



# Death Loss Trends in the U.S. Cattle Industry: 1990-2015

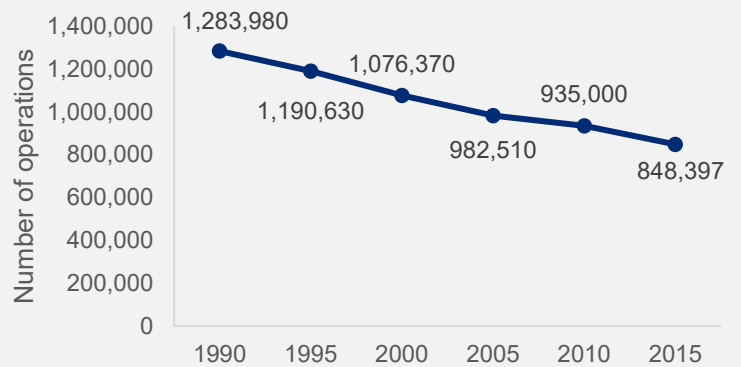
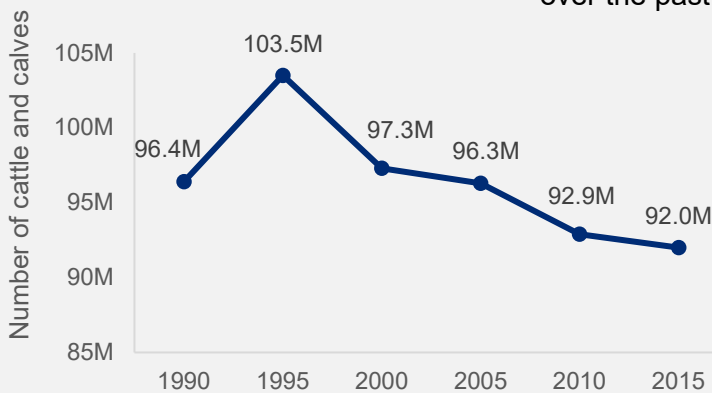
## Cattle Death Loss Study 2015

January 2023

The USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), in association with the National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) and National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), conducted the Cattle Death Loss Study: Death Loss in U.S. Cattle and Calves Due to Predator and Nonpredator Causes, 2015. This collaborative study has been taking place every five years since 1991. It aims to quantify the amounts, values, and causes of death loss in cattle and calves in the United States, as well as producer-reported mitigation measures taken for predator losses and the cost of those measures.

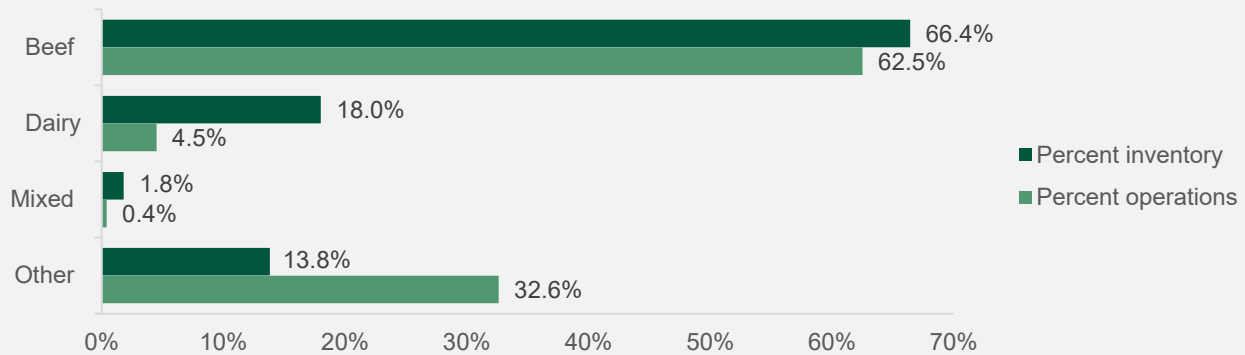
### Inventory of 92 Million Cattle and Calves on 850,000 Operations in 2015

Inventory of cattle and calves and the number of cattle operations has decreased steadily over the past 20 years in the U.S.

