

COLORADO

Cattle & Sheep Inventory



SPECIAL PRESS RELEASE

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Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service
P.O. Box 150969
Lakewood, CO 80215
Phone (303) 236-2300

CATTLE INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 2003

COLORADO

The January 1, 2003 inventory of all cattle and calves in Colorado totaled 2.65 million head, down 400,000 head from January 1, 2002 to the lowest all cattle inventory since 1987. Beef cows, at 702,000 head, are down 95,000 from the previous year to the lowest level since 1957. The extreme drought in the state this year caused considerable movement of cattle off numerous farms and ranches with many of them going to greener pastures in other states. Milk cows are up 5,000 from last year to 98,000 head and the highest January 1 number since 1968.

Other class estimates as of January 1, 2003 and percent changes from 2002 were as follows: Beef replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, down 15 percent from last year to 102,000; milk replacement heifers 500 pounds and over, down 5 percent to 38,000 head; other heifers 500 pounds and over, down 13 percent to 650,000; steers 500 pounds and over, down 14 percent to 870,000; bulls 500 pounds and over, down 11 percent to 40,000; and calves under 500 pounds, down 23 percent to 150,000 head. The total inventory included 1,040,000 head of cattle and calves on feed, which was down 14 percent from January 1, 2002.

Colorado's 2002 calf crop was down just two percent from last year to 820,000. However, many of the calves were moved out of state with the mother cows during the summer. The number of operations with cattle in Colorado during 2002 totaled 14,300, down from 14,600 operations in 2001. Of that total, 450 operations having 1,000 or more head accounted for 53 percent of the total inventory. The number of beef cow operations, at 10,500 for 2002, was down nearly 5 percent from a year earlier. The number of milk cow operations, at 780, was down 2.5 percent. There are just 50 operations in the state that account for nearly two thirds of the total milk cows and milk production for the state.

UNITED STATES

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2003, totaled 96.1 million head, 1 percent below the 96.7 million on January 1, 2002 and 1 percent below the 97.3 million two years ago. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.1 million, were down slightly from the 42.2 million on January 1, 2002 and down 1 percent from the 42.6 million two years ago. Beef cows, at 32.95 million, were down 1 percent from both January 1, 2002 and January 1, 2001. Milk cows, at 9.15 million, were up slightly from January 1, 2002 but down slightly from two years ago.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2003 and the change from January 1, 2002, are as follows: All heifers 500 pounds and over, 19.6 million, down slightly. Beef replacement heifers, 5.61 million, up 1 percent. Milk replacement heifers, 4.10 million, up 1 percent. Other heifers, 9.89 million, down 2 percent. Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.6 million, down 1 percent. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.25 million, up slightly. Calves under 500 pounds, 15.6 million, down 1 percent. Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter in all feedlots, 12.9 million, down 7 percent. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds outside of feedlots, 29.1 million, up 1 percent.

The 2002 calf crop was estimated at 38.2 million head, down slightly from 2001 and down 1 percent from 2000. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.9 million, down 1 percent from 2001 and down 2 percent from 2000.

The number of operations with cattle totaled 1.03 million during 2002, down 2 percent from 2001 and 4 percent below 2000. Beef cow operations in 2002 were down 1 percent from 2001 and 3 percent below 2000. Milk cow operations were 6 percent below last year and 13 percent below two years ago. The three operation classes: cattle, beef cows, and milk cows, are classified into size groups independently. Therefore, it is possible to have more beef cow operations in a particular size group than cattle operations. As an example, an operator with 75 cattle and 40 beef cows would be classified in the 50-99 size group for cattle and the 1-49 size group for beef cows.

ISSUED COOPERATIVELY BY:
COLORADO AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
and
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SHEEP & LAMB INVENTORY JANUARY 1, 2003

COLORADO

The January 1, 2003 inventory of all sheep and lambs in Colorado totaled 370,000 head, unchanged from the number on hand as of January 1, 2002. The number of breeding sheep and lambs was down 10 percent to 185,000 head while the number of market sheep and lambs increased 12 percent to 185,000. There was a 17 percent decline in the number of replacement lambs to 24,000 head. The number of ewes one year old and older declined 9 percent to 155,000 head, while the number of rams one year old and older remained unchanged from last year at 6,000. Of the 185,000 head of market sheep and lambs, 1,000 head were market sheep and 184,000 head were market lambs. There were 2,000 lambs weighing less than 65 pounds this year, the same number as a year earlier; 5,000 were in the 65-84 pound weight group, also the same as the previous year; 30,000 weighed 85-105 pounds compared with 17,000 last year; and 147,000 weighed over 105 pounds compared with the 140,000 head in this weight group on January 1, 2002.

The 2002 lamb crop, at 200,000 head, was up 5 percent from the 2001 lamb crop of 190,000. The number of operations with sheep in Colorado for 2002 was down 100 from the previous year to 1,900.

Wool production in Colorado during 2002 totaled 3.07 million pounds, down slightly from 3.08 million pounds produced in 2001. The number of all sheep and lambs shorn, at 460,000 head, was up 7 percent from 430,000 head shorn a year earlier. The value of wool production for 2002 totaled \$1.75 million, up 72 percent from a year earlier as producers received 57 cents per pound of wool sold compared with 33 cents per pound the previous year.

UNITED STATES

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on January 1, 2003, totaled 6.35 million head, down 5 percent from 2002 and 9 percent below two years ago. The inventory has trended down since peaking at 56.2 million head in 1942.

Breeding sheep inventory declined to 4.68 million head on January 1, 2003, down 5 percent from 4.91 million head on January 1, 2002. Ewes one year old and older, at 3.79 million head, were 5 percent below last year.

Market sheep and lambs on January 1, 2003, totaled 1.67 million head, down 6 percent from January 1, 2002. Market lambs comprised 96 percent of the total. Twenty-six percent were lambs under 65 pounds, 17 percent were 65 - 84 pounds, 24 percent 85 - 105 pounds, 29 percent were over 105 pounds, and 4 percent were market sheep.

The 2002 lamb crop of 4.36 million head was down 3 percent from 2001 and established a new record low. The 2002 lambing rate was 110 per 100 ewes one year old and older on January 1, 2002, unchanged from 2001.

The number of operations with sheep during 2002 totaled 64,170, down 1 percent from 2001 and 3 percent from 2000.

Shorn wool production in the United States during 2002 was 41.2 million pounds, down 4 percent from 2001. Sheep and lambs shorn totaled 5.45 million head, down 4 percent from 2001. The average price paid for wool sold in 2002 was \$0.53 per pound for a total value of \$21.8 million dollars, up 42 percent from \$15.3 million dollars in 2001.