

# Cattle on Feed



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## **Cattle on Feed Up 9 Percent in 13 Quarterly States**

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the 13 States preparing quarterly estimates totaled 9.69 million head, up 9 percent from a year ago and 12 percent above October 1, 1991. This is the largest October cattle on feed inventory since 1978. The inventory included 6.28 million steers and steer calves, 6 percent above a year ago. This group accounts for 64.8 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.36 million head, 15 percent above a year ago.

**Placements** of cattle and calves on feed in the 13 States during the July-September 1993 quarter totaled 6.30 million, up 3 percent from last year and 16 percent above July-September 1991. Net placements of 6.03 million for July-September were up 3 percent from last year and up 18 percent from 1991.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during the July-September 1993 quarter totaled 5.83 million, up 1 percent from last year but 2 percent below two years ago.

**Other disappearance** totaled 270,000 head compared to 268,000 in July-September 1992 and 282,000 in July-September 1991.

## **Expected Marketings for October-December 1993 Up 7 Percent**

Cattle feeders expect to market 5.56 million head during the October-December quarter of 1993. This would be up 7 percent from the fourth quarter marketings in 1992 and up 6 percent from October-December of 1991.

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See page 19 for program changes.

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

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## Cattle on Feed in 7 Monthly States Up 10 Percent

**Cattle on feed** October 1, 1993, in the 7 monthly States totaled 8.21 million, up 10 percent from October 1, 1992, and 14 percent above 1991. This is the largest October 7-State cattle on feed inventory since 1978.

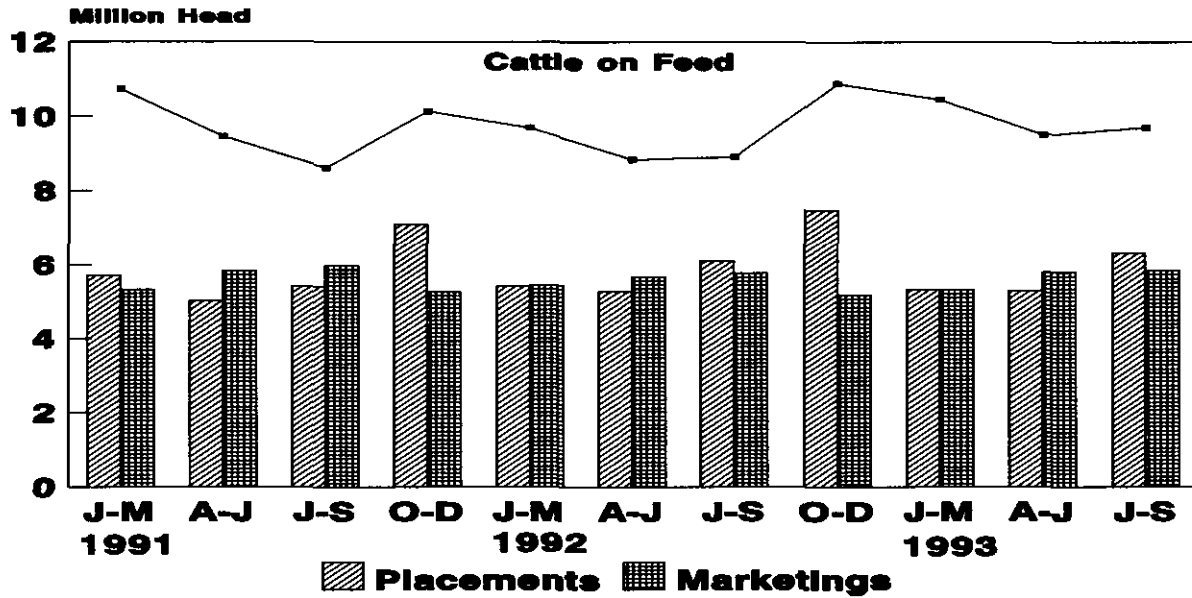
**Placements** in feedlots during September totaled 2.15 million, 1 percent below 1992 but 18 percent above 1991.

