

# Cattle On Feed



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Released October 23, 1992, by the Agricultural Statistics Board. Inventory estimates refer to October 1, 1992. Placement and marketing estimates refer to the month of September and the quarter of July through September.

## Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent in 13 Quarterly States

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 8.92 million head, up 3 percent from a year ago but 2 percent below October 1, 1990. The inventory included 5.92 million steers and steer calves, 4 percent above a year ago. This group accounts for 66.4 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 2.92 million head, 2 percent above a year ago.

Placements of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the July-September 1992 quarter totaled 6.11 million, up 13 percent from last year but 4 percent below July-September 1990. Net placements of 5.84 million for July-September were up 14 percent from last year but down 4 percent from 1990.

Marketings of fed cattle during the July-September 1992 quarter totaled 5.77 million, down 3 percent from last year and 1 percent below two years ago.

Other disappearance totaled 268,000 head compared to 282,000 in July-September 1991 and 261,000 in July-September 1990.

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### **Expected Marketings for October-December 1992 Down 1 Percent**

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.23 million head during the October-December quarter of 1992. This would be down 1 percent from the last quarter marketings in both 1991 and 1990.

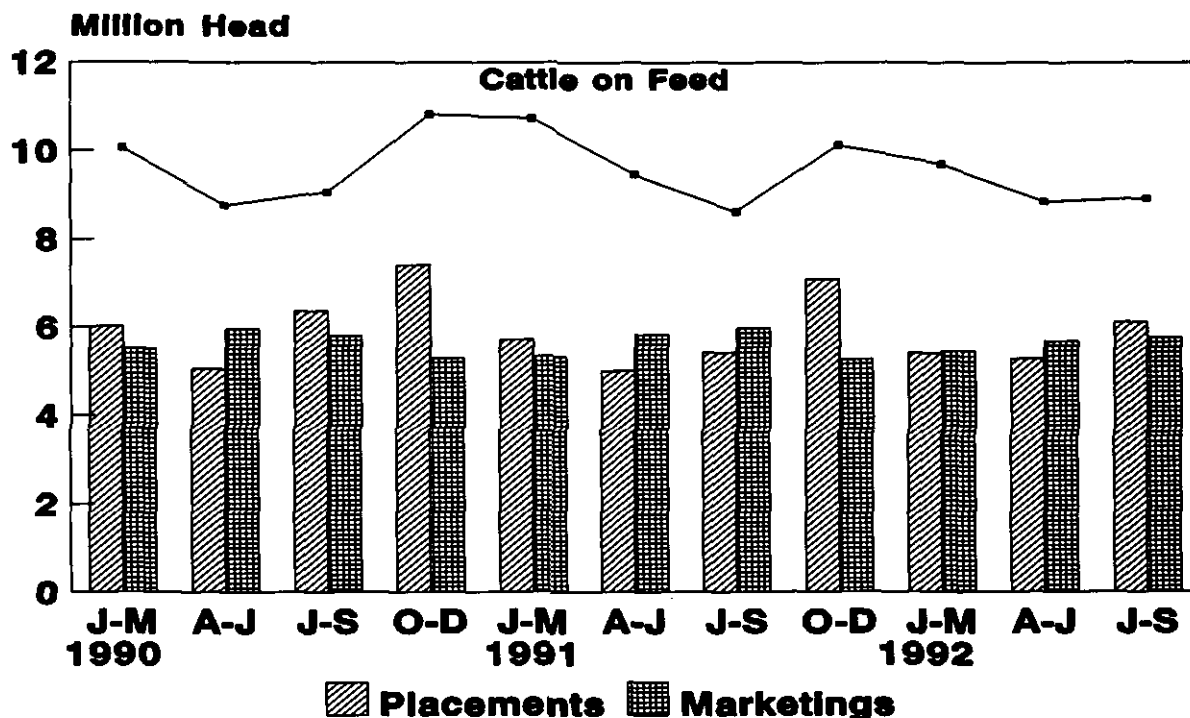
### **Cattle on Feed in 7 Monthly States Up 4 Percent**

Cattle on feed October 1, 1992, in 7 monthly States totaled 7.50 million, up 4 percent from the previous year but down 2 percent from two years ago. Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.18 million, 19 percent above 1991 but 1 percent below 1990.

Marketings during September totaled 1.59 million, down 1 percent from a year ago but 9 percent above 1990. Other disappearance during September was 66,000 head, 13 percent below last year and 16 percent below 1990.

July-September 1992 quarterly marketings for the 7 States, at 4.86 million, were down 3 percent from 1991 and 1 percent below 1990. Marketings for the 7 states during the July-September quarter accounted for 84 percent of the 13 state total. Expected 7 State marketings for the October-December 1992 quarter are estimated at 4.38 million, down 2 percent from both last year and 1990.

## Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings by Quarters for 13 States



Cattle on Feed: Placed, Marketed, and Other Disappearance,  
by Quarter and 13 State Total, 1990-92

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	5,403	5,441	404
Apr 1, 1992	9,693	5,273	5,675	444
Jul 1, 1992	8,847	6,107	5,766	268
Oct 1, 1992	8,920			

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

Item	Number			1992 as % of	
	1990	1991	1992	1990	1991
	---- 1,000 Head ----			Percent	
On Feed Jul 1	8,761	9,461	8,847	101	94
Placed on Feed Jul 1 - Sep 30 <u>1/</u>	6,358	5,414	6,107	96	113
Fed Cattle Marketed Jul 1 - Sep 30 <u>1/</u>	5,796	5,973	5,766	99	97
Other Disappearance Jul 1 - Sep 30 <u>2/</u>	261	282	268	103	95
On Feed Oct 1	9,062	8,620	8,920	98	103
Kinds on Feed Oct 1					
Steers and Steer Calves	5,894	5,719	5,922	100	104
Heifers and Heifer Calves	3,128	2,860	2,919	93	102
Cows and Other	40	41	79	198	193
Number on Feed by Weight Groups Oct 1					
Steers and Steer Calves					
Less Than 500 Pounds	340	205	243	71	119
500-699 Pounds	873	658	657	75	100
700-899 Pounds	1,729	1,561	1,718	99	110
900-1,099 Pounds	2,035	2,015	2,178	107	108
1,100 Pounds and Over	917	1,280	1,126	123	88
Heifers and Heifer Calves					
Less Than 500 Pounds	159	79	107	67	135
500-699 Pounds	593	408	519	88	127
700-899 Pounds	1,253	1,106	1,155	92	104
900-1,099 Pounds	993	1,066	956	96	90
1,100 Pounds and Over	130	201	182	140	91
Marketings Oct - Dec <u>3/</u>	5,289	5,262	5,225	99	99

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 October 1 and marketed before December 31 for previous years; expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after October 1 and marketed before December 31 for current year.

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

State	Oct 1, 1991	Jul 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1992 <u>1/</u>	
			Number	as % of 1991
			1,000 Head	Percent
AZ	151	167	180	119
CA	355	340	385	108
CO	770	820	840	109
ID	225	260	265	118
IL	275	255	235	85
IA	630	720	660	105
KS	1,550	1,640	1,700	110
MN	225	285	230	102
NE	1,800	1,650	1,760	98
OK	315	305	310	98
SD	190	240	195	103
TX	1,960	2,000	1,970	101
WA	174	165	190	109
13 Sts	8,620	8,847	8,920	103

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.

