

Cattle on Feed



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Released April 24, 1992, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Inventory estimates refer to April 1, 1992. Placement and marketing estimates refer to the month of March and the quarter of January through March 1992.

Cattle on Feed Down 10 Percent in 13 Quarterly States

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 9.70 million head, down 10 percent from a year ago and 4 percent below April 1, 1990. The inventory included 6.33 million steers and steer calves, 10 percent below a year ago. This group accounts for 65.3 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.31 million head, 9 percent below a year ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the January-March 1992 quarter totaled 5.39 million, down 5 percent from last year and 10 percent below January-March 1990. Net placements of 4.99 million for January-March was down 5 percent from last year and 11 percent from 1990.

Marketings of fed cattle during the January-March 1992 quarter totaled 5.42 million, up 2 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago.

Other disappearance totaled 404,000 head compared to 462,000 in January-March 1991 and 385,000 in January-March 1990.

Index is located at the end of this report. For information call Glenda Shepler (202) 720-3040. Office hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ET.

Expected Marketings for April-June 1992 Down 3 Percent

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.67 million head during the April-June quarter of 1992. This would be down 3 percent from the second quarter marketings in 1991 and 5 percent below 1990.

This report contains revisions that slightly decreased the previous quarter's inventory.

Cattle on Feed in 7 Monthly States Down 10 Percent

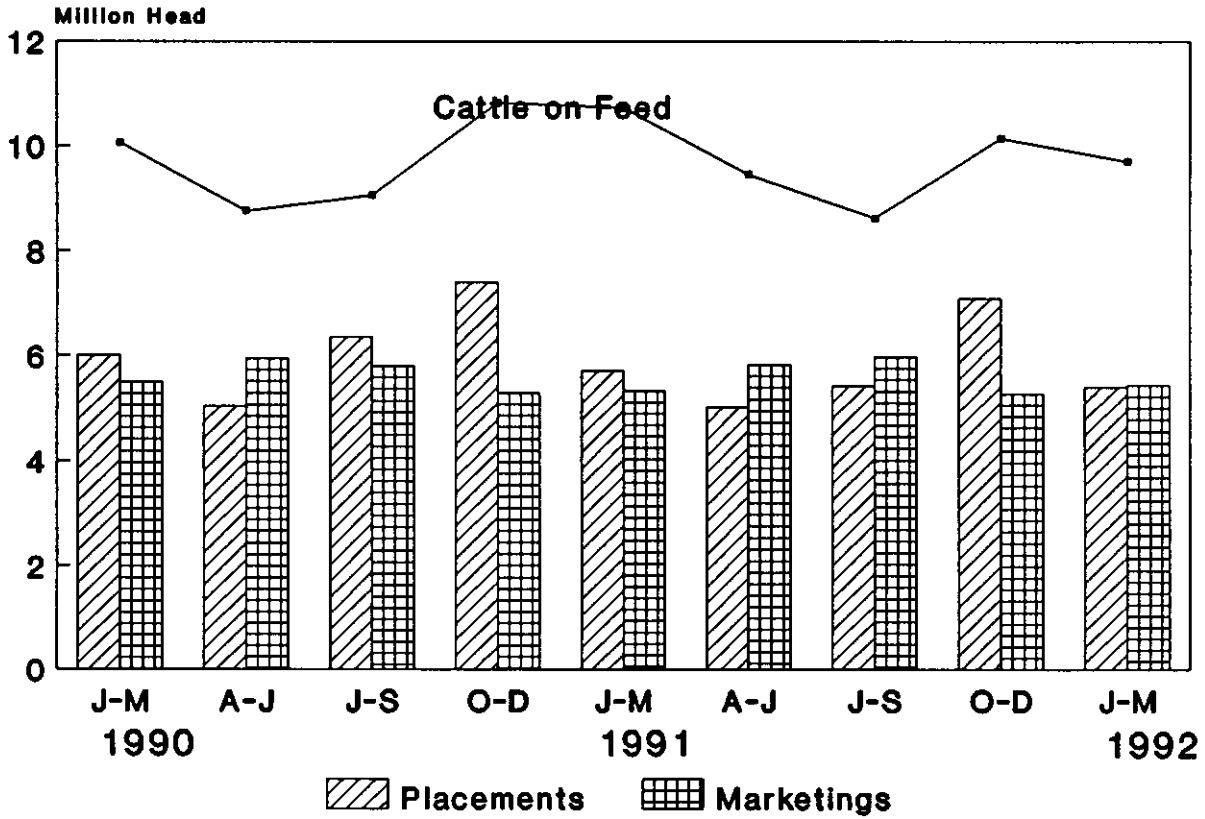
Cattle on feed April 1, 1992, in 7 monthly States totaled 8.02 million, down 10 percent from previous year and 5 percent below two years ago. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.50 million, 12 percent below 1991 and 20 percent below 1990.

