



# Iowa Ag News – Cattle & Calves

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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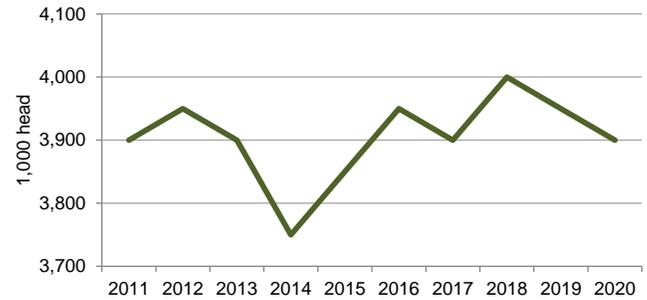
**All cattle and calves** in Iowa as of January 1, 2020, totaled 3.90 million head, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Cattle* report. This was down 50,000 head from January 1, 2019. **Beef cows**, at 905,000 head, were down 25,000 head from last year. **Milk cow** inventory was down 5,000 head at 215,000 head.

**All heifers 500 pounds and over** were up 5 percent to 880,000 head. **Heifers for beef cow replacement** were down 6 percent from 2019 to 145,000 head; **heifers for milk cow replacement**, at 115,000 head, were down 8 percent from the previous year; and **all other heifers** were up 11 percent to 620,000 head.

**Steers weighing 500 pounds and over** were down 5 percent from last year at 1.32 million head. **Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over** decreased 10,000 head to 60,000 head. **Calves under 500 pounds** on January 1, 2020, totaled 520,000 head, up 4 percent from last year.

The 2019 **calf crop** was estimated at 1.08 million head, down 3 percent from the 2018 calf crop. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1, 2020, totaled 1.29 million head, down 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, 2019 and 2020

Class	Iowa			United States		
	2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019	2019	2020	2020 as % of 2019
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves .....	3,950	3,900	99	94,805	94,413	100
All cows that have calved .....	1,150	1,120	97	41,044	40,651	99
Beef cows .....	930	905	97	31,691	31,317	99
Milk cows .....	220	215	98	9,353	9,335	100
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement .....	155	145	94	5,885	5,772	98
For milk cow replacement .....	125	115	92	4,702	4,637	99
Other heifers .....	560	620	111	9,624	9,706	101
Steers 500 pounds and over .....	1,390	1,320	95	16,758	16,671	99
Bulls 500 pounds and over .....	70	60	86	2,253	2,237	99
Calves under 500 pounds .....	500	520	104	14,540	14,739	101
Cattle on feed <sup>1</sup> .....	1,320	1,290	98	14,368	14,668	102

<sup>1</sup> 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: 2018 and 2019

	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)
Calf crop .....	1,110	1,080	97	36,313	36,060	99

## United States Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2020, totaled 94.4 million head, slightly below the 94.8 million head on January 1, 2019.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 40.7 million head, were 1 percent below the 41.0 million head on January 1, 2019. Beef cows, at 31.3 million head, were down 1 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.33 million head, were down slightly from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2020, totaled 20.1 million head, slightly below the 20.2 million head on January 1, 2019. Beef replacement heifers, at 5.77 million head, were down 2 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.64 million head, were down 1 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.71 million head, were 1 percent above a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2020, totaled 16.7 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2019.

Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2020, totaled 2.24 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2019.

Calves under 500 pounds as of January 1, 2020, totaled 14.7 million head, up 1 percent from January 1, 2019.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.7 million head on January 1, 2020. The inventory is up 2 percent from the January 1, 2019, total of 14.4 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head accounted for 81.5 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2020, 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) at 26.4 million head, was slightly below January 1, 2019.

The 2019 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 36.1 million head, down 1 percent from last year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2019 were estimated at 26.4 million head, down slightly from the first half of 2018. Calves born during the second half of 2019 were estimated at 9.71 million head, 27 percent of the total 2019 calf crop.

### All Cattle and Calves Inventory – United States: January 1

