

# NASS Survey Training

## Cattle Report: July 1, 2021



**United States Department of Agriculture  
National Agricultural Statistics Service**



NOD-Training Group  
May 2021



# July Cattle Report Overview

- Asking about:
  - Inventories, Cattle on Feed, Calf Crop, Deaths
- Producers use the information to determine production and marketing strategies and plan purchases and capital investments
- Industry and market analysts use inventory and calf crop data to forecast the expansion and contraction of beef supplies
- Processors, warehouses, storage companies, and the transportation sector rely on the reports to anticipate future volume

# Survey Information

- Project Code: **152 - July Cattle & Calves Survey**
- Questionnaires:
  - Mail out June 23<sup>rd</sup>
  - Web reporting option also available
- Release:
  - *Cattle*
  - July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:00 P.M. Eastern

# January Cattle Report

## January 1 Cattle Inventory Down Slightly

**All cattle and calves** in the United States as of January 1, 2021 totaled 93.6 million head, slightly below the 93.8 million head on January 1, 2020.

**All cows and heifers that have calved**, at 40.6 million head, were slightly below the 40.7 million head on January 1, 2020. Beef cows, at 31.2 million head, were down 1 percent from a year ago. Milk cows, at 9.44 million head, were up 1 percent from the previous year.

**All heifers 500 pounds and over** as of January 1, 2021 totaled 20.0 million head, slightly below the 20.0 million head on January 1, 2020. Beef replacement heifers, at 5.81 million head, were up slightly from a year ago. Milk replacement heifers, at 4.60 million head, were down 2 percent from the previous year. Other heifers, at 9.58 million head, were 1 percent above a year earlier.

**Steers weighing 500 pounds and over** as of January 1, 2021 totaled 16.6 million head, up slightly from January 1, 2020.

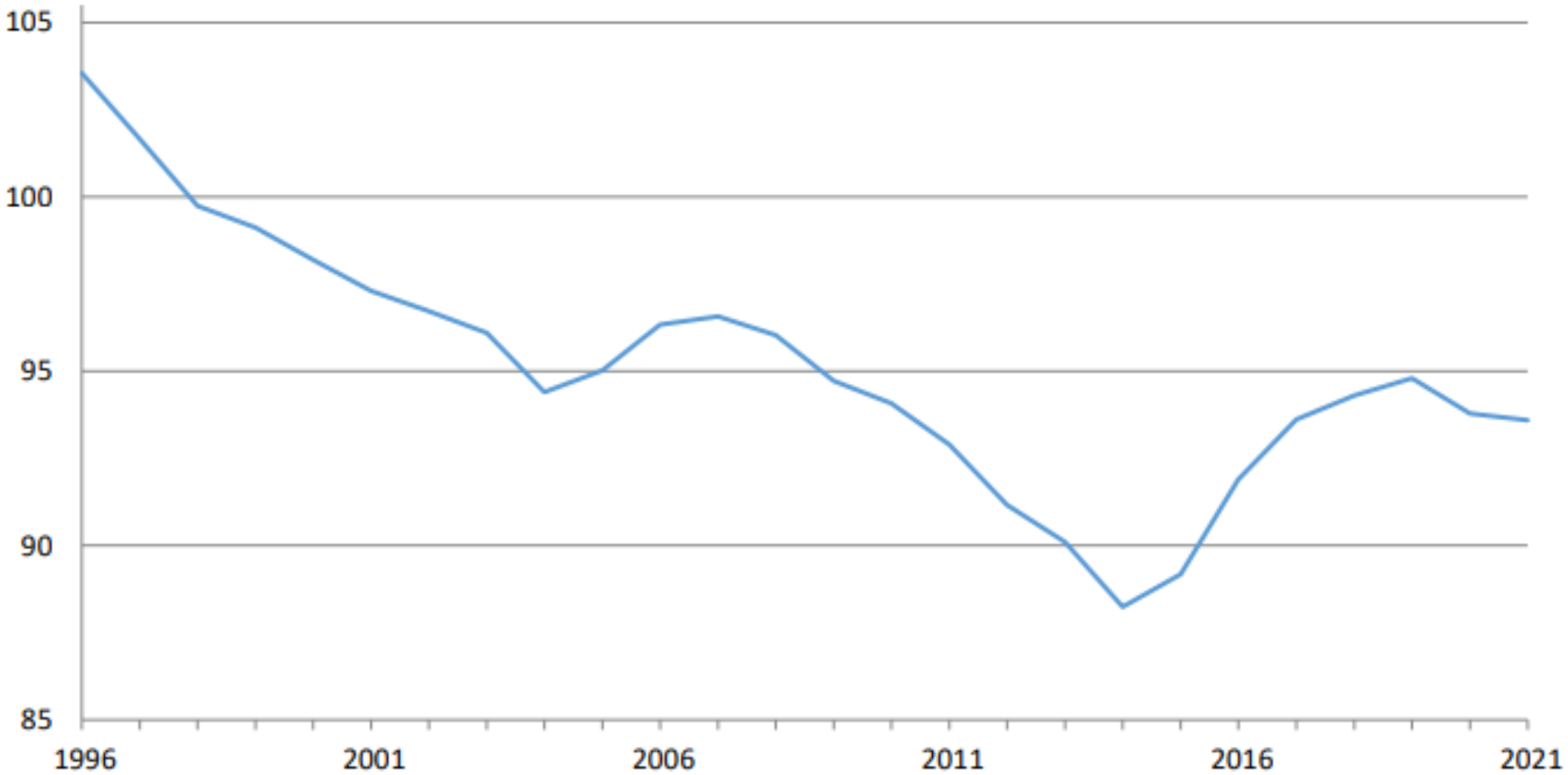
**Bulls weighing 500 pounds and over** as of January 1, 2021 totaled 2.21 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2020.

