

# Ag Decision Maker

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## UPDATES

The following [Information Files](#) have been updated on [extension.iastate.edu/agdm](http://extension.iastate.edu/agdm):

A3-10 2025 Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey

B1-31 Monthly Swine Feeding Returns

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B2-12 Historical Cattle Prices

B2-45 Feeder Steer-Heifer Price Spread

C3-19 Understanding Net Worth

C3-56 Farm Financial Statements

The following [Videos and Decision Tools](#) have been updated on [extension.iastate.edu/agdm](http://extension.iastate.edu/agdm):

A1-10 Chad Hart's Latest Ag Outlook Video

C3-56 Comprehensive Financial Statements

C3-56 Interpreting Financial Performance Measures

The following [Profitability Tools](#) have been updated on [extension.iastate.edu/agdm/outlook.html](http://extension.iastate.edu/agdm/outlook.html):

A1-85 Corn Profitability

A1-86 Soybean Profitability

A2-11 Iowa Cash Corn and Soybean Prices

A2-15 Season Average Price Calculator

D1-10 Ethanol Profitability

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## Global trade

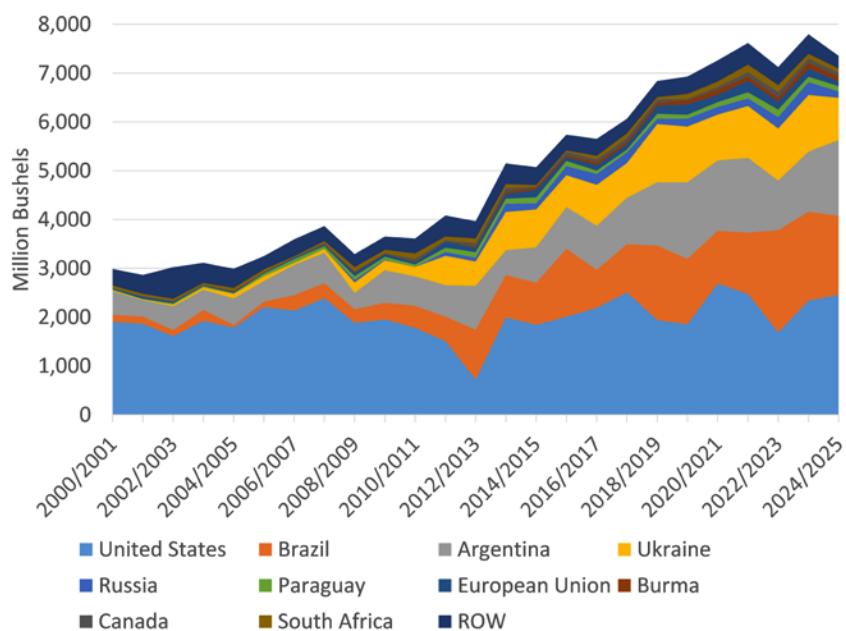
By Chad Hart, extension crop market economist,  
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The corn and soybean markets are having the largest reactions to two issues within the markets: tariffs and global supplies. Global supplies have grown substantially, while the recent developments on tariffs have created much uncertainty about global trade volumes and pre-existing trade relationships. Despite the global production expansion and trade uncertainty, US crops are enjoying a rebound in trade volumes. The open question is whether that rebound will continue into the next marketing year. Global crop production and consumption

have both increased at rates faster than population, and corn and soybean trade has more than doubled since 2000. Much of the production and trade growth has occurred in South America.

For corn, the 2023-24 crop is the largest the world has ever seen. Table 1 outlines global corn production for the last two years. The 2023-24 crop of 1.2 billion tons of corn produced translates to roughly 48.35 billion bushels. The 2024-25 crop is slightly smaller, at 47.8 billion bushels. The US produced nearly

**Figure 1. Global corn exports.** Data source: USDA FAS.



one-third of those totals. But it's the growth in Brazil and China that the market is watching. Brazil continues to expand its corn production through its ability for second crop corn. That expansion has allowed Brazil to challenge the US as the largest corn exporter, despite Brazil's smaller production level relative to the US. China has also worked to increase corn production, which in their case will limit the need to import additional corn.

