

Market prices and indexes

PROGRESSIVE CATTLE

Beef cows and total cattle inventory remain low in 2024

U.S. beef cow inventory totals dropped for another year, down to 27.9 million head at the start of 2025 – still the lowest total since 1962 and the sixth consecutive year for beef cow inventory decline in the country.

Brazil

This country made a bigger contribution to the worldwide beef supply, adding another 3% to its export volume and jumping to 19.3% of total supply raised.

Mexico

Our southern neighbor bought 10% more volume in U.S. beef in 2024, with 13% more value paid.

Oklahoma

This South-Central state is a leader in expansion with 1.5% more beef cows and 1.5% more cattle and calves over 2024.

The toll could be seen in overall beef production on a global scale, as the U.S. saw its total output drop 1.1% to 12.1 million metric tons (MT) of total beef. That amounted to 19.9% of

A decline in U.S. supply led to large growth in import demand. Imports from Australia jumped 67% in both volume (\$73,098 MT total) and total value (\$2.8 billion) from the year previous. Canada remained the second-largest exporter to the U.S., although volume and value did see a decline. But imports from Brazil went up 77% in volume to 234,353 MT and 68.3% in overall value to \$1.4 billion, as the third-biggest exporter into the U.S.

value side registered a 5% total increase in money raised to \$10.5 billion. Japan and South Korea saw respectable increases of 3% and 4% value to \$1.8 billion and \$2.2 billion, respectively. Mexico bought 232,488 MT and spent \$1.4 billion, a 10% increase, on U.S. beef.

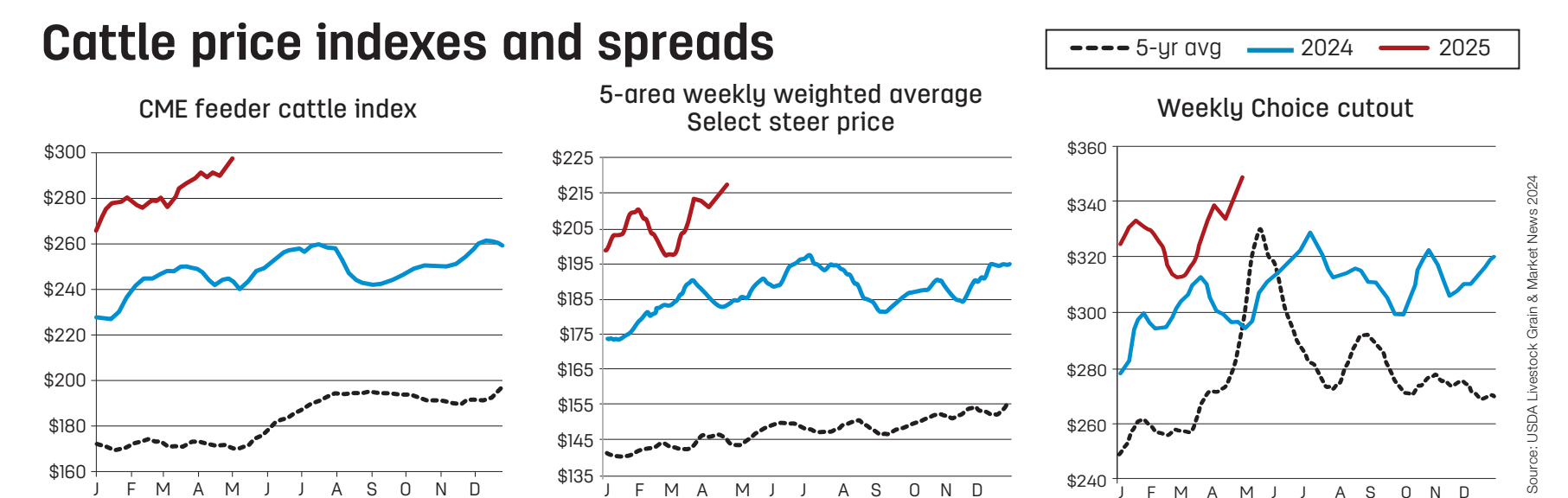
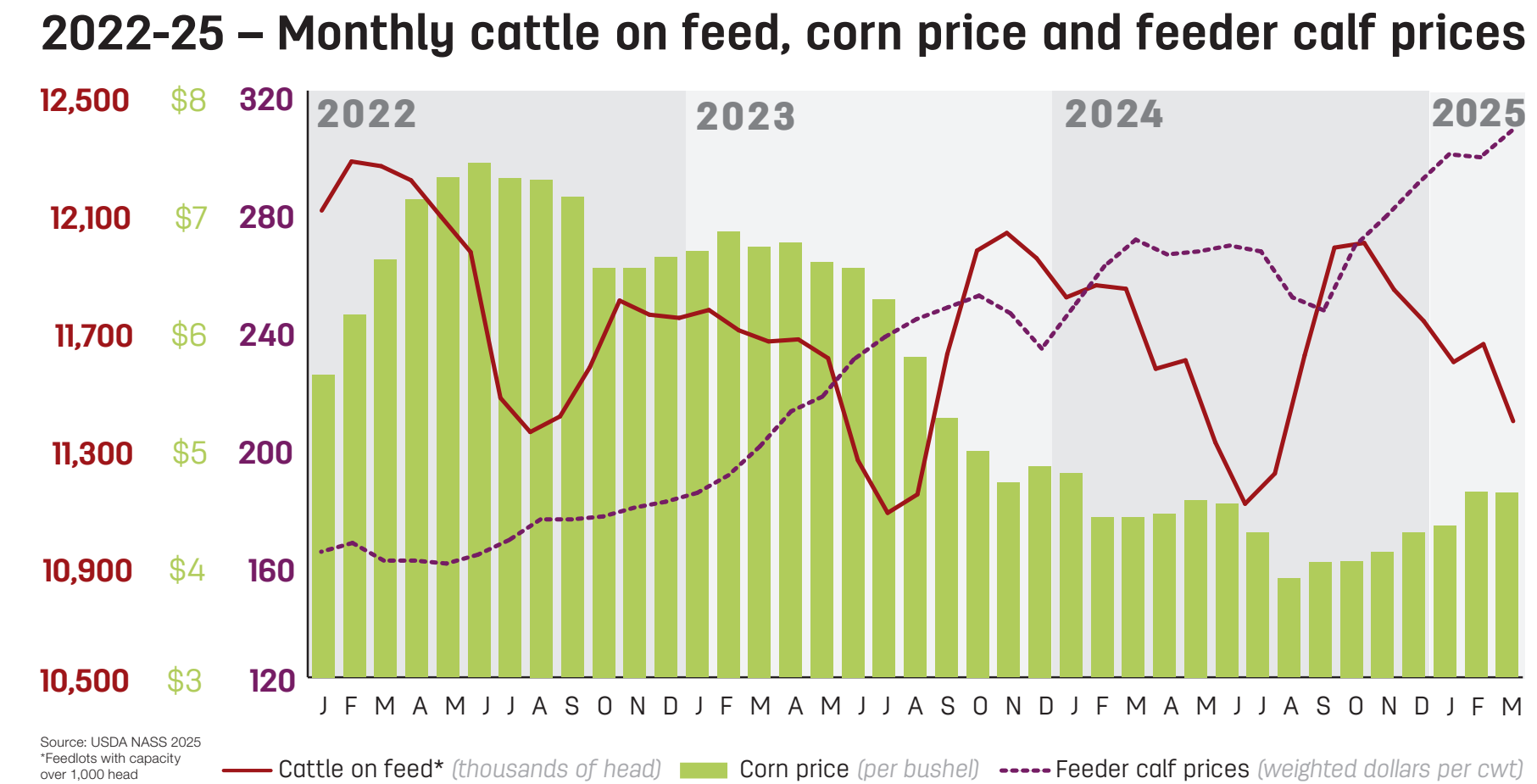
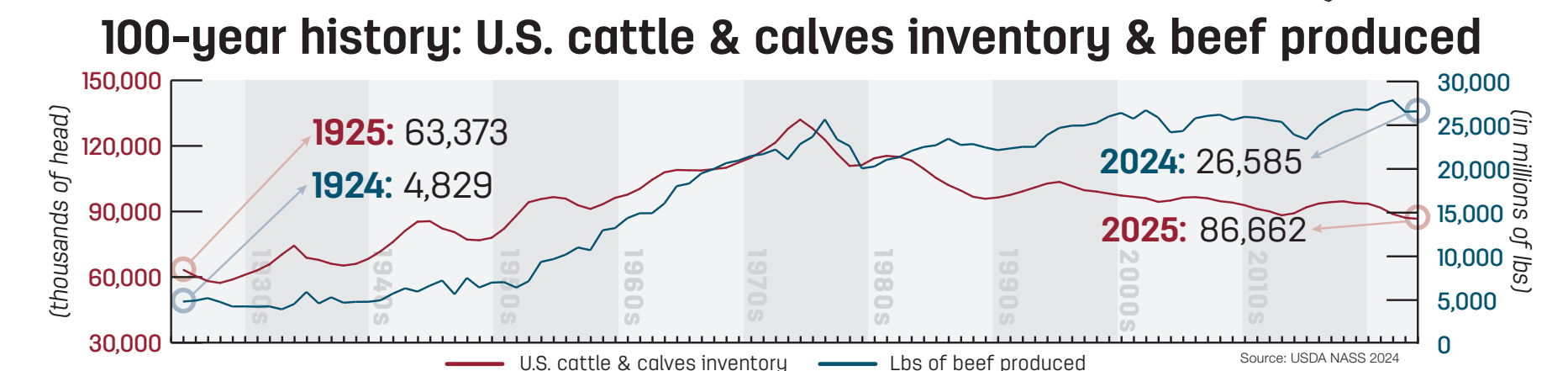

About changes to USDA data

This year's map reflects new reporting on U.S. inventories of cattle as a result of revised policy following the 2022 Census of Agriculture. The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) gathered stakeholder input in fall 2023 and announced changes to balance resources across those programs in the annual survey estimate.

NASS has reduced the number of states showing beef cow number estimates from 50 to just 31. Those states with beef cow numbers less than 1% of the U.S. inventory and less than 1,000,000 head of cattle no longer have a state survey number. Their estimate is shown in the listing of "other states."

The U.S. map in the poster still includes each state's survey number for cattle and calf inventory, and total cows inventory. To the left of the U.S. map, a new table is shown ranking all 31 states that do have a beef cow estimate in 2025.

Likewise, we have removed states' cattle on feed from the U.S. map, since NASS has cut the number of states showing those data to just 11 states.



Top 20 countries buying U.S. beef products (exports)						
Rank	Country	2024 Beef and variety meat value (in metric tons)	Percent change from 2023	Rank	2024 Beef and variety meat value (in thousands of dollars)	Percent change from 2023
1	Japan	242,869	0%	3	\$1,867,731	3%
2	Mexico	232,488	10%	4	\$1,345,353	13%
3	South Korea	232,481	-6%	1	\$2,220,964	4%
4	Hong Kong/China	215,603	-6%	2	\$1,984,437	-2%
5	Canada	100,679	-3%	5	\$896,115	2%
6	Taiwan	62,503	4%	6	\$709,222	13%
7	Egypt	38,679	18%	12	\$62,747	5%
8	Philippines	15,668	35%	8	\$131,896	57%
9	Indonesia	14,551	-18%	10	\$92,926	15%
10	Dominican Republic	10,253	6%	9	\$119,703	11%
11	Guatemala	9,574	2%	11	\$78,489	7%
12	Netherlands	8,948	-21%	7	\$163,115	-11%
13	Peru	8,147	7%	19	\$31,139	0%
14	Chile	5,994	12%	14	\$46,660	17%
15	Vietnam	5,052	27%	15	\$43,420	65%
16	United Arab Emirates	4,442	-2%	13	\$55,651	-13%
17	South Africa	4,400	-67%	25	\$5,090	-64%
18	Panama	3,799	49%	20	\$28,302	38%
19	Jamaica & Dep	3,687	-2%	23	\$18,433	-10%
20	Cuba	3,683	847%	24	\$6,014	191%

U.S. beef exports volume and value

Year	Export volume (in thousand metric tons)	Export value (in billions \$)
2017	1,280	7.5
2018	1,370	8.5
2019	1,330	8.2
2020	1,270	7.8
2021	1,450	9.5
2022	1,500	10.5
2023	1,310	9.8
2024	1,300	10.2

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. Foreign Trade Statistics (F) denotes a country that is a summation of the component countries. Editor's note: A list graphic for top nations that export beef, showing rank for beef & veal exports, total value in 2024 and % change from 2023. A secondary ranking can be used for the export leaders of beef & veal variety meats with accommodation rankings.

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

Rank	Country	2024 Beef and veal imported (in metric tons)	Percent change from 2023	Rank	2024 Beef and veal imported (in thousands of dollars)	Percent change from 2023
1	Australia(*)	373,098	67.9%	1	\$2,785,609	67.3%
2	Canada	351,990	-0.9%	2	\$2,691,360	-5.6%
3	Brazil	234,353	77.1%	4	\$1,371,611	68.3%
4	Mexico	221,848	-6.4%	3	\$1,786,045	3.8%
5	New Zealand(*)	185,381	6.7%	5	\$1,018,160	13.8%
6	Uruguay	99,297	76.6%	6	\$1,641,728	65.8%
7	Nicaragua	53,562	5.0%	7	\$320,218	12.1%
8	Argentina	32,797	38.0%	8	\$218,085	34.3%
9	Paraguay	18,702	100%	9	\$90,562	100%
10	Costa Rica	11,735	59.9%	11	\$68,405	72.8%
World total		1,589,759	+25.8%		\$11,218,800	+24.1%

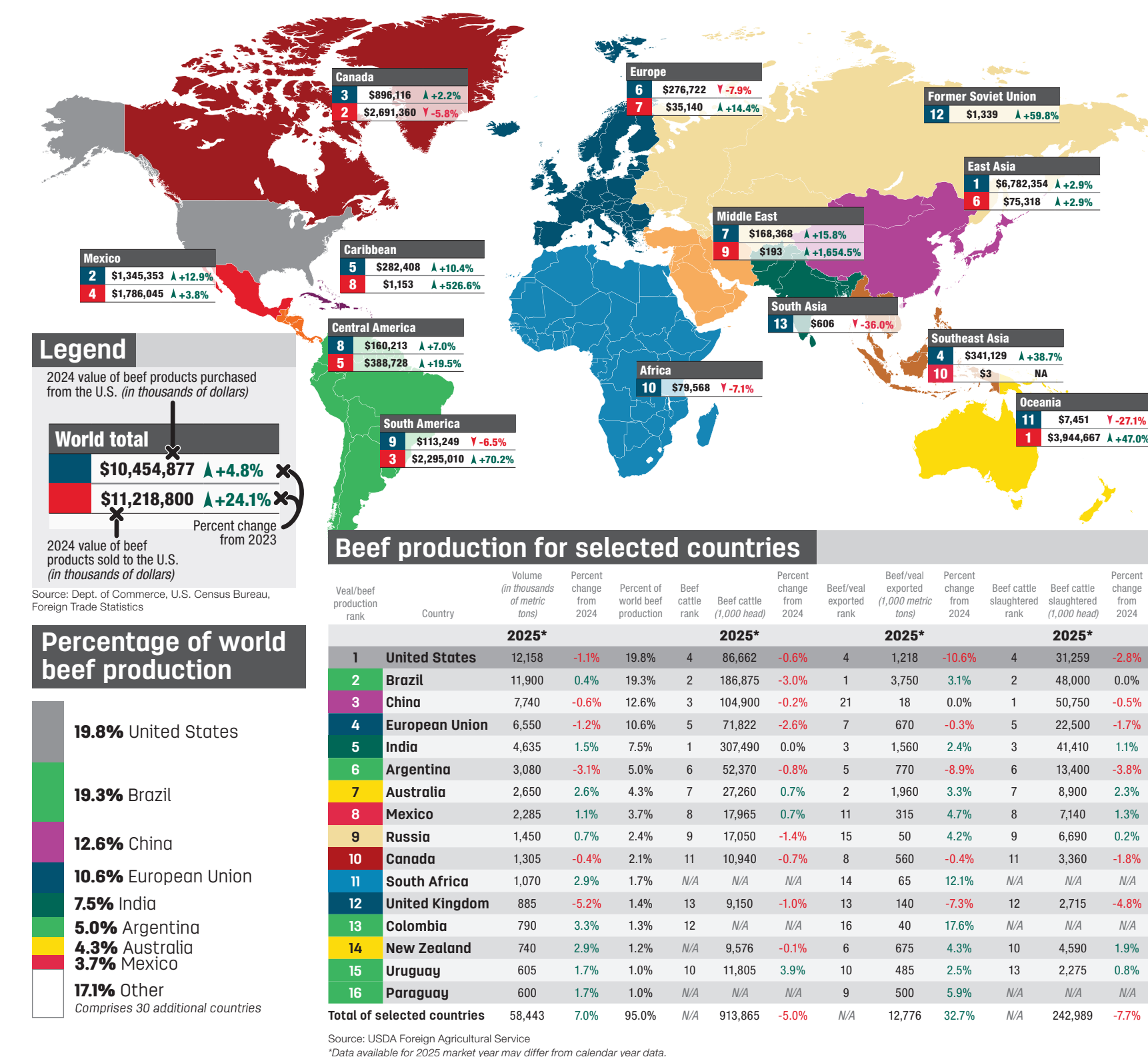
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U.S. beef and veal annual trade

