

Cattle and Calf Inventory

Utah cattle and calf inventory as of January 1, 2003 totaled 880,000 head, according to the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service. This was 40,000 head less than January 1, 2002. Beef cows, at 339,000 head, was 18,000 head less than 2002. Milk cows, at 91,000 head was 2,000 head less than 2002. Beef cow replacement heifers were estimated at 75,000 head, the same as 2002. Milk cow replacement heifers, at 45,000 head, 1,000 head more than last year. Other heifers not intended for replacement totaled 70,000 head, a decrease of 1.4 percent from 2002. The January 1, 2003 inventory level of steers weighing 500 pounds or more was 125,000 head, .8 percent less than 2002. Bulls weighing over 500 pounds inventory was 22,000 head, 2,000 head less than 2002. Calves weighing less than 500 pounds, on hand as of January 1, 2003 totaled 113,000 head, down 17,000 head from the previous year. The 2002 calf crop of 390,000 head was down 2 percent from 2001. The number of operations with cattle totaled 7,800 during 2002, down 200 operations from 2001.

Nationally, **all cattle and calves** in the United States as of January 1, 2003, totaled 96.1 million head, 1 percent below the 96.7 million on January 1, 2002 and 1 percent below the 97.3 million two years ago. **All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 42.1 million, were down slightly from the 42.2 million on January 1, 2002 and down 1 percent from the 42.6 million two years ago. **Beef cows**, at 32.95 million, were down 1 percent from both January 1, 2002 and January 1, 2001. **Milk cows**, at 9.15 million, were up slightly from January 1, 2002 but down slightly from two years ago. Other class estimates on January 1, 2003 and the change from January 1, 2002, are as follows: **All heifers** 500 pounds and over, 19.6 million, down slightly. **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.61 million, up 1 percent. **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.10 million, up 1 percent. **Other heifers**, 9.89 million, down 2 percent. **Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 16.6 million, down 1 percent. **Bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.25 million, up slightly. **Calves under 500 pounds**, 15.6 million, down 1 percent. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, 12.9 million, down 7 percent. The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds** outside of feedlots, 29.1 million, up 1 percent. **The 2002 calf crop** was estimated at 38.2 million head, down slightly from 2001 and down 1 percent from 2000. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.9 million, down 1 percent from 2001 and down 2 percent 2000. **The number of operations with cattle** totaled 1.03 million during 2002, down 2 percent from 2001 and 4 percent below 2000.