



Released April 20, 2018, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

United States Cattle on Feed Up 7 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.7 million head on April 1, 2018. The inventory was 7 percent above April 1, 2017. This is the second highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.54 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.19 million head, up 14 percent from 2017.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.92 million head, 9 percent below 2017. Net placements were 1.85 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 315,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 285,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 530,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 531,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 185,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 75,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.84 million head, 4 percent below 2017.

Other disappearance totaled 67,000 head during March, 20 percent above 2017.

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2017 and 2018

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2017	2018	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1	10,772	11,715	109
Placed on feed during March	2,117	1,921	91
Fed cattle marketed during March	1,914	1,840	96
Other disappearance during March	56	67	120
On feed April 1	10,919	11,729	107

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2017 and 2018

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2017	2018	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1	10,782	11,630	108
Placed on feed during February	1,694	1,817	107
Fed cattle marketed during February	1,648	1,675	102
Other disappearance during February	56	57	102
On feed March 1	10,772	11,715	109

Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2017 and 2018

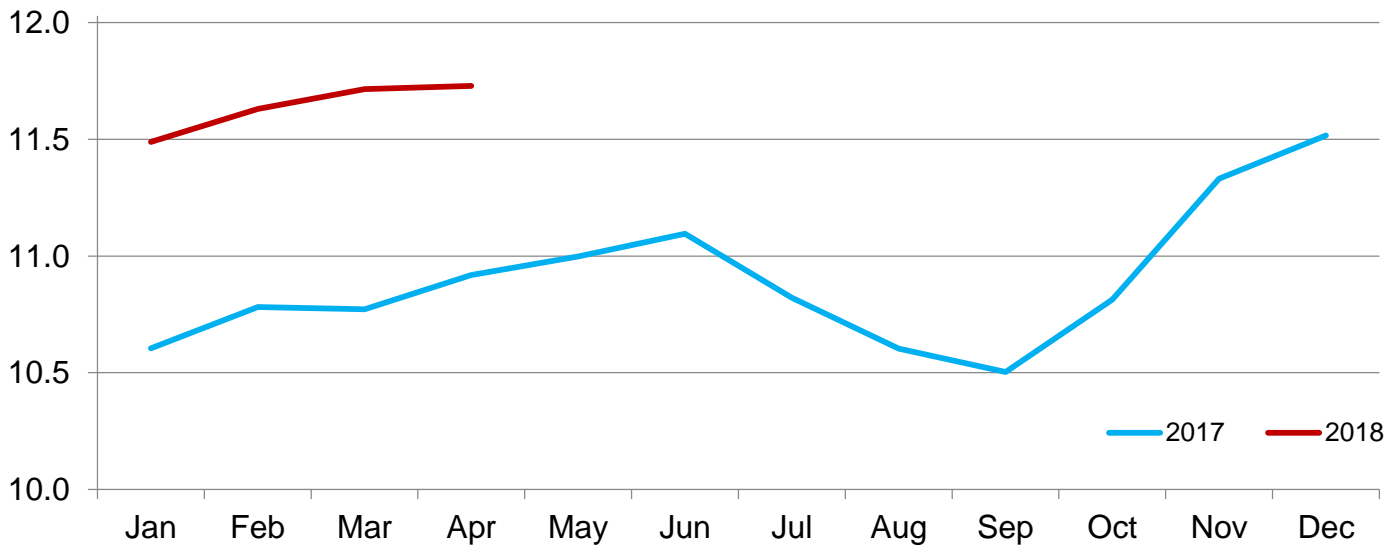
Item	Number		Percent of	
	2017	2018	previous year	inventory
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed April 1				
Steers and steer calves	7,240	7,535	104	64
Heifers and heifer calves	3,679	4,194	114	36

Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2017 and 2018

State	April 1, 2017	March 1, 2018	April 1, 2018		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	239	285	294	123	103
California	415	490	500	120	102
Colorado	940	950	950	101	100
Idaho	260	255	250	96	98
Iowa	670	730	740	110	101
Kansas	2,260	2,350	2,340	104	100
Minnesota	160	165	160	100	97
Nebraska	2,460	2,690	2,690	109	100
Oklahoma	300	315	310	103	98
South Dakota	250	270	260	104	96
Texas	2,460	2,680	2,700	110	101
Washington	195	210	210	108	100
Other States	310	325	325	105	100
United States	10,919	11,715	11,729	107	100

Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head

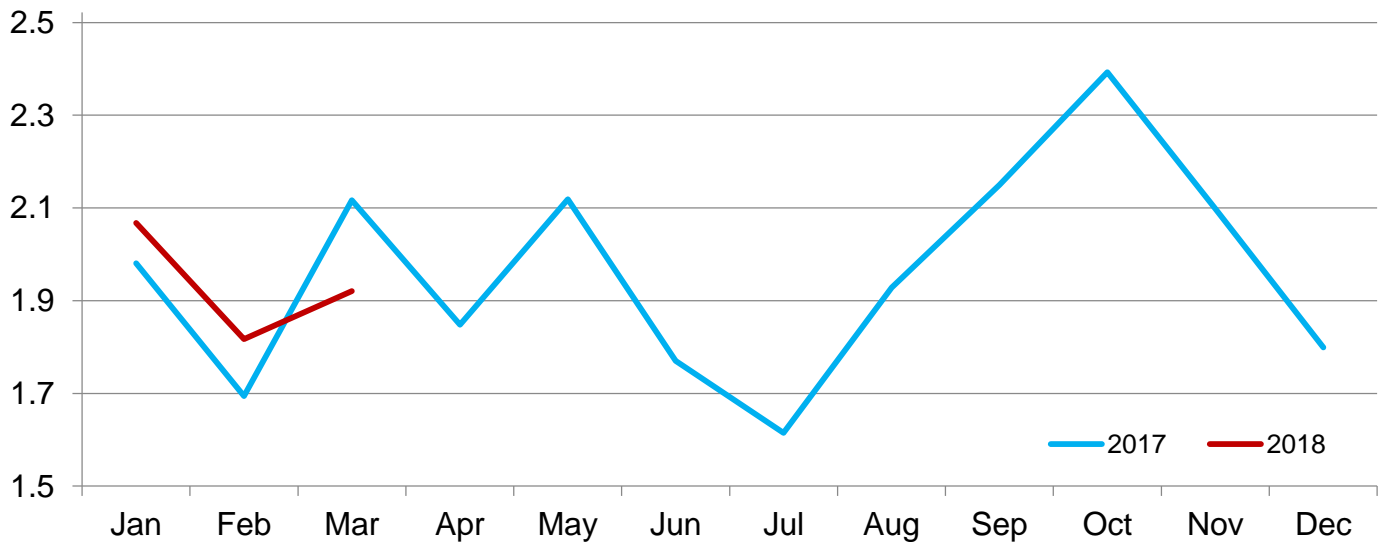


Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2017 and 2018

State	During March 2017	During February 2018	During March 2018		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	26	30	34	131	113
California	59	59	68	115	115
Colorado	205	165	165	80	100
Idaho	46	34	29	63	85
Iowa	116	118	107	92	91
Kansas	490	420	405	83	96
Minnesota	23	16	17	74	106
Nebraska	495	440	480	97	109
Oklahoma	73	46	53	73	115
South Dakota	39	46	27	69	59
Texas	460	365	455	99	125
Washington	42	36	29	69	81
Other States	43	42	52	121	124
United States	2,117	1,817	1,921	91	106

Cattle Placed on 1000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head



Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots and Month – States and United States: 2017 and 2018

State	During March 2017							
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800-899 lbs (1,000 head)	900+ lbs ¹ (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	30	30	65	55	25	(D)	(D)	205
Kansas	60	75	150	145	60	(D)	(D)	490
Nebraska	50	65	135	150	95	(D)	(D)	495
Texas	110	75	140	110	25	(D)	(D)	460
Other States ...	100	50	140	130	47	(D)	(D)	467
United States ..	350	295	630	590	(X)	185	67	2,117
State	During February 2018							
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800-899 lbs (1,000 head)	900+ lbs ¹ (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	20	35	40	45	25	(D)	(D)	165
Kansas	45	70	155	105	45	(D)	(D)	420
Nebraska	30	75	140	125	70	(D)	(D)	440
Texas	125	80	90	55	15	(D)	(D)	365
Other States ...	105	75	112	90	45	(D)	(D)	427
United States ..	325	335	537	420	(X)	150	50	1,817
State	During March 2018							
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800-899 lbs (1,000 head)	900+ lbs ¹ (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	25	25	40	50	25	(D)	(D)	165
Kansas	40	55	125	125	60	(D)	(D)	405
Nebraska	35	75	115	150	105	(D)	(D)	480
Texas	115	85	135	95	25	(D)	(D)	455
Other States ...	100	45	115	111	45	(D)	(D)	416
United States ..	315	285	530	531	(X)	185	75	1,921

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(X) Not applicable.

