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Released January 27, 2012, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## January 1 Cattle Inventory Down 2 Percent

**All cattle and calves** in the United States as of January 1, 2012 totaled 90.8 million head, 2 percent below the 92.7 million on January 1, 2011. This is the lowest January 1 inventory of all cattle and calves since the 88.1 million on hand in 1952.

**All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 39.1 million, were down 2 percent from the 40.0 million on January 1, 2011.

- Beef cows, at 29.9 million, were down 3 percent from January 1, 2011.
- Milk cows, at 9.2 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2011.

**Other class estimates** on January 1, 2012 and the change from January 1, 2011, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.4 million, down 1 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.2 million, up 1 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.5 million, down 1 percent.
- Other heifers, 9.6 million, down 2 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.1 million, down 2 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, down 5 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 14.1 million, down 3 percent.
- Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 14.1 million, up 1 percent.
- The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots was 25.7 million, down 4 percent.

## Calf Crop Down 1 Percent

**The 2011 calf crop** was estimated at 35.3 million head, down 1 percent from 2010. This is the smallest calf crop since the 34.9 million born during 1950. Calves born during the first half of 2011 are estimated at 25.7 million, down 1 percent from 2010.

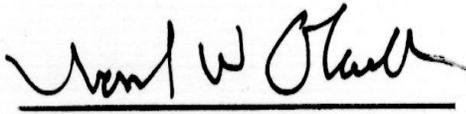
## Revisions

All inventory and calf crop estimates for July 1, 2010, January 1, 2011, and July 1, 2011 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, small adjustments of less than one-half percent were made to previously released inventory estimates by class and calf crop.

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

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This report was approved on January 27, 2012.



Acting Secretary of  
Agriculture  
Joseph W. Glauber



Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
Hubert Hamer

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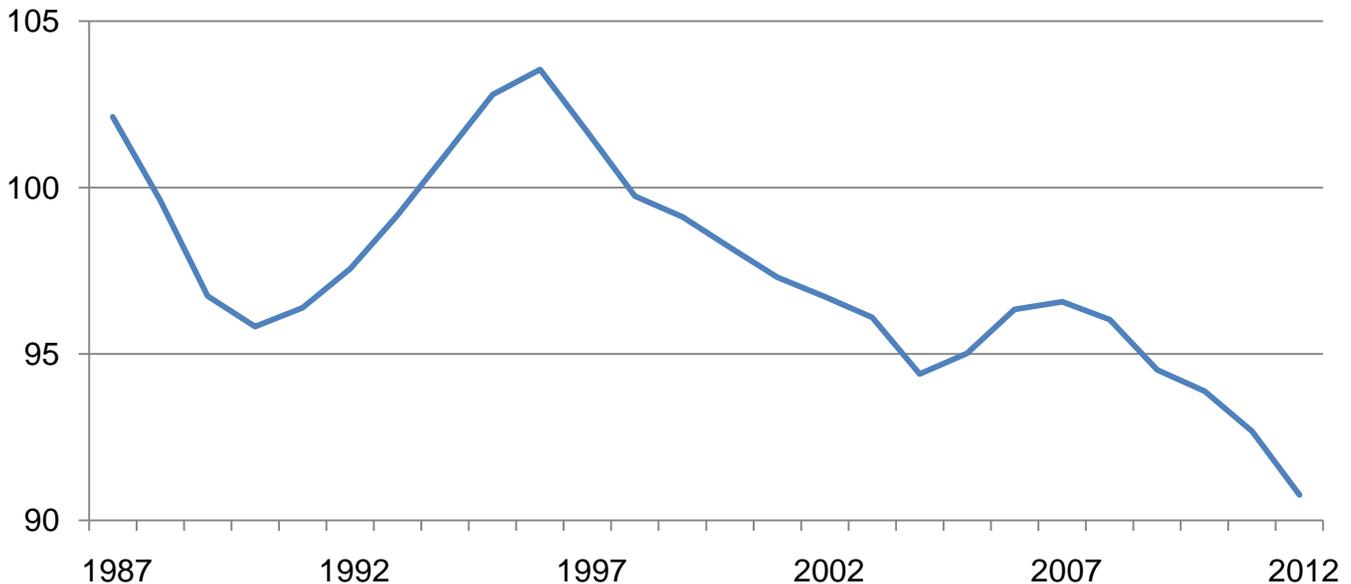
## Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: January 1, 2011 and 2012

