

# Cattle



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

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## July 1 Cattle Inventory Down 1 Percent

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 1996, totaled 112.0 million head, down 1 percent from July 1, 1995, but up 1 percent from the 111.3 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 45.0 million, were down 1 percent from a year ago and slightly below two years ago.

- Beef cows, at 35.6 million, were 1 percent below July 1, 1995 and the same as July 1, 1994.
- Milk cows, at 9.4 million, were 1 percent below both July 1, 1995 and July 1, 1994.

Other class estimates on July 1, 1996, and the changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 17.3 million, down 2 percent and down 1 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 5.5 million, down 4 percent and down 7 percent.
- Milk replacement heifers, 3.7 million, down 5 percent and down 7 percent.
- Other heifers, 8.1 million, up 1 percent and up 8 percent.
- Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 15.4 million, no change and up 1 percent.
- Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.4 million, no change and up 4 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 31.9 million, down slightly and up 2 percent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 9.8 million, down 12 percent and down 7 percent.

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**Calf Crop Down 1 Percent**

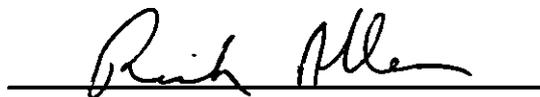
The 1996 calf crop is expected to be 39.8 million, down 1 percent from both 1995 and 1994. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 29.3 million, down 1 percent from 1995 and the same as 1994.

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This report was approved on July 19, 1996, by the Acting Secretary of Agriculture and the National Agricultural Statistics Service's Agricultural Statistics Board.



Acting Secretary of  
Agriculture  
Richard E. Rominger



Agricultural Statistics Board  
Chairperson  
Rich Allen

Cattle and Calves: Number by Class and Calf Crop,  
United States, July 1, 1994-96

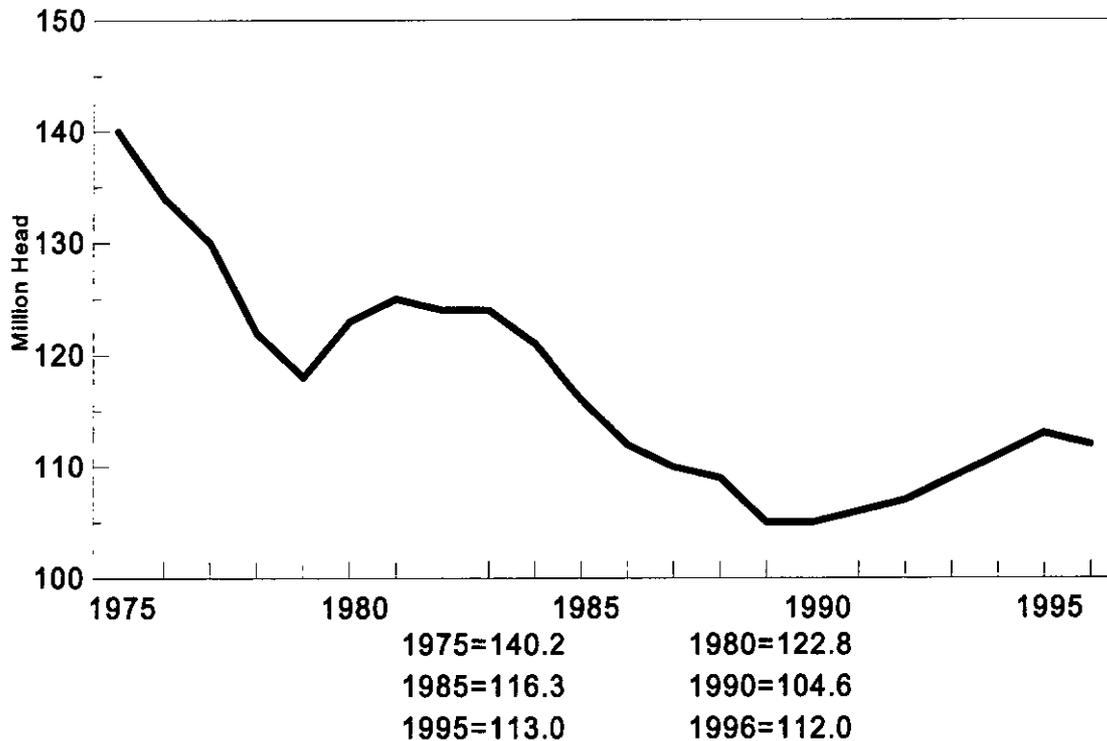
Class	:	1994	:	1995	:	1996	:	1996 as % of 1995
	:	----- 1,000 Head -----			:	Percent		
Cattle and Calves	:	111,300	:	113,000	:	112,000	:	99
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved	:	45,100	:	45,600	:	45,000	:	99
Beef Cows	:	35,600	:	36,100	:	35,600	:	99
Milk Cows	:	9,500	:	9,500	:	9,400	:	99
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	:	17,400	:	17,600	:	17,300	:	98
For Beef Cow Replacement	:	5,900	:	5,700	:	5,500	:	96
For Milk Cow Replacement	:	4,000	:	3,900	:	3,700	:	95
Other Heifers	:	7,500	:	8,000	:	8,100	:	101
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	:	15,200	:	15,400	:	15,400	:	100
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	:	2,300	:	2,400	:	2,400	:	100
Calves Under 500 Pounds	:	31,300	:	32,000	:	31,900	:	100
Calf Crop	:	40,059	:	40,251	:	39,800	:	99
Cattle on Feed	:	10,500	:	*11,200	:	9,800	:	88