**Marketings** during September totaled 1.62 million, up 2 percent from both 1992 and 1991.

**Other disappearance** during September was 66,000 head, unchanged from last year but 13 percent below 1991.

July-September 1993 quarterly marketings for the 7-States, at 4.96 million, were up 2 percent from the same quarter in 1992 but down 2 percent from 1991. Marketings for the 7 States during the July-September quarter accounted for 85 percent of the 13-State total. Expected 7-State marketings for the October-December 1993 quarter are estimated at 4.70 million, up 8 percent from last year and up 5 percent from 1991.

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



Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other  
Disappearance by Quarter, 13 States, 1991-93

Date	Number on Feed	Current Quarter		
		Placements	Marketings	Other Disappearance
1,000 Head				
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	7.458	5.174	320
Jan 1, 1993	10.884	5.321	5.314	439
Apr 1, 1993	10.452	5.284	5.783	460
Jul 1, 1993	9.493	6.301	5.833	270
Oct 1, 1993	9.691			

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings,  
and Other Disappearance, 13 States, Jul-Oct 1991-93

Item	1991	1992	1993	as % of	
				1991	1992
	----- 1,000 Head -----			Percent	
On Feed Jul 1	9,461	8,847	9,493	100	107
Placed on Feed Jul-Sep <u>1/</u>	5,414	6,107	6,301	116	103
Fed Cattle Marketed Jul-Sep <u>1/</u>	5,973	5,766	5,833	98	101
Other Disappearance Jul-Sep <u>2/</u>	282	268	270	96	101
On Feed Oct 1	8,620	8,920	9,691	112	109
On Feed by Class Oct 1					
Steers and Steer Calves	5,719	5,922	6,280	110	106
Heifers and Heifer Calves	2,860	2,919	3,364	118	115
Cows and Other	41	79	47	115	59
On Feed by Weight Group Oct 1					
Steers and Steer Calves					
Less Than 500 Pounds	205	243	208	101	86
500-699 Pounds	658	657	830	126	126
700-899 Pounds	1,561	1,718	1,873	120	109
900-1099 Pounds	2,015	2,178	2,177	108	100
1100 Pounds and Over	1,280	1,126	1,192	93	106
Heifers and Heifer Calves					
Less Than 500 Pounds	79	107	152	192	142
500-699 Pounds	408	519	572	140	110
700-899 Pounds	1,106	1,155	1,335	121	116
900-1099 Pounds	1,066	956	1,063	100	111
1100 Pounds and Over	201	182	242	120	133
Fed Cattle Marketed Oct-Dec <u>3/</u>	5,262	5,174	5,555	106	107

- 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 1991-92. Expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after October 1 and marketed before December 31 for 1993.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed by Quarter,  
State, and 13-State Total, 1992-93 1/

State	Oct 1, 1992	Jul 1, 1993	Oct 1, 1993		
			Number	as % of 1992	as % of Prev. Qtr.
			1,000 Head	Percent	
AZ	180	173	189	105	109
CA	385	350	355	92	101
CO	840	840	920	110	110
ID	265	260	235	89	90
IL	235	280	250	106	89
IA	660	810	720	109	89
KS	1,700	1,600	1,750	103	109
MN	230	290	225	98	78
NE	1,760	1,810	1,800	102	99
OK	310	340	385	124	113
SD	195	230	180	92	78
TX	1,970	2,340	2,480	126	106
WA	190	170	202	106	119
13 Sts	8,920	9,493	9,691	109	102