Class	2011	2012	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Cattle and calves .....	92,682.4	90,768.5	98
Cows and heifers that have calved .....	39,999.2	39,112.4	98
Beef cows .....	30,849.6	29,882.9	97
Milk cows .....	9,149.6	9,229.5	101
Heifers 500 pounds and over .....	19,575.8	19,387.8	99
For beef cow replacement .....	5,138.6	5,211.6	101
Expected to calve <sup>1</sup> .....	3,164.0	3,201.3	101
For milk cow replacement .....	4,568.2	4,527.0	99
Expected to calve <sup>1</sup> .....	3,056.3	3,029.9	99
Other heifers .....	9,869.0	9,649.2	98
Steers 500 pounds and over .....	16,397.0	16,071.5	98
Bulls 500 pounds and over .....	2,155.1	2,052.0	95
Calves under 500 pounds .....	14,555.3	14,144.8	97
Cattle on feed .....	14,012.9	14,121.4	101
	2010	2011	Percent of previous year
Calf crop .....	35,694.8	35,313.2	99

<sup>1</sup> 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, 2011 and 2012

State	All cattle and calves			All cows that have calved		
	2011	2012	Percent of previous year	2011	2012	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama .....	1,230.0	1,210.0	98	670.0	660.0	99
Alaska .....	13.5	13.0	96	5.6	6.0	107
Arizona .....	870.0	920.0	106	365.0	375.0	103
Arkansas .....	1,720.0	1,670.0	97	940.0	920.0	98
California .....	5,200.0	5,350.0	103	2,350.0	2,400.0	102
Colorado .....	2,650.0	2,750.0	104	850.0	880.0	104
Connecticut .....	49.0	49.0	100	23.0	23.0	100
Delaware .....	18.0	19.0	106	8.5	8.5	100
Florida .....	1,630.0	1,710.0	105	1,040.0	1,060.0	102
Georgia .....	1,030.0	1,020.0	99	580.0	590.0	102
Hawaii .....	141.0	140.0	99	81.0	80.0	99
Idaho .....	2,220.0	2,220.0	100	1,020.0	1,050.0	103
Illinois .....	1,100.0	1,070.0	97	450.0	430.0	96
Indiana .....	850.0	860.0	101	385.0	370.0	96
Iowa .....	3,900.0	3,900.0	100	1,050.0	1,100.0	105
Kansas .....	6,300.0	6,100.0	97	1,600.0	1,550.0	97
Kentucky .....	2,190.0	2,150.0	98	1,100.0	1,070.0	97
Louisiana .....	790.0	790.0	100	480.0	470.0	98
Maine .....	90.0	86.0	96	45.0	42.0	93
Maryland .....	195.0	200.0	103	95.0	95.0	100
Massachusetts .....	40.0	41.0	102	19.0	19.0	100
Michigan .....	1,090.0	1,110.0	102	460.0	480.0	104
Minnesota .....	2,380.0	2,360.0	99	830.0	830.0	100
Mississippi .....	900.0	950.0	106	510.0	500.0	98
Missouri .....	3,950.0	3,900.0	99	1,960.0	1,950.0	99
Montana .....	2,500.0	2,500.0	100	1,490.0	1,470.0	99
Nebraska .....	6,200.0	6,450.0	104	1,830.0	1,940.0	106
Nevada .....	460.0	470.0	102	265.0	265.0	100
New Hampshire .....	34.0	35.0	103	18.0	18.0	100
New Jersey .....	32.0	31.0	97	16.5	15.5	94
New Mexico .....	1,540.0	1,390.0	90	810.0	770.0	95
New York .....	1,400.0	1,410.0	101	700.0	710.0	101
North Carolina .....	800.0	810.0	101	400.0	405.0	101
North Dakota .....	1,700.0	1,690.0	99	900.0	880.0	98
Ohio .....	1,230.0	1,280.0	104	560.0	570.0	102
Oklahoma .....	5,100.0	4,500.0	88	2,070.0	1,780.0	86
Oregon .....	1,330.0	1,300.0	98	670.0	670.0	100
Pennsylvania .....	1,610.0	1,610.0	100	700.0	700.0	100
Rhode Island .....	4.9	4.5	92	2.6	2.4	92
South Carolina .....	385.0	370.0	96	200.0	200.0	100
South Dakota .....	3,700.0	3,650.0	99	1,700.0	1,700.0	100
Tennessee .....	1,990.0	1,970.0	99	1,040.0	1,000.0	96
Texas .....	13,300.0	11,900.0	89	5,450.0	4,800.0	88
Utah .....	800.0	800.0	100	420.0	420.0	100
Vermont .....	270.0	260.0	96	145.0	143.0	99
Virginia .....	1,540.0	1,490.0	97	770.0	760.0	99
Washington .....	1,090.0	1,110.0	102	485.0	480.0	99
West Virginia .....	370.0	390.0	105	210.0	205.0	98
Wisconsin .....	3,450.0	3,400.0	99	1,530.0	1,530.0	100
Wyoming .....	1,300.0	1,360.0	105	700.0	720.0	103
United States .....	92,682.4	90,768.5	98	39,999.2	39,112.4	98

