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January 1 Cattle Inventory Up 1 Percent

All cattle and calves in the United States, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 94.4 million head, 1 percent above the 93.7 million head on January 1, 2017.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.1 million head, were 1 percent above the 40.6 million head on January 1, 2017. Beef cows, at 31.7 million head, were up 2 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.40 million head, were up 1 percent from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 20.2 million head, 1 percent above the 20.1 million head on January 1, 2017. Beef replacement heifers, at 6.13 million head, were down 4 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.78 million head, were up 1 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.33 million head, were 4 percent above a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 16.4 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2017.

Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 2.25 million head, up slightly from January 1, 2017.

Calves under 500 pounds, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 14.4 million head, up slightly from January 1, 2017.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.0 million head on January 1, 2018. The inventory is up 7 percent from the January 1, 2017 total of 13.1 million head. Cattle on feed, in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head, accounted for 82.0 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2018, up 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 26.1 million head, 2 percent below one year ago.

Calf Crop Up 2 Percent

The 2017 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 35.8 million head, up 2 percent from last year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2017 were estimated at 26.0 million head, up 2 percent from the first half of 2016. Calves born during the second half of 2017 were estimated at 9.81 million head, 27 percent of the total 2017 calf crop.

Revisions

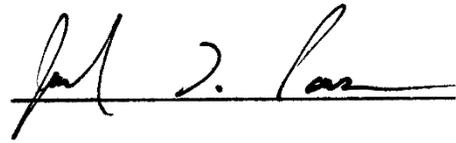
All inventory and calf crop estimates for January 1, 2017 and July 1, 2017 were reviewed using calf crop, official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. Based on the findings of this review, January 1, 2017 all cattle and calves increased by 0.1 percent and 2016 calf crop increased slightly. July 1, 2017 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.4 percent, all cows and heifers that have calved decreased by 0.7 percent, and 2017 calf crop decreased by 1.4 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, 2018.



Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Robert Johansson



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Joseph L. Parsons

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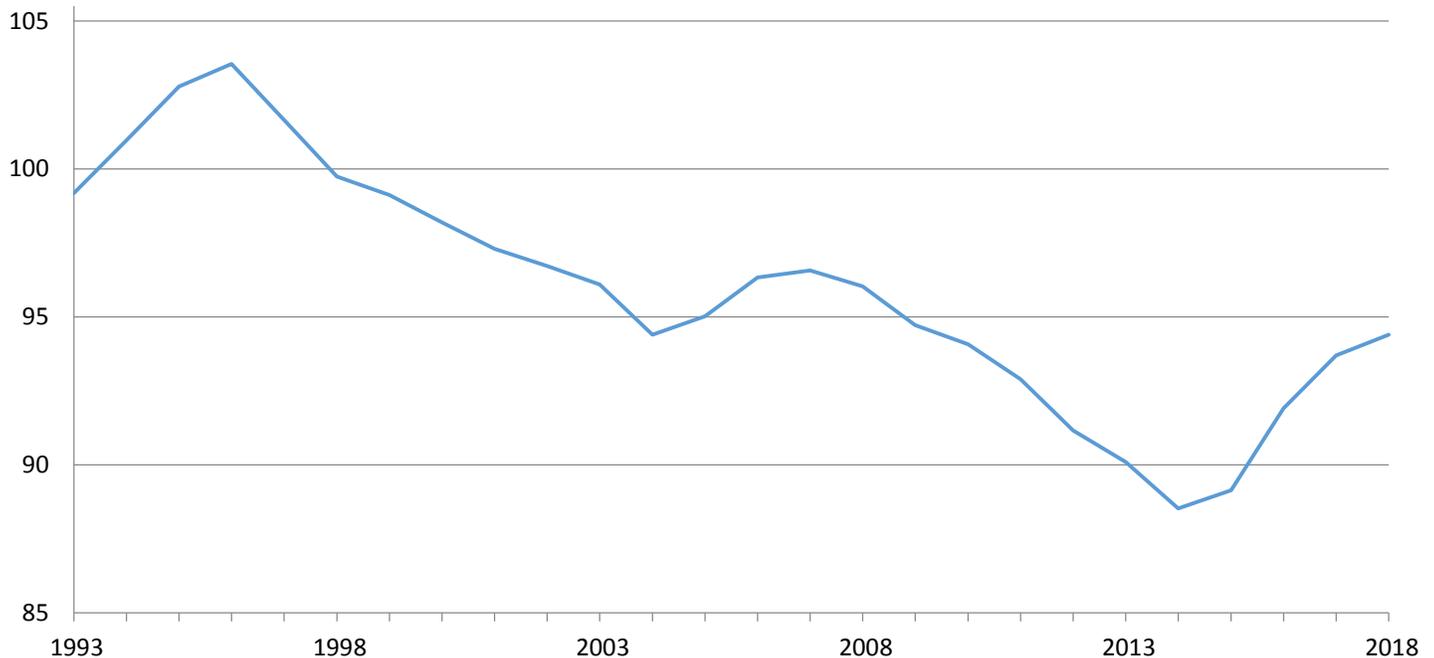
Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: January 1, 2017 and 2018