Figure 1 shows global corn exports since 2000. For most of that time, the US has been the dominant corn exporter. Only during the drought-riddled year of 2012 had the US lost that top slot. But with the continuing growth of corn production within Brazil, they moved into the top slot with the 2022 crop. Over the past couple of years, the US reclaimed the title, but that is projected to be short-lived. The

growth in corn exports is not limited to Brazil. As the figure shows, corn export levels have grown in Argentina, Ukraine, and Russia. The 10 countries shown in the figure are currently the top 10 corn exporters, ordered by projected 2024-25 export levels. The graphic shows that the growth in global corn exports has basically been captured by other countries and not the US.

However, over the past year or so, US corn has been regaining global market share. A substantial portion of that growth has come from Europe and north Africa. Normally, those areas purchase a majority of imported corn from the Black Sea region (Ukraine and Russia). But with the war extending into its third year, Black Sea agricultural production has fallen back. That has opened up opportunities for US corn. US corn sales into the European

Union are currently up by roughly 100 million bushels over last year. And the US has also been gaining sales in other markets. Mexico, our largest customer, is up roughly 30 million bushels. Japan is up 50 million. Colombia is up 40 million and South Korea has increased by roughly 70 million. In total, US corn export sales have increased by nearly 400 million bushels this year.

The global soybean market has grown dramatically. In fact, world production has set a record in each of the past two years. Table 2 outlines global soybean production for the last two years. The 2023-24 crop of 395 million tons of soybeans produced translated to roughly 14.51 billion bushels. The 2024-25 crop of roughly 421 million tons of soybeans produced translates to roughly 15.46 billion bushels. The nearly billion bushels

**Table 1. Global corn production. Source: USDA-WAOB.**

Country or Region	2023-24		2024-25		
	Estimate	Change from February 11	Forecast	Change from February 11	Change from 2023-2024
<i>Million tons</i>					
World	1,228.1	-2.0	1,214.2	1.7	-13.9
United States	389.7	--	377.6	--	-12.0
Foreign	838.4	-2.0	836.5	1.7	-1.9
Argentina	51.0	1.0	50.0	--	-1.0
Brazil	119.0	-3.0	126.0	--	7.0
Mexico	23.5	--	23.3	-0.4	-0.2
Canada	15.4	--	15.3	--	-0.1
European Union	61.9	--	58.0	--	-3.9
Serbia	6.8	--	5.5	--	-1.3
FSU-12	55.3	--	47.1	1.1	-8.3
Ukraine	32.5	--	26.8	0.3	-5.7
Russia	16.6	--	14.0	0.8	-2.6
South Africa	13.4	**	16.0	-1.0	2.6
China	288.8	--	294.9	--	6.1
India	37.7	--	40.0	2.0	2.3

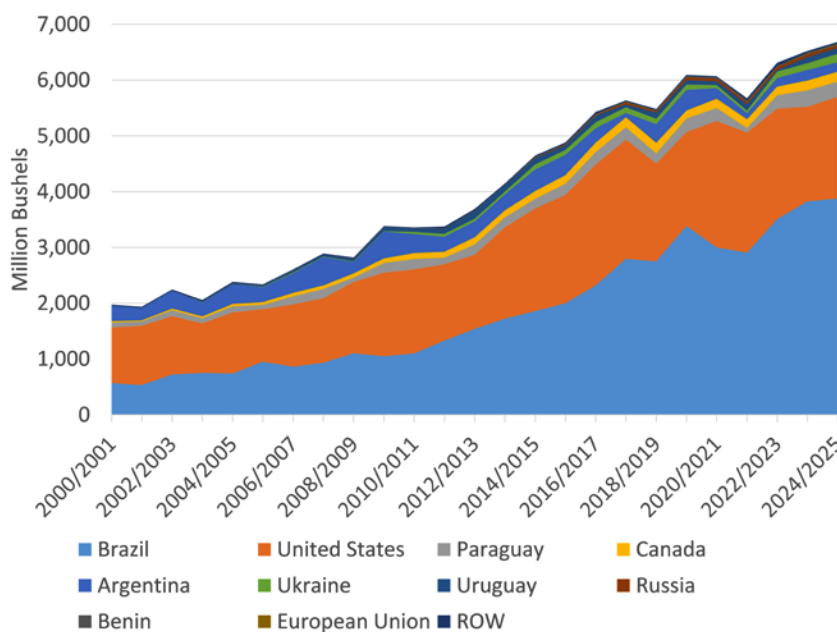
increase in global supplies from one record year to the next is impressive and would normally be accompanied by a steep decline in global prices, but yet global prices have held up well as global soybean usage continues to grow. As with corn, the US produces nearly one-third of the global soybean crop, but it's the Brazilian crop most are watching currently. USDA's current estimate of the Brazilian soybean crop is 169 million tons or 6.21 billion bushels. Just the growth in Brazil alone is adding 590 million bushels to global soybean supplies.