Marketings during March totaled 1.52 million, up 1 percent from a year ago but 4 percent below 1990.

Other disappearance during March was 117,000 head, 15 percent below last year and 2 percent below 1990.

January-March 1992 quarterly marketings for the 7 States, at 4.60 million, was up 1 percent from 1991 but 2 percent below 1990. Marketings for the 7 States during the January-March quarter accounted for 85 percent of the 13 State total. Expected 7 State marketings for the April-June 1992 quarter are estimated at 4.79 million, down 4 percent from last year and 6 percent below 1990.

Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings By Quarters For 13 States



Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other Disappearance
By Quarters, 13 States

Date	Inventory	Current Quarter		
		Placements	Marketings	Other Disappearance
1,000 Head				
Jan 1, 1990	9,943	6,003	5,498	385
Apr 1, 1990	10,063	5,041	5,943	400
Jul 1, 1990	8,761	6,358	5,796	261
Oct 1, 1990	9,062	7,401	5,289	347
Jan 1, 1991	10,827	5,702	5,328	462
Apr 1, 1991	10,739	5,006	5,820	464
Jul 1, 1991	9,461	5,414	5,973	282
Oct 1, 1991	8,620	7,086	5,262	309
Jan 1, 1992	*10,135	5,393	5,421	404
Apr 1, 1992	9,703			

* Revised.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and
Other Disappearance, 13 States, Jan 1 - Apr 1, 1990-92

Item	Number			: 1992 as % of	
	1990	1991	1992	1990	1991
	----- 1,000 Head -----			Percent	
On Feed Jan 1 -----	9,943	10,827	*10,135	102	94
Placed on Feed Jan 1 - Mar 31 <u>1</u> /-	6,003	5,702	5,393	90	95
Fed Cattle Marketed Jan 1 - Mar 31 <u>1</u> /-	5,498	5,328	5,421	99	102
Other Disappearance Jan 1 - Mar 31 <u>2</u> /-	385	462	404	105	87
On Feed Apr 1 -----	10,063	10,739	9,703	96	90
Kinds on Feed Apr 1					
Steers and Steer Calves -----	6,438	7,023	6,334	98	90
Heifers and Heifer Calves -----	3,562	3,660	3,314	93	91
Cows and Other -----	63	56	55	87	98
Number on Feed by Weight Groups Apr 1					
Steers and Steer Calves					
Less Than 500 Pounds -----	171	175	191	112	109
500-699 Pounds -----	770	787	801	104	102
700-899 Pounds -----	2,511	2,683	2,342	93	87
900-1,099 Pounds -----	2,389	2,604	2,226	93	85
1,100 Pounds and Over -----	597	774	774	130	100
Heifers and Heifer Calves					
Less Than 500 Pounds -----	79	80	80	101	100
500-699 Pounds -----	717	704	620	86	88
700-899 Pounds -----	1,802	1,783	1,524	85	85
900-1099 Pounds -----	885	972	886	100	91
1,100 Pounds and Over -----	79	121	204	258	169
Marketings Apr - Jun <u>3</u> / -----	5,943	5,820	5,670	95	97