Class	2017	2018	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves	93,704.6	94,399.0	101
All cows and heifers that have calved	40,559.2	41,122.6	101
Beef cows	31,213.2	31,723.0	102
Milk cows	9,346.0	9,399.6	101
All heifers 500 pounds and over	20,132.0	20,244.8	101
For beef cow replacement	6,368.2	6,131.2	96
Expected to calve ¹	3,979.2	3,771.0	95
For milk cow replacement	4,754.0	4,781.3	101
Expected to calve ¹	3,071.6	3,037.9	99
Other heifers	9,009.8	9,332.3	104
Steers 500 pounds and over	16,383.5	16,352.2	100
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,243.6	2,252.2	100
Calves under 500 pounds	14,386.3	14,427.2	100
All cattle on feed	13,067.0	14,006.4	107
	2016	2017	Percent of previous year
Calf crop	35,092.7	35,808.2	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, 2017 and 2018

State	All cattle and calves			All cows and heifers that have calved		
	2017	2018	Percent of previous year	2017	2018	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	1,300.0	1,340.0	103	700.0	720.0	103
Alaska	13.0	14.0	108	5.0	5.7	114
Arizona	970.0	1,000.0	103	380.0	390.0	103
Arkansas	1,750.0	1,760.0	101	920.0	930.0	101
California	5,150.0	5,200.0	101	2,410.0	2,400.0	100
Colorado	2,850.0	2,850.0	100	960.0	975.0	102
Connecticut	48.0	50.0	104	24.0	25.0	104
Delaware	16.0	17.0	106	7.5	7.5	100
Florida	1,700.0	1,630.0	96	1,030.0	1,010.0	98
Georgia	1,110.0	1,070.0	96	580.0	570.0	98
Hawaii	142.0	144.0	101	76.0	77.0	101
Idaho	2,370.0	2,400.0	101	1,100.0	1,110.0	101
Illinois	1,220.0	1,150.0	94	480.0	490.0	102
Indiana	890.0	870.0	98	395.0	395.0	100
Iowa	3,900.0	4,000.0	103	1,180.0	1,190.0	101
Kansas	6,400.0	6,300.0	98	1,720.0	1,660.0	97
Kentucky	2,170.0	2,160.0	100	1,080.0	1,090.0	101
Louisiana	780.0	820.0	105	460.0	485.0	105
Maine	84.0	82.0	98	41.0	40.0	98
Maryland	186.0	193.0	104	90.0	93.0	103
Massachusetts	38.0	38.0	100	18.0	18.0	100
Michigan	1,180.0	1,160.0	98	545.0	530.0	97
Minnesota	2,410.0	2,350.0	98	830.0	820.0	99
Mississippi	890.0	930.0	104	485.0	510.0	105
Missouri	4,350.0	4,450.0	102	2,140.0	2,250.0	105
Montana	2,650.0	2,550.0	96	1,500.0	1,510.0	101
Nebraska	6,450.0	6,800.0	105	1,980.0	1,970.0	99
Nevada	445.0	465.0	104	250.0	270.0	108
New Hampshire	35.0	37.0	106	18.5	17.0	92
New Jersey	28.0	29.0	104	14.0	15.0	107
New Mexico	1,430.0	1,510.0	106	790.0	815.0	103
New York	1,500.0	1,480.0	99	730.0	730.0	100
North Carolina	830.0	810.0	98	415.0	415.0	100
North Dakota	1,820.0	1,860.0	102	970.0	1,000.0	103
Ohio	1,300.0	1,300.0	100	550.0	560.0	102
Oklahoma	5,000.0	5,100.0	102	2,130.0	2,170.0	102
Oregon	1,320.0	1,270.0	96	670.0	660.0	99
Pennsylvania	1,620.0	1,620.0	100	710.0	740.0	104
Rhode Island	4.6	5.0	109	2.2	2.4	109
South Carolina	340.0	340.0	100	185.0	189.0	102
South Dakota	3,850.0	4,000.0	104	1,780.0	1,920.0	108
Tennessee	1,830.0	1,830.0	100	950.0	950.0	100
Texas	12,300.0	12,500.0	102	4,950.0	5,100.0	103
Utah	820.0	800.0	98	430.0	435.0	101
Vermont	260.0	260.0	100	143.0	143.0	100
Virginia	1,520.0	1,480.0	97	730.0	720.0	99
Washington	1,150.0	1,160.0	101	500.0	510.0	102
West Virginia	405.0	395.0	98	215.0	210.0	98
Wisconsin	3,550.0	3,500.0	99	1,570.0	1,560.0	99
Wyoming	1,330.0	1,320.0	99	720.0	720.0	100
United States	93,704.6	94,399.0	101	40,559.2	41,122.6	101

