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January 1 Cattle Inventory Up 2 Percent

All cattle and calves in the United States, as of January 1, 2017, totaled 93.6 million head. This is 2 percent above the 91.9 million head on January 1, 2016.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 40.6 million head, are 3 percent above the 39.5 million head on January 1, 2016. Beef cows, at 31.2 million head, are up 3 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.35 million head, are up slightly from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over, as of January 1, 2017, totaled 20.1 million head. This is 1 percent above the 19.9 million head on January 1, 2016. Beef replacement heifers, at 6.42 million head, are up 1 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.75 million head, are down 1 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 8.88 million head, are 1 percent above a year earlier.

Calves under 500 pounds in the United States, as of January 1, 2017, totaled 14.4 million head. This is 2 percent above the 14.1 million head on January 1, 2016. Steers weighing 500 pounds and over totaled 16.4 million head, up slightly from one year ago. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over totaled 2.23 million head, up 4 percent from the previous year.

Calf Crop Up 3 Percent

The 2016 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 35.1 million head, up 3 percent from last year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2016 were estimated at 25.6 million head. This is up 4 percent from the first half of 2015. Calves born during the second half of 2016 were estimated at 9.53 million head, 27 percent of the total 2016 calf crop.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 13.1 million head on January 1, 2017. The inventory is down 1 percent from the January 1, 2016 total of 13.2 million head. Cattle on feed, in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head, accounted for 81.2 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2017. This is 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 26.6 million head. This is 2 percent above one year ago.

Revisions

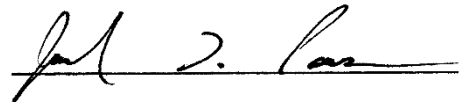
All inventory and calf crop estimates for January 1, 2016 were reviewed using calf crop, official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. Based on the findings of this review, January 1, 2016 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.1 percent, all cows and heifers that have calved decreased by 0.4 percent, and 2015 calf crop decreased by 0.6 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, 2017.



Secretary of Agriculture
Designate
Robert Johansson



Agricultural Statistics Board
Chairperson
Joseph L. Parsons

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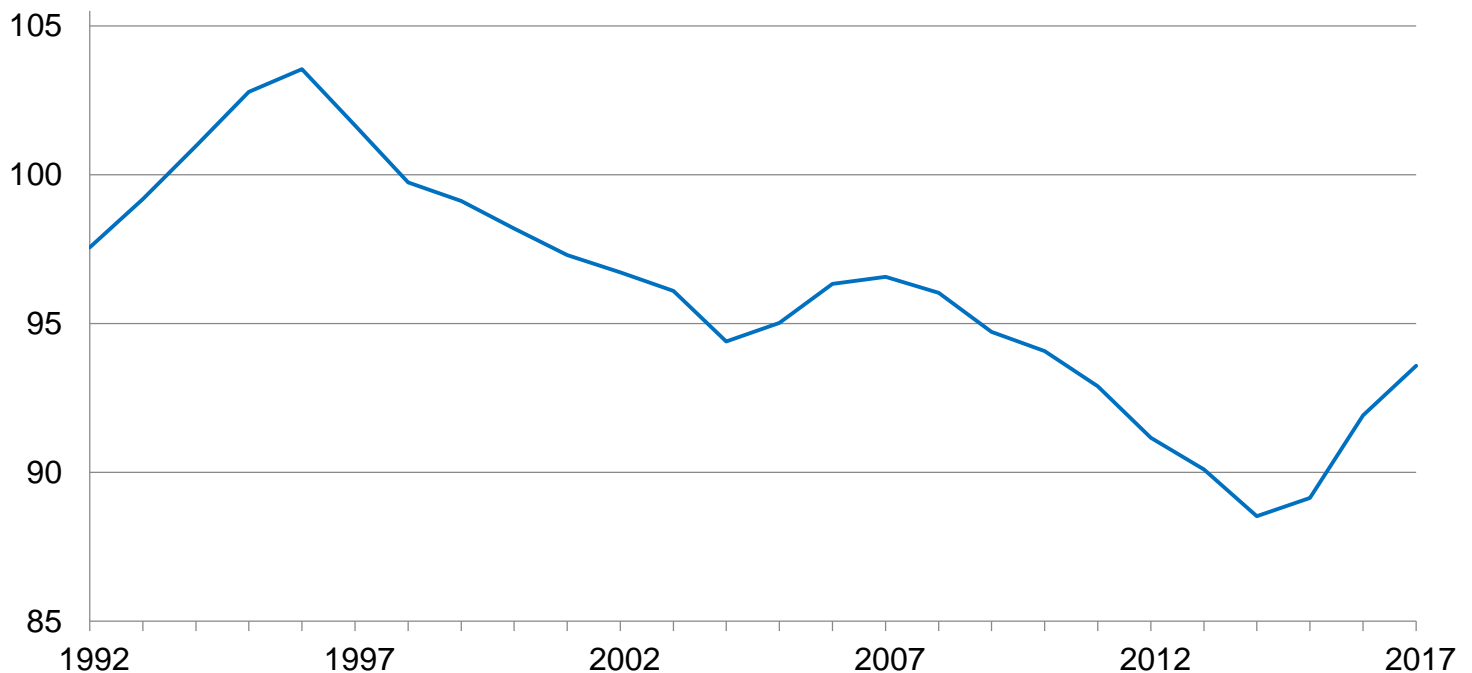
Cattle Inventory by Class and Calf Crop – United States: January 1, 2016 and 2017

