



# 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, 2022, totaled 3.85 million head, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service - *Cattle* report. This was up 150,000 head from January 1, 2021. **Beef cows**, at 925,000 head, were up 65,000 head from last year. **Milk cow** inventory was up 5,000 head at 225,000 head.

**All heifers 500 pounds and over** were up 2 percent at 850,000 head. **Heifers for beef cow replacement** were up 3 percent from 2021 at 160,000 head; **heifers for milk cow replacement**, at 120,000 head, were down 4 percent from the previous year; and **all other heifers** were up 4 percent at 570,000 head.

**Steers weighing 500 pounds and over** were up 2 percent from last year at 1.28 million head. **Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over** were unchanged at 60,000 head. **Calves under 500 pounds** on January 1, 2022, totaled 510,000 head, up 6 percent from last year.

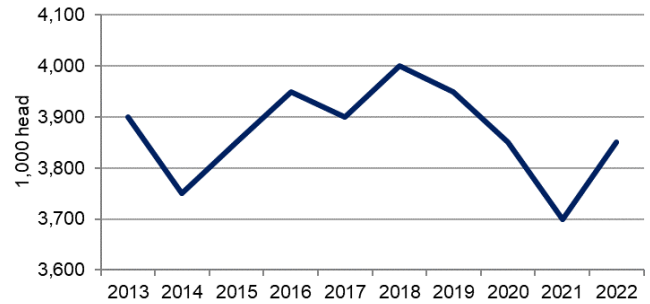
The 2021 **calf crop** was estimated at 1.12 million head, up 9 percent from the 2020 calf crop. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1, 2022, totaled 1.17 million head, unchanged from one year ago.

## Cattle and Calves, Number by Class - Iowa and United States: January 1, 2021-2022

Class	Iowa			United States		
	2021	2022	2022 as % of 2021	2021	2022	2022 as % of 2021
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves .....	3,700	3,850	104	93,790	91,902	98
All cows that have calved .....	1,080	1,150	106	40,286	39,500	98
Beef cows .....	860	925	108	30,844	30,125	98
Milk cows .....	220	225	102	9,442	9,375	99
Heifers 500 pounds and over .....						
For beef cow replacement .....	155	160	103	5,803	5,612	97
For milk cow replacement .....	125	120	96	4,609	4,451	97
Other heifers .....	550	570	104	9,789	9,714	99
Steers 500 pounds and over .....	1,250	1,280	102	16,788	16,580	99
Bulls 500 pounds and over .....	60	60	100	2,211	2,110	95
Calves under 500 pounds .....	480	510	106	14,305	13,936	97
Cattle on feed <sup>1</sup> .....	1,170	1,170	100	14,667	14,693	100
	2020	2021	2021 as % of 2020	2020	2021	2021 as % of 2020
Calf crop .....	1,030	1,120	109	35,496	35,085	99

<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.

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



## United States Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2022 totaled 91.9 million head, 2 percent below the 93.8 million head on January 1, 2021.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 39.5 million head, were 2 percent below the 40.3 million head on January 1, 2021. Beef cows, at 30.1 million head, were down 2 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.38 million head, were down 1 percent from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2022 totaled 19.8 million head, 2 percent below the 20.2 million head on January 1, 2021. Beef replacement heifers, at 5.61 million head, were down 3 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.45 million head, were down 3 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.71 million head, were 1 percent below a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2022 totaled 16.6 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2021.

Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2022 totaled 2.11 million head, down 5 percent from January 1, 2021.

Calves under 500 pounds as of January 1, 2022 totaled 13.9 million head, down 3 percent from January 1, 2021.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.7 million head on January 1, 2022. The inventory is up slightly from the January 1, 2021 total of 14.7 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head accounted for 81.9 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2022, 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 25.5 million head, was 3 percent below January 1, 2021.

### Calf Crop Down 1 Percent

The 2021 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 35.1 million head, down 1 percent from the previous year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2021 were estimated at 25.6 million head, down 1 percent from the first half of 2020. Calves born during the second half of 2021 were estimated at 9.46 million head, 27 percent of the total 2021 calf crop.

### Revisions

All inventory and calf crop estimates for July 1, 2020, January 1, 2021, and July 1, 2021 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, 2020 all cattle and calves increased by 0.1 percent. January 1, 2021 all cattle and calves increased by 0.2 percent and 2020 calf crop increased by 1.0 percent. July 1, 2021 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.1 percent and 2021 calf crop decreased slightly.

