

U.S. Cattle Inventory Down One Percent

As of July 1, 2009, the U.S. inventory of cattle and calves totaled 101.8 million head, down from 103.3 million a year ago. The number of milk cows was 9.2 million, down 2 percent from July 1, 2008. Milk replacement heifers were unchanged from a year ago, at 3.90 million head. The number of both beef cows and beef replacement heifers was down in 2009, compared to 2008. Beef cows were down 1 percent to 32.2 million head. Heifers for beef cow replacement were down 2 percent to 4.5 million. The calf crop for 2009 is expected to decrease 1 percent to 35.6 million head. The number of cattle on feed dropped 5 percent to 11.6 million.