Those additional bushels definitely impact the export markets. Figure 2 displays global soybean exports since 2000, tracking the current top 10 countries for soybean exports, along a rest-of-the-world (ROW) aggregate. Global soybean exports have doubled since 2009 and tripled since 2000. While the US has captured a small piece of this growth, it has been Brazil that has expanded to meet the world's soybean needs. Brazilian soybean exports account for over half the world total. The US had been the largest exporter in the vast majority of years before 2012, but Brazil took the lead then and has widened the gap between ever since. Based on current estimates for the 2024-25 crop, Brazil's soybean exports will be more double the US total. Yet the US is regaining a little market share. US soybean sales have increased in the European Union, Egypt, Turkey, Taiwan, Pakistan, Costa Rica, and Peru.

**Table 2. Global soybean production. Source: USDA-WAQB.**

Country or Region	2023-24 Estimate	2024-25 Forecast	Change from January 10	Change from 2023-2024
<i>Million tons</i>				
World	395.0	420.8	**	25.8
United States	113.3	118.8	--	5.6
Foreign	281.7	301.9	**	20.2
Argentina	48.2	49.0	--	0.8
Brazil	153.0	169.0	--	16.0
Paraguay	11.0	10.7	--	-0.3
Canada	7.0	7.6	--	0.6
India	11.9	12.6	--	0.7
China	20.8	20.7	--	-0.2

**Figure 2. Global soybean exports. Data source: USDA FAS.**



This growth has been enough to offset declining sales into China. So far this year, US soybean export sales are 200 million bushels higher than last year.

Much as I did last year, I have highlighted the importance of exports to the US crop markets throughout my talks this winter. It was the strong export pace during the 2020 and 2021 crop years that supported the price recovery after COVID and the return to \$6 corn and beans in the teens. But that export pace cooled during the 2022 and 2023 crop years due to a combination of greater global supplies and high US prices relative to the rest of the world. And I feel export demand holds the key to pricing as we move through 2025. Both crop markets are enjoying recoveries in export sales, but both markets are also facing the strong possibility of increased tariffs and additional trade barriers as the year proceeds. Given that USDA's current 2025 crop production estimates are for larger corn and soybean crops (although the soybean production growth is tiny,

4 million bushels), the markets need increasing usage to match the growth in production and hopefully exceed it to lead to higher prices. Looking at current futures prices, the corn market is holding on to that possibility as the futures-based season-average price for 2025 sits at

\$4.45 per bushel, roughly a quarter above USDA's current price estimate. Meanwhile, soybean futures are pointing to a \$9.85 per bushel season-average price for the 2025. That's 15 cents below USDA's estimate and again, that is also before most tariff impacts have been

incorporated into the market.

The latest [Market Outlook video](https://go.iastate.edu/AGDMHART), <https://go.iastate.edu/AGDMHART>, is provided for further insight on outlook for this month.



## New course helps cattle women develop market strategies and analyze profitability

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The farm management team with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach is offering three Women Marketing Cattle courses this spring.

Evening courses are offered in Decorah beginning April 8 and in Mount Ayr beginning April 29. An all-day Saturday course is offered in Guthrie Center on May 17. The registration fee is \$25.