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, 1992-93 1/

State	Jul-Sep 1992	Apr-Jun 1993	Jul-Sep 1993		
			Number	as % of 1992	as % of Prev. Qtr.
			1,000 Head	Percent	
AZ	102	97	96	94	99
CA	220	205	185	84	90
CO	625	460	665	106	145
ID	190	195	150	79	77
IL	110	75	100	91	133
IA	345	235	310	90	132
KS	1,315	940	1,295	98	138
MN	95	100	90	95	90
NE	1,350	1,010	1,340	99	133
OK	220	220	260	118	118
SD	110	90	85	77	94
TX	1,295	1,560	1,585	122	102
WA	130	97	140	108	144
13 Sts	6,107	5,284	6,301	103	119

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

Cattle on Feed: Number Marketed by Quarter,  
State, and 13-State Total, 1992-93 1/

State	Jul-Sep 1992	Apr-Jun 1993	Jul-Sep 1993		
			Number	as % of 1992	as % of Prev. Qtr.
----- 1,000 Head -----			----- Percent -----		
AZ	82	116	76	93	66
CA	140	150	135	96	90
CO	590	500	565	96	113
ID	175	160	160	91	100
IL	125	115	125	100	109
IA	390	315	380	97	121
KS	1,215	1,060	1,120	92	106
MN	145	125	145	100	116
NE	1,150	1,320	1,290	112	98
OK	210	230	210	100	91
SD	145	125	125	86	100
TX	1,295	1,460	1,395	108	96
WA	104	107	107	103	100
13 Sts	5,766	5,783	5,833	101	101

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

Cattle on Feed: Other Disappearance by Quarter,  
State, and 13-State Total, 1992-93 1/

State	Jul-Sep 1992	Apr-Jun 1993	Jul-Sep 1993		
			Number	as % of 1992	as % of Prev. Qtr.
----- 1,000 Head -----			----- Percent -----		
AZ	7	4	4	57	100
CA	35	70	45	129	64
CO	15	30	20	133	67
ID	10	30	15	150	50
IL	5	10	5	100	50
IA	15	30	20	133	67
KS	40	50	25	63	50
MN	5	10	10	200	100
NE	90	110	60	67	55
OK	5	5	5	100	100
SD	10	35	10	100	29
TX	30	70	50	167	71
WA	1	6	1	100	17
13 Sts	268	460	270	101	59

1/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

Cattle on Feed: Expected Total Marketings by Quarter,  
State, and 13-State Total, 1992-93

State	Total Marketings Oct-Dec, 1992 <u>1/</u>	Expected Total Marketings Oct-Dec 1993 <u>2/</u>	as % of 1992
	----- 1,000 Head -----		Percent
AZ	69	75	109
CA	155	160	103
CO	510	530	104
ID	180	150	83
IL	100	130	130
IA	405	400	99
KS	935	1,080	116
MN	115	110	96
NE	1,170	1,200	103
OK	200	230	115
SD	105	120	114
TX	1,105	1,250	113
WA	125	120	96
13 Sts	5,174	5,555	107

- 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, 1992-93

State	Steers & Steer Calves		Heifers & Heifer Calves		Cows and Others				
	Oct 1, 1992	Jul 1, 1993	Oct 1, 1993	Oct 1, 1992	Jul 1, 1993	Oct 1, 1993	Oct 1, 1992	Jul 1, 1993	Oct 1, 1993
	----- 1,000 Head -----								
AZ	177	162	176	3	11	13	0	0	0
CA	340	310	310	43	40	44	2	0	1
CO	520	445	580	285	365	330	35	30	10
ID	190	180	170	70	76	62	5	4	3
IL	110	185	150	125	95	100	0	0	0
IA	425	530	450	230	275	263	5	5	7
KS	1,196	1,045	1,190	500	550	560	4	5	0
MN	170	215	165	58	73	58	2	2	2
NE	1,040	1,070	1,060	700	720	720	20	20	20
OK	210	210	230	100	130	155	0	0	0
SD	115	122	93	79	106	84	1	2	3
TX	1,319	1,470	1,580	650	867	899	1	3	1
WA	110	105	126	76	65	76	4	0	0
13 Sts	5,922	6,049	6,280	2,919	3,373	3,364	79	71	47