- 1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter.
- 2/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.
- 3/ Total marketings including those placed on feed after Apr 1 and marketed before Jun 30 for previous years; expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after Apr 1 and marketed before Jun 30 for current year.
- * Revised.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed by Quarter, State,
and 13 State Total, Apr 1, 1991, Jan 1, and Apr 1, 1992 1/

State	Apr 1, 1991		Jan 1, 1992		Apr 1, 1992 <u>1/</u>	
	Number		Number		as % of 1991	
	----- 1,000 Head -----				Percent	
AZ	201	217	203	101		
CA	380	380	325	86		
CO	930	930	910	98		
ID	275	280	260	95		
IL	345	340	295	86		
IA	1,070	880	840	79		
KS	1,760	1,820	1,810	103		
MN	340	310	320	94		
NE	2,370	1,990	1,960	83		
OK	340	*345	355	104		
SD	320	290	290	91		
TX	2,230	2,180	1,970	88		
WA	178	173	165	93		
13 Sts	10,739	*10,135	9,703	90		

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. * Revised.

Cattle on Feed: Number Placed on Feed, by Quarter,
State, and 13 State Total, Oct-Dec 1991 and Jan-Mar 1991-92 1/

State	Jan-Mar 1991		Oct-Dec 1991		Jan - Mar 1992	
	Number		Number		as % of 1991	
	----- 1,000 Head -----				Percent	
AZ	64	132	63	98		
CA	225	230	185	82		
CO	570	685	580	102		
ID	155	215	160	103		
IL	95	190	95	100		
IA	385	720	345	90		
KS	1,075	1,230	1,135	106		
MN	100	205	110	110		
NE	1,390	1,430	1,250	90		
OK	225	220	225	100		
SD	150	235	145	97		
TX	1,170	1,485	995	85		
WA	98	109	105	107		
13 Sts	5,702	7,086	5,393	95		

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter.

Cattle on Feed: Fed Cattle Marketed, Other Disappearance,
by Quarter, State, and 13 State Total, Oct-Dec 1991 and Jan-Mar 1991-92

State	Fed Cattle Marketed <u>1/</u>				Other Disappearance <u>2/</u>			
	Jan- Mar 1991	Oct- Dec 1991	Jan-Mar Number: of 1991	as % of 1991	Jan- Mar 1991	Oct- Dec 1991	Jan-Mar Number: of 1991	as % of 1991
	----	1,000 Head	-----	Percent	----	1,000 Head	---	Percent
AZ	87	49	66	76	8	17	11	138
CA	200	170	180	90	65	35	60	92
CO	585	500	570	97	35	25	30	86
ID	148	130	155	105	22	30	25	114
IL	110	115	130	118	10	10	10	100
IA	310	450	355	115	35	20	30	86
KS	1,030	920	1,095	106	35	40	50	143
MN	90	110	90	100	10	10	10	100
NE	1,130	1,180	1,190	105	140	60	90	64
OK	205	*185	205	100	10	5	10	100
SD	120	130	135	113	30	5	10	33
TX	1,220	1,215	1,140	93	50	50	65	130
WA	93	108	110	118	12	2	3	25
13 Sts	5,328	*5,262	5,421	102	462	309	404	87

1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter 2/ includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding. * Revised.

Cattle on Feed: Expected Total Marketings by State,
and 13 State Total, Apr 1 - Jun 30, 1992 With Comparisons

State	Total Marketings Apr-Jun, 1991 <u>1/</u>		Expected Total Marketings Apr-Jun, 1992 <u>2/</u>	
	Number	:	Number	as % of 1991
	-----	1,000 Head	-----	Percent
AZ	97	:	90	93
CA	180	:	140	78
CO	520	:	510	98
ID	150	:	150	100
IL	135	:	135	100
IA	430	:	450	105
KS	1,060	:	1,100	104
MN	140	:	125	89
NE	1,340	:	1,300	97
OK	195	:	220	113
SD	120	:	140	117
TX	1,355	:	1,200	89
WA	98	:	110	112
13 Sts	5,820	:	5,670	97

