

# The Beef Industry Looks to the Future

**STEPHEN R. KOONTZ**

EXTENSION LIVESTOCK MARKETING SPECIALIST

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

**& DERRELL S. PEEL**

BREEDLOVE PROFESSOR OF AGRIBUSINESS AND

EXTENSION LIVESTOCK MARKETING SPECIALIST

OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

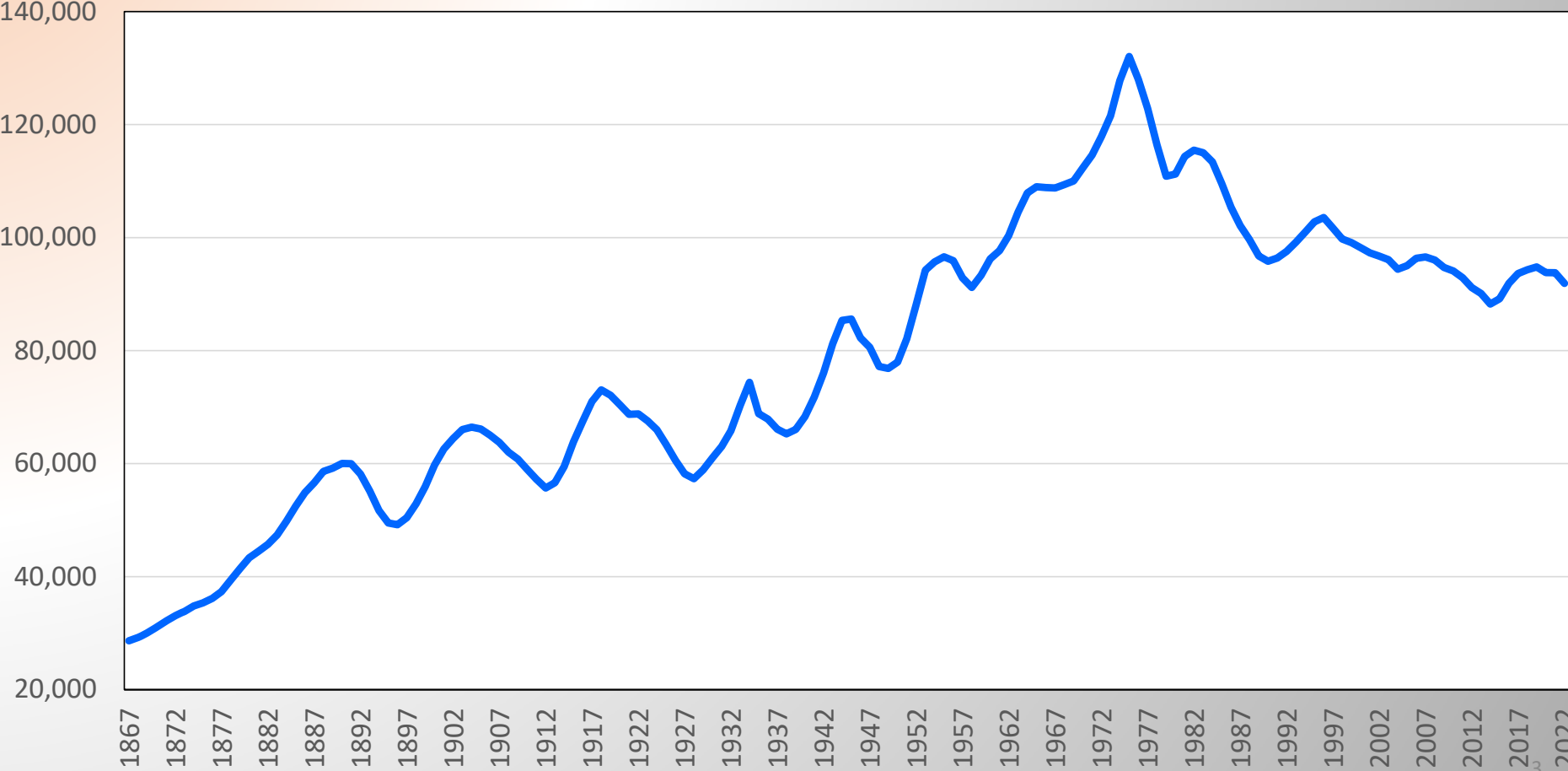


# Beef Industry Issues, Challenges and Opportunities

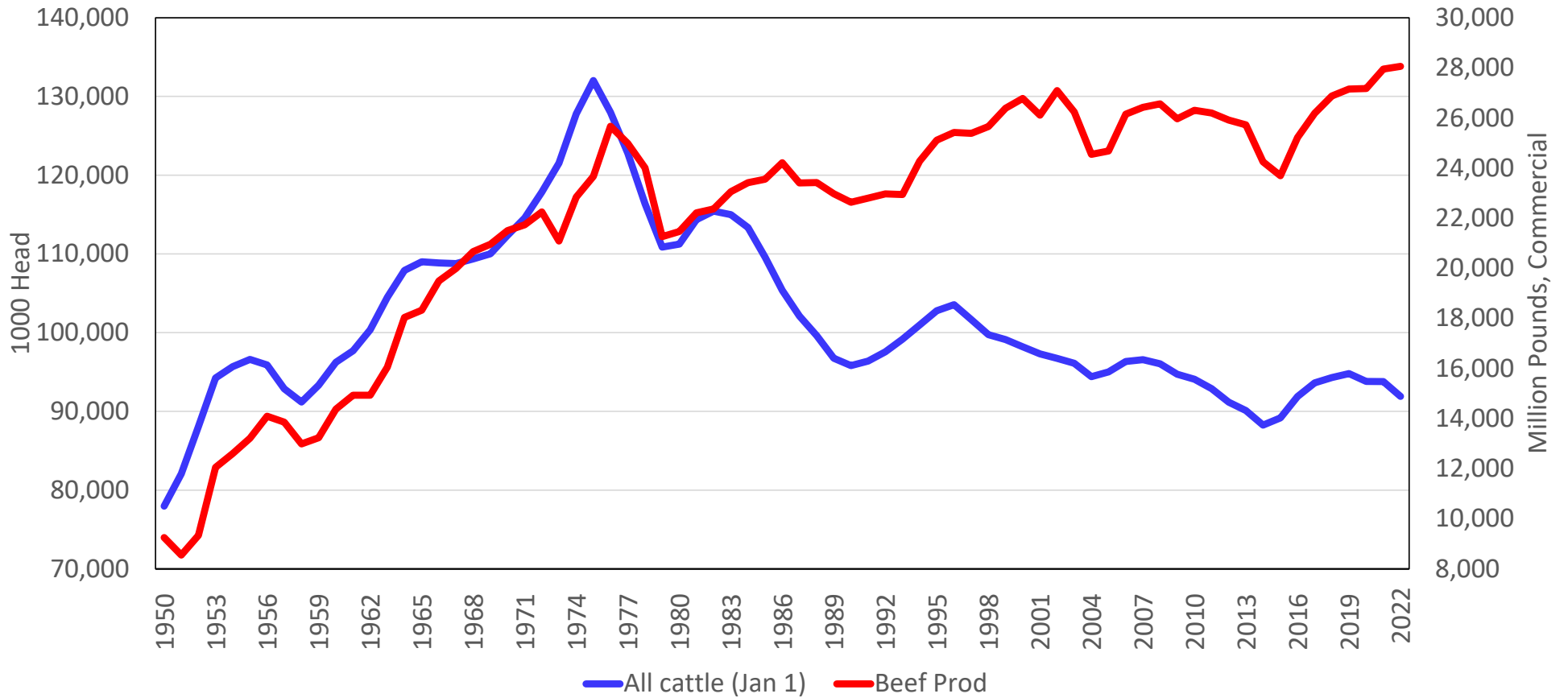
- Black Swans and macroeconomic concerns
- Industry infrastructure
- Beef demand
- Global market potential
- Drought and current situation
  
- To be remembered: many short-term independent decisions impact long-term industry direction

# All Cattle and Calves

1000 Head, January 1



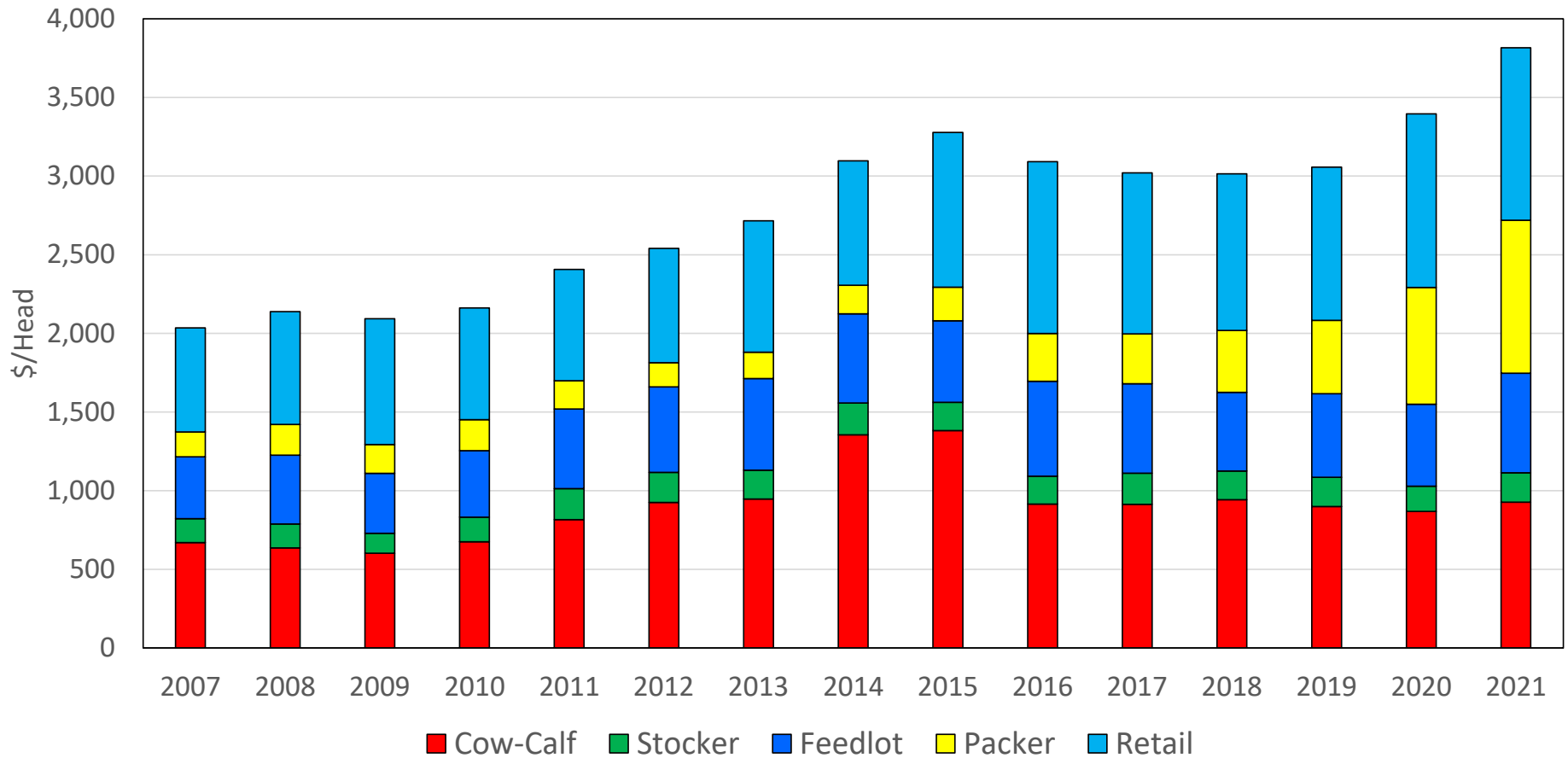
## All Cattle and Calves Inventory and Annual Beef Production



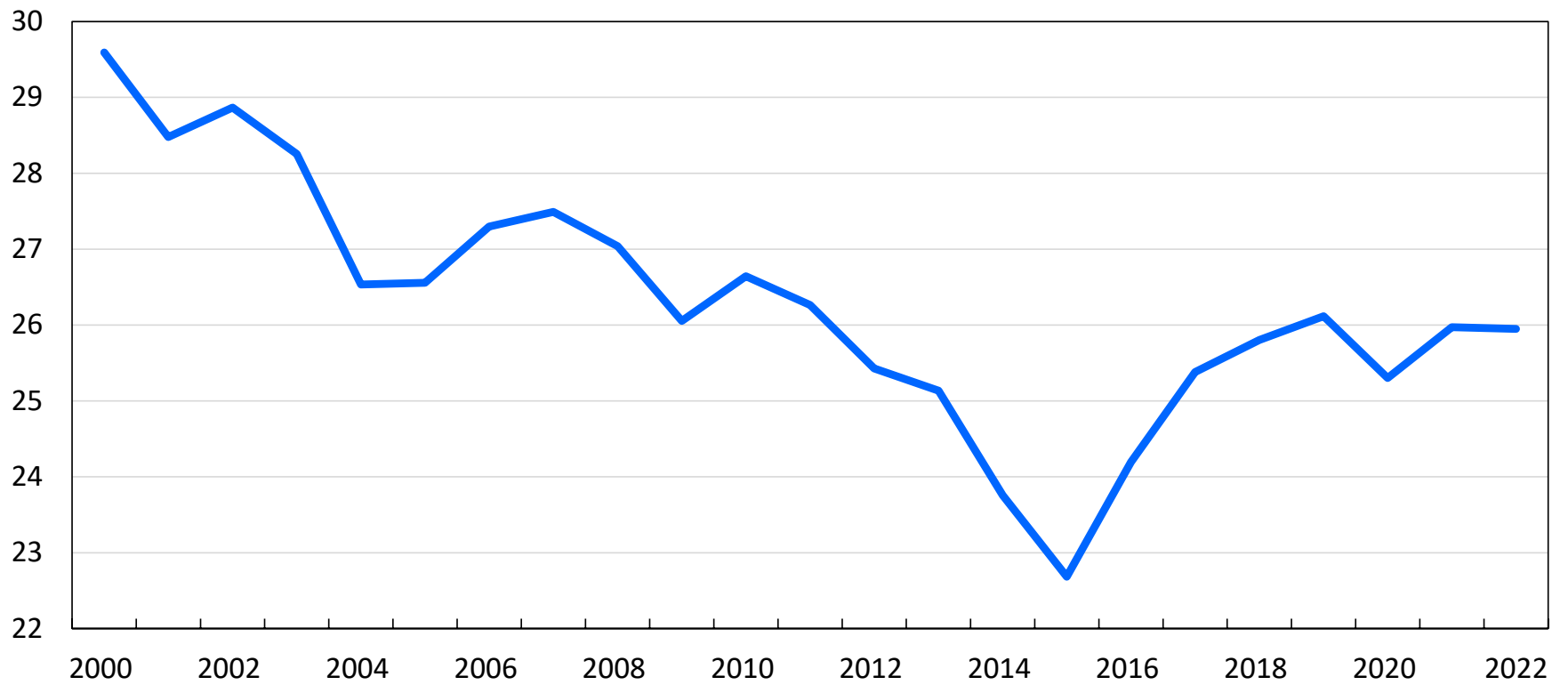
## Industry Infrastructure Adjusts Very Slowly

- Most packing infrastructure was built in the 1980s or earlier.
- Chronic excess capacity since 1974 as cattle inventories declined.
- Slow adjustments:
  - 2000                      ConAgra Kansas plant burned & not rebuilt
  - 2008                      Tyson closes Emporia plant
  - 2013                      Cargill closes Plainview
- Herd expansion from 2014 - 2019 and chronic labor problems resulted in under capacity.
- Feedlot industry has expanded over time.