Class	2016	2017	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves	91,918.0	93,584.6	102
All cows and heifers that have calved	39,476.2	40,559.2	103
Beef cows	30,165.8	31,210.2	103
Milk cows	9,310.4	9,349.0	100
All heifers 500 pounds and over	19,907.3	20,052.0	101
For beef cow replacement	6,340.2	6,419.2	101
Expected to calve ¹	3,936.6	4,000.2	102
For milk cow replacement	4,814.0	4,754.0	99
Expected to calve ¹	3,111.6	3,071.6	99
Other heifers	8,753.1	8,878.8	101
Steers 500 pounds and over	16,315.4	16,353.5	100
Bulls 500 pounds and over	2,142.4	2,233.6	104
Calves under 500 pounds	14,076.7	14,386.3	102
All cattle on feed	13,157.0	13,067.0	99
	2015	2016	Percent of previous year
Calf crop	34,086.7	35,082.7	103

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, 2016 and 2017

State	All cattle and calves			All cows and heifers that have calved		
	2016	2017	Percent of previous year	2016	2017	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	1,250.0	1,300.0	104	680.0	700.0	103
Alaska	11.0	13.0	118	4.3	5.0	116
Arizona	900.0	970.0	108	375.0	380.0	101
Arkansas	1,700.0	1,750.0	103	900.0	920.0	102
California	5,150.0	5,150.0	100	2,370.0	2,410.0	102
Colorado	2,700.0	2,850.0	106	920.0	960.0	104
Connecticut	49.0	48.0	98	25.0	24.0	96
Delaware	16.0	16.0	100	7.5	7.5	100
Florida	1,680.0	1,700.0	101	1,030.0	1,030.0	100
Georgia	1,100.0	1,100.0	100	590.0	580.0	98
Hawaii	140.0	142.0	101	75.0	76.0	101
Idaho	2,390.0	2,350.0	98	1,090.0	1,100.0	101
Illinois	1,180.0	1,220.0	103	490.0	480.0	98
Indiana	890.0	890.0	100	380.0	395.0	104
Iowa	3,950.0	3,850.0	97	1,150.0	1,180.0	103
Kansas	6,250.0	6,400.0	102	1,630.0	1,720.0	106
Kentucky	2,170.0	2,160.0	100	1,080.0	1,080.0	100
Louisiana	770.0	780.0	101	455.0	460.0	101
Maine	81.0	84.0	104	40.0	41.0	103
Maryland	190.0	186.0	98	92.0	90.0	98
Massachusetts	38.0	38.0	100	18.0	18.0	100
Michigan	1,140.0	1,180.0	104	520.0	545.0	105
Minnesota	2,420.0	2,400.0	99	810.0	830.0	102
Mississippi	940.0	890.0	95	510.0	485.0	95
Missouri	4,100.0	4,350.0	106	1,990.0	2,140.0	108
Montana	2,650.0	2,650.0	100	1,500.0	1,500.0	100
Nebraska	6,450.0	6,450.0	100	1,910.0	1,980.0	104
Nevada	435.0	445.0	102	245.0	250.0	102
New Hampshire	35.0	35.0	100	18.5	18.5	100
New Jersey	28.0	28.0	100	14.5	14.0	97
New Mexico	1,370.0	1,430.0	104	730.0	790.0	108
New York	1,460.0	1,490.0	102	730.0	730.0	100
North Carolina	800.0	830.0	104	410.0	415.0	101
North Dakota	1,710.0	1,810.0	106	920.0	970.0	105
Ohio	1,250.0	1,300.0	104	550.0	550.0	100
Oklahoma	4,800.0	5,000.0	104	1,960.0	2,130.0	109
Oregon	1,310.0	1,320.0	101	650.0	670.0	103
Pennsylvania	1,600.0	1,620.0	101	700.0	710.0	101
Rhode Island	5.0	4.6	92	2.4	2.2	92
South Carolina	340.0	340.0	100	190.0	185.0	97
South Dakota	3,900.0	3,850.0	99	1,780.0	1,780.0	100
Tennessee	1,830.0	1,830.0	100	930.0	950.0	102
Texas	11,800.0	12,300.0	104	4,750.0	4,950.0	104
Utah	840.0	820.0	98	420.0	430.0	102
Vermont	260.0	260.0	100	144.0	143.0	99
Virginia	1,490.0	1,520.0	102	720.0	730.0	101
Washington	1,150.0	1,150.0	100	500.0	500.0	100
West Virginia	390.0	405.0	104	210.0	215.0	102
Wisconsin	3,500.0	3,550.0	101	1,550.0	1,570.0	101
Wyoming	1,310.0	1,330.0	102	710.0	720.0	101
United States	91,918.0	93,584.6	102	39,476.2	40,559.2	103

