



Beef cattle production ranks second behind broilers in cash receipts among Alabama farm commodities. Alabama cattle producers sold over \$400 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 1.26 million head of cattle and calves on Alabama farms according to figures released by the Alabama Agricultural Statistics Service. This is a 3 % increase, 40,000 head, over last year.

As of January 1, there were 680,000 beef cows that had calved, a slight increase of 3,000 head over year earlier figures. The state ranks 16th among all states in beef cow numbers.

Nationally, cattle numbers decreased 1.5 million head to 94,491,000 head, which is the lowest level since 1963. 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, 2009 was \$962.5 million slightly less than last year. The value per head was a \$770, a \$10 per head increase 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 2007 hay was harvested from 800,000 acres and the total value of the hay crop was \$100.6 million. Cullman leads the state with 34,600 acres in hay production followed by Jackson with 29,500 acres. Limestone County ranks

third with 29,000 acres, followed by Lauderdale County with 27,900 acres and Morgan Counties ranks fifth with 27,000 acres.

Beef Demand Still Good

The recession during this past year has caused a significant shift in consumer demand as fewer people dined out in steak houses and more people ate at fast food restaurants or cooked at home. Steak demand declined while demand for ground beef was strong therefore checkoff funded programs are shifting to help move more middle meats.

The export market is very important to Alabama cattle producers to help move beef tonnage. The Japanese and Korean markets are important for the sale of higher quality cuts and we have re-gained market share following the BSE discovery in the U.S.

The top four U.S. export markets last year were: Mexico (\$1.4 billion), Canada (\$715 million), Japan (\$383 million), and Korea (\$294 million). Total beef exports in 2008 were \$3.6 billion, a 38% increase over 2007.

9th In Number of Beef Cattle Farms

Alabama ranked 9th among all states in the number of farms with beef cows during 2008. USDA figures show there were 21,415 farms in Alabama with beef cows that have calved. Only Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Kentucky, Arkansas, Kansas, and Virginia have more farms with beef cows.

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 access 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.

Cash Receipts Exceeds \$433 Million

Cash receipts from the sale of cattle and calves reached \$433.8 million in 2008, a \$31 million increase over year earlier figures. This ranks cattle and calves second only to the vertically integrated broiler industry in cash receipts among all Ag commodities.

Cullman County Continues To Lead

According to 2008 data, Cullman County continues to be the largest cattle county in the state with 68,500 head of cattle, a 5,000 head decrease over last year. Following in second place is DeKalb County with 60,000 head of cattle, Montgomery is third place with 52,000 head, Marshall is fourth with 41,100 head and Lowndes is fifth with 38,000 head.

Counties ranked sixth through tenth are: Blount with 37,700 head, Geneva with 35,000 head, Lauderdale with 31,700 head, and Covington and Lawrence with 31,500 head each. 2009 Numbers will be released in May and available on our website at 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 11,631

The Alabama Cattlemen's Association ended 2008 with 11,631 members. DeKalb was the number one county chapter in membership with 540 members followed Cullman County with 505 members and Pike County with 494 members. The ACA serves as the eyes, ears and voice for the state's 2.5 plus billion-dollar cattle industry.

The ACA also handles the state's beef checkoff programs, Alabama Cattlemen's Foundation and publishes the *Alabama Cattleman*, a monthly magazine for the state's cattle industry.

Headquarters Located on Capitol Hill

The ACA organization is headquartered in a beautiful building located on Capitol Hill in downtown Montgomery. The two million-dollar facility includes an one-of-its-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 nutrient value of beef.

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.