1/ Total marketings of cattle including those placed on feed after Apr 1 and marketed before Jun 30. 2/ Expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after Apr 1 and marketed before Jun 30.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed by Classes, Quarter, State,
and 13 State Total, Apr 1, 1991, Jan 1, and Apr 1, 1992

	: Steers: Steer Calves		: Heifers: Heifer Calves:		Cows and Others				
State:	Apr 1,	Jan 1,	Apr 1,	Apr 1,	Jan 1,	Apr 1,	Apr 1,	Jan 1,	Apr 1,
	: 1991	: 1992	: 1992	: 1991	: 1992	: 1992	: 1991	: 1992	: 1992
	1,000 Head								
AZ	: 193	*205	194	8	12	9	0	0	0
CA	: 296	335	257	77	44	66	7	1	2
CO	: 590	551	560	335	361	335	5	18	15
ID	: 189	190	181	81	83	72	5	7	7
IL	: 185	199	150	160	141	145	0	0	0
IA	: 720	585	510	340	290	325	10	5	5
KS	: 1,179	1,238	1,210	581	582	600	0	0	0
MN	: 235	227	235	104	80	83	1	3	2
NE	: 1,420	1,190	1,190	930	780	750	20	20	20
OK	: 216	*228	236	120	*117	119	4	0	0
SD	: 199	170	171	119	115	117	2	5	2
TX	: 1,490	1,502	1,338	738	676	630	2	2	2
WA	: 111	105	102	67	67	63	0	1	0
13 Sts:	7,023	*6,725	6,334	3,660	*3,348	3,314	56	62	55

* Revised.

Cattle on Feed: Steers and Steer Calves on Feed by Weight Group,
Quarters, State, and 13 State Total, Apr 1, 1991, Jan 1, and Apr 1, 1992

	Under 500 Pounds			500-699 Pounds			700-899 Pounds		
	Apr 1, 1991	Jan 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1991	Jan 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1991	Jan 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1992
	1,000 Head								
AZ	32	*38	24	36	*66	45	59	*66	66
CA	41	65	50	53	100	100	118	80	50
CO	6	11	10	59	89	55	242	190	320
ID	3	1	0	31	36	20	63	38	65
IL	8	17	10	29	50	26	67	54	50
IA	15	30	20	85	150	90	295	160	190
KS	12	37	10	106	173	96	484	384	427
MN	15	25	22	37	59	50	81	60	72
NE	10	10	10	90	175	80	480	305	390
OK	2	2	3	21	26	24	98	*76	99
SD	1	6	4	27	50	27	75	38	63
TX	30	39	27	209	198	187	581	556	522
WA	0	2	1	4	7	1	40	27	28
13 Sts:	175	*283	191	787	*1,179	801	2,683	*2,034	2,342
	900-1,099 Pounds			1,100 Pounds and Over					
	Apr 1, 1991	Jan 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1991	Apr 1, 1991	Jan 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1992
	1,000 Head								
AZ	56	*30	52	10	5	7			
CA	48	70	50	36	20	7			
CO	219	183	130	64	78	45			
ID	48	68	68	44	47	28			
IL	56	54	43	25	24	21			
IA	240	140	140	85	105	70			
KS	471	409	531	106	235	146			
MN	71	50	58	31	33	33			
NE	655	340	490	185	360	220			
OK	83	*87	95	12	37	15			
SD	74	40	53	22	36	24			
TX	536	451	468	134	258	134			
WA	47	37	48	20	32	24			
13 Sts:	2,604	*1,959	2,226	774	1,270	774			

* Revised.

Cattle on Feed: Heifers and Heifer Calves on Feed by Weight Group,
Quarter, State, and 13 State Total, Apr 1, 1991, Jan 1, and Apr 1, 1992

