



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



News Release

Cooperating with the Montana Department of Agriculture
10 W 15th Street, Suite 3100 · Helena, MT 59626

2007 Number of Livestock Operations

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The number of cattle operations in Montana during 2007 was 12,400, up 200 from last year, according to USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, Montana Field Office. The number of beef cow operations was unchanged from 2006 at 11,000. Milk cow operations decreased from 600 to 550 in 2007. Operations that have one or more head of cattle, beef, or milk cows are included in the number of operations.

Only cattle and beef cow operations are published by size group for Montana. By size group, the largest cattle operation category is 1-49 head with 5,500 operations, accounting for 3.5 percent of the total inventory. The second largest category is 100-499 head, with 3,800 operations or 37.0 percent of the total inventory. There are 1,850 operations with 50-99 head, accounting for 5.5 percent of the total inventory. The two remaining size groups, 500-999 head with 900 operations, and 1,000+ head with 350 operations, represent 25.0 and 29.0 percent of the inventory, respectively.

By size group, the largest number of beef cow operations is the 1-49 head category with 5,100 operations, accounting for 5.8 percent of the beef cow inventory. The second largest category is 100-499 head with 3,700 operations, and accounts for 56.0 percent of the beef cow inventory. There are 1,720 operations having 50-99 head with 8.2 percent of the total inventory. The remaining size group is 500+ head with 480 operations, representing 30.0 percent of the total inventory.

There were 500 operations with hogs in Montana during 2007, unchanged from 2006. The number of sheep operations rose by 100 from last year to 1,700 operations.

In the United States, the number of operations with cattle totaled 971,400 during 2006, down 1 percent from 2005 and 2 percent below 2004. Beef cow operations in 2006 were down 1 percent from 2005 and 2 percent below 2004. Milk cow operations were 4 percent below last year and 8 percent below two years ago.

The number of operations with hogs totaled 65,540 during 2006, down 3 percent from 2005 and 6 percent from 2004. Places with 2,000 or more head accounted for 80 percent of the inventory.

The number of operations with sheep totaled 69,090 during 2006, up 1 percent from 2005 and up 2 percent from 2004. Of all sheep operations that include breeding sheep, 90.8 percent were comprised of 1-99 head, 7.6 percent had 100-499 head, and the remaining 1.6 percent were operations with 500 head or more. Operations with 1-99 head account for 28.7 percent of the inventory, 100-499 head account for 24.0 percent of the inventory, and 500+ head account for 47.3 percent of the inventory.

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