



Cattle

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July 1 Cattle Inventory Down Slightly

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2004, totaled 103.6 million head, down slightly from the 103.9 million on July 1, 2003 and 1 percent below the 105.1 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 42.5 million, were slightly below the 42.7 million on July 1, 2003 and 1 percent below the 42.9 million two years ago.

- **Beef cows**, at 33.5 million, were down slightly from July 1, 2003 and 1 percent below two years ago.
- **Milk cows**, at 9.0 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 2003 and down 2 percent from two years ago.

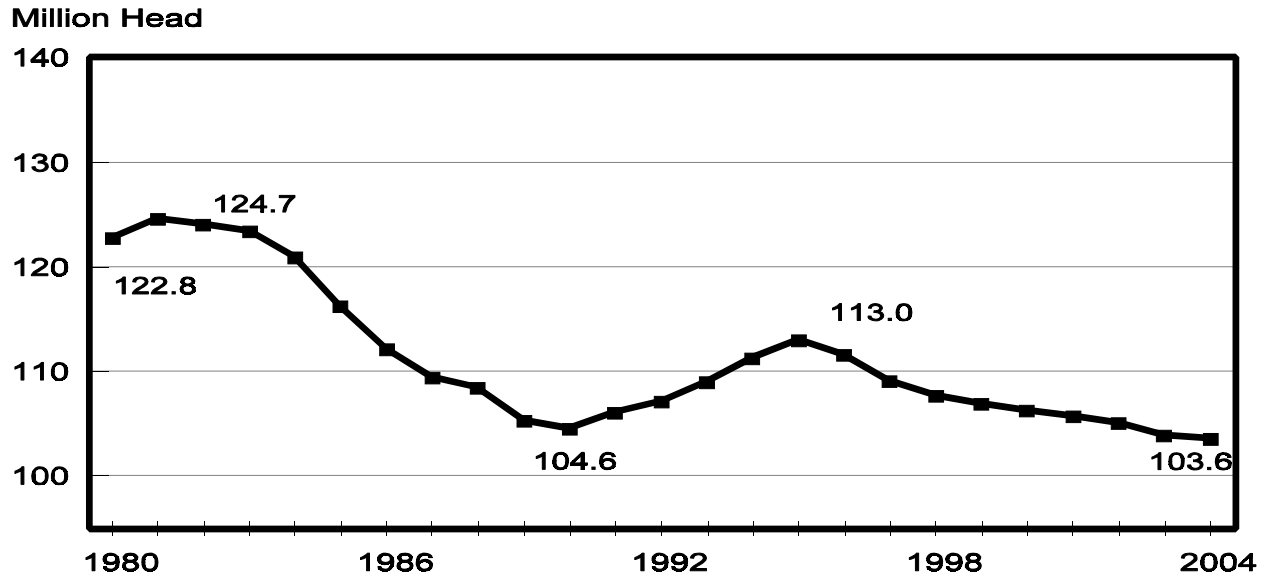
Other class estimates on July 1, 2004 and the changes from July 1, 2003, are as follows:

- **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 15.95 million, up slightly.
- **Beef replacement heifers**, 4.8 million, up 4 percent.
- **Milk replacement heifers**, 3.6 million, unchanged.
- **Other heifers**, 7.55 million, down 2 percent.
- **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.2 million, unchanged.
- **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.05 million, down 2 percent.
- **Calves under 500 pounds**, 28.9 million, down slightly.
- **All cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter, 11.8 million, down slightly.

Calf Crop Down 1 Percent

The 2004 calf crop is expected to be 37.7 million, down 1 percent from both 2003 and 2002. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.5 million, down 1 percent from both 2003 and 2002.

United States Cattle Inventory July 1, 1980 - 2004



This report was approved on July 23, 2004.

Acting Secretary of
Agriculture
Joseph J. Jen

Agricultural Statistics Board
Acting Chairperson
Steven D. Wiyatt

**Cattle and Calves: Number by Class and Calf Crop,
United States, July 1, 2002-2004**

Class	2002	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Cattle and Calves	105,100	103,900	103,600	100
Cows and Heifers That Have Calved	42,900	42,700	42,500	100
Beef Cows	33,750	33,600	33,500	100
Milk Cows	9,150	9,100	9,000	99
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	16,200	15,900	15,950	100
For Beef Cow Replacement	4,600	4,600	4,800	104
For Milk Cow Replacement	3,700	3,600	3,600	100
Other Heifers	7,900	7,700	7,550	98
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	14,500	14,200	14,200	100
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	2,100	2,100	2,050	98
Calves Under 500 Pounds	29,400	29,000	28,900	100
Calf Crop	38,224	37,903	37,700	99
Cattle on Feed	12,500	11,810	11,800	100

**Calf Crop: Number and Percent of Total by Six-Month Period,
United States, 2002-2003 and Preliminary Calf Crop, 2004**

Period	2002		2003		2004	
	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total	Number	% of Total
	<i>1,000 Hd</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Hd</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Hd</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Jan 1 - Jun 30	27,900	73.0	27,700	73.1	27,500	72.9
Jul 1 - Dec 31	10,324	27.0	10,203	26.9	10,200	27.1
Total	38,224	100.0	37,903	100.0	37,700	100.0

**Cattle and Calves: Balance Sheet, United States,
January 1 - June 30, 2002-2004¹**

Item	2002	2003	2004
	<i>Million Head</i>	<i>Million Head</i>	<i>Million Head</i>
January 1 Inventory	96.7	96.1	94.9
Calf Crop and Imports	29.1	28.7	28.1
Total Supply ²	125.8	124.8	123.0
Slaughter	18.1	18.4	16.9
Deaths and Exports	2.5	2.4	2.4
Total Disappearance ²	20.7	20.9	19.3
Residual ²	0.0	-0.1	-0.1
July 1 Inventory	105.1	103.9	103.6

¹ Preliminary.