\* Revised.

Calf Crop: Number and Percent of Total by Six-Month Period,  
United States, 1994-95 and Preliminary Calf Crop, 1996

Period	:	1994		:	1995		:	1996	
	:	Number	% of Total	:	Number	% of Total	:	Number	% of Total
	:	1,000 Hd	Percent	:	1,000 Hd	Percent	:	1,000 Hd	Percent
Jan 1 - Jun 30	:	29,300	73.1	:	29,500	73.3	:	29,300	73.6
Jul 1 - Dec 31	:	10,759	26.9	:	10,751	26.7	:	10,500	26.4
Total	:	40,059	100.0	:	40,251	100.0	:	39,800	100.0

## Cattle and Calves Inventory United States, July 1



Cattle and Calves: Balance Sheet, United States,  
January 1 - June 30, 1994-96 1/

Item	1994	1995	1996
	Million Head		
January 1 Inventory	101.0	102.8	103.8
Calf Crop and Imports	30.4	31.2	30.4
Total Supply 2/	131.4	133.9	134.2
Slaughter	17.5	18.3	19.5
Deaths and Exports	2.5	2.5	2.6
Total Disappearance 2/	19.9	20.8	22.1
Residual 2/	-.1	-.1	-.1
July 1 Inventory	111.3	113.0	112.0

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Totals may not add due to rounding.

## 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 over 40,000 small and medium sized operations. These operators were contacted by face-to-face personal interviews. About 9,500 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 1996.

**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 Department of Commerce's 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 below. 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 15 years is 0.7 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 112.0 million head by more than 0.7 percent, or about 784,000 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.2 percent, or about 1,344,000 head (the 90 percent confidence level).

The table below also shows a 15 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 15 years have averaged 399,000 head, ranging from 0 to 1,500,000 head. During this period the initial inventory estimate has been below the latest estimate 2 times, above the latest estimate 7 times, and unchanged 6 times. This does not imply that the July 1 estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

Reliability of July 1 Cattle Estimates 1/2/

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90% Confidence Level	Head	Difference Between First and Latest Estimates			Number of Years	
				Average	Smallest	Largest	Above Latest	Below Latest
All Cattle	0.7	1.2	1,344	399	0	1500	7	2
All Cows	0.9	1.6	720	185	0	1100	8	2
Calf Crop	1.8	3.1	1,234	370	50	1249	12	3

1/ Based on July 1 data for the past 15 years.

2/ 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 percent higher if these were included.

The next "Cattle" report will be released in January 1997.

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