



Released January 30, 2015, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

January 1 Cattle Inventory Up 1 Percent

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2015 totaled 89.8 million head, 1 percent above the 88.5 million on January 1, 2014.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 39.0 million, were up 2 percent from the 38.3 million on January 1, 2014.

- Beef cows, at 29.7 million, were up 2 percent from January 1, 2014.
- Milk cows, at 9.3 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2014.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2015 and the change from January 1, 2014, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.2 million, up 1 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.8 million, up 4 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.6 million, up 1 percent.
- Other heifers, 8.8 million, down slightly.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 15.8 million, up 1 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, up 3 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 13.7 million, up 1 percent.
- Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 13.1 million, up 1 percent.
- The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots was 25.2 million, up 1 percent.

Calf Crop Up 1 Percent

The 2014 calf crop was estimated at 33.9 million head, up 1 percent from 2013. Calves born during the first half of 2014 were estimated at 24.6 million, up slightly from 2013.

Revisions

All inventory and calf crop estimates for January 1, 2014 and July 1, 2014 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, January 1, 2014 cattle and calves were increased by 0.9 percent, cows and heifers that have calved were increased by 0.1 percent, and 2013 calf crop was decreased by 0.6 percent. July 1, 2014 cattle and calves were increased by 1.1 percent, cows and heifers that have calved were decreased by 0.3 percent, and 2014 calf crop was increased by 0.9 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 30, 2015.



Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Robert Johansson



Agricultural Statistics Board
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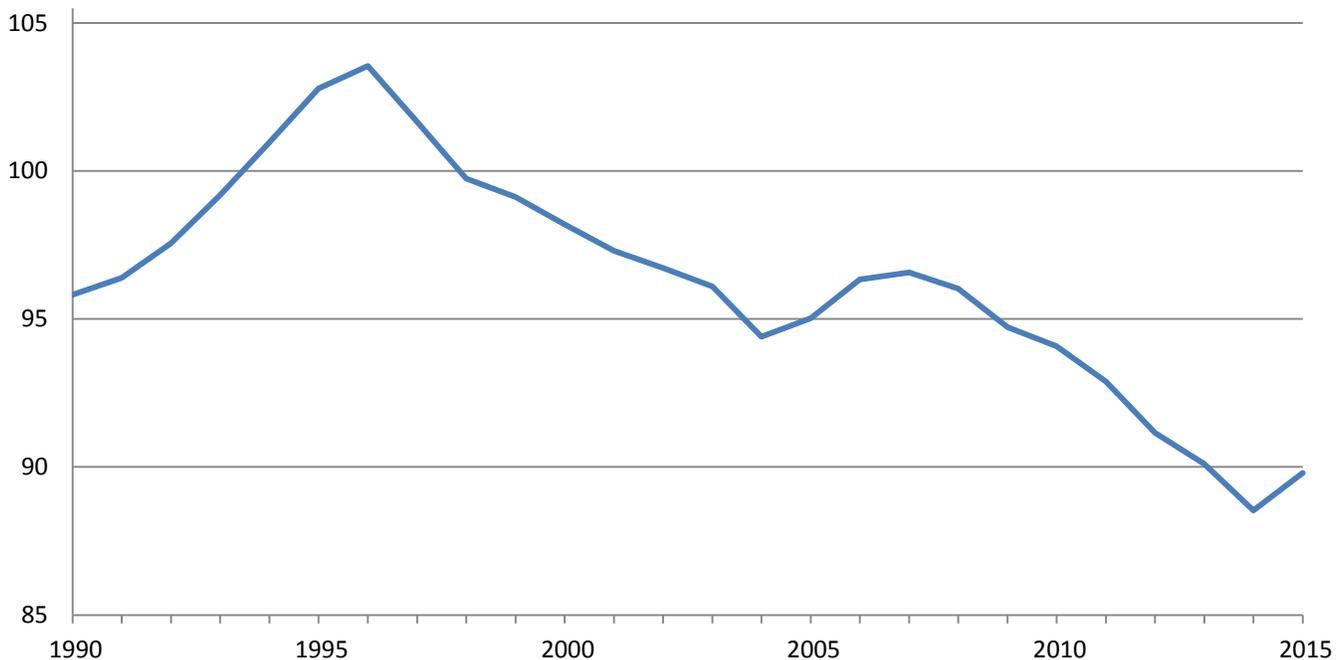
Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: January 1, 2014 and 2015

