



Cattle on Feed

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U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 4 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on December 1, 2003. The inventory was 4 percent above December 1, 2002 but 5 percent below December 1, 2001.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.93 million, 3 percent below 2002 but 1 percent above 2001. Net placements were 1.83 million. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 680,000, 600-699 pounds were 578,000, 700-799 pounds were 379,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 289,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.54 million, 11 percent below 2002 and 15 percent below 2001.

Other disappearance totaled 97,000 during November, 8 percent above 2002 and 21 percent above 2001.

**Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and
Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots,
United States, December 1, 2001-2003**

| Item | Number | | | 2003 as % of | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2001 | 2002 |
| | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| On Feed Nov 1 ¹ | 11,863 | 10,742 | 11,038 | 93 | 103 |
| Placed on Feed During Nov | 1,908 | 1,977 | 1,926 | 101 | 97 |
| Fed Cattle Marketed During Nov | 1,800 | 1,731 | 1,537 | 85 | 89 |
| Other Disappearance During Nov ² | 80 | 90 | 97 | 121 | 108 |
| On Feed Dec 1 ¹ | 11,891 | 10,898 | 11,330 | 95 | 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 loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

**Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and
Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots,
United States, November 1, 2001-2003**

| Item | Number | | | 2003 as % of | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2001 | 2002 |
| | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| On Feed Oct 1 ¹ | 11,125 | 10,416 | 10,213 | 92 | 98 |
| Placed on Feed During Oct | 2,702 | 2,389 | 2,781 | 103 | 116 |
| Fed Cattle Marketed During Oct | 1,896 | 1,979 | 1,855 | 98 | 94 |
| Other Disappearance During Oct ² | 68 | 84 | 101 | 149 | 120 |
| On Feed Nov 1 ¹ | 11,863 | 10,742 | 11,038 | 93 | 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.

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

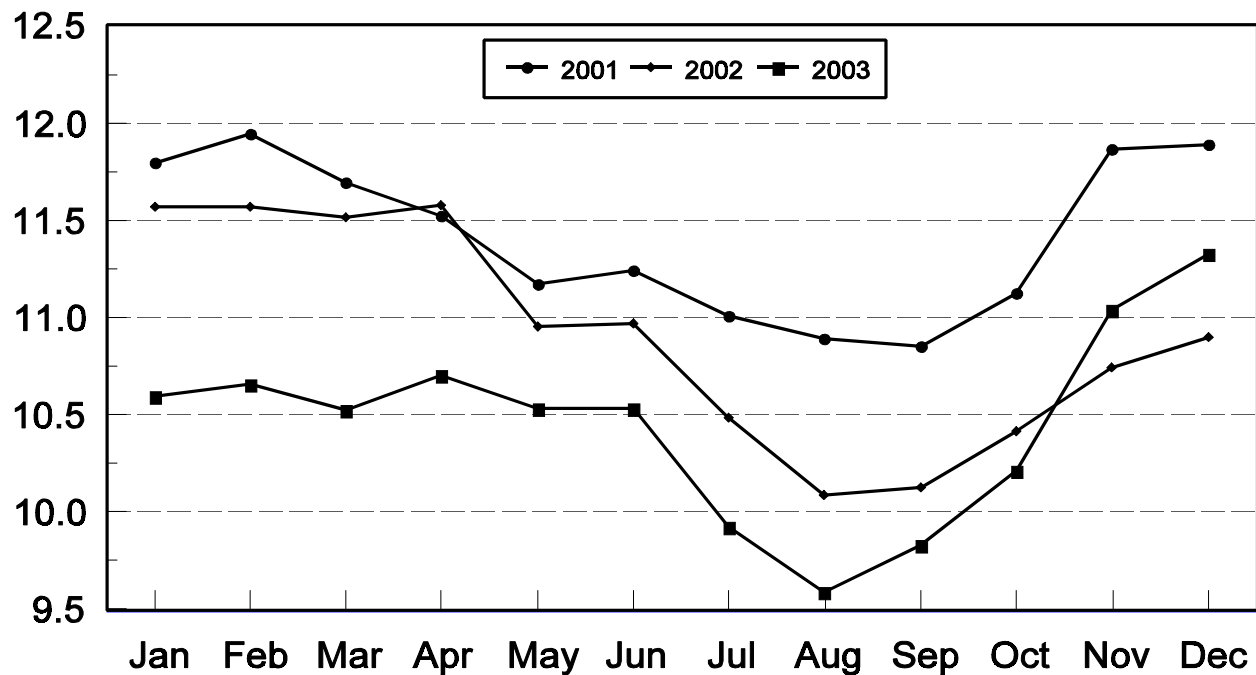
**Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots,
by Month, State, and United States 2002-2003 ¹**

