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#### **January 1 Cattle Inventory Down 2 Percent**

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2024 totaled 87.2 million head, 2 percent below the 88.8 million head on January 1, 2023.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 37.6 million head, were 2 percent below the 38.3 million head on January 1, 2023. Beef cows, at 28.2 million head, were down 2 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.36 million head, were down slightly from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2024 totaled 18.5 million head, 1 percent below the 18.8 million head on January 1, 2023. Beef replacement heifers, at 4.86 million head, were down 1 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.06 million head, were down slightly from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.57 million head, were 2 percent below a year earlier.

**Steers weighing 500 pounds and over** as of January 1, 2024 totaled 15.8 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2023.

**Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over** as of January 1, 2024 totaled 2.02 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2023.

Calves under 500 pounds as of January 1, 2024 totaled 13.3 million head, down 3 percent from January 1, 2023.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.4 million head on January 1, 2024. The inventory is up 2 percent from the January 1, 2023 total of 14.2 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head accounted for 82.7 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2024, up slightly from the previous year. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds (outside of feedlots), at 24.2 million head, was 4 percent below January 1, 2023.

#### **Calf Crop Down 2 Percent**

The 2023 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 33.6 million head, down 2 percent from the previous year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2023 were estimated at 24.7 million head, down 2 percent from the first half of 2022. Calves born during the second half of 2023 were estimated at 8.89 million head, 26 percent of the total 2023 calf crop.

#### Revisions

All inventory and calf crop estimates for July 1, 2022, January 1, 2023, and July 1, 2023 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, 2022 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.3 percent. January 1, 2023 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.5 percent and 2022 calf crop decreased by 0.1 percent. July 1, 2023 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.5 percent and 2023 calf crop decreased by 0.6 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, 2024.

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Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Cynthia Nickerson

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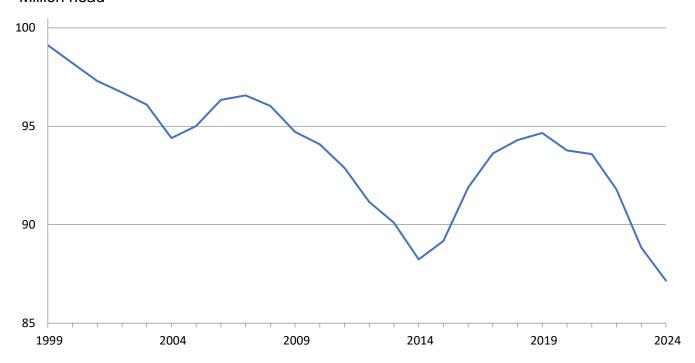
## Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop - United States: January 1, 2023 and 2024

Class	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
All cattle and calves	88,841.0	87,157.4	98	
All cows and heifers that have calved	38,336.8 28,939.3 9,397.5	37,579.8 28,223.0 9,356.8	98 98 100	
All heifers 500 pounds and over For beef cow replacement Expected to calve <sup>1</sup> For milk cow replacement Expected to calve <sup>1</sup> Other heifers	18,760.7 4,929.6 3,110.2 4,073.6 2,623.4 9,757.5	18,483.0 4,858.3 3,051.5 4,059.2 2,593.4 9,565.5	99 99 98 100 99	
Steers 500 pounds and over Bulls 500 pounds and over Calves under 500 pounds  All cattle on feed	16,056.5 2,029.0 13,658.0 14,195.8	15,789.2 2,020.7 13,284.7 14,423.3	98 100 97 102	
	2022	2023	Percent of previous year	
Calf crop	34,439.5	33,593.0	98	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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, 2023 and 2024