Cattle and calves are Iowa's fourth largest agricultural commodity, contributing more than \$5 billion in agricultural sales to the economy annually. Women and beginning farmers are finding economic opportunities through beef production.

This women-centered program offers an opportunity to meet area cattle producers and learn with others in a comfortable setting. A team of instructors will provide different perspectives.

"Cattle producers have more marketing options today than ever before. They don't have to wait and see what they get. Producers now have tools to reduce price risk in the market," stated Tim Christensen, ISU Extension and Outreach farm management specialist.

This course is about capturing more value from beef production by understanding the true costs of production

and developing an overall marketing strategy. Instructors will compare and contrast different market channels and pricing strategies. Sales at weaning, backgrounding and finishing will be discussed. A refresher on carcass value and its relationship to price will be included.

Producers will learn how they can utilize futures prices to help them manage price risk



and develop a marketing plan. They will learn more about livestock risk insurance plans, diversification and other risk management tools. Producers will gain new insights and access tools to help them analyze and understand profitability.

The course includes an interactive market simulation activity. Class members will work together in small groups to practice news skills and try out a marketing strategy.

“We will take producers through a marketing year simulation where they will make key decisions and discover how those impact their profitability,” stated Joseph Lensing, farm management specialist.

## Courses

**April 8-22, Decorah:** Women Marketing Cattle begins at 5 p.m. with a light meal at the ISU Extension and Outreach Winneshiek County office. The course starts at 5:30 p.m. and concludes by 8:30 p.m. each Tuesday night for three weeks. The lead instructor is Joseph Lensing.

**April 29 - May 13, Mount Ayr:** Women Marketing Cattle begins at 5:30 p.m. with a light meal at the ISU Extension and Outreach Ringgold County office. The course starts at 6 p.m. and concludes by 9 p.m. each Tuesday for three weeks. The lead instructor is Tim Christensen.

**May 17, Guthrie Center:** Women Marketing Cattle begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m. A light lunch is provided during this all-day Saturday program. The lead instructor is Tim Christensen.

Registration for the courses includes meals and course materials. Registration scholarships are available by writing to Madeline Schultz at [schultz@iastate.edu](mailto:schultz@iastate.edu).

## Cattle Marketing Webinar Series

In addition to the upcoming in-person courses, a 3-part webinar series will also be presented for cattle producers focused on core components for better marketing as well as strategies to expand marketing knowledge.

Each webinar runs over the noon hour, including presentations along with time for questions. These webinars will be recorded with registrants receiving the link to view the replay following the live sessions. **Registration is available to all**, <https://go.iastate.edu/CATTLEMKTWEBINAR>.

- April 8, Cost of Production, Tim Christensen
- April 9, Yield and Quality Grade, Chris Clark
- April 10, Marketing Strategies, Joseph Lensing

Funding for these projects was provided by the North Central Extension Risk Management Education Center, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture under Award Number 2023-70027-40444.

More information about this and other programs for women can be found at the [ISU Extension and Outreach Farm Management Team Women in Ag Program website](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/womeninag/new-course-helps-cattle-women-develop-market-strategies-and-analyze-profitability), [www.extension.iastate.edu/womeninag/new-course-helps-cattle-women-develop-market-strategies-and-analyze-profitability](https://www.extension.iastate.edu/womeninag/new-course-helps-cattle-women-develop-market-strategies-and-analyze-profitability).



## Farm Custom Rate Survey valuable guide for Iowans on custom operations and machinery rent

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Farmers who depend on custom work or provide custom services can review rates charged by others across the state in the latest Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey.

The [2025 report](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-10.html), [www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-10.html](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-10.html), includes 193 responses and 3,703 custom rates provided by Iowa farmers, custom operators and farm managers. Table 1 shows historic rates for a sample of operations from the survey.

Farm tasks in the report include everything from planting to harvest, with cost data that reflects the average, median and range for each task.

The rates in the report are expected to be charged or paid in 2025, and they include fuel and labor (unless otherwise noted). The average price for diesel fuel (highway-retail including taxes) was assumed to be \$3.66 per gallon (as projected by the U.S. Energy Information

Administration in early February 2025). Rental rates for some machinery items are shown in the last section of the report, along with a worksheet for estimating rental rates for other items.

This report is a valuable resource for custom operators and those who higher custom work done in our state.

This survey report is heavily used by Iowans and across the Midwest, as the 170,000 downloads of the 2024 publication in the past year shows. The survey found there was a 5% price increase across all surveyed categories. The change from 2024 to 2025 varied across categories, with complete harvesting and hauling for corn and soybeans increasing by 9% and hired labor going up by 4%.

The rate survey is intended only as a guide. Actual custom rates may vary according to availability of machinery in a

given area, timeliness, operator skill, field size and shape, crop conditions and the performance characteristics of the machine being used.

The survey is a valuable starting point in custom rate discussions. There are helpful resources on Ag Decision Maker to [estimate actual machinery costs](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-29.html), [www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-29.html](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-29.html). Any custom rate charged or paid should cover the operator's cost of owning and operating the machinery.

There are 133 operations, rental rates, and wage reports shown in the 2025 report.

[Historical custom rate data](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-12.html), [www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-12.html](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-12.html), is summarized in Ag Decision Maker File A3-12, and [past publications of the Iowa Farm Custom Rate Survey](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-12.html), [iastate.app.box.com/v/isu-custom-rate-survey](http://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a3-12.html), back to 2000 are also available online.

**Table 1. Average farm custom rates reported for Iowa.**

Source: Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, Iowa Farm Custom Rate Surveys.

Operation	1978	1988	1998	2008	2018	2024	2025
Chisel plowing, per acre	\$6.00	\$8.40	\$9.65	\$13.70	\$17.60	\$18.55	\$19.65
Planting, no attachments, per acre	4.40	6.80	8.85	13.20	19.15	24.20	25.40
Spraying, per acre	2.40	3.50	4.00	5.60	6.60	7.00	7.55
Combining corn, per acre	16.20	22.00	23.40	28.10	34.80	44.05	44.10
Combining soybeans, per acre	14.00	20.60	22.55	27.10	34.00	42.00	41.90
Baling square bales, per bale	0.21	0.29	0.36	0.48	0.67	0.79	0.91
Custom farming, corn, per acre	58.00	71.00	75.80	94.10	128.80	155.05	167.75
Custom farming, soybeans, per acre	50.00	65.00	70.65	83.00	117.10	141.90	154.50
Machinery operating wage, per hour	3.50	5.10	7.20	11.70	16.30	21.95	22.65



## US and Canada both benefit from two-way cattle trade

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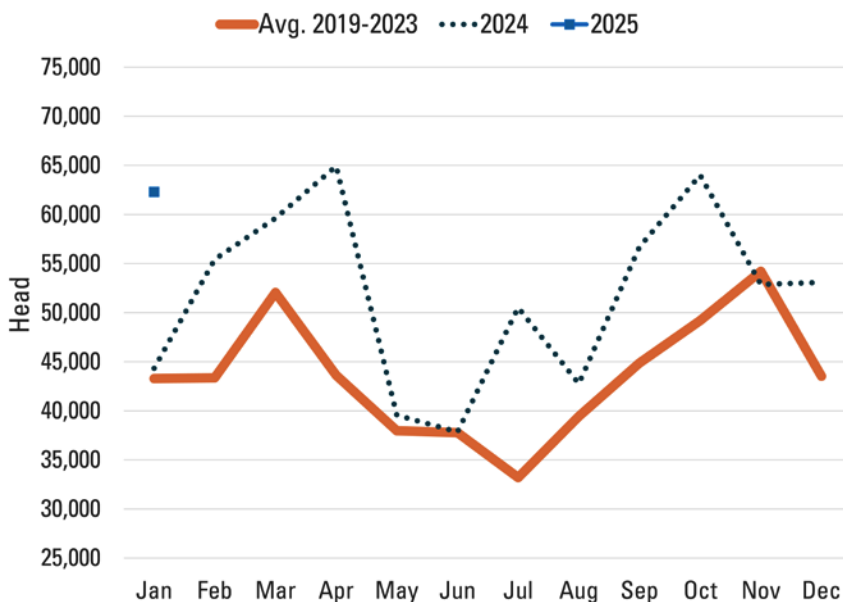
Cattle and beef flow both ways across the US-Canada border. As a result, trade policies and trends in Canadian cattle numbers are of particular interest for US producers, packers, and consumers. Knowing a baseline of trade flows provides insight on how trade disruptions may impact various segments of the industry and the regions that may be impacted most.

