The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is ready to begin the 2022 January Cattle Survey. This survey is done each year at this time and provides a description of the cattle industry in Minnesota and the U.S. This year's survey is especially important to explain the impact of the unique drought conditions that emerged through the summer months.

I was included in the Minnesota Drought Task Force and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Drought Check-In meetings this summer. Cattle producers talked about the difficulties they and others were experiencing. Pasture feed reductions and the loss of water sources on pasture acres created extra work and increased production costs.

However, was feed supply pressure enough to change inventory or the potential for future calf crops? This is the only time of the year that cow/calf operations of all sizes will be asked to describe their situation.

If asked, please complete the January Cattle Survey form by mail, web or phone. Add your 2021 experience to the results and help us quantify the impact of severe drought conditions on the cattle industry in Minnesota.