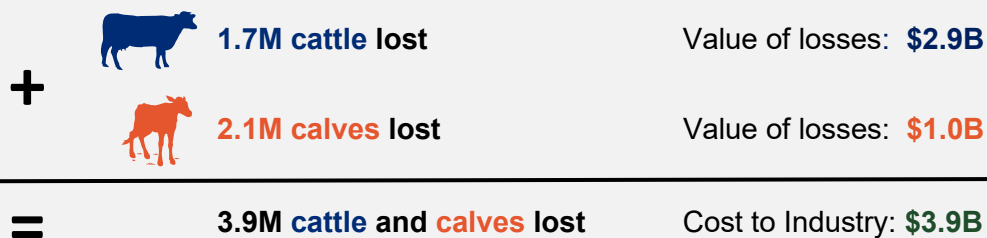


Source: USDA-NASS Cattle, Final Estimates reports from 1989-2018. See the Death Loss in U.S. Cattle and Calves Due to Predator and Nonpredator Causes, 2015 report for more information [https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal\\_health/nahms/general/downloads/cattle\\_calves\\_deathloss\\_2015.pdf](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/nahms/general/downloads/cattle_calves_deathloss_2015.pdf).

In 2015, **beef cattle** comprised the majority of the U.S. inventory, and the majority of operations were **beef operations**. Other operation types (feedlots, backgrounders/stockers, etc.) made up the second highest percentage of operations and the third highest percentage of inventory, behind the inventory of **dairy** cattle.



### Value of 2015 Death Losses was \$3.9 Billion



Note: Values of losses calculated as the product of the average of producer reported values of the cattle and calves and the number of cattle and calves lost. All values are reported in January 2016 dollars. Totals may not match sums due to rounding.

# Percentage of Inventory Lost and Value of Losses

The percentage of inventory lost for either cattle or calves has been **constant** except for the **1.0 percentage point decrease in calf crop lost from 1990 to 2000.**



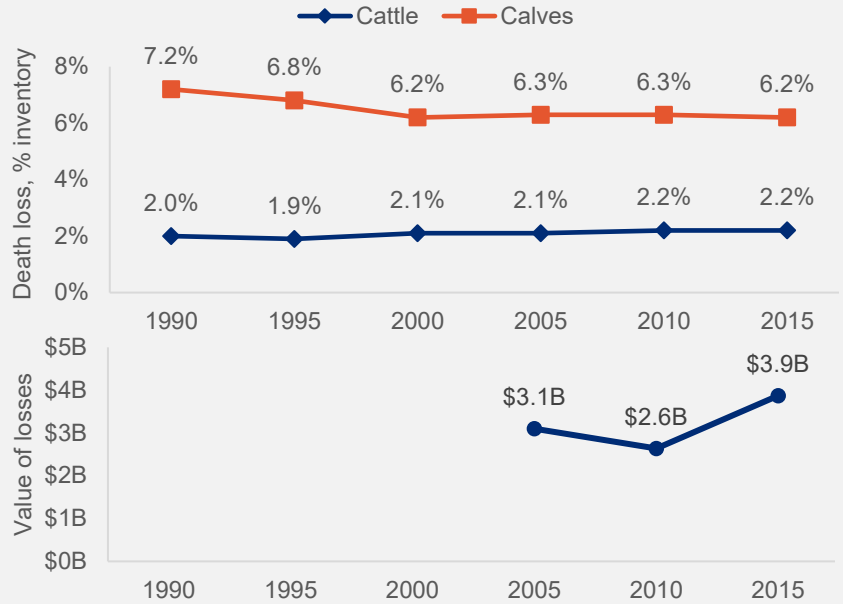
**2.2% of cattle inventory of 500 lb. or more lost in 2015**



**6.2% of calf crop lost in 2015**

The overall value of losses increased by **25 percent**, or almost **\$800M**, from 2005 to 2015.

In 2015, the value of **cattle lost accounted for 74.1%** of total losses, or **\$2.9B**, compared to calf losses.



Note: Surveys before 2005 did not ask about value of losses. All values are reported in January 2016 dollars using the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics CPI Inflation Calculator: [https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation\\_calculator.htm](https://www.bls.gov/data/inflation_calculator.htm).

