

Cattle



USDA
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January 1 Cattle Inventory Down 1 Percent

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 1999, totaled 98.5 million head, 1 percent below the 99.7 million on January 1, 1998 and 3 percent below the 101.7 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.6 million, were 1 percent below the 43.1 million on January 1, 1998 and 3 percent below the 43.8 million two years ago.

- **Beef cows**, at 33.5 million, were down 1 percent from January 1, 1998 and 3 percent below two years ago.
- **Milk cows**, at 9.14 million, were down 1 percent from January 1, 1998 and 2 percent below two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 1999, and the changes from January 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 19.6 million, down 1 percent and down 3 percent.
- **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.55 million, down 4 percent and down 8 percent.
- **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.06 million, up 2 percent and slightly above two years ago .
- **Other heifers**, 9.99 million, down 1 percent and down 2 percent.
- **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.8 million, down 2 percent and down 3 percent.
- **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.28 million, slightly above and down 3 percent.
- **Calves under 500 pounds**, 17.2 million, down 1 percent and down 4 percent.
- **All cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter, 13.2 million, down 3 percent and slightly above two years ago.

Calf Crop Down 1 Percent

The 1998 calf crop was estimated at 38.6 million head, down 1 percent from 1997 and down 3 percent from 1996. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.4 million, down 1 percent from 1997 and down 3 percent from 1996.

Cattle Operations Down 3 Percent

The number of operations with cattle totaled 1,115,650 during 1998, down 3 percent from 1997 and 5 percent below 1996. Beef cow operations in 1998 were down 2 percent from 1997 and 3 percent below 1996. Milk cow operations were 6 percent below last year and 11 percent below two years ago.

The three operation classes, cattle, beef cows, and milk cows, are classified into size groups independently. Therefore, it is possible to have more beef cow operations in a particular size group than cattle operations. As an example, an operator with 75 cattle and 40 beef cows would be classified in the 50-99 size group for cattle and the 1-49 size group for beef cows.

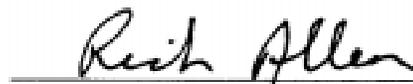
Revisions

Final estimates, including revisions made by the Agricultural Statistics Board (ASB), for the production years 1994 through 1998 were published in the Cattle - Final Estimates 1994-98, Statistical Bulletin No. 953. Data included in that publication provide a historic record and a benchmark for current estimates.

This report was approved on January 29, 1999.



Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Keith J. Collins



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Rich Allen

**Cattle and Calves: Number by Class and Calf Crop,
United States, January 1, 1997-99 ¹**

Class	1997	1998	1999	1999 as % of 1998
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cattle and Calves	101,656	99,744	98,522	99
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved	43,776	43,084	42,615	99
Beef Cows	34,458	33,885	33,472	99
Milk Cows	9,318	9,199	9,143	99
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	20,312	19,800	19,604	99
For Beef Cow Replacement	6,042	5,764	5,550	96
For Milk Cow Replacement	4,058	3,986	4,060	102
Other Heifers	10,212	10,051	9,994	99
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	17,392	17,189	16,836	98
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,350	2,270	2,276	100
Calves Under 500 Pounds	17,826	17,401	17,190	99
	1996	1997	1998	1998 as % of 1997
Calf Crop	39,823	38,961	38,582	99

¹ Totals may not add due to rounding.

Cattle and Calves: Balance Sheet, United States, 1996-98 ¹

Item	1996	1997	1998
	<i>Million Head</i>	<i>Million Head</i>	<i>Million Head</i>
January 1 Beginning Inventory	103.5	101.7	99.7
Calf Crop and Imports	41.8	41.0	40.5
Total Supply ²	145.3	142.7	140.3
Slaughter	38.6	38.1	37.1
Deaths and Exports	4.7	4.9	4.5
Total Disappearance ²	43.3	43.0	41.6
Residual ²	-0.4	0.0	-0.1
January 1 Ending Inventory	101.7	99.7	98.5

¹ Final 1997 and preliminary 1998 estimates will be published in the "Meat Animals - Production, Disposition and Income" report published in April 1999.

² Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Cattle and Calves: Number by Class, State, and United States,
January 1, 1998-99**

State	All Cattle and Calves			All Cows That Have Calved		
	1998	1999	1999 as % of 98	1998	1999	1999 as % of 98
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	1,550	1,500	97	850	820	96
AK	12.0	11.5	96	4.8	4.9	102
AZ	820	810	99	350	350	100
AR	1,800	1,820	101	970	970	100
CA	4,900	5,000	102	2,220	2,240	101
CO	3,250	3,150	97	940	910	97
CT	68	64	94	37	35	95
DE	28	29	104	13	13	100
FL	1,870	1,800	96	1,170	1,130	97
GA	1,300	1,300	100	720	710	99
HI	180	173	96	97	95	98
ID	1,860	1,900	102	800	800	100
IL	1,510	1,490	99	570	570	100
IN	1,000	1,010	101	420	420	100
IA	3,700	3,650	99	1,230	1,220	99
KS	6,550	6,550	100	1,540	1,590	103
KY	2,480	2,420	98	1,310	1,240	95
LA	930	900	97	570	550	96
ME	105	100	95	53	51	96
MD	260	250	96	135	135	100
MA	62	57	92	34	30	88
MI	1,050	1,050	100	415	405	98
MN	2,500	2,500	100	950	930	98
MS	1,200	1,160	97	650	630	97
MO	4,350	4,400	101	2,220	2,230	100
MT	2,600	2,600	100	1,560	1,550	99
NE	6,750	6,650	99	2,010	2,010	100
NV	510	510	100	265	260	98
NH	44	48	109	24	25	104
NJ	59	53	90	32	28	88
NM	1,600	1,620	101	780	790	101
NY	1,480	1,460	99	780	780	100
NC	960	980	102	500	500	100
ND	1,820	1,920	105	960	1,030	107
OH	1,300	1,220	94	570	530	93
OK	5,400	5,200	96	2,050	1,950	95
OR	1,520	1,530	101	770	750	97
PA	1,690	1,670	99	790	770	97
RI	6.0	6.0	100	3.2	3.5	109
SC	480	480	100	255	255	100
SD	3,700	3,850	104	1,720	1,760	102
TN	2,260	2,180	96	1,170	1,130	97
TX	14,500	14,000	97	5,880	5,870	100
UT	910	890	98	445	430	97
VT	310	310	100	176	170	97
VA	1,700	1,700	100	820	810	99
WA	1,210	1,150	95	550	520	95
WV	440	440	100	225	225	100
WI	3,500	3,400	97	1,600	1,560	98
WY	1,660	1,560	94	880	830	94
US	99,744.0	98,521.5	99	43,084.0	42,615.4	99

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**Cattle and Calves: Number by Class, State, and United States,
January 1, 1998-99 (continued)**

