

LIVESTOCK



CATTLE AND CALVES

New Mexico's inventory of all cattle and calves dropped significantly to 1,290,000 head as of January 1, 2014 for the fourth year in a row due to the ongoing drought. Milk cow inventory increased slightly from 320,000 to 323,000 head. Dairy producers retained 120,000 heifers for replacement. Beef cow inventory decreased to 387,000 head, which was the lowest recorded inventory. Ranchers held 70,000 heifers for beef cow replacement. The number of steers weighing 500 pounds or more increased to 90,000 head from 80,000. Bull inventory this year came in at 35,000 head. Calves on hand weighing less than 500 pounds, including both beef and dairy calves, totaled 195,000 head. The 2013 calf crop was estimated at 560,000 head. Gross income from cattle and calves totaled \$1,557 million in 2013, up slightly from the previous year.

RANGE AND PASTURE FEED 2013

The reporting of range and pasture conditions began in early April. Conditions were reported as very poor to poor following a very dry winter. These extremely dry conditions continued through the months of April and May. Rangeland moisture was nonexistent as ranchers were supplemental feeding livestock. Range and pasture conditions were 64 percent very poor, 27 percent poor, and only 7 percent reported as fair in June. Topsoil moisture reported for mid June was 75 percent very short, 24 percent short, and 1 percent adequate; this continued through the month of June. July brought seasonal monsoon rain, increasing the moisture and improving range and pastures. By month's end, soil moisture was reported at 39 percent very short, 36 percent short, 22 percent adequate, and 3 percent surplus. The summer monsoon remained active across western and northern New Mexico into August and range conditions continued to improve; most of the state saw temperatures

in the 90's. By early September, range conditions were reported as 23 percent very poor, 38 percent poor, 25 percent fair, 13 percent good, and 1 percent excellent. September brought historic rain and flooding across the state. Due to insufficient funding, there were no reports in early October; however, by month's end, temperatures were dropping into the 30's and 40's. Pasture land was in much better condition than previous years as the night temperatures slowed or stopped growth. By early November, range and pasture conditions had improved to 16 percent very poor, 26 percent poor, 44 percent fair, and 14 percent good.

DAIRY

Beginning inventory of milk cows was 323,000 head on January 1, 2014, up slightly from a year earlier. The average number during 2013 was also 323,000. Milk production was down slightly from 8.1 billion pounds in 2012 to 8.06 billion pounds in 2013. Cash receipts from marketing have increased 6.8 percent from the previous year. New Mexico ended the year ranked ninth in the nation in milk production.

SHEEP AND LAMBS

Sheep and lamb inventory totaled 85,000 head as of January 1, 2014, a decrease of 15 percent from the 2013 inventory. The number of breeding sheep was 73,000 head, a decrease of 13,000 head from 2013. Market sheep and lambs decreased 2,000 head from the previous year to 12,000 head. The 2013 lamb crop was also dropped to 42,000 lambs. In 2013 wool was sheared from 75,000 sheep and lambs, producing 590,000 pounds. The value of wool produced decreased to \$797,000 as the average price of wool decreased \$0.65 per pound to \$1.35 per pound.