

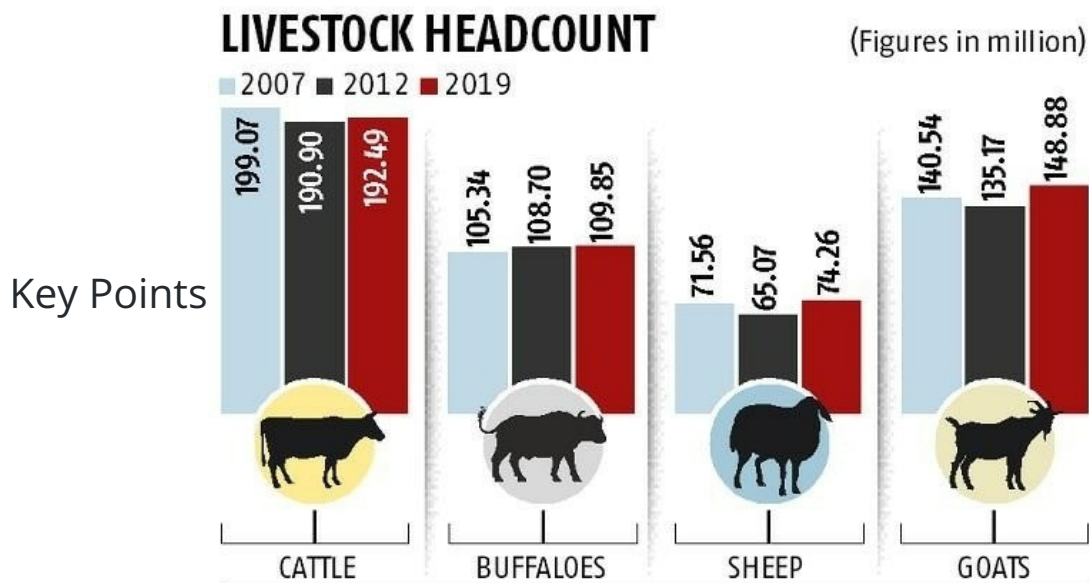


20th Livestock Census

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Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying has released the **20th Livestock Census report** recently.

The release provides key results reflecting the aggregate counts of various species as well as its comparison with the previous census.



Key Points

- The **total Livestock population** is 535.78 million in the country showing an **increase of 4.6% over Livestock Census-2012**.
West Bengal observed the **highest increase of 23%**, followed by **Telangana (22%)**.
- The **total number of cattle** in the country has shown an **increase of 0.8 %**.
 - The increase is mainly driven by a **sharp increase in cross-bred cattle** and **higher female indigenous cattle** population.
 - **Uttar Pradesh** has observed a **maximum decrease in cattle population** though the state has taken several steps to save cattle.
 - **West Bengal** has seen the **highest rise of 15%** in cattle population.

- The population of the **total exotic/crossbred cattle** has **increased by 27%**.
 - Cross-bred animals contributed around **28% to India's total milk production in 2018-19**.
 - The **milch population** of exotic and crossbred cattle such as **Jersey or Holsteins** shows higher milk yields and thus farmers prefer animals yielding more milk.
- A **decline of 6%** in the total **indigenous cattle** population has been observed.
 - India's indigenous cattle numbers **continue to decline**, notwithstanding the government's efforts to promote conservation of desi breeds through the **Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM)**.
 - The **sharpest fall** has been observed in the states (Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, etc.) with **tough cow slaughter laws**.
- The **total milch animals** have shown an **increase of 6%**.
 - Due to higher yields, foreign breeds constitute more than half the population of milch animals.
 - The **more the number of animals that produce milk**, the more would be **pressure on land** and fiercer would be **competition between man and animals for survival**.
 - The figures show that nearly 75% of total cattle in the country are female (cows) - a clear sign of dairy farmers' preferences for milk-producing cattle. This also gained momentum in the past couple of years due to the government's assistance in terms of providing sex-sorted artificial insemination (AI), with semen of high-yielding bulls, free of cost at farmers' doorstep.
- The **backyard poultry** has **increased by around 46%**.
The sharp increase in backyard poultry is a **significant change** in the **rural landscape** which shows a sign of **poverty alleviation**.
- Total **Bovine population** (Cattle, Buffalo, Mithun and Yak) has shown an **increase of about 1%**.
- The population of sheep, goat and Mithun **grew in double digits** while the count of horses and ponies, pigs, camels, donkeys, mules and yaks **declined**.

The Livestock Census

- The Livestock Census has been conducted in the country periodically since **1919-20**. Since then it has been conducted **once every 5 years**.
- It covers all domesticated animals and their headcounts.
- So far 19 such censuses have been conducted by the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**, in participation with State Governments and UT Administrations.
- The household-level data through online transmission from the field has been used for the first time in 20th Livestock Census.

- The census is beneficial not just for policymakers but also for agriculturists, traders, entrepreneurs, dairying industry and masses in general.

Source: PIB