## Share of Retail Animal Value

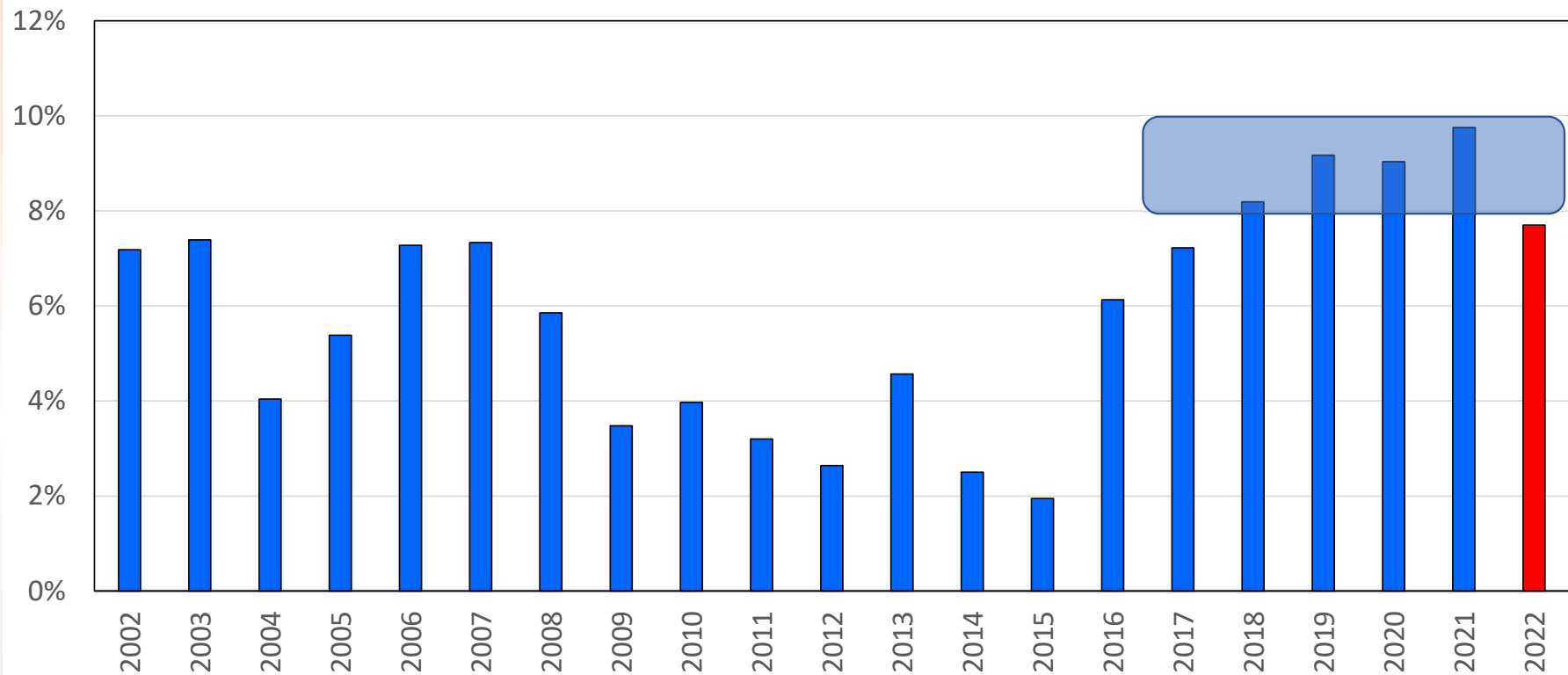


## Fed Steer + Heifer Slaughter Million Head



## Labor issues less severe in 2022!

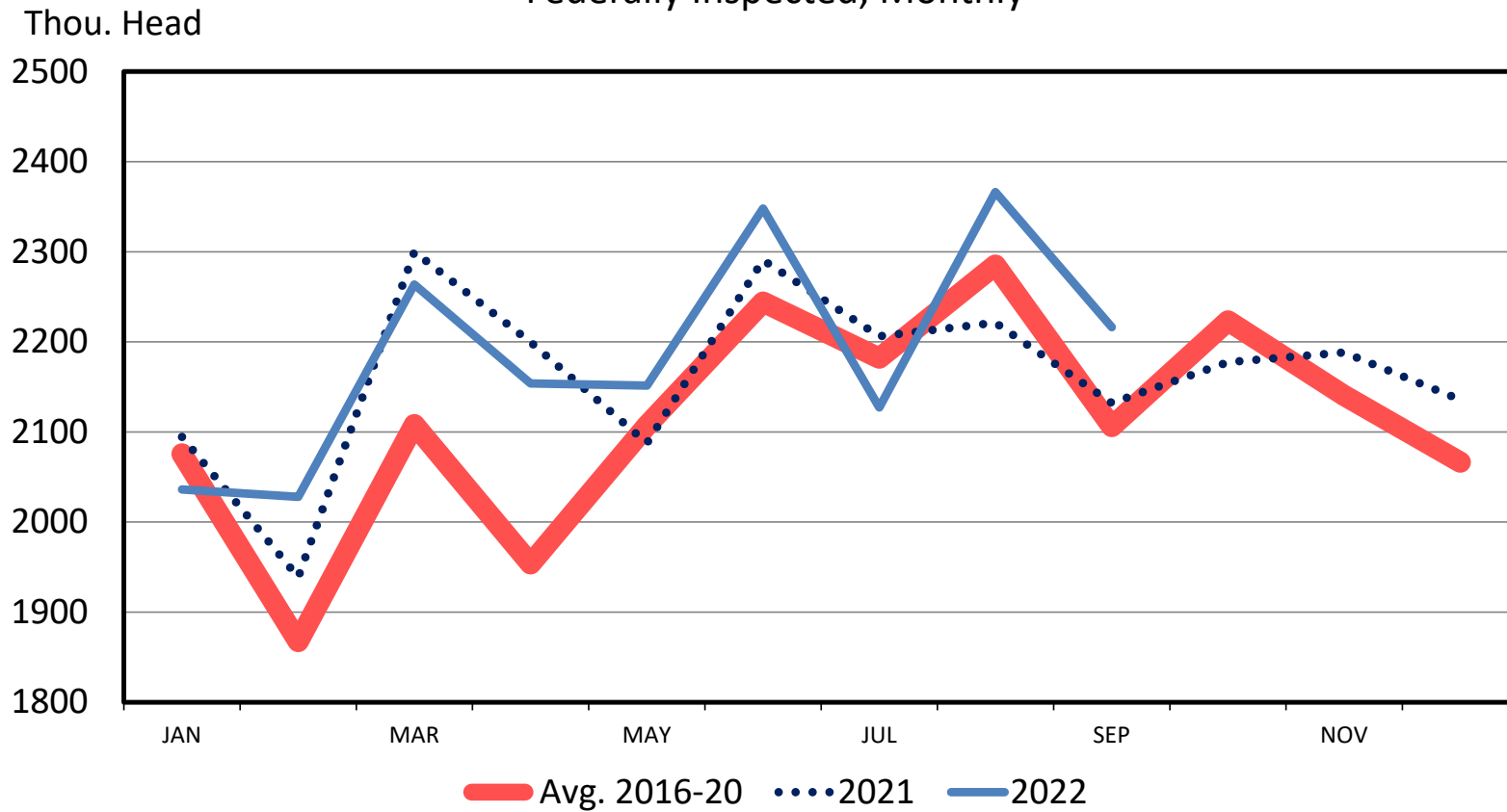
### Saturday Fed Slaughter as Percent of Total Fed Slaughter





# FED SLAUGHTER

## Federally Inspected, Monthly

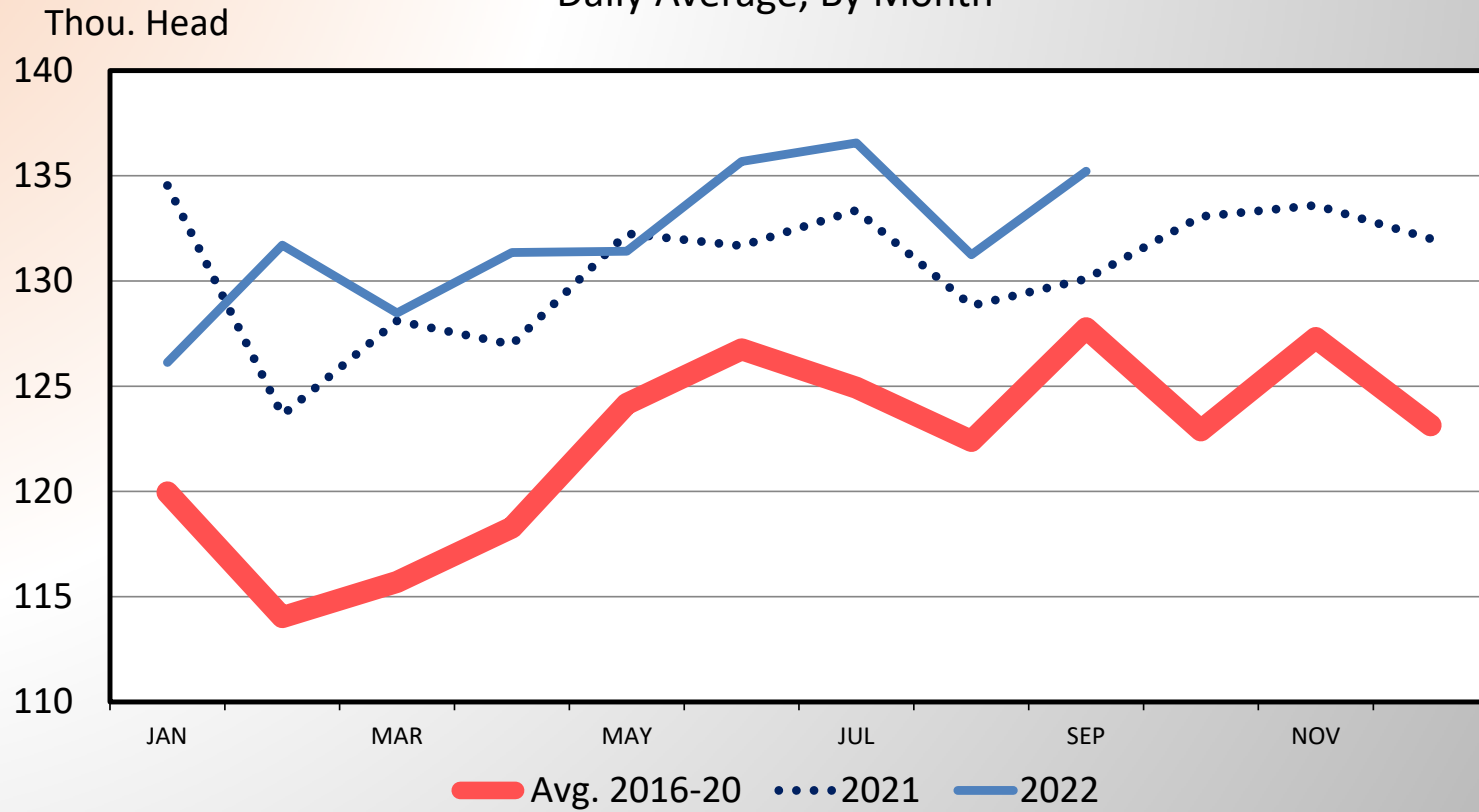


Data Source: USDA-NASS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-S-16  
09/22/22

# FEDERALLY INSPECTED CATTLE SLAUGHTER

Daily Average, By Month



Data Source: USDA-NASS, Compiled by LMIC  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

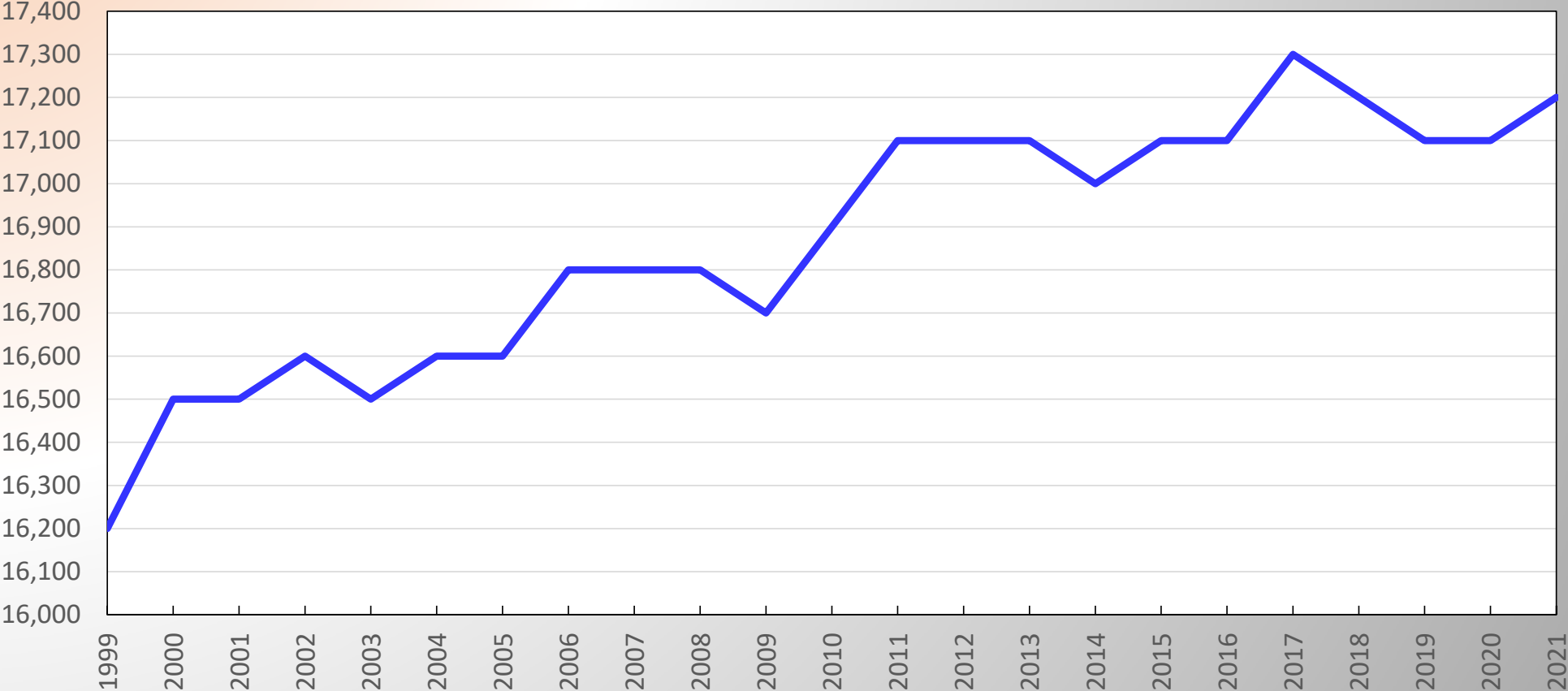
C-S-04  
10/20/22

## Packer Capacity Not An Issue – For Now

- Lower cattle numbers for several years
  - Herd rebuilding after drought
- New plants will add to capacity
  - Significant additional capacity proposed
  - Not all projects will be completed
  - Timing will be important
- Additional capacity is needed long term
  - To replace aging existing capacity
  - To grow long-term international demand