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2016 and 2017 (continued)

State	Beef cows that have calved			Milk cows that have calved		
	2016	2017	Percent of previous year	2016	2017	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	673.0	693.0	103	7.0	7.0	100
Alaska	4.0	4.7	118	0.3	0.3	100
Arizona	180.0	184.0	102	195.0	196.0	101
Arkansas	893.0	914.0	102	7.0	6.0	86
California	600.0	655.0	109	1,770.0	1,755.0	99
Colorado	772.0	805.0	104	148.0	155.0	105
Connecticut	6.0	5.0	83	19.0	19.0	100
Delaware	2.5	2.5	100	5.0	5.0	100
Florida	905.0	908.0	100	125.0	122.0	98
Georgia	505.0	497.0	98	85.0	83.0	98
Hawaii	72.8	73.6	101	2.2	2.4	109
Idaho	503.0	500.0	99	587.0	600.0	102
Illinois	396.0	387.0	98	94.0	93.0	99
Indiana	196.0	210.0	107	184.0	185.0	101
Iowa	940.0	965.0	103	210.0	215.0	102
Kansas	1,488.0	1,570.0	106	142.0	150.0	106
Kentucky	1,021.0	1,023.0	100	59.0	57.0	97
Louisiana	442.0	448.0	101	13.0	12.0	92
Maine	10.0	11.0	110	30.0	30.0	100
Maryland	43.0	43.0	100	49.0	47.0	96
Massachusetts	6.0	6.5	108	12.0	11.5	96
Michigan	108.0	120.0	111	412.0	425.0	103
Minnesota	350.0	370.0	106	460.0	460.0	100
Mississippi	500.0	476.0	95	10.0	9.0	90
Missouri	1,902.0	2,052.0	108	88.0	88.0	100
Montana	1,486.0	1,486.0	100	14.0	14.0	100
Nebraska	1,852.0	1,920.0	104	58.0	60.0	103
Nevada	217.0	220.0	101	28.0	30.0	107
New Hampshire	4.5	5.0	111	14.0	13.5	96
New Jersey	7.5	7.5	100	7.0	6.5	93
New Mexico	415.0	465.0	112	315.0	325.0	103
New York	110.0	110.0	100	620.0	620.0	100
North Carolina	363.0	370.0	102	47.0	45.0	96
North Dakota	904.0	954.0	106	16.0	16.0	100
Ohio	284.0	288.0	101	266.0	262.0	98
Oklahoma	1,923.0	2,095.0	109	37.0	35.0	95
Oregon	524.0	546.0	104	126.0	124.0	98
Pennsylvania	170.0	185.0	109	530.0	525.0	99
Rhode Island	1.5	1.4	93	0.9	0.8	89
South Carolina	175.0	170.0	97	15.0	15.0	100
South Dakota	1,670.0	1,664.0	100	110.0	116.0	105
Tennessee	886.0	909.0	103	44.0	41.0	93
Texas	4,290.0	4,460.0	104	460.0	490.0	107
Utah	325.0	338.0	104	95.0	92.0	97
Vermont	13.0	14.0	108	131.0	129.0	98
Virginia	629.0	643.0	102	91.0	87.0	96
Washington	223.0	225.0	101	277.0	275.0	99
West Virginia	201.0	207.0	103	9.0	8.0	89
Wisconsin	270.0	290.0	107	1,280.0	1,280.0	100
Wyoming	704.0	714.0	101	6.0	6.0	100
United States	30,165.8	31,210.2	103	9,310.4	9,349.0	100