In 2024, the United States imported 793,291 cattle from Canada according to [USDA Economic Research Service calculations](https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/livestock-and-meat-international-trade-data), <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/livestock-and-meat-international-trade-data>, using data from the US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

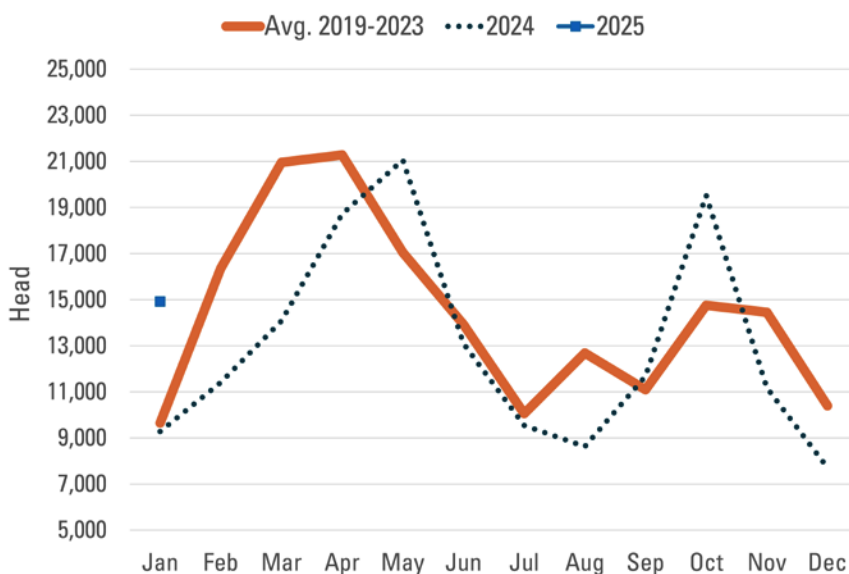
Of the total, 621,621 head, or 78%, were cattle for immediate slaughter (Figure 1). For perspective, weekly US federally inspected (FI) cattle slaughter averaged 596,656 head in 2024. So, imports of Canadian slaughter cattle tallied just over one week's volume, or about 2.0%, of the total 2024 US FI cattle slaughter.

The 155,874 Canadian cattle and calves imported for feeding in the U.S. were 20% of the total imports of Canadian cattle in 2024 (Figure 2).

**Figure 1. Imports of Canadian cattle into the US for immediate slaughter.** Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.



**Figure 2. Imports of Canadian feeder cattle into the US.** Source: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using data from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.



That equals 0.7% of the 22.237 million cattle placed in U.S. feedlots, with a capacity of 1,000 head or more, during 2024.

The remaining 15,796 head, or 2% of the cattle imported from Canada, were for breeding. Most were cows and heifers.

## US slaughter of Canadian cattle varies regionally

Each week USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service Livestock, Poultry and Grain Market News provides Canadian live animal imports into the U.S. by destination in the [WA LS637 report](https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/3211), <https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov/viewReport/3211>. USDA uses a 10-region system to identify destinations.

Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming), Region 10 (Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) and Region 3 (Delaware-Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia) are the primary destinations for Canadian slaughter cattle. In 2024, Region 8 received the most at 33% of the total, next was Region 10 at 28% and then Region 3 at 24%. Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin) was the destination for 13% of Canadian fed cattle imports in 2024.

