

Beef Industry Statistics

- Number of farms and ranches specializing in beef cattle: 619,172 (USDA 2012 Ag Census)
- Number of cattle & calf operations: 915,000 (USDA 2012 Ag Census)
- Average herd size: 40 head
- Average producer age: 58.3 (USDA 2012 Ag Census)
- Economic impact: \$88.25 billion in farm gate receipts Cattle and Calves (USDA ERS 2014)
- All cattle and calves Jan 1, 2016, 92.0 million head, up 3% from 89.1 million head on Jan 1, 2015. (USDA)
 - 30.3 million beef cows
 - 9.32 million milk cows
 - 39.6 million cows and heifers that calved, up 3% from 38.6 million previous year
 - 2015 calf crop estimated 34.3 million head
 - Beef replacement heifers 6.29 million head

Top 5 states for all cattle and calves (2015)

1. Texas - 11.7 million
2. Nebraska - 6.45 million
3. Kansas - 6.25 million
4. California - 5.2 million
5. Oklahoma - 4.85 million

Top 5 states for cattle in feedlots with capacity more than 1000 head (as of Jan 1, 2016)

1. Texas - 2.43 million
2. Nebraska - 2.20 million
3. Kansas - 2.09 million
4. Colorado - .870 million
5. Iowa - .620 million

- 10.5 million head cattle on feed (Feedlots w/ 1,000 head or more head; Jan 1, 2016)
- U.S. commercial slaughter total was 28.74 million head (fed steer and heifer & non-fed cow & bull; 2015)
- U.S. beef production (commercial carcass weight) was 23.69 billion pounds. (2015) The total U.S. beef consumed was 24.807 billion pounds. (2015) Average annual U.S. retail Choice beef price in 2015 was \$6.29/lb.
- Value of total U.S. beef exports (including variety meat) equaled \$6.302 billion down from \$7.135 (billion)
- Top export markets for 2015 (in order): Japan, Mexico, Canada, South Korea, Hong Kong, Middle East (U.S. Meat Export Federation)