Cattle on Feed: Number Placed on Feed, by Quarter, State, and  
13 State Total, Apr-Jun 1992 and Jul-Sep 1991-92 1/

State	Jul-Sep 1991	Apr-Jun 1992	Jul - Sep 1992	
			Number	as % of 1991
			1,000 Head	Percent
AZ	82	98	102	124
CA	230	250	220	96
CO	500	455	625	125
ID	160	183	190	119
IL	120	110	110	92
IA	265	285	345	130
KS	1,195	990	1,315	110
MN	90	100	95	106
NE	1,270	1,080	1,350	106
OK	225	185	220	98
SD	85	100	110	129
TX	1,070	1,330	1,295	121
WA	122	107	130	107
13 Sts	5,414	5,273	6,107	113

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, Apr-Jun 1992 and Jul-Sep 1991-92

State	Fed Cattle Marketed <u>1/</u>				Other Disappearance <u>2/</u>			
	Jul-Sep:1991	Apr-Jun:1992	Jul-Sep:1992	as % of 1991	Jul-Sep:1991	Apr-Jun:1992	Jul-Sep:1992	as % of 1991
	----- 1,000 Head -----		Percent		--- 1,000 Head ----		Percent	
AZ	73	111	82	112	5	23	7	140
CA	180	165	140	78	25	60	35	140
CO	565	520	590	104	25	25	15	60
ID	175	160	175	100	20	23	10	50
IL	125	140	125	100	5	10	5	100
IA	470	375	390	83	25	30	15	60
KS	1,150	1,120	1,215	106	35	40	40	114
MN	150	125	145	97	5	10	5	100
NE	1,310	1,250	1,150	88	80	140	90	113
OK	225	230	210	93	5	5	5	100
SD	130	120	145	112	10	30	10	100
TX	1,290	1,255	1,295	100	40	45	30	75
WA	130	104	104	80	2	3	1	50
13 Sts	5,973	5,675	5,766	97	282	444	268	95

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.

Cattle on Feed: Expected Total Marketings, by State  
and 13 State Total, Oct 1 - Dec 31, 1991-92

State	Total Marketings <u>1/</u>		Expected Total Marketings <u>2/</u>	
	Oct-Dec, 1991	Number	Oct-Dec, 1992	as % of 1991
	----- 1,000 Head -----		Percent	
AZ	49	70	143	
CA	170	160	94	
CO	500	500	100	
ID	130	170	131	
IL	115	125	109	
IA	450	370	82	
KS	920	1,030	112	
MN	110	110	100	
NE	1,180	1,100	93	
OK	185	200	108	
SD	130	115	88	
TX	1,215	1,150	95	
WA	108	125	116	
13 Sts	5,262	5,225	99	

1/ Total marketings of cattle including those placed on feed after October 1 and marketed before December 31.

2/ Expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after October 1 and marketed before December 31.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed by Class, Quarter, State,  
and 13 State Total, Oct 1, 1991, Jul 1, and Oct 1, 1992

	Steers & Steer Calves			Heifers & Heifer Calves			Cows & Others		
State	Oct 1, 1991	Jul 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1991	Jul 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1991	Jul 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1992
	1,000 Head								
AZ	145	164	177	6	3	3	0	0	0
CA	315	280	340	38	57	43	2	3	2
CO	468	495	520	299	295	285	3	30	35
ID	159	175	190	60	80	70	6	5	5
IL	158	115	110	117	140	125	0	0	0
IA	430	440	425	195	275	230	5	5	5
KS	1,040	1,130	1,196	510	510	500	0	0	4
MN	165	198	170	58	85	58	2	2	2
NE	1,080	960	1,040	700	670	700	20	20	20
OK	195	208	210	120	97	100	0	0	0
SD	117	134	115	72	102	79	1	4	1
TX	1,335	1,340	1,319	623	659	650	2	1	1
WA	112	100	110	62	65	76	0	0	4
13 Sts	5,719	5,739	5,922	2,860	3,038	2,919	41	70	79

Cattle on Feed: Steers and Steer Calves on Feed by Weight Group, Quarter, State, and 13 State Total, Oct 1, 1991, Jul 1, and Oct 1, 1992