		All cattle and calves		All cows and heifers that have calved			
State	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
Alabama	1,250.0	1,170.0	94	680.0	640.0	94	
Alaska	18.0	19.0	106	8.1	8.5	105	
Arizona	980.0	970.0	99	370.0	375.0	101	
Arkansas	1,610.0	1,570.0	98	870.0	850.0	98	
California	5,200.0	5,100.0	98	2,400.0	2,380.0	99	
Colorado	2,650.0	2,610.0	98	850.0	840.0	99	
Connecticut	46.0	44.0	96	24.0	23.0	96	
Delaware	10.2	10.5	103	4.0	4.1	103	
Florida	1,610.0	1,560.0	97	980.0	960.0	98	
Georgia	1,030.0	1,010.0	98	570.0	550.0	96	
Hawaii	148.0	142.0	96	83.0	80.0	96	
Idaho	2,500.0	2,550.0	102	1,110.0	1,120.0	101	
Illinois	990.0	1,000.0	101	410.0	410.0	100	
Indiana	790.0	790.0	100	365.0	370.0	101	
lowa	3,500.0	3,450.0	99	1,090.0	1,050.0	96	
Kansas	6,200.0	6,150.0	99	1,490.0	1,440.0	97	
Kentucky	1,910.0	1,890.0	99	940.0	950.0	101	
Louisiana	750.0	720.0	96	445.0	435.0	98	
Maine	75.0	73.0	97	36.0	36.0	100	
Maryland	157.0	161.0	103	80.0	85.0	106	
Massachusetts	33.0	31.0	94	16.5	14.5	88	
Michigan	1,120.0	1,090.0	97	535.0	540.0	101	
Minnesota	2,150.0	2,130.0	99	815.0	800.0	98	
Mississippi	850.0	810.0	95	445.0	430.0	97	
Missouri	4,100.0	3,950.0	96	2,020.0	1,900.0	94	
Montana	2,160.0	2,120.0	98	1,280.0	1,260.0	98	
Nebraska	6,500.0	6,250.0	96	1,760.0	1,690.0	96	
Nevada	435.0	430.0	99	265.0	270.0	102	
New Hampshire	30.0	27.0	90	14.5	13.5	93	
New Jersey	25.0	26.0	104	13.0	13.5	104	
New Mexico	1,330.0	1,290.0	97	735.0	700.0	95	
New York	1,410.0	1,410.0	100	730.0	730.0	100	
North Carolina	730.0	750.0	103	380.0	390.0	103	
North Dakota	1,740.0	1,660.0	95	890.0	870.0	98	
Ohio	1,240.0	1,240.0	100	530.0	540.0	102	
Oklahoma	4,600.0	4,700.0	102	2,030.0	1,960.0	97	
Oregon	1,220.0	1,240.0	102	620.0	620.0	100	
Pennsylvania	1,350.0	1,380.0	102	660.0	680.0	103	
Rhode Island	3.8	3.9	103	1.7	1.7	100	
South Carolina	315.0	290.0	92	168.0	156.0	93	
South Dakota	3,500.0	3,450.0	99	1,720.0	1,710.0	99	
Tennessee	1,680.0	1,600.0	95	880.0	860.0	98	
Texas	12,500.0	12,000.0	96	4,950.0	4,750.0	96	
Utah	740.0	750.0	101	415.0	425.0	102	
Vermont	230.0	220.0	96	132.0	127.0	96	
Virginia	1,290.0	1,320.0	102	630.0	640.0	102	
Washington	1,150.0	1,170.0	102	470.0	480.0	102	
West Virginia	375.0	370.0	99	196.0	192.0	98	
Wisconsin	3,350.0	3,200.0	96	1,550.0	1,530.0	99	
Wyoming	1,260.0	1,260.0	100	680.0	680.0	100	
United States	88,841.0	87,157.4	98	38,336.8	37,579.8	98	

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# Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2023 and 2024 (continued)

