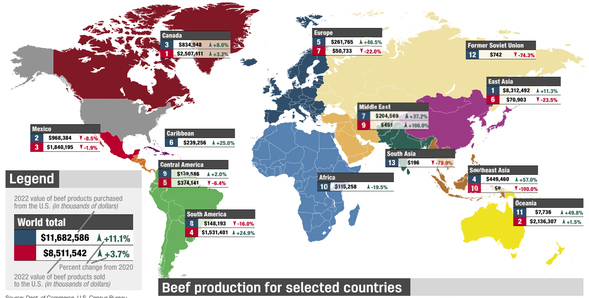
Global production and trade



Legend

2022 value of beef products purchased from the U.S. *(in thousands of dollars)*

World total

$11,682,586 ▲+11.1%

$8,511,542 ▲+3.7%

Percent change from 2020

2022 value of beef products sold to the U.S. *(in thousands of dollars)*

Source: Dept. of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics

Percentage of world beef production

- **20.6%** United States
- **17.9%** Brazil
- **12.5%** China
- **11.3%** European Union
- **7.5%** India
- **5.1%** Argentina
- **3.8%** Mexico
- **21.3%** Other *Comprises 39 additional countries*

Beef production for selected countries

Veal/beef production rank	Country	2023 Volume *(in thousands of metric tons)*	2023 Percent change from 2022	2023 Percent of world beef production	2023 Beef cattle rank	2023 Beef cattle *(1,000 head)*	2023 Percent change from 2022	2023 Beef/veal exported rank	2023 Beef/veal exported *(1,000 metric tons)*	2023 Percent change from 2022	2023 Beef cattle slaughtered rank	2023 Beef cattle slaughtered *(1,000 head)*	2023 Percent change from 2022
1	United States	12,201	-5.3%	20.6%	4	89,274	-3.0%	3	1,422	-11.3%	4	34,829	5.8%
2	Brazil	10,570	+2.1%	17.9%	2	194,365	+.3%	1	3,012	+3.9%	2	36,300	-2.7%
3	China	7,400	+3.1%	12.5%	3	101,500	+3.4%	21	21	+5.0%	1	47,820	-2.4%
4	European Union	6,700	-0.4%	11.3%	5	74,856	-1.1%	7	625	-3.7%	5	23,150	-0.7%
5	India	4,440	+2.1%	7.5%	1	307,500	+0.3%	2	1,475	+2.3%	3	39,450	-1.3%
6	Argentina	3,000	-4.5%	5.1%	6	53,120	-0.5%	5	795	-3.4%	6	13,500	+2.3%
7	Mexico	2,220	+1.8%	3.8%	8	17,850	+3.1%	11	410	+3.8%	7	6,780	-2.0%
8	Australia	2,060	+9.7%	3.5%	7	25,800	+7.5%	4	1,400	+13.0%	8	6,115	-8.7%
9	Canada	1,375	-1.4%	2.3%	11	11,270	-2.2%	8	585	+0.3%	11	3,736	+1.2%
10	Russia	1,300	-1.5%	2.2%	9	17,798	-2.0%	18	40	-27.2%	9	6,500	-0.8%
11	South Africa	1,000	+0.5%	1.7%	12	9,965	-1.8%	17	50	+8.7%	NA	NA	NA
12	United Kingdom	905	+1.1%	1.5%	13	9,375	-0.7%	12	180	+7.8%	12	2,761	-0.5%
13	Colombia	725	+1.0%	1.2%	14	8,125	+1.6%	16	54	+0.0%	NA	NA	NA
14	New Zealand	720	-1.1%	1.2%	12	9,965	-1.8%	6	645	-0.5%	10	4,592	-0.9%
15	Uruguay	590	+4.8%	1.0%	10	11,740	+0.8%	9	485	-5.5%	13	2,411	+4.4%
16	Paraguay	550	-5.2%	0.9%	17	2,404	-12.3%	10	445	-3.7%	NA	NA	NA
Total of selected countries		55,756	-2.9%	94.2%		944,544	-8.4%		11,644	-10.5%		233,894	-4.9%

