



2022 Georgia Agricultural Census: Livestock

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Livestock Inventory			
	2017	2022	% Change
Cattle, Incl. Calves	1,059,672	1,000,560	-6%
Cattle, Cows, Beef	488,415	490,955	1%
Cattle, Cows, Milk	85,554	72,830	-15%
Hogs	81,197	41,671	-49%
Sheep, Incl. Lambs	24,805	26,839	8%
Goats	70,182	57,720	-18%
Horses & Ponies	51,569	37,342	-28%
Honeybee Colonies	119,609	174,196	46%

- Total cattle inventory was lower in 2022, in line with where the industry was in the cattle cycle. This decline has continued, but inventories will likely rebound as expected with the cattle cycle pattern.
- While dairy cow inventory was lower according to the Ag Census, dairy cow inventory appears to have rebounded strongly since 2022 with current estimates above 90,000 cows.
- Other animal inventories have seen mixed changes, with mostly declines outside of an increase in sheep.

- Cattle sales declined over this timeframe in real dollar terms, but in nominal terms, sales edged higher. Total sales for this sector will likely be choppy going forward as prices likely push higher this year, while inventories shrink.
- Milk sales were higher between 2017 and 2022. These higher sales likely happened despite a reduction in milk cows through higher prices that year and higher milk production per cow.
- Despite substantial growth in many sectors, the total of other livestock sales dropped because of the significant declines in the hog and specialty animals sectors.

Livestock Sales			
	2017	2022	% Change
Cattle, Incl. Calves	\$432,596,193	\$380,120,000	-12%
Milk	\$395,643,007	\$464,366,000	17%
Hogs	\$63,594,438	\$26,224,000	-59%
Sheep, incl. Lambs	\$1,872,075	\$2,124,000	13%
Goats	\$3,848,022	\$4,379,000	14%
Horses & Ponies	\$15,044,654	\$21,879,000	45%
Honey	\$10,524,453	\$15,561,000	48%
Specialty Animals	\$18,306,459	\$7,222,000	-61%

Sources: U.S. Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2017 Census of Agriculture and 2022 Census of Agriculture, calculations made by author, adjusted to 2022 dollars