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**Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2011 and 2012 (continued)**

State	Beef cows that have calved			Milk cows that have calved		
	2011	2012	Percent of previous year	2011	2012	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama .....	659.0	650.0	99	11.0	10.0	91
Alaska .....	5.1	5.5	108	0.5	0.5	100
Arizona .....	180.0	185.0	103	185.0	190.0	103
Arkansas .....	928.0	909.0	98	12.0	11.0	92
California .....	600.0	620.0	103	1,750.0	1,780.0	102
Colorado .....	727.0	749.0	103	123.0	131.0	107
Connecticut .....	4.0	4.5	113	19.0	18.5	97
Delaware .....	3.5	3.5	100	5.0	5.0	100
Florida .....	926.0	940.0	102	114.0	120.0	105
Georgia .....	502.0	512.0	102	78.0	78.0	100
Hawaii .....	79.0	78.1	99	2.0	1.9	95
Idaho .....	446.0	469.0	105	574.0	581.0	101
Illinois .....	352.0	331.0	94	98.0	99.0	101
Indiana .....	213.0	195.0	92	172.0	175.0	102
Iowa .....	840.0	895.0	107	210.0	205.0	98
Kansas .....	1,478.0	1,427.0	97	122.0	123.0	101
Kentucky .....	1,023.0	995.0	97	77.0	75.0	97
Louisiana .....	461.0	452.0	98	19.0	18.0	95
Maine .....	13.0	10.0	77	32.0	32.0	100
Maryland .....	42.0	43.0	102	53.0	52.0	98
Massachusetts .....	5.5	7.0	127	13.5	12.0	89
Michigan .....	99.0	109.0	110	361.0	371.0	103
Minnesota .....	360.0	365.0	101	470.0	465.0	99
Mississippi .....	495.0	486.0	98	15.0	14.0	93
Missouri .....	1,865.0	1,857.0	100	95.0	93.0	98
Montana .....	1,476.0	1,456.0	99	14.0	14.0	100
Nebraska .....	1,772.0	1,884.0	106	58.0	56.0	97
Nevada .....	237.0	236.0	100	28.0	29.0	104
New Hampshire .....	3.0	4.0	133	15.0	14.0	93
New Jersey .....	9.0	8.0	89	7.5	7.5	100
New Mexico .....	488.0	435.0	89	322.0	335.0	104
New York .....	90.0	100.0	111	610.0	610.0	100
North Carolina .....	356.0	360.0	101	44.0	45.0	102
North Dakota .....	880.0	862.0	98	20.0	18.0	90
Ohio .....	290.0	300.0	103	270.0	270.0	100
Oklahoma .....	2,016.0	1,728.0	86	54.0	52.0	96
Oregon .....	549.0	547.0	100	121.0	123.0	102
Pennsylvania .....	157.0	160.0	102	543.0	540.0	99
Rhode Island .....	1.5	1.3	87	1.1	1.1	100
South Carolina .....	184.0	184.0	100	16.0	16.0	100
South Dakota .....	1,610.0	1,610.0	100	90.0	90.0	100
Tennessee .....	990.0	950.0	96	50.0	50.0	100
Texas .....	5,025.0	4,365.0	87	425.0	435.0	102
Utah .....	333.0	330.0	99	87.0	90.0	103
Vermont .....	10.0	10.0	100	135.0	133.0	99
Virginia .....	675.0	664.0	98	95.0	96.0	101
Washington .....	233.0	217.0	93	252.0	263.0	104
West Virginia .....	200.0	195.0	98	10.0	10.0	100
Wisconsin .....	265.0	265.0	100	1,265.0	1,265.0	100
Wyoming .....	694.0	714.0	103	6.0	6.0	100
United States .....	30,849.6	29,882.9	97	9,149.6	9,229.5	101

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**Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2011 and 2012 (continued)**

State	Heifers 500 pounds and over					
	Beef cow replacement		Milk cow replacement		Other	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama .....	89.0	95.0	6.0	6.0	40.0	39.0
Alaska .....	1.7	1.6	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
Arizona .....	25.0	35.0	60.0	65.0	18.0	15.0
Arkansas .....	136.0	115.0	4.0	5.0	75.0	60.0
California .....	110.0	110.0	760.0	800.0	220.0	240.0
Colorado .....	120.0	155.0	75.0	75.0	510.0	520.0
Connecticut .....	2.0	2.5	9.5	9.5	0.5	0.5
Delaware .....	0.5	0.7	3.0	3.3	0.7	0.5
Florida .....	110.0	115.0	30.0	35.0	20.0	30.0
Georgia .....	66.0	71.0	23.0	31.0	40.0	32.0
Hawaii .....	11.0	10.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	6.0
Idaho .....	95.0	90.0	320.0	280.0	225.0	200.0
Illinois .....	47.0	56.0	46.0	47.0	117.0	117.0
Indiana .....	35.0	31.0	62.0	70.0	70.0	59.0
Iowa .....	120.0	140.0	130.0	140.0	740.0	640.0
Kansas .....	245.0	250.0	85.0	85.0	1,600.0	1,550.0
Kentucky .....	145.0	135.0	50.0	45.0	135.0	145.0
Louisiana .....	82.0	81.0	5.0	6.0	21.0	24.0
Maine .....	3.5	3.0	17.0	16.0	2.5	3.0
Maryland .....	10.0	12.0	28.0	28.0	7.0	8.0
Massachusetts .....	1.5	3.0	7.5	6.0	1.0	1.0
Michigan .....	27.0	27.0	148.0	158.0	50.0	45.0
Minnesota .....	90.0	90.0	290.0	285.0	190.0	185.0
Mississippi .....	71.0	82.0	7.0	7.0	25.0	36.0
Missouri .....	300.0	270.0	50.0	40.0	220.0	240.0
Montana .....	405.0	415.0	7.0	8.0	213.0	217.0
Nebraska .....	300.0	355.0	20.0	15.0	1,380.0	1,450.0
Nevada .....	37.0	41.0	10.0	10.0	31.0	37.0
New Hampshire .....	1.0	1.5	7.5	6.5	0.5	0.5
New Jersey .....	2.0	2.0	4.0	4.0	1.5	1.5
New Mexico .....	95.0	75.0	140.0	120.0	95.0	90.0
New York .....	38.0	38.0	330.0	320.0	32.0	42.0
North Carolina .....	65.0	65.0	21.0	21.0	29.0	26.0
North Dakota .....	185.0	183.0	10.0	10.0	225.0	200.0
Ohio .....	55.0	55.0	125.0	120.0	65.0	70.0
Oklahoma .....	355.0	300.0	20.0	20.0	540.0	490.0
Oregon .....	100.0	110.0	65.0	75.0	125.0	95.0
Pennsylvania .....	40.0	45.0	310.0	315.0	50.0	55.0
Rhode Island .....	0.4	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1
South Carolina .....	36.0	36.0	7.0	6.0	14.0	15.0
South Dakota .....	280.0	320.0	25.0	35.0	575.0	540.0
Tennessee .....	150.0	150.0	35.0	30.0	80.0	100.0
Texas .....	610.0	550.0	230.0	210.0	1,620.0	1,590.0
Utah .....	56.0	65.0	42.0	53.0	57.0	47.0
Vermont .....	4.0	4.0	61.0	54.0	4.0	5.0
Virginia .....	90.0	95.0	49.0	40.0	61.0	55.0
Washington .....	53.0	54.0	122.0	120.0	105.0	111.0
West Virginia .....	33.0	36.0	5.0	5.0	18.0	26.0
Wisconsin .....	65.0	70.0	700.0	680.0	55.0	50.0
Wyoming .....	140.0	165.0	5.0	5.0	160.0	140.0
United States .....	5,138.6	5,211.6	4,568.2	4,527.0	9,869.0	9,649.2