	Under 500 Pounds		500-699 Pounds			700-899 Pounds			
State:	Apr 1, 1991	Jan 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1991	Jan 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1991	Jan 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1992
	1,000 Head								
AZ	2	*5	1	3	4	3	1	*2	3
CA	10	3	3	18	17	15	31	7	15
CO	4	9	2	50	63	53	200	153	220
ID	1	3	1	19	21	15	35	23	30
IL	5	14	6	38	47	27	67	43	58
IA	10	25	20	80	110	100	160	75	120
KS	12	23	8	110	116	89	302	221	295
MN	2	10	6	22	38	26	50	18	28
NE	10	20	10	125	150	110	440	220	290
OK	1	1	2	32	27	20	57	*49	67
SD	1	8	2	27	39	29	60	23	48
TX	22	20	19	177	203	132	347	317	321
WA	0	0	0	3	5	1	33	20	29
13 Sts:	80	*141	80	704	840	620	1,783	*1,171	1,524
	900-1,099 Pounds			1,100 Pounds and Over					
	Apr 1, 1991	Jan 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1991	Apr 1, 1991	Jan 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1992	Apr 1, 1992
	1,000 Head								
AZ	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
CA	16	15	23	2	2	2	2	10	10
CO	73	115	55	8	8	21	21	5	5
ID	22	28	20	4	4	8	8	6	6
IL	45	30	46	5	5	7	7	8	8
IA	80	60	70	10	10	20	20	15	15
KS	145	199	183	12	12	23	23	25	25
MN	24	10	18	6	6	4	4	5	5
NE	315	290	240	40	40	100	100	100	100
OK	27	33	28	3	3	7	7	2	2
SD	25	33	30	6	6	12	12	8	8
TX	170	95	145	22	22	41	41	13	13
WA	28	35	26	3	3	7	7	7	7
13 Sts:	972	944	886	121	121	252	252	204	204

* Revised.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings and Other
Disappearance, 7 States, Jan 1 - Apr 1, 1990-92

Item	Number			1992 as % of	
	1990	1991	1992	1990	1991
	1,000 Head			Percent	
On Feed Jan 1 -----	8,378	8,992	8,397	100	93
Placed on Feed Jan 1 - Mar 31 <u>1</u> /-	5,126	4,879	4,553	89	93
Fed Cattle Marketed Jan 1 - Mar 31 <u>1</u> /-	4,692	4,562	4,596	98	101
Other Disappearance Jan 1 - Mar 31 <u>2</u> /-	329	368	336	102	91
On Feed Apr 1 -----	8,483	8,941	8,018	95	90
Kinds on Feed Apr 1					
Steers and Steer Calves -----	5,457	5,888	5,259	96	89
Heifers and Heifer Calves -----	2,978	3,009	2,715	91	90
Cows and Other -----	48	44	44	92	100
Number on Feed by Weight Groups Apr 1					
Steers and Steer Calves					
Less Than 500 Pounds -----	152	146	151	99	103
500-699 Pounds -----	659	638	653	99	102
700-899 Pounds -----	2,142	2,259	1,965	92	87
900-1,099 Pounds -----	2,028	2,225	1,861	92	84
1,100 Pounds and Over -----	476	620	629	132	101
Heifers and Heifer Calves					
Less Than 500 Pounds -----	73	70	63	86	90
500-699 Pounds -----	610	563	502	82	89
700-899 Pounds -----	1,513	1,481	1,264	84	85
900-1,099 Pounds -----	727	801	718	99	90
1,100 Pounds and Over -----	55	94	168	305	179
Marketings Apr - Jun <u>3</u> / -----	5,109	4,982	4,790	94	96

- 1/ Includes cattle placed on feed after beginning of quarter and marketed before end of quarter.
- 2/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.
- 3/ Total marketings including those placed on feed after Apr 1 and marketed before Jun 30 for previous years; expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after Apr 1 and marketed before Jun 30 for current year.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other
Disappearance, by State and 7 State Total,
Oct 1 - Dec 1, 1990-91 and Jan 1 - Apr 1, 1991-92

