



USDA
South Dakota
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

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South Dakota CATTLE INVENTORY

News Release

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SOUTH DAKOTA CATTLE INVENTORY DROPS

SIoux FALLS, January 30, 2004 – All cattle and calves in South Dakota as of January 1, 2004 totaled 3.65 million head, down from last year's 3.70 million head, according to USDA's South Dakota Agricultural Statistics Service. This is down 1 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 1.79 million head, were up slightly from the 1.78 million head on January 1, 2003. Other classes and their changes from a year ago are:

- ! **Beef cows**, at 1.711 million head, up 1 percent from last year's 1.696 million head.
- ! **Milk cows**, at 79,000 head, down 5,000 head from last year.
- ! **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, at 795,000 head, up slightly from 790,000 head in January 2003.
- ! **Steers** 500 pounds and over, at 670,000 head, down 8 percent from 730,000 head a year earlier.
- ! **Calves** under 500 pounds, at 305,000 head, down 2 percent from 310,000 head a year earlier.

Calves born during 2003 totaled 1,730,000 head, down 6 percent from 1,840,000 a year earlier.

Total **cattle on feed** for slaughter market in South Dakota on January 1, 2004 numbered 375,000 head. This is down 5 percent from the 395,000 head on feed a year earlier.

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