



United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service



USDA, NASS, Kentucky Field Office

David Knopf, Director
PO Box 1120
Louisville, Kentucky 40201-1120
(502) 907-3250 or 1-800-928-5277
Email: nassrfoemr@nass.usda.gov

In Cooperation with:

Kentucky Department of Agriculture
Ryan Quarles, Commissioner

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KENTUCKY CATTLE INVENTORY UNCHANGED FROM 2019

LOUISVILLE, Ky. – The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the Cattle report, showing the Kentucky cattle and calf inventory for January 1, 2020 at 2.13 million head, unchanged from last year.

“Cattle are very important for Kentucky’s agricultural economy and this report indicates this sector remains strong,” said David Knopf, director of the NASS Eastern Mountain Regional Office in Kentucky. “In recent years cattle contribute \$700 million to one billion dollars annually to farms in the Commonwealth.”

Cows and heifers that have calved were estimated at 1.07 million head, unchanged from the 1.07 million for 2019. Beef cow inventory was estimated at 1.02 million head and milk cows were estimated at 49,000 head.

Heifers 500 lbs. and over were estimated at 280,000 head, down 15,000 head from last year's estimate. Beef replacement heifers totaled 125,000 head, up 5,000; dairy heifers, at 40,000 head, down 5,000; and other heifers, at 115,000 head, down 15,000 from the previous year. Steers 500 lbs. and over numbered 220,000 head, down 5,000 from 2019. Bulls 500 lbs. and over were unchanged from a year ago and numbered 70,000 head. Calves less than 500 lbs. were estimated at 490,000 head, up 20,000 from the 2019 estimate. Cattle on feed were estimated at 17,000 head, up 1,000 from the previous year.

The 2019 calf crop was estimated at 980,000 head, up 10,000 head from the previous year's estimate.

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 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, dropped 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 last year. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over totaled 2.24 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2019. Calves under 500 pounds totaled 14.7 million head, up 1 percent from last year.

The 2019 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 36.1 million head, down 1 percent from 2018.