

# January 1, 2023 Livestock Inventory Estimates – Alberta/Canada Highlights

Agri-Food Statistics Update: Issue LS23-1

## Release Information

The livestock inventory estimates for cattle, hogs and sheep on farms in Canada and Provinces (as of January 1, 2023) were released on February 28, 2023 by Statistics Canada. Detailed data is available on the Statistics Canada website, Tables 32-10-0130-01 (cattle and calves); 32-10-0145-01 (hogs); and 32-10-0129-01 (sheep and lambs) at [Data – Statistics Canada](#).

## Highlights

- Similar to the national trend, total cattle and calf, and hog inventories on Alberta farms were down on January 1, 2023, compared to January 1, 2022, while sheep and lamb inventories grew.
- Currently, Alberta accounts for 42.7 per cent of the national cattle and calf inventory (11.3 million head), 11 per cent of the hogs (13.9 million head) and 20.1 per cent of the sheep and lambs (854,400 head).
- Alberta continues to lead the nation in cattle and calf inventories, followed by Saskatchewan and Ontario. The province ranks third in sheep and lamb inventories behind Ontario and Quebec, and fourth in hog inventories after Quebec, Ontario and Manitoba.
- As of January 1, 2023, cattle and calves on Alberta farms totalled 4.8 million head, down 3.7 per cent from the same period a year ago. The decrease in inventories was mainly due to a decline in the beef breeding stock, bulls, as well as calves (under one year), as high feed costs and strong cattle prices encouraged marketings.
- The beef breeding herd on farms fell 5 per cent “year over year” to 1.8 million head.
- The dairy herd totalled 121,000 head, up 2.1 per cent from January 1, 2022.
- As of January 1, 2023, total hogs on farms were estimated at 1.5 million head, down 2.5 per cent from January 1, 2022. The decline in inventories was largely due to a lower pig crop (the number of live piglets after weaning), which was down 5.3 per cent.
- Alberta sheep and lamb inventories rose “year over year” for the third consecutive time. As of January 1, 2023, the provincial flock on farms was 171,500 head, up eight per cent from the same period a year ago. The growth in inventory was influenced by relatively strong slaughter lamb prices and high consumer demand.

## Cattle and Calves

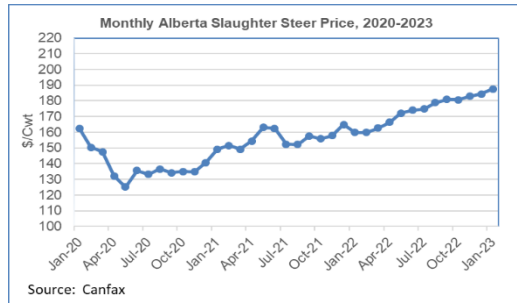
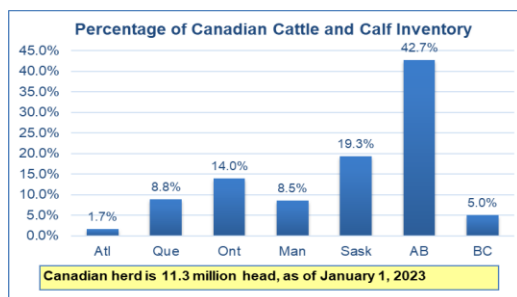
- As of January 1, 2023, cattle and calves on Alberta farms totalled 4.8 million head, down 3.7 per cent from January 1, 2022. The decrease in inventories was largely due to a decline in the beef breeding stock, bulls, as well as calves (under one year).
  - High feed costs, strong export demand, as well as strong cattle prices encouraged marketings.
- In 2022, cattle slaughter was up 2.7 per cent, interprovincial exports grew 6.5 per cent, while international exports increased 20.4 per cent, compared to 2021.
- Alberta beef producers retained less breeding stock due to increased beef cow and heifer slaughter spurred by tight feed supplies, as well as, strong cull cow and feeder cattle prices. The beef breeding herd on farms fell five per cent “year over year” to 1.8 million head. More specifically, beef heifers declined 6.2 per cent to 255,000 head, while beef cows decreased 4.8 per cent to 1.6 million head.
- Dairy producers retained more breeding stock as dairy cow numbers and dairy heifers for replacements rose. The dairy herd on farms totalled 121,000 animals, up 2.1 per cent from January 1, 2022.
- As of January 1, 2023, there were 11.3 million head of cattle and calves on Canadian farms, down 2.2 per cent from January 1, 2022. Inventories fell across all provinces with the exception of Newfoundland and Labrador, and New Brunswick where they grew.
- Alberta continues to lead the nation in cattle and calf inventories (4.8 million head), followed by Saskatchewan (2.2 million head) and Ontario (1.6 million head).
- Currently, Alberta accounts for 56.5 per cent of the total Western Canadian herd (8.5 million head), and 42.7 per cent of the national herd (11.3 million head).

