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JANUARY 1, 2018 CATTLE INVENTORY

The **Virginia** cattle and calf inventory for January 1, 2018 was estimated at 1.48 million head according to the Virginia Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Total inventory was down 40,000 head from last year.

Cows and heifers that have calved were estimated at 720,000 head, down 10,000 head from the 730,000 for 2018. Beef cow inventory was estimated at 633,000 head and milk cows were estimated at 87,000 head.

Heifers 500 lbs. and over were estimated at 210,000 head, down 10,000 head from last year's estimate. Beef replacement heifers totaled 100,000 head, down 2,000 from January 2017. Dairy heifers, at 40,000 head, were up 2,000 from 2017. Other heifers, at 70,000 head, were unchanged from the previous year. Steers 500 lbs. and over numbered 160,000 head, down 5,000 from 2017. Bulls 500 lbs. and over were unchanged from a year ago and numbered 40,000 head. Calves less than 500 lbs. were estimated at 350,000 head, down 15,000 from the 2017 estimate. Cattle on feed were estimated at 18,000 head, down 2,000 from the previous year.

The 2017 calf crop was estimated at 640,000 head, down 10,000 from the previous year's estimate.

All cattle and calves in the **United States**, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 94.4 million head, 1 percent above the 93.7 million head on January 1, 2017.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 41.1 million head, were 1 percent above the 40.6 million head on January 1, 2017. Beef cows, at 31.7 million head, were up 2 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.40 million head, were up 1 percent from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 20.2 million head, 1 percent above the 20.1 million head on January 1, 2017. Beef replacement heifers, at 6.13 million head, were down 4 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.78 million head, were up 1 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.33 million head, were 4 percent above a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 16.4 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2017.

Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 2.25 million head, up slightly from January 1, 2017.

Calves under 500 pounds, as of January 1, 2018, totaled 14.4 million head, up slightly from January 1, 2017. Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.0 million head on January 1, 2018. The inventory is up 7 percent from the January 1, 2017 total of 13.1 million head.

Cattle on feed, in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head, accounted for 82.0 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2018, up 1 percent from the previous year. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds (outside of feedlots) is 26.1 million head, 2 percent below one year ago.

The 2017 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 35.8 million head, up 2 percent from last year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2017 were estimated at 26.0 million head, up 2 percent from the first half of 2016. Calves born during the second half of 2017 were estimated at 9.81 million head, 27 percent of the total 2017 calf crop.