State	Beef Cows That Have Calved			Milk Cows That Have Calved		
	1998	1999	1999 as % of 98	1998	1999	1999 as % of 98
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	822	793	96	28	27	96
AK	3.9	4.0	103	0.9	0.9	100
AZ	220	218	99	130	132	102
AR	919	919	100	51	51	100
CA	820	800	98	1,400	1,440	103
CO	856	827	97	84	83	99
CT	7	7	100	30	28	93
DE	3	3	100	10	10	100
FL	1,010	973	96	160	157	98
GA	624	620	99	96	90	94
HI	88	86	98	9	9	100
ID	520	498	96	280	302	108
IL	440	445	101	130	125	96
IN	285	283	99	135	137	101
IA	1,005	1,000	100	225	220	98
KS	1,461	1,506	103	79	84	106
KY	1,165	1,105	95	145	135	93
LA	504	486	96	66	64	97
ME	12	8	67	41	43	105
MD	49	49	100	86	86	100
MA	7	6	86	27	24	89
MI	115	105	91	300	300	100
MN	395	385	97	555	545	98
MS	604	591	98	46	39	85
MO	2,045	2,065	101	175	165	94
MT	1,542	1,532	99	18	18	100
NE	1,940	1,938	100	70	72	103
NV	239	234	98	26	26	100
NH	4	4	100	20	21	105
NJ	13	10	77	19	18	95
NM	564	572	101	216	218	101
NY	80	78	98	700	702	100
NC	422	427	101	78	73	94
ND	906	980	108	54	50	93
OH	305	270	89	265	260	98
OK	1,959	1,858	95	91	92	101
OR	682	662	97	88	88	100
PA	165	151	92	625	619	99
RI	1.1	1.3	118	2.1	2.2	105
SC	230	231	100	25	24	96
SD	1,619	1,658	102	101	102	101
TN	1,060	1,030	97	110	100	91
TX	5,510	5,530	100	370	340	92
UT	355	335	94	90	95	106
VT	13	8	62	163	162	99
VA	695	688	99	125	122	98
WA	300	272	91	250	248	99
WV	207	207	100	18	18	100
WI	220	190	86	1,380	1,370	99
WY	874	824	94	6	6	100
US	33,885.0	33,472.3	99	9,199.0	9,143.1	99

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**Cattle and Calves: Number by Class, State, and United States,
January 1, 1998-99 (continued)**

State	Heifers 500 Pounds and Over					
	Beef Cow Replacement		Milk Cow Replacement		Other	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
AL	122	111	11	9	42	50
AK	1.0	1.3	0.3	0.3	0.1	0.3
AZ	38	40	26	23	26	34
AR	170	170	20	20	50	55
CA	145	145	670	710	165	175
CO	150	140	45	45	745	705
CT	2	1	13	12	1	1
DE	1.0	0.9	2.6	2.7	1.0	1.4
FL	145	140	40	40	25	20
GA	94	85	32	29	33	35
HI	16	16	4	4	8	5
ID	95	95	135	135	210	210
IL	60	55	65	60	210	210
IN	45	45	60	62	75	80
IA	150	140	100	120	625	620
KS	230	250	40	45	1,440	1,450
KY	160	150	55	55	95	105
LA	84	85	16	15	16	18
ME	5.0	2.7	19.0	20.0	1.0	0.3
MD	14	14	29	29	12	8
MA	2.0	1.2	10.0	13.0	1.0	0.8
MI	30	32	140	145	40	45
MN	85	90	290	290	165	170
MS	117	107	19	17	32	32
MO	290	265	75	75	250	260
MT	350	340	8	10	210	225
NE	300	300	30	30	1,500	1,520
NV	47	43	10	8	37	35
NH	1.5	1.5	8.0	10.0	0.5	0.5
NJ	4	3	6	7	1	1
NM	110	105	50	55	135	135
NY	30	20	310	310	40	40
NC	70	70	30	30	20	19
ND	160	165	20	15	210	210
OH	65	55	115	125	70	65
OK	360	320	40	30	530	480
OR	165	150	50	55	135	145
PA	45	42	275	280	45	48
RI	0.4	0.2	0.8	0.7	0.1	0.1
SC	42	42	10	10	15	13
SD	260	265	25	35	495	490
TN	180	155	50	45	70	70
TX	800	820	100	110	1,700	1,650
UT	68	72	50	43	80	70
VT	5	4	60	68	2	2
VA	113	115	60	63	70	70
WA	60	45	93	98	122	117
WV	37	35	7	5	31	29
WI	45	40	660	640	80	80
WY	195	160	1	1	184	189
US	5,763.9	5,549.8	3,985.7	4,059.7	10,050.7	9,994.4

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**Cattle and Calves: Number by Class, State, and United States,
January 1, 1998-99 (continued)**

State	Steers 500 Pounds and Over		Bulls 500 Pounds and Over		Calves Under 500 Pounds	
	1998	1999	1998	1999	1998	1999
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
AL	70	72	55	53	400	385
AK	1.0	0.9	2.8	1.9	2.0	1.9
AZ	250	210	20	22	110	131
AR	85	85	55	55	450	465
CA	645	635	65	65	990	1,030
CO	1,060	1,040	50	50	260	260
CT	1.5	2.5	0.5	0.5	13.0	12.0
DE	4.4	3.5	0.5	0.5	5.5	7.0
FL	40	35	65	60	385	375
GA	40	50	41	41	340	350
HI	10	8	5	5	40	40
ID	360	365	40	40	220	255
IL	300	305	30	30	275	260
IN	157	160	23	23	220	220
IA	915	960	70	70	610	520
KS	2,380	2,260	80	85	840	870
KY	195	225	75	75	590	570
LA	23	25	31	32	190	175
ME	4.0	3.5	2.0	1.5	21.0	21.0
MD	17	13	5	5	48	46
MA	2.0	1.5	2.0	1.5	11.0	9.0
MI	195	195	20	18	210	210
MN	455	455	35	35	520	530
MS	58	51	44	43	280	280
MO	480	510	125	120	910	940
MT	255	255	97	100	120	120
NE	2,250	2,140	100	105	560	545
NV	49	57	14	15	88	92
NH	1.5	2.0	0.5	0.5	8.0	8.5
NJ	4	4	2	1	10	9
NM	210	205	50	50	265	280
NY	30	30	20	20	270	260
NC	49	52	31	34	260	275
ND	280	270	50	55	140	175
OH	180	155	30	30	270	260
OK	1,150	1,160	130	120	1,140	1,140
OR	150	180	40	40	210	210
PA	180	175	25	25	330	330
RI	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.1	0.8	0.9
SC	22	20	20	20	116	120
SD	670	750	80	90	450	460
TN	110	120	70	70	610	590
TX	2,790	2,550	380	380	2,850	2,620
UT	120	120	22	22	125	133
VT	3.0	2.5	4.0	3.5	60.0	60.0
VA	190	190	42	42	405	410
WA	190	185	27	26	168	159
WV	52	52	13	14	75	80
WI	315	290	30	30	770	760
WY	190	200	50	50	160	130
US	17,188.9	16,835.9	2,269.5	2,276.0	17,401.3	17,190.3

Calf Crop: Number by State and United States, 1997-98

State	1997	1998	1998 as % 1997
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	770	740	96
AK	3.7	4.0	108
AZ	285	285	100
AR	830	840	101
CA	1,880	1,900	101
CO	870	850	98
CT	32	29	91
DE	9.0	9.5	106
FL	980	950	97
GA	580	590	102
HI	77	73	95
ID	760	770	101
IL	520	520	100
IN	380	380	100
IA	1,140	1,130	99
KS	1,430	1,450	101
KY	1,200	1,160	97
LA	445	430	97
ME	48	48	100
MD	114	110	96
MA	27	24	89
MI	385	365	95
MN	930	900	97
MS	570	540	95
MO	2,090	2,070	99
MT	1,510	1,500	99
NE	1,820	1,820	100
NV	220	220	100
NH	21	22	105
NJ	26	22	85
NM	600	620	103
NY	670	660	99
NC	440	450	102
ND	940	960	102
OH	510	480	94
OK	1,920	1,840	96
OR	710	690	97
PA	710	690	97
RI	3.2	2.6	81
SC	205	205	100
SD	1,700	1,700	100
TN	1,070	1,040	97
TX	5,150	5,250	102
UT	390	380	97
VT	160	158	99
VA	750	740	99
WA	500	470	94
WV	200	205	103
WI	1,510	1,460	97
WY	870	830	95
US	38,960.9	38,582.1	99

**Cattle and Calves: Total Number on Feed by State
and United States, January 1, 1998-99¹**

State	1998	1999	1999 as % of 1998
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	4	4	100
AZ	245	206	84
AR	10	15	150
CA	400	400	100
CO	1,140	1,160	102
GA	5	2	40
ID	295	295	100
IL	250	240	96
IN	170	165	97
IA	1,000	1,020	102
KS	2,370	2,160	91
KY	20	15	75
LA	1		
MD	15	13	87
MI	200	200	100
MN	265	270	102
MS	3		
MO	100	105	105
MT	80	70	88
NE	2,300	2,240	97
NV	24	16	67
NJ	4	4	100
NM	123	118	96
NY	30	30	100
NC	10	8	80
ND	70	75	107
OH	175	180	103
OK	435	415	95
OR	60	65	108
PA	75	75	100
SC	7	6	86
SD	310	355	115
TN	20	15	75
TX	2,860	2,730	95
UT	40	40	100
VA	30	30	100
WA	200	200	100
WV	10	10	100
WI	155	150	97
WY	85	100	118
Oth Sts ²	12	12	100
US	13,608	13,214	97

¹ 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.

² Other States include AK, CT, DE, FL, HI, ME, MA, NH, RI, and VT. Includes LA and MS for 1999.

**Cattle and Calves: Number by Class and Calf Crop
United States, July 1, 1996-98**

Class	1996	1997	1998 ¹	1998 as % of 1997
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cattle and Calves	111,600	109,200	107,700	99
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved	45,100	44,100	43,600	99
Beef Cows	35,700	34,800	34,400	99
Milk Cows	9,400	9,300	9,200	99
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	17,300	17,100	16,700	98
For Beef Cow Replacement	5,500	5,300	5,000	94
For Milk Cow Replacement	3,700	3,600	3,600	100
Other Heifers	8,100	8,200	8,100	99
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	15,100	14,800	14,600	99
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,400	2,300	2,200	96
Calves Under 500 Pounds	31,700	30,900	30,600	99
Calf Crop	39,823	38,961	38,582	99

¹ Revised.

**Calf Crop: Number and Percent of Total by Six Month Period,
United States, 1996-98**

Period	1996		1997		1998	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
	<i>1,000 Hd</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Hd</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Hd</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan 1 - Jun 30	29,300	73.6	28,600	73.4	28,400	73.6
Jul 1 - Dec 31	10,523	26.4	10,361	26.6	10,182	26.4
Total	39,823	100.0	38,961	100.0	38,582	100.0

**Cattle and Calves: Balance Sheet, United States,
January 1 - June 30, 1996-98**

Item	1996	1997	1998
	<i>Million Head</i>	<i>Million Head</i>	<i>Million Head</i>
January 1 Inventory	103.5	101.7	99.7
Calf Crop and Imports	30.4	29.6	29.4
Total Supply ¹	133.9	131.3	129.2
Slaughter	19.5	19.1	18.5
Deaths and Exports	2.6	2.8	2.6
Total Disappearance ¹	22.2	21.8	21.0
Residual ¹	-0.2	-0.2	-0.4
July 1 Inventory	111.6	109.2	107.7

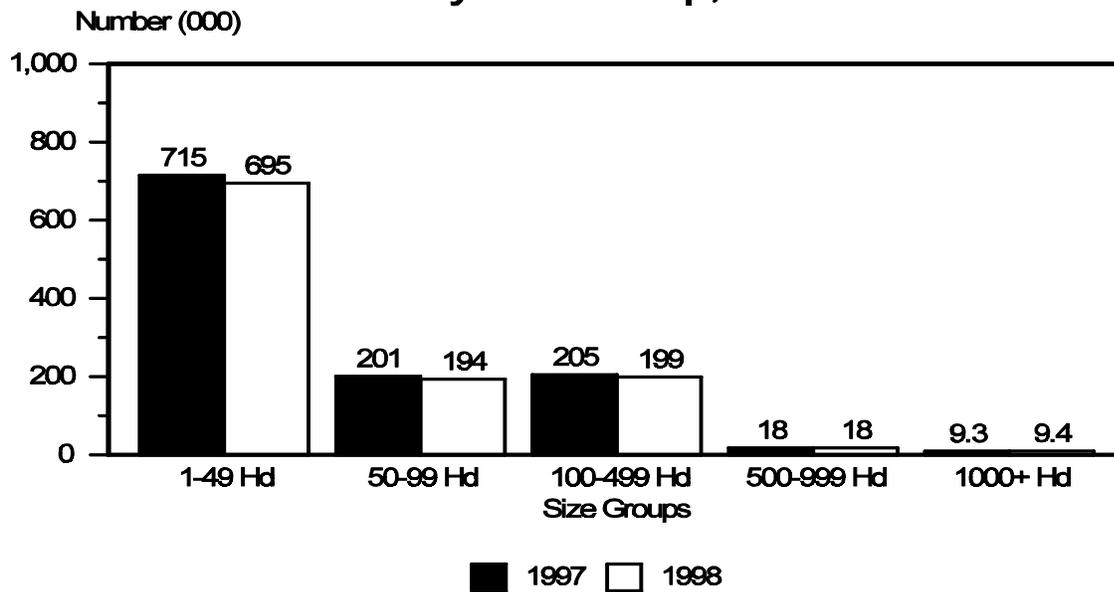
¹ Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Cattle and Calves: Number of Operations by State
and United States, 1997-98 ¹**

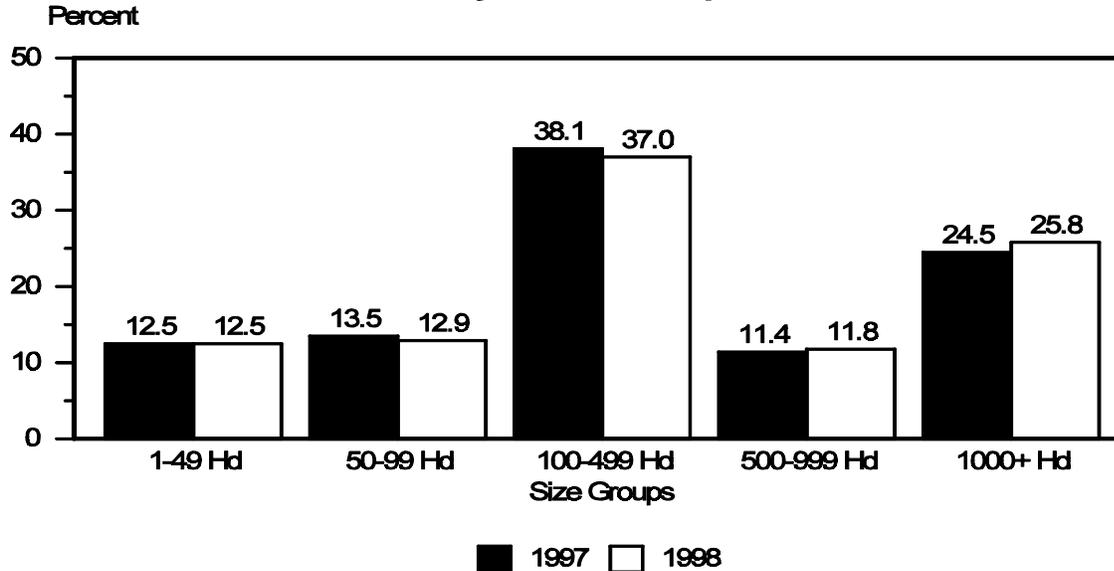
State	Operations With Cattle and Calves	
	1997 <i>Number</i>	1998 <i>Number</i>
AL	30,000	30,000
AK	120	120
AZ	3,300	3,200
AR	31,000	31,000
CA	24,000	23,000
CO	14,700	15,500
CT	1,200	1,200
DE	450	450
FL	22,000	22,000
GA	24,000	23,000
HI	830	830
ID	12,000	12,000
IL	26,000	26,000
IN	25,000	24,000
IA	41,000	39,000
KS	37,000	37,000
KY	52,000	50,000
LA	16,500	15,500
ME	2,200	2,000
MD	5,100	4,500
MA	1,400	1,400
MI	17,500	16,000
MN	33,000	31,000
MS	27,000	26,000
MO	71,000	69,000
MT	13,600	14,000
NE	28,000	29,000
NV	1,700	1,700
NH	950	950
NJ	1,800	1,800
NM	8,600	8,700
NY	18,000	17,500
NC	33,000	30,000
ND	14,000	14,300
OH	30,000	30,000
OK	64,000	62,000
OR	18,100	17,200
PA	29,000	28,000
RI	200	200
SC	11,500	11,000
SD	20,000	21,000
TN	57,000	55,000
TX	149,000	147,000
UT	7,800	8,000
VT	3,200	3,200
VA	32,000	29,000
WA	20,000	17,000
WV	15,000	14,000
WI	47,000	45,000
WY	6,300	6,400
US	1,148,050	1,115,650

