

# Livestock Report for Colorado

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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

H. C. Taylor, *Chief*  
Washington

W. W. Putnam, *Agricultural Statistician*  
Denver

*In Cooperation with*  
Colorado State Board of Immigration

Division of Agricultural Statistics

Edward D. Foster, *Commissioner*

Howard D. Sullivan, *Deputy*

Further declines during the past year in the values of all livestock and heavy declines in valuations of all livestock in Colorado during the past four years, with comparatively minor changes in numbers, are the outstanding features of the annual report of January 1, 1924. 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 4,955,000 and valued at \$87,476,000. This value is 44.6 per cent less than the total of \$154,519,000 for 4,744,000 animals, January 1, 1920, and 6.4 per cent less than the \$93,516,000 placed upon 5,091,000 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 for the more important classes of livestock.

Milk cows number 261,000, an increase of 8,000 (3 per cent) in the last year, and valued at \$50.00, a decline of \$3.00 (5.6 per cent) per head; in the four years, milk cows increased 27,000 (15 per cent) and declined \$37.00 (42.5 per cent) per head. Other cattle number 1,279,000 or 6 per cent less than last year, and are valued at \$25.10, a further decline of 30 cents per head; in the past four years the decrease in number was 244,000 (16.0 per cent), with a decline of \$21.30 (46.0 per cent) in value per animal. The sheep of the state number 2,360,000 which is a decrease of 84,000, or 3.4 per cent, from a year ago, due wholly to the decrease in the number of sheep on feed January 1; the value per head held about steady at \$7.50, being only 10 cents lower than a year ago. The number is 275,000 more than in 1920, while the value per head declined in the four-year period \$1.60 (17.6 per cent). The estimated numbers of sheep held in the breeding herds of the state on January 1 were slightly more than for 1923, about 960,000 compared to 940,000 a year ago. The number of sheep in the feed lots for fattening on January 1 was 1,400,000 compared to a little over 1,500,000 a year ago. Swine are placed at 622,000, an increase of 30,000 (5 per cent) during last year, and in the same period the value per head decreased \$1.00, (10.5 per cent) to the present value of \$9.50; the number this year is estimated at 172,000 (38.2 per cent) more than the census number of 450,000 for January 1, 1920, while the value per head, \$9.50, is 47.2 per cent less than four 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 per cent of all swine. Reports from county assessors indicated that the farmers of the state held about 25 per cent more brood sows April 1, 1923, than on January 1, 1920.

Special inquiries and reports indicate that 44.7 per cent of swine on Colorado farms January 1, 1924, numbering about 278,000 were pigs under six months old. The number of sows bred for this spring's farrowing is estimated at about 87,000. Other hogs over six months old, about 257,000.

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 Division of Crop and Livestock Estimates 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		1,300,000	1917	929,659	1,250,000	1920	666,810	950,000
1915	(not segregated)	1,116,000	1918	806,560	1,135,000	1921	1,029,242	1,283,000
1916	(not segregated)	787,468	1919	656,455	940,000	1922	762,872	1,040,000
						1923	1,145,104	1,500,000
						1924		1,400,000

**Assessors' Figures and Valuations:** For comparative 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 and Livestock Estimating Service for the reason that the assessors' figures pertain to the stock on hand on April 1, while those of the Bureau estimates 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 that 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		
		Assessed Value	Per Head		Assessed Value	Per Head	Number	** (000) 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	15,350,168	48.15	31,741	1,787,269	56.31	1,112,299	29,719	26.72
1923.....	304,256	11,901,589	39.12	32,528	1,499,818	46.10	1,060,189	26,084	24.60

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

Year	Number	DAIRY CATTLE		RANGE OR STOCK SHEEP		SWINE			
		Assessed Value	Aver. Per Head	Number	Assessed Value	Aver. Per Head	Number	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	6,727,172	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	165,329	1,630,154	9.86
1918.....	137,126	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	1,039,037	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	855,873	3,216,728	3.76	172,844	1,619,404	9.37
1922.....	149,119	7,295,697	48.92	815,714	3,441,985	4.22	206,057	1,882,647	9.14
1923.....	143,163	6,245,287	43.62	788,188	4,390,920	5.57	256,717	2,211,060	8.61