	Вее	ef cows that have calv	ed	Milk cows that have calved			
State	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
Alabama	678.0	638.0	94	2.0	2.0	100	
Alaska	7.9	8.3	105	0.2	0.2	100	
Arizona	175.0	176.0	101	195.0	199.0	102	
Arkansas	866.0	847.0	98	4.0	3.0	75	
California	680.0	665.0	98	1,720.0	1,715.0	100	
Colorado	648.0	643.0	99	202.0	197.0	98	
Connecticut	5.5	5.5	100	18.5	17.5	95	
Delaware	1.4	1.5	107	2.6	2.6	100	
Florida	888.0	862.0	97	92.0	98.0	107	
Georgia	478.0	459.0	96	92.0	91.0	99	
Hawaii	82.4	79.5	96	0.6	0.5	83	
Idaho	449.0	457.0	102	661.0	663.0	100	
Illinois	331.0	331.0 180.0	100	79.0	79.0	100	
Indiana	178.0		101	187.0	190.0	102	
lowa	850.0	810.0	95	240.0	240.0	100	
Kansas	1,315.0 895.0	1,264.0 907.0	96 101	175.0 45.0	176.0 43.0	101 96	
Kentucky	437.0	428.0	98	8.0	7.0	88	
Louisiana Maine	11.0	12.0	109	25.0	24.0	96	
Maryland	40.0	45.0	113	40.0	40.0	100	
Massachusetts	7.5	5.5	73	9.0	9.0	100	
Michigan	101.0	101.0	100	434.0	439.0	101	
Minnesota	360.0	350.0	97	455.0	450.0	99	
Mississippi	439.0	424.0	97	6.0	6.0	100	
Missouri	1,956.0	1,840.0	94	64.0	60.0	94	
Montana	1,271.0	1,251.0	98	9.0	9.0	100	
Nebraska	1,704.0	1,637.0	96	56.0	53.0	95	
Nevada	232.0	235.0	101	33.0	35.0	106	
New Hampshire	4.5	4.0	89	10.0	9.5	95	
New Jersey	8.9	9.5	107	4.1	4.0	98	
New Mexico	454.0	450.0	99	281.0	250.0	89	
New York	100.0	100.0	100	630.0	630.0	100	
North Carolina	341.0	352.0	103	39.0	38.0	97	
North Dakota	876.0	860.0	98	14.0	10.0	71	
Ohio	280.0	285.0	102	250.0	255.0	102	
Oklahoma	1,991.0	1,922.0	97	39.0	38.0	97	
Oregon	497.0	500.0	101	123.0	120.0	98	
Pennsylvania	195.0	215.0	110	465.0	465.0	100	
Rhode Island	1.2	1.2	100	0.5	0.5	100	
South Carolina	159.0	148.0	93	9.0	8.0	89	
South Dakota	1,533.0	1,502.0	98	187.0	208.0	111	
Tennessee	854.0	835.0	98	26.0	25.0	96	
Texas	4,300.0	4,115.0	96	650.0	635.0	98	
Utah	323.0	335.0	104	92.0	90.0	98	
Vermont	14.0	11.0	79	118.0	116.0	98	
Virginia	563.0	574.0	102	67.0	66.0	99	
Washington	216.0	223.0	103	254.0	257.0	101	
West Virginia	191.0	188.0	98	5.0	4.0	80	
Wisconsin	280.0	260.0	93	1,270.0	1,270.0	100	
Wyoming	671.0	671.0	100	9.0	9.0	100	
United States	28,939.3	28,223.0	98	9,397.5	9,356.8	100	

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# Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2023 and 2024 (continued)

