

2011 Beef Cattle Facts



Beef cattle production ranks second behind broilers in cash receipts among Alabama farm commodities. Alabama cattle producers sold \$308 million worth of cattle and calves last year. Cattle are produced in every county and cattle production represents a \$2.5 billion industry in Alabama. The state's climate and land are ideally suited for growing forages and raising cattle.

Cattle Numbers Increase; Alabama Still Needs More Cows

On January 1 there were 1.23 million head of cattle and calves on Alabama farms according to figures released by the Alabama Agricultural Statistics Service. This is a 4% decrease, 50,000 fewer cattle than last year.

As of January 1, there were 659,000 beef cows that had calved which is 1% less than year earlier figures. The state ranks 18th among all states in beef cow numbers

Nationally, cattle numbers decreased 3 million head to 92,582,000 head, which is the lowest level since 1959. Cattle numbers have decreased 12 out of the last 14 years which is unprecedented since records have been kept. Carcass weights have increased steadily from 550 pounds to over 825 pounds, resulting in much more beef per head. Not only are the cattle heavier but these larger cattle are producing beef that is much leaner. This has resulted through improved genetics, nutrition and better management.

Value of Cattle Inventory & Hay Crops

The total value of cattle on Alabama farms as of January 1, 2010

was \$857.6 million slightly more than last year. The value per head was a \$670, \$10 per head decrease over year earlier figures.

Alabama cattle depend on hay as a major winter feed source and cattlemen produce a lot of hay each year. In 2009 hay was harvested from 800,000 acres and the total value of the hay crop was \$147,84,000, the 2nd highest value on record. Cullman led 108,600 tons of hay produced from 39,300 acres. DeKalb, Jackson, Pike and Blount counties are ranked second through fifth in tons of hay produced.

Beef Demand Still Strong

Domestically beef demand has remained strong but the big increases came in the export market. This has added dollars to the pockets of our cattle farmers.

In fact, 2010 was a record year for exports with 2.35 billion pounds of beef shipped overseas which exceeded imports by more than 605 million pounds. The value of beef exports was \$4.08 billion compared to import value of \$2.93 billion.

17th In Number of Beef Cattle Farms

Alabama ranks 17th among all states in the number of farms with beef cows during 2011. USDA figures show there were 21,415 farms in Alabama with beef cows that have calved.

Alabama cattle producers primarily are cow-calf producers with feeder calves shipped to feedlots for finishing. A statewide network of 25 livestock auction markets, provides easy and ready markets for Alabama cattlemen.

Forage Number One Resource

Producers have the climate needed to excel in forage production. Rainfall averages exceeding 55 inches and a mild climate insures nearly year round grazing. The wide variety of perennial forages coupled with cool season grasses and clovers offer cattlemen the opportunity to wean heavy calves and also to carry these calves past weaning in a stocker program.

Cullman County Continues To Lead

According to USDA data released June, 2011 the top twelve cattle-producing counties in Alabama are: 1. Cullman, 68,000 head; 2. DeKalb, 58,000; 3. Montgomery, 46,500 ; 4. Marshall, 39,000; 5., Lowndes, 38,500; 6. Blount, 34,500; 7. Morgan, 34,000; 8. Jackson, 34,000; 9. Lauderdale, 31,500; 10. Geneva, 31,500; 11. Covington 30,500 and 12. Coffee, 26,500.

For more details about beef cattle statistics in Alabama, visit the Alabama Agricultural Statistics Service website or www.bamabeef.org.

Alabama Has Top Purebred Producers

Alabama has some of the top purebred herds in the country. These outstanding seedstock producers supply a large selection of outstanding bulls annually. All of the major breeds are represented including Angus, Beefmaster, Brangus, Charolais, ChiAngus, Gelbveih, Hereford, Limousin, Red Angus, Santa Gertrudis, Senepol, and Simmental.

ACA Membership at 10,862

With a month left in the 2011 membership year, membership stands at 11,004. This is a 351 member increase over last year's final membership. Forty-three counties exceeded their 2010 membership with Butler County having the largest percent increase in membership followed by Greene County.

Limestone County also has the largest county membership with 483 members followed by Pike with 467, Franklin with 438, Cullman with 396 and Lauderdale with 376 members.

Headquarters Located on Capitol Hill

The ACA is headquartered in a beautiful building located on Capitol Hill in downtown Montgomery. The two million-dollar facility includes an one-of-it's-kind MOOseum which tells the story of the beef cattle industry in the state. Over 5,000 school children tour the MOOseum each year learning about the state's cattle industry and the importance of beef as a food.

In addition, the building has a much in demand meeting room.. The ACA, Alabama Junior Cattlemen's Association, Alabama Cattlemen's Foundation, Alabama Livestock Hall of Fame and Southeastern Livestock Exposition are headquartered in the Cattlemen's' Building.