## Selected Livestock on Alberta Farms, as of January 1, 2019-2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022r	2023p	% Change (*23/*22)	% of West. Cda	% of Canada
	(Head)							
<b>Total Cattle and Calves</b>	<b>4,925,000</b>	<b>4,905,000</b>	<b>4,870,000</b>	<b>4,995,000</b>	<b>4,810,000</b>	<b>-3.7</b>	<b>56.5</b>	<b>42.7</b>
Bulls, 1 year plus	95,100	95,200	97,800	97,800	94,500	-3.4	51.2	45.0
Beef Cows	1,612,300	1,570,200	1,607,100	1,635,800	1,557,500	-4.8	49.0	43.7
Milk Cows	78,300	79,900	80,400	79,000	81,000	2.5	34.6	8.4
Heifers: dairy replacement	38,400	39,400	39,500	39,500	40,000	1.3	37.4	9.8
Heifers: beef replacement	261,400	240,200	251,900	271,900	255,000	-6.2	51.3	46.2
Heifers: slaughter	485,100	450,600	442,100	460,000	465,000	1.1	81.0	64.4
Steers, 1 year plus	734,100	694,300	699,300	731,600	733,900	0.3	81.3	59.2
Calves, under 1 year	1,620,300	1,735,200	1,651,900	1,679,400	1,583,100	-5.7	55.9	43.9
<b>Total Pigs</b>	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>1,570,000</b>	<b>1,560,000</b>	<b>1,570,000</b>	<b>1,530,000</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>11.0</b>
<b>Breeding Stock</b>	<b>131,100</b>	<b>130,400</b>	<b>128,400</b>	<b>128,700</b>	<b>124,800</b>	<b>-3.0</b>	<b>21.0</b>	<b>10.0</b>
Boars, 6 months plus	4,600	4,400	4,200	4,200	3,900	-7.1	41.1	24.4
Sows & Bred Gilts	126,500	126,000	124,200	124,500	120,900	-2.9	20.6	9.8
<b>All Other Pigs</b>	<b>1,418,900</b>	<b>1,439,600</b>	<b>1,431,600</b>	<b>1,441,300</b>	<b>1,405,200</b>	<b>-2.5</b>	<b>26.8</b>	<b>11.1</b>
Under 23 kg	534,300	547,100	537,800	575,800	551,400	-4.2	23.4	10.6
23 - 53 kg	247,900	257,500	287,800	273,000	283,200	3.7	30.1	11.4
54 - 80 kg	305,200	295,600	287,800	284,600	262,600	-7.7	25.7	11.0
Over 81 kg	331,500	339,400	318,200	307,900	308,000	0.0	33.2	11.7
<b>Total Sheep and Lambs</b>	<b>138,000</b>	<b>136,500</b>	<b>146,300</b>	<b>158,800</b>	<b>171,500</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>46.3</b>	<b>20.1</b>
Rams	4,700	4,600	4,800	5,100	5,300	3.9	48.6	22.1
Ewes	90,400	89,200	96,500	98,500	100,000	1.5	48.2	19.7
Replacement Lambs	14,200	14,600	15,500	22,200	22,100	-0.5	47.4	23.0
Market Lambs	28,700	28,100	29,500	33,000	44,100	33.6	41.8	19.5

Source: Statistics Canada, Tables 32-10-0130-01 (cattle and calves); 32-10-0145-01 (hogs); and 32-10-0129-01 (sheep and lambs)

Prepared by: Agriculture and Irrigation, Intergovernmental and Trade Relations Branch, Statistics and Data Development Section



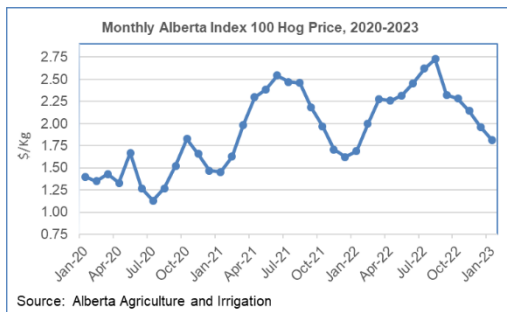
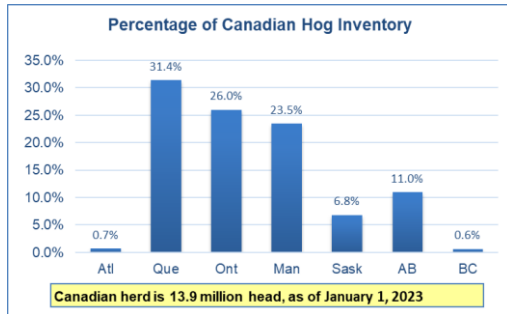
### Hogs