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**Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2011 and 2012 (continued)**

State	Steers 500 pounds and over		Bulls 500 pounds and over		Calves under 500 pounds	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama .....	50.0	55.0	50.0	45.0	325.0	310.0
Alaska .....	0.7	0.4	2.1	2.9	3.0	1.8
Arizona .....	275.0	300.0	17.0	20.0	110.0	110.0
Arkansas .....	100.0	110.0	60.0	60.0	405.0	400.0
California .....	590.0	630.0	70.0	70.0	1,100.0	1,100.0
Colorado .....	910.0	930.0	50.0	50.0	135.0	140.0
Connecticut .....	2.4	2.4	0.6	0.6	11.0	10.5
Delaware .....	2.0	2.4	0.3	0.4	3.0	3.2
Florida .....	20.0	20.0	60.0	60.0	350.0	390.0
Georgia .....	39.0	34.0	27.0	27.0	255.0	235.0
Hawaii .....	8.0	6.0	5.0	5.0	30.0	32.0
Idaho .....	265.0	310.0	35.0	35.0	260.0	255.0
Illinois .....	230.0	210.0	25.0	25.0	185.0	185.0
Indiana .....	101.0	99.0	18.0	21.0	179.0	210.0
Iowa .....	1,350.0	1,300.0	60.0	60.0	450.0	520.0
Kansas .....	1,990.0	1,930.0	90.0	90.0	690.0	645.0
Kentucky .....	220.0	200.0	70.0	70.0	470.0	485.0
Louisiana .....	21.0	23.0	30.0	28.0	151.0	158.0
Maine .....	4.5	5.5	1.5	1.5	16.0	15.0
Maryland .....	15.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	36.0	37.0
Massachusetts .....	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	8.0	9.0
Michigan .....	190.0	173.0	15.0	17.0	200.0	210.0
Minnesota .....	470.0	465.0	35.0	35.0	475.0	470.0
Mississippi .....	48.0	61.0	39.0	39.0	200.0	225.0
Missouri .....	390.0	360.0	100.0	100.0	930.0	940.0
Montana .....	195.0	210.0	90.0	85.0	100.0	95.0
Nebraska .....	2,320.0	2,280.0	85.0	100.0	265.0	310.0
Nevada .....	40.0	42.0	15.0	14.0	62.0	61.0
New Hampshire .....	1.0	1.5	0.5	0.5	5.5	6.5
New Jersey .....	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	5.0
New Mexico .....	125.0	110.0	40.0	35.0	235.0	190.0
New York .....	37.0	40.0	18.0	15.0	245.0	245.0
North Carolina .....	31.0	43.0	34.0	30.0	220.0	220.0
North Dakota .....	255.0	255.0	55.0	57.0	70.0	105.0
Ohio .....	180.0	195.0	25.0	20.0	220.0	250.0
Oklahoma .....	1,030.0	970.0	135.0	120.0	950.0	820.0
Oregon .....	160.0	155.0	40.0	40.0	170.0	155.0
Pennsylvania .....	140.0	145.0	25.0	25.0	345.0	325.0
Rhode Island .....	0.4	0.3	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.8
South Carolina .....	17.0	11.0	16.0	16.0	95.0	86.0
South Dakota .....	750.0	690.0	85.0	90.0	285.0	275.0
Tennessee .....	130.0	160.0	75.0	70.0	480.0	460.0
Texas .....	2,710.0	2,500.0	380.0	300.0	2,300.0	1,950.0
Utah .....	93.0	90.0	22.0	20.0	110.0	105.0
Vermont .....	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	49.0	47.0
Virginia .....	160.0	160.0	40.0	40.0	370.0	340.0
Washington .....	160.0	180.0	20.0	19.0	145.0	146.0
West Virginia .....	33.0	43.0	15.0	14.0	56.0	61.0
Wisconsin .....	370.0	360.0	30.0	30.0	700.0	680.0
Wyoming .....	160.0	180.0	40.0	40.0	95.0	110.0
United States .....	16,397.0	16,071.5	2,155.1	2,052.0	14,555.3	14,144.8