Cattle on Feed: Steers and Steer Calves on Feed by Weight  
Group, Quarter, State, and 13-State Total, 1992-93

	Under 500 Pounds			500-699 Pounds			700-899 Pounds		
State	Oct 1., 1992	Jul 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1992	Jul 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1992	Jul 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1993
	1,000 Head								
AZ	23	21	26	61	44	53	47	48	53
CA	80	45	45	65	65	55	95	100	75
CO	12	8	9	45	30	55	235	185	236
ID	2	1	3	19	9	21	49	35	51
IL	6	14	9	11	52	17	30	44	44
IA	9	20	14	38	75	36	130	120	115
KS	12	15	22	96	95	150	347	370	380
MN	14	15	14	22	25	24	37	50	34
NE	10	10	10	60	20	40	230	200	240
OK	4	6	7	25	17	34	80	68	84
SD	2	4	2	14	6	9	30	24	15
TX	66	30	45	198	195	330	382	440	510
WA	3	0	2	3	2	6	26	29	36
13 Sts	243	189	208	657	635	830	1,718	1,713	1,873
	900-1099 Pounds			1100 Pounds and Over					
	Oct 1., 1992	Jul 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1992	Jul 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1992	Jul 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1993
	1,000 Head								
AZ	41	45	41	5	4	3			
CA	65	80	75	35	20	60			
CO	175	170	195	53	52	85			
ID	63	92	54	57	43	41			
IL	40	52	55	23	23	25			
IA	160	205	155	88	110	130			
KS	502	380	445	239	185	193			
MN	58	77	46	39	48	47			
NE	430	460	470	310	380	300			
OK	80	80	79	21	39	26			
SD	43	55	38	26	33	29			
TX	475	605	475	198	200	220			
WA	46	51	49	32	23	33			
13 Sts	2,178	2,352	2,177	1,126	1,160	1,192			



Cattle on Feed: Heifers and Heifer Calves on Feed by Weight  
Group, Quarter, State, and 13-State Total, 1992-93

State	Under 500 Pounds			500-699 Pounds			700-899 Pounds		
	Oct 1., 1992	Jul 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1992	Jul 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1992	Jul 1., 1993	Oct 1., 1993
1,000 Head									
AZ	0	2	1	1	3	5	1	4	5
CA	13	3	5	10	9	7	11	13	11
CO	3	2	4	35	30	40	177	203	180
ID	4	0	1	9	6	7	26	22	25
IL	5	3	4	26	14	20	41	34	41
IA	10	10	26	50	50	37	58	100	82
KS	9	50	18	72	70	95	230	195	245
MN	3	2	6	7	11	5	14	25	15
NE	10	10	10	100	30	40	250	250	300
OK	2	6	12	17	20	37	44	50	71
SD	3	2	0	7	6	5	29	30	22
TX	45	40	65	182	180	270	247	390	305
WA	0	0	0	3	1	4	27	28	33
13 Sts	107	130	152	519	430	572	1,155	1,344	1,335
900-1099 Pounds : 1100 Pounds and Over									
1,000 Head									
AZ	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
CA	6	12	16	3	3	3	3	5	5
CO	57	115	86	13	15	15	15	20	20
ID	25	40	24	6	8	8	8	5	5
IL	47	39	31	6	5	5	5	4	4
IA	90	100	97	22	15	15	15	21	21
KS	171	205	180	18	30	30	30	22	22
MN	22	30	20	12	5	5	5	12	12
NE	280	340	280	60	90	90	90	90	90
OK	36	48	33	1	6	6	6	2	2
SD	32	58	39	8	10	10	10	18	18
TX	150	235	225	26	22	22	22	34	34
WA	39	30	30	7	6	6	6	9	9
13 Sts	956	1,254	1,063	182	215	215	215	242	242

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings,  
and Other Disappearance, 7 States, Jul-Oct, 1991-93

