

# ***LIVESTOCK***

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## ***CATTLE AND CALVES***

Inventory of all cattle and calves in New Mexico as of January 1, 2002 remained steady at 1.58 million head. Beef cow inventory fell 7.8 percent from January 2001, to 500,000 head. Ranchers maintained 100,000 heifers for beef cow replacement, 5 percent higher than the previous year's total of 95,000. New Mexico continues to see a continued growth in milk cow numbers as the January 1, 2002 milk cow inventory increased 11 percent from the previous year, totaling 290,000 head. Dairy producers kept 60,000 dairy heifers for replacement, 9.1 percent above the 2000 total. The inventory of steers weighing 500 pounds and over increased 20,000 head from previous year to 200,000. Bulls on hand remained steady at 50,000 head. The 2001 calf crop, including both beef and dairy calves, was estimated at 610,000 head, the same as a year earlier. Calves on hand totaled 270,000 head. Cattle and calves on full feed for the slaughter market on January 1, 2001 fell to 108,000 head, 7,000 fewer than a year earlier. Although gross income from cattle and calves declined by 12 percent from 2000, to \$812 million, 2001 still remained one of the highest years on record.

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## ***RANGE AND PASTURE FEED***

Springtime emerged with range and pastures conditions rated in mostly poor to fair conditions. As summer progressed conditions began to decline. Supplemental feeding began early and by July ranchers were hauling water for livestock as range conditions deteriorated. Ranges throughout the state began to receive moisture in August but was spotty and not enough to improve conditions. Pastures showed improvement ranging from mostly poor to poor but rain percentages remained below normal for much of the state. Conditions again deteriorated in the fall as warmer temperatures

and lack of rain decreased the amount of feed available on pastures. Due to the dry pasture conditions marketings began earlier than usual. Insect infestations took its toll in early fall devouring much of the winter forage. By late October 62% of the pastureland was rated in very poor to poor condition.

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## ***DAIRY***

The dairy industry in New Mexico continues its growth pattern with milk cow numbers increasing as well as milk production reaching higher levels. The number of milk cows during the year averaged 268,000 head, up 7 percent from 2000. Milk production in 2001 was again at a record high 5.6 billion pounds, up 6 percent from a year earlier when 5.24 billion pounds were produced. Milk production per cow, at 20,750 pounds, was down 194 pounds from last year. Among the 20 major milk producing states, New Mexico ranked 5<sup>th</sup> in milk production per cow and 7<sup>th</sup> in total milk production. The 2001 year marks the first year milk has taken over the #1 spot for New Mexico Cash Receipts.

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## ***SHEEP AND LAMBS***

Sheep and lambs inventory as of January 1, 2001 totaled 230,000 head, down 11 percent from a year earlier. The number of breeding sheep decreased 15,000 head to 185,000 head during the year. Market sheep and lambs dropped 18 percent to 45,000 head. The 2001 lamb crop, at 140,000 head, was 11 percent below the previous year. Producer gross income decreased 32 percent to \$8.6 million. Wool was sheared from 235,000 sheep and lambs, producing 1.9 million pounds. Value of wool produced, dropped 4.8 percent to \$1.32 million, as the average price of wool increased to 70 cents per pound.