



Iowa Ag News – Cattle & Calves



Upper Midwest Regional Field Office · 210 Walnut St, Ste 833 · Des Moines, IA 50309 · (515) 776-3400 · (800) 772-0825

www.nass.usda.gov/ia Media Contact: Greg Thessen

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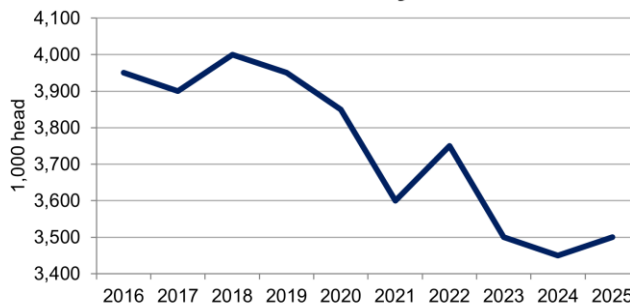
All cattle and calves in Iowa as of January 1, 2025, totaled 3.50 million head, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Cattle* report. This was up 50,000 head from January 1, 2024. **Beef cows**, at 825,000 head, were up 15,000 head from last year. **Milk cow** inventory was up 5,000 head at 245,000 head.

All heifers 500 pounds and over were up 4 percent at 720,000 head. **Heifers for beef cow replacement** were up 10 percent from 2024 at 110,000 head; **heifers for milk cow replacement**, at 110,000 head, were down 8 percent from the previous year; and **all other heifers** were up 6 percent at 500,000 head.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over were unchanged 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, 2025, totaled 470,000 head, unchanged from last year.

The 2024 **calf crop** was estimated at 1.02 million head, up 2 percent from the 2023 calf crop. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots on January 1, 2025, totaled 1.21 million head, up 3 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, 2024-2025

Class	Iowa			United States		
	2024	2025	2025 as % of 2024	2024	2025	2025 as % of 2024
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
All cattle and calves	3,450	3,500	101	87,157	86,662	99
All cows that have calved	1,050	1,070	102	37,360	37,213	100
Beef cows	810	825	102	28,013	27,864	99
Milk cows	240	245	102	9,347	9,349	100
Heifers 500 pounds and over						
For beef cow replacement	100	110	110	4,718	4,672	99
For milk cow replacement	120	110	92	3,951	3,914	99
Other heifers	470	500	106	9,651	9,593	99
Steers 500 pounds and over	1,180	1,180	100	15,959	15,802	99
Bulls 500 pounds and over	60	60	100	2,031	2,009	99
Calves under 500 pounds	470	470	100	13,488	13,458	100
Cattle on feed ¹	1,180	1,210	103	14,426	14,297	99
	2023	2024	2024 as % of 2023	2023	2024	2024 as % of 2023
Calf crop	1,000	1,020	102	33,563	33,530	100

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, 2025 totaled 86.7 million head, 1 percent below the 87.2 million head on January 1, 2024.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 37.2 million head, were slightly below the 37.4 million head on January 1, 2024. Beef cows, at 27.9 million head, were down 1 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.35 million head, were up slightly from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2025 totaled 18.2 million head, 1 percent below the 18.3 million head on January 1, 2024. Beef replacement heifers, at 4.67 million head, were down 1 percent from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 3.91 million head, were down 1 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.59 million head, were 1 percent below a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2025 totaled 15.8 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2024.

Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2025 totaled 2.01 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2024.

Calves under 500 pounds as of January 1, 2025 totaled 13.5 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2024.

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.3 million head on January 1, 2025. The inventory is down 1 percent from the January 1, 2024 total of 14.4 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, 2025, 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 24.6 million head, was slightly below January 1, 2024.

The 2024 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 33.5 million head, down slightly from the previous year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2024 were estimated at 24.6 million head, down slightly from the first half of 2023. Calves born during the second half of 2024 were estimated at 8.93 million head, 27 percent of the total 2024 calf crop.

Revisions

All inventory and calf crop estimates for July 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024 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, 2023 all cows and heifers that have calved decreased by 0.3 percent and 2023 calf crop decreased by 0.1 percent. January 1, 2024 all cows and heifers that have calved 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