## Top Causes of Cattle Death Loss in 2015

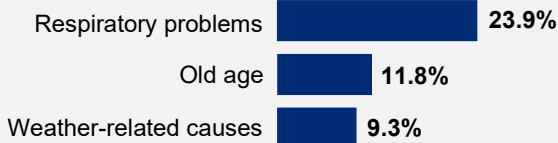
Predation accounted for **2.4 percent of cattle** losses and **11.1 percent of calf** losses, while nonpredator causes accounted for **97.6 percent of cattle** losses and **88.9 percent of calf** losses in 2015.

From 1990 to 2015, the **cattle** losses to predation increased by **62.1 percent**, accounting for **1.0 percent** of losses in 1990 to **2.4 percent** in 2015. The losses of **calves** to predation increased by **64.0 percent**, accounting for **3.2 percent** of losses in 1990 to **11.1 percent** in 2015.

### Nonpredator Causes

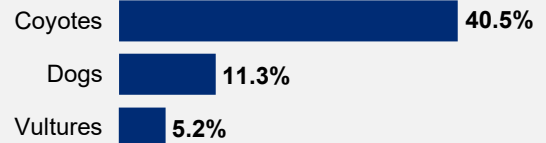


Of the **1,694,620 cattle** lost to nonpredator causes, the top 3 known causes by percentage of lost cattle were:

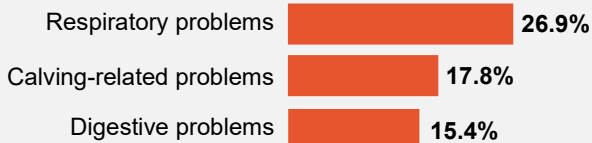


### Predator Causes

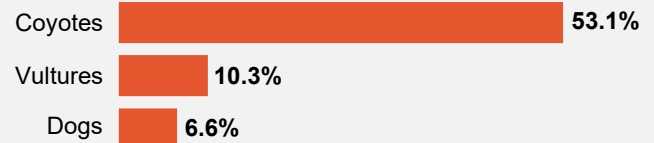
Of the **41,680 cattle** lost to predator causes, the top 3 known causes by percentage of lost cattle were:



Of the **1,904,810 calves** lost to nonpredator causes, the top 3 known causes by percentage of lost calves were:



Of the **238,890 calves** lost to predator causes, the top 3 known causes by percentage of lost calves were:



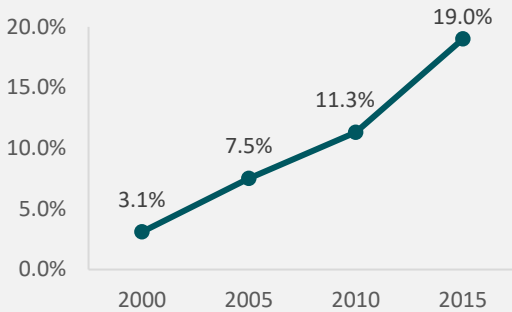
Note: The category "unknown nonpredator causes" has been omitted for both cattle and calves.

Note: The category "unknown predators" has been omitted for both cattle and calves and "other predators" has been omitted for cattle losses.

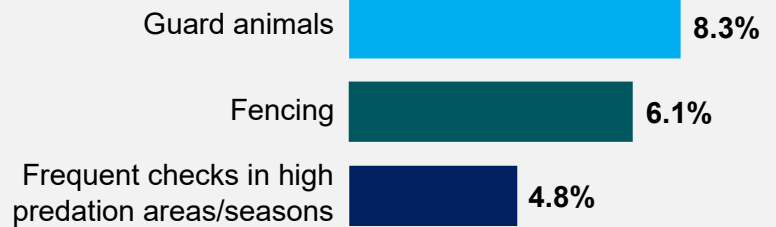
# Predator Damage Management Methods

From 2000-2015, the percentage of cattle operations that used any nonlethal predator control methods increased by a factor of 6, from **3.1% to 19.0%**. The most commonly used nonlethal predator damage management methods in 2015 were **guard animals, fencing, and frequent checks in high predation areas and/or seasons**.