Item				as % of	
	1991	1992	1993	1991	1992
	----- 1,000 Head -----			Percent	
On Feed Jul 1	7,877	7,337	7,923	101	108
Placed on Feed Jul-Sep <u>1/</u>	4,612	5,252	5,476	119	104
Fed Cattle Marketed Jul-Sep <u>1/</u>	5,038	4,862	4,961	98	102
Other Disappearance Jul-Sep <u>2/</u>	235	232	224	95	97
On Feed Oct 1	7,216	7,495	8,214	114	110
On Feed by Class Oct 1					
Steers and Steer Calves	4,813	5,017	5,346	111	107
Heifers and Heifer Calves	2,371	2,411	2,829	119	117
Cows and Other	32	67	39	122	58
On Feed by Weight Group Oct 1					
Steers and Steer Calves					
Less Than 500 Pounds	180	212	171	95	81
500-699 Pounds	578	563	719	124	128
700-899 Pounds	1,303	1,466	1,609	123	110
900-1099 Pounds	1,695	1,848	1,856	109	100
1100 Pounds and Over	1,057	928	991	94	107
Heifers and Heifer Calves					
Less Than 500 Pounds	68	90	129	190	143
500-699 Pounds	341	450	494	145	110
700-899 Pounds	925	974	1,128	122	116
900-1099 Pounds	877	755	886	101	117
1100 Pounds and Over	160	142	192	120	135
Fed Cattle Marketed Oct-Dec <u>3/</u>	4,484	4,349	4,695	105	108

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 1991-92. Expected total marketings including an allowance for those placed on feed after October 1 and marketed before December 31 for 1993.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other  
Disappearance, 7 States, Sep-Oct 1, 1991-93

Item	Number			as % of	
	1991	1992	1993	1991	1992
	----- 1,000 Head -----			Percent	
On Feed Sep 1 <u>1/</u>	7,064	6,968	7,754	110	111
Placed on Feed During Sep	1,826	2,179	2,148	118	99
Fed Cattle Marketed During Sep	1,598	1,586	1,622	102	102
Other Disappearance During Sep <u>2/</u>	76	66	66	87	100
On Feed Oct 1 <u>1/</u>	7,216	7,495	8,214	114	110

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 and Placements by State  
and 7-State Total, Apr-Jun 1992-93

State	Number on Feed				Placements			
	1992	1993	as % of 1992	as % of Prev Mo	1992	1993	as % of 1992	as % of Prev Mo
	1,000 Head		Percent		1,000 Head		Percent	
	Apr 1				During Apr			
AZ	203	196	97	98	30	31	103	100
CA	315	365	116	91	70	50	71	91
CO	910	910	100	101	165	140	85	62
IA	840	920	110	101	95	75	79	60
KS	1,810	1,770	98	98	310	280	90	85
NE	1,960	2,230	114	101	380	340	89	89
TX	1,970	2,310	117	99	375	400	107	85
7 Sts	8,008	8,701	109	99	1,425	1,316	92	81
	May 1				During May			
AZ	198	189	95	96	34	41	121	132
CA	300	340	113	93	100	85	85	170
CO	880	880	100	97	180	185	103	132
IA	810	890	110	97	85	55	65	73
KS	1,770	1,700	96	96	380	360	95	129
NE	1,930	2,170	112	97	370	370	100	109
TX	1,930	2,170	112	94	575	685	119	171
7 Sts	7,818	8,339	107	96	1,724	1,781	103	135
	Jun 1				During Jun			
AZ	186	183	98	97	34	25	74	61
CA	330	340	103	100	80	70	88	82
CO	890	900	101	102	110	135	123	73
IA	770	820	106	92	105	105	100	191
KS	1,760	1,690	96	99	300	300	100	83
NE	1,830	2,070	113	95	330	300	91	81
TX	2,060	2,340	114	108	380	475	125	69
7 Sts	7,826	8,343	107	100	1,339	1,410	105	79