¹ An operation is any place having one or more head of cattle on hand at any time during the year.

U.S. Cattle Operations Number by Size Group, 1997-1998



U.S. Cattle Inventory Percent by Size Group, 1997-98



**Cattle and Calves: Number of Operations by Size Group,
Selected States, and United States, 1997-98 ¹**

State	Operations Having					
	1-49 Head		50-99 Head		100-499 Head	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
AL	21,000	21,000	4,600	4,500	4,100	4,200
AZ	2,000	1,900	350	350	650	650
AR	19,500	20,000	7,000	6,500	4,200	4,200
CA	16,000	15,400	2,200	1,900	3,500	3,400
CO	7,400	8,100	2,100	2,600	4,200	3,700
FL	16,800	17,000	2,200	2,250	2,400	2,100
GA	17,200	16,300	3,700	3,700	2,800	2,700
ID	7,000	7,000	1,700	1,700	2,640	2,630
IL	16,900	16,800	4,800	4,800	4,100	4,200
IN	19,000	18,500	3,500	3,200	2,380	2,170
IA	19,500	19,500	9,550	9,000	11,000	9,650
KS	17,500	17,700	7,800	7,700	10,000	10,000
KY	36,000	35,000	9,500	9,000	6,250	5,750
LA	11,300	10,700	2,600	2,300	2,350	2,300
MD	3,500	3,000	750	680	810	785
MI	11,500	11,000	2,800	2,280	3,000	2,500
MN	15,200	15,200	9,800	8,100	7,600	7,300
MS	20,000	19,000	3,700	3,700	3,100	3,100
MO	44,000	43,000	14,500	14,000	12,000	11,400
MT	5,100	5,500	2,200	2,250	5,100	5,100
NE	9,800	10,700	5,900	5,900	10,000	10,000
NM	4,700	4,800	1,100	1,200	2,000	1,900
NY	9,100	8,800	4,100	3,900	4,500	4,500
NC	27,500	25,000	3,600	3,200	1,810	1,710
ND	4,000	4,300	3,500	3,600	5,900	5,800
OH	23,000	23,000	3,900	3,800	2,980	3,030
OK	40,000	38,000	11,300	11,200	11,300	11,300
OR	13,900	12,600	1,500	1,630	2,100	2,300
PA	17,000	16,000	7,000	7,000	4,850	4,840
SD	5,400	6,300	4,000	4,200	8,900	8,800
TN	43,000	41,000	8,200	8,500	5,600	5,300
TX	96,000	96,000	25,000	24,000	24,000	23,000
UT	4,200	4,500	1,000	1,220	2,200	1,900
VT	1,340	1,400	800	750	1,000	990
VA	22,000	19,000	5,200	5,400	4,500	4,300
WA	16,500	13,500	1,100	1,100	2,000	2,000
WI	20,000	19,000	12,800	12,000	13,770	13,540
WY	2,100	2,100	1,000	1,000	2,300	2,400
Oth Sts	29,100	27,400	4,200	4,200	3,500	3,500
US	715,040	695,000	200,550	194,310	205,390	198,945

See footnotes at end of table.

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Cattle and Calves: Number of Operations by Size Group, Selected States, and United States, 1997-98¹ (continued)

State	Operations Having			
	500-999 Head		1,000+ Head	
	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
AL	240	240	60	60
AZ	150	150	150	150
AR	230	230	70	70
CA	1,100	1,100	1,200	1,200
CO	600	650	400	450
FL	300	350	300	300
GA	250	240	50	60
ID	400	400	260	270
IL	150	150	50	50
IN	90	100	30	30
IA	600	600	350	250
KS	1,100	1,000	600	600
KY	200	200	50	50
LA	210	160	40	40
MD	30	25	10	10
MI	160	160	40	60
MN	300	300	100	100
MS	150	150	50	50
MO	410	470	90	130
MT	800	800	400	350
NE	1,350	1,450	950	950
NM	400	400	400	400
NY	230	220	70	80
NC	70	70	20	20
ND	520	520	80	80
OH	100	140	20	30
OK	900	1,000	500	500
OR	400	440	200	230
PA	120	130	30	30
SD	1,200	1,200	500	500
TN	170	170	30	30
TX	2,700	2,600	1,300	1,400
UT	260	250	140	130
VT	50	50	10	10
VA	250	250	50	50
WA	240	250	160	150
WI	360	390	70	70
WY	600	600	300	300
Oth Sts	360	360	190	190
US	17,750	17,965	9,320	9,430

¹ An operation is any place having one or more head of cattle on hand at any time during the year.