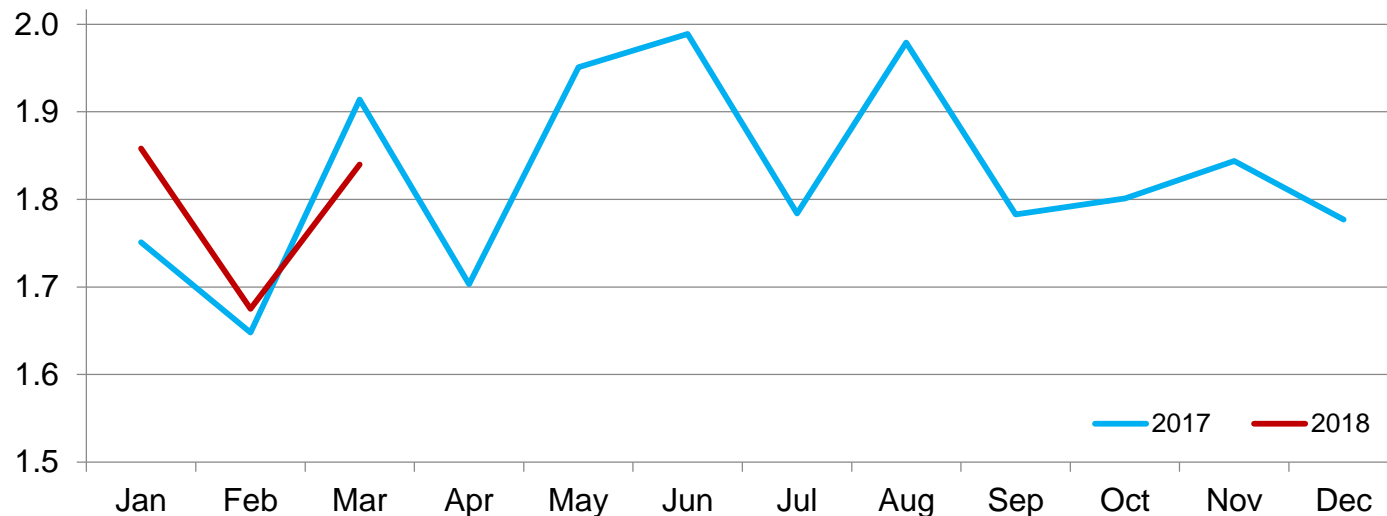
¹ The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2017 and 2018

State	During March 2017 (1,000 head)	During February 2018 (1,000 head)	During March 2018		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
			Arizona	28	24
California	62	51	55	89	108
Colorado	170	170	160	94	94
Idaho	34	36	32	94	89
Iowa	93	106	93	100	88
Kansas	430	380	400	93	105
Minnesota	22	20	21	95	105
Nebraska	465	410	465	100	113
Oklahoma	67	50	57	85	114
South Dakota	38	35	36	95	103
Texas	425	320	420	99	131
Washington	30	30	28	93	93
Other States	50	43	49	98	114
United States	1,914	1,675	1,840	96	110

Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head



Cattle Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2017 and 2018

State	During March 2017 (1,000 head)	During February 2018 (1,000 head)	During March 2018		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	2	3	3	150	100
Colorado	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho	2	3	2	100	67
Iowa	3	2	4	133	200
Kansas	10	10	15	150	150
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	10	10	15	150	150
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	1	1	1	100	100
Texas	15	15	15	100	100
Washington	2	1	1	50	100
Other States	3	4	3	100	75
United States	56	57	67	120	118

**Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States:
2017 and 2018**

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Apr 1, 2017	Jan 1, 2018	Apr 1, 2018	Apr 1, 2017	Jan 1, 2018	Apr 1, 2018
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona	228	258	284	11	11	10
California	390	440	450	25	50	50
Colorado	605	565	535	335	405	415
Idaho	180	175	170	80	80	80
Iowa	500	530	540	170	170	200
Kansas	1,230	1,190	1,240	1,030	1,100	1,100
Minnesota	132	127	131	28	33	29
Nebraska	1,640	1,640	1,760	820	970	930
Oklahoma	185	185	165	115	130	145
South Dakota	145	145	150	105	105	110
Texas	1,680	1,730	1,760	780	910	940
Washington	125	140	140	70	70	70
Other States	200	210	210	110	120	115
United States	7,240	7,335	7,535	3,679	4,154	4,194

Terms and Definitions of Cattle on Feed Estimates

Cattle on feed are steers and heifers being fed a ration of grain, silage, hay and/or protein supplement for slaughter market that are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. It excludes cattle being "backgrounded only" for later sale as feeders or later placement in another feedlot.

Placements are steers and heifers put into a feedlot, fed a ration which will produce a carcass that will grade select or better, and are intended for the slaughter market.

Marketings are steers and heifers shipped out of feedlots to a slaughter market.

Other disappearance includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Statistical Methodology

Survey Procedures: During January and July all known feedlots in the United States with capacity of 1,000 or more head are surveyed to provide data for cattle on feed estimates. During the other months, all known feedlots from 16 States are surveyed. The 16 States account for approximately 98 percent of the cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head. Individual State estimates are published monthly for 12 of the 16 States. Data collected from the remaining 4 States are used to establish the "Other States" estimates. These 4 States include Illinois, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wyoming. The "Other States" category represents all cattle on feed with a capacity of 1,000 or more head for the rest of the United States.

Estimating Procedures: These cattle on feed estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing recommendations and analysis submitted by Regional Field Offices. Regional and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other and with estimates from the previous month when establishing the current estimates.

Revision Policy: Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve month to month relationships. Estimates for the previous month are subject to revision in all States each month when current estimates are made. In February, all monthly estimates for the previous year, and the number of feedlots and annual marketings from two years ago are reviewed and subject to revisions. The reviews are primarily based on slaughter data, state check-off or brand data, and any other data that may have been received after the original estimate was made. Estimates will also be reviewed after data from the *Census of Agriculture* are available. No revisions will be made after that date and estimates become final.

Reliability: Since all 1,000+ capacity cattle on feed operators in every State are not included in the monthly survey, survey estimates are subject to sampling variability. Survey results are also subject to non-sampling errors such as omissions, duplications, and mistakes in reporting, recording, and processing the data. The effects of these errors cannot be measured directly. They are minimized through rigid quality controls in the data collection process and through a careful review of all reported data for consistency and reasonableness.

To assist users in evaluating the reliability of estimates in this report, the "**Root Mean Square Error**" is shown for selected items in the table on the following page. The "Root Mean Square Error" is a statistical measure based on past performance and is computed using the differences between first and latest estimates. The "Root Mean Square Error" for cattle on feed inventory estimates over the past 24 months is 0.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 11.7 million head by more than 0.0 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.1 percent.

The table on the following page shows a 24 month record of the range of differences between first and latest estimates for selected items. Using estimates of number on feed as an example, changes between the first estimate and the latest estimate during the past 24 months have averaged 1,000 head, ranging from 0 to 15,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 1 time and has been below the latest estimate 2 times. This does not imply that the initial estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

Reliability of Monthly Cattle on Feed Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level	Difference between first and latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Number on feed	0.0	0.1	1	0	15	2	1
Placements	0.2	0.4	2	0	15	2	2
Marketings	0.1	0.2	0	0	10	0	1

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov.

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-0585
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Heidi Gleich – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (PDF), found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.



USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting
Tuesday, April 24, 2018

University of Chicago – Gleacher Center
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312-464-8787

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2018 Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies – Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will provide updates on recent and pending changes in statistical and information programs important to agriculture, answer questions, and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website (https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php). Contact Tina Hall (NASS) at 202-720-3896 or tina.hall@nass.usda.gov or Patricia Snipe (NASS) at 202-720-2248 or patricia.snipe@nass.usda.gov for information.

The Data Users' Meeting precedes the Industry Outlook Conference at the same location on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. The outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss developments and trends. For registration details or additional information about the Industry Outlook Conference, see the conference page on the LMIC website (<http://lmic.info/page/meetings>) or contact James Robb at 303-716-9933.