U.S. Cattle Inventory Down Slightly

As of July 1, 2008, the U.S. inventory of cattle and calves totaled 104 million head, down 500,000 from a year ago. The number of milk cows was 9.25 million, up 1 percent from July 1, 2007. 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 2008, compared to 2007. Beef cows were down 1 percent to 33.2 million head. Heifers for beef cow replacement were down 2 percent to 4.6 million. The calf crop for 2008 is expected to decrease slightly to 37.3 million head. The number of cattle on feed dropped 5 percent to 11.7 million.