**Calves under 500 pounds** as of January 1, 2021 totaled 14.2 million head, down 1 percent from January 1, 2020.

**Cattle and calves on feed** for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 14.7 million head on January 1, 2021. The inventory is up slightly from the January 1, 2020 total of 14.7 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head accounted for 81.4 percent of the total cattle on feed on January 1, 2021, down slightly from the previous year. The combined total of calves under 500 pounds and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds (outside of feedlots) at 25.7 million head, was slightly below January 1, 2020.

# All Cattle and Calves Inventory – United States: January 1

Million head



# Introduction

- Questions used to determine:
  - Whether the operation is still in business
  - Name and address verification
  - If the operation currently has cattle OR had cattle at any time during 2021
    - NO: Are you currently operating a farm or ranch?
  - Operation structure
    - Individual
    - Partners
    - Hired Manager

# Cattle and Calves

- July 1, on the total acres operated:
  - If none on hand, we still ask the calf crop and deaths & losses questions
  - If on a fee per head/AUM basis: cattle owner reports
  - All cattle and calves should be reported, even if only a few head kept as pets, 4-H projects, etc.

# Cattle and Calves

- **Beef / Milk cows**
  - Females that have calved at least once
  - Milk cows = Dry + milked
    - Amount of milk produced on July 1 will also be asked
      - Be sure to get only one day's production
- **Bulls weighing 500 lbs. or more**
  - Intact male, usually used for breeding



# Cattle and Calves

- **Heifers** (female, not yet calved) weighing 500 lbs. or more
  - For beef cow replacement
  - For milk cow replacement
  - Other heifers
- **Steers** (castrated male) weighing 500 lbs. or more
- **Heifer, steer and bull calves** under 500 lbs.

# 2021 Calf Crop

- How many cows & heifers expected to calve July 1 – December 31, 2021?
- Of the calves born on the operation (*exclude* calves purchased) January 1 – June 30, how many:
  - Were on hand July 1, 2021?
    - January thru June calves: probably under 500 lbs
  - Were sold, moved off this operation, or slaughtered?
  - Died?

# Deaths and Losses

- Died or were lost from all causes between January 1 and June 30, 2021:
  - How many cattle weighing 500 pounds or more
  - How many calves weighing less than 500 pounds
    - Exclude calves born dead

# Cattle and Calves on Feed

- Any cattle and calves on feed that will be shipped **directly** from your feedlot to slaughter market?
  - Exclude:
    - Any cattle that will eventually be shipped to another feedlot
    - Any cattle that will be returned to pasture prior to slaughter
    - Cattle that are being backgrounded/warmed up, if they will be shipped to another feedlot before slaughter
    - Calves that are raised for veal production
    - Cattle being fed for home use
- How many cattle and calves on feed July 1?

# Cattle/Milk Overlap

- If an operation was selected for both July Cattle & July Milk Production, data should be collected for both surveys during the same visit/call

# Things to remember

- Out of business: Be sure to VERIFY via screening questions
- No Cattle?
  - May very well still be in business
- Be sure to leave a comment explaining any unusual or questionable situations

# Things to watch out for:

- Low % of milk cow inventory milked
  - Rule of thumb: 10% of total would be dry
- Milk production per cow seems high/low
- Beef/Milk cows on hand but no beef/milk cow replacement heifers
  - And vice versa
- Calves born and on hand not accounted for in inventory

# More things to watch out for:

- Cattle and calf deaths are high/low
  - About 2 percent for cattle, 2-10 percent for calves
- Other heifers + steers on hand less than cattle on feed
  - Could possibly be some lighter calves on feed



# Regional Notes

- Beef producers likely to be unhappy with current prices.
  - Be sympathetic to respondent comments and leave notes if they mention market conditions.
- Cattle on feed = must be reported in inventory.
- Cows present = calf crop section should also have data

# In conclusion:

Be sure to work through some interviews on your iPad before you begin enumerating.

Contact your supervisor or regional office if you have any questions specific to your state or local area.

Thank you for your hard work!

