

Livestock Report for Colorado

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Bureau of Agricultural Economics
(Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates)

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Further declines during the past year in the values of all livestock, except sheep and swine, and heavy declines in valuations of all livestock in Colorado during the past three years, with comparatively minor changes in numbers, are the outstanding features of the annual report of January 1, 1923. The number of all of the principal farm animals on the farms and ranges of the state the first day of this year is estimated at 5,039,000 and valued at \$93,574,000. This value is 39.4 percent less than the total of \$154,519,000 for 4,744,000 animals, January 1, 1920, and 5.7 percent more than the \$88,540,000 placed upon 4,566,000 head a year ago.

Comparative numbers and values of the principal classes of livestock of the state and the United States for all classes of livestock except horses and mules since 1910, and the census figures for 1910 and 1920, are produced for reference in the tables on pages three and four of this bulletin. Consideration of these figures for Colorado reveal the following information relating to changes in numbers and values: Horses have increased a little in numbers, and are now estimated at 425,000; the values per head have declined \$8.00 (14.8 percent) during the past year, and \$33.00 (43 percent) in three years. Mules number 33,000, and declined \$9.00 per head (13 percent) during last year, and \$42.00 (41.2 percent) in three years. Milk cows number 253,000, an increase of 10,000 (4 percent) in the last year, with a decline in value of \$4.00 (7 percent) per head; in the three years milk cows increased 19,000 (8.1 percent) and declined \$34.00 (39 percent) per head. Other cattle number 1,361,000, or the same as last year, with a further decline of \$1.00 (4.0 percent) per head; in the past three years the decrease in number was 162,000 (10.6 percent), with a decline of \$21.00 (45.3 percent) in value per animal. The sheep of the state number 2,444,000, which is a large increase of 390,000, or 14.2 percent, from a year ago, due wholly to the increase in the number of sheep placed on feed; the value per head advanced \$3.00 (65 percent) in the year. The number increased 359,000 (12.4 percent) in three years, while the value per head declined in the same period \$1.50 (16.5 percent). The estimated numbers of sheep held in the breeding herds of the state on January 1 of each year were slightly less than 1,000,000 for 1923, about 1,014,000 for 1922, 1,056,000 for 1921, and 1,135,000 for 1920. Swine are placed at 523,000, an increase of 68,000 (15 percent) during last year, and in the same period the value per head increased 90 cents (9.4 percent); the number this year is estimated at 73,000 (16 percent) more than the census number of 450,000 for January 1, 1920, while the value per head is \$10.50 (41.7 percent) less than three years ago. The federal census reported the number of sows and gilts for breeding purposes in the state January 1, 1920, as 79,658, or 36.4 percent of all swine. Reports from county assessors indicated that the farmers of the state held about 20 percent more brood sows April 1, 1922, than on January 1, 1920.

Special inquiries and reports indicate that 40.6 percent of swine on Colorado farms January 1, 1923, were pigs under 6 months old. The federal census of January 1, 1920, reported swine according to the following classifications, percentages and numbers: Pigs under 6 months old, 44.5 percent, 200,027; sows and gilts for breeding, 6 months old and over, 17.7 percent, 79,658; boars for breeding, 6 months old and over, 1.6 percent, 7,166; all other hogs, 6 months old and over, 36.2 percent, 163,015.

The numbers of sheep still on feed in transit in the state, on April 1 of each year, as shown by county assessors' figures to the Colorado State Tax Commission, and the total numbers of sheep on feed in transit on January 1 of each year, as shown by special reports to the Department since 1914, are as follows:

Year	Number April 1	Number Jan. 1	Year	Number April 1	Number Jan. 1	Year	Number April 1	Number Jan. 1
1914	(not segregated)	1,300,000	1917	929,659	1,250,000	1920	666,810	850,000
1915	(not segregated)	1,116,000	1918	806,560	1,135,000	1921	1,029,242	1,283,000
1916	767,468	1,150,000	1919	656,455	940,000	1922	762,872	1,040,000
						1923		1,500,000

Assessors' Figures and Valuations: For information the abstracts of assessments for Colorado as returned by the county assessors to the State Tax Commission are given in the table below. The numbers of livestock assessed are not strictly comparable with those of the Crop Estimating Service for the reason that the assessor's figures pertain to the stock on hand on April 1, while those of the Bureau include animals of all ages and many that were born after April 1 and not included in the assessments; and, as in the cases of sheep and swine, many are marketed before they are a year old and consequently are never subject to assessment. The census and the Crop Reporting Service includes in the number of cows being milked many that are primarily beef cattle and properly assessed as such, and not included in the number of milk cows assessed. It should be noted in comparing assessed valuations that all property including livestock prior to 1913 was assessed on a basis of about one-third value, hence, the low valuations prior to 1913.