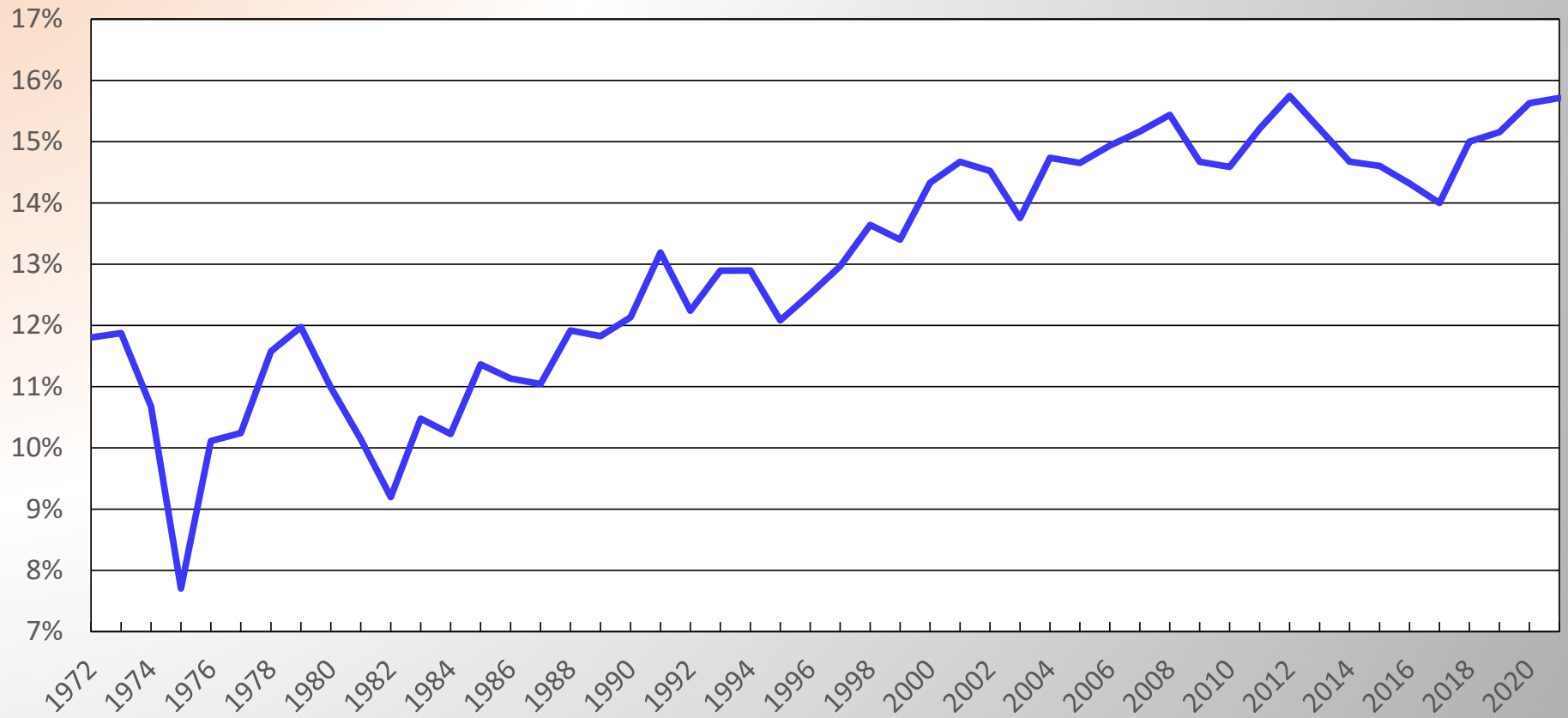
# Feedlot Capacity

January 1, 1000 Head



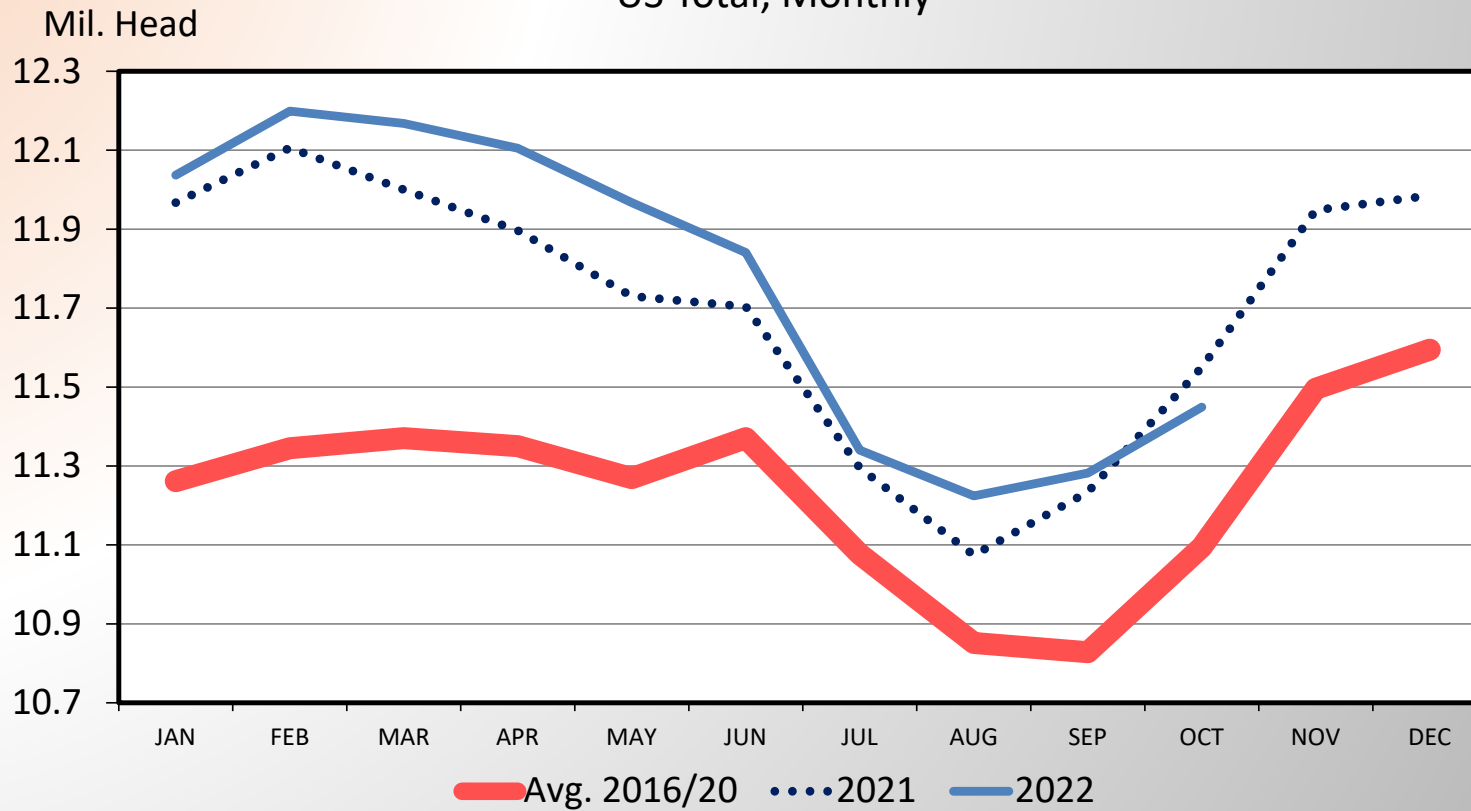
# Cattle on Feed Inventory as % of All Cattle and Calves

January 1



# CATTLE ON FEED

## US Total, Monthly



Data Source: USDA-NASS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-N-10  
10/21/22

## HEIFERS ON FEED AS A PERCENT OF TOTAL CATTLE ON FEED

U.S., Beginning of Quarter



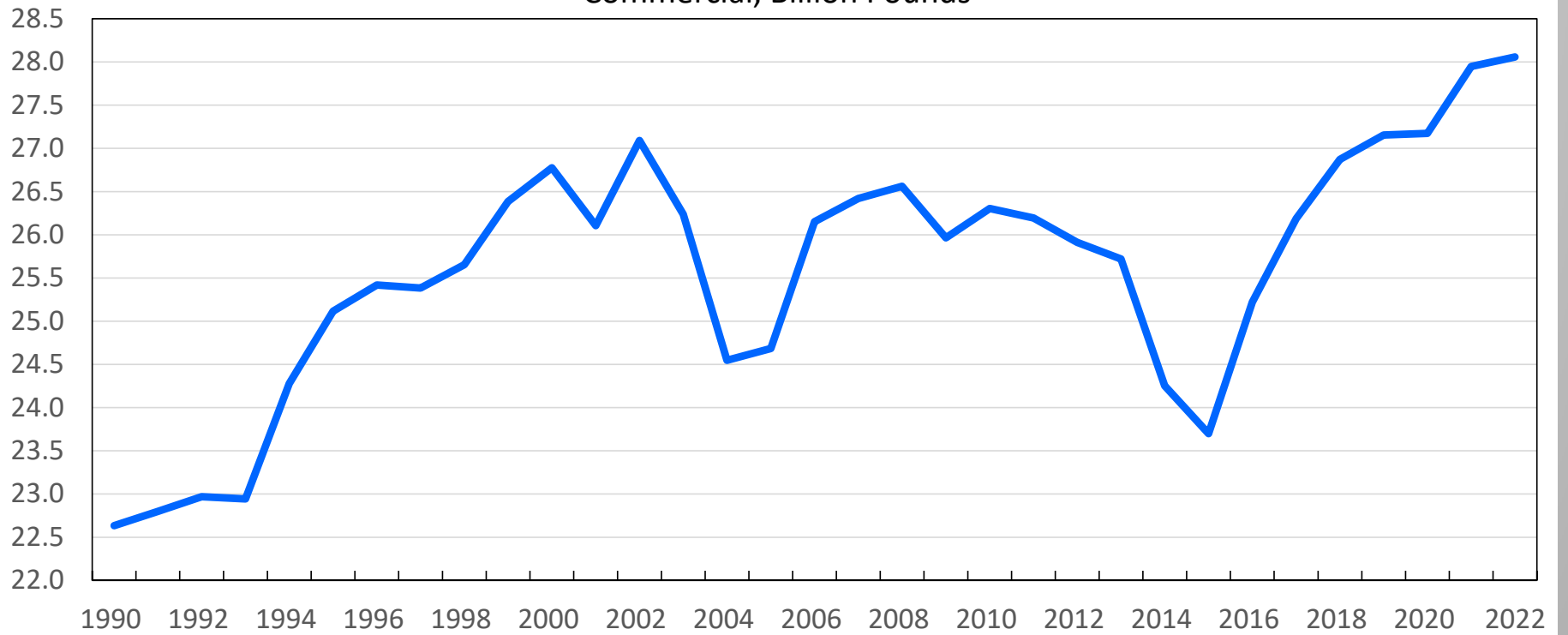
Data Source: USDA-NASS, Compiled by LMIC

Livestock Marketing Information Center

10/21/22

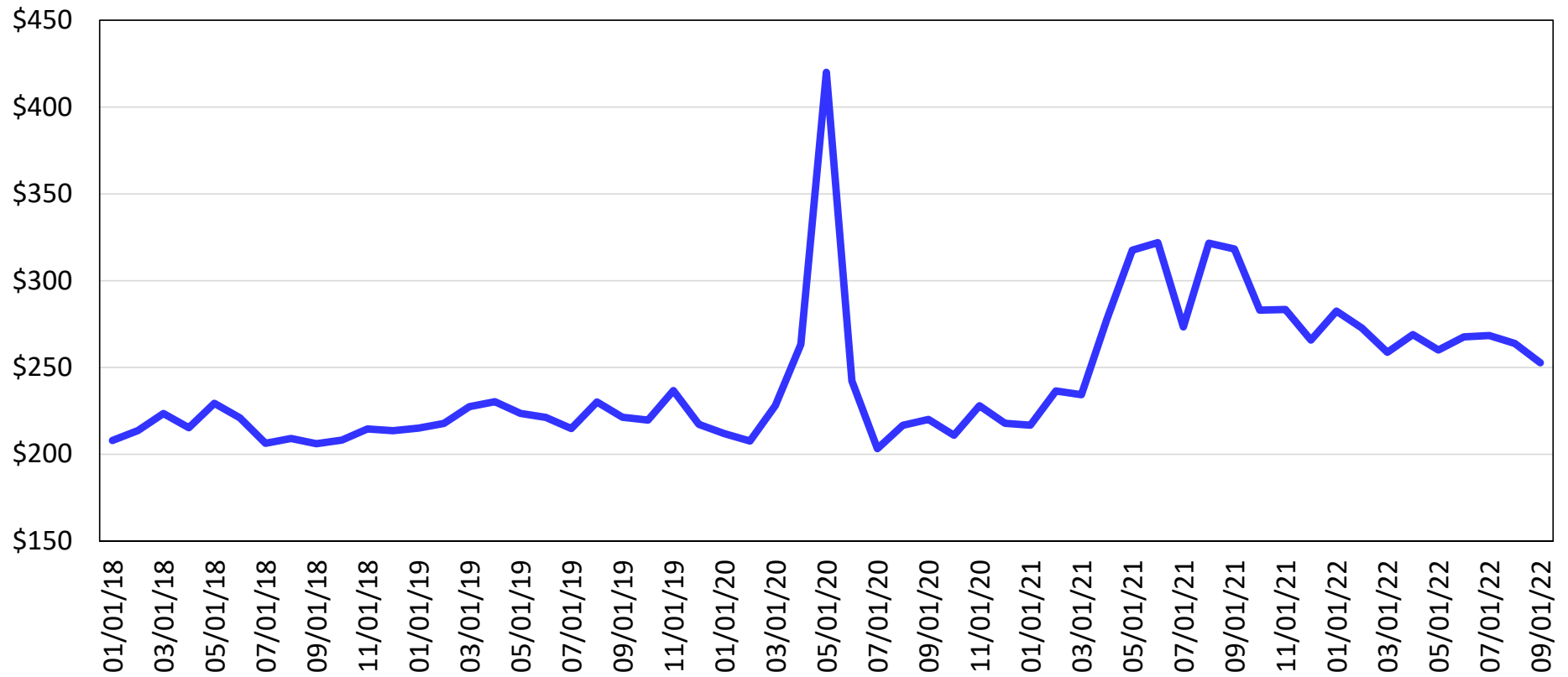
# Beef Production

Commercial, Billion Pounds



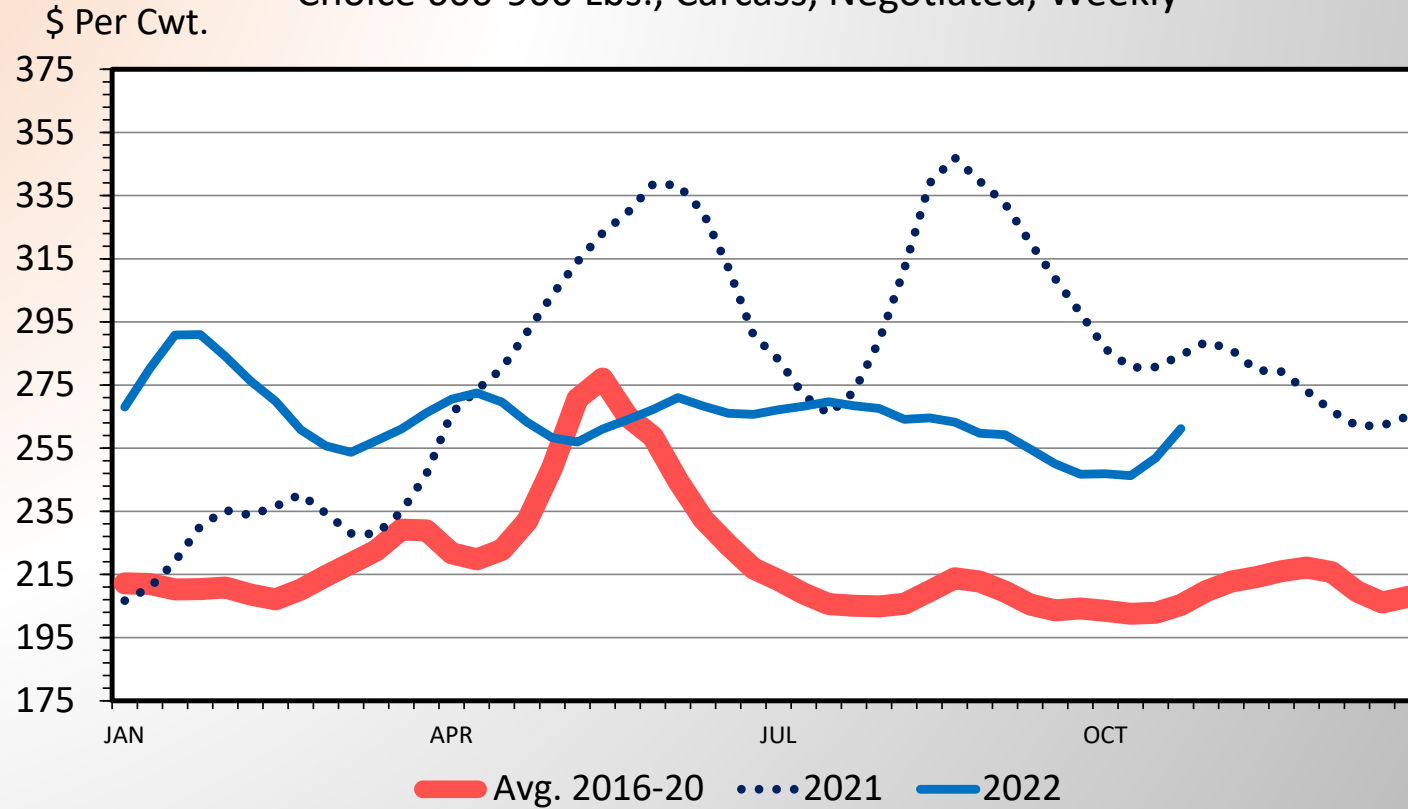


## Choice Boxed Beef Price \$/Cwt. Monthly Average



# BOXED BEEF CUTOUT VALUE

Choice 600-900 Lbs., Carcass, Negotiated, Weekly

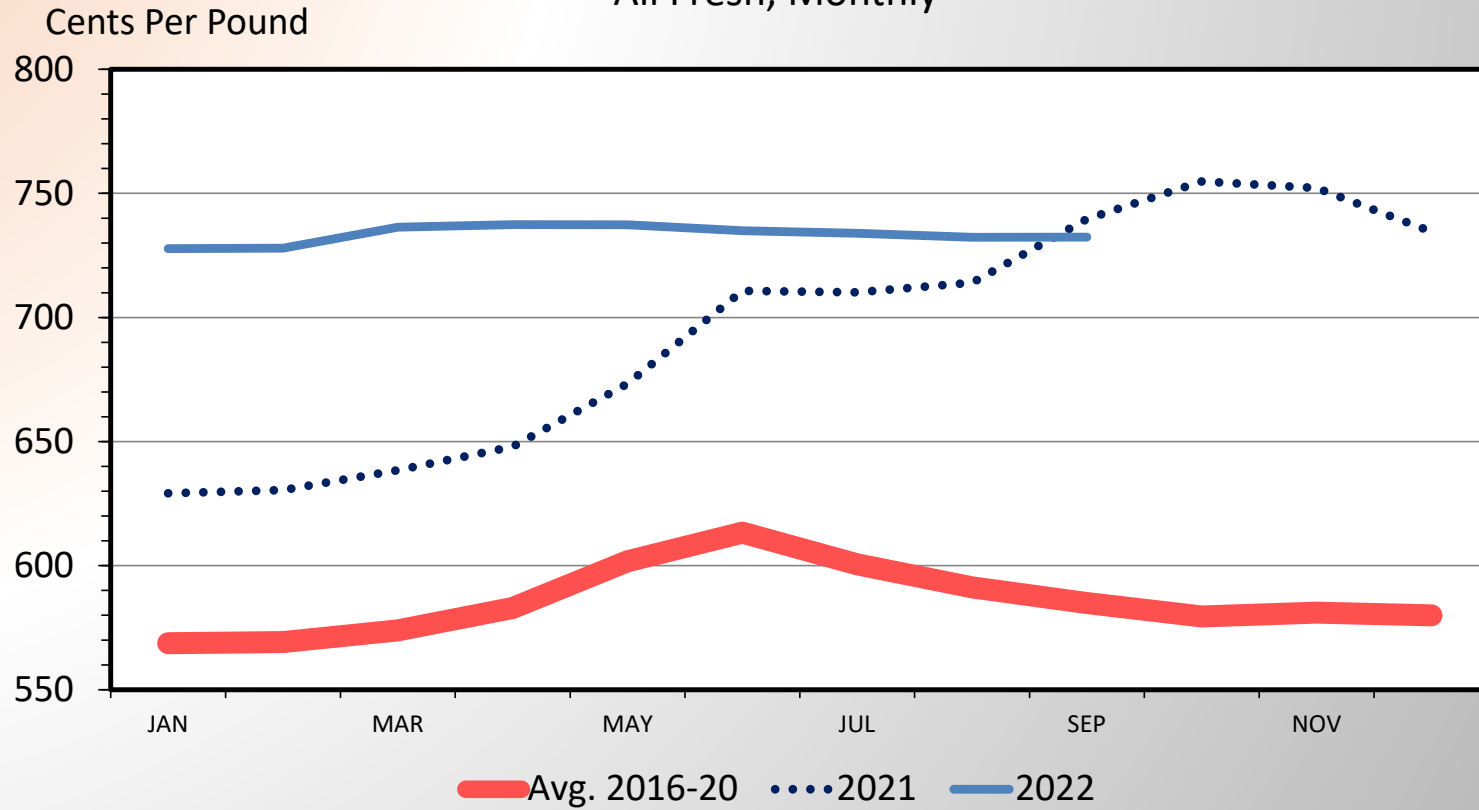


Data Source: USDA-AMS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-P-62  
10/31/22