Cattle on Feed: Marketings and Other Disappearance  
by State and 7-State Total, Apr-Jun 1992-93

State	Marketings				Other Disappearance			
	1992	1993	as % of: 1992	as % of: Prev Mo	1992	1993	as % of: 1992	as % of: Prev Mo
	1,000 Head		Percent		1,000 Head		Percent	
During Apr								
AZ	30	37	123	106	5	1	20	100
CA	55	55	100	100	30	20	67	57
CO	180	160	89	76	15	10	67	200
IA	115	95	83	95	10	10	100	67
KS	330	330	100	94	20	20	100	200
NE	380	360	95	109	30	40	133	133
TX	400	515	129	106	15	25	167	167
7 Sts	1,490	1,552	104	99	125	126	101	114
During May								
AZ	44	46	105	124	2	1	50	100
CA	55	50	91	91	15	35	233	175
CO	165	155	94	97	5	10	200	100
IA	115	115	100	121	10	10	100	100
KS	380	360	95	109	10	10	100	50
NE	410	430	105	119	60	40	67	100
TX	425	490	115	95	20	25	125	100
7 Sts	1,594	1,646	103	106	122	131	107	104
During Jun								
AZ	37	33	89	72	16	2	13	200
CA	55	45	82	90	15	15	100	43
CO	175	185	106	119	5	10	200	100
IA	145	105	72	91	10	10	100	100
KS	410	370	90	103	10	20	200	200
NE	460	530	115	123	50	30	60	75
TX	430	455	106	93	10	20	200	80
7 Sts	1,712	1,723	101	105	116	107	92	82

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed and Placements by State  
and 7-State Total, Jul-Oct 1, 1992-93

State	Number on Feed				Placements			
	1992	1993	as % of: 1992	as % of: Prev Mo:	1992	1993	as % of: 1992	as % of: Prev Mo
	1,000 Head		Percent		1,000 Head		Percent	
	Jul 1				During Jul			
AZ	167	173	104	95	27	23	85	92
CA	340	350	103	103	65	60	92	86
CO	820	840	102	93	115	160	139	119
IA	720	810	113	99	75	90	120	86
KS	1,640	1,600	98	95	430	390	91	130
NE	1,650	1,810	110	87	360	330	92	110
TX	2,000	2,340	117	100	360	430	119	91
7 Sts	7,337	7,923	108	95	1,432	1,483	104	105
	Aug 1				During Aug			
AZ	160	168	105	97	36	30	83	130
CA	350	345	99	99	75	60	80	100
CO	730	800	110	95	155	190	123	119
IA	680	780	115	96	110	90	82	100
KS	1,600	1,570	98	98	435	475	109	122
NE	1,570	1,680	107	93	430	450	105	136
TX	1,910	2,310	121	99	400	550	138	128
7 Sts	7,000	7,653	109	97	1,641	1,845	112	124
	Sep 1				During Sep			
AZ	168	169	101	101	39	43	110	143
CA	370	345	93	100	80	65	81	108
CO	690	790	114	99	355	315	89	166
IA	640	730	114	94	160	130	81	144
KS	1,620	1,690	104	108	450	430	96	91
NE	1,600	1,660	104	99	560	560	100	124
TX	1,880	2,370	126	103	535	605	113	110
7 Sts	6,968	7,754	111	101	2,179	2,148	99	116
	Oct 1							
AZ	180	189	105	112				
CA	385	355	92	103				
CO	840	920	110	116				
IA	660	720	109	99				
KS	1,700	1,750	103	104				
NE	1,760	1,800	102	108				
TX	1,970	2,480	126	105				
7 Sts	7,495	8,214	110	106				

Cattle on Feed: Marketings and Other Disappearance  
by State and 7-State Total, Jul-Sep 1992-93