State	Under 500 Pounds			500-699 Pounds			700-899 Pounds		
	Oct 1, 1991	Jul 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1991	Jul 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1991	Jul 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1992
	1,000 Head								
AZ	38	24	23	51	41	61	30	47	47
CA	50	65	80	65	70	65	80	60	95
CO	1	10	12	45	15	45	134	235	235
ID	3	1	2	13	7	19	49	41	49
IL	6	4	6	18	20	11	45	31	30
IA	20	10	9	35	45	38	95	120	130
KS	21	6	12	105	95	96	280	255	347
MN	11	14	14	20	22	22	37	48	37
NE	10	10	10	50	40	60	270	210	230
OK	5	6	4	21	19	25	74	62	80
SD	0	1	2	5	6	14	20	41	30
TX	40	27	66	227	147	198	414	389	382
WA	0	2	3	3	3	3	33	31	26
13 Sts	205	180	243	658	530	657	1,561	1,570	1,718
State	900-1099 Pounds			1,100 Pounds and Over					
	Oct 1, 1991	Jul 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1991	Jul 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1992			
	1,000 Head								
AZ	22	48	41	4	4	5			
CA	70	60	65	50	25	35			
CO	178	180	175	110	55	53			
ID	56	80	63	38	46	57			
IL	54	44	40	35	16	23			
IA	145	160	160	135	105	88			
KS	436	487	502	198	287	239			
MN	58	65	58	39	49	39			
NE	430	420	430	320	280	310			
OK	68	85	80	27	36	21			
SD	40	52	43	52	34	26			
TX	414	603	475	240	174	198			
WA	44	41	46	32	23	32			
13 Sts	2,015	2,325	2,178	1,280	1,134	1,126			



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

State	Under 500 Pounds			500-699 Pounds			700-899 Pounds		
	Oct 1, 1991	Jul 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1991	Jul 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1991	Jul 1, 1992	Oct 1, 1992
1,000 Head									
AZ	1	0	0	3	1	1	1	1	1
CA	4	5	13	12	16	10	11	14	11
CO	2	2	3	32	20	35	121	175	177
ID	1	1	4	9	9	9	23	23	26
IL	4	2	5	18	48	26	45	45	41
IA	10	5	10	35	40	50	45	115	58
KS	10	3	9	87	72	72	204	182	230
MN	2	3	3	5	16	7	16	25	14
NE	10	10	10	60	60	100	300	220	250
OK	4	2	2	21	15	17	51	40	44
SD	0	0	3	6	6	7	24	32	29
TX	31	20	45	112	165	182	243	257	247
WA	0	0	0	8	2	3	22	32	27
13 Sts	79	53	107	408	470	519	1,106	1,161	1,155
900-1099 Pounds : 1,100 Pounds and Over									
1,000 Head									
AZ	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
CA	5	16	6	6	6	6	6	3	3
CO	120	83	57	24	15	15	13	13	13
ID	23	38	25	4	9	9	6	6	6
IL	44	42	47	6	3	3	6	6	6
IA	80	100	90	25	15	15	22	22	22
KS	183	225	171	26	28	28	18	18	18
MN	23	32	22	12	9	9	12	12	12
NE	270	330	280	60	50	50	60	60	60
OK	40	35	36	4	5	5	1	1	1
SD	30	56	32	12	8	8	8	8	8
TX	218	191	150	19	26	26	26	26	26
WA	29	24	39	3	7	7	7	7	7
13 Sts	1,066	1,173	956	201	181	181	182	182	182

