

Management of U.S. Cow-Calf Operations at a Glance

NAHMS Beef 2017 Study

September 2020

MAJORITY OF CATTLE ARE MARKETED FOR CONSUMPTION

Cattle Operation Classification

77.3% are commercial operations

16.9% are commercial and seedstock operations

5.9% are seedstock operations



3/4

of cow-calf operations primarily raised commercial cattle, which are marketed for consumption.

SOURCES OF INCOME FOR COW-CALF OPERATIONS

15.8%

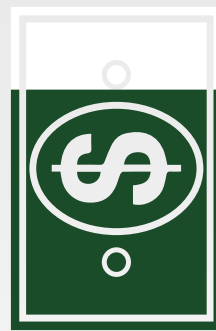
of cow-calf operations act as a **primary** source of income for producers.

81.3%

of cow-calf operations act as a **supplemental** source of income for producers.

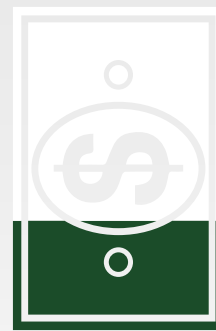
Cow-Calf Operation is the Primary Source of Income by Herd Size

71.9%



large operations

32.4%



medium operations

7.5%



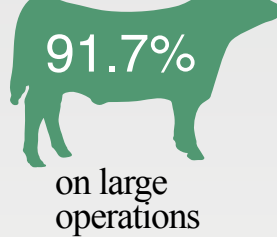
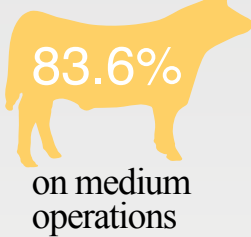
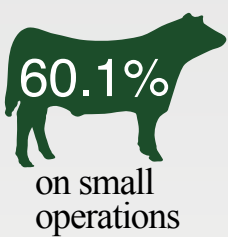
small operations



Herd size (number of cows): small (1-49 head), medium (50-199 head), large (200 or more head)

PRECONDITIONING PRACTICES BEFORE SALE

Percentage of Cattle Castrated Before Sale



62% of commercial operations castrated calves before sale.



59.8% of operations used **conventional channels** to market their beef calves.

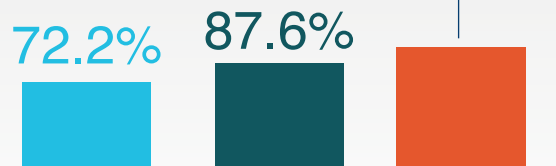
42.5%

of all operations provided buyers with information about their **calf health program** before sale.



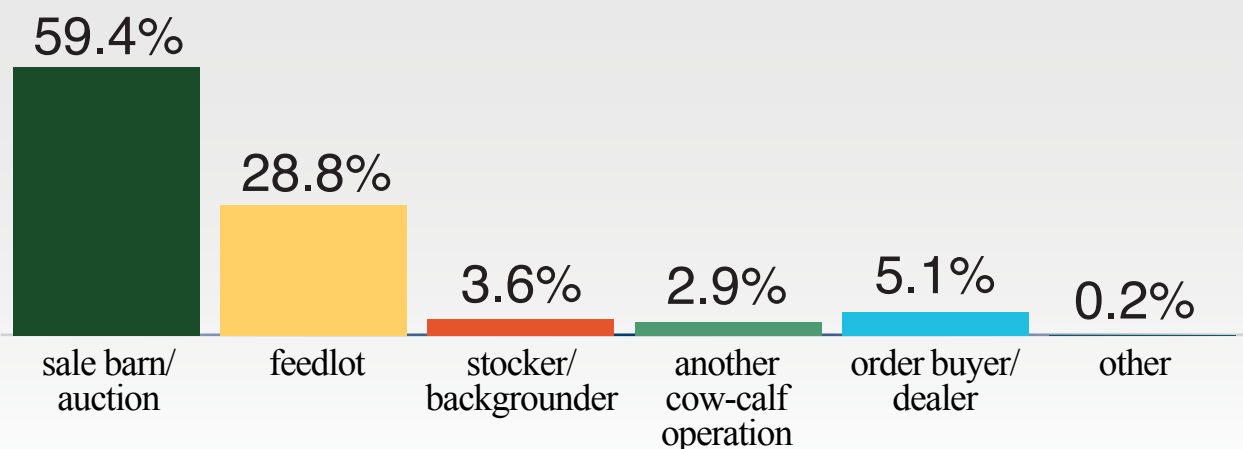
92.2%

of calves were born **without horns** in 2017.



Calves Born Without Horns

DESTINATIONS OF WEANED CALVES



GENERAL HEALTH PRACTICES AMONG COW-CALF PRODUCERS



8.1%

of operations used **pneumatic darts** on any cattle.

1.1%

of **cattle were injected** using pneumatic darts.

93.8%



of producers said they would **contact a private veterinarian** if they **suspected a case of Foot-and-Mouth Disease** on their operation.