Source: USDA Foreign Agricultural Service

Top 20 countries buying U.S. beef products *(exports)*

Rank	Country	2022 Beef and variety meat imported *(in metric tons)*	Percent change from 2021	Rank	Country	2022 Beef and variety meat value *(in thousands of dollars)*	Percent change from 2021
1	Japan	308,735	-4%	3	Japan	$2,321,137	-2%
2	South Korea	291,748	+4%	1	Canada	$2,697,623	+13%
3	Hong Kong/China(*)	278,204	+16%	2	Mexico	$2,546,704	+22%
4	Mexico	184,938	-8%	4	Hong Kong/China(*)	$968,384	-8%
5	Canada	105,220	+1%	5	South Korea	$834,948	+3%
6	Taiwan	64,018	+3%	6	Taiwan	$746,921	+12%
7	Egypt	48,026	-4%	11	Egypt	$94,214	+28%
8	Philippines	24,347	+81%	8	Philippines	$161,368	+119%
9	Indonesia	21,079	-22%	9	Indonesia	$123,744	+5%
10	Netherlands	12,893	+41%	7	Vietnam	$184,749	+48%
11	Vietnam	10,752	+66%	12	Netherlands	$91,169	+103%
12	Colombia	9,644	+5%	16	Colombia	47,946	+18%
13	Dominican Republic	9,438	+19%	10	Dominican Republic	$97,626	+24%
14	Guatemala	8,689	+5%	15	Chile	$62,855	+1%
15	Chile	8,461	-24%	14	Guatemala	$63,736	-33%
16	South Africa	7,746	-38%	24	South Africa	$10,673	-26%
17	United Arab Emirates	6,736	+16%	13	United Arab Emirates	$71,064	+18%
18	Peru	6,287	-35%	20	Peru	$27,291	-17%
19	Jamaica	4,756	-1%	21	Jamaica	$23,601	+43%
20	Kuwait	3,725	+8%	17	Kuwait	$39,109	+23%
	World total	1,473,740	+2%			$11,682,583	+11%

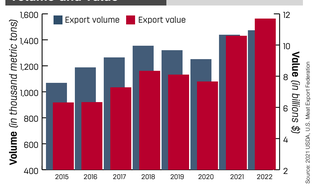
Source: 2023 USDA, U.S. Meat Export Federation (*) denotes a country that is a summarization of its component countries. Editor's note: A list graphic for top nations that export beef, showing rank for beef & veal exports, total value in 2022 and % change from 2021. A secondary ranking can be used for the export leaders of beef variety meats with accommodating ranking.

Top 10 countries shipping beef products to the U.S. *(imports)*

Rank	Country	2022 Beef and veal imported *(in metric tons)*	Percent change from 2021	Rank	Country	2022 Beef and veal imported *(in thousands of dollars)*	Percent change from 2021
1	Canada	340,134	+3%	1	Canada	$2,507,411	+3%
2	Mexico	269,701	+9%	2	Mexico	$1,840,195	+2%
3	Brazil	154,725	+47%	4	Brazil	$1,041,092	+29%
4	Australia(*)	133,549	-3%	3	Australia(*)	$1,223,369	+4%
5	New Zealand(*)	129,222	-22%	5	New Zealand(*)	$915,938	-9%
6	Nicaragua	57,120	+6%	6	Nicaragua	$242,174	-5%
7	Uruguay	45,227	+9%	7	Uruguay	$337,301	+20%
8	Argentina	21,402	+7%	8	Argentina	$153,008	+11%
9	Costa Rica	5,539	-27%	10	Costa Rica	$31,700	-18%
10	Netherlands	3,840	+87%	11	Netherlands	$31,022	+30%
	World total	1,164,983	+3%			$8,511,542	+4%

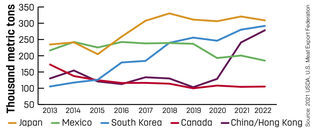
Source: 2023 Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics (*) denotes a country that is a summarization of its component countries. Editor's note: A list graphic for top nations that export beef, showing rank for beef & veal exports, total value in 2022 and % change from 2021. A secondary ranking can be used for the export leaders of beef variety meats with accommodating ranking.