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

Item	Number			: 1992 as % of	
	1990	1991	1992	1990	1991
	---- 1,000 Head ----			Percent	
On Feed Jul 1	7,310	7,877	7,337	100	93
Placed on Feed Jul 1 - Sep 30 <u>1/</u>	5,474	4,612	5,252	96	114
Fed Cattle Marketed Jul 1 - Sep 30 <u>1/</u>	4,911	5,038	4,862	99	97
Other Disappearance Jul 1 - Sep 30 <u>2/</u>	238	235	232	97	99
On Feed Oct 1	7,635	7,216	7,495	98	104
Kinds on Feed Oct 1					
Steers and Steer Calves	4,983	4,813	5,017	101	104
Heifers and Heifer Calves	2,618	2,371	2,411	92	102
Cows and Other	34	32	67	197	209
Number on Feed by Weight Groups Oct 1					
Steers and Steer Calves					
Less Than 500 Pounds	312	180	212	68	118
500-699 Pounds	773	578	563	73	97
700-899 Pounds	1,476	1,303	1,466	99	113
900-1,099 Pounds	1,701	1,695	1,848	109	109
1,100 Pounds and Over	721	1,057	928	129	88
Heifers and Heifer Calves					
Less Than 500 Pounds	136	68	90	66	132
500-699 Pounds	508	341	450	89	132
700-899 Pounds	1,062	925	974	92	105
900-1,099 Pounds	816	877	755	93	86
1,100 Pounds and Over	96	160	142	148	89
Marketings Oct - Dec <u>3/</u>	4,486	4,484	4,380	98	98

- 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 October 1 and marketed before December 31 for previous years; expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after October 1 and marketed before December 31 for current year.

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

Item	Number			1992 as % of	
	1990	1991	1992	1990	1991
	----- 1,000 Head -----			Percent	
On Feed Sep 1 <u>1/</u>	6,975	7,064	6,968	100	99
Placed on Feed During Sep	2,199	1,826	2,179	99	119
Fed Cattle Marketed During Sep	1,460	1,598	1,586	109	99
Other Disappearance During Sep <u>2/</u>	79	76	66	84	87
On Feed Oct 1 <u>1/</u>	7,635	7,216	7,495	98	104

- 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.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other  
Disappearance, By State and 7 State Total, Apr 1 - Oct 1 1991-92

		Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappear.		
State:		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		
		Apr 1		During Apr			During Apr			During Apr			
AZ	:	201	203	101	17	30	176	30	30	100	3	5	167
CA	:	380	315	83	65	70	108	60	55	92	25	30	120
CO	:	930	910	98	175	165	94	180	180	100	10	15	150
IA	:	1,070	840	79	115	95	83	125	115	92	10	10	100
KS	:	1,760	1,810	103	300	310	103	330	330	100	20	20	100
NE	:	2,370	1,960	83	380	380	100	430	380	88	40	30	75
TX	:	2,230	1,970	88	375	375	100	495	400	81	20	15	75
7 Sts:	:	8,941	8,008	90	1,427	1,425	100	1,650	1,490	90	128	125	98
		May 1		During May			During May			During May			
AZ	:	185	198	107	27	34	126	36	44	122	11	2	18
CA	:	360	300	83	80	100	125	55	55	100	30	15	50
CO	:	915	880	96	190	180	95	170	165	97	10	5	50
IA	:	1,050	810	77	80	85	106	125	115	92	10	10	100
KS	:	1,710	1,770	104	360	380	106	345	380	110	15	10	67
NE	:	2,280	1,930	85	390	370	95	470	410	87	50	60	120
TX	:	2,090	1,930	92	645	575	89	450	425	94	15	20	133
7 Sts:	:	8,590	7,818	91	1,772	1,724	97	1,651	1,594	97	141	122	87
		Jun 1		During Jun			During Jun			During Jun			
AZ	:	165	186	113	17	34	200	31	37	119	4	16	400
CA	:	355	330	93	55	80	145	65	55	85	15	15	100
CO	:	925	890	96	115	110	96	170	175	103	10	5	50
IA	:	995	770	77	55	105	191	180	145	81	10	10	100
KS	:	1,710	1,760	103	225	300	133	385	410	106	10	10	100
NE	:	2,150	1,830	85	260	330	127	440	460	105	50	50	100
TX	:	2,270	2,060	91	375	380	101	410	430	105	15	10	67
7 Sts:	:	8,570	7,826	91	1,102	1,339	122	1,681	1,712	102	114	116	102
		Jul 1		During Jul			During Jul			During Jul			
AZ	:	147	167	114	22	27	123	29	29	100	2	5	250
CA	:	330	340	103	60	65	108	60	45	75	10	10	100
CO	:	860	820	95	125	115	92	180	200	111	5	5	100
IA	:	860	720	84	80	75	94	165	110	67	10	5	50
KS	:	1,540	1,640	106	405	430	106	440	460	105	10	10	100
NE	:	1,920	1,650	86	320	360	113	430	400	93	40	40	100
TX	:	2,220	2,000	90	315	360	114	420	440	105	15	10	67
7 Sts:	:	7,877	7,337	93	1,327	1,432	108	1,724	1,684	98	92	85	92