Volume (in thousands of metric tons)

Exports Imports

Year	Exports (thousands of metric tons)	Imports (thousands of metric tons)
2014	850	950
2015	750	1100
2016	800	950
2017	850	950
2018	950	950
2019	900	1000
2020	850	1100
2021	1000	1100
2022	1100	1150
2023	900	1300
2024	900	1600



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¹Smith, B., et al., "U.S. Feed and Efficiency 3.0" (2023). April 2023. Beef cattle that pasture have better performance when supplied with water trough than pond. Frontiers in Veterinary Science. <https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2023.619604>



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2025 U.S. beef statistics

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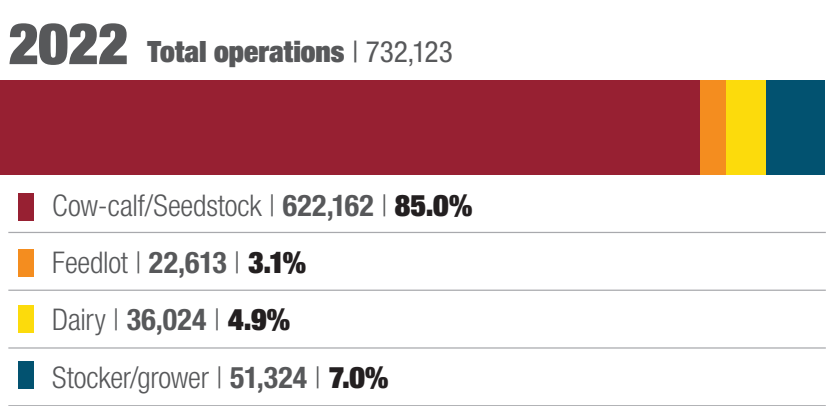
Top 50 beef cow counties