U.S. beef exports volume and value



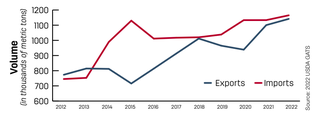
Source: 2021 USDA, U.S. Meat Export Federation

U.S. beef exports to select markets



Source: 2021 USDA, U.S. Meat Export Federation

U.S. beef and veal annual trade



Source: 2022 USDA GATS

Market prices and indexes

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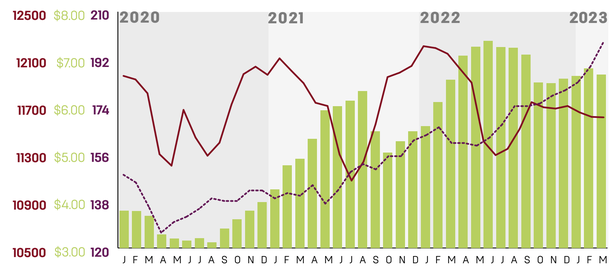
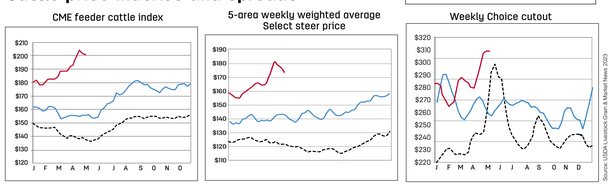
PROGRESSIVE CATTLE

2020-23 – Monthly cattle on feed, corn price and feeder calf prices



Source: USDA NASS 2023
*Feedlots with capacity over 1,000 head

Cattle price indexes and spreads



Source: USDA Livestock Grain & Market News 2023

PROGRESSIVE CATTLE 2023 beef statistics

Liquidation brings U.S. beef herd to lowest number in 60 years

Progressive Cattle Managing Editor David Cooper

The U.S. beef industry experienced a major cycle of liquidation in 2022, as drought, inflation, spiking interest rates, and labor issues all contributed to downsizing among cow-calf producers and feedlots.

The national beef cow herd declined 3.5% or a little over 1 million head, to 28.9 million cows, the lowest beef cow herd inventory since 1962. Overall cattle and calf inventory fell to its lowest level in seven years, to 89,274,100 head, a 3% drop from 2021.

With a fourth year of La Nina weather across the West and southern Plains, a wide portion of cattle went to processing and created months of record slaughter figures. Total beef production hit another overall record mark of 28.93 billion pounds.

Most U.S. states saw heavy contraction in their cattle and beef cow herds because of the selloff. The southern Plains states were hit hardest. Oklahoma declined some 140,000 head of beef cows, around 6.6% less, followed by Texas with a loss of 125,000 cows (down 2.8%), Kansas down 106,000 cows (down 7.5%), and Nebraska losing 99,000 head (5.5% decline). Only Missouri saw a 0.2% jump in beef cows, making it the only state in the top 10 beef cow states to see an increase.

Trade sets new value records

Sales of U.S. beef across the world rose steadily to a global total value of $11.7 billion, up 11% from the previous year. Volume increased as well with 1,473,740 metric tons shipped to partners. Regions seeing major increases in sales included Canada, up 8%, European Union, up 46% and East Asia, up 11.3% in export spending.

Among global regions, imports to the U.S. were up 24.9% from South America, 3.2% from Canada, and 1.5% from Oceania. Total imports by the U.S. from global partners went up 3% in volume, and 4% in value.

While Japan remained the largest volume importer of U.S. beef, and second in value, China continues to show skyrocketing importance to the U.S. export portfolio. Exports to China went up 16% in 2022 to 278,294 metric tons, and an impressive 22% in dollars spent ($2.5 billion), making it the second largest value partner behind South Korea ($2.7 billion). Japan saw a decline of 4% in volume and 2% in value.

North American trading partners remained steady buyers of U.S. beef, as Canada saw a small increase in volume and value, but still not as high as Mexico, which spent $968 million in exports in 2022.

Beef imports to the U.S. continued to grow 3% in volume, 4% in value. Although Canada (up 3%) and Mexico (up 9%) remained the largest volume partners for U.S. buyers, the largest growth was seen with beef from Brazil. Imports from the South American titan increased 47% in 2022 to 154,725 metric tons, with the U.S. spending just over $1 billion in import value (up 29%). Despite the debate surrounding the quality and safety of Brazilian beef, it was the fifth straight year in which tonnage went up.

Production stagnates globally

The U.S. remained the largest producer of U.S. beef in 2022, but its share of the total amount of beef produced dropped 1.3% in the past marketing year. Brazil saw an increase of 2.1% in year-over-year production, as did China, while their portion of the worldwide percentage of global beef production jumped 1.1% and 3.4% respectively.