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2017 and 2018 (continued)

State	Beef cows that have calved			Milk cows that have calved		
	2017	2018	Percent of previous year	2017	2018	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	693.0	714.0	103	7.0	6.0	86
Alaska	4.7	5.4	115	0.3	0.3	100
Arizona	184.0	187.0	102	196.0	203.0	104
Arkansas	914.0	924.0	101	6.0	6.0	100
California	655.0	660.0	101	1,755.0	1,740.0	99
Colorado	805.0	809.0	100	155.0	166.0	107
Connecticut	5.0	6.0	120	19.0	19.0	100
Delaware	2.5	2.5	100	5.0	5.0	100
Florida	908.0	886.0	98	122.0	124.0	102
Georgia	497.0	485.0	98	83.0	85.0	102
Hawaii	73.6	75.0	102	2.4	2.0	83
Idaho	500.0	510.0	102	600.0	600.0	100
Illinois	387.0	397.0	103	93.0	93.0	100
Indiana	210.0	208.0	99	185.0	187.0	101
Iowa	965.0	970.0	101	215.0	220.0	102
Kansas	1,570.0	1,507.0	96	150.0	153.0	102
Kentucky	1,023.0	1,033.0	101	57.0	57.0	100
Louisiana	448.0	473.0	106	12.0	12.0	100
Maine	11.0	10.0	91	30.0	30.0	100
Maryland	43.0	46.0	107	47.0	47.0	100
Massachusetts	6.5	6.5	100	11.5	11.5	100
Michigan	120.0	102.0	85	425.0	428.0	101
Minnesota	370.0	365.0	99	460.0	455.0	99
Mississippi	476.0	501.0	105	9.0	9.0	100
Missouri	2,055.0	2,166.0	105	85.0	84.0	99
Montana	1,486.0	1,497.0	101	14.0	13.0	93
Nebraska	1,920.0	1,910.0	99	60.0	60.0	100
Nevada	220.0	238.0	108	30.0	32.0	107
New Hampshire	5.0	4.5	90	13.5	12.5	93
New Jersey	7.5	9.0	120	6.5	6.0	92
New Mexico	465.0	483.0	104	325.0	332.0	102
New York	110.0	105.0	95	620.0	625.0	101
North Carolina	370.0	370.0	100	45.0	45.0	100
North Dakota	954.0	984.5	103	16.0	15.5	97
Ohio	288.0	296.0	103	262.0	264.0	101
Oklahoma	2,095.0	2,131.0	102	35.0	39.0	111
Oregon	546.0	536.0	98	124.0	124.0	100
Pennsylvania	185.0	215.0	116	525.0	525.0	100
Rhode Island	1.4	1.6	114	0.8	0.8	100
South Carolina	170.0	174.0	102	15.0	15.0	100
South Dakota	1,664.0	1,801.0	108	116.0	119.0	103
Tennessee	909.0	910.0	100	41.0	40.0	98
Texas	4,460.0	4,585.0	103	490.0	515.0	105
Utah	338.0	338.0	100	92.0	97.0	105
Vermont	14.0	15.0	107	129.0	128.0	99
Virginia	643.0	633.0	98	87.0	87.0	100
Washington	225.0	236.0	105	275.0	274.0	100
West Virginia	207.0	203.0	98	8.0	7.0	88
Wisconsin	290.0	285.0	98	1,280.0	1,275.0	100
Wyoming	714.0	714.0	100	6.0	6.0	100
United States	31,213.2	31,723.0	102	9,346.0	9,399.6	101