Class	2014	2015	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Cattle and calves	88,526.0	89,800.0	101
Cows and heifers that have calved	38,293.0	39,000.0	102
Beef cows	29,085.4	29,693.1	102
Milk cows	9,207.6	9,306.9	101
Heifers 500 pounds and over	18,969.4	19,240.2	101
For beef cow replacement	5,551.3	5,777.4	104
Expected to calve ¹	3,305.0	3,546.0	107
For milk cow replacement	4,548.7	4,615.4	101
Expected to calve ¹	2,966.7	2,997.2	101
Other heifers	8,869.4	8,847.4	100
Steers 500 pounds and over	15,667.9	15,778.5	101
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,037.8	2,104.4	103
Calves under 500 pounds	13,557.9	13,676.9	101
Cattle on feed	13,018.3	13,093.0	101
	2013	2014	Percent of previous year
Calf crop	33,730.0	33,900.0	101

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, 2014 and 2015

State	All cattle and calves			All cows that have calved		
	2014	2015	Percent of previous year	2014	2015	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	1,270.0	1,220.0	96	690.0	680.0	99
Alaska	10.0	10.0	100	4.6	4.6	100
Arizona	920.0	880.0	96	370.0	370.0	100
Arkansas	1,650.0	1,640.0	99	870.0	870.0	100
California	5,250.0	5,150.0	98	2,380.0	2,380.0	100
Colorado	2,550.0	2,600.0	102	850.0	890.0	105
Connecticut	47.0	47.0	100	23.0	24.0	104
Delaware	16.0	17.0	106	7.5	7.5	100
Florida	1,670.0	1,700.0	102	1,030.0	1,040.0	101
Georgia	1,040.0	1,040.0	100	580.0	570.0	98
Hawaii	133.0	135.0	102	74.0	72.0	97
Idaho	2,240.0	2,300.0	103	1,030.0	1,060.0	103
Illinois	1,130.0	1,140.0	101	450.0	470.0	104
Indiana	860.0	870.0	101	365.0	380.0	104
Iowa	3,800.0	3,900.0	103	1,100.0	1,130.0	103
Kansas	5,800.0	6,000.0	103	1,550.0	1,620.0	105
Kentucky	2,110.0	2,060.0	98	1,060.0	1,070.0	101
Louisiana	790.0	790.0	100	465.0	480.0	103
Maine	85.0	85.0	100	41.0	41.0	100
Maryland	182.0	185.0	102	88.0	91.0	103
Massachusetts	39.0	38.0	97	18.0	18.0	100
Michigan	1,130.0	1,140.0	101	500.0	515.0	103
Minnesota	2,300.0	2,330.0	101	800.0	810.0	101
Mississippi	930.0	910.0	98	490.0	480.0	98
Missouri	3,850.0	4,000.0	104	1,910.0	1,970.0	103
Montana	2,550.0	2,500.0	98	1,490.0	1,520.0	102
Nebraska	6,250.0	6,300.0	101	1,860.0	1,840.0	99
Nevada	460.0	435.0	95	260.0	245.0	94
New Hampshire	32.0	30.0	94	16.5	17.0	103
New Jersey	27.0	28.0	104	14.0	14.5	104
New Mexico	1,310.0	1,340.0	102	730.0	730.0	100
New York	1,450.0	1,450.0	100	720.0	730.0	101
North Carolina	810.0	800.0	99	400.0	410.0	103
North Dakota	1,750.0	1,650.0	94	940.0	920.0	98
Ohio	1,250.0	1,250.0	100	560.0	550.0	98
Oklahoma	4,300.0	4,600.0	107	1,840.0	1,940.0	105
Oregon	1,280.0	1,300.0	102	640.0	650.0	102
Pennsylvania	1,610.0	1,530.0	95	690.0	680.0	99
Rhode Island	5.0	5.0	100	2.4	2.4	100
South Carolina	335.0	335.0	100	185.0	185.0	100
South Dakota	3,700.0	3,700.0	100	1,730.0	1,730.0	100
Tennessee	1,760.0	1,730.0	98	910.0	930.0	102
Texas	11,100.0	11,800.0	106	4,350.0	4,650.0	107
Utah	810.0	780.0	96	435.0	420.0	97
Vermont	260.0	260.0	100	144.0	144.0	100
Virginia	1,510.0	1,470.0	97	730.0	730.0	100
Washington	1,110.0	1,150.0	104	480.0	475.0	99
West Virginia	385.0	370.0	96	200.0	194.0	97
Wisconsin	3,400.0	3,500.0	103	1,520.0	1,550.0	102
Wyoming	1,270.0	1,300.0	102	700.0	700.0	100
United States	88,526.0	89,800.0	101	38,293.0	39,000.0	102