State	County	2025 head	2025 rank	2024 head	2024 rank	Change (annual)
NE	Cherry	165,000	1	170,000	1	-2.9%
NE	Holt	83,000	2	86,000	2	-3.5%
SD	Meade	77,000	3	80,000	3	-3.8%
OR	Malheur	75,000	4	73,000	4	+2.7%
NE	Lincoln	68,000	5	70,000	5	-2.9%
FL	Okaloosa	65,000	6	65,000	6	0.0%
TX	Lavaca	64,000	7	63,000	7	+1.6%
FL	Osceola	63,000	8	63,000	7	0.0%
OR	Harney	62,000	9	61,000	9	+1.6%
TX	Houston	59,000	10	58,000	10	+1.7%
FL	Polk	57,000	11	57,000	12	0.0%
SD	Perkins	56,000	12	58,000	12	-3.4%
MO	Polk	54,000	13	53,000	10	+1.9%
SD	Tripp	54,000	13	55,000	13	-1.8%
TX	Fayette	54,000	13	53,000	16	+1.9%
WY	Carbon	54,000	13	55,000	13	-1.8%
SD	Corson	52,000	17	54,000	15	-3.7%
SD	Fall River	52,000	17	53,000	16	-1.9%
WY	Fremont	52,000	17	53,000	16	-1.9%
ND	Morton	51,000	20	51,000	20	0.0%
OK	Craig	49,500	21	49,000	23	+1.0%
TX	Robertson	49,500	21	48,500	24	+2.1%
MO	Texas	48,500	23	47,500	27	+2.1%
MO	Lawrence	48,500	23	47,500	27	+2.1%
MT	Custer	48,500	23	48,000	25	+1.0%
SD	Harding	48,000	26	49,500	22	-3.0%
MT	Phillips	47,000	27	47,000	29	0.0%
NE	Sheridan	47,000	27	48,000	25	-2.1%
AR	Washington	46,500	29	46,500	31	0.0%
CO	Weld	46,500	29	51,000	20	-8.8%
ND	Dunn	45,500	31	45,000	32	+1.1%
SD	Dewey	45,500	31	47,000	29	-3.2%
MO	Barry	45,000	33	44,500	33	+1.1%
OR	Lake	44,500	34	43,500	34	+2.3%
OR	Baker	43,000	35	42,000	36	+2.4%
TX	Van Zandt	43,000	35	42,000	36	+2.4%
MO	Dade	42,500	37	41,500	39	+2.4%
OK	Delaware	42,500	37	42,000	36	+1.2%
MO	Howell	42,000	39	41,500	39	+1.2%
MT	Cascade	42,000	39	41,000	43	+2.4%
MT	Carter	42,000	39	41,500	39	+1.2%
FL	Hendry	41,500	42	41,500	39	0.0%
ND	McKenzie	41,500	42	41,000	43	+1.2%
TX	De Witt	41,500	42	41,000	43	+1.2%
MT	Garfield	41,000	45	40,500	48	+1.2%
OK	Leflore	41,000	45	40,500	48	+1.2%
WY	Campbell	41,000	45	42,500	35	-3.5%
FL	Hardee	40,000	48	40,000	52	0.0%
MO	Newton	40,000	48	39,500	53	+1.3%
MT	Madison	40,000	48	40,500	48	-1.2%

