Daily Livestock Report

 Vol. 18, No. 46 / March 6, 2020

Twice a year USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) releases two publications with statistics on US and Canadian cattle and hog inventories. The two publications are a joint effort by Statistics Canada and NASS. The information is intended to provide producers and industry with additional information, in one publication, regarding cattle and hog supplies in the two countries.

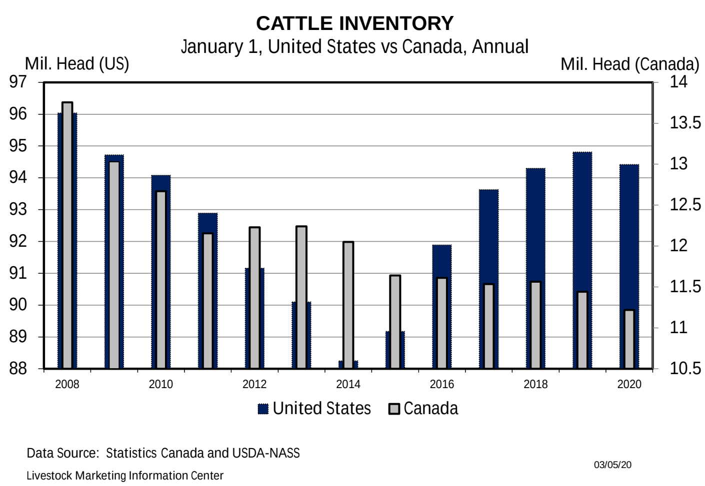
The publication on US and Canadian Cattle reported that combined total cattle and calves were 105.6 million head on January 1, 2020, down 0.6% from January 1, 2019. Cows and heifers that have calved were 45.2 million head (down 1.1%) with the bulk of the decline coming from beef cows which were 34.9 million head (down 1.3%) while milk cows declined marginally (0.1%) to just over 10.3 million head. The calf crop was 40.3 million head, down 0.7% with all other cattle at 59.3 million head, a 2.1% decline from the prior year.

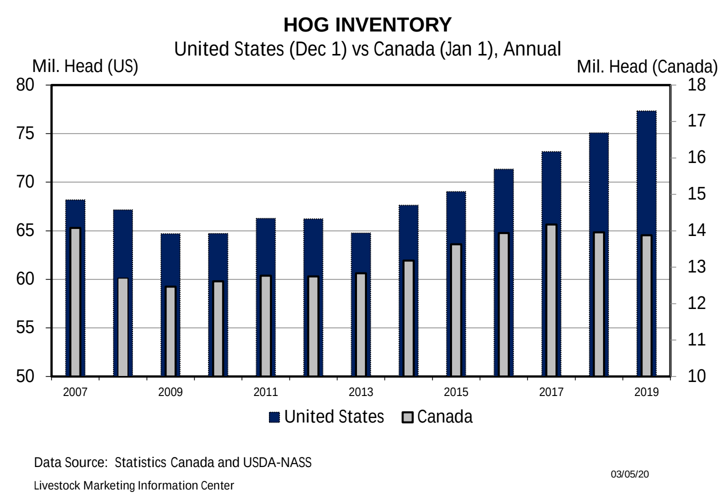
US cattle statistics in the publication are the same as those found in the January 1 Cattle Inventory report released on January 31, 2020, which have been previously discussed. The Canadian cattle and calves inventory was 11.2 million head, a 1.9% decline from the prior year and a 24.8% decline from the peak of 14.9 million head in 2005. The steady decline in Canadian cattle numbers is due to a reduction in cows and heifers that have calved which was 4.5 million head, down 2.0% from the prior year and the lowest in at least two decades. In 2005, there were 6.3 million cows and heifers, a 28.2% reduction over the last 15 years to today. Canada's calf crop was nearly 4.3 million head, down 0.8% from the prior year, but remained in line with the ten-year average which ranged from 4.2-4.8 million head.

The publication on US and Canadian Hog inventories reported that combined total hogs and pigs were 91.2 million head for December 2019, up 2.5% from December 2018. Market hogs for the two countries totaled 83.5 million head (up 2.5%) with most of the increase in the heavier weight categories of 120-179 pounds and 180 pounds and over which both increased 3.8% and 5.0%, respectively, to 17.5 and 16.6 million head. The under 50 pounds and 50-119 pound categories increased 1.1% (27.3 million head) and 1.6% (22.1 million head), respectively. The pig crop was 84.6 million head (up 2.5%) while the number of sows farrowed was 7.6 million head, decreasing marginally by 0.4%.

Much of the growth in hog numbers is attributed to the US hog sector because Canada's hogs and pigs inventory was down 0.6% to 13.9 million head. Canada's market hogs were 12.6 million head (down 0.6%) with a 3.5% decrease in the 180 pounds and over category and marginal changes in the remaining three categories. But Canada's pig crop was 14.2 million head, up 1.2% from a year ago which aligns with the 0.2% increase in sows farrowed to 1.2 million head. Efficiency gains in pigs per litter occurred for both countries with the US increasing 3.0% to 11.08 while Canada had a slightly higher rate at 11.66, an increase of 1.0%. Combined, both country's pigs per litter were 11.11, up 3.5% from a year ago.

Lastly, the winter US and Canada Cattle publication contain information on sheep supplies for both countries. All sheep and lambs were 6 million head, a 1.0% decline from a year ago. Breeding sheep and lambs were 4.4 million head (down 0.9%) with market sheep and lambs down 1.5% to 1.6 million head. The lamb crop saw a marginal decline of 0.7% to just over 4.0 million head.





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