

CATTLE ON FARMS: OREGON

Agricultural Statistics

1867 to 1944

Oregon by Counties
Preliminary Release

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Cattle on Farms: Oregon, 1867-1944

Cattle and calves on Oregon farms were estimated at 1,182,000 head on January 1, 1944—an all time record for this state. This is 29 per cent above the average number on January 1 during the years 1935 to 1939, inclusive. Most of the increase was in beef cattle.

In 1867—the earliest year for which annual estimates are available—308,000 cattle and calves were on farms in Oregon. At that time only 36,000, or about 12 per cent, were milk cows. By 1910 the total number of cattle had doubled and 24 per cent were milk cows. During the 1935-1939 period, 29 per cent of the total cattle (and calves) were milk cows (2 years old and over) and 23 per cent were beef cows (2 years old and over). For the past two years, however, the number of beef cows has exceeded the number of milk cows. Beef cow numbers on January 1, 1944 were 48 per cent above the average number on farms during the 1935-1939 period.

The table of county numbers listed on page two indicates that more than 70 per cent of the milk cows are in western Oregon, while nearly 90 per cent of the beef cows are in eastern Oregon. Marion County leads in numbers of milk cows, with 7 per cent of the state total, followed by Washington, Tillamook, Coos, Linn, and Clackamas, each with around 6 per cent. Lake County is the leading county in the number of beef cows, with approximately 15 per cent of the state total. Malheur County ranks second with around 13 per cent, followed by Harney County with 11 per cent, Klamath County with 10 per cent, and Grant County fifth with around 9 per cent.

Table 1. Estimated number of cattle and cows on farms in Oregon
January 1, 1867 to 1944

Period	All cattle (all ages)	Milk cows (2 years & over)	Beef cows (2 years & over)
Average:			
1867-1869	340,000	38,000	-----
1870-1879	469,000	45,000	-----
1880-1889	609,000	69,000	-----
1890-1899	608,000	110,000	-----
1900-1909	776,000	131,000	-----
1910-1914	640,000	167,000	-----
1915-1919	870,000	196,000	-----
1920-1924	843,000	205,000	-----
1925-1929	733,000	216,000	170,000
1930-1934	832,000	256,000	176,000
1935-1939	919,000	267,000	209,000
Annual:			
1935	928,000	275,000	212,000
1936	910,000	264,000	210,000
1937	919,000	261,000	214,000
1938	919,000	267,000	206,000
1939	919,000	267,000	204,000
1940	937,000	262,000	208,000
1941	984,000	265,000	232,000
1942	1,073,000	276,000	269,000
1943	1,148,000	290,000	300,000
1944 preliminary	1,182,000	284,000	310,000

Source: Numbers of all cattle and milk cows: 1867-1923 compiled from USDA report "Livestock on Farms" January 1938; 1924-1944 from USDA report "Livestock, Meats, and Wool Market Statistics and Related Data" June 1944. Numbers of beef cattle: 1925-1935 compiled from USDA report on "Oregon Livestock Estimates" January 1938; 1936-1944 annual USDA reports on livestock by classes.

Table 2. Estimated number of cattle and cows on farms
in Oregon by counties, January 1, 1940 and 1944, preliminary.

County or district	Number on farms Jan. 1, 1940			Number on farms Jan. 1, 1944 (pre)		
	All cattle (all ages)	Milk cows (2 years and over)	Beef cows (2 years and over)	All cattle (all ages)	Milk cows (2 years and over)	Beef cows (2 years and over)
Benton	12,500	6,200	650	14,000	6,000	750
Clackamas	23,500	14,000	500	30,000	16,000	2,000
Lane	30,000	13,900	2,350	36,000	15,200	3,600
Linn	28,000	14,400	1,250	37,800	16,200	2,100
Marion	30,000	17,400	800	38,500	20,000	1,500
Multnomah	12,000	7,600	400	13,000	7,700	600
Polk	14,000	8,300	300	16,500	8,500	400
Washington	27,000	17,000	250	31,500	17,400	350
Yamhill	20,000	11,200	800	22,500	11,500	1,100
District 1	197,000	110,000	7,300	239,800	118,500	12,400
Clatsop	8,000	4,400	700	9,400	4,700	1,700
Columbia	15,000	8,100	800	18,000	9,500	1,700
Coos	29,000	15,300	1,700	32,500	16,600	2,200
Curry	7,000	3,200	700	7,300	3,000	1,100
Lincoln	9,500	4,900	600	11,000	5,300	900
Tillamook	20,000	15,500	100	23,500	17,000	200
District 2	88,500	51,400	4,600	101,700	56,100	7,800
Douglas	19,000	8,700	2,600	24,000	8,400	3,600
Jackson	36,000	10,000	7,700	42,500	11,600	10,000
Josephine	12,000	5,700	1,300	13,500	6,800	1,500
District 3	67,000	24,400	11,600	80,000	26,800	15,100
Gilliam	11,000	1,250	4,100	17,000	1,400	6,300
Hood River	3,300	2,000	200	4,500	2,100	300
Morrow	11,500	2,600	2,900	19,000	2,800	5,600
Sherman	9,000	1,150	2,400	14,000	1,400	5,600
Umatilla	33,000	9,800	6,400	46,000	10,700	9,600
Wasco	17,000	2,900	4,400	23,000	3,000	6,500
Wheeler	11,200	1,100	3,700	17,500	1,000	6,400
District 4	96,000	20,800	24,100	141,000	22,400	40,300
Baker	64,000	9,600	13,500	82,000	10,300	18,500
Malheur	77,000	10,500	24,500	101,000	13,600	39,500
Union	28,500	7,300	5,100	37,500	8,000	8,000
Wallowa	36,000	7,400	8,000	44,000	7,500	9,700
District 5	205,500	34,800	51,100	264,500	39,400	75,700
Crook	30,000	2,700	10,800	40,000	2,600	14,000
Deschutes	12,000	4,500	1,300	17,000	4,400	2,400
Grant	47,000	2,750	19,500	59,000	2,800	26,500
Harney	67,000	1,200	24,300	80,000	1,600	35,000
Jefferson	12,000	550	4,000	15,000	600	5,800
Klamath	55,000	6,500	18,500	71,000	6,400	30,000
Lake	60,000	2,400	30,900	73,000	2,400	45,000
District 6	283,000	20,600	109,300	355,000	20,800	158,700
State total	937,000	262,000	208,000	1,182,000	284,000	310,000