



IOWA BEEF INDUSTRY COUNCIL

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U.S. Beef Industry Statistics

- January 1, 2019 Cattle inventory: 94,760,000 +0.5% (*USDA NASS*)
- 2018 estimated economic impact: \$66.510 billion in farm gate cash receipts (*USDA ERS*)
- 2017 Number of cow herds: 768,542 (2017 Census)
 - 31.8 million beef cows (January 1, 2019 +1.0%) (*USDA NASS*)
 - 9.4 million dairy cows (January 1, 2019 -0.8%) (*USDA NASS*)
 - 36.4 million head calf crop (2018 +1.8%) (*USDA NASS*)
 - 89 percent of cow herds have less than 100 cows (*2017 Census*)
- 2018 beef and beef variety exports: 1.353 million metric tons (2.983 billion pounds); \$8.332 billion (*USMEF*)
 - Top export markets: Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Hong Kong, Canada, Taiwan
- Top 5 states for Cattle on Feed (January 1, 2019) (*USDA NASS*)
 1. Nebraska – 2,750,000 hd; -1.8%
 2. Texas – 2,750,000 hd; +3.8%
 3. Kansas – 2,430,000; hd -0.8%
 4. Iowa – 1,320,000 hd; +1.5%
 5. Colorado – 1,050,000 hd; +5.0%
- 53 percent of the total value of U.S. sales of cattle and calves comes from the top 5 states with cattle on feed inventory (2017) (*USDA NASS*)
 1. Nebraska
 2. Texas
 3. Kansas
 4. Iowa
 5. Colorado
- Feedyard cost of gain: \$0.92/lb from 2012-2016; \$0.70/lb in 2017, \$0.74/lb in 2018 (*ISU Estimated Livestock Returns-Finishing Yearling Steers*)
- Average producer age: 57.4 beef cattle ranching and farming; 54.5 cattle feedlots (*2017 Census*)
- 2018: 32.52 million head of cattle harvested under USDA inspection; 26.54 billion pounds of commercial, federally inspected beef production. Average dressed weight 816 pounds. (*USDA NASS*)

USDA NASS - National Agricultural Statistics Service

USMEF – U.S. Meat Export Federation