



# News Release

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Cattle Inventory  
February 1, 2008

## North Dakota Cattle Inventory

### North Dakota

**All cattle and calves** as of January 1, 2008 totaled 1.81 million head, down from 1.85 million head on January 1, 2007, according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. There were decreases in every inventory class except other heifers and calves under 500 pounds. Despite the decrease, the inventory is still above the relatively low herd sizes during January 1, 2004 – 2006, which ranged from 1.71 to 1.75 million head. The number of cattle operations during 2007 totaled 11,500, the same as 2006, which is the lowest on record. The number of milk cow operations totaled 460 during 2007, down from 500 in 2006 and lowest on record.

**All cows and heifers that have calved** as of January 1, 2008, at 950,000 head were down from 970,000 cows on January 1, 2007 and 2006. **Beef cows**, at 922,000 head, were down from 939,000 cows the previous year and from 937,000 cows on January 1, 2006. **Milk cows**, at 28,000 head, were down from 31,000 head a year ago.

**All heifers 500 pounds and over**, at 410,000 head, were down from 440,000 on January 1, 2007. **Heifers for beef cow replacement**, at 165,000, were down from last year's 202,000 head, which was the highest since January 1, 1974. **Heifers for milk cow replacement**, at 15,000 head, were down from 18,000 head a year ago. **Other heifers** not for breeding, at 230,000 head, were up from 220,000 head a year ago.

**Steers weighing 500 pounds and over**, at 255,000 head, were down 2 percent from a year ago but 13 percent above January 1, 2006.

**Calves under 500 pounds**, at 140,000 head, were up from 122,000 head a year ago and were the highest since January 1, 1999, when 175,000 were on hand.

**All cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in feedlots on January 1, 2008, at 65,000 head, were up from the last three year's 60,000 head, which was the lowest since January 1, 1991 when 50,000 head were on feed.

**The 2007 calf crop** is estimated at 930,000 head, down from 2006's calf crop of 960,000 head, but equal to 2005's calf crop.

### United States

**All cattle and calves** as of January 1, 2008, totaled 96.7 million head, slightly below the 97.0 million on January 1, 2007.

**All cows and heifers** that have calved, at 41.8 million, were down 1 percent from the 42.0 million on January 1, 2007. **Beef cows**, at 32.6 million, were down 1 percent from January 1, 2007. **Milk cows**, at 9.22 million, were up 1 percent from January 1, 2007.

Other class estimates on January 1, 2008, and the change from January 1, 2007, are as follows: **All heifers 500 pounds and over**, 20.0 million, down slightly. **Beef replacement heifers**, 5.67 million, down 4 percent. **Milk replacement heifers**, 4.46 million, up 3 percent. **Other heifers**, 9.88 million, down slightly.

**Steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 17.3 million, up slightly. **Calves under 500 pounds**, 15.4 million, down 1 percent. **Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter in all feedlots, 14.3 million, up slightly. The combined total of **calves under 500 pounds, and other heifers and steers over 500 pounds** outside of feedlots was 28.2 million, down slightly.

**The 2007 calf crop** was estimated at 37.4 million head, down slightly from 2006. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 27.2 million, down 1 percent from 2006.

**Cattle and Calves: Inventory, Calf Crop and Cattle on Feed  
North Dakota and United States, January 1, 2007-2008**

Class	North Dakota		United States <sup>1/</sup>	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
<b>All Cattle and Calves</b>	1,850	1,810	97,003	96,669
Cows and Heifers That Calved	970	950	42,023	41,777
Beef Cows	939	922	32,891	32,553
Milk Cows	31	28	9,132	9,224
Heifers 500 Pounds and Over	440	410	20,086	20,003
For Beef Cow Replacement	202	165	5,877	5,670
Expected to Calve <sup>2/</sup>			3,568	3,420
For Milk Cow Replacement	18	15	4,310	4,457
Expected to Calve <sup>2/</sup>			2,837	2,928
Other Heifers	220	230	9,899	9,876
Steers 500 Pounds and Over	260	255	17,222	17,305
Bulls 500 Pounds and Over	58	55	2,215	2,207
Calves Under 500 Pounds	122	140	15,456	15,378
<b>Calf Crop <sup>3/</sup></b>	960	930	37,519	37,361
<b>Cattle on Feed</b>	60	65	14,269	17,317
<b>Number of Operations <sup>3/</sup></b>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
All Cattle	11,500	11,500	971,400	967,440
Beef Cows	10,500	10,500	762,880	757,900
Milk Cows	500	460	74,980	71,510

1/ Totals may not add due to rounding. 2/ Replacement heifers expected to calve during the year, published at U.S. level only. 3/ Preceding year.

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