U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.9 million head on March 1, 2008. The inventory was 2 percent above March 1, 2007 but 1 percent below March 1, 2006. This is the second highest March 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.72 million, 4 percent above 2007 and 9 percent above 2006. Net placements were 1.66 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 330,000, 600-699 pounds were 385,000, 700-799 pounds were 533,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 475,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.78 million, 4 percent above 2007 and 11 percent above 2006.

Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during February, 20 percent below 2007 and 18 percent below 2006.
Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, United States, March 1, 2006-2008

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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<tr>
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</table>

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

² Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

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Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, United States, February 1, 2006-2008

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<tr>
<th>Item</th>
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</tbody>
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¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

² Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.
### Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States 2007-2008

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#### Notes:

1. Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

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### United States Cattle on Feed

#### 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots

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## Cattle on Feed: Number Placed on Feed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States 2007-2008

### United States Cattle on Feed

**1,000+ Capacity Feedlots Number Placed**

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### State Cattle on Feed

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### Cattle on Feed: Number Placed on Feed by Weight Group, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2007-2008

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### Cattle on Feed: Number Marketed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States 2007-2008

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<td>1,776</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>96</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
United States Cattle on Feed
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots Number Marketed

Cattle on Feed: Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States 2007-2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>During Feb 2007</th>
<th>During Jan 2008</th>
<th>During Feb 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,000 Head</td>
<td>1,000 Head</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CA</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CO</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KS</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NE</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NM</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OK</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SD</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WA</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oth Sts</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.
Terms and Definitions of Cattle on Feed Estimates

**Cattle on feed** are animals 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 cattle 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 cattle 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.

Reliability of Cattle on Feed Estimates

**Survey Procedures:** During January and July all known feedlots in the U.S. 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 17 States are surveyed. The 17 States account for 98 percent of the cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head.

**Estimating Procedures:** These cattle on feed estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing recommendations and analysis submitted by each State office. Regional and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other and with estimates from the previous month when setting 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 following table. 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 10 years is .1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be
above or below the current estimate of 11.9 million head by more than .1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed .2 percent.

The following table also shows a 10 year 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 10 years have averaged 7,000 head, ranging from 0 to 25,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been below the final estimate 5 times, and above the final estimate 0 times. This does not imply that the initial estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Root Mean Square Error</th>
<th>90% Confidence Level</th>
<th>Difference Between First and Final Estimates</th>
<th>Number of Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percent (000 Head)</td>
<td>Percent (000 Head)</td>
<td>1,000 Head 1,000 Head 1,000 Head</td>
<td>Number</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percent</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>Smallest Largest First Above Final First Below Final</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number on Feed</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placements</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketings</td>
<td>0.8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Based on data for the past 10 years.

**Information Contacts**

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch ................................................................. (202) 720-3570

**Livestock Section**

Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section ................................................................. (202) 690-2424
Bruce Boess - Hogs and Pigs ................................................................. (202) 720-3106
Jim Collom - Dairy Products ................................................................. (202) 690-3236
Joe Gaynor - Dairy Products Prices ................................................................. (202) 690-2168
Jason Hardegree - Milk Production and Milk Cows ............................................. (202) 720-3278
Benita Hodge - Livestock Slaughter ................................................................. (515) 284-4340
Scott Hollis - Sheep and Goats ................................................................. (202) 690-2424
Mike Miller - Cattle, Cattle on Feed ................................................................. (202) 720-3040
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