



New England Agricultural Statistics Service

a field office of the National Agricultural Statistics Service
United States Department of Agriculture

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USDA MEASURES NATIONAL CATTLE INVENTORY

As of January 1, 2001 Maine, Rhode Island, and Vermont's cattle inventories were unchanged, while the other three New England States declined from the previous year. Across all six states, the cattle and calf inventory suffered a 3 percent decline compared to the national total which was down by just 1 percent. Halfway through the year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture also measures the national cattle's inventory as of July 1, 2001.

Approximately 440 of New England's largest cattle farmers are being asked for their help with the annual July 1 national Cattle Survey. In New England, the survey is being conducted by the New England field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The data collected will be used to establish official USDA statistics for national cattle inventories, calf crop, and cattle death loss. "We are asking for the cooperation of New England's largest farmers to ensure that agriculture in our region is clearly represented in the national livestock picture," said Aubrey Davis, Director, New England Agricultural Statistics Service. "The survey provides useful information needed to help United States producers make decisions on purchases, sales, and capital investments." (Many more New England farmers are contacted in January to establish cattle statistics for each New England state.)

Sample questions and a letter requesting help with this project are mailed to the producers selected to participate. Interviewers will conduct the survey through personal or telephone interviews between June 29 and July 11, 2001. All information about individual farms is held, by law, in strict confidence. All data are only used in combination with reports from other producers.

The national survey results will be available in the **Cattle** report from Washington, D.C. on July 20, 2001 at 3:00 p.m. All reports are available on the Internet within a few minutes of the scheduled release time. These statistics will also be reprinted in the August issue of the **Ag Review** (a monthly newsletter from the Concord field office). The **Ag Review** is available on the Internet monthly, but complimentary copies are mailed to survey participants upon request.

[The New England Agricultural Statistics Service is a field office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. It is located in Concord, New Hampshire, and is responsible for agricultural statistics in all six states in the region. The office can be reached at 1-800-642-9571 or through e-mail at NASS-NH@NASS.USDA.GOV. All national statistics and state level newsletters are available through free e-mail subscriptions and on the Internet at www.usda.gov/nass/.]

For More Information Contact: Sherry Deane or Aubrey Davis at 1-800-642-9571.