2009 STATE RANKINGS FOR ALL CATTLE & CALVES

State	1,000 Head	State	1,000 Head
1. Texas	13,600	28. Georgia	1,110
2. Nebraska	6,350	29. Washington	1,080
3. Kansas	6,300	30. Michigan	1,070
4. Oklahoma	5,400	31. Arizona	1,020
5. California	5,250	32. Mississippi	960
6. Missouri	4,250	33. Louisiana	890
7. Iowa	3,950	34. Indiana	860
8. South Dakota	3,700	35. North Carolina	850
9. Wisconsin	3,350	36. Utah	810
10. Colorado	2,600	37. Nevada	450
11. Montana	2,600	38. West Virginia	415
12. Minnesota	2,400	39. South Carolina	380
13. Kentucky	2,300	40. Vermont	270
14. Idaho	2,110	41. Maryland	185
15. Tennessee	1,980	42. Hawaii	150
16. Arkansas	1,800	43. Maine	89
17. North Dakota	1,750	44. Connecticut	52
18. Florida	1,700	45. Massachusetts	43
19. Pennsylvania	1,590	46. New Hampshire	39
20. New Mexico	1,540	47. New Jersey	38
21. Virginia	1,460	48. Delaware	21
22. New York	1,380	49. Alaska	14
23. Wyoming	1,350	50. Rhode Island	5
24. Ohio	1,280		
25. Alabama	1,260	US	94,491
26. Oregon	1,240		
27. Illinois	1,200		

2009 STATE RANKINGS FOR BEEF COWS

State	1,000 Head	State	1,000 Head
1. Texas	5,170	28. Utah	350
2. Oklahoma	2,038	29. Ohio	304
3. Missouri	1,992	30. Washington	271
4. Nebraska	1,851	31. Wisconsin	265
5. South Dakota	1,616	32. Nevada	238
6. Kansas	1,508	33. Indiana	213
7. Montana	1,494	34. West Virginia	204
8. Kentucky	1,114	35. Arizona	200
9. Tennessee	951	36. South Carolina	188
10. Florida	942	37. Pennsylvania	150
11. Iowa	925	38. Michigan	92
12. Arkansas	891	39. New York	85
13. North Dakota	885	40. Hawaii	84
14. Colorado	720	41. Maryland	39
15. Wyoming	713	42. Maine	11
16. Alabama	668	43. New Jersey	9.5
17. Virginia	633	44. Vermont	9.0
18. California	615	44. Massachusetts	7.5
19. Georgia	536	46. Connecticut	6
20. Oregon	535	47. New Hampshire	6
21. Louisiana	520	48. Alaska	5.5
22. Mississippi	491	49. Delaware	4
23. New Mexico	484	50. Rhode Island	1.4
24. Idaho	451		
25. Illinois	408		
26. Minnesota	392	US	31,611
27. North Carolina	385		

2009 COUNTY RANKINGS FOR ALL CATTLE & CALVES*

County	Head	County	Head
Cullman	67,600	Chambers	13,700
DeKalb	57,000	Calhoun	13,600
Lowndes	40,100	Cleburne	12,600
Montgomery	39,600	Wilcox	12,300
Lauderdale	35,400	Monroe	11,800
Marshall	35,000	Walker	11,200
Blount	34,100	Winston	10,800
Morgan	33,300	Butler	10,500
Jackson	33,200	Tuscaloosa	10,500
Geneva	32,500	Shelby	9,800
Covington	32,300	Fayette	9,700
Lawrence	29,800	Conecuh	9,300
Hale	26,400	Cherokee	8,900
Baldwin	25,500	Bullock	7,800
Franklin	25,100	Tallapoosa	7,600
Crenshaw	24,800	Washington	7,500
Dallas	24,000	Lamar	6,800
Pike	23,200	Lee	6,700
Limestone	22,900	Russell	6,400
Sumter	22,900	St. Clair	5,500
Houston	22,600	Bibb	4,900
Madison	22,400	Choctaw	4,700
Mobile	22,300	Coosa	3,500
Marengo	21,600	Jefferson	3,500
Barbour	21,300	Autauga	*
Perry	19,200	Clarke	*
Pickens	19,000	Coffee	*
Randolph	17,600	Dale	*
Talladega	17,500	Escambia	*
Clay	17,300	Henry	*
Etowah	16,200	Macon	*
Greene	16,200		
Colbert	15,800		
Marion	14,500	State Total	1,260,000
Chilton	14,000		
Elmore	13,800		

* Data from January 1, 2008 inventory figures provided by Alabama Agricultural Statistics Service.

* Counties not published due to revised publishing criteria, but are included in the State total.