**Cattle and Calves: Percent of Inventory by Size Group,
Selected States, and United States, 1997-98¹**

State	Inventory on Operations Having									
	1-49 Head		50-99 Head		100-499 Head		500-999 Head		1,000+ Head	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	24.0	24.0	18.0	17.0	44.0	45.0	9.3	9.3	4.7	4.7
AZ	2.5	3.0	2.5	2.5	17.0	17.0	10.0	10.5	68.0	67.0
AR	20.0	22.0	25.0	24.0	42.0	41.0	7.0	7.0	6.0	6.0
CA	3.4	3.3	3.1	2.7	17.5	16.0	16.0	17.0	60.0	61.0
CO	4.0	4.6	4.3	5.6	28.0	24.0	12.7	12.8	51.0	53.0
FL	13.0	13.0	8.0	8.0	25.0	23.0	10.0	13.0	44.0	43.0
GA	24.0	23.0	20.0	20.0	39.0	38.0	11.0	11.0	6.0	8.0
ID	6.0	6.0	7.0	6.5	31.0	30.0	15.0	14.5	41.0	43.0
IL	21.0	20.0	21.0	21.0	47.0	47.0	6.0	6.5	5.0	5.5
IN	32.0	32.0	22.0	21.0	37.0	37.0	5.0	6.0	4.0	4.0
IA	9.0	10.0	17.0	17.0	52.0	50.0	10.0	11.0	12.0	12.0
KS	5.4	6.0	8.6	8.0	31.0	29.0	12.0	10.0	43.0	47.0
KY	27.0	28.0	24.5	24.0	41.0	39.5	4.9	5.1	2.6	3.4
LA	21.0	22.0	18.0	15.0	41.0	45.0	13.0	11.0	7.0	7.0
MD	19.0	19.0	17.5	16.5	52.0	53.0	6.5	6.5	5.0	5.0
MI	15.0	18.0	18.0	15.0	51.0	46.0	9.0	10.0	7.0	11.0
MN	12.0	12.0	25.0	23.0	50.0	50.0	7.0	8.0	6.0	7.0
MS	27.0	27.0	21.0	21.0	40.0	37.0	7.0	7.0	5.0	8.0
MO	20.0	19.0	21.0	21.0	49.0	48.0	6.0	7.0	4.0	5.0
MT	3.5	4.0	5.5	6.0	42.0	44.0	20.0	20.0	29.0	26.0
NE	3.2	3.3	6.3	6.1	31.5	31.0	14.0	14.6	45.0	45.0
NM	4.0	4.5	4.0	4.5	23.0	24.0	16.0	15.0	53.0	52.0
NY	10.0	11.0	20.0	19.0	53.0	52.0	10.0	10.0	7.0	8.0
NC	37.0	34.0	23.0	22.0	32.0	35.0	4.7	4.9	3.3	4.1
ND	4.5	5.5	11.5	11.0	62.0	61.0	16.0	16.0	6.0	6.5
OH	34.0	29.0	20.0	20.0	39.0	41.0	4.5	6.5	2.5	3.5
OK	15.0	14.0	14.0	14.0	38.0	37.0	11.0	12.0	22.0	23.0
OR	11.0	11.0	9.0	7.0	35.0	31.0	17.0	20.0	28.0	31.0
PA	17.0	17.0	26.0	26.0	49.0	49.0	4.9	5.0	3.1	3.0
SD	3.3	4.0	7.7	8.0	50.0	49.0	19.0	20.0	20.0	19.0
TN	33.0	35.0	24.0	24.0	37.0	34.0	4.0	5.0	2.0	2.0
TX	12.0	12.0	12.0	11.0	32.0	31.0	12.0	12.0	32.0	34.0
UT	6.7	7.5	7.3	9.5	46.0	43.0	17.0	18.0	23.0	22.0
VT	8.0	8.0	18.0	18.0	57.0	57.0	10.0	11.0	7.0	6.0
VA	26.0	22.0	19.0	20.0	43.0	44.0	8.0	10.0	4.0	4.0
WA	12.0	11.0	6.0	6.0	35.0	36.0	14.0	14.0	33.0	33.0
WI	9.7	9.7	23.0	22.0	58.0	58.0	6.5	7.5	2.8	2.8
WY	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	29.0	32.0	24.0	24.0	41.0	37.0
Oth Sts	20.0	20.0	14.0	14.0	34.0	34.0	11.0	11.0	21.0	21.0
US	12.5	12.5	13.5	12.9	38.1	37.0	11.4	11.8	24.5	25.8

¹ Percents reflect average distributions of various probability surveys conducted during the year but are based primarily on beginning-of-year and mid-year surveys.

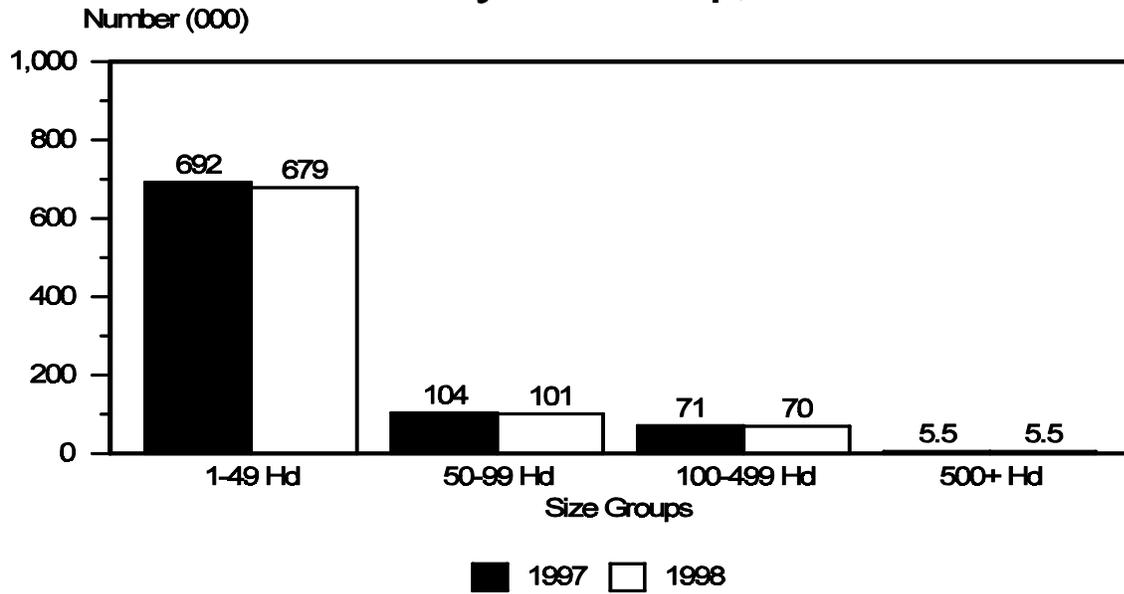
Beef Cows: Number of Operations by State and United States, 1997-98 ¹

State	Operations With Beef Cows ²	
	1997 <i>Number</i>	1998 <i>Number</i>
AL	28,000	28,000
AK	90	90
AZ	2,300	2,300
AR	28,000	28,000
CA	14,800	14,500
CO	10,200	11,700
CT	700	750
DE	220	240
FL	20,000	20,000
GA	22,000	22,000
HI	750	750
ID	8,000	8,000
IL	17,800	17,700
IN	16,000	15,500
IA	28,000	28,000
KS	29,000	29,000
KY	44,000	42,000
LA	14,100	12,900
ME	1,200	1,000
MD	2,900	2,800
MA	800	850
MI	8,500	7,800
MN	16,000	15,800
MS	25,000	24,000
MO	60,000	59,000
MT	11,800	12,700
NE	23,000	23,000
NV	1,400	1,400
NH	550	550
NJ	1,100	1,100
NM	6,900	7,000
NY	6,100	6,400
NC	31,000	27,000
ND	12,300	12,700
OH	17,700	17,500
OK	54,000	52,000
OR	15,000	13,500
PA	11,500	11,300
RI	130	130
SC	10,500	10,000
SD	17,000	17,500
TN	47,000	47,000
TX	133,000	131,000
UT	5,500	5,600
VT	1,000	1,100
VA	25,000	23,000
WA	13,000	12,000
WV	13,000	12,000
WI	11,700	12,200
WY	5,300	5,500
US	872,840	855,860

