JANUARY 1 CATTLE INVENTORY

The Virginia cattle and calf inventory for January 1, 2021 was estimated at 1.39 million head according to the Virginia Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Total inventory was down 60,000 head from last year.

Cows and heifers that have calved were estimated at 670,000 head, down 30,000 head from the 700,000 for 2020. Beef cow inventory was estimated at 595,000 head and milk cows were estimated at 75,000 head.

Heifers 500 lbs. and over were estimated at 196,000 head, up 6,000 head from last year’s estimate. Beef replacement heifers totaled 90,000 head, down 3,000 from January 2020. Other heifers, at 70,000 head, were up 6,000 from the previous year. Steers 500 lbs. and over numbered 160,000 head, down 5,000 from 2020. Bulls 500 lbs. and over were down 1,000 head from a year ago and numbered 39,000 head. Calves less than 500 lbs. were estimated at 325,000 head, down 30,000 from the 2020 estimate. Cattle on feed were estimated at 16,000 head, down 4,000 from the previous year.

The 2020 calf crop was estimated at 600,000 head, down 30,000 from the previous year’s estimate.

All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2021 totaled 93.6 million head, slightly below the 93.8 million head on January 1, 2020. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 40.6 million head, were slightly below the 40.7 million head on January 1, 2020. Beef cows, at 31.2 million head, were down 1 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.44 million head, were up 1 percent from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2021 totaled 20.0 million head, slightly below January 1, 2020. Beef replacement heifers, at 5.81 million head, were up slightly from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.60 million head, were down 2 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.58 million head, were 1 percent above a year earlier. Steers weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2021 totaled 16.6 million head, up slightly from January 1, 2020. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2021 totaled 2.21 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2020. Calves under 500 pounds as of January 1, 2021 totaled 14.2 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2020.

The 2020 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 35.1 million head, down 1 percent from the previous year's calf crop.