Year	Number	HORSES		Number	MULES		RANGE CATTLE **(000)		
		Assessed Value	Per Head		Assessed Value	Per Head	Number	Assessed Value	Aver. Per Head
1910	246,975	\$7,506,000	\$30.39	14,277	\$524,559	\$36.74			
1911	259,990	7,752,000	29.81	16,741	601,292	35.91			
1912	255,511	7,254,000	28.38	16,821	600,442	35.69			
1913	281,704	18,028,000	63.99	19,329	1,568,328	81.12	793,957	23,912	30.11
1914	279,826	18,211,000	65.05	19,635	1,669,737	85.03	868,261	30,167	34.73
1915	296,368	20,031,000	67.59	23,284	1,991,820	85.54	997,823	37,548	37.63
1916	308,062	21,729,000	70.54	26,280	2,303,481	87.64	1,063,153	41,864	39.38
1917	326,002	23,837,000	73.12	29,269	2,716,010	92.80	1,147,428	46,533	40.56
1918	352,794	26,836,000	76.05	29,838	2,843,990	95.31	1,262,616	55,236	43.75
1919	354,868	25,254,000	71.16	30,045	2,660,731	88.56	1,286,547	56,989	44.30
1920	337,903	22,856,000	67.65	28,682	2,476,076	86.33	1,187,480	51,334	42.38
1921	333,669	18,495,000	55.42	29,539	2,054,836	69.56	1,123,594	31,856	28.35
1922	318,808			31,741			1,112,299		

** (000) Require three ciphers (000) to complete value.

Year	Number	DAIRY CATTLE		Number	SHEEP		Number	SWINE	
		Assessed Value	Aver. Per Head		Assessed Value	Aver. Per Head		Assessed Value	Aver. Per Head
1910				1,463,861	\$2,165,838	\$1.48	60,871	\$253,678	\$4.16
1911				1,757,771	2,400,404	1.36	75,954	281,762	3.68
1912				1,352,900	1,788,897	1.32	70,261	245,102	3.48
1913	73,768	3,324,000	45.06	1,579,560	4,776,626	3.02	83,859	630,919	7.52
1914	97,732	4,994,869	51.10	1,555,165	4,853,413	3.12	112,342	883,609	7.86
1915	101,037	5,786,218	57.26	1,157,544	4,032,950	3.48	163,143	1,183,742	7.25
1916	110,298	6,277,172	60.99	1,044,380	5,092,433	4.88	181,169	1,359,799	7.50
1917	124,342	7,919,512	63.69	1,003,168	7,182,427	7.16	165,829	1,630,154	9.86
1918	137,326	9,449,630	68.91	1,164,411	12,659,415	10.87	194,576	2,768,632	14.23
1919	143,106	10,170,007	71.06	1,089,037	11,386,972	10.46	195,188	2,955,440	15.14
1920	143,981	10,169,207	70.56	915,394	9,230,084	10.08	177,497	2,129,493	12.00
1921	145,070	7,981,591	55.02	858,873	3,216,728	3.76	172,844	1,619,404	9.37
1922	147,119			802,274			206,017		

In addition to the number of cattle listed above, on April 1, 1922, there were still 90,843 cattle on feed in transit, as reported by county assessors. These were located in the following counties: Boulder, 6,230; Larimer, 14,928; Weld, 36,293; Logan, 5,300; Morgan, 12,370; Washington, 9,606; Otero, 5,675; Prowers, 441. According to assessors' assessments the number of cattle still on feed in transit in the state, for the past seven years, were as follows: 1922, 90,843; 1921, 77,813; 1920, 73,163; 1919, 84,907; 1918, 78,651; 1917, 77,211; 1916, 47,292.