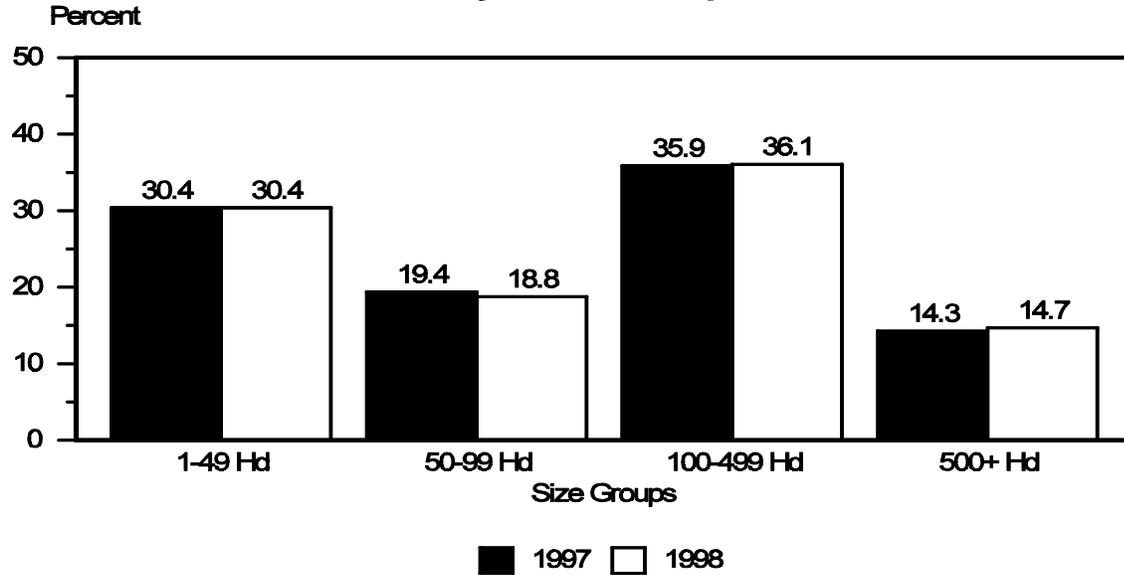
¹ An operation is any place having one or more head of beef cows on hand at any time during the year.

² Included in operations with cattle.

U.S. Beef Cow Operations Number by Size Group, 1997-98



U.S. Beef Cow Inventory Percent by Size Group, 1997-98



Beef Cows: Number of Operations by Size Group, Selected States, and United States, 1997-98^{1 2}

State	Operations Having							
	1-49 Head		50-99 Head		100-499 Head		500+ Head	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
AL	23,000	23,000	3,200	3,200	1,730	1,750	70	50
AZ	1,400	1,450	300	300	500	450	100	100
AR	22,800	22,800	3,500	3,500	1,640	1,640	60	60
CA	11,400	11,100	1,300	1,300	1,800	1,800	300	300
CO	5,800	7,200	1,700	1,900	2,450	2,350	250	250
FL	16,400	16,500	1,600	1,600	1,660	1,570	340	330
GA	18,500	18,700	2,280	2,160	1,200	1,100	20	40
ID	5,500	5,500	1,000	1,000	1,360	1,360	140	140
IL	15,700	15,500	1,600	1,600	490	585	10	15
IN	14,900	14,400	850	850	250	250		
IA	21,000	21,000	5,000	5,000	1,950	1,970	50	30
KS	19,000	19,600	5,500	5,500	4,350	3,760	150	140
KY	38,000	36,000	4,400	4,200	1,570	1,770	30	30
LA	11,200	10,600	1,400	1,100	1,430	1,130	70	70
MN	13,500	13,600	2,000	1,650	480	530	20	20
MS	21,000	20,000	3,000	3,000	950	950	50	50
MO	48,000	47,000	8,200	8,200	3,690	3,680	110	120
MT	4,800	5,700	2,150	2,300	4,300	4,200	550	500
NE	12,800	12,700	4,800	4,800	4,900	5,000	500	500
NM	4,300	4,500	1,000	1,000	1,350	1,250	250	250
ND	5,500	6,000	3,500	3,500	3,240	3,140	60	60
OH	16,700	16,500	750	740	240	250	10	10
OK	42,000	40,000	8,000	7,900	3,800	3,900	200	200
OR	12,000	10,900	1,500	1,070	1,300	1,300	200	230
PA	11,000	10,800	370	390	130	110		
SD	7,200	8,000	4,500	4,000	5,000	5,200	300	300
TN	42,000	42,000	3,700	3,700	1,275	1,280	25	20
TX	104,000	103,000	17,100	15,800	11,000	11,300	900	900
UT	3,600	3,700	870	900	910	900	120	100
VA	21,000	19,000	2,600	2,700	1,360	1,260	40	40
WA	11,500	10,600	760	690	690	660	50	50
WY	2,000	2,200	1,100	1,000	1,800	1,900	400	400
Oth Sts	84,900	79,700	4,700	4,600	1,870	1,680	170	180
US	692,400	679,250	104,230	101,150	70,665	69,975	5,545	5,485

¹ An operation is any place having one or more head of beef cows on hand at any time during the year.

² Included in operations with cattle. Missing data combined with other size groups.

Beef Cows: Percent of Inventory by Size Group, Selected States, and United States, 1997-98^{1 2}

State	Inventory on Operations Having							
	1-49 Head		50-99 Head		100-499 Head		500+ Head	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AL	41.0	41.0	23.0	22.0	31.0	32.0	5.0	5.0
AZ	8.0	8.0	7.0	7.0	40.0	37.0	45.0	48.0
AR	40.0	43.0	25.0	25.0	31.0	28.0	4.0	4.0
CA	14.0	13.0	10.0	10.0	42.0	43.0	34.0	34.0
CO	11.0	14.0	13.0	15.0	54.0	50.0	22.0	21.0
FL	20.0	18.0	9.0	10.0	29.0	27.0	42.0	45.0
GA	46.0	44.0	22.0	22.0	30.0	29.0	2.0	5.0
ID	16.0	16.0	13.0	13.0	48.0	48.0	23.0	23.0
IL	59.0	56.0	24.0	24.0	15.8	18.2	1.2	1.8
IN	67.0	68.0	19.0	18.0	14.0	14.0		
IA	39.0	39.5	31.0	30.0	27.0	28.0	3.0	2.5
KS	26.0	28.0	22.0	24.0	45.0	41.0	7.0	7.0
KY	53.0	53.0	25.0	23.0	20.5	22.5	1.5	1.5
LA	30.0	34.0	17.0	16.0	43.0	38.0	10.0	12.0
MN	48.0	50.0	32.0	28.0	16.5	18.5	3.5	3.5
MS	43.0	43.0	25.0	23.0	27.0	28.0	5.0	6.0
MO	41.0	42.0	27.0	26.0	27.0	27.0	5.0	5.0
MT	6.0	7.0	9.0	10.0	56.0	56.0	29.0	27.0
NE	13.0	13.0	17.0	17.0	47.0	47.0	23.0	23.0
NM	10.0	12.0	11.0	11.0	43.0	42.0	36.0	35.0
ND	14.0	14.5	23.0	22.0	59.0	59.0	4.0	4.5
OH	72.0	71.0	15.0	15.0	11.0	11.7	2.0	2.3
OK	35.0	35.0	25.0	23.0	32.0	34.0	8.0	8.0
OR	18.0	18.0	16.0	10.0	41.0	40.0	25.0	32.0
PA	74.0	74.0	14.0	15.0	12.0	11.0		
SD	11.0	11.0	19.0	17.0	57.0	58.0	13.0	14.0
TN	58.0	58.0	22.0	23.0	18.5	17.5	1.5	1.5
TX	29.0	29.0	20.0	18.0	35.0	37.0	16.0	16.0
UT	12.0	15.0	15.0	17.0	45.0	45.0	28.0	23.0
VA	48.0	45.0	23.0	24.0	25.0	27.0	4.0	4.0
WA	30.0	27.0	16.0	15.0	38.0	40.0	16.0	18.0
WY	5.0	5.0	8.0	8.0	46.0	48.0	41.0	39.0
Oth Sts	51.0	50.0	16.0	17.0	20.0	19.0	13.0	14.0
US	30.4	30.4	19.4	18.8	35.9	36.1	14.3	14.7

¹ Percents reflect average distributions of various probability surveys conducted during the year but are based primarily on beginning-of-year and mid-year surveys.