| State | Dec 1, 2002 | Nov 1, 2003 | Dec 1, 2003 | | |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | | Number | as % of 2002 | as % of Nov |
| | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| AZ | 295 | 278 | 284 | 96 | 102 |
| CA | 500 | 495 | 500 | 100 | 101 |
| CO | 1,070 | 1,050 | 1,060 | 99 | 101 |
| ID | 300 | 295 | 310 | 103 | 105 |
| IA | 350 | 350 | 370 | 106 | 106 |
| KS | 2,300 | 2,430 | 2,480 | 108 | 102 |
| NE | 2,180 | 2,140 | 2,280 | 105 | 107 |
| NM | 123 | 118 | 121 | 98 | 103 |
| OK | 340 | 350 | 350 | 103 | 100 |
| SD | 195 | 177 | 200 | 103 | 113 |
| TX | 2,700 | 2,840 | 2,840 | 105 | 100 |
| WA | 195 | 195 | 205 | 105 | 105 |
| Oth Sts | 350 | 320 | 330 | 94 | 103 |
| US | 10,898 | 11,038 | 11,330 | 104 | 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.

United States Cattle on Feed 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots

Million Head



**Cattle on Feed: Number Placed on Feed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots,
by Month, State, and United States 2002-2003**

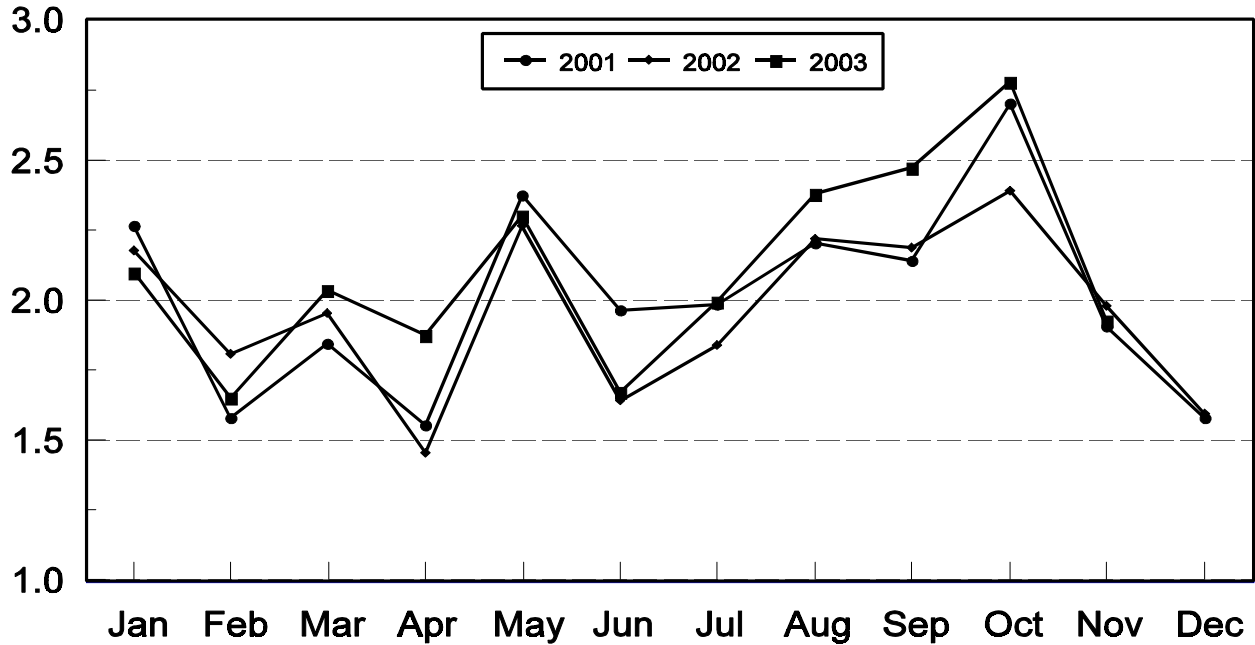
| State | During Nov 2002 | During Oct 2003 | During Nov 2003 | | |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | | | Number | as % of 2002 | as % of Oct |
| | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| AZ | 32 | 26 | 26 | 81 | 100 |
| CA | 65 | 68 | 62 | 95 | 91 |
| CO | 190 | 270 | 185 | 97 | 69 |
| ID | 60 | 88 | 64 | 107 | 73 |
| IA | 80 | 113 | 77 | 96 | 68 |
| KS | 420 | 570 | 425 | 101 | 75 |
| NE | 410 | 640 | 410 | 100 | 64 |
| NM | 18 | 19 | 22 | 122 | 116 |
| OK | 55 | 78 | 56 | 102 | 72 |
| SD | 56 | 68 | 54 | 96 | 79 |
| TX | 470 | 680 | 440 | 94 | 65 |
| WA | 40 | 51 | 46 | 115 | 90 |
| Oth Sts | 81 | 110 | 59 | 73 | 54 |
| US | 1,977 | 2,781 | 1,926 | 97 | 69 |