	· ·		All heifers 500 p	ounds and over	•	•
State	Beef cow re	placement	Milk cow re	placement	Oth	er
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	107.0	96.0	2.0	2.0	46.0	47.0
Alaska	1.3	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.4
Arizona	33.0	31.0	125.0	125.0	27.0	24.0
Arkansas	110.0	105.0	3.0	2.0	72.0	78.0
California	115.0	110.0	690.0	690.0	245.0	250.0
Colorado	135.0	130.0	120.0	125.0	590.0	590.0
Connecticut	2.0	2.0	9.5	9.0	1.0	1.0
Delaware	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.8	0.3	0.3
Florida	120.0	115.0	30.0	30.0	20.0	25.0
Georgia	90.0	85.0	20.0	25.0	28.0	30.0
Hawaii	7.5	7.5	1.0	0.5	7.0	6.5
Idaho	85.0	90.0	325.0	350.0	250.0	250.0
Illinois	56.0	50.0	38.0	38.0	93.0	104.0
Indiana	30.0	32.0	52.0	55.0	57.0	55.0
lowa	115.0	100.0	115.0	125.0	500.0	465.0
Kansas	240.0	195.0	170.0	175.0	1,620.0	1,600.0
Kentucky	105.0 77.0	100.0 71.0	30.0 3.0	25.0 3.0	130.0 19.0	130.0 16.0
Louisiana Maine	3.5	3.5	11.0	11.0	5.0	4.5
Maryland	8.0	8.5	23.0	22.0	6.0	6.5
Massachusetts	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	1.5	1.0
Michigan	22.0	23.0	127.0	126.0	41.0	36.0
Minnesota	75.0	85.0	180.0	165.0	175.0	175.0
Mississippi	83.0	81.0	4.0	4.0	35.0	33.0
Missouri	300.0	290.0	25.0	25.0	235.0	225.0
Montana	300.0	305.0	4.0	4.0	186.0	186.0
Nebraska	300.0	330.0	30.0	20.0	1,550.0	1,460.0
Nevada	30.0	28.0	9.0	8.0	26.0	24.0
New Hampshire	1.1	1.0	5.5	5.0	0.9	1.0
New Jersey	1.6	1.6	2.2	2.3	1.1	1.1
New Mexico	75.0	70.0	105.0	105.0	65.0	70.0
New York	37.0	38.0	320.0	325.0	38.0	37.0
North Carolina	59.0	56.0	16.0	14.0	19.0	22.0
North Dakota	157.0	163.0	8.0	7.0	210.0	200.0
Ohio	55.0	55.0	100.0	110.0	70.0	65.0
Oklahoma	340.0	340.0	20.0	20.0	430.0	500.0
Oregon	100.0	95.0	45.0	50.0	120.0	135.0
Pennsylvania	40.0 0.4	50.0 0.4	190.0 0.5	180.0 0.5	55.0 0.2	65.0 0.2
Rhode Island South Carolina	30.0	26.0	4.0	4.0	10.0	8.0
South Dakota	305.0	310.0	25.0	25.0	450.0	395.0
Tennessee	110.0	105.0	15.0	14.0	90.0	76.0
Texas	640.0	650.0	230.0	240.0	1,710.0	1,630.0
Utah	60.0	60.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0
Vermont	5.0	4.0	46.0	42.0	6.0	6.0
Virginia	72.0	79.0	32.0	33.0	64.0	66.0
Washington	55.0	55.0	120.0	125.0	145.0	155.0
West Virginia	29.0	31.0	2.0	2.0	23.0	26.0
Wisconsin	70.0	60.0	580.0	530.0	100.0	90.0
Wyoming	135.0	130.0	6.0	6.0	134.0	144.0
United States	4,929.6	4,858.3	4,073.6	4,059.2	9,757.5	9,565.5

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# Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2023 and 2024 (continued)

