



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



# News Release

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**Press Release Announcement – December 6, 2011 - For Immediate Release**

## **USDA TO ASSESS THE STATE OF THE CATTLE INDUSTRY**

[Phoenix, Arizona] – The U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) is calling on nearly 50,000 cattle operations nationwide to report the latest and most accurate data on cattle inventories and calf production. NASS, the federal statistical agency charged with collecting data about U.S. agriculture, is collecting data about the size of the cattle industry and will report the results late in January.

“During the first two weeks of January Arizona producers have the opportunity to serve as the frontline source of accurate data on U.S. cattle” said Steven Manheimer, director of the Arizona Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). “In Arizona, we'll be contacting about 400 operations to request their responses to the January Cattle Survey, which measures trends in beef and dairy cattle inventories, calf crop and cattle operations.”

To make it as easy as possible for producers to participate, NASS offers the option of responding via a secure Internet connection, telephone, mail, or personal interview with a local NASS representative.

“However producers choose to respond, they are providing an important service to the cattle industry and to U.S. agriculture as a whole,” Manheimer said. “Their responses will be compiled with those of their fellow producers nationwide, providing the only accurate and comprehensive estimate of the state of U.S. cattle production.”

The information is a critical decision-making tool for the cattle industry, he explained. “For instance, it helps producers make informed marketing decisions and plan for herd expansion or reduction. It also helps packers and government evaluate expected slaughter volume for future months and determine potential supplies for export,” Manheimer said.

Survey results will be published in NASS's Cattle report, on January 27, 2012. The report will provide national-level estimates of total inventory, beef cows, milk cows, bulls, replacement heifers, other heifers, steers, calves and number of calves born during the previous year.

As with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. NASS safeguards the privacy of all survey responses and publishes only aggregate data, ensuring that no individual operation or producer can be identified. All reports are available on the NASS web site: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov).

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