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2006 LIVESTOCK INVENTORY UP, USDA REPORTS Cattle, Sheep and Goat Numbers on the Rise

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27, 2006 – U.S. farmers report an increase in the number of cattle, sheep and goats as of Jan. 1, according to the *Cattle* inventory report and *Sheep and Goats* inventory report released today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

Inventory of all cattle and calves in the United States totaled 97.1 million head, up 2 percent from 95.4 million a year ago. This increase represents the second straight year of herd expansion after nearly a decade of declining cattle inventories.

The all cows inventory reached the highest level since 2001, totaling 42.3 million head – 1 percent above last year's total of 41.9 million. Of the total cow inventory, beef cows accounted for 33.3 million and milk cows 9.06 million.

A similar increase was reported for the total U.S. sheep and lamb inventory. At 6.23 million head, the all sheep and lamb count was up 2 percent from 2005. All sheep and lamb inventory increased for the second consecutive year, marking the first year-to-year increase since 1987-1988.

The all goat inventory in the United States, reported to be 2.83 million head, rose 4 percent from 2.72 million in 2005. Inventory of meat goats and all other goats experienced the largest percentage of growth, increasing 5 percent from last year, to 2.26 million head.

The complete January *Cattle* inventory report is available online at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/PUBS/TODAYRPT/cat10106.txt>. This biannual report contains inventory data for all cattle and calves by class, state and U.S. totals.

The full *Sheep and Goat* inventory report is available at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/PUBS/TODAYRPT/shep0106.txt>. This annual report contains the number of sheep and lambs by class, lamb crop, sheep shorn, wool production and wool price and value. It also includes the number of angora, milk and meat goats, goats clipped, mohair production and mohair price and values.

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