



# News Release

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## ***SOUTH DAKOTA CATTLE INVENTORY DOWN***

**SIoux FALLS, February 2, 2007 -- All cattle and calves** in South Dakota as of January 1, 2007 totaled 3.70 million head, down from last year's 3.75 million head, according to the South Dakota office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. This year's inventory level is down 1 percent from last year but unchanged from two years ago.

**All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 1.75 million head, were down 3 percent from the 1.80 million head on January 1, 2006.

**Beef cows that have calved** totaled 1.67 million head on January 1, down 50,000 from a year ago. Drought conditions last summer have caused farmers and ranchers to reduce the beef cow herd to its lowest level since 1998.

**Other classes** and their changes from a year ago are:

- **Milk cows**, at 81,000 head, unchanged from last year.
- **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, at 880,000 head, up from 840,000 head on January 1, 2006.
- **Steers** 500 pounds and over, at 700,000 head, unchanged from a year earlier.
- **Calves** under 500 pounds, at 285,000 head, down from 320,000 head a year earlier.

**Calves born** during 2006 totaled 1,720,000 head, unchanged from a year earlier.

Total **cattle on feed** for the slaughter market in South Dakota on January 1, 2007 numbered 420,000 head. This is up 20,000 head, 5 percent, from one year ago.

*Access this complete report at:*

<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/usda/nass/Catt/2000s/2007/Catt-02-02-2007.pdf>