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2014 and 2015 (continued)

State	Beef cows that have calved			Milk cows that have calved		
	2014	2015	Percent of previous year	2014	2015	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	681.0	672.0	99	9.0	8.0	89
Alaska	4.3	4.3	100	0.3	0.3	100
Arizona	178.0	175.0	98	192.0	195.0	102
Arkansas	862.0	863.0	100	8.0	7.0	88
California	600.0	600.0	100	1,780.0	1,780.0	100
Colorado	710.0	745.0	105	140.0	145.0	104
Connecticut	4.0	5.0	125	19.0	19.0	100
Delaware	2.8	2.5	89	4.7	5.0	106
Florida	907.0	916.0	101	123.0	124.0	101
Georgia	500.0	489.0	98	80.0	81.0	101
Hawaii	71.8	69.8	97	2.2	2.2	100
Idaho	465.0	481.0	103	565.0	579.0	102
Illinois	355.0	376.0	106	95.0	94.0	99
Indiana	187.0	199.0	106	178.0	181.0	102
Iowa	895.0	920.0	103	205.0	210.0	102
Kansas	1,414.0	1,477.0	104	136.0	143.0	105
Kentucky	992.0	1,007.0	102	68.0	63.0	93
Louisiana	450.0	466.0	104	15.0	14.0	93
Maine	11.0	11.0	100	30.0	30.0	100
Maryland	38.0	41.0	108	50.0	50.0	100
Massachusetts	6.0	5.5	92	12.0	12.5	104
Michigan	119.0	112.0	94	381.0	403.0	106
Minnesota	340.0	350.0	103	460.0	460.0	100
Mississippi	477.0	468.0	98	13.0	12.0	92
Missouri	1,820.0	1,881.0	103	90.0	89.0	99
Montana	1,476.0	1,506.0	102	14.0	14.0	100
Nebraska	1,807.0	1,786.0	99	53.0	54.0	102
Nevada	231.0	217.0	94	29.0	28.0	97
New Hampshire	3.0	3.0	100	13.5	14.0	104
New Jersey	7.0	7.5	107	7.0	7.0	100
New Mexico	407.0	407.0	100	323.0	323.0	100
New York	105.0	115.0	110	615.0	615.0	100
North Carolina	355.0	363.0	102	45.0	47.0	104
North Dakota	923.0	904.0	98	17.0	16.0	94
Ohio	293.0	282.0	96	267.0	268.0	100
Oklahoma	1,795.0	1,900.0	106	45.0	40.0	89
Oregon	516.0	525.0	102	124.0	125.0	101
Pennsylvania	160.0	150.0	94	530.0	530.0	100
Rhode Island	1.5	1.5	100	0.9	0.9	100
South Carolina	169.0	170.0	101	16.0	15.0	94
South Dakota	1,635.0	1,632.0	100	95.0	98.0	103
Tennessee	864.0	883.0	102	46.0	47.0	102
Texas	3,910.0	4,180.0	107	440.0	470.0	107
Utah	340.0	324.0	95	95.0	96.0	101
Vermont	12.0	12.0	100	132.0	132.0	100
Virginia	637.0	637.0	100	93.0	93.0	100
Washington	214.0	198.0	93	266.0	277.0	104
West Virginia	191.0	185.0	97	9.0	9.0	100
Wisconsin	250.0	275.0	110	1,270.0	1,275.0	100
Wyoming	694.0	694.0	100	6.0	6.0	100
United States	29,085.4	29,693.1	102	9,207.6	9,306.9	101

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2014 and 2015 (continued)