# RETAIL BEEF PRICE

## All Fresh, Monthly

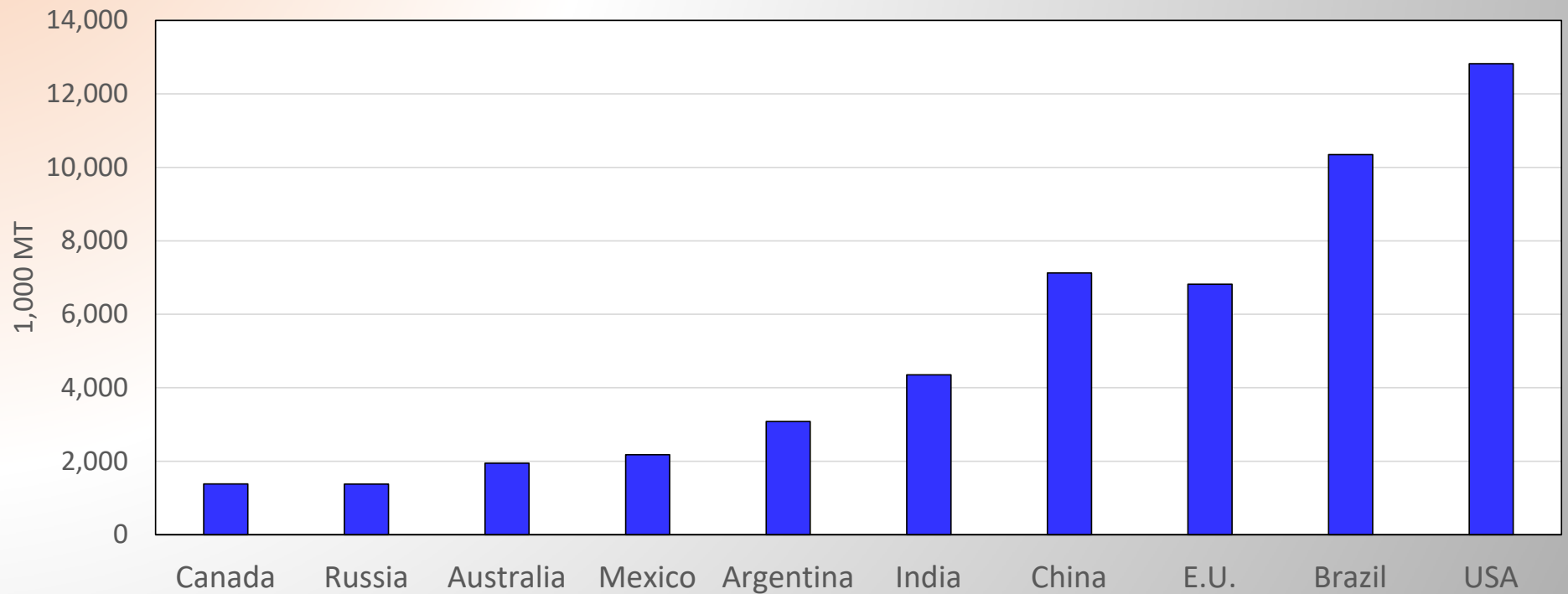


Data Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics & USDA-ERS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