Canada had 17 cattle slaughter plants operating under FI in 2024 according to data from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency and compiled by [Agriculture and Agri-food Canada, Animal Industry Division, Market Information Section](https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/sector/animal-industry/red-meat-and-livestock-market-information/slaughter-and-carcass-weights/distribution-slaughtering-activity), <https://agriculture.canada.ca/en/sector/animal-industry/red-meat-and-livestock-market-information/slaughter-and-carcass-weights/distribution-slaughtering-activity>. FI cattle slaughter is predominantly in western

Canada, specifically Alberta, where most of the cattle finishing capacity is located. The seven plants in Alberta and the one plant in Manitoba accounted for 81% of cattle slaughter in FI plants in 2024. The four plants in Ontario accounted for 16% of the FI cattle slaughter volume. The remaining 3% was distributed across the four plants in Quebec and the one plant in Prince Edward Island.

Of the total cattle slaughtered under FI in Canada in 2024, 95% was by the four largest companies. The top four plants accounted for 91% of the total Canadian FI cattle slaughter. The largest FI beef packers in Canada are multinational firms that also have US operations. They procure cattle in ways that complement and coordinate with their total network of operations. Larger Canadian feedlots have established supply chains to transport fed cattle to the United States and back haul feeder cattle.

The largest US destination for Canadian feeder cattle exports is Region 10 with 32% of the 2024 total. Next highest were Region 2 (New York and New Jersey) at 29% and Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska) at 27%. Reported expansion in Canadian feedlot bunk space and more feed available at lower costs may constrain Canadian feeder cattle exports in 2025.

## Some US feeder cattle head north

The US exported 322,831 cattle to Canada in 2024. Most

were feeder cattle. Canada is projected to remain a net feeder cattle importer in 2025. A smaller US cattle herd will make for stiff competition among US and Canadian feedlots for feeder cattle.

A weaker Canadian dollar relative to the US dollar in 2025 lowers the purchasing power of Canadian cattle feeders trying to source feeder cattle from the United States. On the other hand, the stronger US dollar encourages Canadians to export live cattle to the United States.

## GAIN report tracks Canadian trends

USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) represents the interests of US farmers, ranchers and agribusinesses in overseas markets. In Canada, FAS offices in Ottawa, Toronto and Montréal assist US exporters of agricultural products, work with the Canadian government to facilitate trade and provide information on the Canadian agricultural market to US agricultural stakeholders.

The Global Agricultural Information Network (GAIN) provides reports on the Canadian market and trade. FAS staff at the U.S. Embassy in Ottawa published the latest annual GAIN report for Canada [Livestock and Products Annual](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Livestock%20and%20Products%20Annual_Ottawa_Canada_CA2024-0044), [https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Livestock%20and%20Products%20Annual\\_Ottawa\\_Canada\\_CA2024-0044](https://apps.fas.usda.gov/newgainapi/api/Report/DownloadReportByFileName?fileName=Livestock%20and%20Products%20Annual_Ottawa_Canada_CA2024-0044),



on Sept. 25, 2024. It summarizes developments and prospects in the Canadian cattle and beef industry. Note, FAS estimates reflect author's assessments and are not official USDA data. Furthermore, forecasts consider trade policies that are in effect at the time the report is published and unless a formal end date is specified, forecasts assume prevailing policies remain in place.

The GAIN report begins with a highlights section. It then discusses and provides estimates for cattle production, live cattle trade, cattle slaughter, beef production, beef consumption and beef trade.

The Canadian cattle herd is expected to continue contracting in 2025. But the rate of contraction should slow with stabilization of the herd possible by the end of the year. Following multiple years of drought and lingering drought impacts, improved pasture conditions and lowered feed prices in 2024 fuel optimism. Imports of US feeder cattle should help bolster Canadian cattle numbers.

Canadian fed cattle exports are forecast to drop off their 2024 pace. The bulk of Canadian cattle exports to the US will remain slaughter ready cattle. Fewer slaughter cattle available is forecast to trim Canadian slaughter 2% in 2025. But heavier weights will help to mitigate beef production declines.