In addition to the number of range cattle listed above, on April 1, 1923, there were still 83,248 cattle on feed in transit, as reported by county assessors. There were located in the following counties: Adams, 600; Boulder, 6,591; Larimer, 14,127; Weld, 19,858; Logan, 10,000; Morgan, 18,363; Bent, 65; Crowley, 174; Otero, 10,307; Prowers, 3,163. According to assessors' assessments the number of cattle still on feed in transit in the state on April 1, for the past eight years, were as follows: 1923, 83,248; 1922, 82,430; 1921, 77,813; 1920, 73,163; 1919, 84,907; 1918, 78,651; 1917, 77,211; 1916, 47,292.

In addition to the range sheep listed April 1, 1923, there were still 1,145,104 sheep on feed in transit in the state, for the spring market, as reported by county assessors. These were located in the following counties: Adams, 260; Boulder, 4,855; Larimer, 400,917; Weld, 418,355; Logan, 4,850; Morgan, 108,557; Bent, 98,709; Otero, 29,573; Prowers, 79,028. In addition to these there were on feed in transit, 6,165 in Lake county and 36,150 in Eagle county, not counted for the spring market, nor as part of the number on feed January 1. A considerable number of sheep had already moved to market by April 1, amounting to approximately 70 per cent of the total number in the feed lots on January 1.

**Values Decrease.** The report shows that in the four years from January 1, 1920, to January 1, 1924, the following decreases in the values of the farm animals of Colorado occurred: Horses, \$16,459,000; mules, \$1,248,000; milk cows, \$7,308,000; other cattle, \$38,564,000; sheep, \$1,273,000; swine, \$2,191,000; all stock, \$67,043,000; or 43.4 per cent. These decreases in values are partly accounted for in some decreases in numbers of horses and other cattle. Based on values per head the decline in value of all stock is 46 per cent.

For the United States similar decreases occurred in the four years, totaling in each class as follows: Horses, \$731,364,000; mules, \$347,798,000; milk cows, \$749,746,000; other cattle, \$822,444,000; sheep, \$106,494,000; swine, \$493,481,000; and all stock, \$3,252,237,000 or 39.7 per cent. Based on average values per head the decline in the four years has amounted to 40 per cent.

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 1924, to those of 1920 and 1913, are expressed in per cents 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	68.0	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	109.4	95.9
1924 .....	91.3	96.7	94.4	98.8	98.7	89.5	94.7
1924 % of 1920 .....	53	56.9	57.5	54.0	82.4	52.8	54.1
1924 % of 1913 .....	48.3	55.8	93.0	73.6	208.3	86.4	75.3

**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
1924 .....	92.2	97.9	102.5	97.7	104.9	84.4	94.7
1924 % of 1920 .....	67.0	57.0	59.0	78.0	75.0	51.0	59.8
1924 % of 1913 .....	58.1	67.7	115.9	94.8	200	99	89.3

It will be noted from the foregoing tables that there has been a constant decline in the values of all classes of stock and are still far below the values of 1920. With the exception of Colorado sheep, and United States milk cows and sheep, 1924 average values per head are below those of 1913.

In general there were about 4.6 per cent less sheep on feed throughout the feeding states than a year ago, and totaling about 3,235,000 compared to 3,445,000. In Colorado there were a few less cattle in the feed lots, than a year ago. In general for the eleven corn belt states there were less than one per cent more, while in the western states there was estimated to be 40 per cent less.

**NUMBERS AND VALUES OF LIVESTOCK ON FARMS ON JANUARY 1, FOR FIFTEEN 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
<b>Horses</b> .....								
1910 .....	-----	294	\$ 93.13	\$ 27,380	-----	19,833	\$108.00	\$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	70.54	1,344,136
1923 .....	101.0	408	46.00	18,768	97.7	18,627	69.83	1,300,729
1924 .....	98.0	400	42.00	16,800	98.0	18,263	64.41	1,176,282
<b>Mules</b> .....								
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	636,568
1922 .....	100.0	32	69.00	2,208	100.2	5,467	88.09	481,578
1923 .....	103.0	33	60.00	1,980	100.3	5,485	85.94	471,385
1924 .....	100.0	33	58.00	1,914	99.1	5,436	84.20	457,697