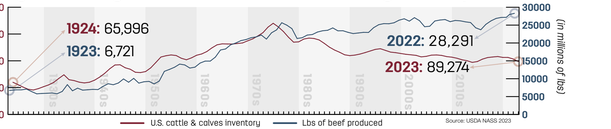
Among the top 16 nations of beef producers the total volume of production dropped 2.9% to 55.7 million metric tons.

Europe
Exports of U.S. beef and veal products to Europe jumped 46.5% during 2022, as spending increases with nations coming out of COVID-19 restrictions.

Brazil
The U.S. continued its steady stream of importing beef from Brazil in 2022, with volume hitting a record 154,725 metric tons, and $1.04 billion in value.

Kansas
The Sunflower State saw a whopping 7.5% decrease in the number of beef cows in 2022 due to liquidation and drought. Kansas saw its overall cattle and cattle-on-feed numbers drop as well.

100-year history: U.S. cattle & calves inventory & beef produced



Source: USDA NASS 2023

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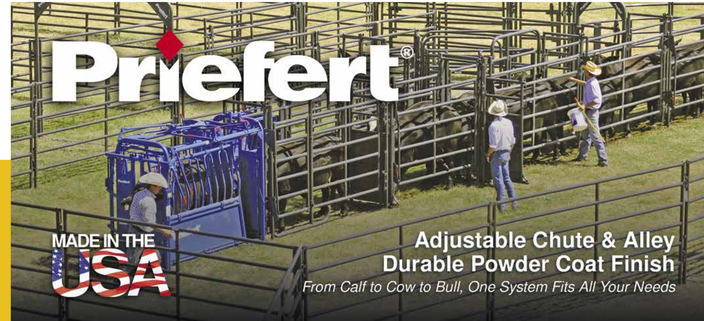
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2023 U.S. beef statistics

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Top 50 beef cow counties

State	County	2023 head	2023 rank	2022 head	2022 rank	Change (annual)
NE	Holt	87,000	1	92,000	1	-5.4%
FL	Okeechobee	77,000	2	79,000	2	-2.5%
NE	Lincoln	72,000	3	76,000	3	-5.3%
OR	Malheur	71,000	4	71,000	5	0.0%
CA	Tulare	70,000	5	72,000	4	-2.8%
FL	Highlands	68,000	6	68,000	8	0.0%
SD	Meade	68,000	7	71,000	5	-4.2%
MT	Fergus	68,000	7	70,000	7	-2.9%
OR	Harney	65,000	9	65,000	9	0.0%
MT	Beaverhead	61,000	10	63,000	10	-3.2%
FL	Polk	60,000	11	61,000	11	-1.6%
SD	Tripp	59,000	12	61,000	11	-3.3%
FL	Osceola	59,000	12	60,000	13	-1.7%
OK	Osage	54,000	14	58,000	14	-6.9%
SD	Perkins	54,000	14	57,000	15	-5.3%
TX	Gonzales	54,000	14	55,000	16	-1.8%
WY	Fremont	52,000	17	53,000	17	-1.9%
MO	Polk	51,000	18	51,000	20	0.0%
NE	Sheridan	50,000	19	53,000	17	-5.7%
ND	Morton	48,500	20	52,000	19	-6.7%
OK	Caddo	48,000	21	51,000	20	-5.9%
TX	De Witt	48,000	21	49,500	22	-3.0%
MT	Custer	48,000	21	48,500	23	-1.0%
WY	Carbon	48,000	21	48,500	23	-1.0%
WY	Campbell	47,500	25	48,000	26	-1.0%
MO	Lawrence	47,000	26	47,000	29	0.0%
MT	Carter	46,500	27	47,500	27	-2.1%
NE	Knox	46,000	28	48,500	23	-5.2%
CO	Weld	46,000	28	46,000	32	0.0%
AR	Benton	45,500	30	47,500	27	-4.2%
TX	Hopkins	45,500	30	47,000	29	-3.2%
MT	Big Horn	45,000	32	46,000	32	-2.2%
OR	Lake	45,000	32	44,500	37	1.1%
MT	Madison	44,500	34	45,500	34	-2.2%
MT	Phillips	44,000	35	45,000	34	-2.2%
MO	Texas	44,000	35	44,000	40	0.0%
OR	Baker	44,000	35	44,000	40	0.0%
OK	Craig	43,000	38	46,500	31	-7.5%
MT	Rosebud	43,000	38	44,000	40	-2.3%
MO	Barry	43,000	38	43,000	47	0.0%
MO	Newton	43,000	38	43,000	47	0.0%
TX	Van Zandt	42,500	42	43,500	44	-2.3%
TX	Colorado	42,500	42	43,500	44	-2.3%
MO	Bates	42,500	42	41,500	50	2.4%
OK	Muskogee	42,000	45	45,000	34	-6.7%
SD	Harding	42,000	45	44,500	37	-5.6%
MT	Powder River	42,000	45	43,000	47	-2.3%
SD	Fall River	42,000	48	44,000	43	-4.5%
ND	Mckenzie	41,500	49	44,500	37	-6.7%
SD	Haakon	41,500	49	43,500	44	-4.6%

