

July Cattle Report: Additional Information

If **beef or milk cows** are reported, expect to have 2023 calves reported somewhere in the inventory and/or disposition questions.

A **milk cow** will generally produce 25 to 80 pounds of milk per day. US average is around 60 pounds

Watch out for dairy operations that have every other day milk pickup—they may report the total amount shipped (for 2 days) rather than just what was produced in 1 day.

Technically, a heifer that has had a calf is a cow. However, cattle producers may refer to 2 or 3 year old females who have had calves as “first / second calf heifers”.

Calves born between January 1 and June 30 will likely weigh **less than 500 pounds** on July 1. If they are still on hand, should then be reported in item ‘**calves under 500 lbs**’

The total **Cattle and Calves on Feed** should generally be accounted for in item ‘**other heifers over 500 lbs**’, ‘**steers over 500 lbs**’, or possibly ‘**calves under 500 lbs**’.

Cattle are “usually” over 500 lbs before being placed in a feedlot.

Verify that cattle on feed will go directly from the operation to slaughter market.

In many areas, if someone has beef cows, they generally do not have dairy cows, and vice-versa.

REPLACEMENT HEIFERS: Most cow/calf operations and dairy operations will have replacement heifers. So, if **beef cows** are present, then item ‘**heifers for beef cow replacement**’ will likely be positive. If **milk cows** are present, then item ‘**heifers for milk cow replacement**’ will likely also have data

It is also becoming more common for operations to raise *only* dairy replacement heifers—e.g. no milk cows reported BUT report having a large number of heifers for milk cow replacement.

The **heifers for beef/milk cow replacement** categories would include:

- A 6-7 month old “calf” barely over 500 pounds
- A 15 month old, 900 pound breeding age “yearling”
- A 24 month old, 1300 pound “springer” just about ready to calve

CALF CROP: If **beef or milk cows** are reported, should be calves born during January 1 through June 30 and/or cows and heifers expected to calve July 1 through December 31.

Since the gestation period for cattle is 280 days (just over 9 months), a cow or heifer can only calve once per year. Twins are relatively rare.

All ‘2023 Calf Crop’ entries **MUST** be calves born on the farm. Calves born elsewhere and moved onto the farm and still-born calves are **EXCLUDED**.

OUT OF BUSINESS: Watch out for the operations that say they are “out of business” or are “no longer farming” but have actually just quit raising cattle. If they still have crops, hay, other livestock, etc. they are *still* in business