² Missing data combined with other size groups.

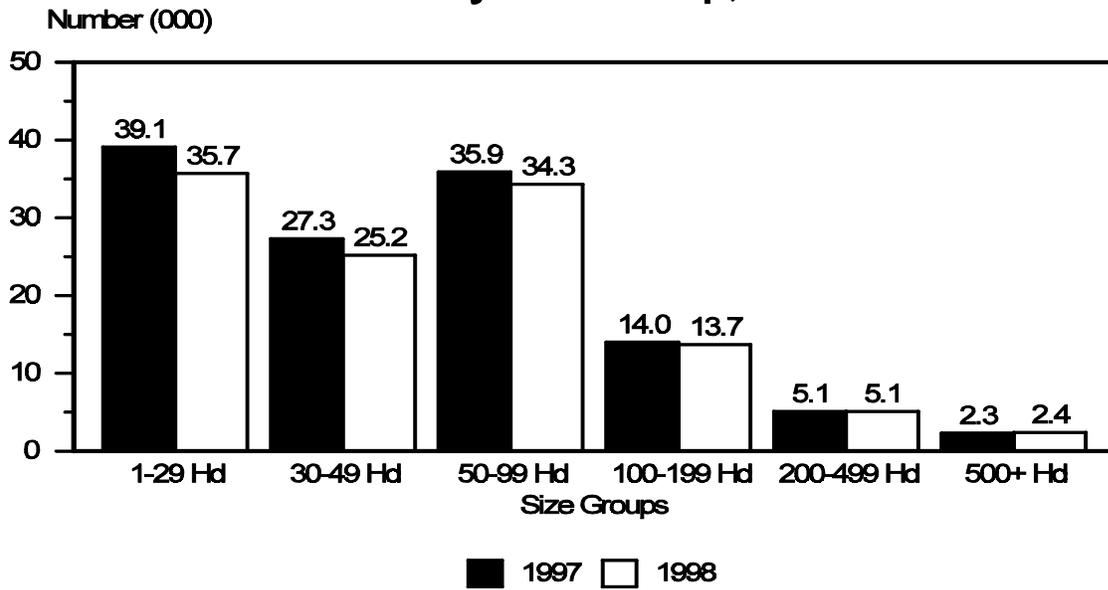
Milk Cows: Number of Operations by State and United States, 1997-98 ¹

State	Operations With Milk Cows ²	
	1997 <i>Number</i>	1998 <i>Number</i>
AL	450	380
AK	30	30
AZ	250	250
AR	1,300	1,200
CA	2,800	2,700
CO	900	900
CT	350	350
DE	130	130
FL	650	650
GA	1,000	950
HI	50	50
ID	1,400	1,300
IL	2,400	2,300
IN	3,400	3,300
IA	4,500	4,300
KS	1,500	1,400
KY	3,600	3,400
LA	900	800
ME	700	700
MD	1,100	1,100
MA	450	450
MI	4,200	4,000
MN	10,500	9,700
MS	650	600
MO	4,500	4,300
MT	750	700
NE	1,500	1,400
NV	150	150
NH	300	300
NJ	350	300
NM	600	500
NY	9,000	8,700
NC	1,200	1,100
ND	1,300	1,200
OH	6,000	5,500
OK	2,200	2,100
OR	1,100	1,000
PA	11,300	10,900
RI	40	40
SC	350	300
SD	2,000	1,800
TN	2,100	2,000
TX	3,500	3,200
UT	900	900
VT	2,000	1,900
VA	1,800	1,800
WA	1,400	1,300
WV	800	800
WI	25,000	23,000
WY	350	300
US	123,700	116,430

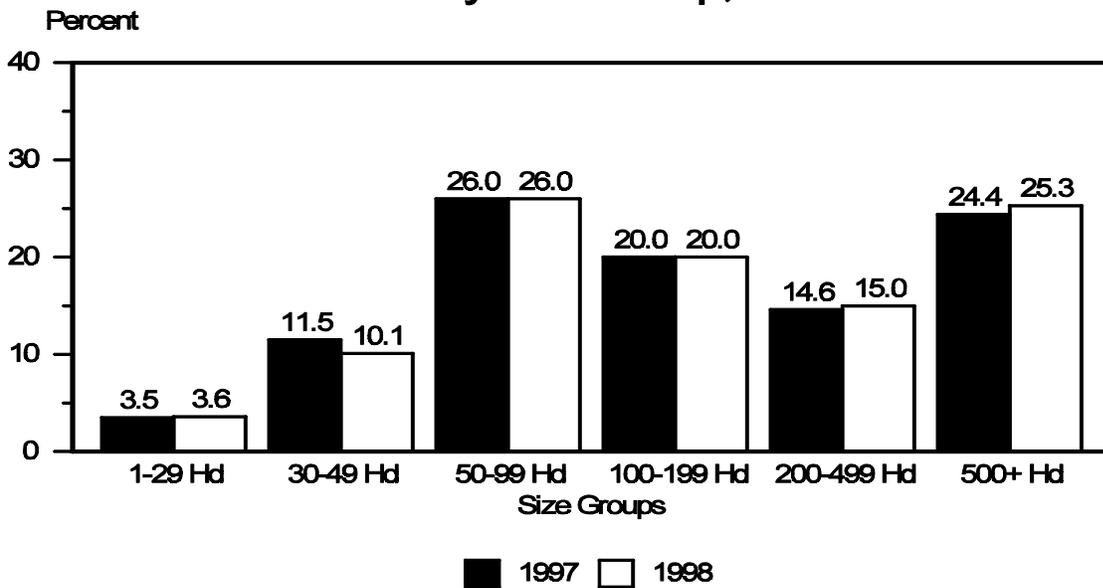
¹ An operation is any place having one or more head of milk cows, excluding cows used to nurse calves, on hand at any time during the year.

² Included in operations with cattle.

U.S. Milk Cow Operations Number by Size Group, 1997-98



U.S. Milk Cow Inventory Percent by Size Group, 1997-98



Milk Cows: Number of Operations by Size Group, Selected States, and United States, 1997-98^{1 2}

State	Operations Having					
	1-29 Head		30-49 Head		50-99 Head	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
AZ	130	130			10	10
CA	500	420	90	90	120	110
CO	610	600	40	30	50	50
FL	400	400	10	10	30	32
GA	520	500	20	20	120	100
ID	400	350	160	140	270	250
IL	530	500	500	460	1,000	960
IN	1,900	1,900	550	520	630	560
IA	1,300	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,500	1,400
KY	1,600	1,500	700	670	940	900
MD	220	230	180	180	425	420
MI	1,100	950	900	900	1,100	1,100
MN	1,900	1,600	3,800	3,500	3,700	3,500
MO	1,900	1,900	830	780	1,100	990
NM	440	350			10	5
NY	1,700	1,600	1,900	1,800	3,600	3,500
NC	600	530	65	60	210	200
OH	3,100	2,600	800	830	1,400	1,400
OR	590	550	40	30	140	110
PA	2,400	2,200	3,800	3,700	3,800	3,700
TN	1,000	950	260	210	440	440
TX	1,600	1,500	200	200	400	400
UT	320	340	70	60	165	165
VT	200	190	410	320	920	900
VA	770	750	90	100	440	450
WA	540	450	70	45	130	145
WI	4,600	4,300	8,500	7,300	9,400	8,900
Oth Sts	8,200	7,200	2,100	2,000	3,800	3,580
US	39,070	35,690	27,285	25,155	35,850	34,277

See footnotes at end of table.