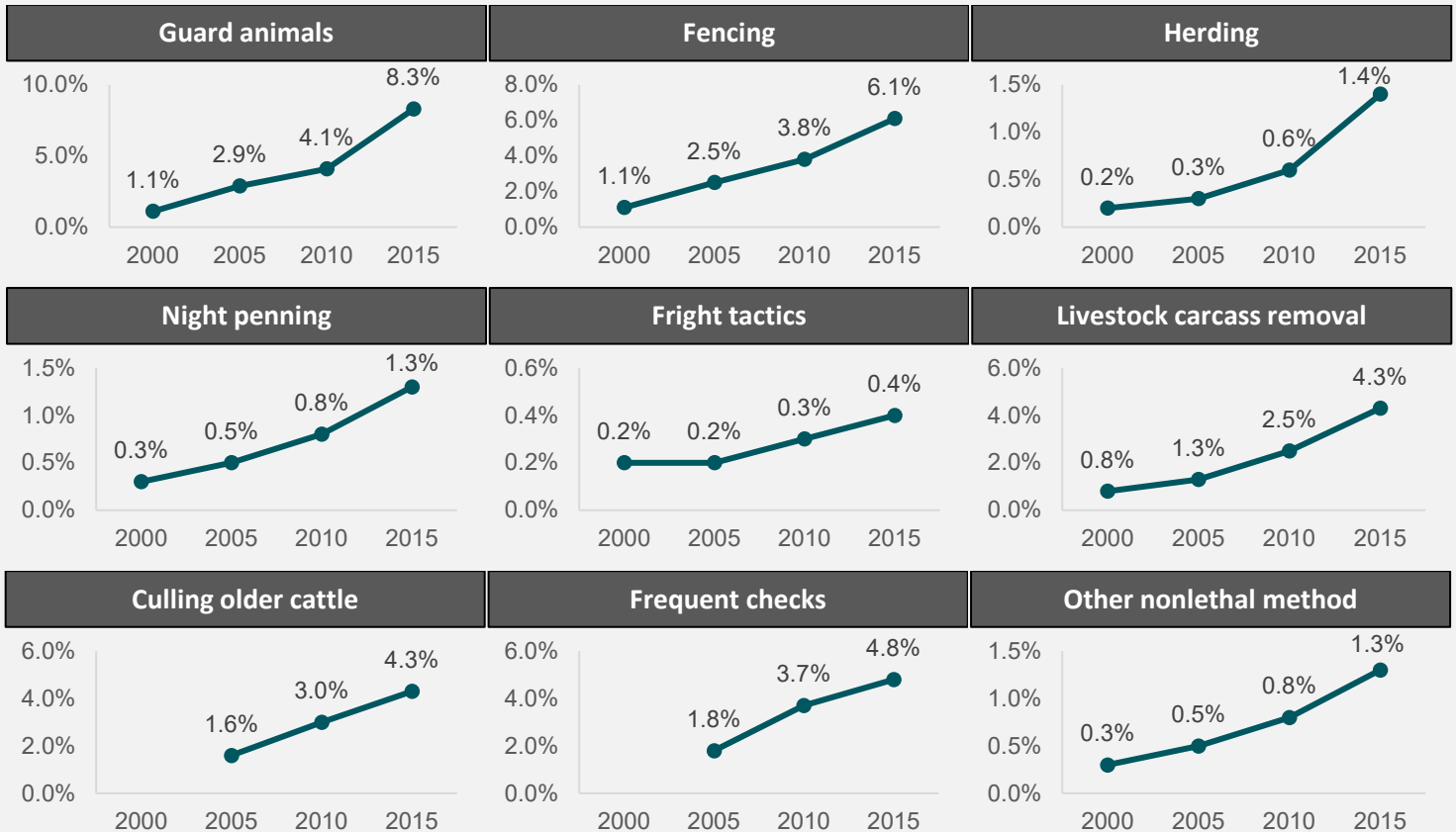
Percentage of operations using any nonlethal methods



Top 3 nonlethal methods used in 2015, by percentage of operations



Percentage of operations by nonlethal method used and by year



For a more detailed briefing of this study and a full report visit:

[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/monitoring-and-surveillance/nahms/nahms\\_general\\_studies](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/monitoring-and-surveillance/nahms/nahms_general_studies) or scan the QR Code.