State	Heifers 500 pounds and over					
	Beef cow replacement		Milk cow replacement		Other	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	110.0	110.0	4.0	3.0	31.0	32.0
Alaska	0.8	0.9	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Arizona	30.0	34.0	74.0	65.0	21.0	21.0
Arkansas	137.0	141.0	5.0	4.0	78.0	60.0
California	110.0	120.0	750.0	750.0	230.0	180.0
Colorado	150.0	160.0	100.0	100.0	490.0	490.0
Connecticut	1.5	2.0	9.0	8.0	0.5	1.0
Delaware	0.5	0.7	2.6	2.5	0.6	0.7
Florida	115.0	125.0	35.0	35.0	30.0	35.0
Georgia	82.0	83.0	25.0	25.0	29.0	34.0
Hawaii	9.0	11.0	1.0	1.0	4.0	5.0
Idaho	110.0	110.0	270.0	300.0	190.0	190.0
Illinois	63.0	64.0	45.0	50.0	102.0	101.0
Indiana	39.0	45.0	68.0	78.0	53.0	47.0
Iowa	160.0	170.0	120.0	130.0	640.0	640.0
Kansas	240.0	260.0	100.0	80.0	1,400.0	1,380.0
Kentucky	150.0	135.0	45.0	45.0	125.0	110.0
Louisiana	84.0	73.0	5.0	5.0	21.0	23.0
Maine	3.0	4.0	17.0	16.0	2.0	3.0
Maryland	9.5	8.0	25.0	24.0	7.5	10.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	7.5	7.0	0.5	1.0
Michigan	29.0	23.0	164.0	167.0	47.0	40.0
Minnesota	80.0	85.0	280.0	280.0	170.0	165.0
Mississippi	91.0	95.0	6.0	6.0	43.0	35.0
Missouri	305.0	310.0	50.0	60.0	215.0	230.0
Montana	430.0	425.0	9.0	7.0	211.0	198.0
Nebraska	400.0	390.0	20.0	20.0	1,280.0	1,300.0
Nevada	36.0	37.0	9.0	9.0	31.0	29.0
New Hampshire	1.0	1.0	7.0	5.5	0.5	0.5
New Jersey	1.0	1.3	3.0	3.8	1.0	0.9
New Mexico	70.0	80.0	120.0	105.0	70.0	80.0
New York	45.0	40.0	355.0	350.0	40.0	45.0
North Carolina	72.0	69.0	20.0	18.0	24.0	28.0
North Dakota	170.0	164.0	10.0	6.0	210.0	185.0
Ohio	55.0	50.0	130.0	125.0	60.0	55.0
Oklahoma	325.0	405.0	20.0	25.0	340.0	390.0
Oregon	105.0	110.0	60.0	60.0	120.0	105.0
Pennsylvania	50.0	50.0	315.0	305.0	70.0	60.0
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
South Carolina	30.0	30.0	6.0	5.0	12.0	12.0
South Dakota	340.0	380.0	50.0	65.0	490.0	495.0
Tennessee	130.0	135.0	30.0	25.0	85.0	70.0
Texas	660.0	710.0	220.0	240.0	1,420.0	1,480.0
Utah	70.0	78.0	46.0	48.0	69.0	64.0
Vermont	4.5	4.0	56.0	56.0	5.5	5.0
Virginia	115.0	105.0	40.0	43.0	70.0	47.0
Washington	50.0	51.0	125.0	133.0	130.0	136.0
West Virginia	35.0	32.0	5.0	4.0	24.0	21.0
Wisconsin	70.0	75.0	680.0	710.0	70.0	55.0
Wyoming	175.0	183.0	4.0	5.0	106.0	152.0
United States	5,551.3	5,777.4	4,548.7	4,615.4	8,869.4	8,847.4

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2014 and 2015 (continued)

State	Steers 500 pounds and over		Bulls 500 pounds and over		Calves under 500 pounds	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	60.0	50.0	50.0	45.0	325.0	300.0
Alaska	0.4	0.3	1.9	2.4	2.1	1.6
Arizona	305.0	275.0	20.0	20.0	100.0	95.0
Arkansas	145.0	130.0	55.0	55.0	360.0	380.0
California	640.0	570.0	70.0	70.0	1,070.0	1,080.0
Colorado	780.0	790.0	45.0	55.0	135.0	115.0
Connecticut	2.0	2.0	0.5	0.5	10.5	9.5
Delaware	2.0	2.2	0.3	0.4	2.5	3.0
Florida	25.0	30.0	60.0	60.0	375.0	375.0
Georgia	36.0	45.0	28.0	28.0	260.0	255.0
Hawaii	7.0	9.0	4.0	4.0	34.0	33.0
Idaho	260.0	290.0	40.0	40.0	340.0	310.0
Illinois	250.0	220.0	25.0	25.0	195.0	210.0
Indiana	108.0	118.0	17.0	17.0	210.0	185.0
Iowa	1,270.0	1,310.0	60.0	60.0	450.0	460.0
Kansas	1,770.0	1,930.0	90.0	90.0	650.0	640.0
Kentucky	200.0	200.0	70.0	65.0	460.0	435.0
Louisiana	24.0	25.0	30.0	30.0	161.0	154.0
Maine	5.0	4.5	1.5	1.5	15.5	15.0
Maryland	15.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	33.0	32.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	8.0	7.0
Michigan	175.0	175.0	15.0	15.0	200.0	205.0
Minnesota	490.0	500.0	35.0	35.0	445.0	455.0
Mississippi	62.0	61.0	38.0	38.0	200.0	195.0
Missouri	380.0	400.0	100.0	110.0	890.0	920.0
Montana	220.0	175.0	100.0	100.0	90.0	75.0
Nebraska	2,300.0	2,360.0	95.0	95.0	295.0	295.0
Nevada	44.0	44.0	13.0	12.0	67.0	59.0
New Hampshire	1.0	1.0	0.5	0.5	5.5	4.5
New Jersey	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	4.5
New Mexico	90.0	95.0	35.0	35.0	195.0	215.0
New York	32.0	35.0	18.0	15.0	240.0	235.0
North Carolina	44.0	36.0	30.0	29.0	220.0	210.0
North Dakota	270.0	215.0	55.0	50.0	95.0	110.0
Ohio	195.0	200.0	25.0	25.0	225.0	245.0
Oklahoma	910.0	870.0	125.0	140.0	740.0	830.0
Oregon	160.0	165.0	36.0	40.0	159.0	170.0
Pennsylvania	185.0	145.0	25.0	25.0	275.0	265.0
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.8
South Carolina	12.0	9.0	14.0	14.0	76.0	80.0
South Dakota	690.0	680.0	95.0	100.0	305.0	250.0
Tennessee	135.0	120.0	60.0	60.0	410.0	390.0
Texas	2,370.0	2,500.0	280.0	320.0	1,800.0	1,900.0
Utah	85.0	78.0	23.0	22.0	82.0	70.0
Vermont	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	43.0	44.0
Virginia	170.0	155.0	40.0	40.0	345.0	350.0
Washington	160.0	180.0	19.0	18.0	146.0	157.0
West Virginia	45.0	44.0	14.0	13.0	62.0	62.0
Wisconsin	380.0	375.0	30.0	35.0	650.0	700.0
Wyoming	150.0	135.0	40.0	40.0	95.0	85.0
United States	15,667.9	15,778.5	2,037.8	2,104.4	13,557.9	13,676.9

Calf Crop – States and United States: 2013 and 2014

State	2013	2014	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	600.0	570.0	95
Alaska	3.3	3.3	100
Arizona	280.0	290.0	104
Arkansas	750.0	730.0	97
California	2,010.0	1,950.0	97
Colorado	740.0	760.0	103
Connecticut	18.5	19.0	103
Delaware	5.0	6.0	120
Florida	830.0	830.0	100
Georgia	480.0	480.0	100
Hawaii	60.0	56.0	93
Idaho	940.0	950.0	101
Illinois	385.0	410.0	106
Indiana	325.0	330.0	102
Iowa	1,020.0	1,050.0	103
Kansas	1,280.0	1,320.0	103
Kentucky	950.0	950.0	100
Louisiana	370.0	360.0	97
Maine	32.0	32.0	100
Maryland	67.0	70.0	104
Massachusetts	18.0	17.0	94
Michigan	395.0	395.0	100
Minnesota	780.0	780.0	100
Mississippi	400.0	375.0	94
Missouri	1,730.0	1,760.0	102
Montana	1,470.0	1,480.0	101
Nebraska	1,680.0	1,610.0	96
Nevada	210.0	195.0	93
New Hampshire	13.5	13.5	100
New Jersey	9.5	9.0	95
New Mexico	560.0	560.0	100
New York	540.0	510.0	94
North Carolina	355.0	365.0	103
North Dakota	890.0	860.0	97
Ohio	480.0	460.0	96
Oklahoma	1,670.0	1,780.0	107
Oregon	620.0	630.0	102
Pennsylvania	570.0	520.0	91
Rhode Island	2.2	2.2	100
South Carolina	150.0	160.0	107
South Dakota	1,680.0	1,620.0	96
Tennessee	830.0	840.0	101
Texas	3,800.0	4,000.0	105
Utah	380.0	385.0	101
Vermont	116.0	107.0	92
Virginia	640.0	650.0	102
Washington	425.0	410.0	96
West Virginia	180.0	180.0	100
Wisconsin	1,350.0	1,400.0	104
Wyoming	640.0	660.0	103
United States	33,730.0	33,900.0	101

