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JANUARY 1 CATTLE INVENTORY

The **Virginia** cattle and calf inventory for January 1, 2024 was estimated at 1.32 million head according to the Virginia Field Office of the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Total inventory was up 30,000 head from last year.

Cows and heifers that have calved were estimated at 640,000 head, up 10,000 head from the 630,000 for 2023. Beef cow inventory was estimated at 574,000 head and milk cows were estimated at 66,000 head.

Heifers 500 lbs. and over were estimated at 178,000 head, up 10,000 head from last year's estimate. Beef replacement heifers totaled 79,000 head, up 7,000 from January 2023. Dairy heifers, at 33,000 head, were up 1,000 from 2023. Other heifers, at 66,000 head, were up 2,000 from the previous year. Steers 500 lbs. and over numbered 151,000 head, up 4,000 from 2023. Bulls 500 lbs. and over were up 1,000 head from a year ago and numbered 36,000 head. Calves less than 500 lbs. were estimated at 315,000 head, up 5,000 from the 2023 estimate. Cattle on feed were estimated at 14,000 head, down 1,000 from the previous year.

The 2023 calf crop was estimated at 610,000 head, up 20,000 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.