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2017 and 2018 (continued)

State	All heifers 500 pounds and over					
	Beef cow replacement		Milk cow replacement		Other	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	120.0	125.0	4.0	3.0	36.0	37.0
Alaska	1.0	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.5	0.5
Arizona	38.0	36.0	117.0	105.0	35.0	29.0
Arkansas	173.0	160.0	3.0	4.0	64.0	71.0
California	130.0	125.0	760.0	790.0	150.0	175.0
Colorado	190.0	180.0	100.0	100.0	520.0	550.0
Connecticut	2.0	2.0	9.5	9.5	1.0	1.5
Delaware	0.7	0.7	2.2	2.0	0.4	0.4
Florida	125.0	115.0	35.0	40.0	30.0	30.0
Georgia	110.0	95.0	30.0	25.0	50.0	35.0
Hawaii	13.0	12.0	1.0	1.0	4.0	5.0
Idaho	120.0	120.0	310.0	310.0	190.0	200.0
Illinois	75.0	70.0	52.0	47.0	108.0	98.0
Indiana	50.0	50.0	80.0	75.0	50.0	45.0
Iowa	185.0	165.0	135.0	135.0	540.0	530.0
Kansas	310.0	280.0	100.0	140.0	1,430.0	1,490.0
Kentucky	150.0	145.0	40.0	45.0	115.0	115.0
Louisiana	85.0	90.0	4.0	4.0	20.0	20.0
Maine	4.0	4.0	15.0	15.0	3.0	3.0
Maryland	11.0	12.0	29.0	28.0	6.0	10.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	7.0	7.0	1.0	1.0
Michigan	25.0	24.0	170.0	176.0	40.0	30.0
Minnesota	95.0	100.0	295.0	290.0	165.0	175.0
Mississippi	93.0	92.0	6.0	7.0	31.0	40.0
Missouri	370.0	365.0	45.0	40.0	235.0	215.0
Montana	425.0	390.0	9.0	7.0	256.0	223.0
Nebraska	375.0	375.0	25.0	15.0	1,380.0	1,520.0
Nevada	41.0	42.0	11.0	12.0	29.0	30.0
New Hampshire	1.0	1.5	6.0	8.0	1.0	0.5
New Jersey	1.6	2.1	3.7	3.2	1.2	1.2
New Mexico	100.0	105.0	110.0	130.0	90.0	95.0
New York	45.0	45.0	355.0	350.0	50.0	50.0
North Carolina	69.0	66.0	22.0	19.0	25.0	23.0
North Dakota	206.0	191.0	9.0	9.0	215.0	240.0
Ohio	75.0	70.0	120.0	121.0	60.0	59.0
Oklahoma	435.0	410.0	20.0	25.0	465.0	510.0
Oregon	105.0	95.0	65.0	70.0	115.0	100.0
Pennsylvania	65.0	60.0	315.0	310.0	60.0	60.0
Rhode Island	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
South Carolina	33.0	28.0	7.0	6.0	10.0	9.0
South Dakota	395.0	435.0	45.0	45.0	530.0	500.0
Tennessee	145.0	135.0	35.0	25.0	90.0	80.0
Texas	810.0	800.0	260.0	250.0	1,350.0	1,470.0
Utah	85.0	75.0	55.0	50.0	60.0	60.0
Vermont	5.5	5.0	56.0	57.0	6.5	6.0
Virginia	112.0	100.0	38.0	40.0	70.0	70.0
Washington	58.0	52.0	120.0	123.0	117.0	115.0
West Virginia	38.0	37.0	4.0	3.0	17.0	18.0
Wisconsin	80.0	80.0	710.0	700.0	50.0	50.0
Wyoming	185.0	160.0	3.0	4.0	137.0	136.0
United States	6,368.2	6,131.2	4,754.0	4,781.3	9,009.8	9,332.3

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2017 and 2018 (continued)

