



# Cattle

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## July 1 Cattle Inventory Down 1 Percent

**All cattle and calves** in the United States as of July 1, 2003, totaled 103.9 million head, 1 percent below the 105.1 million on July 1, 2002 and 2 percent below the 105.8 million two years ago.

**All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 42.7 million, were slightly below the 42.9 million on July 1, 2002 and 1 percent below the 43.0 million two years ago.

- **Beef cows**, at 33.6 million, were down slightly from July 1, 2002 and 1 percent below two years ago.
- **Milk cows**, at 9.1 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 2002 but were unchanged from two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2003 and the changes from July 1, 2002, are as follows:

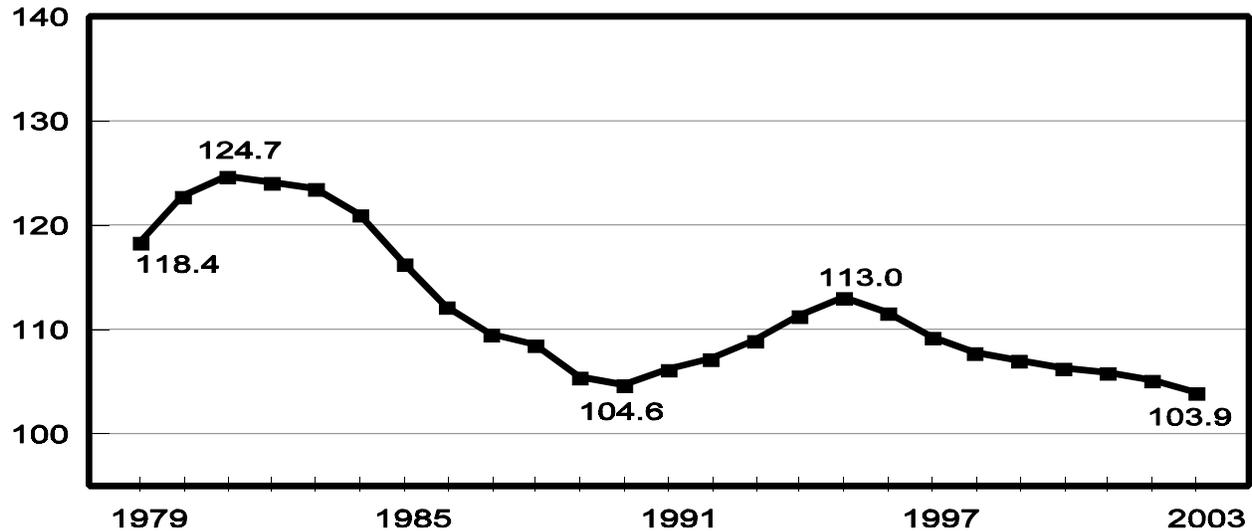
- **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 15.9 million, down 2 percent.
- **Beef replacement heifers**, 4.6 million, unchanged.
- **Milk replacement heifers**, 3.6 million, down 3 percent.
- **Other heifers**, 7.7 million, down 3 percent.
- **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.2 million, down 2 percent.
- **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, unchanged.
- **Calves under 500 pounds**, 29.0 million, down 1 percent.
- **All cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter, 11.7 million, down 6 percent.

## Calf Crop Down 1 Percent

The 2003 calf crop is expected to be 38.0 million, down 1 percent from 2002 and down 1 percent from 2001. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.7 million, down 1 percent from 2002 and down 1 percent from 2001.

## United States Cattle Inventory July 1, 1979 - 2003

Million Head



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This report was approved on July 18, 2003.

Acting Secretary of  
Agriculture  
Keith J. Collins

Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
Rich Allen

**Cattle and Calves: Number by Class and Calf Crop,  
United States, July 1, 2001-2003**

Class	2001	2002	2003	2003 as % of 2002
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cattle and Calves	105,800	105,100	103,900	99
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved	43,000	42,900	42,700	100
Beef Cows	33,900	33,750	33,600	100
Milk Cows	9,100	9,150	9,100	99
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	16,400	16,200	15,900	98
For Beef Cow Replacement	4,600	4,600	4,600	100
For Milk Cow Replacement	3,600	3,700	3,600	97
Other Heifers	8,200	7,900	7,700	97
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	14,600	14,500	14,200	98
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,100	2,100	2,100	100
Calves Under 500 Pounds	29,700	29,400	29,000	99
Calf Crop	38,280	38,193	38,000	99
Cattle on Feed	13,000	12,400	11,700	94

**Calf Crop: Number and Percent of Total by Six-Month Period,  
United States, 2001-2002 and Preliminary Calf Crop, 2003**