--continued

Milk Cows: Number of Operations by Size Group, Selected States, and United States, 1997-98^{1 2} (continued)

State	Operations Having					
	100-199 Head		200-499 Head		500+ Head	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
AZ	10	10	20	20	80	80
CA	290	270	750	750	1,050	1,060
CO	70	80	80	90	50	50
FL	40	38	75	75	95	95
GA	200	190	110	110	30	30
ID	250	240	190	180	130	140
IL	320	330	50	50		
IN	260	270	50	40	10	10
IA	420	390	75	105	5	5
KY	300	280	55	45	5	5
MD	220	220	49	45	6	5
MI	850	810	215	205	35	35
MN	850	800	230	260	20	40
MO	600	570	70	60		
NM	10	10	20	20	120	115
NY	1,300	1,300	400	390	100	110
NC	230	220	80	75	15	15
OH	580	550	110	110	10	10
OR	200	170	100	110	30	30
PA	1,100	1,050	190	235	10	15
TN	300	300	90	90	10	10
TX	600	500	500	400	200	200
UT	210	190	110	120	25	25
VT	350	350	100	115	20	25
VA	390	380	100	110	10	10
WA	290	280	250	255	120	125
WI	2,000	1,950	450	490	50	60
Oth Sts	1,800	2,000	600	590	100	110
US	14,040	13,748	5,119	5,145	2,336	2,415

¹ An operation is any place having one or more milk cows, excluding cows used to nurse calves, on hand at any time during the year.

² Included in operations with cattle. Missing data combined with other size groups.

Milk Cows: Percent of Inventory by Size Group, Selected States, and United States, 1997-98¹

State	Inventory on Operations Having					
	1-29 Head		30-49 Head		50-99 Head	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	0.4	0.4			0.5	0.5
CA	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.7	0.7
CO	1.9	1.4	1.9	1.4	4.2	4.2
FL	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2	1.3	1.5
GA	2.1	3.0	0.9	1.0	10.0	8.0
ID	0.9	0.7	2.1	1.8	6.0	5.5
IL	4.0	4.0	12.0	11.0	46.0	46.0
IN	14.0	14.0	17.0	18.0	33.0	31.0
IA	8.0	8.0	18.0	18.0	40.0	38.0
KY	8.0	8.0	17.0	18.0	40.0	40.0
MD	2.5	2.5	7.5	6.9	35.0	36.0
MI	5.0	4.5	11.0	10.5	24.0	25.0
MN	6.0	5.8	24.0	22.0	40.0	40.0
MO	6.1	7.0	15.0	16.0	34.0	33.0
NM	0.7	0.4			0.4	0.2
NY	2.5	2.5	10.5	10.5	35.0	34.0
NC	1.5	1.5	2.5	2.5	17.0	17.0
OH	12.0	11.0	12.0	12.5	37.0	36.0
OR	1.2	1.0	1.8	1.3	12.0	9.7
PA	5.5	4.5	25.0	25.0	37.0	37.0
TN	2.7	3.0	7.3	6.4	28.0	28.0
TX	0.8	0.8	1.8	2.0	8.4	8.2
UT	1.3	1.5	2.7	2.5	13.0	13.0
VT	1.2	1.0	11.0	8.0	35.0	35.0
VA	5.0	6.0	3.0	3.0	27.0	26.0
WA	0.6	0.4	1.1	0.7	3.3	3.9
WI	4.5	4.8	24.0	21.0	43.0	43.0
Oth Sts	3.5	3.5	8.5	7.7	31.0	29.5
US	3.5	3.6	11.5	10.1	26.0	26.0

See footnotes at end of table.

--continued

Milk Cows: Percent of Inventory by Size Group, Selected States, and United States, 1997-98 ¹ (continued)

State	Inventory on Operations Having					
	100-199 Head		200-499 Head		500+ Head	
	1997	1998	1997	1998	1997	1998
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	1.5	1.4	5.6	5.7	92.0	92.0
CA	3.4	3.4	16.5	17.5	79.0	78.0
CO	11.0	12.0	28.0	30.0	53.0	51.0
FL	4.0	3.8	17.0	15.0	77.0	79.0
GA	29.0	28.0	29.0	31.0	29.0	29.0
ID	12.0	12.0	19.0	19.0	60.0	61.0
IL	28.0	29.0	10.0	10.0		
IN	24.0	25.0	8.0	7.0	4.0	5.0
IA	23.0	22.0	9.0	12.0	2.0	2.0
KY	25.0	24.0	8.0	8.0	2.0	2.0
MD	34.0	34.0	13.0	13.0	8.0	7.6
MI	33.0	32.0	17.0	18.0	10.0	10.0
MN	17.0	16.0	11.0	12.0	2.0	4.2
MO	36.0	36.0	8.9	8.0		
NM	0.7	0.7	3.2	2.7	95.0	96.0
NY	27.0	26.0	14.0	15.0	11.0	12.0
NC	38.0	37.0	27.0	27.0	14.0	15.0
OH	26.0	27.0	10.5	11.0	2.5	2.5
OR	28.0	25.0	30.0	34.0	27.0	29.0
PA	23.0	22.0	8.0	9.5	1.5	2.0
TN	36.0	37.0	21.0	20.0	5.0	5.6
TX	22.0	20.0	28.0	29.0	39.0	40.0
UT	29.0	26.0	35.0	37.0	19.0	20.0
VT	27.0	26.0	17.0	20.0	8.8	10.0
VA	39.0	38.0	21.0	22.0	5.0	5.0
WA	18.0	16.0	31.0	32.0	46.0	47.0
WI	18.0	18.0	7.7	10.0	2.8	3.2
Oth Sts	23.0	25.0	24.0	22.8	10.0	11.5
US	20.0	20.0	14.6	15.0	24.4	25.3

¹ Percents reflect average distributions of various probability surveys conducted during the year but are based primarily on beginning-of-year and mid-year surveys. Missing data combined with other size groups.

Reliability of January 1 Cattle and Calves Estimates

Survey Procedures: A random sample of U.S. 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 50,000 operators during the first half of January by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews and 84 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 Department of Agriculture 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 next 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 20 years is .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 98.5 million head by more than .6 percent, or about 591,000 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.0 percent, or about 985,000 head (the 90 percent confidence level).

The table below also shows a 20 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 20 years have averaged 464,000 head, ranging from 0 to 1,419,000 head. During this period the initial inventory estimate has been below the final estimate 5 times and above the final estimate 14 times. This does not imply that the January 1 estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

Reliability of January 1 Cattle Estimates^{1 2}

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90 Percent Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Latest Estimates			Number of Years	
		Percent	Head	Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Latest	First Below Latest
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
All Cattle	0.6	1.0	985	464	0	1,419	14	5
All Cows	0.7	1.2	511	227	6	911	13	7
Calf Crop	0.7	1.2	463	208	5	630	15	5

¹ Based on data from January 1979 through January 1998.

² Data in the above table do not reflect the 1-3 percent changes made during the 1991-95 historic revision period. The root mean square error's would be about 1 percent higher if these were included.

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The next "Cattle" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on July 16, 1999.

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