- As of January 1, 2023, total hogs on farms were estimated at 1.5 million head, down 2.5 per cent from January 1, 2022. Inventories decreased for all animal classes except for market hogs in the 23 to 53 kg class which grew, and the over 81 kg class which remained flat. The decline in inventories was largely due to a lower

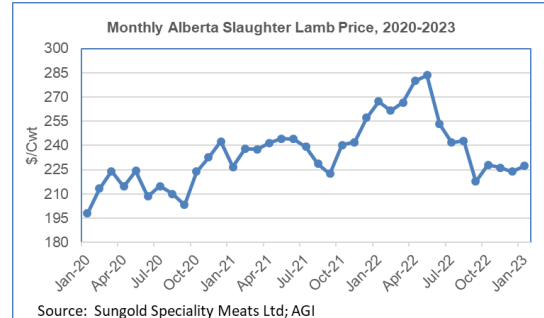
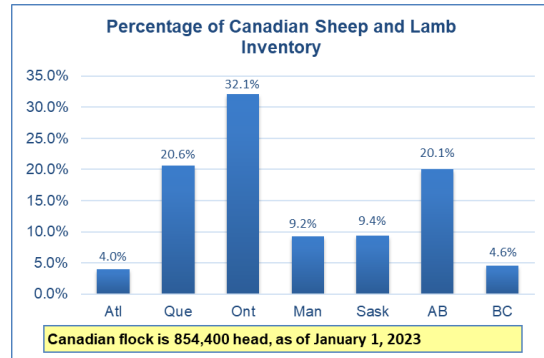
pig crop (the number of live piglets after weaning), which was down 5.3 per cent.

- The total market hog inventory declined 2.5 per cent to 1.4 million head. Hogs in the under "23 kilograms" class fell 4.2 per cent to 551,400 head, hogs in the "54 to 80 kilograms" class dropped 7.7 per cent to 262,200 head. Increasing were hogs in the "23 to 53 kilograms" class, up 3.7 per cent to 283,200 head, while hogs in the "over 81 kilograms" class remained flat at 308,000 head.
- The estimated breeding inventory, comprising boars, sows and bred gilts, was down three per cent from January 1, 2022, to 124,800 head. Sows and bred gilts declined 2.9 per cent to 120,900 head, while boars decreased 7.1 per cent to 3,900 head.
- Canadian producers had 13.9 million head of hogs on farms, down 1.7 per cent compared to January 1, 2022. Hog inventories declined in all of the Canadian provinces except New Brunswick and British Columbia.
- Across Canada, Alberta currently ranks fourth in hog inventories (1.5 million head), behind Quebec (4.4 million head), Ontario (3.6 million head) and Manitoba (3.3 million head).

- Alberta represented 26.2 per cent of the Western Canadian hog population of 5.8 million head, and 11 per cent of the national total of 13.9 million head.



per cent of the national total of 854,400 head.



## Sheep and Lambs

- Alberta sheep and lamb inventories rose “year over year” for the third consecutive time. As of January 1, 2023, the provincial flock on farms was 171,500 head, up eight per cent from the same period a year ago. Inventories increased for all classes of animals except for replacement lambs. The growth in inventory was influenced by relatively strong slaughter lamb prices and high consumer demand.
- The sheep breeding herd increased 1.6 per cent “year over year” to 105,300 head, with growth observed in the number of ewes up 1.5 per cent to 100,000 head, and rams that rose 3.9 per cent to 5,300 head. Up significantly were the total number of market lambs which grew by 33.6 per cent to 44,100. Declining were replacement lambs that fell 0.5 per cent to 22,100 head.
- Nationally, the sheep and lamb flock increased 3.3 per cent to 854,400 head. Inventories rose across all provinces with the exception of Saskatchewan and Manitoba where they fell.
- Among provinces, Alberta ranks third in sheep and lamb inventories (171,500 head), behind Ontario (264,000 head) and Quebec (176,100 head).
- Alberta currently accounts for 46.3 per cent of the total Western Canadian sheep and lamb flock of 370,200 head, and 20.1

For more information, visit

<https://open.alberta.ca/publications/agri-food-statistics-update-livestock-inventory-estimates-alberta-canada>

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