Period	2001		2002		2003	
	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	28,100	73.4	27,900	73.0	27,700	72.9
Jul 1 - Dec 31	10,180	26.6	10,293	27.0	10,300	27.1
Total	38,280	100.0	38,193	100.0	38,000	100.0

**Cattle and Calves: Balance Sheet, United States,  
January 1 - June 30, 2001-2003 <sup>1</sup>**

Item	2001	2002	2003
	<i>Million Head</i>	<i>Million Head</i>	<i>Million Head</i>
January 1 Inventory	97.3	96.7	96.1
Calf Crop and Imports	29.4	29.1	28.6
Total Supply <sup>2</sup>	126.7	125.8	124.7
Slaughter	18.1	18.1	18.4
Deaths and Exports	2.7	2.5	2.5
Total Disappearance <sup>2</sup>	20.8	20.7	20.9
Residual <sup>2</sup>	-0.1	0.0	0.1
July 1 Inventory	105.8	105.1	103.9

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary.

<sup>2</sup> Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Cattle and Calves: Number by Class, State, and United States,  
July 1, 2002-2003**

State	All Cattle and Calves			All Cows That Have Calved		
	2002	2003	2003 as % of 2002	2002	2003	2003 as % of 2002
	<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>
CA	5,200	5,150	99	2,400	2,390	100
CO	3,050	2,750	90	880	810	92
IA	4,000	3,900	98	1,240	1,240	100
KS	6,550	6,600	101	1,650	1,670	101
MO	4,650	4,600	99	2,180	2,150	99
MT	3,350	3,400	101	1,480	1,500	101
NE	7,050	6,600	94	2,030	1,950	96
OK	5,600	5,600	100	2,100	2,100	100
SD	5,000	4,850	97	2,020	1,980	98
TX	15,000	15,500	103	6,100	6,200	102
WI	3,550	3,550	100	1,510	1,510	100
Oth Sts	42,100	41,400	98	19,310	19,200	99
US	105,100	103,900	99	42,900	42,700	100
	<b>Beef Cows That Have Calved</b>			<b>Milk Cows That Have Calved</b>		
	<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>
CA	750	700	93	1,650	1,690	102
CO	776	710	91	104	100	96
IA	1,030	1,040	101	210	200	95
KS	1,547	1,568	101	103	102	99
MO	2,043	2,020	99	137	130	95
MT	1,462	1,482	101	18	18	100
NE	1,963	1,886	96	67	64	96
OK	2,012	2,014	100	88	86	98
SD	1,923	1,890	98	97	90	93
TX	5,795	5,888	102	305	312	102
WI	245	255	104	1,265	1,255	99
Oth Sts	14,204	14,147	100	5,106	5,053	99
US	33,750	33,600	100	9,150	9,100	99

**Calf Crop: Number by State and United States, 2002-2003**

State	2002	2003 <sup>1</sup>	2003 as % 2002
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	2,040	2,030	100
CO	820	740	90
IA	1,110	1,120	101
KS	1,510	1,520	101
MO	2,090	2,100	100
MT	1,490	1,500	101
NE	1,820	1,760	97
OK	1,930	2,000	104
SD	1,840	1,760	96
TX	5,000	5,200	104
WI	1,350	1,350	100
Oth Sts	17,193	16,920	98
US	38,193	38,000	99

<sup>1</sup> Preliminary.

## Reliability of July 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. Data were collected during the first half of June from about 40,000 small and medium sized operations. These operators were contacted by face-to-face personal interviews. About 9,700 large producers and feedlots were contacted during the first half of July by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews. Operators were asked to report inventories as of the first of the month and calf crop for the entire year of 2003.

**Estimating Procedures:** These cattle estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing National and State indications and analysis. 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 for the first six months, and subtracts estimates of slaughter, exports, and deaths for the first six months of the current year. 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 and when the January 1 cattle inventory 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 following table. 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 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 103.9 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 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 397,000 head, ranging from 0 to 1,300,000 head. During this period the initial inventory estimate has been below the latest estimate 4 times, above the latest estimate 11 times, and unchanged 5 times. This does not imply that the July 1 estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

**Reliability of July 1 Cattle Estimates <sup>1 2</sup>**

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	0.5	0.9	944	397	0	1,300	11	4
All Cows	0.9	1.5	630	217	0	1,100	8	5
Calf Crop	1.6	2.8	1,077	537	23	1,236	14	6

<sup>1</sup> Based on data from July 1983 through July 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Data in the above table do not reflect the 1-3 percent changes made during the 1989-93 historic revision period. The root mean square error's would be about 1 percentage point higher if these were included.

The next "Cattle" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on January 30, 2004.

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