² Totals may not add due to rounding.

**Cattle and Calves: Number by Class, State, and United States,
July 1, 2003-2004**

State	All Cattle and Calves			All Cows That Have Calved		
	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003	2003	2004	2004 as % of 2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	5,150	5,150	100	2,390	2,420	101
CO	2,750	2,550	93	810	720	89
IA	3,900	4,000	103	1,240	1,230	99
KS	6,600	6,600	100	1,670	1,730	104
MO	4,600	4,850	105	2,150	2,300	107
MT	3,400	3,350	99	1,500	1,480	99
NE	6,600	7,000	106	1,950	2,040	105
OK	5,600	5,700	102	2,100	2,150	102
SD	4,850	4,850	100	1,980	1,950	98
TX	15,500	15,100	97	6,200	6,100	98
WI	3,600	3,550	99	1,510	1,500	99
Oth Sts	41,350	40,900	99	19,200	18,880	98
US	103,900	103,600	100	42,700	42,500	100
	Beef Cows That Have Calved			Milk Cows That Have Calved		
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	700	695	99	1,690	1,725	102
CO	710	616	87	100	104	104
IA	1,040	1,037	100	200	193	97
KS	1,560	1,616	104	110	114	104
MO	2,020	2,176	108	130	124	95
MT	1,482	1,462	99	18	18	100
NE	1,886	1,980	105	64	60	94
OK	2,019	2,072	103	81	78	96
SD	1,898	1,870	99	82	80	98
TX	5,880	5,780	98	320	320	100
WI	255	260	102	1,255	1,240	99
Oth Sts	14,150	13,936	98	5,050	4,944	98
US	33,600	33,500	100	9,100	9,000	99

Calf Crop: Number by State and United States, 2003-2004

State	2003	2004 ¹	2004 as % 2003
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>
CA	2,050	2,070	101
CO	730	660	90
IA	1,120	1,110	99
KS	1,550	1,610	104
MO	2,080	2,210	106
MT	1,540	1,520	99
NE	1,770	1,780	101
OK	1,890	2,010	106
SD	1,730	1,710	99
TX	5,100	5,200	102
WI	1,350	1,340	99
Oth Sts	16,993	16,480	97
US	37,903	37,700	99

¹ Preliminary.

Reliability of July 1 Cattle and Calves Estimates

Survey Procedures: A random sample of U.S. producers was surveyed to provide data for these estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all cattle producers, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. Data were collected during the first half of June from about 40,000 small and medium sized operations. These operators were contacted by face-to-face personal interviews. About 10,000 large producers and feedlots were contacted during the first half of July by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews. Operators were asked to report inventories as of the first of the month and calf crop for the entire year of 2004.

Estimating Procedures: These cattle estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing National and State indications and analysis. National and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other and with estimates from the previous year using a balance sheet. The balance sheet begins with the previous inventory estimate, adds to it estimates of births and imports for the first six months, and subtracts estimates of slaughter, exports, and deaths for the first six months of the current year. This indicated ending inventory level is compared to the Agricultural Statistics Board estimate for reasonableness.

Revision Policy: Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve year to year and item to item relationships. Estimates for the previous year are subject to revision when current estimates are made and when the January 1 cattle inventory estimates are made. The reviews are primarily based on livestock slaughter and additional foreign trade and survey data. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date.

Reliability: Since all cattle operators are not included in the sample, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of estimates in this report, the "**Root Mean Square Error**" is shown for selected items in the following table. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and latest estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for cattle inventory estimates over the past 20 years is 0.5 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 103.6 million head by more than 0.5 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.9 percent.

The table below also shows a 20 year record of the range of differences between first and latest estimates for selected items. Using estimates of all cattle and calves as an example, changes between the first inventory estimate and the latest estimate during the past 20 years have averaged 397,000 head, ranging from 0 to 1,300,000 head. During this period the initial inventory estimate has been below the latest estimate 4 times, above the latest estimate 11 times, and unchanged 5 times. This does not imply that the July 1 estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

Reliability of July 1 Cattle Estimates ^{1 2}

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90 Percent Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Latest Estimates			Number of Years	
		Percent	Head	Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Latest	First Below Latest
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
All Cattle	0.5	0.9	942	397	0	1,300	11	4
All Cows	0.9	1.5	627	217	0	1,100	8	5
Calf Crop	1.6	2.7	1,042	510	23	1,236	15	5

¹ Based on data from July 1984 through July 2003.

² Data in the above table do not reflect the 1-3 percent changes made during the 1989-93 historic revision period. The root mean square error's would be about 1 percentage point higher if these were included.

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