U.S. Cattle Inventory Report – January 2022
by Chris Prevatt, UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC, Extension Economist

The United States Department of Agricultural National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA-NASS) released their January 1, 2022, U.S. Cattle Inventory Report on January 31, 2022. The report provided an update of inventories for U.S. breeding stock, feeder cattle, and calves with a comparison against the previous year’s annual report.

The report confirmed the continued decline of the U.S. cattle herd with declines in every major category except Cattle on Feed, as shown in Table 1 below. The report marks the third annual inventory report in a row with declines in Total Cattle Inventory.

The Total Cattle Inventory (All Cattle and Calves) in the U.S. as of January 1, 2022 was 91.90 million head,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>2021 (mil. head)</th>
<th>2022 (mil. head)</th>
<th>Change (mil. head)</th>
<th>%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Cattle (All Cattle and Calves)</td>
<td>93.79</td>
<td>91.90</td>
<td>-1.89</td>
<td>-2.02%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Cows</td>
<td>40.29</td>
<td>39.50</td>
<td>-0.79</td>
<td>-1.96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef Cows that Calved</td>
<td>30.84</td>
<td>30.13</td>
<td>-0.71</td>
<td>-2.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heifers, 500 lbs. &amp; over</td>
<td>20.20</td>
<td>19.78</td>
<td>-0.42</td>
<td>-2.08%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beef Replacement Heifers</td>
<td>5.80</td>
<td>5.61</td>
<td>-0.19</td>
<td>-3.28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Heifers, 500 lbs. &amp; over</td>
<td>9.79</td>
<td>9.71</td>
<td>-0.08</td>
<td>-0.82%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steers, 500 lbs. &amp; over</td>
<td>16.79</td>
<td>16.58</td>
<td>-0.21</td>
<td>-1.25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calves, Under 500 lbs.</td>
<td>14.31</td>
<td>13.94</td>
<td>-0.37</td>
<td>-2.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeder Cattle Supply</td>
<td>40.88</td>
<td>40.23</td>
<td>-0.65</td>
<td>-1.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Cattle on Feed, All Sizes</td>
<td>14.67</td>
<td>14.69</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>0.14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feeder Cattle Supplies Outside Feedlots</td>
<td>26.21</td>
<td>25.54</td>
<td>-0.67</td>
<td>-2.56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: USDA-NASS
decreasing by 1.89 million head (-2.02%) below the 93.79 million head on January 1, 2021. The nation's Beef Cow Herd (Beef Cows that Calved) continued its decline to 30.13 million head, which was a decrease of 710,000 head (-2.30%) below January 1, 2021. In addition to the decline, the January 1, 2021, Beef Cow Inventory estimate was revised downward by 1 percent. From the peak in U.S. Beef Cow inventory in 2019, the inventory of Beef Cows that Calved has declined by 5 percent. A significant finding of this report was that the number of Beef Replacement Heifers retained for breeding purposes declined by 190,000 head (-3.28%) below year ago levels. This decline indicates that in the near-term more heifers will enter the beef pipeline than one year ago. The U.S. Cattle on Feed, All Sizes was 14.69 million head, an increase of 20,000 head (0.14%) over year ago levels. One additional data point we can calculate from the January U.S. Cattle Inventory Report is Feeder Cattle Supplies Outside Feedlots. There were 25.5 million Feeder Cattle Outside of Feedlots on January 1, 2022, which was 670,000 head (-2.6%) less than a year ago.

The results of this report continue to make it clear that we will have tighter supplies of feeder cattle for the next several years. The tight supplies will result in smaller levels of beef production. Therefore, the continued contraction of the U.S. Cattle Inventory should continue to be viewed as bullish and a major price-support factor for cattle prices during the next couple of years. Remember, that changes in cattle inventory are usually slow due to the size of the beef industry and the reproductive biology of cattle.

* * *

Questions, contact Chris at prevacg@ufl.edu or 863-735-1314.

**Center News**

**Adams Ranch Endowment Annual Heifer Offer**

The annual Adams Ranch Endowment Heifer Offer was held at Adams Ranch during their annual sale on Nov. 11, 2021. Two UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Braford heifers were purchased by John Able for $2,000.

