

Another aspect of the Cattle inventory report is the estimated supplies of feeder cattle outside of feedlots. The pre-report estimates DLR from [January 28, 2022](#) referenced the calculation, and today we will discuss the tally.

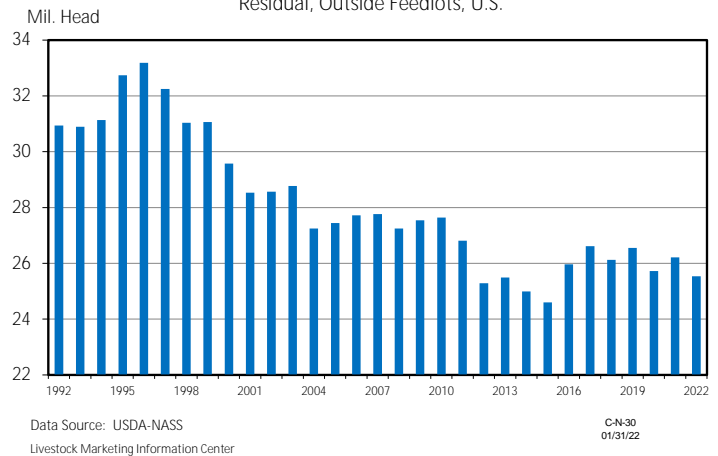
Steers over 500 pounds in the Cattle report were listed as down about 200 thousand head from 2021, while Other heifers were listed down 75 thousand head, a change of 1.2% and 0.8% respectively. Also included in the calculation is the number of animals weighing less than 500 pounds, and we use a 50/50 split between steers and heifers. In total that figure was listed as down 2.6% or 369 thousand head (185 thousand for steers and heifers assumed). These two numbers for the respective class are then combined to provide a total for yearlings and calves.

This combination estimates steers relative to 2021 are down just under 400 thousand head, and heifers are down about 260 thousand head. Next, we look at the number reported by cattle on feed and attribute the number reported by class in the latest Cattle on Feed report. This showed a few more heifers on feed a year ago (+112 thousand head), and steers slightly lower (-86 thousand head).

Subtracting the number of animals on feed from the estimated total inventory by class provides the total estimated outside of feedlots and across steers and heifers. Steers are down about 300 thousand head outside of feedlots, and heifers are down 371 thousand head for a combined total of 678 thousand head less than a year ago.

JANUARY 1 FEEDER CATTLE SUPPLIES

Residual, Outside Feedlots, U.S.



The total feeder cattle supply outside of feedlots is about 25.5 million head, a 2.6% decline and the smallest in the last three years.

USDA NASS also estimates the number of cattle on small grain pasture for the states of Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. This is a relatively new addition to the report, since about 2001. Over the last twenty-two years, the average number of cattle on small grains has been just over 2 million head. However, that average is heavily skewed by a larger number on small grains in the early 2000s. The last 15

years, have all been below 2 million head, with an average of 1.7 million. This year was similar at 1.710 million head, a 20 thousand head decline from last year.

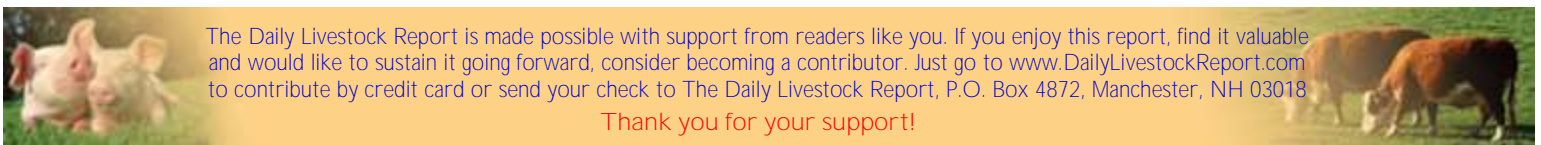
Continued drought is intensifying in the Southern Plains, and it is likely cattle from that inventory bucket have been forced to move early into feedlots. Strong feeder cattle prices are also creating an incentive to do so especially if the expectations are that small grain grazing conditions will not improve or hold until the normal window of late spring. This could alter the normal placement pattern for cattle on feed in the coming months.

ESTIMATED JANUARY 1 U.S. FEEDER CATTLE SUPPLY

Steers and Heifers (1,000 Head)

	Steers				Heifers				Steers and Heifers				2022 as % of 2021
	2020	2021	2022	Change '21 to '22	2020	2021	2022	Change '21 to '22	2020	2021	2022	Change '21 to '22	
Yearlings & Calves													
1. Steers 500 Lbs. & Over	16541	16788	16580	-208					16541	16788	16580	-208	-1.2%
2. Other Heifers Over 500 Lbs.					9532	9789	9714	-75	9532	9789	9714	-75	-0.8%
3. Animals Under 500 Lbs.	7155	7153	6968	-185	7154	7152	6968	-184	14309	14305	13936	-369	-2.6%
4. Total Inventory (1+2+3)	23696	23941	23548	-393	16686	16941	16682	-259	40382	40881	40230	-652	-1.6%
5. Steers & Heifers On-Feed ^b	9038	9072	8986	-86	5620	5595	5707	112	14658	14667	14693	26	0.2%
Total Supply Outside Feedlots	14658	14869	14562	-307	11066	11346	10975	-371	25724	26214	25537	-678	-2.6%

^a Not including heifers kept for cow replacements.
^b Not including cows and bulls.



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