

Canadian Cattle Inventory figures were released last week by USDA NASS in the U.S. and Canadian Cattle and Sheep report.

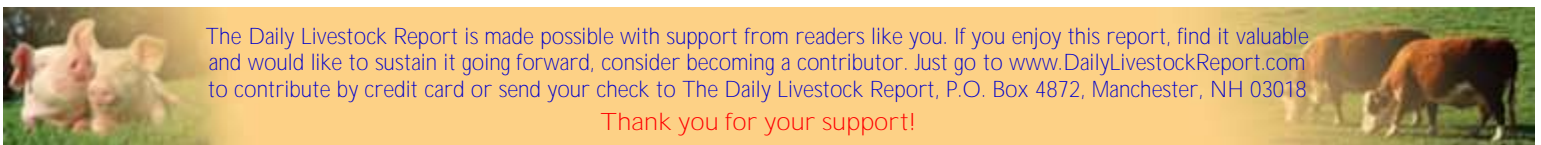
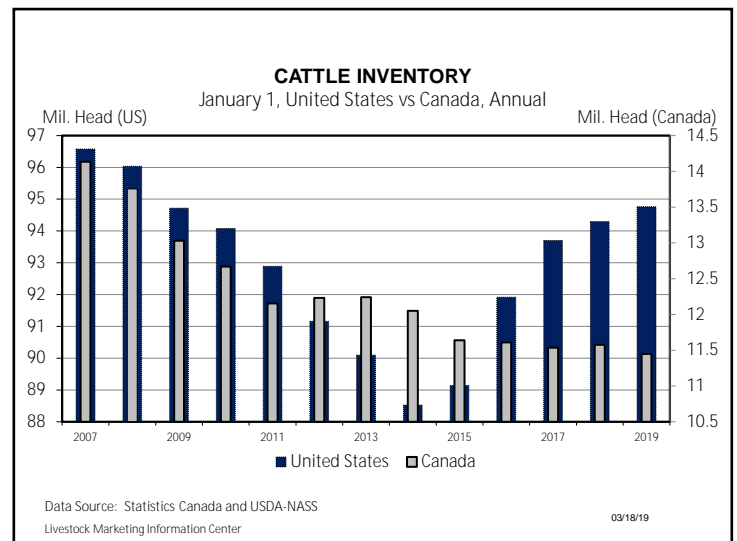
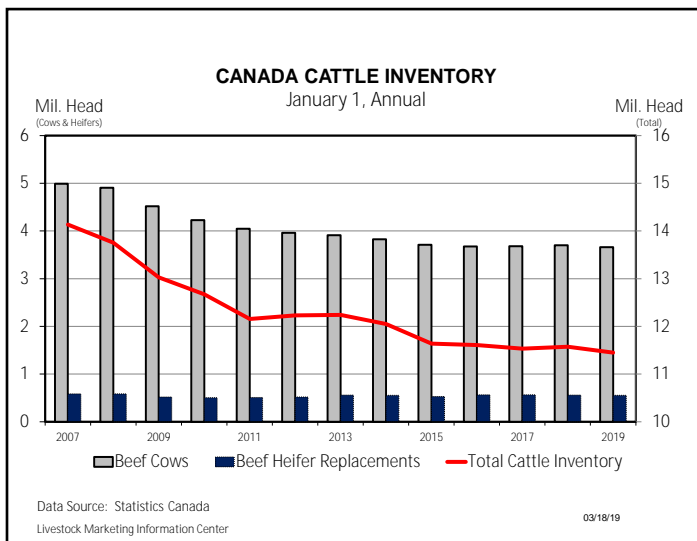
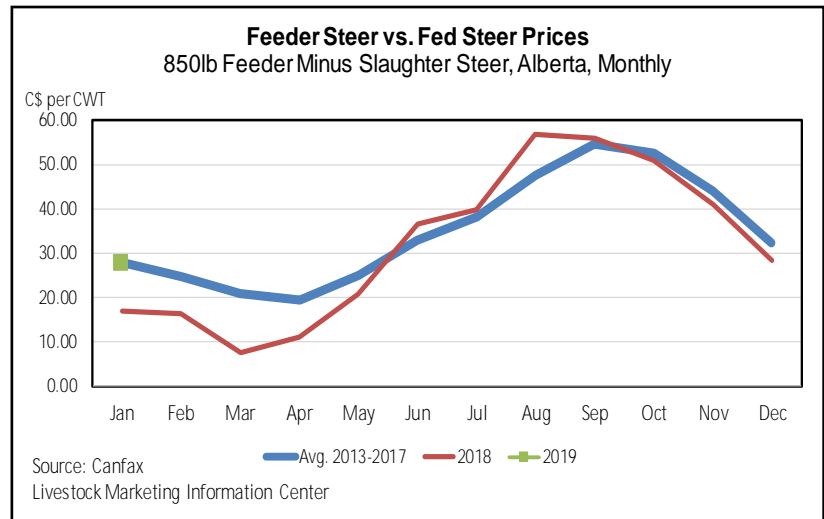
Unlike the U.S. herd, the total Canadian cattle herd has been shrinking since 2013. During that time period, the herd went from 12.2 million head to just under 11.5 on January 1, 2019. The losses have come from primarily the beef side. Milk cows have increased during this timeframe adding 11 thousand head.

The number of beef cows that have calved peaked in recent years at just over 5.2 million head in Canada. In 2019, that number stands at 3.7 million head and has been under 4 million head since 2012. Canadian beef cow replacements have remained steady in the last four years, representing 15% of the beef cow herd. This figure, in general, has remained under the ratio that is typically seen in the U.S. which is closer to 20% in recent years. The ratio of Canadian replacements has been as low as 12% of the beef cow herd following the latest peak in Canadian beef cow numbers.

Canadian calf crops were 1.8% and 2% larger in 2016 and 2017 even though dairy and beef cow numbers were down year-over-year in 2016. The following year,

2017, showed a slight increase in the beef and dairy cow herd but not enough to change the long term decline.

Steer prices in Alberta were mixed in 2018 with fed prices below a year ago for most of the first half of the year. Feeder prices also had a volatile year. Early in 2019, the spread between fed and feeders in Canada has been about average, where in the U.S. they remain well below the five-year average.



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