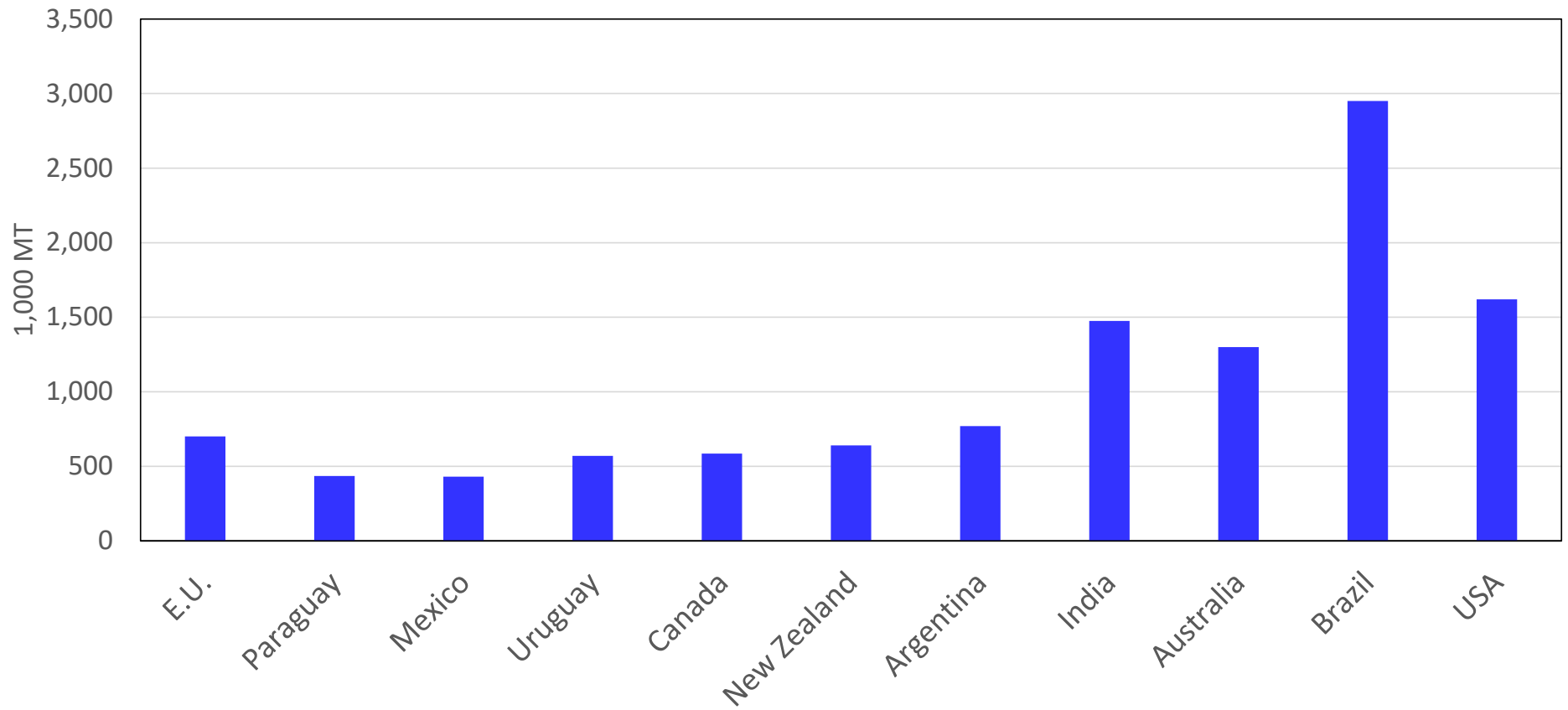
M-P-11  
10/13/22

# Beef Production

## 2022 Forecast, Carcass Weight

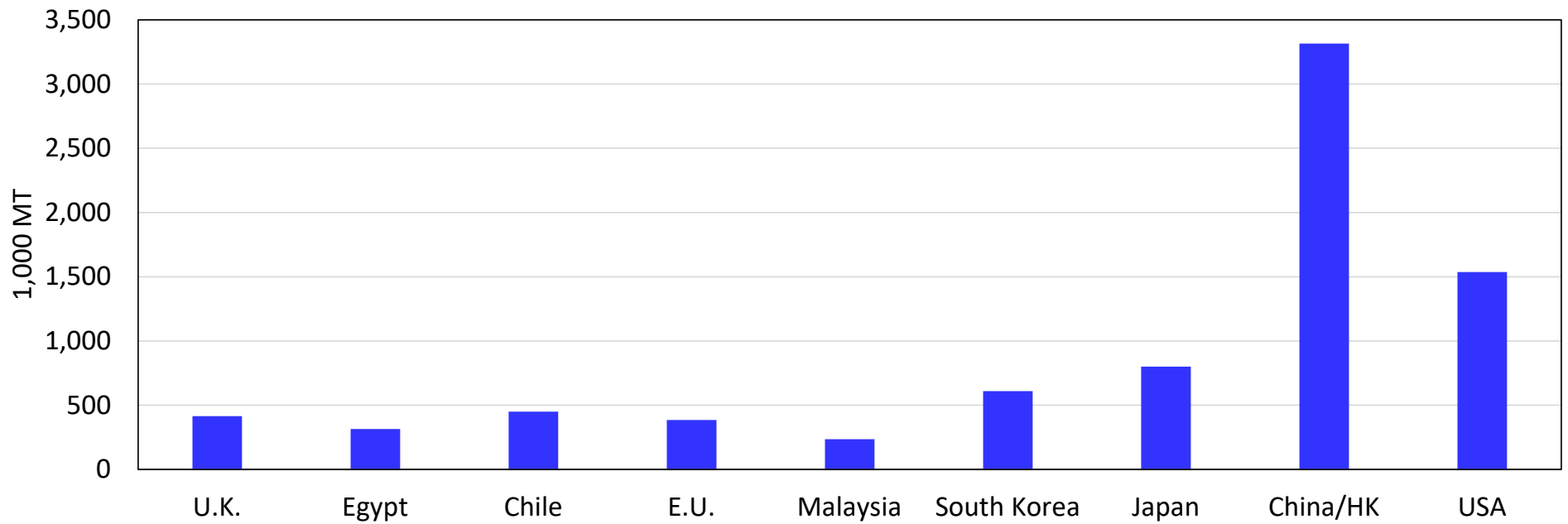


## Beef Exports 2022 Forecast, Carcass Weight

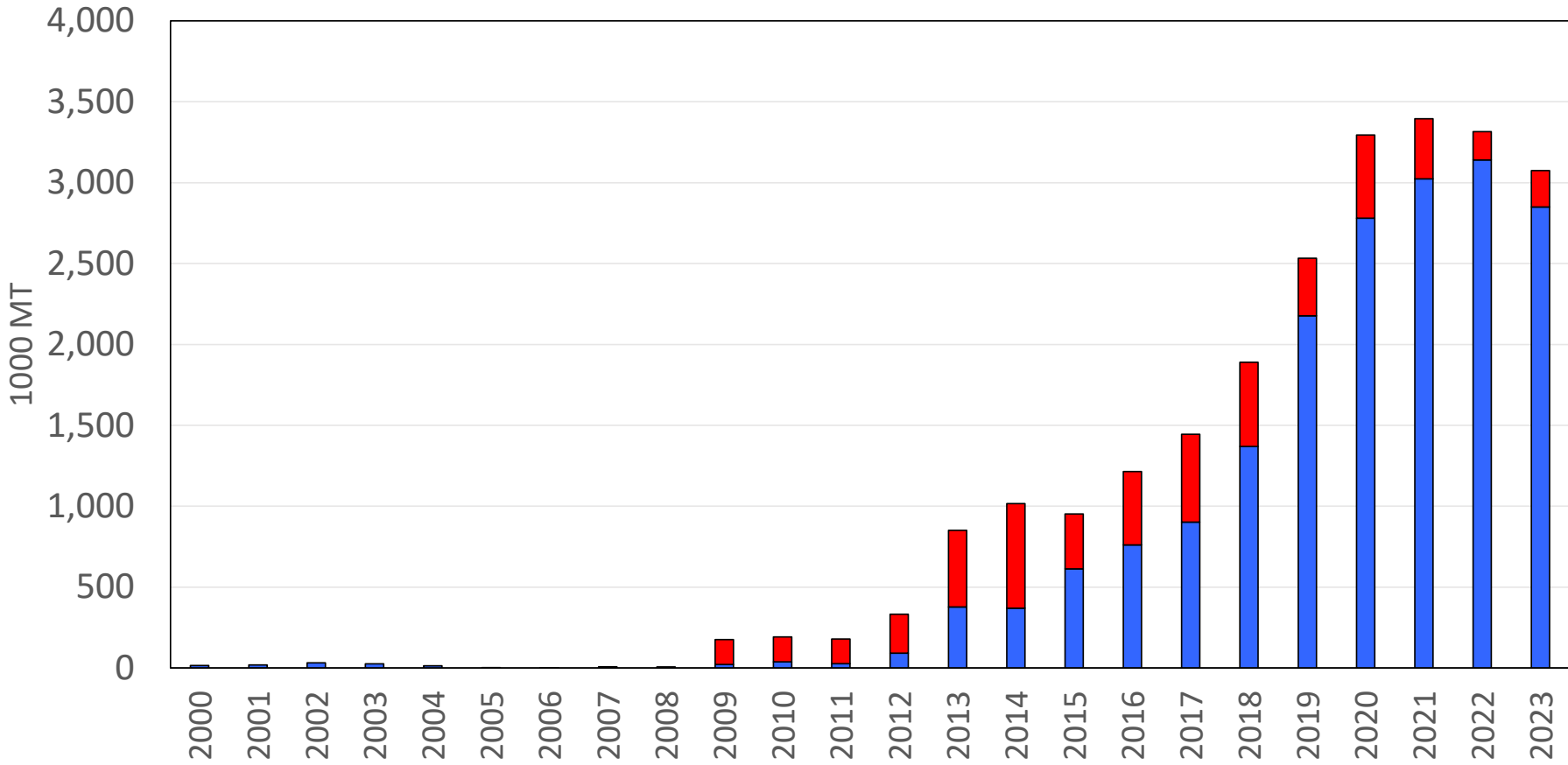


## Beef Imports

2022 Forecast, Carcass Weight

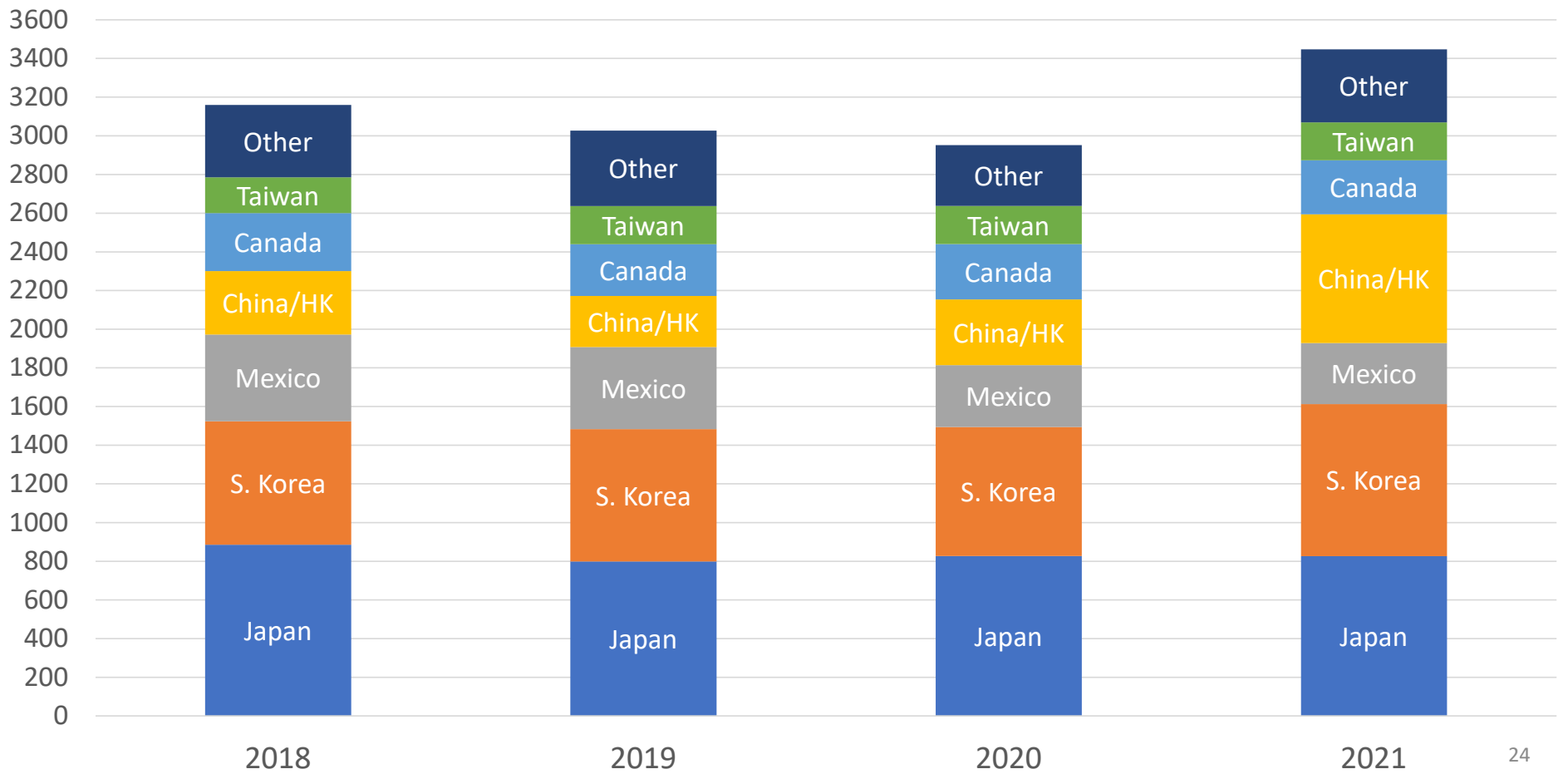


# China/Hong Kong Beef Imports



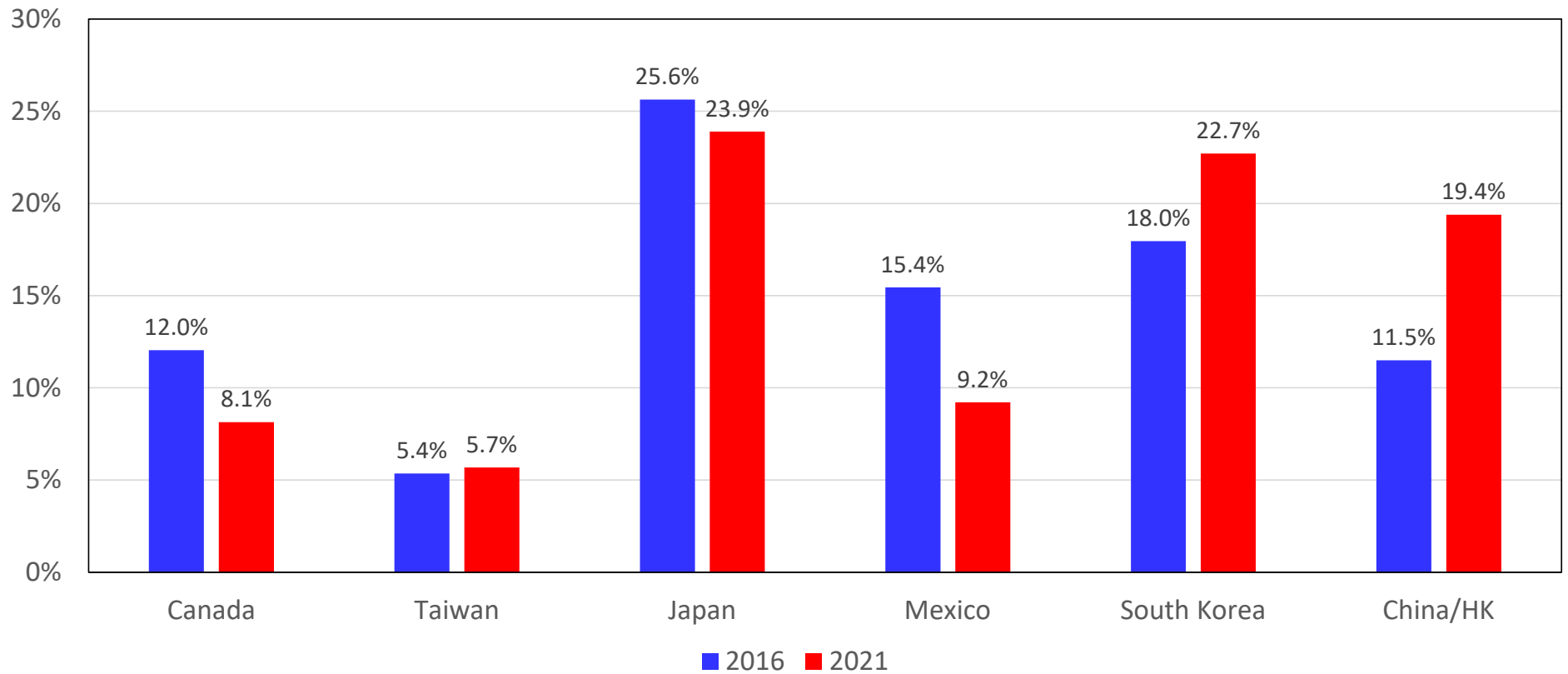
## U.S. Beef Exports, 2021

Million Pounds, Carcass Weight



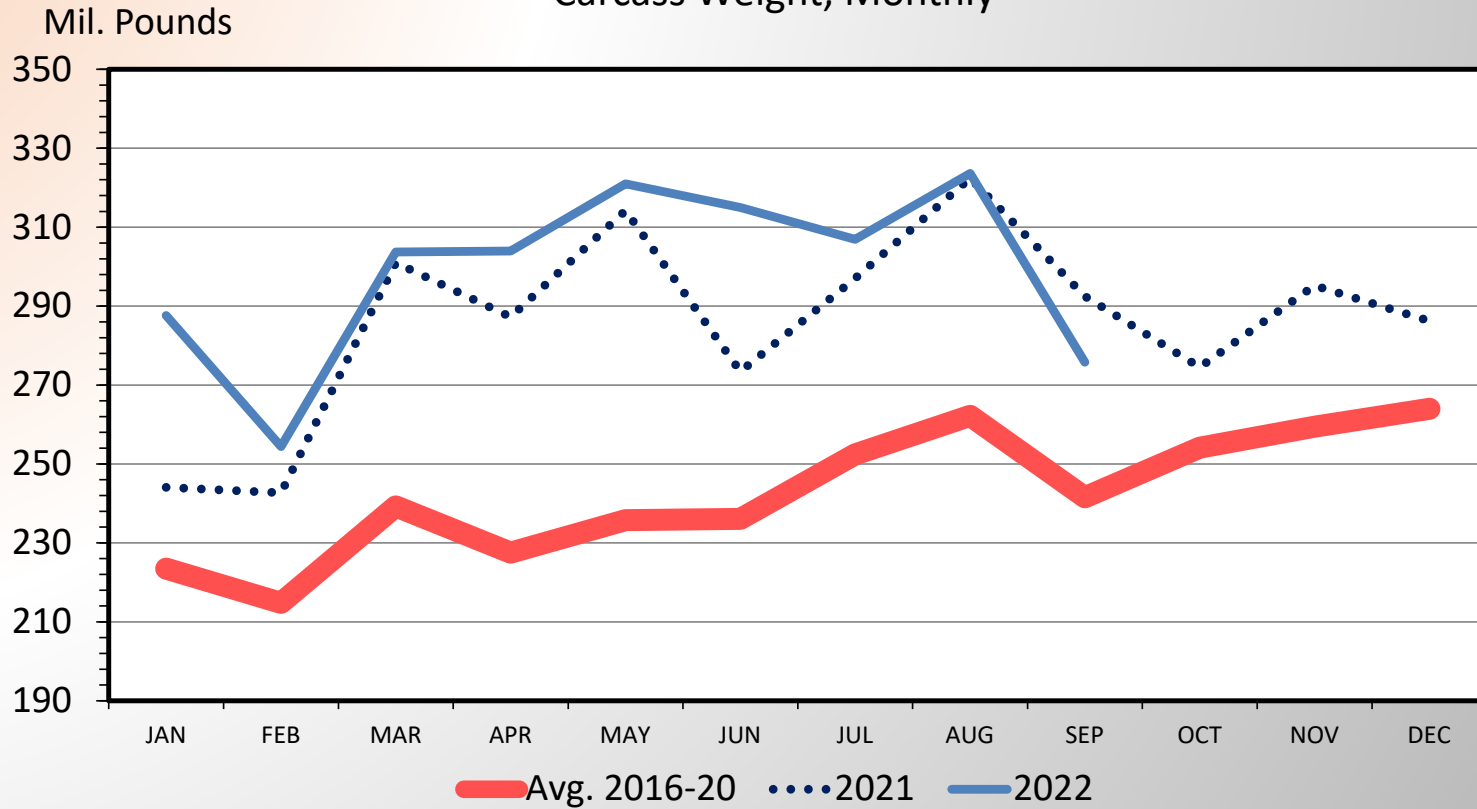


## U.S. Beef Export Market Share



# US BEEF AND VEAL EXPORTS

## Carcass Weight, Monthly

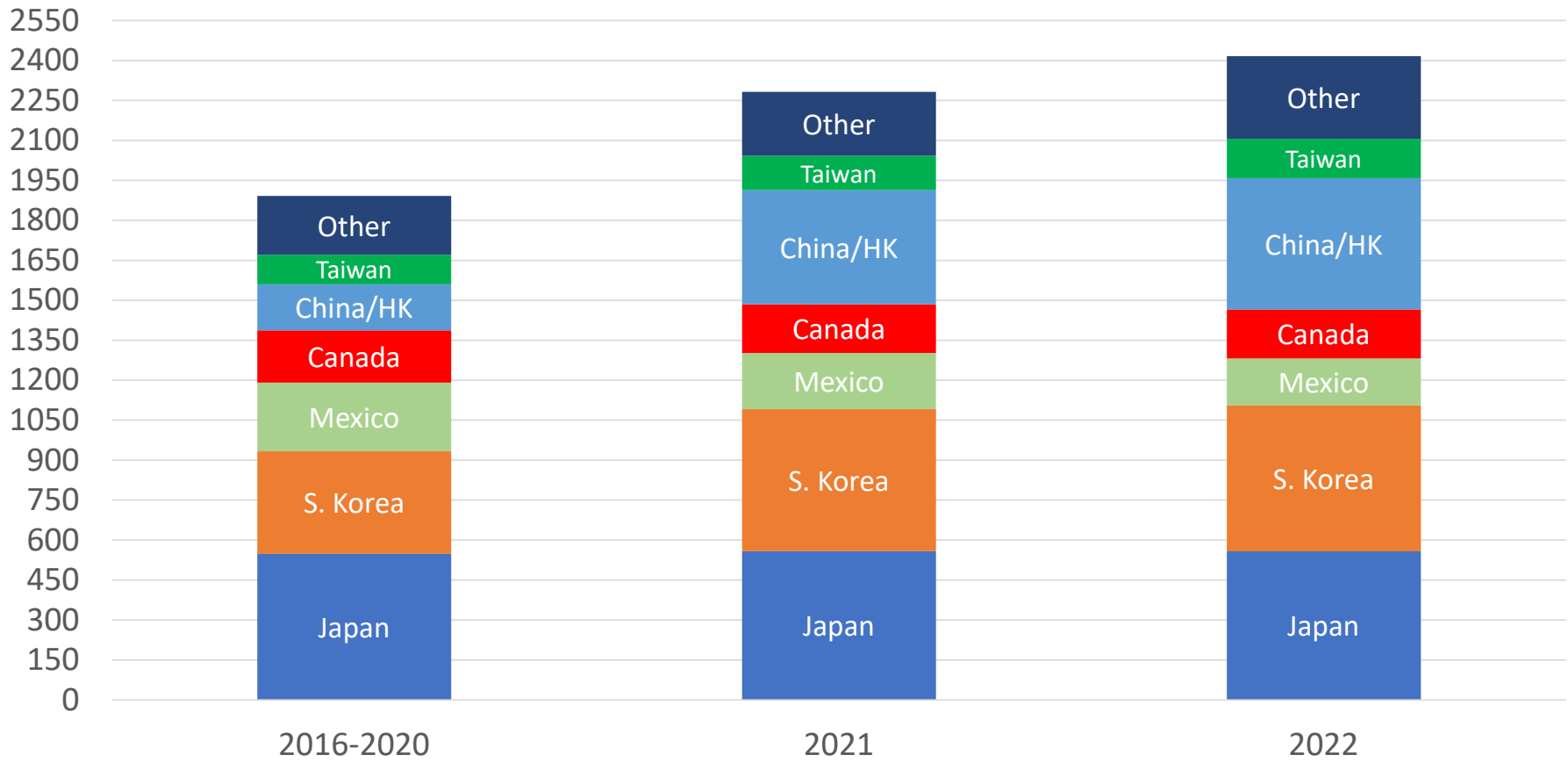


Data Source: USDA-ERS & USDA-FAS  
 Livestock Marketing Information Center

I-N-16  
 11/04/22

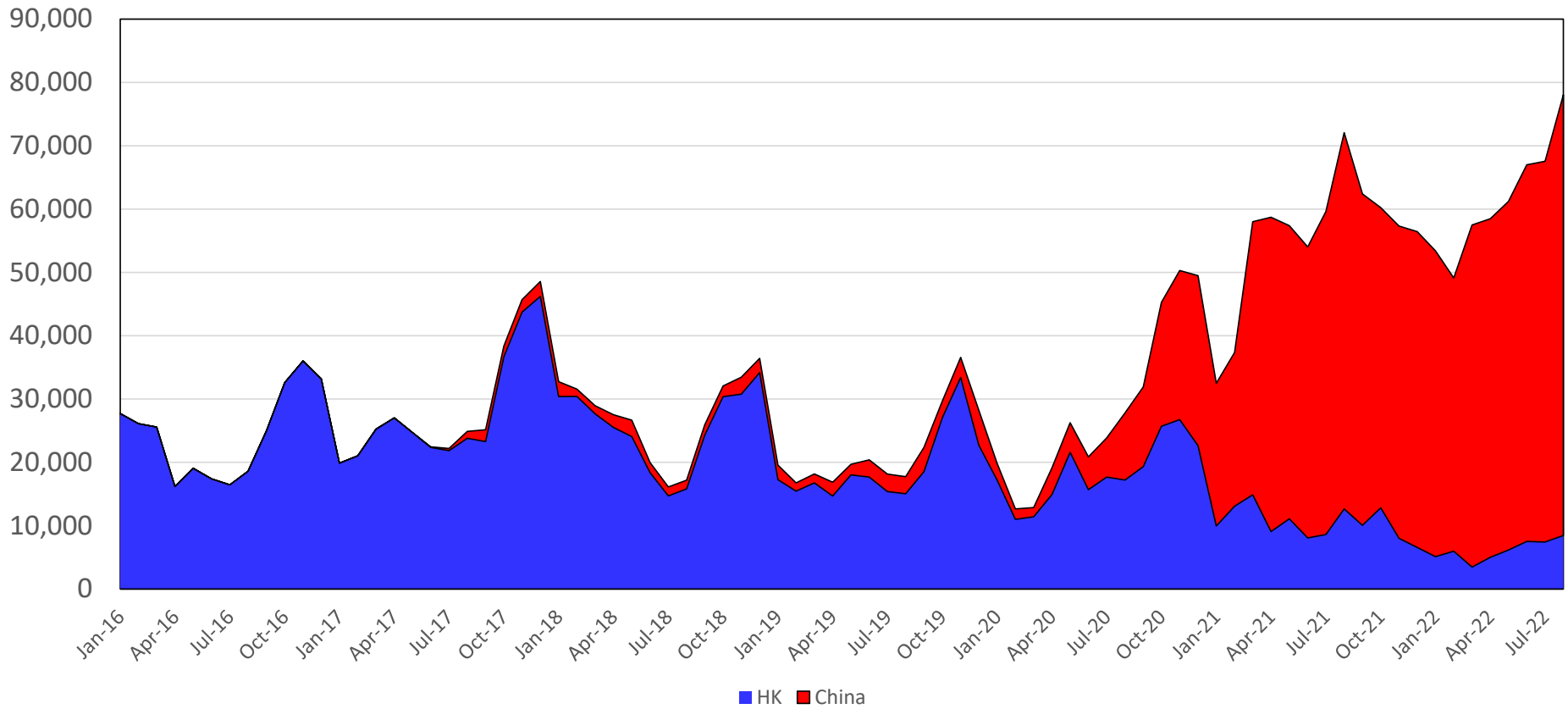
## Beef Exports: January-August

Million Pounds, Carcass Weight



