



Iowa Ag News – Cattle & Calves

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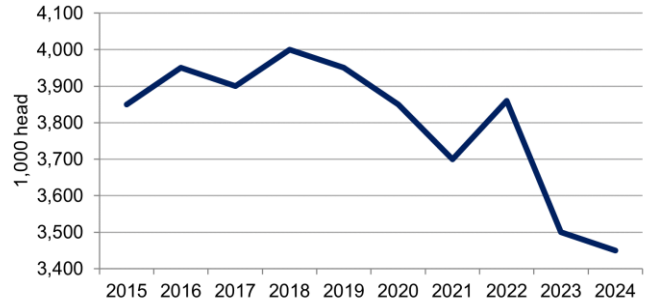
All cattle and calves in Iowa as of January 1, 2024, totaled 3.45 million head, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Cattle* report. This was down 50,000 head from January 1, 2023. **Beef cows**, at 810,000 head, were down 40,000 head from last year. **Milk cow** inventory was unchanged at 240,000 head.

All heifers 500 pounds and over were down 5 percent at 690,000 head. **Heifers for beef cow replacement** were down 13 percent from 2023 at 100,000 head; **heifers for milk cow replacement**, at 125,000 head, were up 9 percent from the previous year; and **all other heifers** were down 7 percent at 465,000 head.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over were up 2 percent from last year at 1.18 million head. **Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over** were unchanged at 60,000 head. **Calves under 500 pounds** on January 1, 2024, totaled 470,000 head, up 2 percent from last year.

The 2023 **calf crop** was estimated at 1.00 million head, down 5 percent from the 2022 calf crop. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1, 2024, totaled 1.18 million head, up 2 percent from one year ago.

**All Cattle and Calves Inventory
Iowa: January 1**



Cattle and Calves, Number by Class – Iowa and United States: January 1, 2023-2024

Class	Iowa			United States		
	2023	2024	2024 as % of 2023	2023	2024	2024 as % of 2023
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves	3,500	3,450	99	88,841	87,157	98
All cows that have calved	1,090	1,050	96	38,337	37,580	98
Beef cows	850	810	95	28,939	28,223	98
Milk cows	240	240	100	9,398	9,357	100
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	115	100	87	4,930	4,858	99
For milk cow replacement	115	125	109	4,074	4,059	100
Other heifers	500	465	93	9,758	9,566	98
Steers 500 pounds and over	1,160	1,180	102	16,057	15,789	98
Bulls 500 pounds and over	60	60	100	2,029	2,021	100
Calves under 500 pounds	460	470	102	13,658	13,285	97
Cattle on feed ¹	1,160	1,180	102	14,196	14,423	102
	2022	2023	2023 as % of 2022	2022	2023	2023 as % of 2022
Calf crop	1,050	1,000	95	34,440	33,593	98

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes.

United States Cattle Inventory

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.

The complete report can be found on the USDA NASS website at www.nass.usda.gov/Publications.

All Cattle and Calves Inventory – United States: January 1

Million head