## Calf Crop – States and United States: 2010 and 2011

State	2010	2011	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama .....	580.0	560.0	97
Alaska .....	3.9	4.0	103
Arizona .....	270.0	290.0	107
Arkansas .....	800.0	800.0	100
California .....	1,980.0	2,030.0	103
Colorado .....	780.0	800.0	103
Connecticut .....	21.0	20.0	95
Delaware .....	6.0	7.0	117
Florida .....	870.0	890.0	102
Georgia .....	490.0	470.0	96
Hawaii .....	65.0	65.0	100
Idaho .....	990.0	910.0	92
Illinois .....	410.0	380.0	93
Indiana .....	340.0	310.0	91
Iowa .....	1,010.0	1,050.0	104
Kansas .....	1,420.0	1,420.0	100
Kentucky .....	1,000.0	960.0	96
Louisiana .....	360.0	375.0	104
Maine .....	35.0	31.0	89
Maryland .....	78.0	80.0	103
Massachusetts .....	18.0	18.0	100
Michigan .....	385.0	390.0	101
Minnesota .....	800.0	780.0	98
Mississippi .....	400.0	385.0	96
Missouri .....	1,850.0	1,820.0	98
Montana .....	1,490.0	1,470.0	99
Nebraska .....	1,660.0	1,690.0	102
Nevada .....	210.0	215.0	102
New Hampshire .....	14.5	15.0	103
New Jersey .....	12.0	11.0	92
New Mexico .....	620.0	620.0	100
New York .....	520.0	530.0	102
North Carolina .....	360.0	350.0	97
North Dakota .....	880.0	860.0	98
Ohio .....	450.0	490.0	109
Oklahoma .....	1,900.0	1,850.0	97
Oregon .....	630.0	630.0	100
Pennsylvania .....	600.0	590.0	98
Rhode Island .....	2.4	2.2	92
South Carolina .....	165.0	160.0	97
South Dakota .....	1,650.0	1,620.0	98
Tennessee .....	950.0	920.0	97
Texas .....	4,800.0	4,650.0	97
Utah .....	365.0	365.0	100
Vermont .....	124.0	115.0	93
Virginia .....	650.0	640.0	98
Washington .....	430.0	430.0	100
West Virginia .....	200.0	185.0	93
Wisconsin .....	1,390.0	1,380.0	99
Wyoming .....	660.0	680.0	103
United States .....	35,694.8	35,313.2	99

## Total Number of Cattle on Feed – States and United States: January 1, 2011 and 2012

[Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes]

State	2011	2012	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arizona .....	258.0	279.0	108
California .....	470.0	510.0	109
Colorado .....	1,100.0	1,170.0	106
Idaho .....	250.0	240.0	96
Illinois .....	160.0	160.0	100
Indiana .....	129.0	107.0	83
Iowa .....	1,380.0	1,300.0	94
Kansas .....	2,400.0	2,370.0	99
Kentucky .....	10.0	10.0	100
Maryland .....	10.0	10.0	100
Michigan .....	170.0	150.0	88
Minnesota .....	320.0	310.0	97
Missouri .....	50.0	55.0	110
Montana .....	30.0	32.0	107
Nebraska .....	2,550.0	2,650.0	104
Nevada .....	8.0	7.0	88
New York .....	25.0	25.0	100
North Dakota .....	60.0	60.0	100
Ohio .....	170.0	180.0	106
Oklahoma .....	380.0	380.0	100
Oregon .....	75.0	70.0	93
Pennsylvania .....	75.0	75.0	100
South Dakota .....	400.0	320.0	80
Tennessee .....	10.0	9.0	90
Texas .....	2,850.0	2,950.0	104
Utah .....	25.0	26.0	104
Virginia .....	20.0	23.0	115
Washington .....	215.0	235.0	109
West Virginia .....	5.0	5.0	100
Wisconsin .....	250.0	240.0	96
Wyoming .....	66.0	75.0	114
Other States <sup>1</sup> .....	91.9	88.4	96
United States .....	14,012.9	14,121.4	101

<sup>1</sup> 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, 2011 and 2012

States	2011	2012	Percent of previous year
	(million head)	(million head)	(percent)
Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas .....	1.60	1.59	99

### Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: July 1, 2010 and 2011

Class	2010	2011	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Cattle and calves .....	101,100.0	100,000.0	99
Cows and heifers that have calved .....	40,900.0	40,600.0	99
Beef cows .....	31,750.0	31,400.0	99
Milk cows .....	9,150.0	9,200.0	101
Heifers 500 pounds and over .....	16,200.0	16,000.0	99
For beef cow replacement .....	4,400.0	4,200.0	95
For milk cow replacement .....	4,050.0	4,200.0	104
Other heifers .....	7,750.0	7,600.0	98
Steers 500 pounds and over .....	14,400.0	14,200.0	99
Bulls 500 pounds and over .....	2,100.0	2,000.0	95
Calves under 500 pounds .....	27,500.0	27,200.0	99
Calf crop .....	35,694.8	35,313.2	99
Cattle on feed .....	11,900.0	12,200.0	103

### Calf Crop and Percent of Total by Six Month Period – United States: 2010 and 2011

Period	2010		2011	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
January 1 - June 30 .....	25,900.0	72.6	25,700.0	72.8
July 1 - December 31 .....	9,794.8	27.4	9,613.2	27.2
Total .....	35,694.8	100.0	35,313.2	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 40,000 operators during the first half of January by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews and 77 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 0.5 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 90.8 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 347,000 head, ranging from 6,000 to 830,000 head. During this period the initial inventory estimate has been above the latest estimate 6 times and below the latest estimate 4 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	
						Above latest	Below latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(number)	(number)
All cattle .....	0.5	0.9	347	6	830	6	4
All cows .....	0.6	1.1	165	0	505	6	3
Calf crop .....	1.0	1.8	272	10	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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

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Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs, Goats .....	(202) 720-3106
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(202) 720-3278
Everett Olbert – Dairy Products Prices .....	(202) 720-4751
Lorie Warren – Dairy Products, Sheep .....	(202) 690-3236

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