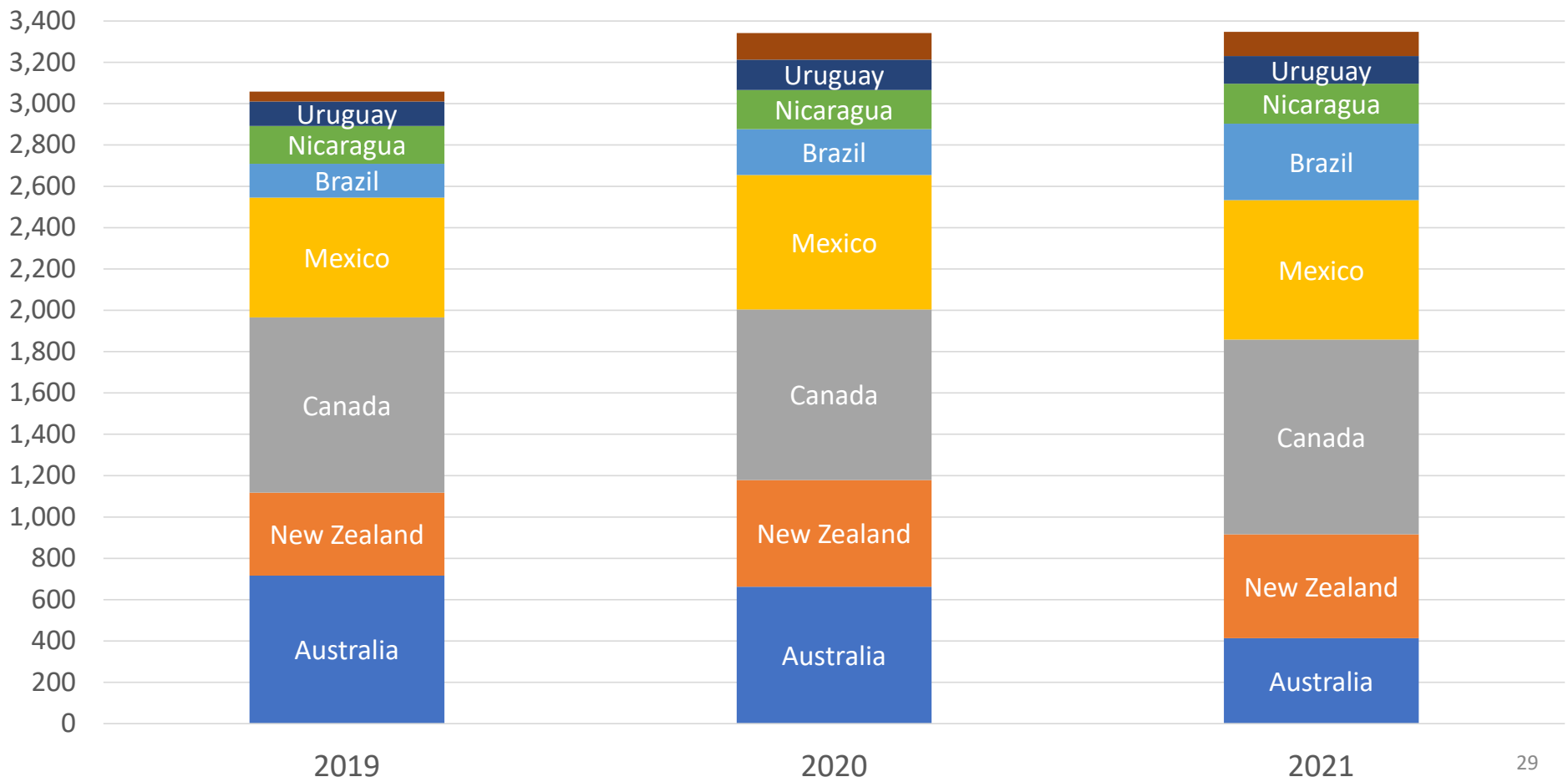
## U.S. Beef Exports to China/Hong Kong

1,000 lbs., Monthly



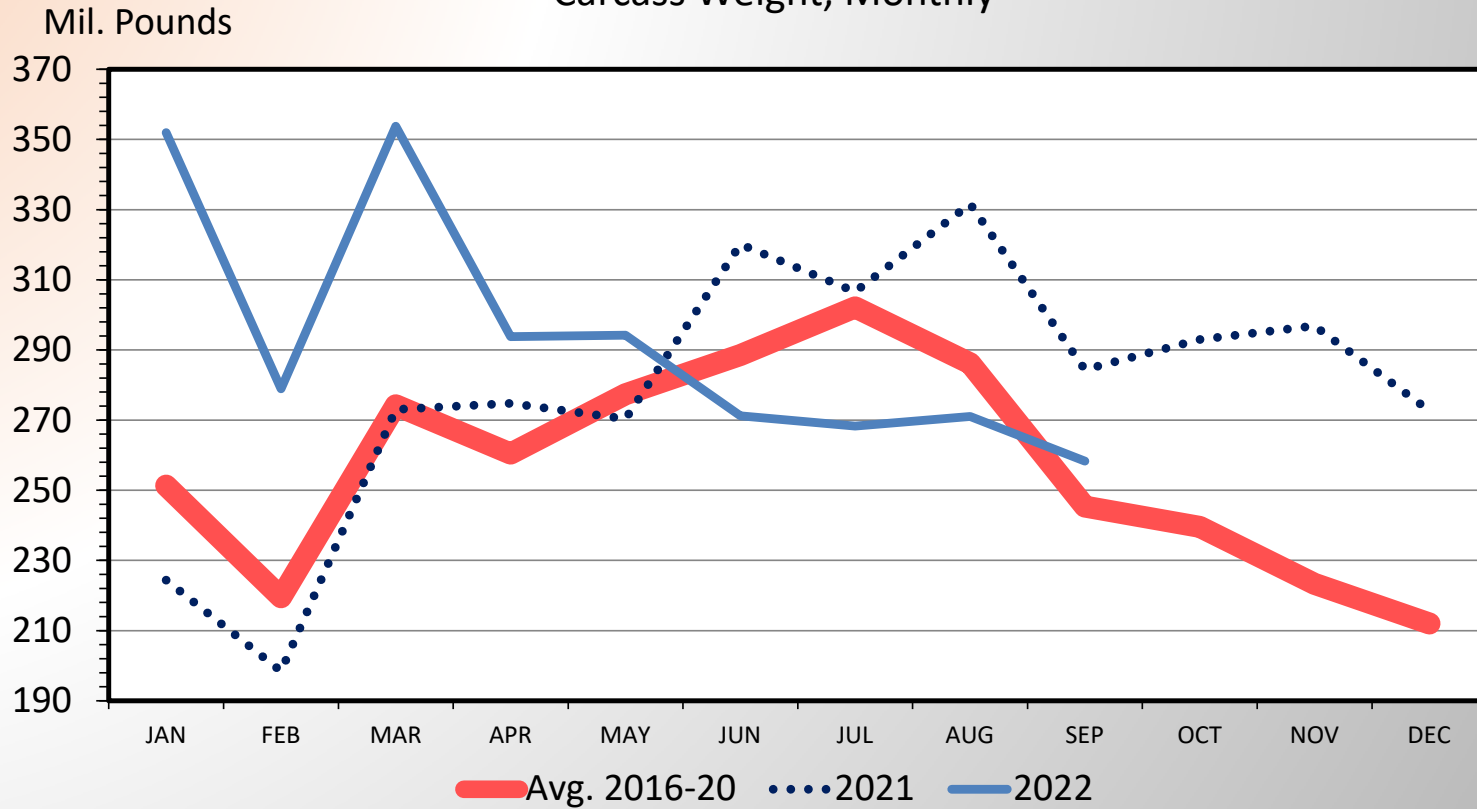
## U.S. Beef Imports, 2021

Million Pounds, Carcass Weight



## US BEEF AND VEAL IMPORTS

### Carcass Weight, Monthly

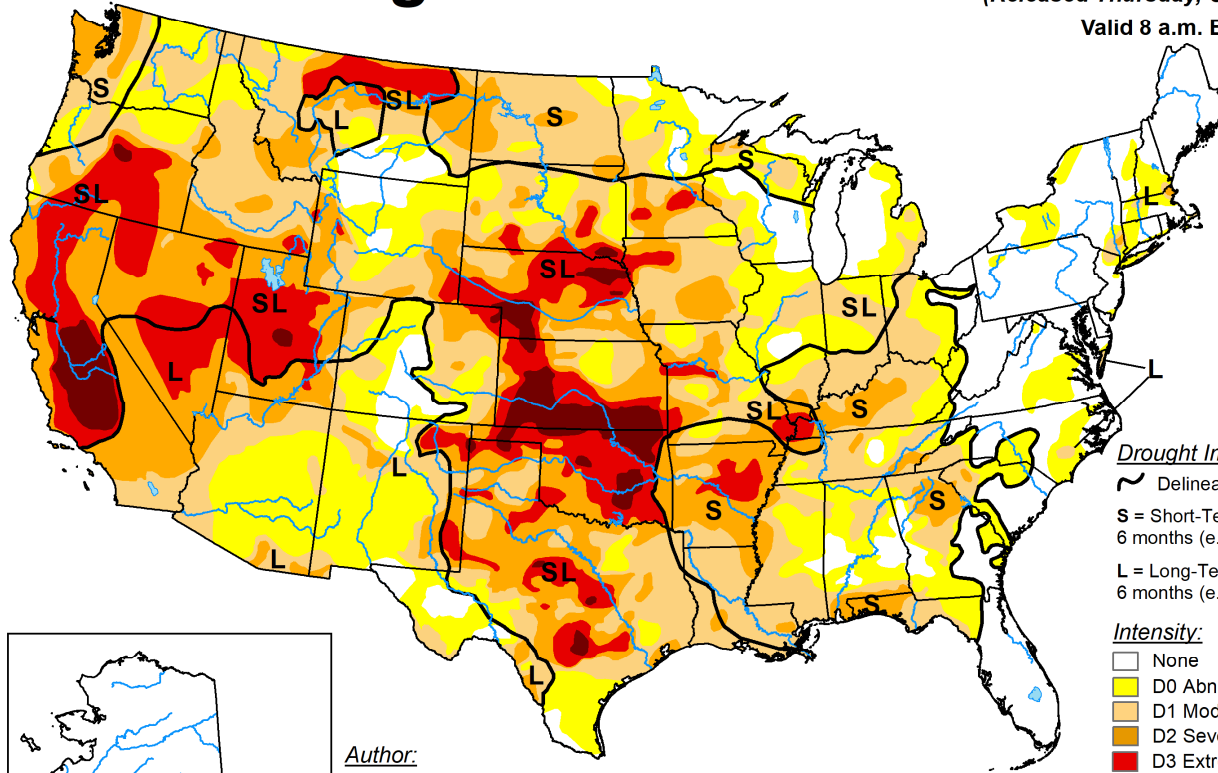


**Data Source: USDA-ERS & USDA-FAS**  
 Livestock Marketing Information Center

I-N-15  
 11/04/22

# U.S. Drought Monitor

October 25, 2022  
 (Released Thursday, Oct. 27, 2022)  
 Valid 8 a.m. EDT

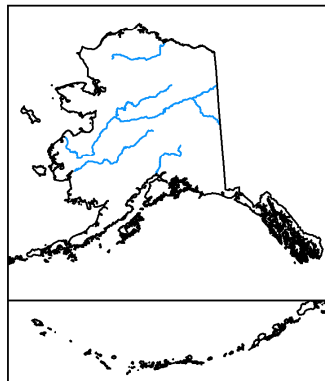


**Drought Impact Types:**

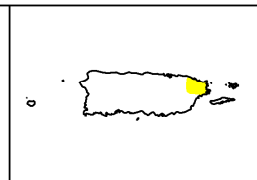
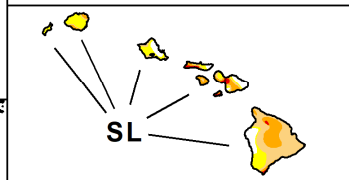
- ⤵ Delineates dominant impacts
- S = Short-Term, typically less than 6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- L = Long-Term, typically greater than 6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)

