



Iowa Ag News – Cattle & Calves

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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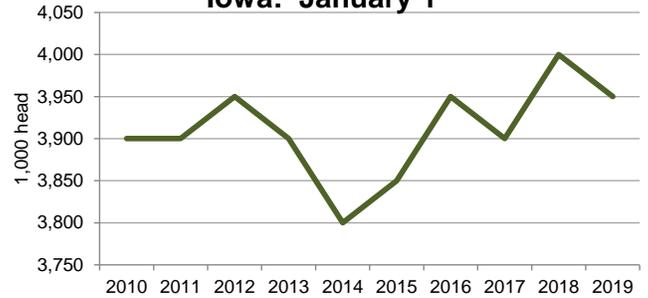
All cattle and calves in Iowa as of January 1, 2019, totaled 3.95 million head, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Cattle* report. This was down 50,000 head from January 1, 2018. **Beef cows**, at 950,000 head, were unchanged from last year. **Milk cow** inventory was also unchanged at 220,000 head.

All heifers 500 pounds and over were down 1 percent to 845,000 head. **Heifers for beef cow replacement** were down 3 percent from 2018 to 160,000 head; **heifers for milk cow replacement**, at 125,000 head, were down 7 percent from the previous year; and **all other heifers** were up 2 percent to 560,000 head.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over were down 2 percent from last year at 1.36 million head. **Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over** remained at 70,000 head. **Calves under 500 pounds** on January 1, 2019, totaled 505,000 head, down 3 percent from last year.

The 2018 **calf crop** was estimated at 1.11 million head, up 2 percent from the 2017 calf crop. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1, 2018, totaled 1.32 million head, up 2 percent from one year ago.

**All Cattle and Calves Inventory
Iowa: January 1**



Cattle and Calves, Number by Class – Iowa and United States: January 1, 2018 and 2019

Class	Iowa			United States		
	2018	2019	2019 as % of 2018	2018	2019	2019 as % of 2018
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves	4,000	3,950	99	94,298	94,760	100
All cows that have calved	1,170	1,170	100	40,898	41,119	101
Beef cows	950	950	100	31,466	31,766	101
Milk cows	220	220	100	9,432	9,353	99
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	165	160	97	6,108	5,925	97
For milk cow replacement	135	125	93	4,768	4,702	99
Other heifers	550	560	102	9,341	9,604	103
Steers 500 pounds and over	1,390	1,360	98	16,528	16,633	101
Bulls 500 pounds and over	70	70	100	2,252	2,263	100
Calves under 500 pounds	520	505	97	14,401	14,515	101
Cattle on feed ¹	1,300	1,320	102	14,146	14,371	102

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes.

Calf Crop – Iowa and United States: 2017 and 2018

	Iowa			United States		
	2017	2018	2018 as % of 2017	2017	2018	2018 as % of 2017
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Calf crop	1,090	1,110	102	35,758	36,403	102

United States Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2019 totaled 94.8 million head, slightly above the 94.3 million head on January 1, 2018.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.1 million head, were 1 percent above the 40.9 million head on January 1, 2018. Beef cows, at 31.8 million head, were up 1 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.35 million head, were down 1 percent from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2019 totaled 20.2 million head, slightly above the 20.2 million head on January 1, 2018. Beef replacement heifers, at 5.92 million head, were down 3 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.70 million head, were down 1 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.60 million head, were 3 percent above a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2019 totaled 16.6 million head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2018.

Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2019 totaled 2.26 million head, up slightly from January 1, 2018.

Calves under 500 pounds as of January 1, 2019 totaled 14.5 million head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2018.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.4 million head on January 1, 2019. The inventory is up 2 percent from the January 1, 2018 total of 14.1 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head accounted for 81.3 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2019, up slightly from the previous year. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds (outside of feedlots) is 26.4 million head. This is 1 percent above January 1, 2018.

The 2018 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 36.4 million head, up 2 percent from last year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2018 were estimated at 26.6 million head, up 3 percent from the first half of 2017. Calves born during the second half of 2018 were estimated at 9.80 million head, 27 percent of the total 2018 calf crop.

All Cattle and Calves Inventory – United States: January 1

Million head