State:	Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappear.		
	1990	1991:91/90:	1990	1991:91/90:	1990	1991:91/90:	1990	1991:91/90:	1990	1991:91/90:		
	1,000 Head	Pct	1,000 Head	Pct	1,000 Head	Pct	1,000 Head	Pct	1,000 Head	Pct		
	Oct 1		During Oct		During Oct		During Oct		During Oct			
AZ	180	151	84	46	59	128	20	15	75	2	2	100
CA	450	355	79	90	80	89	70	55	79	15	10	67
CO	790	770	97	350	330	94	180	185	103	10	10	100
IA	775	630	81	260	250	96	190	165	87	5	5	100
KS	1,560	1,550	99	530	510	96	310	325	105	10	15	150
NE	1,760	1,800	102	750	620	83	370	440	119	20	20	100
TX	2,120	1,960	92	700	690	99	465	480	103	25	15	60
7 Sts:	7,635	7,216	95	2,726	2,539	93	1,605	1,665	104	87	77	89
	Nov 1		During Nov		During Nov		During Nov		During Nov		During Nov	
AZ	204	193	95	42	52	124	17	16	94	5	2	40
CA	455	370	81	85	80	94	70	55	79	15	10	67
CO	950	905	95	225	195	87	150	165	110	15	10	67
IA	840	710	85	295	245	83	180	150	83	5	5	100
KS	1,770	1,720	97	340	380	112	305	260	85	15	10	67
NE	2,120	1,960	92	590	490	83	410	330	80	20	20	100
TX	2,330	2,155	92	410	475	116	390	400	103	20	20	100
7 Sts:	8,669	8,013	92	1,987	1,917	96	1,522	1,376	90	95	77	81
	Dec 1		During Dec		During Dec		During Dec		During Dec		During Dec	
AZ	224	227	101	28	21	75	14	18	129	6	13	217
CA	455	385	85	65	70	108	80	60	75	20	15	75
CO	1,010	925	92	125	160	128	145	150	103	10	5	50
IA	950	800	84	210	225	107	110	135	123	20	10	50
KS	1,790	1,830	102	290	340	117	320	335	105	10	15	150
NE	2,280	2,100	92	380	320	84	380	410	108	30	20	67
TX	2,330	2,210	95	335	320	96	310	335	108	25	15	60
7 STS:	9,039	8,477	94	1,433	1,456	102	1,359	1,443	106	121	93	77

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Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other
Disappearance, by State and 7 State Total,
Oct 1 - Apr 1, 1990-91 and Jan 1 - Apr 1, 1991-92 (continued)

State:	Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappear.		
	1991	1992:92/91:	1991:	1992:92/91:	1991:	1992:92/91:	1991:	1992:92/91:	1991:	1992:92/91:	1991:	1992:92/91:
	1,000 Head	Pct	1,000 Head	Pct	1,000 Head	Pct	1,000 Head	Pct	1,000 Head	Pct	1,000 Head	Pct
	Jan 1			During Jan			During Jan			During Jan		
AZ	232	217	94	26	20	77	27	20	74	3	4	133
CA	420	380	90	85	75	88	70	65	93	15	10	67
CO	980	930	95	160	160	100	215	195	91	10	10	100
IA	1,030	880	85	155	130	84	110	125	114	15	10	67
KS	1,750	1,820	104	400	415	104	390	405	104	10	20	200
NE	2,250	1,990	88	510	460	90	430	470	109	50	30	60
TX	2,330	2,180	94	385	305	79	390	380	97	15	15	100
7 Sts:	8,992	8,397	93	1,721	1,565	91	1,632	1,660	102	118	99	84
	Feb 1			During Feb			During Feb			During Feb		
AZ	228	213	93	20	17	85	26	20	77	3	5	167
CA	420	380	90	80	55	69	65	55	85	15	20	133
CO	915	885	97	180	*210	117	190	*205	108	10	10	100
IA	1,060	875	83	105	115	110	95	100	105	10	10	100
KS	1,750	1,810	103	315	350	111	315	330	105	10	20	200
NE	2,280	1,950	86	440	450	102	350	370	106	50	30	60
TX	2,310	2,090	90	315	295	94	390	340	87	15	25	167
7 Sts:	8,963	8,203	92	1,455	*1,492	103	1,431	*1,420	99	113	120	106
	Mar 1			During Mar			During Mar			During Mar		
AZ	219	205	94	18	26	144	34	26	76	2	2	100
CA	420	360	86	60	55	92	65	60	92	35	30	86
CO	895	880	98	230	210	91	180	170	94	15	10	67
IA	1,060	880	83	125	100	80	105	130	124	10	10	100
KS	1,740	1,810	104	360	370	103	325	360	111	15	10	67
NE	2,320	2,000	86	440	340	77	350	350	100	40	30	75
TX	2,220	2,020	91	470	395	84	440	420	95	20	25	125
7 Sts:	8,874	8,155	92	1,703	1,496	88	1,499	1,516	101	137	117	85
	Apr 1											
AZ	201	203	101									
CA	380	325	86									
CO	930	910	98									
IA	1,070	840	79									
KS	1,760	1,810	103									
NE	2,370	1,960	83									
TX	2,230	1,970	88									
7 Sts:	8,941	8,018	90									

