

## One million more head of cattle on farms in Canada

As a result of border closures due to mad cow disease, there are 6.5% more cattle on Canadian farms as of July 1, 2004 when compared to one year ago. That represents one million more animals.

Out of that million:

- 424 thousand are beef cows, up 8.6% from 2003
- 336 thousand are calves, up 6.3 % from 2003
- 262 thousand are steers and heifers for slaughter, up 9.6% from 2003

On the other hand, replacement beef heifers are down 6.8% from a year ago. Calves born from January to June 2004 also declined 3.6% from a year ago although fall calving is expected to be up from last year but lower than the previous five year average.

Beef cattle operators commented to the Statistics Canada's July 1, 2004 Livestock Survey that they were holding cattle, including cull cows, due to poor prices and the lack of markets. Cattle producers are deeply concerned about the current situation.

There were 2,940 more farms reporting beef cattle on their operations this year than a year ago. Among those 2,645 are backgrounders (feeders, stocker/finish). The survey recorded 24.0% more cattle on backgrounding operations in 2004 while cattle on feeding operations rose 5.3%.

Meanwhile, in the first six months of 2004, domestic slaughter jumped to a record 2.1 million animals as beef imports tumbled to less than one-third of pre-BSE levels. In addition, domestic demand for beef remains strong.

<b>Cattle inventories at July 1, by farm type, Canada</b>				
	2002	2003	2004	2004/03
	<i>thousands of head</i>			<i>%</i>
Specialized dairy	1,917	1,920	1,974	2.8
Mixed dairy and beef	503	556	577	3.8
Cow/calf	9,111	9,199	9,443	2.7
Cow/calf feeders, stockers/finish	2,406	2,604	3,229	24.0
Feeding operations	1,499	1,460	1,538	5.3
Total -all farms	15,436	15,738	16,760	6.5

For more information, please read the data highlights section in the publication *Cattle Statistics*, available free at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca).