



Iowa Ag News – Cattle & Calves

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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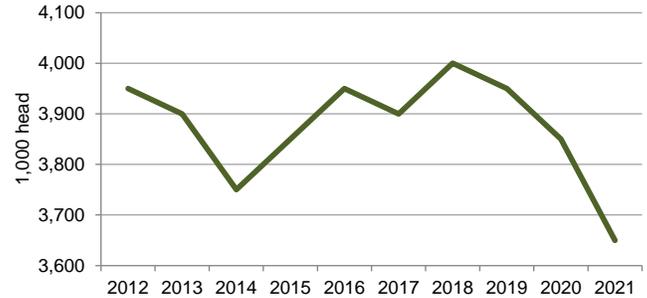
All cattle and calves in Iowa as of January 1, 2021, totaled 3.65 million head, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Cattle* report. This was down 200,000 head from January 1, 2020. **Beef cows**, at 890,000 head, were down 15,000 head from last year. **Milk cow** inventory was up 5,000 head to 220,000 head.

All heifers 500 pounds and over were down 7% to 800,000 head. **Heifers for beef cow replacement** were up 7% from 2020 to 155,000 head; **heifers for milk cow replacement**, at 125,000 head, were up 9% from the previous year; and **all other heifers** were down 13% to 520,000 head.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over were down 7% from last year at 1.21 million head. **Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over** remained the same at 60,000 head. **Calves under 500 pounds** on January 1, 2021, totaled 470,000 head, down 8% from last year.

The 2020 **calf crop** was estimated at 1.03 million head, down 5% from the 2019 calf crop. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1, 2021 totaled 1.17 million head, down 9% from one year ago.

All Cattle and Calves Inventory Iowa: January 1



Cattle and Calves, Number by Class – Iowa and United States: January 1, 2020 and 2021

Class	Iowa			United States		
	2020 (1,000 head)	2021 (1,000 head)	2021 as % of 2020 (percent)	2020 (1,000 head)	2021 (1,000 head)	2021 as % of 2020 (percent)
All cattle and calves	3,850	3,650	95	93,793	93,595	100
All cows that have calved	1,120	1,110	99	40,681	40,598	100
Beef cows	905	890	98	31,339	31,158	99
Milk cows	215	220	102	9,343	9,440	101
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	145	155	107	5,809	5,812	100
For milk cow replacement	115	125	109	4,684	4,605	98
Other heifers	600	520	87	9,532	9,584	101
Steers 500 pounds and over	1,300	1,210	93	16,541	16,598	100
Bulls 500 pounds and over	60	60	100	2,237	2,211	99
Calves under 500 pounds	510	470	92	14,309	14,188	99
Cattle on feed ¹	1,290	1,170	91	14,658	14,707	100

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: 2019 and 2020

	Iowa			United States		
	2019 (1,000 head)	2020 (1,000 head)	2020 as % of 2019 (percent)	2019 (1,000 head)	2020 (1,000 head)	2020 as % of 2019 (percent)
Calf crop	1,080	1,030	95	35,592	35,136	99

United States Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2021, totaled 93.6 million head, slightly below the 93.8 million head on January 1, 2020.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 40.6 million head, were slightly below the 40.7 million head on January 1, 2020. Beef cows, at 31.2 million head, were down 1% from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.44 million head, were up 1% from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2021, totaled 20.0 million head, slightly below the 20.0 million head on January 1, 2020. Beef replacement heifers, at 5.81 million head, were up slightly from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.60 million head, were down 2% from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.58 million head, were 1% above a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2021, totaled 16.6 million head, up slightly from January 1, 2020.

Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2021, totaled 2.21 million head, down 1% from January 1, 2020.

Calves under 500 pounds as of January 1, 2021, totaled 14.2 million head, down 1% from January 1, 2020.

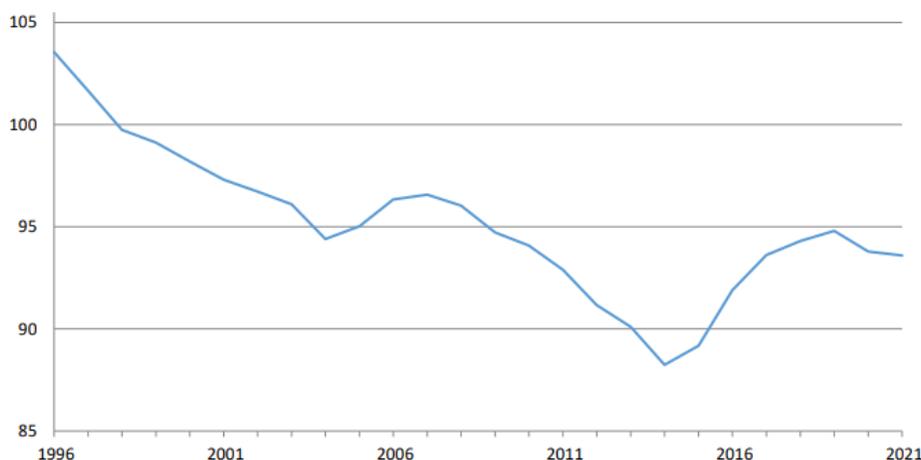
Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.7 million head on January 1, 2021. The inventory is up slightly from the January 1, 2020, total of 14.7 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head accounted for 81.4% of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2021, down 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 25.7 million head, was slightly below January 1, 2020.

The 2020 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 35.1 million head, down 1% from the previous year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2020 were estimated at 25.8 million head, down 1% from the first half of 2019. Calves born during the second half of 2020 were estimated at 9.39 million head, 27% of the total 2020 calf crop.

All inventory and calf crop estimates for July 1, 2019, January 1, 2020, and July 1, 2020 were reviewed using calf crop, official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. Based on the findings of this review, July 1, 2019 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.3%. January 1, 2020 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.7% and 2019 calf crop decreased by 1.3%. July 1, 2020 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.8% and 2020 calf crop decreased by 1.9%.

All Cattle and Calves Inventory – United States: January 1

Million head



The complete report can be found under **Publications** on the USDA NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov.