330.0	1,430.0
Kentucky	140.0	160.0	45.0	50.0	105.0	115.0
Louisiana	74.0	84.0	5.0	5.0	23.0	21.0
Maine	4.5	3.0	16.0	15.0	2.5	3.0
Maryland	9.0	11.0	25.0	28.0	9.0	5.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	7.0	7.0	1.0	1.0
Michigan	23.0	27.0	167.0	172.0	35.0	31.0
Minnesota	90.0	95.0	280.0	300.0	160.0	175.0
Mississippi	97.0	111.0	6.0	6.0	33.0	38.0
Missouri	345.0	350.0	60.0	45.0	225.0	220.0
Montana	435.0	420.0	7.0	8.0	198.0	262.0
Nebraska	420.0	390.0	20.0	30.0	1,280.0	1,370.0
Nevada	37.0	41.0	9.0	9.0	29.0	28.0
New Hampshire	1.0	1.0	5.5	6.0	0.5	1.0
New Jersey	1.3	1.3	3.8	3.8	0.9	0.9
New Mexico	85.0	100.0	110.0	120.0	70.0	80.0
New York	41.0	44.0	350.0	355.0	44.0	41.0
North Carolina	70.0	65.0	18.0	18.0	27.0	22.0
North Dakota	169.0	178.0	6.0	7.0	185.0	190.0
Ohio	50.0	55.0	125.0	120.0	50.0	50.0
Oklahoma	420.0	460.0	25.0	25.0	365.0	440.0
Oregon	110.0	110.0	60.0	70.0	105.0	100.0
Pennsylvania	55.0	60.0	305.0	325.0	55.0	55.0
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
South Carolina	30.0	30.0	5.0	5.0	12.0	14.0
South Dakota	405.0	375.0	65.0	50.0	490.0	570.0
Tennessee	140.0	160.0	25.0	27.0	65.0	88.0
Texas	750.0	780.0	250.0	250.0	1,390.0	1,190.0
Utah	78.0	90.0	48.0	50.0	64.0	70.0
Vermont	4.0	5.0	56.0	55.0	5.0	5.0
Virginia	110.0	95.0	43.0	47.0	42.0	58.0
Washington	54.0	60.0	136.0	130.0	135.0	120.0
West Virginia	33.0	35.0	4.0	4.0	20.0	18.0
Wisconsin	75.0	80.0	730.0	735.0	45.0	45.0
Wyoming	193.0	188.0	5.0	5.0	142.0	122.0
United States	6,086.4	6,285.2	4,710.4	4,824.0	8,464.4	8,713.1

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2015 and 2016 (continued)