**Intensity:**

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought



**Author:**  
 Adam Hartman  
 NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

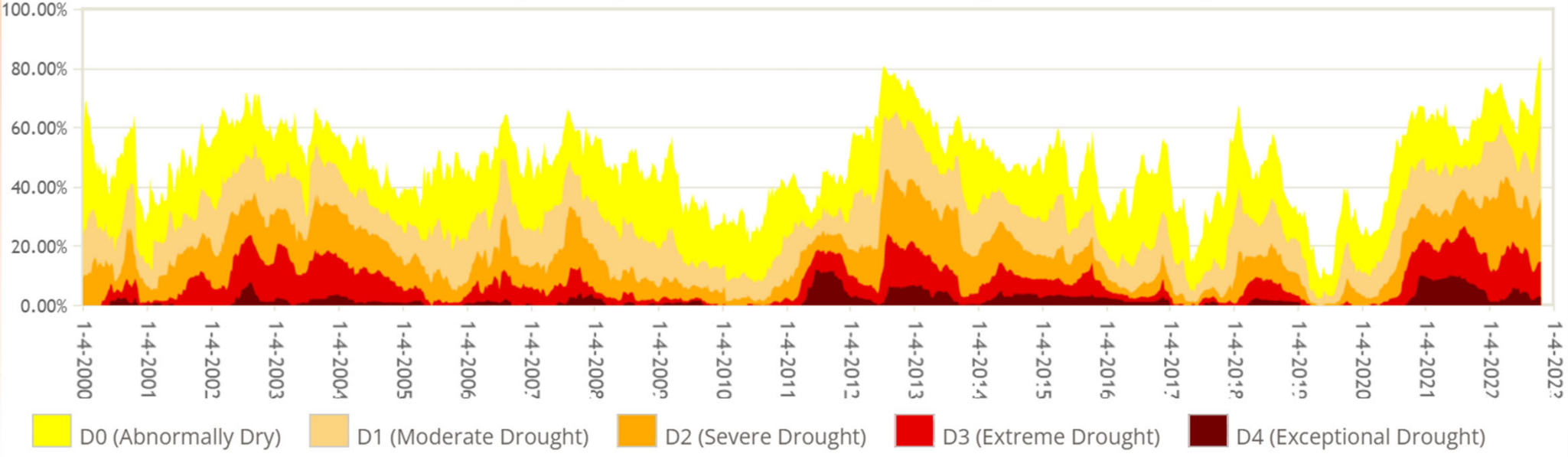


The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

# Continental U.S. (CONUS) Percent Area in U.S. Drought Monitor Categories





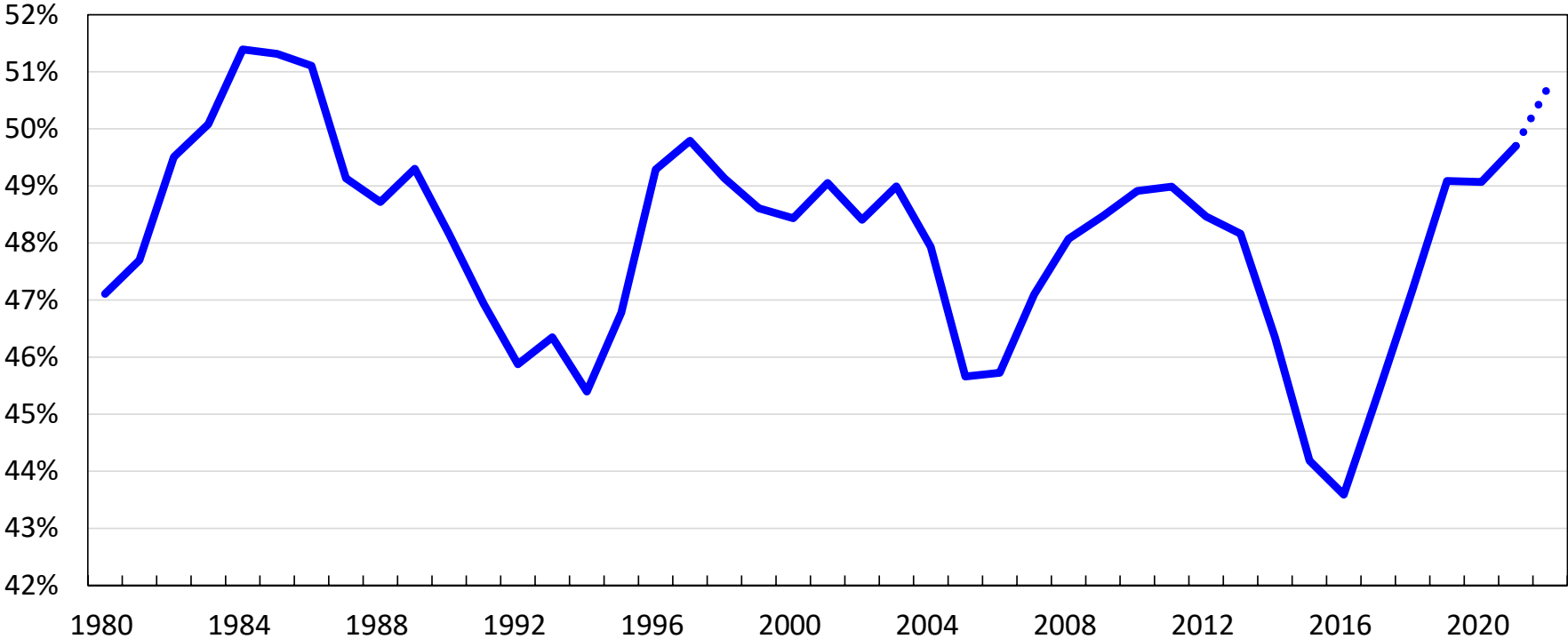
# Cattle Slaughter

Federally Inspected, 1000 Head

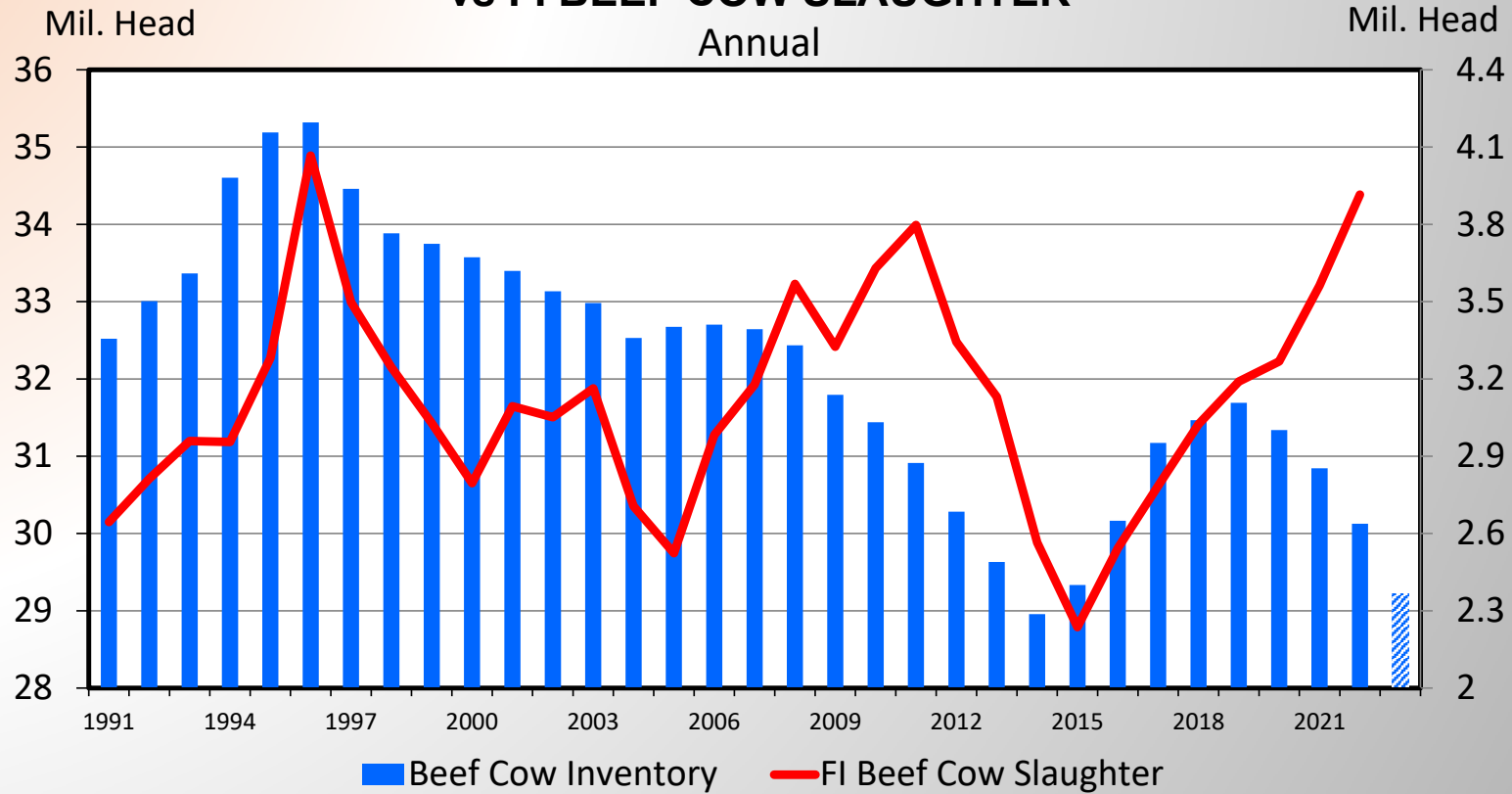
	2019	2020	2021	% Change 2020-2021	YTD % Change 2021-2022
Steers	16298	15856	16145	+1.8	-1.6
Heifers	9819	9445	9827	<b>+4.0</b>	<b>+5.0</b>
S+H Total	26821	26738	27484	+2.7	+0.9
Dairy Cows	3224	3064	3106	+1.4	-2.8
Beef Cows	3190	3268	3562	<b>+9.0</b>	<b>+12.8</b>
Cows Total	6414	6331	6669	+5.3	+5.4
Bulls	539	518	544	+5.0	+4.0
Total	33069	32151	33184	+3.2	+1.6

