



United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service



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### SMALLEST KENTUCKY CATTLE INVENTORY SINCE 1955

The **Kentucky** cattle and calf inventory for January 1, 2025 was estimated at 1.85 million head according to the Kentucky Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Total inventory was down 40,000 head from last year and is the fewest number of cattle on hand January 1 since 1955.

Cows and heifers that have calved were estimated at 910,000 head, down 40,000 head from 2024. Beef cow inventory was estimated at 869,000 head, a decrease of 38,000 head from 2024. Milk cows were estimated at 41,000 head, down 2,000 head from a year ago.

Heifers 500 lbs. and over were estimated at 260,000 head, up 5,000 from last year's estimate. Beef replacement heifers totaled 105,000 head, up 5,000 from January 2024. Dairy heifers, at 25,000 head, were unchanged from 2024. Other heifers, at 130,000 head, were unchanged from the previous year. Steers 500 lbs. and over numbered 210,000 head, up 5,000 from 2024. Bulls 500 lbs. and over were up 5,000 head from a year ago and numbered 60,000 head. Calves less than 500 lbs. were estimated at 410,000 head, down 15,000 from the 2024 estimate.

The 2024 calf crop was estimated at 890,000 head, down 30,000 from the previous year's estimate.

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of January 1, 2025 totaled 86.7 million head, 1% 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% 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% below the 18.3 million head on January 1, 2024. Beef replacement heifers, at 4.67 million head, were down 1% from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 3.91 million head, were down 1% from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.59 million head, were down 1% from a year earlier.

Steers weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2025 totaled 15.8 million head, down 1% from January 1, 2024. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2025 totaled 2.01 million head, down 1% from January 1, 2024. Calves under 500 pounds as of January 1, 2025 totaled 13.5 million head, down slightly from 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.