



Florida Cattle Market Update

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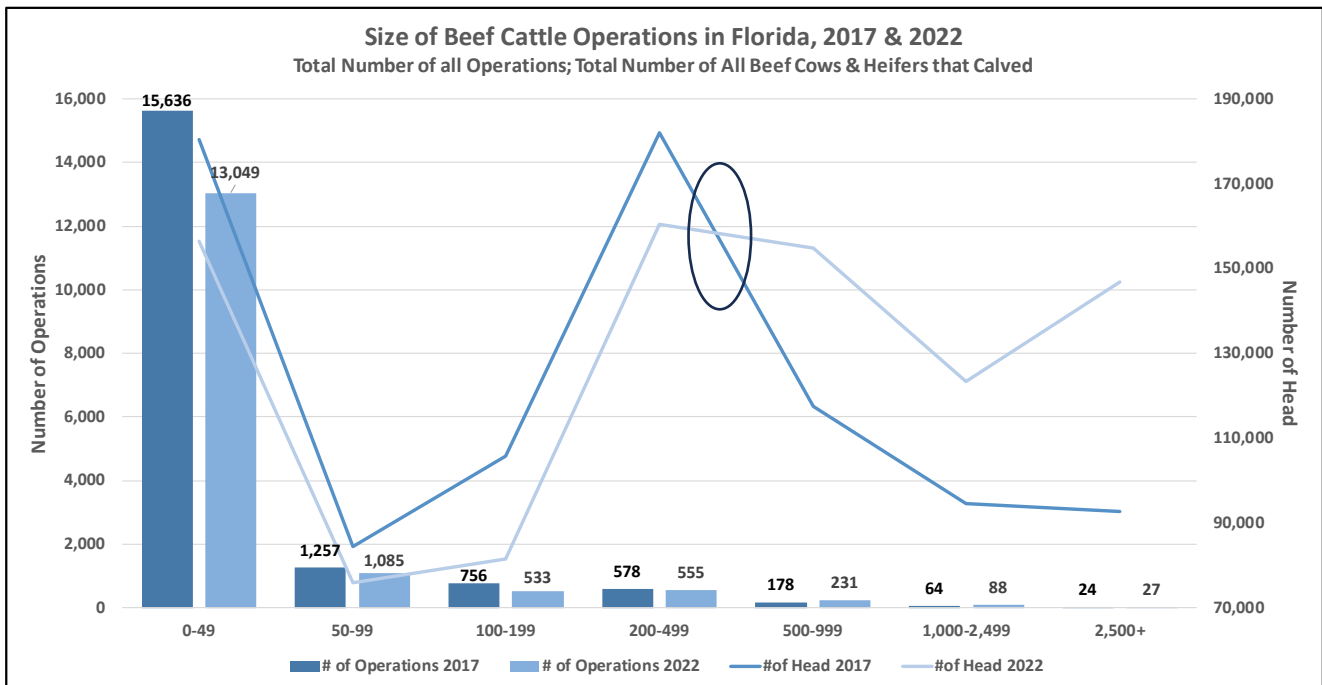
Characteristics of Beef Cow Operations in Florida, 2022 Ag Census

As of January 2024, Florida ranks number nine in beef cattle production with 883,589 head of beef cows. This is a 0.5 percent decrease from roughly 888,000 head in January 2023. The size and number of beef cattle operations nationwide and in Florida reflect the decline of the beef cow herd. The number of beef cattle operations in Florida has declined by 15.8 percent since 2017 according to the USDA 2022 Ag Census. This is the lowest number of Florida operations since 1997.

Number of Beef Cattle Operations in Florida						
Year	2022	2017	2012	2007	2002	1997
# of Operations	15,568	18,493	18,433	16,694	15,717	18,945

Most beef cattle operations (43 percent) in Florida operate on 10-49 acres. This category saw a decline of 13.8 percent since 2017, but operations operating on 1-9 acres saw the largest decline at 29.6 percent. Operations on 180-219 acres decreased by 17.8 percent followed by operations on 260-499 acres decreasing by 17.7 percent. Economic and environmental factors over the past few years have affected beef cattle operations all across the state regardless of size.

Between 2017 and 2022, beef cattle production nationwide has shown signs of consolidation as larger operations are managing more cattle than they were in 2017. Specifically in Florida, operations with 1-49 head are still the largest percentage of all operations in the state but have declined by 16 percent. These operations manage roughly 17 percent of all beef cattle in Florida. The number of larger operations with 500-999 head, 1,000 – 2,499 head, and 2,500+ head all increased by 30 percent, 37.5 percent, and 12.5 percent. These three categories manage roughly 50% of all beef cattle in Florida. Despite increases on larger operations, the overall decline of beef cattle numbers and operations will affect the rate at which rebuilding will occur in Florida.



Access all 2022 Ag Census Reports for Florida using this link:

https://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2022/Full_Report/Volume_1_Chapter_1_State_Level/Florida/
 Questions, contact Hannah at h.baker@ufl.edu

See this update and other helpful resources online at <https://rrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/about/directory/staff/hannah-baker/>

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