



NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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WEST VIRGINIA CATTLE INVENTORY

Charleston, West Virginia – Cattle inventory in West Virginia as of January 1, 2024 totaled 370,000 head, down 5,000 head from the January 1, 2023 inventory. **All cows and heifers that have calved** totaled 192,000 head, down 4,000 head from January 1, 2023.

Comparing January 1, 2024 to January 1, 2023: **beef cows** that have calved totaled 188,000 head, down 3,000 head; **milk cows** that have calved totaled 4,000 head, down 1,000 head; **all heifers 500 pounds and over** totaled 59,000 head, up 5,000 head; **beef replacement heifers** totaled 31,000 head, up 2,000 head; **milk replacement heifers** totaled 2,000 head, unchanged; **other heifers** totaled 26,000 head, up 3,000 head; **steers 500 pounds and over** totaled 39,000 head, up 2,000 head; **bulls 500 pounds and over** totaled 13,000 head, down 1,000 head; **calves under 500 pounds** totaled 67,000 head, down 7,000 head. **All cattle on feed** for slaughter totaled 4,000 head, unchanged from 2023.

The 2023 **calf crop** totaled 186,000 head, down 5,000 head from the 2022 calf crop.

United States – All cattle and calves in the United States as of January 1, 2024 totaled 87.2 million head, 2 percent below the 88.8 million head on January 1, 2023. **All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 37.6 million head, were 2 percent below the 38.3 million head on January 1, 2023. Beef cows, at 28.2 million head, were down 2 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.36 million head, were down slightly from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2024 totaled 18.5 million head, 1 percent below the 18.8 million head on January 1, 2023. Beef replacement heifers, at 4.86 million head, were down 1 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.06 million head, were down slightly from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.57 million head, were 2 percent below a year earlier. **Steers weighing 500 pounds and over** as of January 1, 2024 totaled 15.8 million head, down 2 percent from January 1, 2023. **Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over** as of January 1, 2024 totaled 2.02 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2023. **Calves under 500 pounds** as of January 1, 2024 totaled 13.3 million head, down 3 percent from January 1, 2023.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.4 million head on January 1, 2024. The inventory is up 2 percent from the January 1, 2023 total of 14.2 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head accounted for 82.7 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2024, up slightly from the previous year. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds (outside of feedlots), at 24.2 million head, was 4 percent below January 1, 2023.

The 2023 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 33.6 million head, down 2 percent from the previous year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2023 were estimated at 24.7 million head, down 2 percent from the first half of 2022. Calves born during the second half of 2023 were estimated at 8.89 million head, 26 percent of the total 2023 calf crop.

Revisions

All inventory and calf crop estimates for July 1, 2022, January 1, 2023, and July 1, 2023 were reviewed using calf crop, official slaughter, import and export data, and the relationship of new survey information to the prior surveys. Based on the findings of this review, July 1, 2022 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.3 percent. January 1, 2023 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.5 percent and 2022 calf crop decreased by 0.1 percent. July 1, 2023 all cattle and calves decreased by 0.5 percent and 2023 calf crop decreased by 0.6 percent. State level estimates were reviewed and changes were made to reallocate inventory estimates to the United States total.