COLORADO

UNITED STATES

Farm Animals	Numbers		Per Head	Values Aggregate	Numbers		Per Head	Values Aggregate
	Percent Preced'g Year	Total Number **000			Percent Preced'g Year	Total Number **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	39.99	815,414
1913.....	102.9	172	53.80	9,254	99.0	20,497	45.02	922,733
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	1,191,965
1917.....	117.3	257	73.50	17,420	103.6	22,894	59.63	1,355,251
1918.....	98.8	254	82.00	20,823	101.8	23,310	70.54	1,644,231
1919.....	103.8	264	80.00	23,232	100.7	23,475	78.20	1,835,770
1920.....	103.0	*234	87.00	20,353	100.6	23,722	85.86	2,036,750
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	102.1	24,082	50.98	1,227,703
1923.....	104.0	253	53.00	13,409	101.5	24,437	50.83	1,242,113
1924.....	103.0	261	50.00	13,050	101.0	24,675	52.16	1,237,044
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	815,134
1912.....	95.0	921	27.60	25,420	93.9	37,260	21.20	790,064
1913.....	100.0	921	34.10	31,406	96.7	36,030	26.36	949,645
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	1,324,928
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	1,316,737
1922.....	94.0	1,361	26.40	35,930	100.0	41,977	23.77	997,735
1923.....	100.0	1,361	25.40	34,569	102.0	42,803	25.57	1,094,469
1924.....	94.0	1,279	25.10	32,103	98.4	42,126	24.99	1,052,599
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	209,535
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	200,046
1915.....	104.9	1,751	4.40	7,704	100.5	49,956	4.50	221,687
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	339,539
1918.....	120.5	2,350	12.60	29,610	102.1	48,603	11.82	574,576
1919.....	91.0	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	408,588
1921.....	110.6	2,306	5.30	12,221	96.0	37,452	6.30	235,835
1922.....	89.0	2,054	4.60	9,449	97.0	36,327	4.80	174,615
1923.....	114.0	2,444	7.60	18,574	102.5	37,323	7.51	279,464
1924.....	96.5	2,360	7.50	17,700	103.1	38,361	7.88	302,092
Swine—								
1910.....	.....	179	8.75	1,568	.....	*58,186	9.17	533,300
1911.....	120.1	215	9.80	2,107	112.8	65,620	9.37	615,150
1912.....	98.1	211	8.00	1,688	99.7	65,410	8.00	523,230
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	612,951
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	1,387,201
1919.....	104.9	406	22.00	8,932	105.1	74,584	22.02	1,642,593
1920.....	94.0	*450	18.00	8,100	96.2	59,344	19.07	1,131,674
1921.....	92.0	414	13.30	5,092	94.5	56,097	12.97	727,339
1922.....	110.0	455	9.60	4,368	103.6	58,127	10.11	587,432
1923.....	115.0	592	10.50	6,216	117.4	68,227	11.59	791,006
1924.....	105.0	622	9.50	5,909	95.7	65,301	9.76	637,193
Total Livestock—								
1910.....	.....	3,044	22.54	68,620	.....	196,480	24.48	4,910,976
1911.....	107.9	3,287	20.89	68,684	103.9	204,355	25.82	5,276,433
1912.....	97.8	3,216	20.88	67,074	98.1	200,602	21.96	5,008,327
1913.....	104.9	3,376	23.42	79,124	96.7	194,140	28.33	5,501,733
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	4,183	30.63	127,745	100.8	205,635	32.75	6,284,183
1918.....	112.8	4,692	34.92	163,975	103.8	213,431	38.81	8,282,194
1919.....	101.3	4,754	36.85	175,208	102.3	218,446	40.41	8,865,194
1920.....	100.7	4,744	32.59	154,519	98.8	190,682	42.29	1,187,202
1921.....	102.3	4,852	22.73	110,321	96.3	183,799	32.94	6,051,202
1922.....	94.0	4,566	19.39	88,540	100.2	184,316	26.82	4,798,170
1923.....	110.3	5,091	18.38	93,516	103.8	191,344	26.71	5,179,165
1924.....	93.3	4,955	17.65	87,476	101.5	194,162	25.30	4,912,907

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.