



LIVESTOCK

CATTLE AND CALVES

New Mexico's inventory of all cattle and calves as of January 1, 2011, was 1,540,000 head, a decrease of 20,000 from 2010. Milk cow inventory increased from 318,000 to 322,000 head. Dairy producers retained 140,000 heifers for replacement. Beef cow inventory decreased 2.8 percent to 488,000 head. Ranchers held 95,000 heifers for beef cow replacement. The number of steers weighing 500 pounds or more decreased to 125,000 head. Bull inventory this year came in at 40,000 head. Calves on hand weighing less than 500 pounds, including both beef and dairy calves, totaled 235,000 head. The 2010 calf crop was estimated at 620,000 head. Gross income from cattle and calves totaled \$ 1,190 million in 2010, up slightly from the previous year.

RANGE AND PASTURE FEED 2010

The reporting of range and pasture conditions began in mid-April. Conditions were reported at 5 percent very poor; 22 percent poor; 46 percent fair; 25 percent good, and 2 percent excellent with conditions staying fairly consistent through the months of April and May. Ranchers were hauling water, calving, and supplemental feeding. Range conditions were excessively dry in some areas as little to no precipitation was seen. Spring temperatures returned during late April. Range and pasture conditions were mostly fair and good. Freeze damage reported for mid-May was 11 percent light, 1 percent moderate, and 6 percent severe. Light rains were seen in mid-May and early June, but moisture was still mostly short. Moisture began to increase during mid-June, greening up pastures slightly. July brought some rain, increasing the moisture to mostly adequate.

August rains were significant, increasing soil moisture to mostly adequate and rangelands to mostly good condition. September temperatures were above normal with minimal rain, forcing ranchers to ship cattle off early. However, moisture rose again in late September to 60 percent adequate. As of early October, ranchers were preparing to market calves. Temperatures were finally starting to cool down and rangeland grass growth starting to slow down.

DAIRY

Beginning inventory of milk cows was 322,000 head on January 1, 2011, up 1 percent from a year earlier. The average number during 2010 was 321,000. Milk production was down slightly from 7.90 billion pounds in 2009 to 7.88 billion pounds in 2010. Cash receipts from marketings increased 30 percent from the previous year. New Mexico ended the year ranked ninth in the nation in milk production and ninth overall in the number of milk cows.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Sheep and lamb inventory as of January 1, 2011, totaled 110,000 head, 10,000 fewer head than 2010 inventory. The number of breeding sheep was 97,000 head, a decrease of 8,000 head from 2010. Market sheep and lambs decreased 2,000 head from the previous year to 13,000 head. The 2010 lamb crop decreased 10,000 head from 2009 to 56,000 lambs. State level producer gross income improved from 5.5 million in 2008 to 6.7 million in 2010. In 2010 wool was sheared from 95,000 sheep and lambs, producing 740,000 pounds. The value of wool produced increased to \$1.11 million as the average price of wool increased \$0.50 per pound to \$1.50 per pound.