Cattle are raised in all 95 counties in Tennessee. The Tennessee beef cattle industry is comprised of different enterprises such as commercial cow-calf, stocker cattle, backgrounding, finishing, seedstock, heifer development and stocker cows (Griffith, 2022). County-level inventory for 2023\(^1\) of cattle and calves and beef cattle are shown in Figures 1 and 2, respectively.

\(^1\)2023 timeline data referenced in this document is for January 1, 2023.
For Tennessee’s agricultural producers, 2021 cash receipts for cattle and calves at $576.0 million ranked fourth behind corn ($863.0 million), soybeans ($781.3 million) and broilers ($602.6 million). Compared to other states for 2021, Tennessee ranked 23rd in cash receipts from cattle and calve production (USDA/ERS, 2023).
MULTIPLIER EFFECTS

Accounting for all beef cattle production for the state, and including multiplier effects, the industry in 2021 contributed an estimated $866.0 million in economic activity. This economic activity was comprised of an estimated 15,763 individuals working part- or full-time in industries that support beef cattle farming with a labor income of $112 million. The 2021 economic activity and employment multipliers were 1.46 and 1.08, respectively. If beef cattle production increased total industry output (economic activity) by $1 million, the state’s economy would increase by an estimated $0.46 million overall, and for each job supported in the same industry, an estimated 0.08 jobs would be supported in other industries. Animals, except poultry, processing and meat processed from carcasses contributed an estimated $3.8 billion in economic activity and was comprised of over 24,000 employees with a labor income of $723.0 million (IMPLAN Group, LLC, 2021; Menard, 2023).

INTERNATIONAL TRADE

International trade for Tennessee’s beef and beef products in 2021 totaled $1.2 million. Vietnam, Mexico, Canada, Slovenia and Brazil are some of Tennessee’s largest trading partners (USDA/FAS, 2023).

CATTLE INVENTORY/PRODUCTION

Tennessee’s total inventory of cattle and calves from 2013 to 2023 is displayed in Figure 3. The average total inventory was 1,785,000 head for that time frame. Inventory for cows/heifers, beef cows and milk cows that have calved from 2013 and 2023 are displayed in Figure 4. The average for cows/heifers was 930,000 head, with the average for beef cows and

---

2Calculations based on IMPLAN’s direct value of production of $591.3 million, which includes on-farm consumption and is net of inventory changes. IMPLAN’s beef cattle farming corresponds to NAICS code 112111—establishments primarily engaged in raising cattle (including cattle for dairy herd replacements) (US Census Bureau, 2023).
3Includes other meat products beside beef.
4USDA/FAS state export data limitations for agricultural shipments: 1) origin of movement is not necessarily the transportation origin (inland state intermediaries shipping agricultural commodities down the Mississippi River to the port in New Orleans may report Louisiana as the state of origin of movement; thus, resulting in understating exports from agricultural states and overstating exports for others); and 2) consolidated shipments will reflect the state of origin where consolidated (USDA/FAS, 2023).
milk cows at 892,200 and 37,800 head, respectively (USDA/NASS, 2023b). The average value of production for cattle and calves from 2012 through 2022 was 574.6 million pounds (Figure 5). Cash receipts averaged $619.1 million for that same time frame (Figure 6) (USDA/NASS, 2023c).

At the beginning of 2023, Texas had 1) the largest inventory of cattle and calves at 12.5 million head (Tennessee ranked 16th); 2) the highest number of all cows and heifers that have calved at close to 5.0 million head (Tennessee ranked 16th); and 3) the most beef cows that have calved at 4.3 million head (Tennessee ranked 13th). For milk cows that have calved, California had the largest at 1.7 million head (Tennessee ranked 32nd). In 2022, Texas also had the largest production of cattle and calves at 6.6 billion pounds (Tennessee ranked 17th), with Nebraska taking top place for cash receipts at $13.7 billion (Tennessee ranked 24th) (USDA/NASS, 2023c).

![Figure 3. Tennessee Cattle and Calves Inventory, 2013-2023](Source: USDA/NASS, 2023b)
Figure 4. Tennessee Cows/Heifers, Beef Cows and Milk Cows that Calved, 2013-2023
(Source: USDA/NASS, 2023b)

Figure 5. Tennessee Cattle and Calves Production, 2012-2022
(Source: USDA/NASS, 2023c)

5Adjusted for changes in inventory and for in-shipments.
Figure 6. Tennessee Cattle and Calves Cash Receipts, 2012-2022
(Source: USDA/NASS, 2023c)

CATTLE/CALVES SUGGESTED READING

TENNESSEE CATTLE ENTERPRISES:

CATTLE BUDGETS:


5Receipts from marketing and sale of farm slaughter.
LIVESTOCK ECONOMICS:


- Current (Daily, Weekly, Monthly and Annual) Market Information. Available at arec.tennessee.edu/extension/livestock-economics.

REFERENCES


