

# Agri-Food Statistics Update



## Issue No: LS17-1

Collected from a variety of sources, the Statistics and Data Development Section monitors statistical indicators of agri-food activity for Alberta. The Agri-Food Statistics Update is designed to provide users with commentary on current issues, trends and new developments related to agriculture and the food and beverage processing industries. Up-to-date statistics are supplemented with informative charts and diagrams. To gauge Alberta's performance, comparative data and information are often available for Canada and the provinces.

The estimates present potential marketings (i.e. supply which could become available), based on the size of the breeding herd and imports. Such information is useful to producers and others when making decisions relating to marketings, pricing, future production, as well as in estimating farm income and farm expenses.

The process involves verifying commodity supply and disposition variables to arrive at ending stocks. The supply variables are opening stocks, births and imports (interprovincial/international), while the disposition variables include deaths and condemnations, marketings, and exports (interprovincial/international). Administrative data are used where available, supplemented with some estimates where data are not timely or available. Hence, **the inventory estimates are subject to revision**. Given this limitation, users are advised to exercise some caution when using the estimates.

Please visit the following website for a complete listing of Agri-Food Statistics Update releases:

[http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/\\$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270](http://www1.agric.gov.ab.ca/$department/deptdocs.nsf/all/sdd5270)

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## January 1, 2017 Livestock Inventory Estimates Alberta/Canada

On March 3, Statistics Canada released the January 1, 2017 inventory estimates for cattle, pigs, and sheep and lamb on farms in Alberta and other Canadian provinces.

### **Key Messages**

#### **Cattle and Calves Inventories**

- ⇒ Cattle and calves on Alberta farms totalled 4.9 million head, down 1.4 per cent from January 1, 2016.
- ⇒ All cattle classes declined with the exception of bulls and steers that increased marginally.
- ⇒ Cattle and calf inventories were impacted by increased slaughter and exports in 2016.

#### **Pig Inventories**

- ⇒ Alberta's total pig herd on farms was estimated at 1.5 million head, up 2.4 per cent from a year previous. Inventories increased for all classes of animals.
- ⇒ The major factors encouraging growth in pig inventories was the strong consumer demand for pork and strong export demand for live animals.

#### **Sheep and Lamb Inventories**

- ⇒ The size of the provincial sheep and lamb flock on farms was 128,000 head, down 5.9 per cent from a year earlier. Inventories fell for all classes of animals.
- ⇒ Strong slaughter lamb and sheep prices continue to encourage marketings.

#### **Other Comparisons**

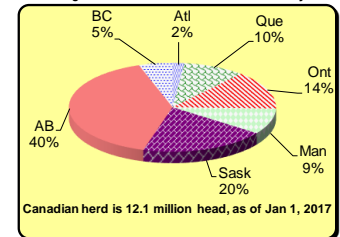
- ⇒ Nationally, cattle and calf, and pig inventories were up, while sheep and lamb inventories decreased.
- ⇒ Alberta currently ranks first in the nation in cattle and calf inventories; third in sheep and lamb inventories; and fourth in pig inventories.

# Selected Livestock on Alberta Farms, as of January 1, 2017

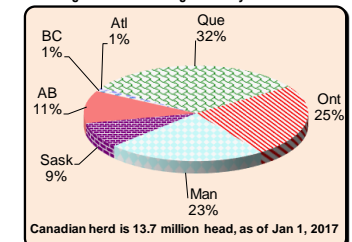
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	2013	2014	2015r	2016r	2017p	% Change	% of	% of
	(Head)					(‘16/‘15)	West. Cda	Canada
<b>Total Cattle and Calves</b>	<b>5,060,000</b>	<b>5,075,000</b>	<b>4,905,000</b>	<b>4,920,000</b>	<b>4,850,000</b>	<b>-1.4</b>	53.9	40.2
Bulls, 1 year plus	86,400	89,400	89,000	90,000	90,300	<b>0.3</b>	49.8	42.0
Beef Cows	1,595,900	1,594,000	1,553,000	1,564,800	1,552,800	<b>-0.8</b>	46.4	40.5
Milk Cows	80,800	80,700	77,400	77,900	77,600	<b>-0.4</b>	34.9	8.1
Heifers: dairy replacement	38,600	38,700	38,500	37,800	36,800	<b>-2.6</b>	36.0	8.3
Heifers: beef replacement	225,600	224,100	213,600	224,800	219,800	<b>-2.2</b>	46.3	41.0
Heifers: slaughter	619,500	615,300	580,000	575,500	569,100	<b>-1.1</b>	77.5	60.7
Steers, 1 year plus	711,800	728,200	682,000	656,000	659,900	<b>0.6</b>	76.4	55.5
Calves, under 1 year	1,701,400	1,704,600	1,671,500	1,693,200	1,643,700	<b>-2.9</b>	53.6	41.6
<b>Total Pigs</b>	<b>1,400,000</b>	<b>1,445,000</b>	<b>1,455,000</b>	<b>1,480,000</b>	<b>1,515,000</b>	<b>2.4</b>	25.6	11.0
<b>Breeding Stock</b>	<b>140,100</b>	<b>140,200</b>	<b>140,300</b>	<b>142,900</b>	<b>144,700</b>	<b>1.3</b>	24.7	11.6
Boars, 6 months plus	4,300	4,300	4,300	4,500	4,800	<b>6.7</b>	41.7	20.6
Sows & Bred Gilts	135,800	135,900	136,000	138,400	139,900	<b>1.1</b>	24.3	11.4
<b>All Other Pigs</b>	<b>1,259,900</b>	<b>1,304,800</b>	<b>1,314,700</b>	<b>1,337,100</b>	<b>1,370,300</b>	<b>2.5</b>	25.7	11.0
Under 23 kg	479,700	484,900	480,600	509,500	521,000	<b>2.3</b>	23.9	10.7
23 - 53 kg	226,700	241,700	254,000	252,200	256,200	<b>1.6</b>	26.0	10.1
54 - 80 kg	310,700	315,000	295,000	304,900	308,400	<b>1.1</b>	26.8	11.9
Over 81 kg	242,800	263,200	285,100	270,500	284,700	<b>5.2</b>	27.9	11.5
<b>Total Sheep and Lambs</b>	<b>158,000</b>	<b>153,000</b>	<b>145,000</b>	<b>136,000</b>	<b>128,000</b>	<b>-5.9</b>	38.6	15.7
Rams	4,900	4,800	4,700	4,400	4,200	<b>-4.5</b>	42.9	17.8
Ewes	92,300	91,500	89,200	86,500	82,000	<b>-5.2</b>	41.9	15.7
Replacement Lambs	15,200	14,800	13,600	12,600	12,300	<b>-2.4</b>	39.3	16.5
Market Lambs	45,600	41,900	37,500	32,500	29,500	<b>-9.2</b>	31.0	15.2