State	Stee 500 pounds		Bu 500 pounds		Calves under 500 pounds	
	2023	2024	2023	2024	2023	2024
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	46.0	47.0	44.0	43.0	325.0	295.0
Alaska	0.3	0.4	4.6	4.8	3.1	3.2
Arizona	285.0	275.0	20.0	20.0	120.0	120.0
Arkansas	115.0	105.0	55.0	55.0	385.0	375.0
California	670.0	610.0	60.0	60.0	1,020.0	1,000.0
Colorado	790.0	760.0	45.0	45.0	120.0	120.0
Connecticut	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	8.0	7.5
Delaware	2.8	2.9	0.2	0.2	1.9	2.0
Florida	25.0	25.0	50.0	50.0	385.0	355.0
Georgia	37.0	38.0	30.0	32.0	255.0	250.0
Hawaii	10.0	9.5	4.0	4.0	35.5	34.0
Idaho	300.0	310.0	40.0	40.0	390.0	390.0
Illinois	205.0	190.0	18.0	18.0	170.0	190.0
Indiana	100.0	0.88	14.0	14.0	172.0	176.0
lowa	1,160.0	1,180.0	60.0	60.0	460.0	470.0
Kansas	1,960.0	2,040.0	85.0	80.0	635.0	620.0
Kentucky	225.0	205.0	55.0	55.0	425.0	425.0
Louisiana	25.0	20.0	30.0	30.0	151.0	145.0
Maine	6.0	5.0	1.5	1.5	12.0	11.5
Maryland	12.0	11.5	3.0	3.5	25.0	24.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	6.0	5.5
Michigan	171.0	151.0	14.0	14.0	210.0	200.0
Minnesota	460.0	480.0	30.0	30.0	415.0	395.0
Mississippi	57.0	53.0	36.0	34.0	190.0	175.0
Missouri	420.0	395.0	110.0	115.0	990.0	1,000.0
Montana	220.0	200.0	95.0	90.0	75.0	75.0
Nebraska	2,450.0	2,330.0	90.0	100.0	320.0	320.0
Nevada	32.0	33.0	13.0	12.0	60.0	55.0
New Hampshire	1.5	1.0	0.5	0.5	6.0	5.0
New Jersey	2.5	2.5	0.6	0.6	4.0	4.4
New Mexico	115.0 42.0	110.0 41.0	25.0 18.0	30.0 19.0	210.0 225.0	205.0 220.0
New York North Carolina	33.0	39.0	28.0	29.0	195.0	200.0
North Dakota	305.0	270.0	55.0	50.0	115.0	100.0
Ohio	220.0	210.0	25.0	25.0	240.0	235.0
Oklahoma	770.0	920.0	150.0	150.0	860.0	810.0
Oregon	165.0	170.0	40.0	40.0	130.0	130.0
Pennsylvania	155.0	150.0	20.0	20.0	230.0	235.0
Rhode Island	0.4	0.4	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.6
South Carolina	12.0	10.0	11.0	11.0	80.0	75.0
South Dakota	690.0	690.0	100.0	100.0	210.0	220.0
Tennessee	135.0	125.0	60.0	55.0	390.0	365.0
Texas	2,580.0	2,480.0	330.0	320.0	2,060.0	1,930.0
Utah	80.0	80.0	22.0	23.0	63.0	62.0
Vermont	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	34.0	35.0
Virginia	147.0	151.0	35.0	36.0	310.0	315.0
Washington	210.0	205.0	18.0	18.0	132.0	132.0
West Virginia	37.0	39.0	14.0	13.0	74.0	67.0
Wisconsin	390.0	350.0	30.0	30.0	630.0	610.0
Wyoming	175.0	175.0	35.0	35.0	95.0	90.0
United States	16,056.5	15,789.2	2,029.0	2,020.7	13,658.0	13,284.7

# Calf Crop – States and United States: 2022 and 2023

Alabama	(1,000 head) 580.0 5.5 290.0	(1,000 head) 550.0	(percent)
Alaska	5.5	550.0	
ArizonaArkansas			95
Arkansas	290.0	6.0	109
		295.0	102
California	760.0	740.0	97
Calliulila	1,970.0	1,930.0	98
Colorado	780.0	780.0	100
Connecticut	16.5	17.0	103
Delaware	3.5	3.5	100
Florida	780.0	760.0	97
Georgia	500.0	490.0	98
Hawaii	63.0	62.0	98
Idaho	950.0	950.0	100
Illinois	350.0	355.0	101
Indiana	330.0	345.0	105
lowa	1,050.0	1,000.0	95
Kansas	1,370.0	1,290.0	94
Kentucky	920.0	920.0	100
Louisiana	340.0	330.0	97
Maine	28.0	28.0	100
Maryland	62.0	65.0	105
Massachusetts	12.5	13.0	104
Michigan	370.0	380.0	103
Minnesota	800.0	770.0	96
Mississippi	360.0	345.0	96
Missouri	1,890.0	1,820.0	96
Montana	1,270.0	1,250.0	98
Nebraska	1,640.0	1,590.0	97
Nevada	220.0	220.0	100
New Hampshire	11.0	10.0	91
New Jersey	9.0	9.0	100
New Mexico	580.0	570.0	98
New York	570.0	560.0	98
North Carolina	350.0	360.0	103
North Dakota	850.0	840.0	99
Ohio	475.0	480.0	101
Oklahoma	1,850.0	1,800.0	97
Oregon	580.0	580.0	100
Pennsylvania	520.0	530.0	102
Rhode Island	1.5	1.5	100
South Carolina	142.0	133.0	94
South Dakota	1,680.0	1,650.0	98
Tennessee	850.0	820.0	96
Texas	4,550.0	4,250.0	93
Utah	365.0	365.0	100
Vermont	94.0	99.0	105
	590.0	610.0	103
Virginia	420.0	425.0	103
Washington	191.0	186.0	
West Virginia			97
Wisconsin	1,410.0 640.0	1,370.0 640.0	97 100
United States	34,439.5	33,593.0	98