The Adams Ranch Endowment aims to support activities that strengthen and improve the natural resources associated with Florida’s grazinglands. This endowment was established to support teaching, research, and extension activities associated with the natural resources on southern Florida grazinglands.

To strengthen the endowment, two Braford heifers from our center’s herd - a Braford herd originally donated to the Center by the Adams’ family in the ‘80s – are offered each year during Ranch’s annual sale. Proceeds from their sale are matched by Adams Ranch and the full amount added to the their endowment.

Through this year’s sale $4,000 was added to the endowment.

**Pine Harvest**

In December, harvest began of the Center’s silvopasture pines. The funds acquired through the sale of this timber will be used to reestablish the pines that were clearcut back into a silvopasture system, and the remaining funds will be used to help set up monitoring equipment in that pasture.

The pines were planted in 1991 by Dr. Rob Kalmbacher and his team as a long-term project to determine how much wood and beef could be grown together on silvopasture in south central Florida. To learn more click here.

**Annual Recognition Ceremony & Christmas Party**

On December 16 the Center’s faculty, staff, students, family, and friends gathered in the Grazinglands Education Building to recognize individuals receiving honors in 2021 and to enjoy some good food and fellowship.

The following were recognized for their years of service:

**Jeff Steele, 20 years of service.**
Annual Recognition Ceremony & Christmas Party - continued

Dr. Hiran M. S. da Silva has gone out of his way to help other research programs and students at the UF/IFAS Range Cattle Research and Education Center. We are currently without a biological scientist for the Soil and Water Science Program. Dr. Silva has been helping the students from the program run lab tests, understand methodology, make purchases for the their program and individual projects, while providing guidance to them on their field experiments.

Throughout the pandemic he has continued his responsibilities with the Agronomy Program at Center allowing it to conduct approved experiments in the field. One of Dr. Silva’s duties is to run the Forage Extension Laboratory at the Center. This responsibility often leads to discussions with stakeholders, producers, and county Extension faculty about their forage test results and the range of forage analysis received at the forage lab. While Dr. Silva has no formal Extension component, his actions contribute greatly to producers around the state.

Dr. Silva’s actions over the past year clearly represent the three-legged approach that is UF/IFAS. His passion for helping students conduct their projects, his success in assisting the Agronomy program in conducting research during the pandemic, and his outreach to producers through the Forage Extension Lab conveys his commitment to the University of Florida’s mission.

Dr. Hiran M. S. da Silva was recognized for his outstanding support services to the LTAR Program at the Center for his support services on our Eddy Flux towers.

The Florida Cattlemen’s Association was recognized with the ‘Friend of Ona’ award for their outstanding support of the Center and it’s programs. Cliff Coddington, President of the Florida Cattlemen’s Association was in attendance to receive the award on their behalf.


Tower 1 - ufonag
Tower 2 is not yet online.
Annual Recognition Ceremony & Christmas Party - continued

Sack race participants: Jaime Garzon, Lais Lima, and Caetano Sales (the winner).

Tom Fussell, Ryan Nevling, David Magana, and Austin Bateman.

Christina Markham with her parents Edith and Russell Willis.

Lauria Gause, Mary Shannon and Brent Sellers, Lane and Julie Warren, and Michael Gause.

Shyleah, John, Sonya, Haven, and Morgan Dunlap


Coldest Weather in 4 Years

As predicted by forecasters, we saw the coldest weather in 4 years this past January.

On Jan. 29, the UF/IFAS Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN) site at Ona recorded temperatures at or below freezing from 11:00 p.m. until 1/30 8:00 a.m. (9 hrs); with a minimum reading of 25.09°F.

Jan. 30, the site recorded temperatures at or below freezing from 11:45 p.m. until 1/31 8:00 a.m. (8 hr 15 min); with a minimum reading of 28.21°F.

Previous to this year, in January of 2018, there were 3 freeze events recorded by the Ona FAWN site, with one having an extreme low of 25.6°F. There were no freezes in 2019 and 2021 with January in those years seeing minimum cold temperatures of 36.7°F and 35.15°F, respectively. In 2020 there was one freeze event with a minimum temperature of 31.39°F.

Coldest temp, Jan. 30, 7:30 a.m. 25.09°F

Annual UF/IFAS Range REC Climatological Reports are available for viewing on our website, with data from 2000 - 2020. The 2021 report will be added soon.