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other  
Disappearance, By State and 7 State Total, Apr 1 - Oct 1 1991-92

		Number on Feed			Placed			Marketed			Other Disappear.		
State:		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		
		Aug 1			During Aug			During Aug			During Aug		
AZ	:	138	160	116	24	36	150	26	27	104	2	1	50
CA	:	320	350	109	90	75	83	65	45	69	10	10	100
CO	:	800	730	91	135	155	115	195	190	97	10	5	50
IA	:	765	680	89	65	110	169	155	145	94	5	5	100
KS	:	1,495	1,600	107	400	435	109	370	395	107	10	20	200
NE	:	1,770	1,570	89	390	430	110	450	370	82	20	30	150
TX	:	2,100	1,910	91	355	400	113	455	420	92	10	10	100
7 Sts:	:	7,388	7,000	95	1,459	1,641	112	1,716	1,592	93	67	81	121
		Sep 1			During Sep			During Sep			During Sep		
AZ	:	134	168	125	36	39	108	18	26	144	1	1	100
CA	:	335	370	110	80	80	100	55	50	91	5	15	300
CO	:	730	690	95	240	355	148	190	200	105	10	5	50
IA	:	670	640	96	120	160	133	150	135	90	10	5	50
KS	:	1,515	1,620	107	390	450	115	340	360	106	15	10	67
NE	:	1,690	1,600	95	560	560	100	430	380	88	20	20	100
TX	:	1,990	1,880	94	400	535	134	415	435	105	15	10	67
7 Sts:	:	7,064	6,968	99	1,826	2,179	119	1,598	1,586	99	76	66	87
		Oct 1											
AZ	:	151	180	119									
CA	:	355	385	108									
CO	:	770	840	109									
IA	:	630	660	105									
KS	:	1,550	1,700	110									
NE	:	1,800	1,760	98									
TX	:	1,960	1,970	101									
7 Sts:	:	7,216	7,495	104									

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## Reliability of October 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 13,500 operators during the first half of October by mail, telephone, and face-to-face personal interviews. Regardless of when operators responded, they were asked to report inventories as of October 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 preparing 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 October 1 inventory estimate over the past 10 years is 2.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 8.92 million head by more than 2.0 percent, or about 178,000 head. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 3.6 percent, or about 321,000 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 124,000 head, ranging from 0 to 295,000 head. During this period the initial inventory estimate has been below the latest estimate 7 times and above the final estimate 1 time. This does not imply that the October 1 estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

Reliability of October 1 Cattle on Feed Estimates <sup>1/</sup>

	Root Mean Square Error	90% Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Final Estimates			Number of Quarters	
		Percent	Head	Average	Smallest	Largest	Above Final	Below Final
Inventory	2.0	3.6	321	124	0	295	1	7
Placements	0.8	1.5	92	38	-3	93	2	8
Marketings	0.9	1.7	98	37	1	110	2	8
Expected Marketings <sup>2/</sup>	2.1	3.9	204	-18	-7	-206	6	4

<sup>1/</sup> Based on October 1 estimates for the past 10 years.

<sup>2/</sup> Expected marketings for the October-December period compared to actual marketings for the quarter.

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