Source: USDA NASS 2025

West North South Central Southeast

U.S. cattle operations by segment

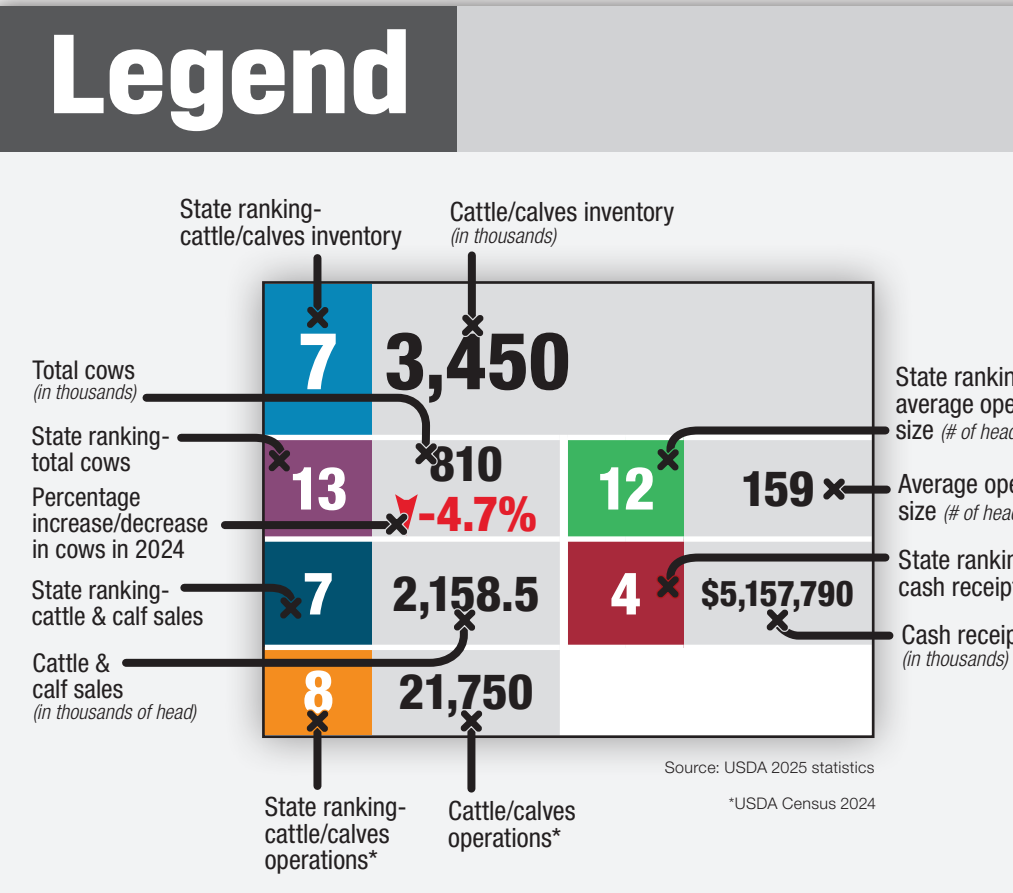
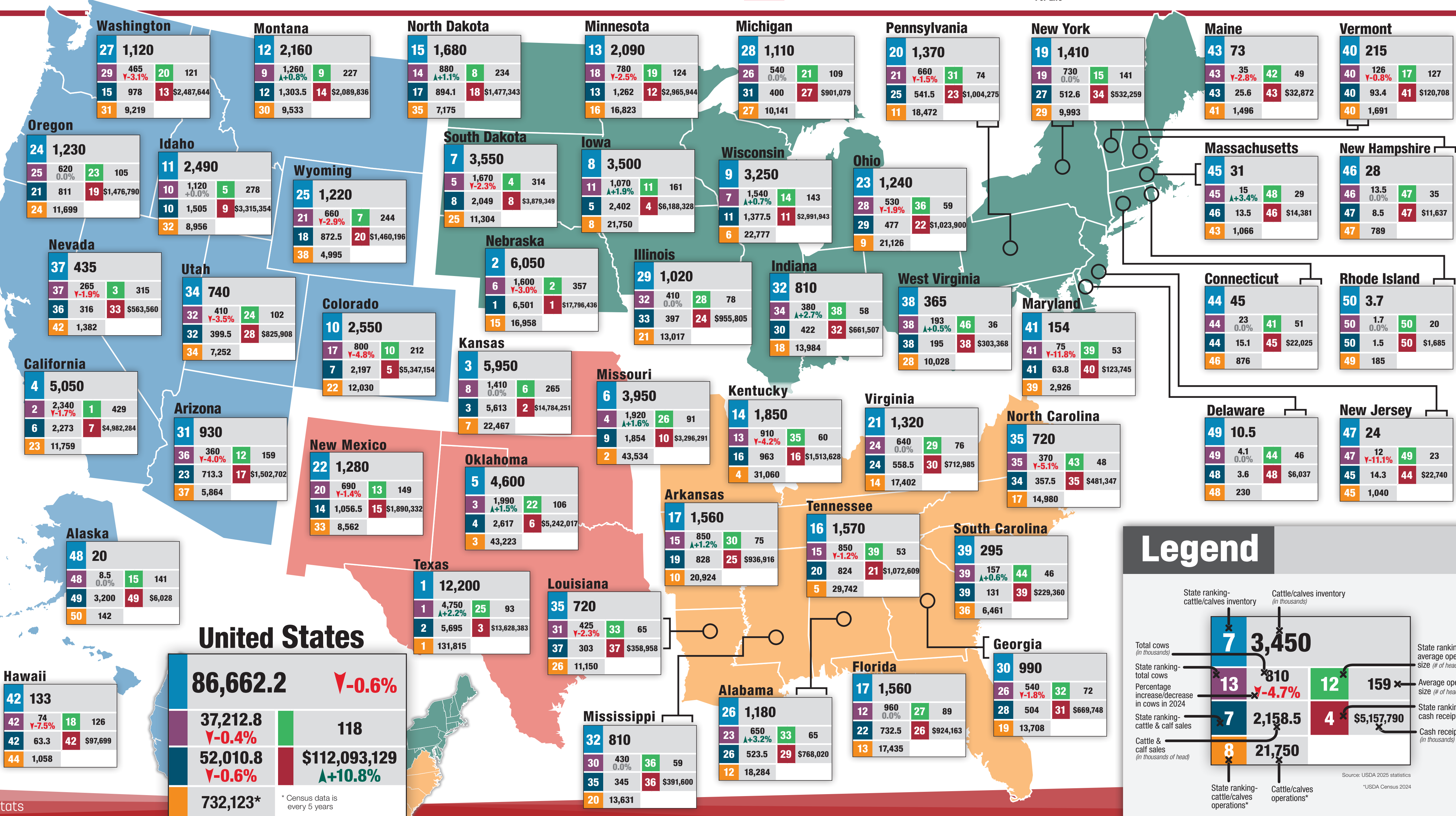