Latest data: October 8, 2022

# Female Slaughter as % of Cattle Slaughter



## US BEEF COW INVENTORY vs FI BEEF COW SLAUGHTER

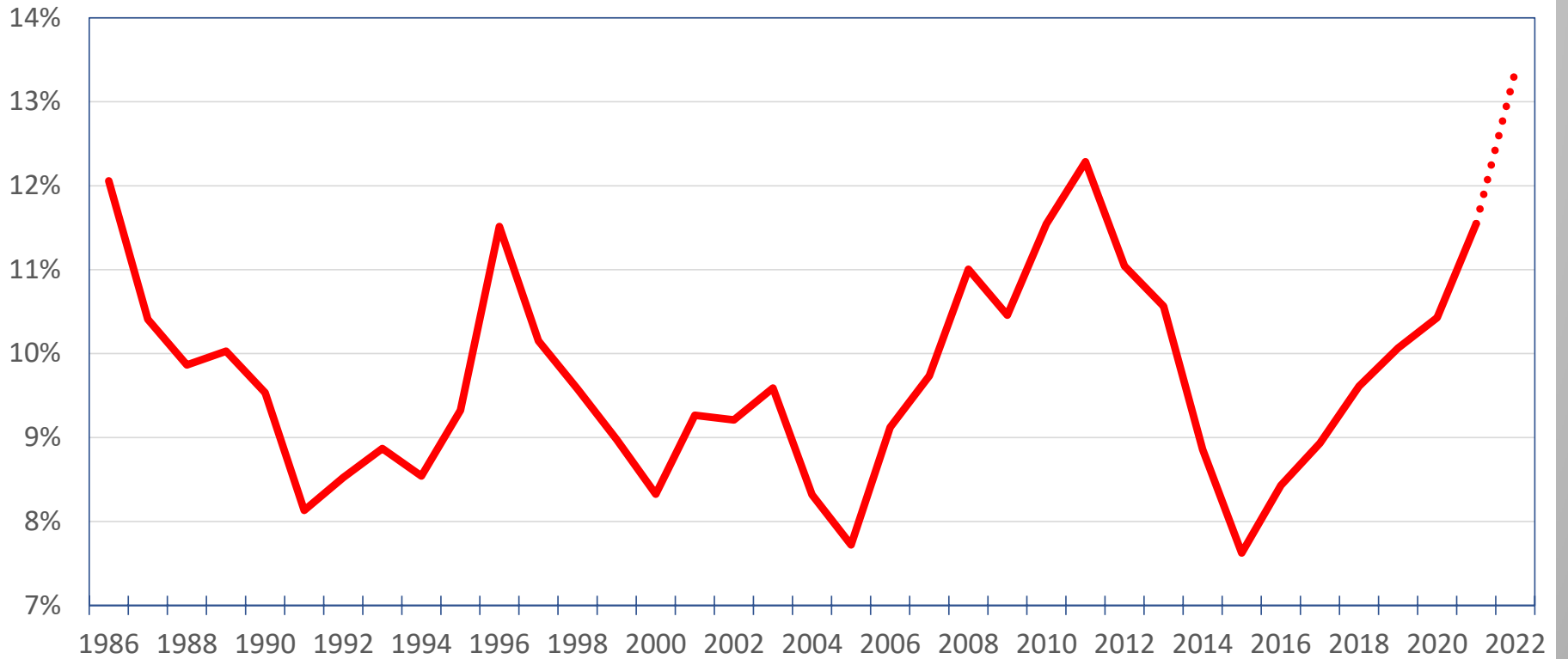


Data Source: USDA-NASS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

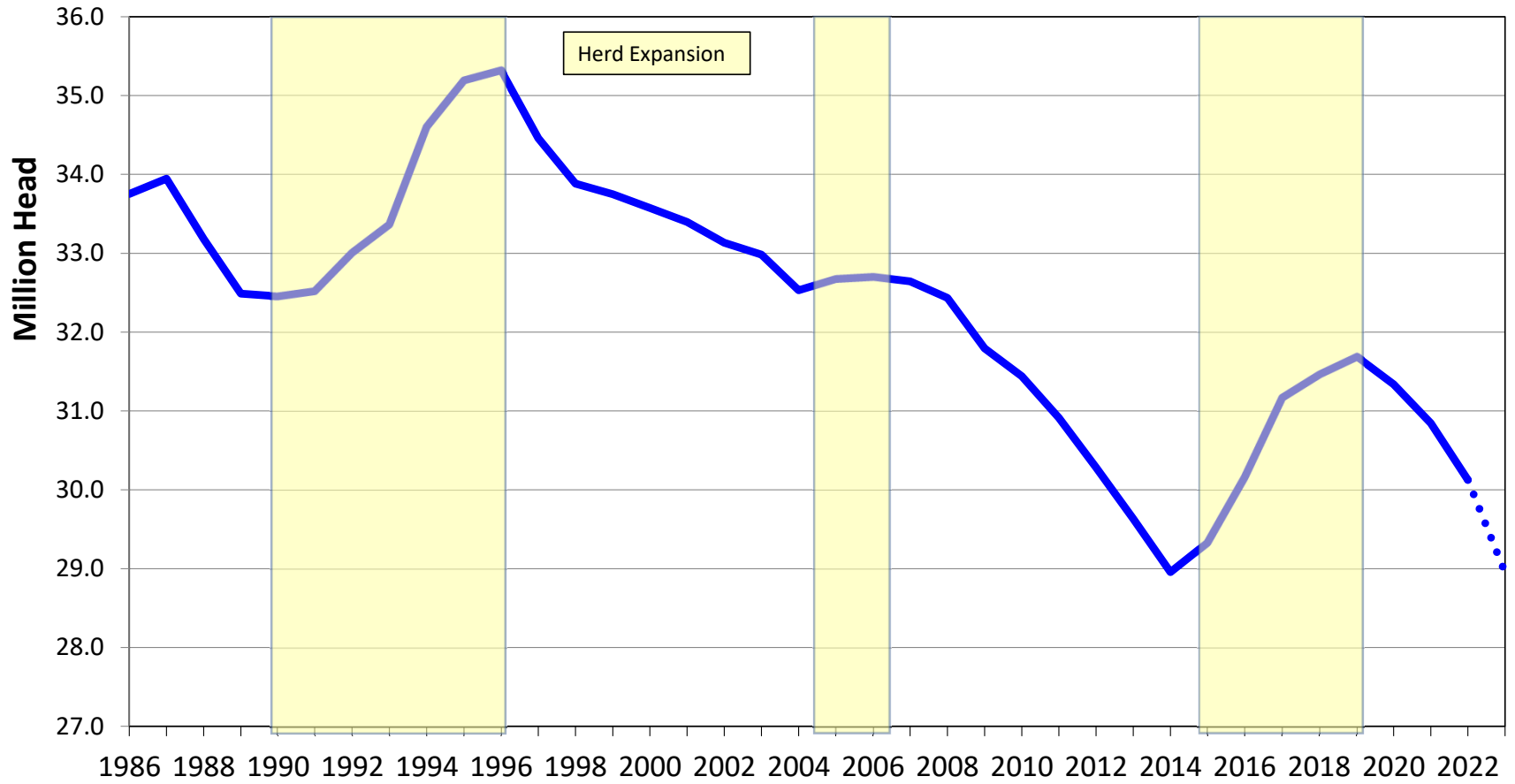
C-S-28  
02/01/22

# Beef Herd Culling

Beef Cow Slaughter as % of Beef Cow Inventory

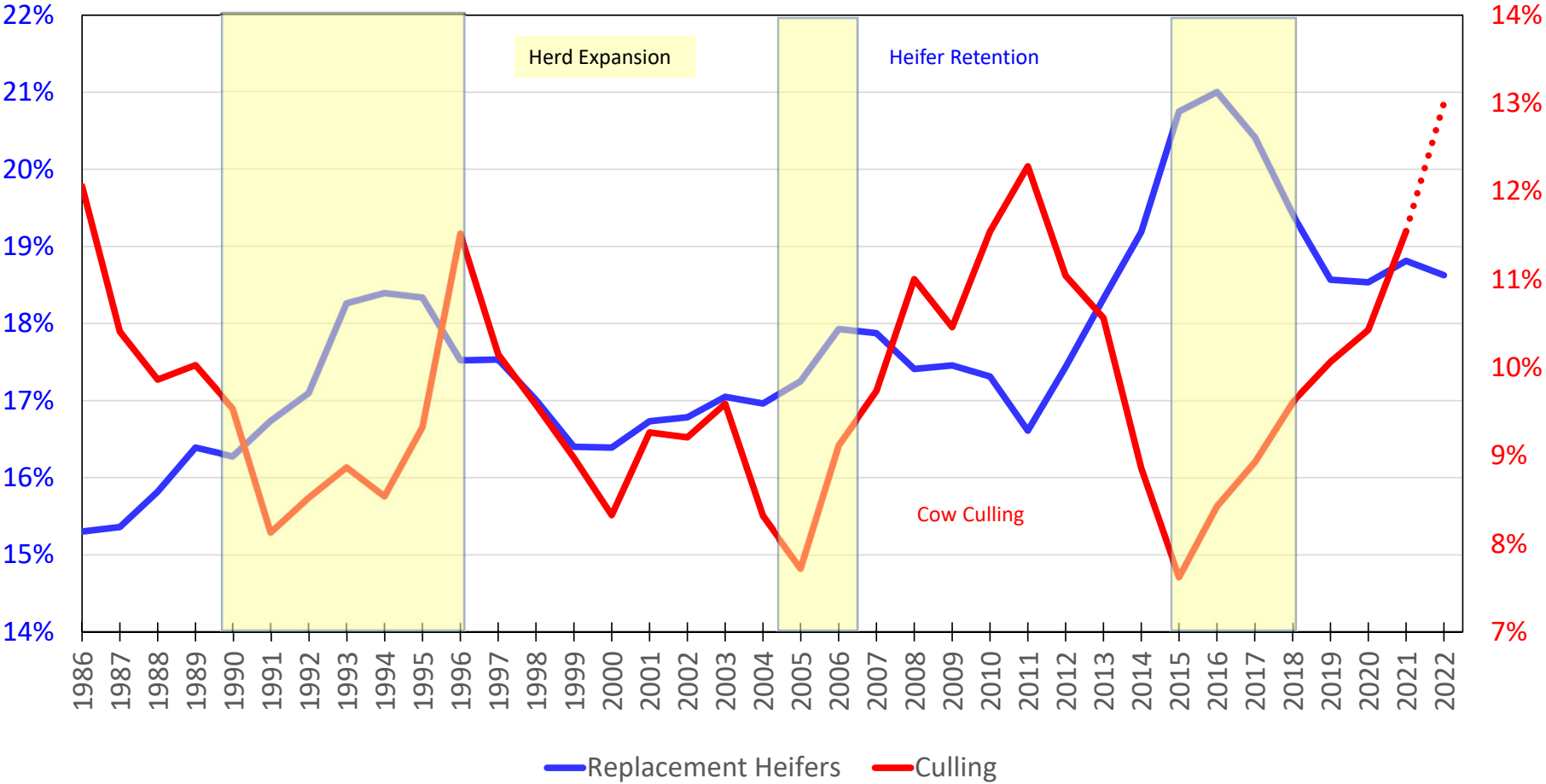


# U.S. Beef Cow Inventory

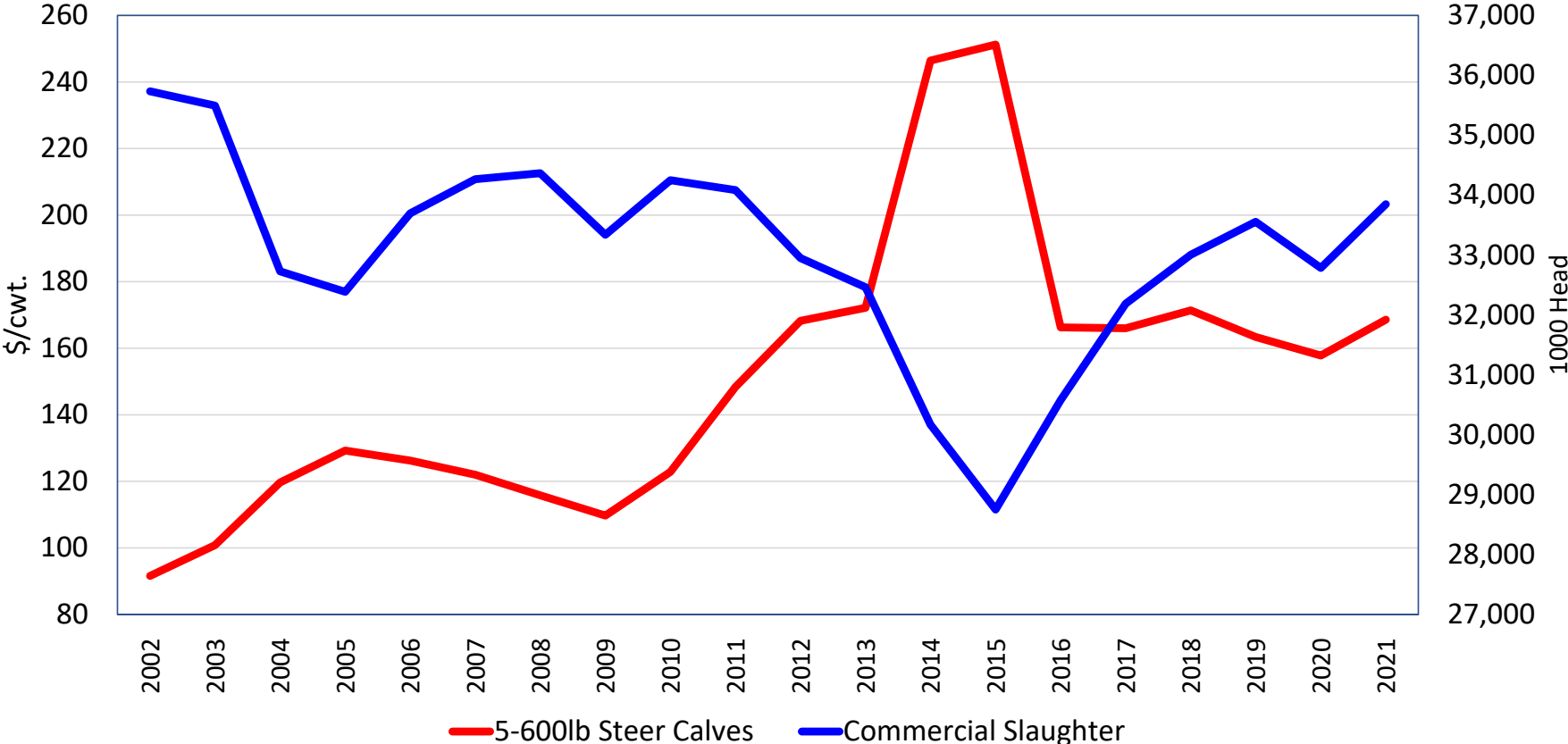


# Heifer Retention and Cow Culling

As % of January 1 Beef Cow Inventory

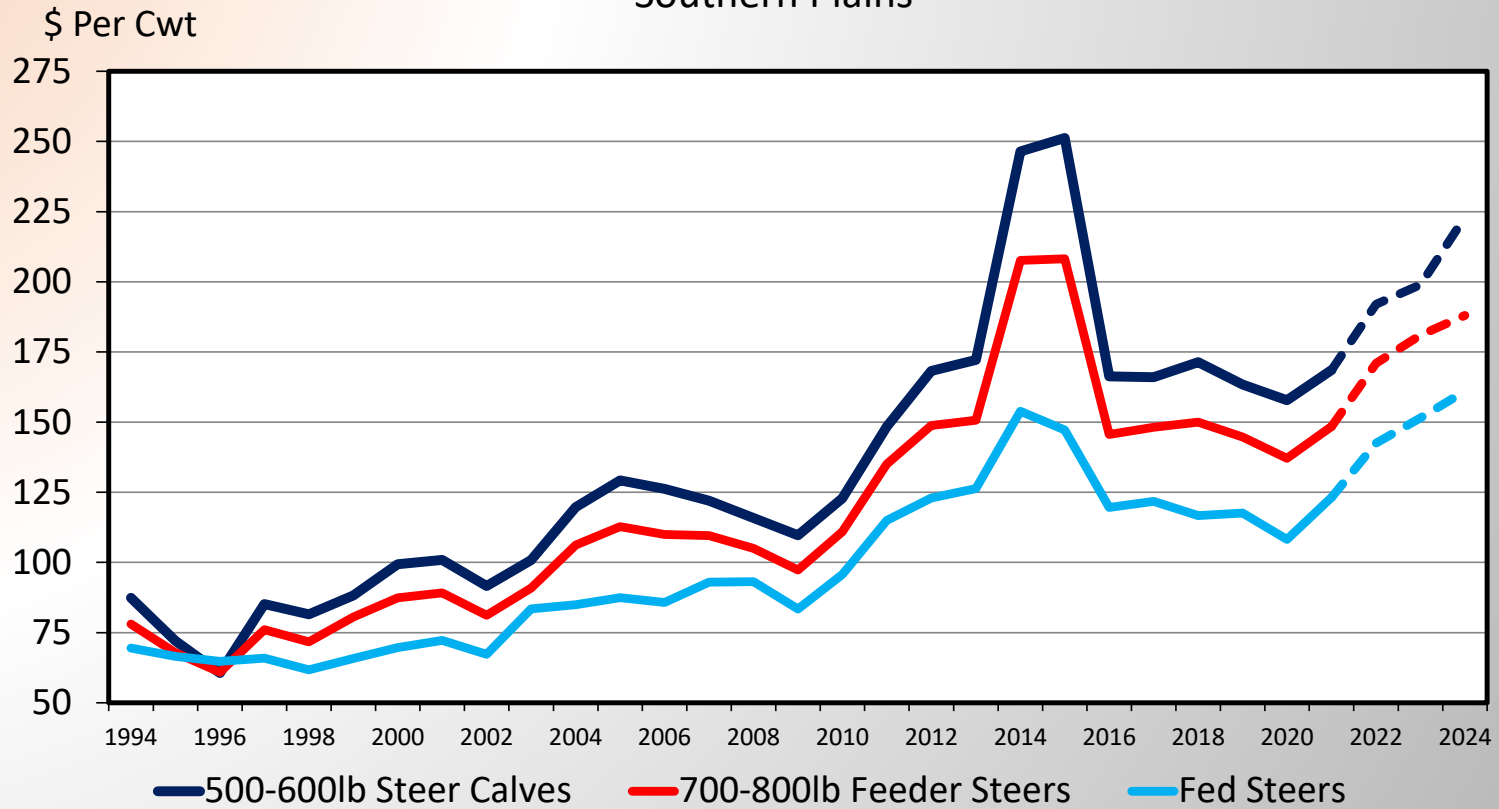


# Calf Price and Cattle Slaughter



## AVERAGE ANNUAL CATTLE PRICES

### Southern Plains

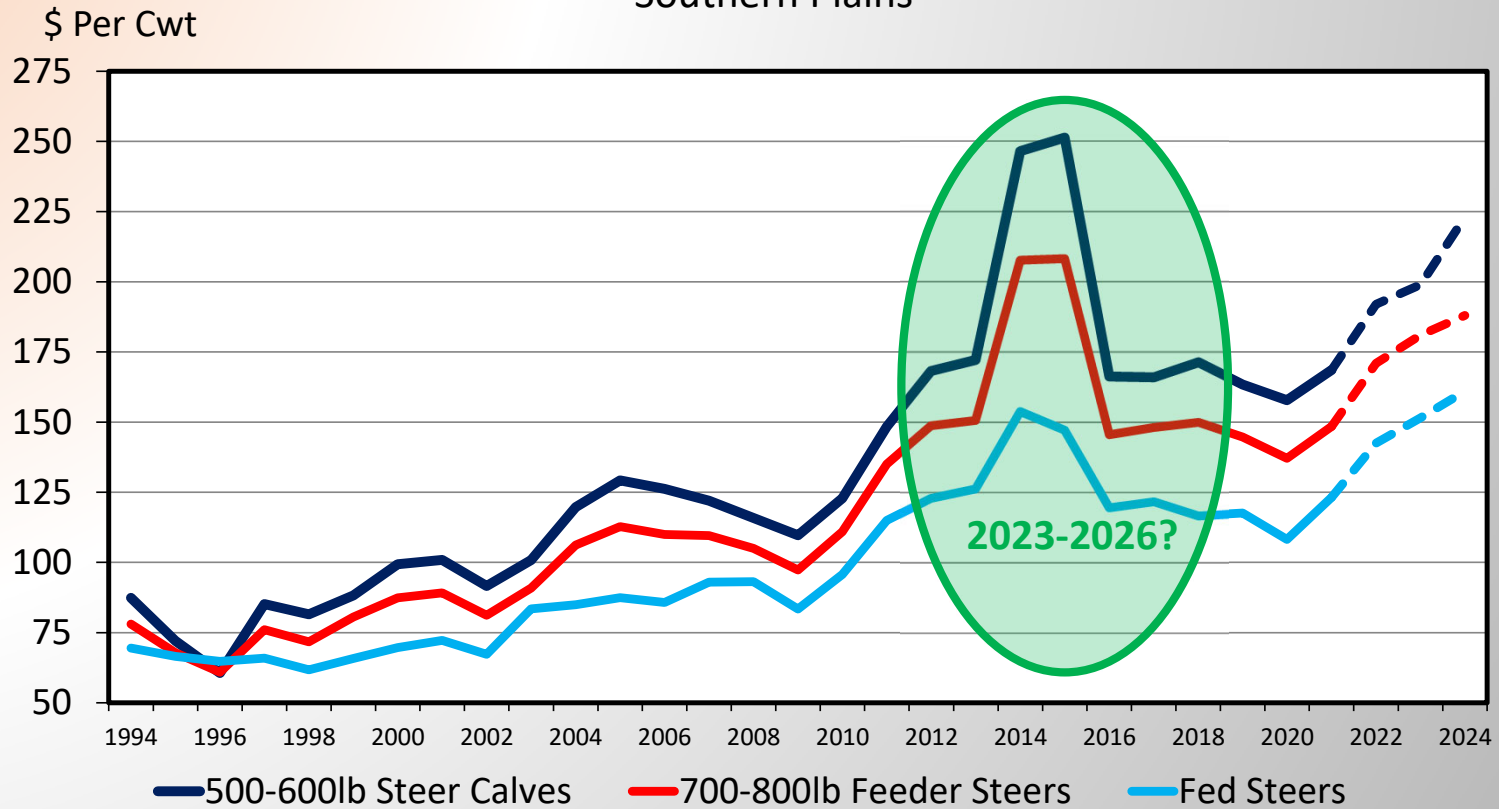


Data Source: USDA-AMS, Compiled and Forecasts by LMIC  
 Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-P-06  
 08/24/22



## AVERAGE ANNUAL CATTLE PRICES Southern Plains

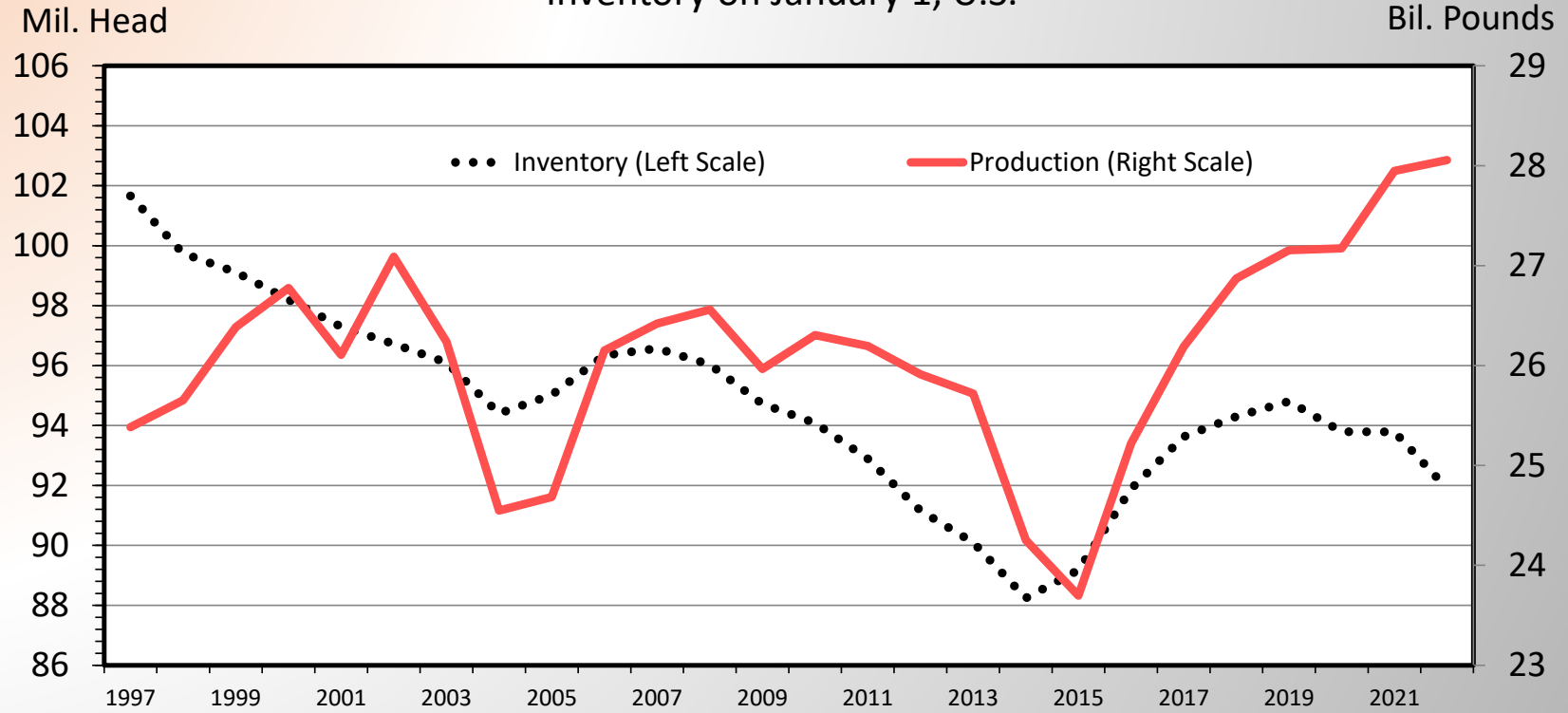


Data Source: USDA-AMS, Compiled and Forecasts by LMIC  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-P-06  
08/24/22

# BEEF PRODUCTION vs. CATTLE INVENTORY

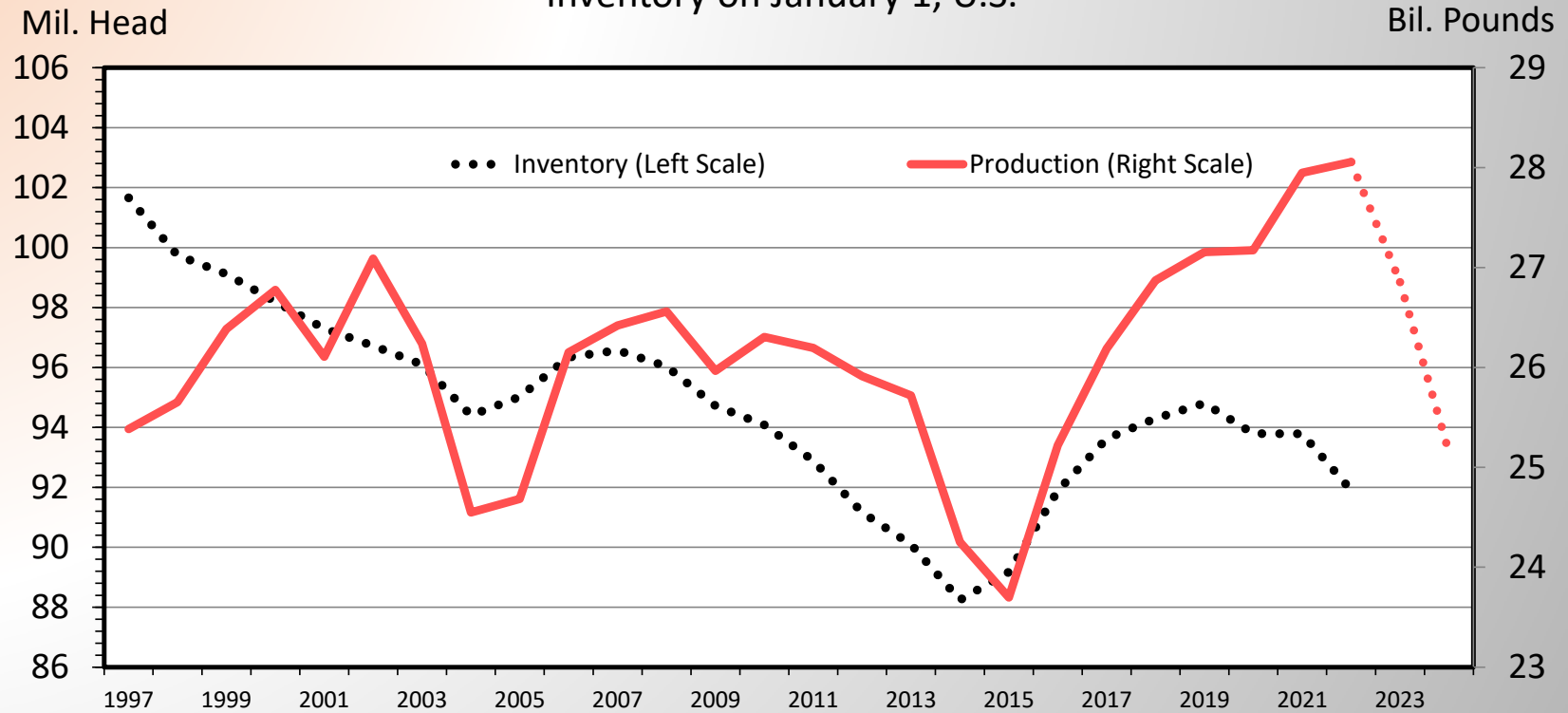
Inventory on January 1, U.S.



Data Source: USDA-NASS, Compiled & Forecasts by LMIC  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

# BEEF PRODUCTION vs. CATTLE INVENTORY

Inventory on January 1, U.S.



Data Source: USDA-NASS, Compiled & Forecasts by LMIC  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

## Beef Industry Looking to the Future

- Current decisions determined by drought and feed costs.
- Incredible current domestic demand with record-large supplies.
- Strong potential long-term global market potential.
- But domestic and global economic uncertainties.
- Industry infrastructure needs versus possibilities.
- Differences between long-term vision and short-term feasibility.

**Stephen.Koontz@colostate.edu**