In addition to the sheep listed above, on April 1, 1922, there were still 762,872 sheep on feed in transit in the state, as reported by county assessors. These were located in the following counties: Boulder, 3,840; Larimer, 283,580; Weld, 243,780; Logan, 12,000; Morgan, 41,702; Lake, 4,148; Bent, 75,296; Otero, 42,691; Prowers, 55,835. A considerable number of sheep already moved to market on April 1, amounting to approximately 75 percent of the total number in the feed lots during the season. For numbers on feed in transit for the past six years see page 1. The sheep on feed this season, 1922-23, in Colorado were distributed approximately as follows: 1,175,000 in Northern Colorado 275,000 in the Arkansas Valley, and about 50,000 in the San Luis Valley.

Values Decrease. The report shows that, in the three years from January 1, 1920 to January 1, 1923, the following decreases in the values of the farm animals of Colorado occurred: Horses, \$13,709,000; mules, \$1,182,000; milk cows, \$6,949,000; other cattle \$36,098,000; sheep, \$399,000; swine, \$2,608,000; all stock, \$60,945,000; or 39.4 percent. The numbers of all stock for 1923 had remained the same as for 1920, the decrease would have amounted to \$66,416,000 or 42.9 percent for the three years.

For the United States similar decreases occurred in the three years, totaling in each class as follows: Horses, \$592,649,000; mules, \$332,750,000; milk cows, \$795,077,000; other cattle, \$798,789,000; sheep, \$129,647,000; swine, \$404,975,000; and all stock, \$3,053,-\$87,000, or 37.4 percent. If the numbers of all stock for 1923 had remained the same as in 1920, the decrease would have amounted to \$2,970,826,000, or 36.5 percent.

The numbers of livestock not on farms, that is, the stock in the cities and villages, are not estimated yearly, but their numbers in 1920 as reported by the census were:

	Horses	Mules	Milk Cows	Other Cattle	Sheep	Swine
Colorado	23,805	2,481	11,551	32,708	28,799	15,155
United States	1,705,611	378,250	(All cattle)	2,111,928	450,742	2,638,389

Values Per Head: Relations of the values per head to those of the preceding year, and of 1923 to those of 1920 and 1913, are expressed in percents in the tables below:

FOR COLORADO

Years	Horses Percent	Mules Percent	Milk Cows Percent	Other Cattle Percent	Sheep Percent	Swine Percent	Average Values
							Total Livestock Percent
1920	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1921	79.7	85.3	79.3	72.2	58.2	68.	69.7
1922	87.0	76.6	81.4	78.8	86.8	77.6	85.4
1923	85.1	86.9	92.9	96.2	165.0	199.4	95.9
1923 % of 1920	58.2	58.8	60.9	54.7	83.5	58.3	57.1
1923 % of 1913	52.8	57.7	98.5	74.5	211.1	95.5	79.3

FOR UNITED STATES

Years	Horses Percent	Mules Percent	Milk Cows Percent	Other Cattle Percent	Sheep Percent	Swine Percent	Average Values
							Total Livestock Percent
1920	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
1921	87.3	78.6	74.7	72.5	60.4	68.0	77.8
1922	83.6	75.6	88.7	75.9	76.1	77.6	81.5
1923	98.9	97.2	89.2	107.8	156.0	113.0	99.6
1923 % of 1920	72.2	57.8	59.2	59.4	71.6	60.0	63.5
1923 % of 1913	62.0	69.0	112.9	97.3	190.3	116.2	94.2

It will be noted from the foregoing tables that there has been a constant decline in the values of all classes of stock except sheep and swine, which gained over the values of last year, but are still much below the values of 1920. With the exception of Colorado sheep, and United States milk cows, sheep and swine, 1923 average values per head are below those of 1913.

If the 1920 values are taken as the basis (100), then each class of stock respectively has the following percentages of value: January 1, 1923, for Colorado, Horses, 58.2%; mules, 58.8%; milk cows, 60.9%; other cattle, 54.7%; sheep, 83.5%; swine, 58.3%; average of all, 57.1%.

For the United States: Horses, 72.2%; mules, 57.8%; milk cows, 59.2%; other cattle, 58.4%; sheep, 71.6%; swine, 60.0%; average of all, 63.5%.