State	Steers 500 pounds and over		Bulls 500 pounds and over		Calves under 500 pounds	
	2017	2018	2017	2018	2017	2018
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	50.0	40.0	50.0	50.0	340.0	365.0
Alaska	0.5	0.5	2.7	2.3	3.2	3.5
Arizona	265.0	275.0	20.0	20.0	115.0	145.0
Arkansas	110.0	110.0	60.0	60.0	420.0	425.0
California	600.0	620.0	70.0	70.0	1,030.0	1,020.0
Colorado	850.0	810.0	55.0	55.0	175.0	180.0
Connecticut	2.0	2.0	0.5	0.5	9.0	9.5
Delaware	1.9	2.1	0.3	0.3	3.0	4.0
Florida	30.0	20.0	60.0	55.0	390.0	360.0
Georgia	37.0	35.0	33.0	35.0	270.0	275.0
Hawaii	10.0	11.0	4.0	4.0	34.0	34.0
Idaho	310.0	310.0	40.0	40.0	300.0	310.0
Illinois	240.0	195.0	25.0	25.0	240.0	225.0
Indiana	108.0	104.0	17.0	16.0	190.0	185.0
Iowa	1,310.0	1,390.0	70.0	70.0	480.0	520.0
Kansas	2,050.0	2,020.0	95.0	95.0	695.0	615.0
Kentucky	215.0	195.0	70.0	70.0	500.0	500.0
Louisiana	25.0	23.0	31.0	31.0	155.0	167.0
Maine	4.0	4.0	1.5	1.5	15.5	14.5
Maryland	14.0	17.0	4.0	4.0	32.0	29.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	7.0	7.0
Michigan	169.0	180.0	16.0	15.0	215.0	205.0
Minnesota	500.0	475.0	35.0	35.0	490.0	455.0
Mississippi	42.0	48.0	38.0	38.0	195.0	195.0
Missouri	460.0	390.0	120.0	120.0	980.0	1,070.0
Montana	230.0	210.0	100.0	105.0	130.0	105.0
Nebraska	2,290.0	2,480.0	110.0	110.0	290.0	330.0
Nevada	45.0	40.0	14.0	15.0	55.0	56.0
New Hampshire	1.5	2.0	0.5	0.5	6.5	7.5
New Jersey	2.1	2.1	1.0	1.0	4.4	4.4
New Mexico	120.0	130.0	35.0	40.0	185.0	195.0
New York	45.0	47.0	20.0	18.0	255.0	240.0
North Carolina	43.0	37.0	31.0	30.0	225.0	220.0
North Dakota	255.0	240.0	65.0	70.0	100.0	110.0
Ohio	220.0	210.0	30.0	30.0	245.0	250.0
Oklahoma	900.0	950.0	160.0	155.0	890.0	880.0
Oregon	155.0	145.0	40.0	40.0	170.0	160.0
Pennsylvania	160.0	130.0	25.0	25.0	285.0	295.0
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.7	0.8
South Carolina	8.0	10.0	15.0	16.0	82.0	82.0
South Dakota	740.0	680.0	100.0	110.0	260.0	310.0
Tennessee	135.0	150.0	65.0	60.0	410.0	430.0
Texas	2,590.0	2,570.0	340.0	340.0	2,000.0	1,970.0
Utah	80.0	80.0	27.0	25.0	83.0	75.0
Vermont	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	42.0	42.0
Virginia	165.0	160.0	40.0	40.0	365.0	350.0
Washington	190.0	200.0	18.0	20.0	147.0	140.0
West Virginia	39.0	41.0	15.0	15.0	77.0	71.0
Wisconsin	400.0	380.0	30.0	30.0	710.0	700.0
Wyoming	160.0	175.0	40.0	40.0	85.0	85.0
United States	16,383.5	16,352.2	2,243.6	2,252.2	14,386.3	14,427.2