**Cattle on Feed: Number Placed on Feed by Weight Group, 1,000+ Capacity
Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2002-2003**

| State | During November | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Under 600 | | 600-699 | | 700-799 | | 800 Plus | | Total | |
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 |
| | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> |
| CO | 58 | 72 | 60 | 45 | 43 | 40 | 29 | 28 | 190 | 185 |
| KS | 95 | 130 | 155 | 130 | 110 | 110 | 60 | 55 | 420 | 425 |
| NE | 113 | 128 | 142 | 138 | 70 | 63 | 85 | 81 | 410 | 410 |
| TX | 141 | 155 | 188 | 150 | 114 | 100 | 27 | 35 | 470 | 440 |
| Oth Sts | 182 | 195 | 115 | 115 | 80 | 66 | 110 | 90 | 487 | 466 |
| US | 589 | 680 | 660 | 578 | 417 | 379 | 311 | 289 | 1,977 | 1,926 |
| State | During October | | | | | | | | | |
| | Under 600 | | 600-699 | | 700-799 | | 800 Plus | | Total | |
| | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 | 2002 | 2003 |
| | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> |
| CO | 94 | 88 | 49 | 69 | 56 | 54 | 51 | 59 | 250 | 270 |
| KS | 120 | 185 | 145 | 170 | 120 | 130 | 70 | 85 | 455 | 570 |
| NE | 200 | 245 | 134 | 187 | 87 | 88 | 99 | 120 | 520 | 640 |
| TX | 175 | 250 | 200 | 235 | 165 | 145 | 60 | 50 | 600 | 680 |
| Oth Sts | 220 | 255 | 110 | 135 | 94 | 91 | 140 | 140 | 564 | 621 |
| US | 809 | 1,023 | 638 | 796 | 522 | 508 | 420 | 454 | 2,389 | 2,781 |

