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All Cattle and Calves, Beef Cows and Milk Cows

This report continues the livestock county estimates data series for all cattle, beef cows, and milk cows. Data for this report is obtained from the National January 1 Cattle Inventory Survey and supplemented by the Livestock County Estimates Survey that was mailed to all cattle operations in the state excluded from the National survey.

Herd rebuilding continued in 2007 with the cattle inventory in Colorado up 2 percent to 2.75 million head as of January 1, 2008 and the beef cow inventory, at 730,000 head, up 1%, as of January 1, 2008. This current beef cow inventory is up 8 percent from two years ago but still down 13 percent from 2001 when state estimates for beef cows began.

Weld County, with 585,000 head of all cattle and calves on hand as of January 1, 2008, remained the leading cattle county in the state with 21 percent of the state's total inventory. Weld County has a number of large commercial feedlots and large dairy operations which contributes to its leading cattle county ranking. Weld County far surpassed any other county in Colorado in the number of milk cows with 68,000, or 57 percent of the total 120,000 milk cows in the state. **Yuma County** and **Morgan County** are the second and third for all cattle and calf inventory in the state with 280,000 and 245,500 head, respectively. Like **Weld County**, both **Yuma County** and **Morgan County** are home to several large commercial feedlots and dairy operations. **Logan County** is ranked fourth in Colorado in all cattle inventory, at 205,000 head, followed by **Kit Carson County** at 161,500 head. **Prowers County**, with 108,500 head, was the only other county in the state with 100,000 or more cattle and calves and was the sixth largest cattle county in the state. The counties of **Washington** (76,500 head), **Otero** (76,000 head), **Crowley** (71,500) and **Baca** (56,000 head) complete the list of the top ten counties in the state for all cattle and calves.

Yuma County has the state's largest inventory of beef cows with 51,500 head, or 7 percent of the state total of 730,000 head. **Weld County** continues to have the second largest number of beef cows, at 47,000, or 6 percent of the total. **Las Animas County**, **Washington County**, and **Morgan County** are third, fourth and fifth in the number of beef cows at 36,000 head, 30,000 head, and 29,000 head, respectively. Rounding out the top ten counties in beef cows are **Logan County** with 27,500 head, **Pueblo County** with 26,000 head, **Elbert** and **Lincoln County** with 25,000 head each and **Mesa County** with 23,000 head.

The January 1, 2008 inventory in the top ten counties totaled 1,865,500 head of all cattle and calves and represented nearly 68 percent of the total cattle inventory in the state. The top ten counties with beef cows had a combined inventory of 320,000 head, representing 44 percent of the state's total inventory of 730,000 head.

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All Cattle and Calves, Beef Cows and Milk Cows: Inventory by County and District, Colorado

County and District	All Cattle and Calves		Beef Cows		Milk Cows	
	January 1, 2007	January 1, 2008	January 1, 2007	January 1, 2008	January 1, 2007	January 1, 2008
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Chaffee	6,000	6,000	4,000	4,000	...	...
Eagle	6,000	6,000	4,000	4,500	...	...
Grand	20,000	13,500	12,000	9,500	...	...
Gunnison	19,000	20,000	11,000	11,000	...	...
Jackson	33,500	30,000	18,000	17,500	...	...
Moffat	32,000	29,000	23,000	19,000	...	...
Park	7,000	8,000	5,000	5,500	...	...
Pitkin	1,500	2,000	1,000	1,500	...	...
Rio Blanco	25,000	24,000	17,000	18,500	...	...
Routt	21,000	21,000	12,000	15,000	...	...
Summit	2,000	2,000	500	500	...	...
Teller	2,000	2,500	1,500	1,500	...	...
NW & Mountain	175,000	164,000	109,000	108,000	...	...
Boulder	8,500	10,000	4,000	5,000	...	...
Jefferson	1,500	2,000	1,000	1,500	...	...
Larimer	35,000	42,000	9,000	10,000	11,000	12,000
Logan	186,000	205,000	32,000	27,500	...	...
Morgan	268,000	245,500	28,000	29,000	20,000	22,000
Sedgwick	12,000	10,500	5,000	6,000	...	...
Weld	549,000	585,000	49,000	47,000	65,500	68,000
Other Counties	...	...	...	...	1,500	1,000
Northeast	1,060,000	1,100,000	128,000	126,000	98,000	103,000
Adams	10,000	9,500	2,500	3,000	...	...
Arapahoe	8,500	9,000	5,000	5,500	...	...
Cheyenne	20,500	20,000	10,000	11,000	...	...
Douglas	3,000	2,500	1,500	1,500	...	...
Elbert	42,000	42,000	24,000	25,000	...	...
El Paso	26,000	23,000	16,000	15,500	...	...
Kiowa	14,000	15,000	9,000	8,500	...	...
Kit Carson	159,000	161,500	20,000	20,500	...	...
Lincoln	42,000	39,000	24,000	25,000	...	...
Phillips	32,500	32,000	4,000	3,000	...	...
Washington	75,500	76,500	27,000	30,000	...	...
Yuma	272,000	280,000	51,000	51,500	...	...
Other Counties	...	...	...	...	8,500	9,000
East Central	705,000	710,000	194,000	200,000	8,500	9,000
Archuleta	3,000	4,000	2,000	2,500	...	...
Delta	22,000	22,500	13,000	12,500	1,300	1,300
Dolores	4,000	6,000	3,000	4,000	...	...
Garfield	20,500	18,000	13,000	13,500	...	...
Hinsdale	1,000	1,000	500	500	...	...
La Plata	20,500	23,500	12,000	11,500	...	...
Mesa	56,000	50,000	22,000	23,000	...	...
Montezuma	16,000	16,500	11,000	11,000	...	...
Montrose	45,000	51,000	18,000	17,500	...	...
Ouray	6,000	6,500	3,000	4,000	...	...
San Miguel	6,000	6,000	3,500	4,000	...	...
Other Counties	...	...	...	...	3,200	3,200
Southwest	200,000	205,000	101,000	104,000	4,500	4,500
Alamosa	8,500	7,500	5,000	4,500	...	...
Conejos	24,000	29,000	16,000	17,500	...	...
Costilla	6,000	7,000	4,000	4,000	...	...
Rio Grande	13,500	12,500	9,000	8,000	...	...
Saguache	18,000	19,000	11,000	13,000	...	...
San Luis Valley	70,000	75,000	45,000	47,000	...	...
Baca	63,000	56,000	23,000	16,500	...	...
Bent	49,000	52,500	15,000	13,000	...	...
Crowley	63,000	71,500	6,000	6,000	...	...
Custer	6,000	5,000	4,000	3,500	...	...
Fremont	11,000	11,500	5,000	4,500	2,400	2,100
Huerfano	13,000	15,000	7,000	8,500	...	...
Las Animas	52,000	55,500	37,000	36,000	...	...
Otero	77,000	76,000	14,000	15,500	...	...
Prowers	119,000	108,500	16,000	15,500	...	...
Pueblo	37,000	44,500	21,000	26,000	...	...
Other Counties	...	...	...	...	1,100	900
Southeast	490,000	496,000	148,000	145,000	3,500	3,000
Other Districts	...	...	...	...	500	500
State Total	2,700,000	2,750,000	725,000	730,000	115,000	120,000