UF/IFAS Florida Automated Weather Network (FAWN).
Leandro Otavio Vieira Filho was awarded the UF IFAS Soil and Water Sciences Department 2021-2022 William Robertson Fellowship Award which is presented annually to an outstanding SWSD graduate student based on leadership and excellence in academics and research.

Leandro began his Soil and Water Science PhD in the summer of 2019. He is advised by Dr. Maria Silveira.

Dr. Liz Palmer successfully defended her PhD dissertation ‘Maternal gestational nutrition of Bos indicus-influenced beef cows impacts the postnatal development of offspring.’ During her program she was advised by Dr. Philippe Moriel.

Liz graduated on 12/17 and began her new job as formulation and research manager for Midwest PMS in Longmont, Colorado.

Dr. Sutie Xu received two awards at the ASA-CSSA-SSSA Annual Meeting in November. Pictured here are Dr. Xu with Dr. Maria Silveira (her former PhD student advisor) who is presenting her with the 2021 Soil and Water Management and Conservation Young Scholar Award.

Dr. Xu also received the Excellent Young Scientist Award from Dr. Ruijun Qin of Oregon State University, the chair of the Association of Chinese Soil and Plant Scientist in North America.

Learn more & contact her: https://www.sdstate.edu/directory/sutie-xu

Dr. Jose Luiz Dias began a new position in January as an associate professor and extension weed scientist with the Plant Science Dept. at the University of Arizona.

Dr. Dias is a former PhD Student of Dr. Brent Sellers and a 2019 UF graduate.

Learn more: https://arizonaag.com/

Contact him at joseluizdias@arizona.edu

We are excited to announce the arrival of our newest faculty member, Dr. Golmar Golmohammadi in our new Watershed Hydrologist position. Please introduce yourself when you get a chance. You can reach her at g.golmohammadi@ufl.edu or 863-735-1314 ext. 207.

Golmar obtained her PhD from McGill University in water resources and hydrologic modelling. She has been involved in several hydrology, water quantity and quality research and scientific investigations, successfully using the field data and modelling techniques to solve complex watershed-scale management problems. In addition to her academic teaching and research experience, she has been working as a water resources engineer for Consulting firms to address water quantity and water quality issues, implementation strategies of best management practices and selecting the preferred alternative solutions.

Her research and extension efforts are focused on:

• Developing sustainable water management practices to conserve water and improve water quality in the face of future climate change

• Sustainable water recourses, both quantity and quality, by adopting appropriate water management methods and implementing best management practices to sustain water resources and production while protecting water quality under future climate change
Refereed Publications


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**Articles published in the Florida Cattleman & Livestock Journal:**

View these on our website at: [https://rcrec-onafas.ufl.edu/news-and-publications/](https://rcrec-onafas.ufl.edu/news-and-publications/)

**Ona Reports**

Dec. 2021 - ‘Should Farm-Scale Nutrient Budgets be used for Pasture Fertilization Management?’ by Dr. Maria Silveira

Jan. 2022 - ‘Managing Smutgrass: Past, Present, and Future’ by Dr. Brent Sellers

Feb. 2022 - ‘Marketing Feeder Calves in 2022’ by Chris Prevatt

**Florida Cattle Market Price Watch**

This helpful resource is provided monthly by Chris Prevatt, State Specialized Agent II, Beef Cattle and Forage Economics. View a complete listing of past reports on our website, [click here](https://rcrec-onafas.ufl.edu/news-and-publications/)

**‘Caught on Camera’**

A monthly feature with images collected from RCREC game cameras mounted throughout the property. Provided by the Rangeland Wildlife Ecology Program.

View on our website at: [https://rcrec-onafas.ufl.edu/about/directory/faculty/hance-ellington/](https://rcrec-onafas.ufl.edu/about/directory/faculty/hance-ellington/)
New Videos

**Ona Highlight Webinars**

Save the date and join us for an upcoming Ona Highlight webinar. These informative presentations are held each month. They begin at 11:00 a.m. and last about 45 minutes. See our online calendar for upcoming webinars, [here](http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/virtual-classroom/).