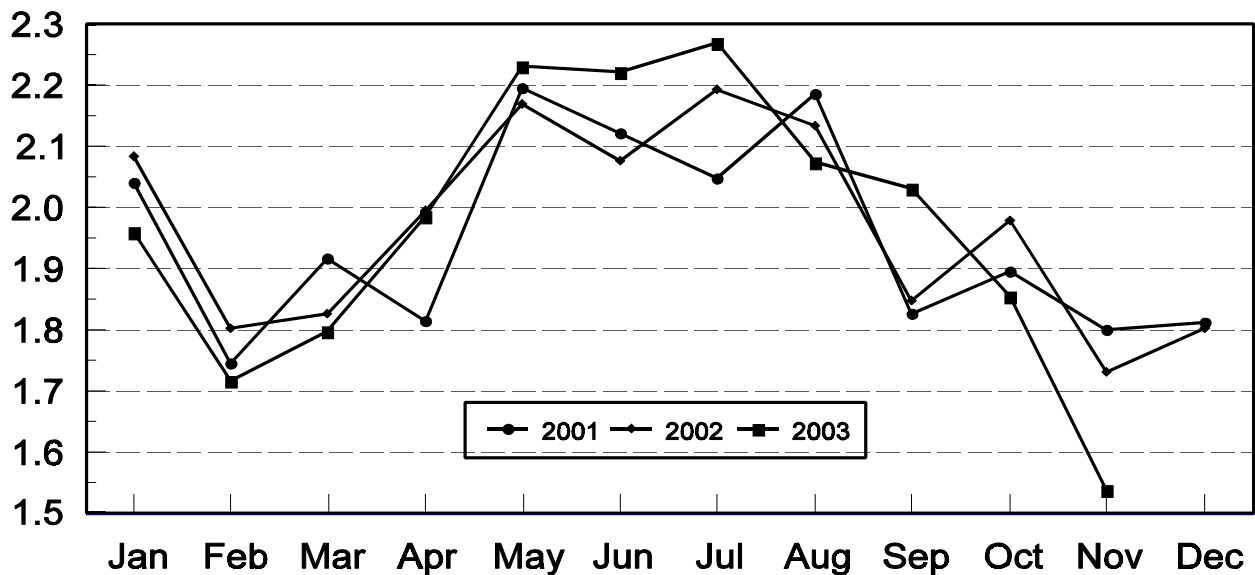
United States Cattle on Feed 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots Number Placed

Million Head



United States Cattle on Feed 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots Number Marketed

Million Head



**Cattle on Feed: Number Marketed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots,
by Month, State, and United States 2002-2003**

| State | During Nov 2002 | During Oct 2003 | During Nov 2003 | | |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | | | Number | as % of 2002 | as % of Oct |
| | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| AZ | 24 | 22 | 19 | 79 | 86 |
| CA | 50 | 54 | 52 | 104 | 96 |
| CO | 170 | 160 | 165 | 97 | 103 |
| ID | 53 | 60 | 47 | 89 | 78 |
| IA | 63 | 72 | 56 | 89 | 78 |
| KS | 395 | 410 | 350 | 89 | 85 |
| NE | 330 | 320 | 260 | 79 | 81 |
| NM | 11 | 20 | 17 | 155 | 85 |
| OK | 53 | 74 | 51 | 96 | 69 |
| SD | 30 | 34 | 30 | 100 | 88 |
| TX | 475 | 530 | 410 | 86 | 77 |
| WA | 29 | 45 | 35 | 121 | 78 |
| Oth Sts | 48 | 54 | 45 | 94 | 83 |
| US | 1,731 | 1,855 | 1,537 | 89 | 83 |

**Cattle on Feed: Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots,
by Month, State, and United States 2002-2003 ¹**

| State | During Nov 2002 | During Oct 2003 | During Nov 2003 | | |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | | | Number | as % of 2002 | as % of Oct |
| | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>1,000 Head</i> | <i>Percent</i> | <i>Percent</i> |
| AZ | 3 | 1 | 1 | 33 | 100 |
| CA | 5 | 4 | 5 | 100 | 125 |
| CO | 10 | 10 | 10 | 100 | 100 |
| ID | 2 | 3 | 2 | 100 | 67 |
| IA | 2 | 1 | 1 | 50 | 100 |
| KS | 25 | 30 | 25 | 100 | 83 |
| NE | 10 | 10 | 10 | 100 | 100 |
| NM | 1 | 4 | 2 | 200 | 50 |
| OK | 2 | 4 | 5 | 250 | 125 |
| SD | 1 | 2 | 1 | 100 | 50 |
| TX | 25 | 30 | 30 | 120 | 100 |
| WA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 100 | 100 |
| Oth Sts | 3 | 1 | 4 | 133 | 400 |
| US | 90 | 101 | 97 | 108 | 96 |

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 1000+ 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.

The next "*Cattle on Feed*" report will be released at 3 p.m. ET on January 16, 2004.

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