Source: USDA NASS 2021

West · Southeast · North · South Central

U.S. cattle inventory and operations by size

Source: 2017 USDA Census

U.S. cattle operations by segment

2017 Total operations | 882,692

- Cow-calf/Seedstock | 729,046 | **82.6%**
- Feedlot | 25,776 | **2.9%**
- Dairy | 54,599 | **6.2%**
- Stocker/grower | 73,271 | **8.3%**

4 of every 5 operations are cow-calf/seedstock producers

Note: U.S. Census data are released once every five years. 2017 is the most recent report.

Source: 2017 USDA Census

5-year beef cow herd expansion

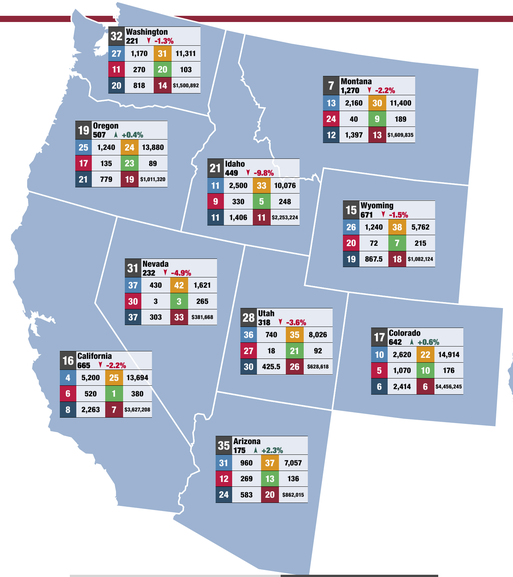
Top 5

Rank in growth	State	Change of head	2023	2018	Percent change
1	Hawaii	+7,400	82,400	75,000	+9.9%
2	Florida	+2,000	888,000	886,000	+0.2%
3	Alaska	+1,700	7,800	6,100	+27.9%
4	Maine	+1,000	11,000	10,000	+10.0%
5	Massachusetts	+1,000	7,500	6,500	+15.4%

Bottom 10

Rank in growth	State	Change of head	2023	2018	Percent change
41	Iowa	-90,000	860,000	950,000	-9.5%
42	Oklahoma	-107,000	1,981,000	2,088,000	-5.1%
43	Kentucky	-138,000	895,000	1,033,000	-13.4%
44	Missouri	-141,000	1,945,000	2,086,000	-6.8%
45	Colorado	-170,000	642,000	812,000	-20.9%
46	Kansas	-189,000	1,315,000	1,504,000	-12.6%
47	Nebraska	-207,000	1,703,000	1,910,000	-10.8%
48	South Dakota	-218,000	1,533,000	1,751,000	-12.5%
49	Texas	-220,000	4,300,000	4,520,000	-4.9%
50	Montana	-227,000	1,270,000	1,497,000	-15.2%