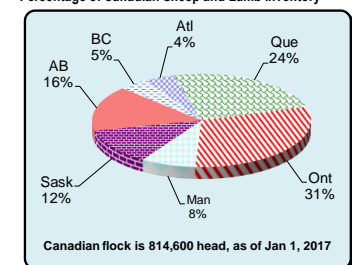
Percentage of Canadian Cattle and Calf Inventory



Percentage of Canadian Hog Inventory



Percentage of Canadian Sheep and Lamb Inventory



## Alberta's Cattle and Calf Inventory decreased 1.4 per cent

As of January 1, 2017, cattle and calves on Alberta farms totalled 4.9 million head, down 1.4 per cent from January 1, 2016. The decrease in inventory was mainly due to a decline in all cattle classes with the exception of bulls and steers that increased marginally. Factors that impacted cattle and calf inventories were increased cattle slaughter which was up 4.3 per cent to 1.8 million head, and increased international exports that were up 24.2 per cent to 280,800 head in 2016.

Alberta's total beef breeding herd, comprising cows and heifers fell 0.9 per cent to 1.8 million head. Total beef cows numbers declined 0.8 per cent to 1.6 million head, while beef heifers for replacement were down 2.2 per cent to 219,800 head. The decline in breeding stock was largely due to higher cow and heifer slaughter levels, and increased heifer placement on feed in 2016, compared to 2015.

Calves were down 2.9 per cent to 1.6 million head, heifers for slaughter fell 1.1 per cent to 569,100 head, while bulls increased marginally by 0.3 per cent to 90,300 head, and steers slightly up by 0.6 per cent to 659,900 head. Alberta's dairy herd, comprising milk cows and dairy replacement heifers decreased by 1.1 per cent to 114,400 head, compared to January 1, 2016.

## Alberta's Pig Inventory grew 2.4 per cent

Alberta's total pig herd was estimated at 1.5 million head, up 2.4 per cent from January 1, 2016. Inventories increased for all classes of animals. The major factors encouraging growth in pig inventories were strong consumer demand for pork and the strong export demand which was up 11.0 per cent to 714,800 head, in 2016 compared to 2015. This is the second highest export on record since 2001 (732,200 head).

The total market hog inventory grew 2.5 per cent to 1.4 million head. Hogs in the "Under 23 kilograms" class rose 2.3 per cent to 521,000 head, while hogs in the "23 to 53 kilogram" class increased 1.6 per cent to 256,200 head. Similarly, hogs in the "54 to 80 kilogram" class were up 1.1 per cent to 308,400 head. Hogs in the "Over 81 kilogram" class grew 5.2 per cent to 284,700 head.

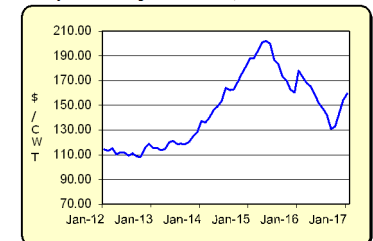
The estimated breeding inventory, comprising boars, sows and bred gilts, was up 1.3 per cent from January 1, 2016 to 144,700 head. Sows and bred gilts increased 1.1 per cent to 139,900 head, while boars increased 6.7 per cent to 4,800 head.

## Alberta's Sheep and Lamb Inventory declined 5.9 per cent

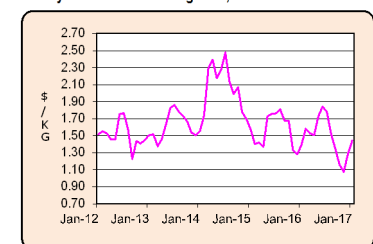
As of January 1, 2017, the size of the provincial sheep and lamb flock on farms was 128,000 head, down 5.9 per cent from a year earlier, and marks the fourth consecutive year-over-year decline. The drop in inventory was mainly due to a decline in all classes of animals. Strong slaughter lamb and sheep prices continue to encourage marketings.

Ewes, at 82,000 head, were 5.2 per cent below January 1, 2016 numbers. Replacement lambs declined 2.4 per cent to 12,300 head, and market lambs decreased 9.2 per cent to 29,500 head. The total number of rams fell 4.5 per cent to 4,200 head.

Monthly Alberta Slaughter Steer Price, 2012-2017



Monthly Alberta Index 100 Hog Price, 2012-2017



Monthly Alberta Slaughter Lamb Price, 2012-2017



Source: Statistics Canada; Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF)

p - Preliminary and may be subject to revision r - Revised

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