2011 STATE RANKINGS FOR ALL CATTLE & CALVES

State	1,000 Head	State	1,000 Head
1. Texas	13,300	28. Michigan	1,090
2. Kansas	6,300	29. Washington	1,090
3. Nebraska	6,200	30. Georgia	1,020
4. California	5,150	31. Mississippi	900
5. Oklahoma	5,100	32. Arizona	870
6. Missouri	3,950	33. Indiana	850
7. Iowa	3,900	34. Utah	800
8. South Dakota	3,700	35. Louisiana	790
9. Wisconsin	3,450	36. North Carolina	780
10. Colorado	2,650	37. Nevada	460
11. Montana	2,500	38. South Carolina	385
12. Minnesota	2,380	39. West Virginia	370
13. Idaho	2,200	40. Vermont	270
14. Kentucky	2,190	41. Maryland	195
15. Tennessee	1,990	42. Hawaii	141
16. Arkansas	1,720	43. Maine	90
17. North Dakota	1,700	44. Connecticut	49
18. Florida	1,630	45. Massachusetts	40
19. Pennsylvania	1,610	46. New Hampshire	34
20. New Mexico	1,540	47. New Jersey	32
21. Virginia	1,540	48. Delaware	18
22. New York	1,400	49. Alaska	13.5
23. Oregon	1,330	50. Rhode Island	4.9
24. Wyoming	1,300		
25. Alabama	1,230	US	92,582
26. Ohio	1,230		
27. Illinois	1,100		

2011 STATE RANKINGS FOR BEEF COWS

State	1,000 Head	State	1,000 Head
1. Texas	5,025	28. Utah	333
2. Oklahoma	2,036	29. Ohio	290
3. Missouri	1,865	30. Wisconsin	265
4. Nebraska	1,772	31. Nevada	237
5. South Dakota	1,610	32. Washington	233
6. Kansas	1,478	33. Indiana	213
7. Montana	1,476	34. West Virginia	200
8. Kentucky	1,023	35. South Carolina	183
9. Tennessee	990	36. Arizona	180
10. Arkansas	928	37. Pennsylvania	157
11. Florida	926	38. Michigan	99
12. North Dakota	880	39. New York	90
13. Iowa	840	40. Hawaii	79
14. Colorado	727	41. Maryland	42
15. Wyoming	694	42. Maine	13
16. Virginia	675	43. Vermont	10
17. Alabama	659	44. New Jersey	9
18. California	600	44. Massachusetts	5.5
19. Oregon	549	46. Alaska	5.1
20. Georgia	502	47. Connecticut	4
21. Mississippi	495	48. Delaware	3.5
22. New Mexico	488	49. New Hampshire	3
23. Louisiana	461	50. Rhode Island	1.5
24. Idaho	446		
25. Minnesota	360		
26. Illinois	352	US	30,865
27. North Carolina	351		

2011 COUNTY RANKINGS FOR ALL CATTLE & CALVES*

County	Head	County	Head
Cullman	68,000	Perry	14,500
DeKalb	58,000	Greene	14,400
Montgomery	46,500	Chilton	14,000
Marshall	39,000	Dale	14,000
Lowndes	38,500	Winston	13,600
Blount	34,500	Elmore	12,700
Morgan	34,000	Monroe	12,400
Jackson	34,000	Calhoun	12,300
Lauderdale	31,500	Autauga	12,300
Geneva	31,500	Conecuh	12,000
Covington	30,500	Butler	11,900
Coffee	26,500	Escambia	10,400
Lawrence	26,000	St. Clair	10,300
Franklin	25,000	Cherokee	10,200
Houston	24,000	Cleburne	9,500
Baldwin	23,500	Tuscaloosa	9,300
Pike	23,000	Walker	9,100
Hale	22,500	Washington	9,100
Crenshaw	22,000	Fayette	8,800
Limestone	21,500	Bullock	8,000
Madison	21,000	Macon	7,800
Marengo	21,000	Tallapoosa	7,000
Dallas	20,500	Lee	6,500
Mobile	20,500	Lamar	6,300
Sumter	19,500	Russell	6,100
Randolph	18,400	Clarke	5,900
Barbour	17,600	Shelby	5,800
Henry	17,000	Bibb	4,900
Pickens	16,800	Choctaw	4,900
Etowah	16,600	Coosa	3,900
Clay	15,300	Jefferson	3,800
Marion	15,000		
Talladega	15,000		
Wilcox	14,900	State Total	1,230,000
Colbert	14,700		
Chambers	14,500		

* Data from inventory figures provided by Alabama Agricultural Statistics Service.