State	Steers 500 pounds and over		Bulls 500 pounds and over		Calves under 500 pounds	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	50.0	50.0	45.0	50.0	300.0	325.0
Alaska	0.3	0.4	2.4	2.5	1.6	2.2
Arizona	275.0	270.0	20.0	20.0	95.0	100.0
Arkansas	130.0	125.0	55.0	55.0	370.0	365.0
California	550.0	610.0	70.0	70.0	1,070.0	1,080.0
Colorado	780.0	810.0	55.0	55.0	105.0	150.0
Connecticut	2.0	2.0	0.5	0.5	9.5	9.5
Delaware	2.2	2.0	0.4	0.3	3.0	3.2
Florida	25.0	25.0	60.0	55.0	370.0	380.0
Georgia	45.0	37.0	28.0	30.0	250.0	280.0
Hawaii	9.0	9.5	4.0	4.0	32.0	34.0
Idaho	280.0	290.0	40.0	40.0	310.0	320.0
Illinois	210.0	200.0	25.0	25.0	210.0	250.0
Indiana	116.0	115.0	17.0	18.0	183.0	196.0
Iowa	1,290.0	1,320.0	60.0	60.0	450.0	500.0
Kansas	1,890.0	2,010.0	95.0	90.0	635.0	690.0
Kentucky	200.0	225.0	65.0	70.0	435.0	470.0
Louisiana	24.0	22.0	30.0	30.0	154.0	153.0
Maine	4.5	3.5	1.5	1.5	15.0	15.0
Maryland	15.0	14.0	4.0	5.0	32.0	35.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	7.0	7.0
Michigan	170.0	170.0	15.0	15.0	200.0	205.0
Minnesota	500.0	520.0	35.0	40.0	455.0	480.0
Mississippi	56.0	41.0	38.0	39.0	190.0	195.0
Missouri	400.0	440.0	110.0	115.0	920.0	930.0
Montana	175.0	230.0	100.0	105.0	75.0	125.0
Nebraska	2,330.0	2,340.0	95.0	95.0	295.0	315.0
Nevada	44.0	42.0	12.0	13.0	59.0	57.0
New Hampshire	1.0	1.5	0.5	0.5	4.5	6.5
New Jersey	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	4.5	4.5
New Mexico	95.0	120.0	35.0	35.0	205.0	185.0
New York	35.0	33.0	15.0	17.0	235.0	240.0
North Carolina	36.0	36.0	29.0	29.0	210.0	220.0
North Dakota	215.0	255.0	50.0	60.0	105.0	90.0
Ohio	195.0	195.0	25.0	25.0	245.0	245.0
Oklahoma	870.0	970.0	140.0	145.0	810.0	820.0
Oregon	165.0	170.0	40.0	40.0	170.0	170.0
Pennsylvania	145.0	135.0	25.0	25.0	265.0	290.0
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.8
South Carolina	9.0	12.0	14.0	14.0	80.0	75.0
South Dakota	680.0	790.0	100.0	95.0	250.0	270.0
Tennessee	120.0	140.0	60.0	60.0	390.0	415.0
Texas	2,520.0	2,550.0	320.0	320.0	1,870.0	1,860.0
Utah	78.0	90.0	22.0	25.0	70.0	85.0
Vermont	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	44.0	44.0
Virginia	155.0	160.0	40.0	40.0	350.0	360.0
Washington	175.0	170.0	18.0	18.0	157.0	152.0
West Virginia	44.0	36.0	13.0	15.0	62.0	72.0
Wisconsin	375.0	380.0	35.0	30.0	690.0	680.0
Wyoming	135.0	145.0	40.0	40.0	85.0	100.0
United States	15,629.5	16,320.4	2,109.4	2,142.4	13,533.9	14,056.7

Calf Crop – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	2014	2015	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	560.0	580.0	104
Alaska	3.3	3.5	106
Arizona	290.0	295.0	102
Arkansas	730.0	760.0	104
California	1,930.0	1,990.0	103
Colorado	750.0	800.0	107
Connecticut	19.0	19.5	103
Delaware	6.0	6.0	100
Florida	820.0	800.0	98
Georgia	480.0	500.0	104
Hawaii	55.0	60.0	109
Idaho	940.0	940.0	100
Illinois	400.0	415.0	104
Indiana	325.0	335.0	103
Iowa	1,040.0	1,060.0	102
Kansas	1,280.0	1,330.0	104
Kentucky	940.0	970.0	103
Louisiana	355.0	350.0	99
Maine	32.0	30.0	94
Maryland	70.0	75.0	107
Massachusetts	17.0	17.0	100
Michigan	385.0	400.0	104
Minnesota	770.0	770.0	100
Mississippi	375.0	400.0	107
Missouri	1,730.0	1,760.0	102
Montana	1,470.0	1,470.0	100
Nebraska	1,580.0	1,660.0	105
Nevada	190.0	200.0	105
New Hampshire	13.5	13.5	100
New Jersey	9.0	10.0	111
New Mexico	550.0	560.0	102
New York	500.0	530.0	106
North Carolina	365.0	360.0	99
North Dakota	840.0	830.0	99
Ohio	460.0	470.0	102
Oklahoma	1,760.0	1,770.0	101
Oregon	630.0	630.0	100
Pennsylvania	520.0	580.0	112
Rhode Island	2.2	2.2	100
South Carolina	155.0	145.0	94
South Dakota	1,610.0	1,660.0	103
Tennessee	830.0	860.0	104
Texas	3,950.0	4,050.0	103
Utah	385.0	390.0	101
Vermont	105.0	110.0	105
Virginia	650.0	660.0	102
Washington	405.0	425.0	105
West Virginia	180.0	190.0	106
Wisconsin	1,400.0	1,390.0	99
Wyoming	660.0	670.0	102
United States	33,522.0	34,301.7	102