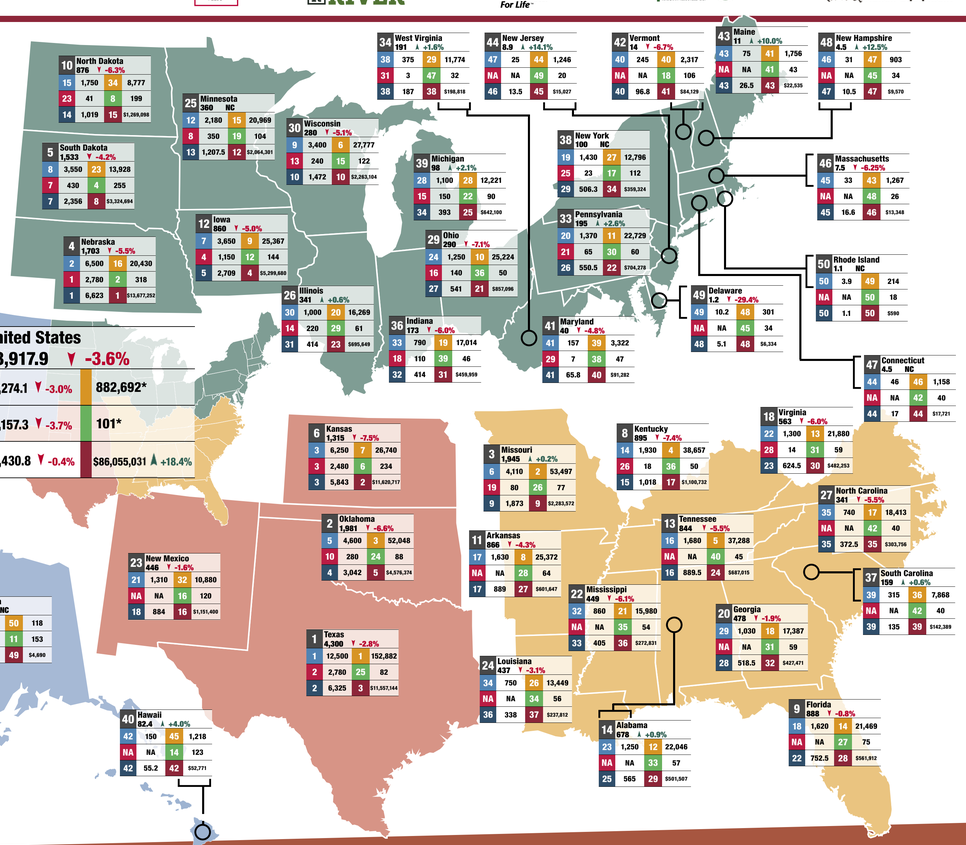
Source: USDA NASS 2022



Legend

State ranking-beef cows	Minnesota		Percentage increase/decrease in beef cows in 2022
25	360	NC	
Beef cows (in thousands)	State ranking-cattle/calves inventory	Cattle/calves inventory (in thousands)	State ranking-cattle/calves operations*
12	2,180	15	20,969
State ranking-cattle on feed	Cattle on feed (in thousands)	State ranking-average operation size (# of head)	Average operation size (# of head)
8	350	19	104
State ranking-cattle & calf sales	Cattle & calf sales (in thousands of head)	State ranking-cash receipts	Cash receipts (in thousands)
13	1,207.5	12	$2,064,301

Source: USDA 2023 statistics · *USDA Census 2017



United States

28,917.9 ▼ -3.6%	
89,274.1 ▼ -3.0%	882,692*
14,157.3 ▼ -3.7%	101*
54,430.8 ▼ -0.4%	$86,055,031 ▲ +18.4%

West Region

Cattle/calves

Cattle/calves # of head	18,428,000
Calf crop	7,548,500
Cattle on feed	2,727,000
Cattle sales	11,311,600
Beef cows	5,240,200
Cattle/calves operations	99,077
1-99 head (operations)	77,505
100-499 head (operations)	15,053
500+ head (operations)	6,519

North Region

Cattle/calves

Cattle/calves # of head	28,971,100
Calf crop	10,504,000
Cattle on feed	5,709,000
Cattle sales	18,644,700
Beef cows	7,092,700
Cattle/calves operations	247,759
1-99 head (operations)	186,178
100-499 head (operations)	49,741
500+ head (operations)	11,840

South Central Region

Cattle/calves

Cattle/calves # of head	24,660,000
Calf crop	8,340,000
Cattle on feed	5,540,000
Cattle sales	16,094,000
Beef cows	8,042,000
Cattle/calves operations	242,550
1-99 head (operations)	204,086
100-499 head (operations)	31,876
500+ head (operations)	6,588

Southeast Region

Cattle/calves

Cattle/calves # of head	17,215,000
Calf crop	8,072,000
Cattle on feed	112,000
Cattle sales	8,380,500
Beef cows	8,543,000
Cattle/calves operations	293,306
1-99 head (operations)	249,866
100-499 head (operations)	39,735
500+ head (operations)	3,705

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