There were approximately 1,500,000 sheep and lambs in the feed lots of Colorado, January 1, for fattening, compared to a little over 1,000,000 a year ago. In general, there were about 30 percent more throughout the feeding states than a year ago. In Colorado there were about 70,000 to 80,000 cattle in the feed lots, about 15 percent less than a year ago, while for the eleven corn belt states there were approximately 25 percent more.

NUMBERS AND VALUES OF LIVESTOCK ON FARMS ON JANUARY 1, FOR FOURTEEN YEARS, INCLUDING FEDERAL CENSUS FOR 1910 AND 1920.

Farm Animals	COLORADO				UNITED STATES			
	Numbers		Values		Numbers		Values	
	Percent Preced'g Year	Total Number **000	Per Head	Aggregate **000	Percent Preced'g Year	Total Number **000	Per Head	Aggregate **000
Horses—								
1910	---	*294	\$ 93.13	\$27,380	---	*19,833	\$108.03	\$2,142,524
1913	---	324	87.00	28,188	100.3	20,567	110.77	2,278,222
1920	---	*421	79.00	33,259	96.8	19,766	96.51	1,907,646
1921	99.0	417	62.00	25,134	97.2	19,208	84.31	1,619,423
1922	101.0	421	54.00	22,734	99.2	19,056	70.48	1,342,538
1923	101.0	425	46.00	19,550	98.9	18,853	69.75	1,314,997
Mules—								
1910	---	*14.7	122.03	1,799	---	*4,210	120.20	506,049
1913	---	17	104.00	1,768	100.6	4,386	124.31	545,245
1920	---	*31	102.00	3,162	101.8	5,427	148.42	805,495
1921	103.2	32	90.00	2,880	100.5	5,455	116.69	636,563
1922	100.0	32	69.00	2,208	100.2	5,467	88.26	482,517
1923	103.0	33	60.00	1,980	100.7	5,506	85.86	472,745