# All Cattle on Feed Inventory - States and United States: January 1, 2023 and 2024

[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	2023	2024	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arizona	269.0	267.0	99
California	520.0	520.0	100
Colorado	1,070.0	1,050.0	98
Idaho	330.0	345.0	105
Illinois	220.0	230.0	105
Indiana	95.0	90.0	95
lowa	1,160.0	1,180.0	102
Kansas	2,480.0	2,600.0	105
Kentucky	20.0	18.0	90
Maryland	6.0	6.5	108
Michigan	150.0	135.0	90
Minnesota	360.0	390.0	108
Missouri	90.0	90.0	100
Montana	38.0	38.0	100
Nebraska	2,790.0	2,750.0	99
Nevada	3.0	3.0	100
New York	24.0	23.0	96
North Dakota	51.0	45.0	88
Ohio	140.0	140.0	100
Oklahoma	280.0	330.0	118
Pennsylvania	65.0	85.0	131
South Dakota	430.0	420.0	98
Texas	2,780.0	2,870.0	103
Utah	18.0	16.0	89
Virginia	15.0	14.0	93
Washington	270.0	275.0	102
West Virginia	4.0	4.0	100
Wisconsin	240.0	220.0	92
Wyoming	72.0	71.0	99
Other States <sup>1</sup>	205.8	197.8	96
United States	14,195.8	14,423.3	102

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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, 2023 and 2024

States	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas	1,630.0	1,590.0	98	

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

Class	2022	2023	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves	98,300.0	95,400.0	97
All cows and heifers that have calved	39,600.0 30,200.0 9,400.0	38,500.0 29,100.0 9,400.0	97 96 100
All heifers 500 pounds and over  For beef cow replacement  For milk cow replacement  Other heifers	4,000.0	14,900.0 3,900.0 3,600.0 7,400.0	97 98 97 96
Steers 500 pounds and over	2.000.0	13,900.0 1,900.0 26,200.0	97 95 97
All cattle on feed	13,400.0	13,100.0	98
Calf crop	34,439.5	33,593.0	98

## Calf Crop by Six Month Period – United States: 2022 and 2023

	20	22	2023		
Period	Period Number Percent of total		Number	Percent of total	
	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
January 1 - June 30 July 1 - December 31		73.5 26.5	24,700.0 8,893.0	73.5 26.5	
Total	34,439.5	100.0	33,593.0	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 36,300 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 0.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 87.2 million head by more than 0.4 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.7 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 285,000 head, ranging from 40,000 to 627,000 head. During this period the initial inventory estimate has been above the latest estimate 5 times and below the latest estimate 5 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	_	90 percent	Difference between first and latest estimate					
	Root mean square error	confidence	Averese	A		Ye	Years	
	square error	level	Average	Smallest	Largest	Below latest	Above latest	
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(number)	(number)	
All cattle and calves	0.4	0.7	285	40	627	5	5	
All cows and heifers that have calved	0.5	0.9	143	16	356	2	8	
Calf crop	0.7	1.3	198	20	468	2	8	

#### **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.

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	, ,
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Kim DaPra – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(512) 501-3266
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3347
Anthony Fischer – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4448

#### **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, <a href="https://usda.library.cornell.edu">https://usda.library.cornell.edu</a>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <a href="https://usda.library.cornell.edu">https://usda.library.cornell.edu</a>. 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: <a href="https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help">https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help</a>. You should whitelist <a href="notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu">notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu</a> 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: <a href="mass@usda.gov">nass@usda.gov</a>.

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