



NEWS RELEASE

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC 20250

Ag Statistics Hotline: (800) 727-9540 • www.nass.usda.gov



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

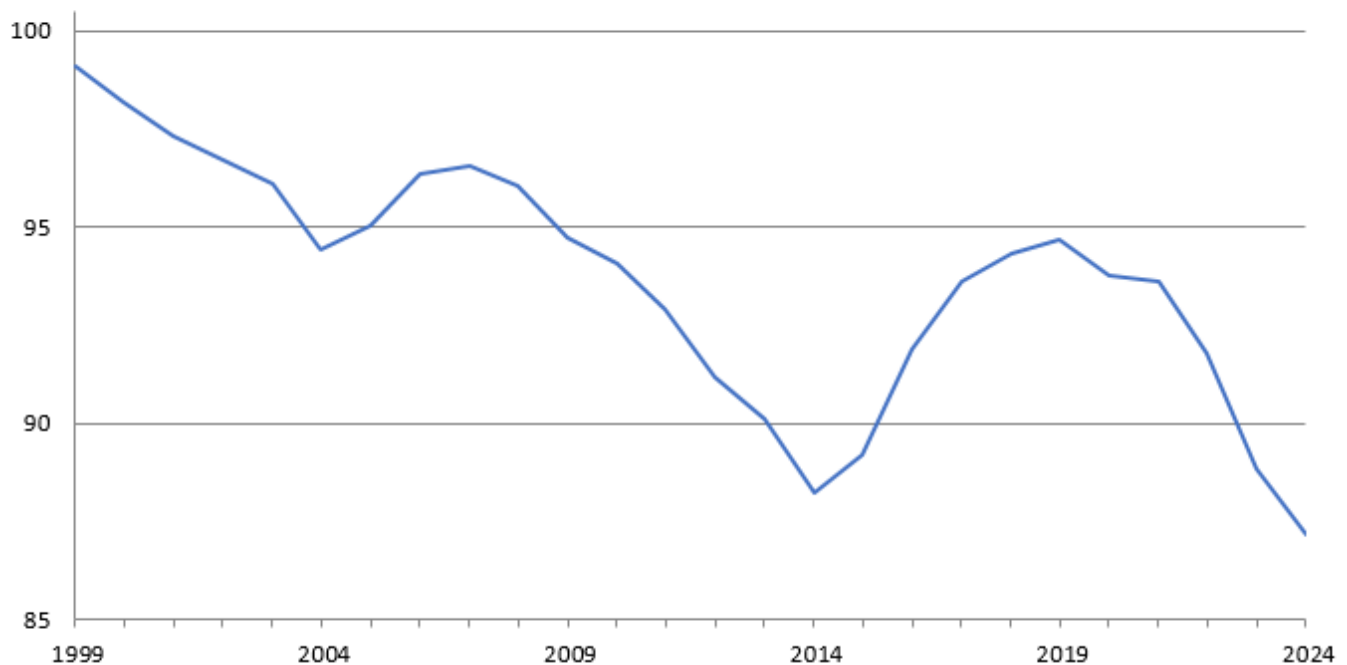
Contact: nass-media@usda.gov

United States cattle inventory down 2%

WASHINGTON, Jan. 31, 2024 – There were 87.2 million head of cattle and calves on U.S. farms as of Jan. 1, 2024, according to the Cattle report published today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS).

All Cattle and Calves Inventory – United States: January 1

Million head



Other key findings in the report were:

- Of the 87.2 million head inventory, all cows and heifers that have calved totaled 37.6 million.
- There are 28.2 million beef cows in the United States as of Jan. 1, 2024, down 2% from last year.
- The number of milk cows in the United States decreased slightly to 9.36 million.
- U.S. calf crop was estimated at 33.6 million head, down 2% from 2022.
- All cattle on feed were at 14.4 million head, up 2% from 2023.

To obtain an accurate measurement of the current state of the U.S. cattle industry, NASS surveyed approximately 36,300 operators across the nation during the first half of January. Surveyed producers were asked to report their cattle inventories as of Jan. 1, 2024, and calf crop for the entire year of 2023 by internet, mail, telephone, or in-person interview.

There will be a question-and-answer session during a live #StatChat on the [@usda_nass](https://twitter.com/usda_nass) X account today at 4 p.m. EST to answer questions about the Cattle report. To ask a question, make sure to include #StatChat to any questions you may have. The #StatChat happens biannually after the Cattle report is released.

The Cattle report and all other NASS reports are available online at nass.usda.gov/Publications.

###

*NASS is the federal statistical agency responsible for producing official data about U.S. agriculture and is committed to providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture.
USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.*