Calf Crop – States and United States: 2016 and 2017

State	2016	2017	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	600.0	630.0	105
Alaska	4.0	4.5	113
Arizona	320.0	310.0	97
Arkansas	780.0	790.0	101
California	1,850.0	1,880.0	102
Colorado	830.0	830.0	100
Connecticut	18.5	17.5	95
Delaware	6.0	7.0	117
Florida	810.0	790.0	98
Georgia	490.0	480.0	98
Hawaii	59.0	60.0	102
Idaho	930.0	960.0	103
Illinois	410.0	420.0	102
Indiana	340.0	340.0	100
Iowa	1,090.0	1,090.0	100
Kansas	1,480.0	1,430.0	97
Kentucky	980.0	990.0	101
Louisiana	350.0	370.0	106
Maine	32.0	30.0	94
Maryland	68.0	70.0	103
Massachusetts	17.0	17.0	100
Michigan	410.0	410.0	100
Minnesota	800.0	790.0	99
Mississippi	380.0	400.0	105
Missouri	1,890.0	2,000.0	106
Montana	1,450.0	1,480.0	102
Nebraska	1,700.0	1,700.0	100
Nevada	200.0	220.0	110
New Hampshire	13.5	13.5	100
New Jersey	9.5	9.5	100
New Mexico	610.0	640.0	105
New York	560.0	550.0	98
North Carolina	370.0	365.0	99
North Dakota	910.0	960.0	105
Ohio	480.0	490.0	102
Oklahoma	1,870.0	1,950.0	104
Oregon	640.0	630.0	98
Pennsylvania	560.0	600.0	107
Rhode Island	2.2	2.2	100
South Carolina	148.0	147.0	99
South Dakota	1,690.0	1,840.0	109
Tennessee	840.0	850.0	101
Texas	4,250.0	4,400.0	104
Utah	380.0	375.0	99
Vermont	105.0	105.0	100
Virginia	650.0	640.0	98
Washington	430.0	440.0	102
West Virginia	200.0	195.0	98
Wisconsin	1,420.0	1,430.0	101
Wyoming	660.0	660.0	100
United States	35,092.7	35,808.2	102

All Cattle on Feed – States and United States: January 1, 2017 and 2018

[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	2017	2018	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arizona	253.0	274.0	108
California	430.0	490.0	114
Colorado	940.0	1,000.0	106
Idaho	270.0	265.0	98
Illinois	260.0	220.0	85
Indiana	110.0	90.0	82
Iowa	1,160.0	1,260.0	109
Kansas	2,300.0	2,450.0	107
Kentucky	18.0	17.0	94
Maryland	9.0	9.0	100
Michigan	145.0	140.0	97
Minnesota	375.0	395.0	105
Missouri	110.0	90.0	82
Montana	45.0	45.0	100
Nebraska	2,470.0	2,770.0	112
Nevada	3.0	3.0	100
New York	20.0	20.0	100
North Dakota	50.0	58.0	116
Ohio	150.0	140.0	93
Oklahoma	310.0	330.0	106
Oregon	85.0	90.0	106
Pennsylvania	95.0	85.0	89
South Dakota	380.0	430.0	113
Texas	2,430.0	2,650.0	109
Utah	20.0	20.0	100
Virginia	20.0	18.0	90
Washington	190.0	215.0	113
West Virginia	4.0	4.0	100
Wisconsin	270.0	280.0	104
Wyoming	75.0	70.0	93
Other States ¹	70.0	78.4	112
United States	13,067.0	14,006.4	107

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, 2017 and 2018

States	2017	2018	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas	1,800.0	1,500.0	83

Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: July 1, 2015 and 2017

[July 2016 *Cattle* report suspended due to budgetary constraints]

Class	2015	2017	Percent of 2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Cattle and calves	98,200.0	102,200.0	104
Cows and heifers that have calved	39,800.0	41,600.0	105
Beef cows	30,500.0	32,200.0	106
Milk cows	9,300.0	9,400.0	101
Heifers 500 pounds and over	15,700.0	16,200.0	103
For beef cow replacement	4,800.0	4,700.0	98
For milk cow replacement	4,200.0	4,200.0	100
Other heifers	6,700.0	7,300.0	109
Steers 500 pounds and over	14,100.0	14,500.0	103
Bulls 500 pounds and over	1,900.0	2,000.0	105
Calves under 500 pounds	26,700.0	27,900.0	104
Calf crop	34,086.7	35,808.2	105
Cattle on feed	12,100.0	12,800.0	106

Calf Crop and Percent of Total by Six Month Period – United States: 2015, 2016, and 2017

Period	2015		2016		2017	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
January 1 - June 30	24,650.0	72.3	25,550.0	72.8	26,000.0	72.6
July 1 - December 31	9,436.7	27.7	9,542.7	27.2	9,808.2	27.4
Total	34,086.7	100.0	35,092.7	100.0	35,808.2	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 71 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 0.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 94.4 million head by more than 0.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.0 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 438,000 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	0.6	1.0	438	70	796	7	3
All cows and heifers that have calved	0.6	1.0	168	0	405	6	3
Calf crop	0.7	1.3	186	10	602	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.

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Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
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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- 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.

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.

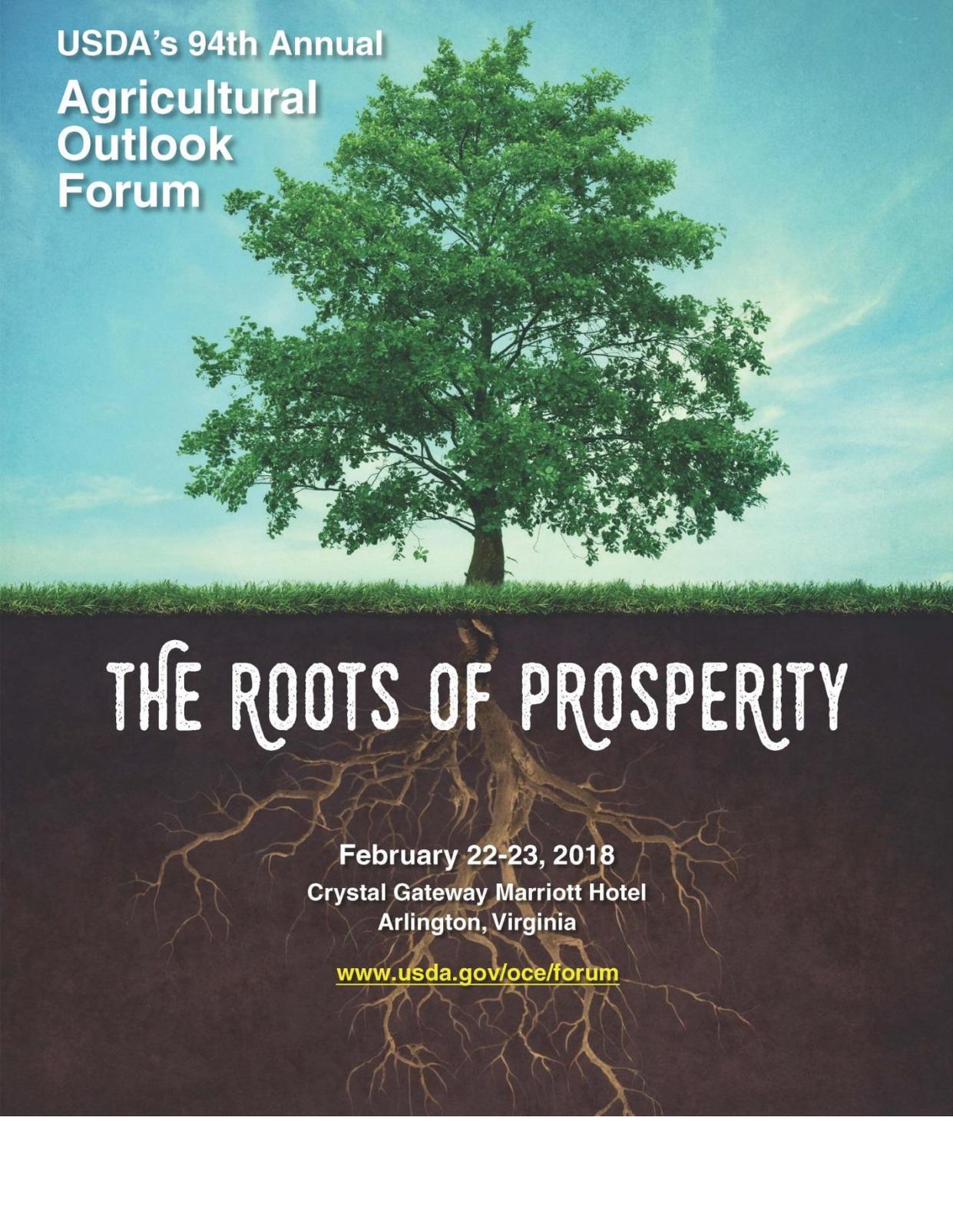
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