U.S. states beef female rankings

Beef cow rank	State	2025 beef cows	Percent change from 2024	Replace heifer rank	2025 replacement heifers	Percent change from 2024
1	Texas	4,075,000	+1.5%	1	600,000	-6.3%
2	Oklahoma	1,950,000	+1.5%	2	340,000	+1.5%
3	Missouri	1,864,000	+1.9%	6	260,000	0.0%
4	Nebraska	1,552,000	-2.8%	5	275,000	-8.3%
5	South Dakota	1,455,000	-3.0%	3	315,000	+1.6%
6	Montana	1,251,500	+0.8%	4	305,000	0.0%
7	Kansas	1,230,000	-0.4%	7	190,000	+2.7%
8	North Dakota	870,000	+1.2%	8	158,000	0.0%
9	Kentucky	869,000	-4.2%	14	105,000	+5.0%
10	Florida	865,000	+0.3%	10	115,000	0.0%
11	Arkansas	848,000	+1.3%	11	110,000	+4.8%
12	Tennessee	826,000	-1.1%	17	100,000	0.0%
13	Iowa	825,000	+1.9%	13	110,000	+10.0%
14	Wyoming	651,000	-3.0%	9	125,000	0.0%
15	Alabama	648,000	+3.2%	18	95,000	-1.0%
16	California	630,000	-6.0%	15	100,000	-9.1%
17	Colorado	595,000	-7.5%	12	110,000	-8.3%
18	Virginia	574,000	0.0%	21	83,000	+5.1%
19	Oregon	509,000	+1.8%	16	100,000	+5.3%
20	Georgia	455,000	-1.5%	20	85,000	0.0%
21	New Mexico	450,000	0.0%	23	70,000	0.0%
22	Idaho	440,000	-3.7%	19	90,000	+5.9%
23	Minnesota	340,000	-2.9%	22	70,000	-6.7%
24	Illinois	333,000	+0.6%	26	45,000	0.0%
25	Ohio	280,000	-1.8%	25	60,000	+9.1%
26	Wisconsin	275,000	+5.8%	24	60,000	+18.2%
27	Washington	210,000	-5.8%	28	45,000	-10.0%
28	Pennsylvania	195,000	-4.9%	27	45,000	-10.0%
29	Arizona	171,000	-3.9%	30	27,000	-12.9%
30	Michigan	100,000	-1.0%	31	25,000	+8.7%
31	New York	100,000	0.0%	29	38,000	0.0%
Other states		2,427,000			411,400	

Note: U.S. Census data are released once every five years. 2022 is the most recent report.

Source: 2022 USDA Census



West Region	Cattle/calves
Cattle/calves # of head	18,361,000
Calf crop	7,503,000
Cattle on feed	2,585,000
Cattle sales	11,340,400
Beef cows	5,243,800
Cattle/calves operations	83,889
1-99 head (operations)	66,159
100-499 head (operations)	11,882
500+ head (operations)	5,848
North Region	Cattle/calves
Cattle/calves # of head	28,016,400
Calf crop	10,302,000
Cattle on feed	5,718,500
Cattle sales	17,580,400
Beef cows	6,914,200
Cattle/calves operations	203,847
1-99 head (operations)	155,246
100-499 head (operations)	36,960
500+ head (operations)	11,641
South Central Region	Cattle/calves
Cattle/calves # of head	24,140,000
Calf crop	7,910,000
Cattle on feed	5,800,000
Cattle sales	15,136,500
Beef cows	7,751,000
Cattle/calves operations	206,067
1-99 head (operations)	174,646
100-499 head (operations)	24,724
500+ head (operations)	6,697
Southeast Region	Cattle/calves
Cattle/calves # of head	16,640,000
Calf crop	7,878,000
Cattle on feed	122,000
Cattle sales	8,245,500
Beef cows	8,314,000
Cattle/calves operations	238,320
1-99 head (operations)	200,385
100-499 head (operations)	33,174
500+ head (operations)	4,761

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