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In Cooperation with:

Kentucky Department of Agriculture
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JANUARY 1 CATTLE INVENTORY

The **Kentucky** cattle and calf inventory for January 1, 2024 was estimated at 1.89 million head according to the Kentucky Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Total inventory was down 20,000 head from last year.

Cows and heifers that have calved were estimated at 950,000 million head, up 10,000 head from the 0.940 million for 2023. Beef cow inventory was estimated at 907,000 million head and milk cows were estimated at 43,000 head.

Heifers 500 lbs. and over were estimated at 255,000 head, down 10,000 from last year's estimate. Beef replacement heifers totaled 100,000 head, down 5,000 from January 2023. Dairy heifers, at 25,000 head, were down 5,000 from 2023. Other heifers, at 130,000 head, were unchanged from the previous year. Steers 500 lbs. and over numbered 205,000 head, down 20,000 from 2023. Bulls 500 lbs. and over were unchanged head from a year ago and numbered 55,000 head. Calves less than 500 lbs. were estimated at 425,000 head, unchanged from the 2023 estimate. Cattle on feed were estimated at 18,000 head, down 2,000 from the previous year.

The 2023 calf crop was estimated at 920,000 head, unchanged from the previous year's estimate.

All cattle and calves in the **United States** as of January 1, 2024 totaled 87.2 million head, 2% below the 88.8 million head on January 1, 2023. All cows and heifers that have calved, at 37.6 million head, were 2% below the 38.3 million head on January 1, 2023. Beef cows, at 28.2 million head, were down 2% from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.36 million head, were down slightly from the previous year.

All heifers 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2024 totaled 18.5 million head, 1% below the 18.8 million head on January 1, 2023. Beef replacement heifers, at 4.86 million head, were down 1% from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.06 million head, were down slightly from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.57 million head, were down 2% from a year earlier. Steers weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2024 totaled 15.8 million head, down 2% from January 1, 2023. Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over as of January 1, 2024 totaled 2.02 million head, down slightly from January 1, 2023. Calves under 500 pounds as of January 1, 2024 totaled 13.3 million head, down 3% from January 1, 2023.

The 2023 calf crop in the United States was estimated at 33.6 million head, down 2% from the previous year's calf crop.