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2016 and 2017 (continued)

State	All heifers 500 pounds and over					
	Beef cow replacement		Milk cow replacement		Other	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	105.0	120.0	3.0	4.0	37.0	36.0
Alaska	0.9	1.0	0.1	0.1	0.6	0.5
Arizona	39.0	39.0	68.0	117.0	28.0	34.0
Arkansas	182.0	173.0	3.0	3.0	70.0	64.0
California	120.0	130.0	790.0	760.0	130.0	150.0
Colorado	200.0	200.0	105.0	100.0	460.0	510.0
Connecticut	2.5	2.0	8.5	9.5	1.0	1.0
Delaware	0.5	0.7	2.1	2.2	0.4	0.4
Florida	125.0	125.0	40.0	35.0	25.0	30.0
Georgia	105.0	110.0	30.0	30.0	28.0	40.0
Hawaii	11.5	13.0	1.0	1.0	5.0	4.0
Idaho	140.0	120.0	320.0	310.0	190.0	180.0
Illinois	67.0	75.0	50.0	52.0	98.0	108.0
Indiana	50.0	50.0	80.0	80.0	51.0	50.0
Iowa	190.0	185.0	120.0	135.0	610.0	510.0
Kansas	290.0	310.0	110.0	100.0	1,430.0	1,430.0
Kentucky	160.0	150.0	50.0	40.0	115.0	110.0
Louisiana	84.0	85.0	5.0	4.0	21.0	20.0
Maine	3.0	4.0	15.0	15.0	3.0	3.0
Maryland	11.0	11.0	28.0	29.0	5.0	6.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	7.0	7.0	1.0	1.0
Michigan	27.0	25.0	172.0	170.0	31.0	40.0
Minnesota	95.0	95.0	300.0	295.0	175.0	155.0
Mississippi	111.0	93.0	6.0	6.0	38.0	31.0
Missouri	360.0	375.0	45.0	45.0	220.0	230.0
Montana	420.0	440.0	8.0	9.0	262.0	241.0
Nebraska	390.0	385.0	30.0	25.0	1,370.0	1,370.0
Nevada	41.0	41.0	9.0	11.0	28.0	29.0
New Hampshire	1.0	1.0	6.0	6.0	1.0	1.0
New Jersey	1.3	1.6	3.8	3.7	0.9	1.2
New Mexico	105.0	100.0	120.0	110.0	75.0	90.0
New York	44.0	45.0	355.0	355.0	41.0	45.0
North Carolina	65.0	69.0	18.0	22.0	22.0	25.0
North Dakota	183.0	206.0	7.0	9.0	195.0	205.0
Ohio	60.0	75.0	120.0	120.0	50.0	60.0
Oklahoma	460.0	445.0	25.0	20.0	440.0	455.0
Oregon	110.0	105.0	70.0	65.0	100.0	115.0
Pennsylvania	60.0	65.0	325.0	315.0	55.0	60.0
Rhode Island	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.2	0.2
South Carolina	30.0	33.0	5.0	7.0	14.0	10.0
South Dakota	375.0	395.0	50.0	45.0	550.0	530.0
Tennessee	160.0	145.0	27.0	35.0	93.0	90.0
Texas	790.0	810.0	250.0	260.0	1,240.0	1,350.0
Utah	95.0	85.0	50.0	55.0	75.0	60.0
Vermont	5.0	5.5	55.0	56.0	5.0	6.5
Virginia	100.0	112.0	47.0	38.0	58.0	70.0
Washington	60.0	58.0	130.0	120.0	120.0	117.0
West Virginia	35.0	38.0	4.0	4.0	18.0	17.0
Wisconsin	80.0	80.0	735.0	710.0	45.0	50.0
Wyoming	188.0	185.0	5.0	3.0	122.0	137.0
United States	6,340.2	6,419.2	4,814.0	4,754.0	8,753.1	8,878.8

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Cattle Inventory by Class – States and United States: January 1, 2016 and 2017 (continued)

State	Steers 500 pounds and over		Bulls 500 pounds and over		Calves under 500 pounds	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Alabama	50.0	50.0	50.0	50.0	325.0	340.0
Alaska	0.4	0.5	2.5	2.7	2.2	3.2
Arizona	270.0	265.0	20.0	20.0	100.0	115.0
Arkansas	125.0	110.0	55.0	60.0	365.0	420.0
California	610.0	600.0	70.0	70.0	1,060.0	1,030.0
Colorado	810.0	850.0	55.0	55.0	150.0	175.0
Connecticut	2.0	2.0	0.5	0.5	9.5	9.0
Delaware	2.0	1.9	0.3	0.3	3.2	3.0
Florida	25.0	30.0	55.0	60.0	380.0	390.0
Georgia	37.0	37.0	30.0	33.0	280.0	270.0
Hawaii	9.5	10.0	4.0	4.0	34.0	34.0
Idaho	290.0	300.0	40.0	40.0	320.0	300.0
Illinois	200.0	240.0	25.0	25.0	250.0	240.0
Indiana	115.0	108.0	18.0	17.0	196.0	190.0
Iowa	1,320.0	1,300.0	60.0	60.0	500.0	480.0
Kansas	2,010.0	2,050.0	90.0	95.0	690.0	695.0
Kentucky	225.0	210.0	70.0	70.0	470.0	500.0
Louisiana	22.0	25.0	30.0	31.0	153.0	155.0
Maine	3.5	4.0	1.5	1.5	15.0	15.5
Maryland	14.0	14.0	5.0	4.0	35.0	32.0
Massachusetts	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	7.0	7.0
Michigan	170.0	169.0	15.0	16.0	205.0	215.0
Minnesota	520.0	500.0	40.0	35.0	480.0	490.0
Mississippi	41.0	42.0	39.0	38.0	195.0	195.0
Missouri	440.0	460.0	115.0	120.0	930.0	980.0
Montana	230.0	230.0	105.0	100.0	125.0	130.0
Nebraska	2,340.0	2,290.0	95.0	110.0	315.0	290.0
Nevada	42.0	45.0	13.0	14.0	57.0	55.0
New Hampshire	1.5	1.5	0.5	0.5	6.5	6.5
New Jersey	2.0	2.1	1.0	1.0	4.5	4.4
New Mexico	120.0	120.0	35.0	35.0	185.0	185.0
New York	33.0	40.0	17.0	20.0	240.0	255.0
North Carolina	36.0	43.0	29.0	31.0	220.0	225.0
North Dakota	255.0	255.0	60.0	65.0	90.0	100.0
Ohio	200.0	220.0	25.0	30.0	245.0	245.0
Oklahoma	950.0	900.0	145.0	160.0	820.0	890.0
Oregon	170.0	155.0	40.0	40.0	170.0	170.0
Pennsylvania	140.0	160.0	25.0	25.0	295.0	285.0
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.8	0.7
South Carolina	12.0	8.0	14.0	15.0	75.0	82.0
South Dakota	780.0	740.0	95.0	100.0	270.0	260.0
Tennessee	145.0	135.0	60.0	65.0	415.0	410.0
Texas	2,560.0	2,590.0	320.0	340.0	1,890.0	2,000.0
Utah	90.0	80.0	25.0	27.0	85.0	83.0
Vermont	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	44.0	42.0
Virginia	160.0	165.0	40.0	40.0	365.0	365.0
Washington	170.0	190.0	18.0	18.0	152.0	147.0
West Virginia	36.0	39.0	15.0	15.0	72.0	77.0
Wisconsin	380.0	400.0	30.0	30.0	680.0	710.0
Wyoming	145.0	160.0	40.0	40.0	100.0	85.0
United States	16,315.4	16,353.5	2,142.4	2,233.6	14,076.7	14,386.3