Total Number of Cattle on Feed – States and United States: January 1, 2014 and 2015

[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	2014 (1,000 head)	2015 (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)
Arizona	274.0	252.0	92
California	510.0	430.0	84
Colorado	960.0	950.0	99
Idaho	240.0	240.0	100
Illinois	260.0	230.0	88
Indiana	110.0	100.0	91
Iowa	1,230.0	1,220.0	99
Kansas	2,130.0	2,180.0	102
Kentucky	18.0	15.0	83
Maryland	10.0	10.0	100
Michigan	150.0	160.0	107
Minnesota	375.0	385.0	103
Missouri	75.0	70.0	93
Montana	55.0	40.0	73
Nebraska	2,450.0	2,550.0	104
Nevada	4.0	6.0	150
New York	23.0	26.0	113
North Dakota	40.0	45.0	113
Ohio	160.0	170.0	106
Oklahoma	265.0	265.0	100
Oregon	75.0	85.0	113
Pennsylvania	110.0	90.0	82
South Dakota	400.0	410.0	103
Tennessee	3.0	5.0	167
Texas	2,450.0	2,510.0	102
Utah	26.0	24.0	92
Virginia	20.0	20.0	100
Washington	201.0	210.0	104
West Virginia	5.0	4.0	80
Wisconsin	260.0	260.0	100
Wyoming	75.0	75.0	100
Other States ¹	54.3	56.0	103
United States	13,018.3	13,093.0	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, 2014 and 2015

States	2014	2015	Percent of previous year
	(million head)	(million head)	(percent)
Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas	1.61	1.93	120

Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: July 1, 2012 and 2014

[Due to sequestration, the 2013 July Cattle survey was not conducted.]

Class	2012	2014	Percent of 2012
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Cattle and calves	97,800.0	96,000.0	98
Cows and heifers that have calved	39,700.0	38,900.0	98
Beef cows	30,467.0	29,633.0	97
Milk cows	9,233.0	9,267.0	100
Heifers 500 pounds and over	15,700.0	15,400.0	98
For beef cow replacement	4,200.0	4,300.0	102
For milk cow replacement	4,100.0	4,100.0	100
Other heifers	7,400.0	7,000.0	95
Steers 500 pounds and over	14,000.0	13,700.0	98
Bulls 500 pounds and over	1,900.0	1,900.0	100
Calves under 500 pounds	26,500.0	26,100.0	98
Calf crop	34,469.0	33,900.0	98
Cattle on feed	12,600.0	11,900.0	94

Calf Crop and Percent of Total by Six Month Period – United States: 2013 and 2014

Period	2013		2014	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
January 1 - June 30	24,500.0	72.6	24,600.0	72.6
July 1 - December 31	9,230.0	27.4	9,300.0	27.4
Total	33,730.0	100.0	33,900.0	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 38,200 operators during the first half of January by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews and 72 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 89.8 million head by more than 0.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.2 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 555,000 head, ranging from 230,000 to 830,000 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	
						Above latest	Below latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(number)	(number)
All cattle & calves	0.6	1.2	555	230	830	4	6
All cows	0.7	1.2	224	42	505	4	6
Calf crop	1.0	1.8	285	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.

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
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Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Evan Schulz – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-6147

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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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