Farm Animals	COLORADO				UNITED STATES			
	Numbers		Values		Numbers		Values	
	Percent Preced'g Year	Total Number **000	Per Head	Aggregate **000	Percent Preced'g Year	Total Number **000	Per Head	Aggregate **000
Milk Cows—								
1910	....	*145	\$.....	\$.....	....	*20,625	\$35.29	\$ 727,802
1911	113.1	164	44.50	7,298	100.9	20,823	39.97	832,209
1912	101.8	167	47.00	7,849	99.4	20,699	39.39	815,414
1913	102.9	172	53.80	9,254	99.0	20,497	45.02	922,783
1914	108.1	186	63.00	11,718	101.2	20,737	53.94	1,118,487
1915	110.2	205	68.00	13,940	102.5	21,262	55.33	1,176,338
1916	106.7	219	72.00	15,768	104.0	22,108	53.92	1,191,935
1917	117.3	257	73.50	17,420	103.6	22,894	59.63	1,365,551
1918	98.8	254	82.00	20,828	101.8	23,310	70.54	1,644,231
1919	103.8	264	88.00	23,232	100.7	23,475	78.20	1,835,750
1920	103.0	*234	87.00	20,358	100.6	23,722	85.86	2,036,759
1921	101.0	236	70.00	16,520	99.5	23,594	64.22	1,515,249
1922	103.0	243	57.00	13,851	102.0	24,082	57.00	1,372,674
1923	104.0	253	53.00	13,409	101.4	24,429	50.83	1,241,673
Other Cattle—								
1910	....	*985	†27.50	†31,017	....	*41,178	19.07	785,261
1911	98.3	969	24.80	24,031	96.4	39,679	20.54	815,184
1912	95.0	921	27.60	25,420	93.9	37,260	21.20	799,064
1913	100.0	921	34.10	31,406	96.7	36,030	26.36	945,645
1914	103.0	949	40.00	37,960	99.5	35,855	31.13	1,116,333
1915	104.9	996	43.70	43,525	103.4	37,067	33.38	1,237,376
1916	110.0	1,096	44.80	49,101	107.4	39,812	33.53	1,334,928
1917	109.4	1,200	44.70	53,640	104.7	41,689	35.92	1,497,621
1918	106.0	1,272	50.20	63,854	105.8	44,112	40.88	1,803,482
1919	112.0	1,425	54.40	77,520	102.2	45,085	44.22	1,993,442
1920	95.0	*1,523	46.40	70,667	99.3	43,398	43.21	1,875,043
1921	95.0	1,447	33.50	48,474	96.8	41,993	31.36	1,316,727
1922	94.0	1,361	26.40	35,930	99.0	41,550	23.80	988,890
1923	100.0	1,361	25.40	34,569	100.9	41,923	25.67	1,076,234
Sheep—								
1910	....	*1,426	4.80	6,856	....	*52,448	4.12	216,030
1911	112.9	1,611	3.60	5,800	102.3	53,633	3.91	209,555
1912	98.0	1,579	3.00	4,737	97.6	52,362	3.46	181,170
1913	110.0	1,737	3.60	6,253	98.3	51,482	3.94	202,779
1914	96.0	1,668	3.70	6,172	96.6	49,719	4.02	200,745
1915	104.9	1,751	4.40	7,704	100.5	49,956	4.50	224,687
1916	105.0	1,839	5.20	9,563	97.3	48,625	5.17	251,594
1917	106.0	1,950	7.50	14,625	97.9	47,616	7.13	339,629
1918	120.5	2,350	12.60	29,610	102.1	48,603	11.82	574,573
1919	94.0	2,209	10.90	24,078	100.5	48,866	11.63	568,265
1920	96.0	2,085	9.10	18,973	96.4	39,025	10.47	408,586
1921	110.6	2,306	5.30	12,221	96.0	37,452	6.30	235,855
1922	89.0	2,054	4.60	9,449	97.0	36,327	4.80	174,370
1923	114.0	2,444	7.60	18,574	102.4	37,209	7.50	278,939
Swine—								
1910	....	179	8.75	1,568	....	*58,186	9.17	533,309
1911	120.1	215	9.80	2,107	112.8	65,620	9.37	615,170
1912	98.1	211	8.00	1,688	99.7	65,410	8.00	523,328
1913	97.1	205	11.00	2,255	93.5	61,178	9.86	603,109
1914	100.0	205	10.50	2,152	96.3	58,933	10.40	612,361
1915	124.9	256	10.50	2,688	109.6	64,618	9.87	637,479
1916	121.0	320	8.20	2,624	104.9	67,766	8.40	569,573
1917	110.0	352	12.00	4,224	99.6	67,503	11.75	792,898
1918	107.1	387	20.00	7,740	105.1	70,978	19.54	1,387,261
1919	104.9	406	22.00	8,932	105.1	74,584	22.02	1,612,593
1920	94.0	*450	18.00	8,100	96.2	59,344	19.07	1,131,671
1921	92.0	414	12.30	5,092	94.5	56,097	12.97	727,380
1922	110.0	455	9.60	4,368	103.0	57,834	10.07	582,388
1923	115.0	523	10.50	5,492	109.6	63,424	11.46	726,699
Total Livestock—								
1910	....	3,043.7	22.54	68,620	....	196,480	24.48	4,910,975
1911	107.9	3,287	20.89	68,684	103.9	204,355	25.82	5,276,438
1912	97.8	3,216	20.88	67,074	98.1	200,602	24.96	5,008,327
1913	104.9	3,376	23.43	79,124	96.7	194,140	28.33	5,504,783
1914	99.6	3,365	26.13	87,939	98.2	190,655	30.89	5,890,471
1915	106.1	3,573	27.75	99,152	104.2	198,577	30.06	5,969,253
1916	107.9	3,854	28.92	111,465	102.7	204,063	29.50	6,020,670
1917	108.1	4,163	30.68	127,745	100.8	205,635	32.75	6,735,612
1918	112.8	4,692	34.92	163,975	103.8	213,431	38.81	8,827,894
1919	101.3	4,754	36.85	175,298	102.3	218,446	40.41	8,165,191
1920	100.7	4,744	32.59	154,519	98.8	190,682	42.29	6,051,292
1921	102.3	4,852	22.73	110,321	96.3	183,799	32.94	4,943,377
1922	94.0	4,566	19.39	88,510	100.2	184,316	26.82	5,111,307
1923	110.3	5,039	18.60	92,574	103.8	191,344	26.71	5,111,307

Explanations: In the main table containing numbers and valuations of livestock, numbers with one star (*) indicate the Federal census numbers for January 1, 1920, and April 15, 1910. Columns with two stars (**) at the top indicate that the numbers and aggregate values require three ciphers (000) to complete the numbers and values. †Values 1910 milk cows included with other cattle.