State	Marketings				Other Disappearance			
	1992	1993	as % of: 1992	as % of: Prev Mo	1992	1993	as % of: 1992	as % of: Prev Mo
	1,000 Head		Percent		1,000 Head		Percent	
	During Jul							
AZ	29	27	93	82	5	1	20	50
CA	45	45	100	100	10	20	200	133
CO	200	195	98	105	5	5	100	50
IA	110	110	100	105	5	10	200	100
KS	460	410	89	111	10	10	100	50
NE	400	440	110	83	40	20	50	67
TX	440	445	101	98	10	15	150	75
7 Sts	1,684	1,672	99	97	85	81	95	76
	During Aug							
AZ	27	27	100	100	1	2	200	200
CA	45	45	100	100	10	15	150	75
CO	190	190	100	97	5	10	200	200
IA	145	135	93	123	5	5	100	50
KS	395	350	89	85	20	5	25	50
NE	370	450	122	102	30	20	67	100
TX	420	470	112	106	10	20	200	133
7 Sts	1,592	1,667	105	100	81	77	95	95
	During Sep							
AZ	26	22	85	81	1	1	100	50
CA	50	45	90	100	15	10	67	67
CO	200	180	90	95	5	5	100	50
IA	135	135	100	100	5	5	100	100
KS	360	360	100	103	10	10	100	200
NE	380	400	105	89	20	20	100	100
TX	435	480	110	102	10	15	150	75
7 Sts	1,586	1,622	102	97	66	66	100	86

## 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 13,000 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 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 quarter are subject to revision in all 13 States each quarter when current quarterly estimates are made. In January, all monthly and quarterly estimates for the previous year 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 the October 1 cattle on feed 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 9.69 million head by more than 2.0 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 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, above the final estimate 1 time, and unchanged 2 times. 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>

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90% Confidence Level	Percent	Head	Difference Between First and Latest Estimates			Number of Quarters	
					Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Latest	First Below Latest
Inventory	2.0	3.6	349	124	0	295	1	7	
Placements	0.8	1.5	95	39	0	93	1	8	
Marketings	0.9	1.7	99	38	0	110	1	8	
Expected Marketings <sup>2/</sup>	2.1	3.9	217	-15	-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.

## Index

	Page
Cattle on Feed - 13 State Summary .....	4
Cattle on Feed - 7 State Summary .....	10
Cattle on Feed by State, 13 States .....	5
Cattle on Feed, Number by Class and State .....	7
Expected Marketings by State, October-December .....	7
Heifers and Heifer Calves on Feed, by Quarter, Weight Group, and State .....	9
Marketings by Quarter and State, July-September 1992-93, and April-June 1993 .....	6
Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 7 States, 1991-93 .....	11
Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance by State and 7 State Total, April-October 1992-93 .....	12
Other Disappearance by Quarter and State, July-September 1992-93 and April-June 1993 .....	6
Placements by Quarter and State, July-September 1992-93 and April-June 1993 .....	5
Quarterly Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, Other Disappearance, 13 States, 1991-93 .....	3
Reliability Statement .....	16
Steer and Steer Calves on Feed by Quarter, Weight Group, and State .....	8

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## Program Changes

Beginning with the January 1, 1994 "Cattle on Feed" report, quarterly estimates of steers and heifers on feed by weight group and expected marketings will be discontinued. Weight group and expected marketings estimates have not provided reliable projections of future slaughter in part because of the declining number of respondents who report these data. Representatives of the feeding industry, who were contacted for input, consider it more imperative to have accurate inventory, placement, and marketing estimates.

Separate estimates of cattle on feed inventory, placements, marketings, and other disappearance will be initiated for feedlots with 1,000 head or more capacity in addition to the same estimates for all feedlots in the 7 and 13 States. The July cattle on feed inventory estimates will be expanded to include a U.S. total. Estimates of total steers, heifers, and cows on feed will continue to be published in the quarterly report with the addition of estimates for feedlots with 1,000 head or more capacity. The historic estimates of the cattle on feed components for feedlots with 1,000 head capacity or more during 1992 and 1993 will be published in early 1994.

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