Calf Crop – States and United States: 2015 and 2016

State	2015	2016	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Alabama	580.0	600.0	103
Alaska	3.5	4.0	114
Arizona	295.0	320.0	108
Arkansas	760.0	780.0	103
California	1,960.0	1,820.0	93
Colorado	800.0	830.0	104
Connecticut	19.5	18.5	95
Delaware	6.0	6.0	100
Florida	800.0	810.0	101
Georgia	490.0	490.0	100
Hawaii	60.0	59.0	98
Idaho	940.0	930.0	99
Illinois	415.0	410.0	99
Indiana	335.0	340.0	101
Iowa	1,060.0	1,090.0	103
Kansas	1,330.0	1,480.0	111
Kentucky	970.0	980.0	101
Louisiana	345.0	350.0	101
Maine	30.0	32.0	107
Maryland	75.0	68.0	91
Massachusetts	17.0	17.0	100
Michigan	390.0	410.0	105
Minnesota	770.0	800.0	104
Mississippi	400.0	380.0	95
Missouri	1,750.0	1,890.0	108
Montana	1,470.0	1,470.0	100
Nebraska	1,650.0	1,700.0	103
Nevada	200.0	200.0	100
New Hampshire	13.5	13.5	100
New Jersey	10.0	9.5	95
New Mexico	550.0	610.0	111
New York	530.0	560.0	106
North Carolina	360.0	370.0	103
North Dakota	830.0	910.0	110
Ohio	460.0	480.0	104
Oklahoma	1,730.0	1,870.0	108
Oregon	620.0	640.0	103
Pennsylvania	570.0	560.0	98
Rhode Island	2.2	2.2	100
South Carolina	140.0	148.0	106
South Dakota	1,650.0	1,690.0	102
Tennessee	850.0	840.0	99
Texas	4,050.0	4,250.0	105
Utah	390.0	380.0	97
Vermont	110.0	105.0	95
Virginia	650.0	650.0	100
Washington	420.0	430.0	102
West Virginia	190.0	200.0	105
Wisconsin	1,380.0	1,420.0	103
Wyoming	660.0	660.0	100
United States	34,086.7	35,082.7	103

All Cattle on Feed – States and United States: January 1, 2016 and 2017

[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 late placement in another feedlot. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by class]

State	2016	2017	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arizona	257.0	253.0	98
California	450.0	430.0	96
Colorado	910.0	940.0	103
Idaho	250.0	270.0	108
Illinois	240.0	260.0	108
Indiana	115.0	110.0	96
Iowa	1,230.0	1,160.0	94
Kansas	2,230.0	2,300.0	103
Kentucky	17.0	18.0	106
Maryland	9.0	9.0	100
Michigan	170.0	145.0	85
Minnesota	405.0	375.0	93
Missouri	100.0	110.0	110
Montana	50.0	45.0	90
Nebraska	2,520.0	2,470.0	98
Nevada	2.0	3.0	150
New York	16.0	20.0	125
North Dakota	55.0	50.0	91
Ohio	160.0	150.0	94
Oklahoma	280.0	310.0	111
Oregon	75.0	85.0	113
Pennsylvania	85.0	95.0	112
South Dakota	435.0	380.0	87
Texas	2,440.0	2,430.0	100
Utah	27.0	20.0	74
Virginia	22.0	20.0	91
Washington	195.0	190.0	97
West Virginia	4.0	4.0	100
Wisconsin	275.0	270.0	98
Wyoming	70.0	75.0	107
Other States ¹	63.0	70.0	111
United States	13,157.0	13,067.0	99

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, 2016 and 2017

States	2016	2017	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas	1,900.0	1,800.0	95

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

Period	2015		2016	
	Number	Percent of total	Number	Percent of total
	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
January 1 - June 30	24,650.0	72.3	25,550.0	72.8
July 1 - December 31	9,436.7	27.7	9,532.7	27.2
Total	34,086.7	100.0	35,082.7	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 38,000 operators during the first half of January by mail, telephone, internet, and face-to-face personal interviews and 69 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 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 93.6 million head by more than 0.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.1 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 469,000 head, ranging from 70,000 to 796,000 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	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(number)	(number)
All cattle and calves	0.6	1.1	469	70	796	6	4
All cows and heifers that have calved	0.6	1.1	191	42	405	6	4
Calf crop	0.9	1.6	240	44	602	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.

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Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
David Colwell – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-8784
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Michael Klamm – 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

Access to NASS Reports

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- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov
- 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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