Recordings of recent webinars:

- "Opportunities to increase soil carbon sequestration in subtropical grazinglands" with Dr. Maria Silveira  
  11/16/2021  
  Run time: 60.04 minutes

- 'Brunswickgrass management with hexazinone in bahiagrass pastures' with Clay Cooper, MS Student  
  12/14/2021  
  Run time: 30 minutes

- 'Ways to manage smutgrass past, present, and future' with Dr. Brent Sellers  
  1/11/2022  
  Run time: 37.01 minutes

- 'The SLICK Gene in Holstein Cattle Improves Thermotolerance' with guest presenter Colleen Larson  
  2/8/2022  
  Run time: 36.29 minutes

**New Podcasts**

Listen or download the latest [Joe What? Podcast](https://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/virtual-classroom/) with Dr. Joao ‘Joe’ Vendramini -

Dec. 2021 - Dr. Leandro Cruppe of Select Sires. They discuss reasons for the massive adoption of artificial insemination by beef cattle producers in Brazil. (Run time: 20.29 min.)

Jan. 2022 - Clint Raulerson. They discuss the differences in cow-calf operations in Florida and Kansas. (Run time 30.15 min.)

These monthly podcasts can be found on: [Podbean](https://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/virtual-classroom/) and [YouTube](https://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/virtual-classroom/)

You can view all of our past webinars, program recordings, field day videos, and other recordings on YouTube or on our website's [Virtual Classroom](https://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/virtual-classroom/).

Upcoming Events

View our online calendar for more info on events and links to register: [http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar-of-events/](http://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/calendar-of-events/)

**Ona Graduate Student Highlight with Jaime Garzon**

- March 8, 11:00 - 11:45 AM  
  “Ecosystem Services of Overseeding Aeschynomene into Bahiagrass Pastures.” Jaime is an agronomy PhD student under the advisement of Dr. Joao Vendramini.

**Forage Management Tour & Workshop**

- Mar. 10, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
  Mudge Ranch, 1323 Loblolly Bay Road, LaBelle  
  Fee $40

**Environmental Lands Management**

- Mar. 31, 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM  
  UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC, Ona  
  Fee $50

**Ona Highlight featuring the South Florida Beef Forage Program**

- April 12, 11:00 - 11:45 AM  
  Allie Williams and Sheri Trent will present, “Collaboration, Communication, and Education: Enhancing Florida’s Livestock Industry Through the SFBFP.” Allie is a small farms and alternative enterprises extension agent with Hillsborough County and Sheri is a agriculture/4-H Youth Development extension agent with the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

**71st Annual UF Beef Cattle Short Course**

- May 4-6  
  UF/IFAS Straughn Professional Development Center in Gainesville. [Visit the UF Animal Sciences Department website](https://rcrec-ona.ifas.ufl.edu/virtual-classroom/) for details.

**13th Annual Youth Field Day**

- June 30, 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM  
  UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC, Ona  
  Details coming soon!
On January 4 President Fuchs announced 2022 will be his last year as University of Florida President. He plans to stay on at UF as a member of the teaching and research faculty in his home academic department, Electrical and Computer Engineering. The transition will likely occur sometime in early 2023 when the new president comes on board. Listen now to a personal message from President Fuchs click here.

University of Florida Ranks #1

Gainesville, FL. (1/25/22)—UF Online, the University of Florida’s online bachelor’s degree program, is No. 1 in the nation, according to the latest rankings released today by U.S. News & World Report, recognizing UF’s excellence in delivering world-class educational opportunities across platforms. The announcement, which comes at the heels of UF being named the No. 5 public university in the country, marks the first time UF has earned the top spot for online bachelor’s degree programs. Several of UF’s online master’s programs also ranked among the top... click here to read the full article.

UF/IFAS Range Cattle REC Faculty -

Dr. Brent Sellers, sellersb@ufl.edu - Pasture and Rangeland Weed Management

Dr. Maria Silveira, mlas@ufl.edu - Soil and Water Science

Dr. Joao Vendramini, jv@ufl.edu - Forage Management

Dr. Philipe Moriel, pmoriel@ufl.edu - Beef Cattle Nutrition & Management

Chris Prevatt, prevacq@ufl.edu - Beef Cattle and Forage Economics

Dr. Hance Ellington, e.ellington@ufl.edu - Grazinglands Wildlife Specialist

Dr. Golmar Golmohammadi, g.golmohammadi@ufl.edu - Watershed Hydrology and Biogeochemistry