



# FACT SHEET

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250

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## U.S. Dairy and Beef Cattle Facts

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### **Cattle Inventory (As of January 1, 2012)**

- United States all cattle inventory (beef and dairy) totaled 90.77 million.
- California accounted for 5.35 million head of cattle.
- Milk cows totaled 9.23 million head nationwide.
- California reported 1.78 million milk cows, accounting for 19.3 percent of the nation’s inventory.

The top five states for all cattle, beef cows and milk cows are:

All Cattle	Beef Cows	Milk Cows
1. Texas	1. Texas	1. California
2. Nebraska	2. Nebraska	2. Wisconsin
3. Kansas	3. Missouri	3. New York
4. California	4. Oklahoma	4. Idaho
5. Oklahoma	5. South Dakota	5. Pennsylvania

### **Cattle Slaughter**

- In 2011, federally inspected facilities slaughtered a total of 33.55 million head of cattle in the United States.
- In California, a total of 1.76 million head of cattle were slaughtered in 2011 by 22 federally inspected plants.

### **Dairy Operations**

- In 2011, there were 60,000 operations with at least 1 milk cow in the United States.
- In 2011, there were 51,481 licensed dairy herds in the United States and 1,675 in California.
- According to the most recent Census of Agriculture, there are 2,200 milk cow operations in California.

## **Milk Production**

- According to the latest Milk Production report, as of March 2012, there were 1.79 million milk cows in California producing 3.81 million pounds of milk.

Based on the April Milk Production report, the top five milk cow states ranked by number of milk cows and production are:

<b>Top Five Milk Cow States</b>
1. California
2. Wisconsin
3. New York
4. Idaho
5. Pennsylvania

## **For More Information – Find NASS Data Online**

[Cattle Report](#), Released January 27, 2012

[Farm, Land in Farms, and Livestock Operations Report](#), Released February 17, 2012

[Livestock Slaughter Report](#), Released April 20, 2012

[Milk Production](#), Released April 19, 2012

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