

# Cattle Inventory Down 6 Percent

**NASHVILLE, TENN.**

The total number of cattle and calves in Tennessee on January 1, 2009, was 1.98 million head, 6 percent below last year's total and the lowest since 1961. This information is based on a recent cattle survey conducted by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Tennessee Field Office. Debra Kenerson, State Director, remarked, "The reduction of cattle as a result of the devastating 2007 drought continued well into 2008.

Producers once again faced challenges as the rising costs of inputs, such as feed, fertilizer, and fuel, continued to outpace the prices they

were receiving for their cattle. Another dry summer depleted pastures and limited hay supplies, which added to farmers' decisions to further liquidate their herds." Results of the survey showed the following breakout of inventory on January 1, 2009, with comparison to last year: beef cows totaled 951,000, down 12 percent; milk cow numbers were 59,000, down 3 percent; calves less than 500 pounds were 490,000, down 2 percent; and steers and other heifers weighing 500 pounds and over, at 212,000 head, were up 12 percent. Tennessee's 2008 calf crop was 950,000 head, down 9 percent. Δ



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