* Revised.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other
Disappearance, 7 States, Mar 1 - Apr 1

Item	Number			1992 as % of	
	1990	1991	1992	1990	1991
	1,000 Head			Percent	
On Feed Mar 1 <u>1/</u>	8,319	8,874	8,155	98	92
Placed on Feed During Mar	1,862	1,703	1,496	80	88
Fed Cattle Marketed During Mar	1,578	1,499	1,516	96	101
Other Disappearance During Mar <u>2/</u>	120	137	117	98	85
On Feed Apr 1 <u>1/</u>	8,483	8,941	8,018	95	90

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 losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Reliability of April 1 Cattle on Feed Estimates

Terminology: 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 losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Survey Procedures: A random sample of producers in the 13 major cattle on feed states were surveyed to provide data for these estimates. Survey procedures ensured that all cattle on feed producers, regardless of size, had a chance to be included in the survey. Large producers were sampled more heavily than small operations. Data were collected from about 6,300 operators during the first half of April by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews. Regardless of when operators responded, they were asked to report inventories as of April 1.

Estimation 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 and/or quarter when setting the current estimates.

Revision Policy: Revisions to previous estimates are made to improve month to month and/or quarter to quarter relationships. Estimates for the previous month are subject to revision in the 7 monthly states when each current monthly estimate is made. Estimates for the previous quarter are subject to revision in all 13 states each quarter when current quarterly estimates are made. In January, all monthly and quarterly estimates 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 Department of Commerce's five-year Census of Agriculture are available. No revisions will be made after that date and estimates become final.

Reliability: Since all cattle on feed operators are not included in the sample, 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 the estimates in this report, the "Root Mean Square Error" is shown for selected items in the table below. 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 2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 9.7 million head by more than 2 percent, or about 194,000 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 3.6 percent, or about 349,000 head (the 90 percent confidence level). The table below also shows a 10 year record of the range of differences between first and latest estimates for selected items. Using estimates of all cattle on feed as an example, changes between the first inventory estimate and the latest estimate during the past 10 years have averaged 102,000 head, ranging from 0 to 330,000 head. During this period the initial inventory estimate has been below the latest estimate 5 times and above the final estimate 1 time. This does not imply that the April 1 estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

Reliability of April 1 Cattle on Feed Estimates 1/

	: Root Mean Square Error :	: 90% Confidence Level :	: Difference Between First and Latest Estimates :			: Number of Quarters :	
			: Average :	: Smallest :	: Largest :	: First Above Latest :	: First Below Latest :
	: -- Percent -- :		: 1,000 Head :-----			: Number :	
Inventory	: 2.0 :	: 3.6 :	: 102 :	: 0 :	: 330 :	: 1 :	: 5 :
Placements	: 1.2 :	: 2.2 :	: -27 :	: 0 :	: -190 :	: 5 :	: 4 :
Marketings	: 1.4 :	: 2.6 :	: -19 :	: 0 :	: -210 :	: 4 :	: 4 :
Expected Marketings <u>2/</u>	: 3.6 :	: 6.6 :	: -83 :	: -3 :	: -555 :	: 8 :	: 2 :

1/ Based on April 1 estimates for the past 10 years.

2/ Expected marketings for the April-June period compared to actual marketings for the quarter.

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