While Canadian producers should increase heifer retention in the back half of 2025, strong feeder cattle prices will lead many producers to look to seize profits now and continue to market heifers and open cows. Canada's producers are aging. Some may choose herd dispersal with the prevailing high prices. Though the Canadian cattle herd is primed for a rebuild, several factors temper expectations. One is a pull to convert pastureland to cropland.

### **Canadian herd smallest since 1988**

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released its latest [United States and Canadian Cattle and Sheep report](https://downloads.usda.library.cornell.edu/usda-esmis/files/474299142/st74fk51z/3r076r63f/uscc0325.pdf), on Mar. 5, 2025. This publication is a joint effort by Statistics Canada and NASS to provide cattle inventories for both countries within one publication. NASS released US inventory numbers on Jan. 31, 2025. Canadian inventory numbers were released on Feb. 25, 2025.

The Jan. 1, 2025 Canadian all cattle and calves inventory totaled 10,940,000 head, down 0.7% from Jan. 1, 2024 and the smallest total Canadian cattle inventory since Jan. 1, 1988. The Jan. 1, 2025 US all cattle and calves inventory totaled 86,662,200 head. At present, the Canadian cattle herd is about 13% the size of the US herd.

The total Canadian cattle inventory is smaller than the Texas cattle inventory, which is the US state with the most cattle.

The 3,379,000 head Canadian beef cow herd was down 1.2% from Jan. 1, 2024 and 9.0% below the recent peak in 2021. This is the smallest Canadian beef cow herd since 1989. The 521,000 heifers kept for beef cow replacement were up 4,100 head or 1.0% from Jan. 1, 2024. This suggests beef cow herd expansion could begin this year in Canada.

The [Cattle on Feed Report in Canada](https://canfax.ca/resources/reports/cattle-on-feed-reports.html), administered by CanFax, is a monthly survey indicating the number of cattle on feed, the number placed on feed and the number sold for slaughter in Alberta and Saskatchewan. These two provinces together feed 70% of Canada's finished cattle production.

As of Mar. 1, 2025 the monthly Canadian on-feed count stood at 984,443 head, decreasing 3.0% year-over-year. During Feb. 2025, the number of cattle placed into Alberta and Saskatchewan feedlots was down 10.4% or 14,680 animals compared to a year ago. February was the first month of placements below a year earlier since Sept. 2024. The 125,972 head was the smallest February placement number since 2020.



## Access timely agronomic information on updated Integrated Crop Management website

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Farmers, crop consultants, ag retailers and landowners can access timely agronomic related information on the newly updated [Integrated Crop Management website](https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/), [crops.extension.iastate.edu/](https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/), from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

While the site's URL remains the same ([crops.extension.iastate.edu](https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/)), this is the first major update of the site since 2017. The redesign enhances navigation, improves access to key resources and ensures compliance with university requirements.

The homepage now features:

- A timely topics stream displaying the latest Integrated Crop Management articles and blogs
- A button linking to upcoming crops-related extension events across the state

- A top menu bar that includes a "People" option to help users find their local extension field agronomist or search for other campus and statewide specialists

Additionally, the site introduces dedicated landing pages for Crops, Soils, Pests, Weather and Equipment. Each of these pages provides specialized content, including ICM news and blogs, encyclopedia articles, and valuable tools and resources relevant to each of the landing pages.

We are excited for the updates and changes to the Integrated Crop Management website.

The new website should be easier to navigate and also be more mobile friendly, while still providing a great go-to resource for agronomic-related information that many farmers, crop consultants, ag retailers and others in the industry rely on.

If you have previously subscribed to receive email alerts about new ICM news articles or blogs, you will continue to get those alerts. New subscribers can sign-up by using the subscribe link at the bottom of the Integrated Crop Management homepage.

We invite you to explore the updated Integrated Crop Management website and make it your go-to source for crop production and management information.

If you have questions, contact ISU Extension and Outreach Crops Team at [crops@iastate.edu](mailto:crops@iastate.edu).

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**Ag Decision Maker** is written by extension ag economists and compiled by Ann Johans, extension program specialist, [aholste@iastate.edu](mailto:aholste@iastate.edu).

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