Total Number of Cattle on Feed – States and United States: January 1, 2015 and 2016

[Cattle and calves on feed are steers and heifers being fed a ration of grain, silage, hay, and/or protein supplement for slaughter marget 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 late placement in another feedlot. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes]

State	2015	2016	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arizona	252.0	257.0	102
California	425.0	450.0	106
Colorado	930.0	910.0	98
Idaho	245.0	250.0	102
Illinois	230.0	240.0	104
Indiana	100.0	115.0	115
Iowa	1,220.0	1,230.0	101
Kansas	2,180.0	2,230.0	102
Kentucky	15.0	17.0	113
Maryland	10.0	9.0	90
Michigan	160.0	170.0	106
Minnesota	385.0	405.0	105
Missouri	70.0	100.0	143
Montana	40.0	70.0	175
Nebraska	2,530.0	2,520.0	100
Nevada	4.0	2.0	50
New York	26.0	16.0	62
North Dakota	44.0	55.0	125
Ohio	170.0	160.0	94
Oklahoma	265.0	280.0	106
Oregon	85.0	75.0	88
Pennsylvania	90.0	85.0	94
South Dakota	385.0	435.0	113
Texas	2,510.0	2,440.0	97
Utah	24.0	27.0	113
Virginia	20.0	22.0	110
Washington	210.0	195.0	93
West Virginia	4.0	4.0	100
Wisconsin	260.0	275.0	106
Wyoming	75.0	70.0	93
Other States ¹	61.0	63.0	103
United States	13,025.0	13,177.0	101

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

Number of Cattle Grazing on Small Grain Pasture – 3-State Total: January 1, 2015 and 2016

States	2015	2016	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas	1,930.0	1,900.0	98

Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: July 1, 2014 and 2015

Class	2014	2015	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Cattle and calves	95,700.0	98,200.0	103
Cows and heifers that have calved	39,000.0	39,800.0	102
Beef cows	29,750.0	30,500.0	103
Milk cows	9,250.0	9,300.0	101
Heifers 500 pounds and over	15,500.0	15,700.0	101
For beef cow replacement	4,500.0	4,800.0	107
For milk cow replacement	4,100.0	4,200.0	102
Other heifers	6,900.0	6,700.0	97
Steers 500 pounds and over	13,500.0	14,100.0	104
Bulls 500 pounds and over	1,900.0	1,900.0	100
Calves under 500 pounds	25,800.0	26,700.0	103
Calf crop	33,522.0	34,301.7	102
Cattle on feed	11,900.0	12,100.0	102

Calf Crop and Percent of Total by Six Month Period – United States: 2014 and 2015

Period	2014		2015	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
January 1 - June 30	24,200.0	72.2	24,800.0	72.3
July 1 - December 31	9,322.0	27.8	9,501.7	27.7
Total	33,522.0	100.0	34,301.7	100.0

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: A random sample of United States producers was surveyed to provide data for these estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all cattle producers, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. Large producers were sampled more heavily than small operations. Data were collected from about 37,900 operators during the first half of January by mail, telephone, 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 each State office. National and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other and with estimates from the previous year using a balance sheet. The balance sheet begins with the previous inventory estimate, adds to it estimates of births and imports, and subtracts estimates of slaughter, exports, and deaths. This indicated ending inventory level is compared to the Agricultural Statistics Board estimate for reasonableness.

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

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

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of estimates in this report, the "**Root Mean Square Error**" is shown for selected items in the table on the following page. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and latest estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for cattle inventory estimates over the past 10 years is 0.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 92.0 million head by more than 0.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.1 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 538,000 head, ranging from 230,000 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 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 & calves	0.6	1.1	538	230	796	6	4
All cows	0.7	1.3	225	42	505	6	4
Calf crop	1.0	1.9	286	44	674	5	5

Information Contacts

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

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Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
David Colwell – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-8784
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Michael Klamm – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278

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

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