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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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Cattle on Feed

Released October 17, 2008, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, U.S. Department of Agriculture. For information on *Cattle on Feed* call Jason Hardegree at (202) 720-3040, office hours 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET.

U.S. Cattle on Feed Down 5 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.4 million head on October 1, 2008. The inventory was 5 percent below October 1, 2007 and 9 percent below October 1, 2006. The inventory included 6.51 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.85 million head, down 5 percent from 2007.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.28 million, 6 percent below 2007 but 2 percent above 2006. Net placements were 2.23 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 445,000, 600-699 pounds were 415,000, 700-799 pounds were 541,000 and 800 pounds and greater were 880,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.81 million, 7 percent above 2007 and 3 percent above 2006.

Other disappearance totaled 51,000 during September, 6 percent below 2007 and 25 percent below 2006.

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

Item	Number			2008 as % of	
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*	*Percent*
On Feed Sep 1 [1]	10,986	10,302	9,997	91	97
Placed on Feed During Sep	2,227	2,415	2,281	102	94
Fed Cattle Marketed During Sep	1,760	1,696	1,812	103	107
Other Disappearance During Sep [2]	68	54	51	75	94
On Feed Oct 1	11,385	10,967	10,415	91	95

[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, September 1, 2006-2008

Item	Number			2008 as % of	
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*	*Percent*
On Feed Aug 1 [1]	10,822	10,299	9,869	91	96
Placed on Feed During Aug	2,290	2,119	2,061	90	97
Fed Cattle Marketed During Aug	2,067	2,066	1,884	91	91
Other Disappearance During Aug [2]	59	50	49	83	98
On Feed Sep 1 [1]	10,986	10,302	9,997	91	97

[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.

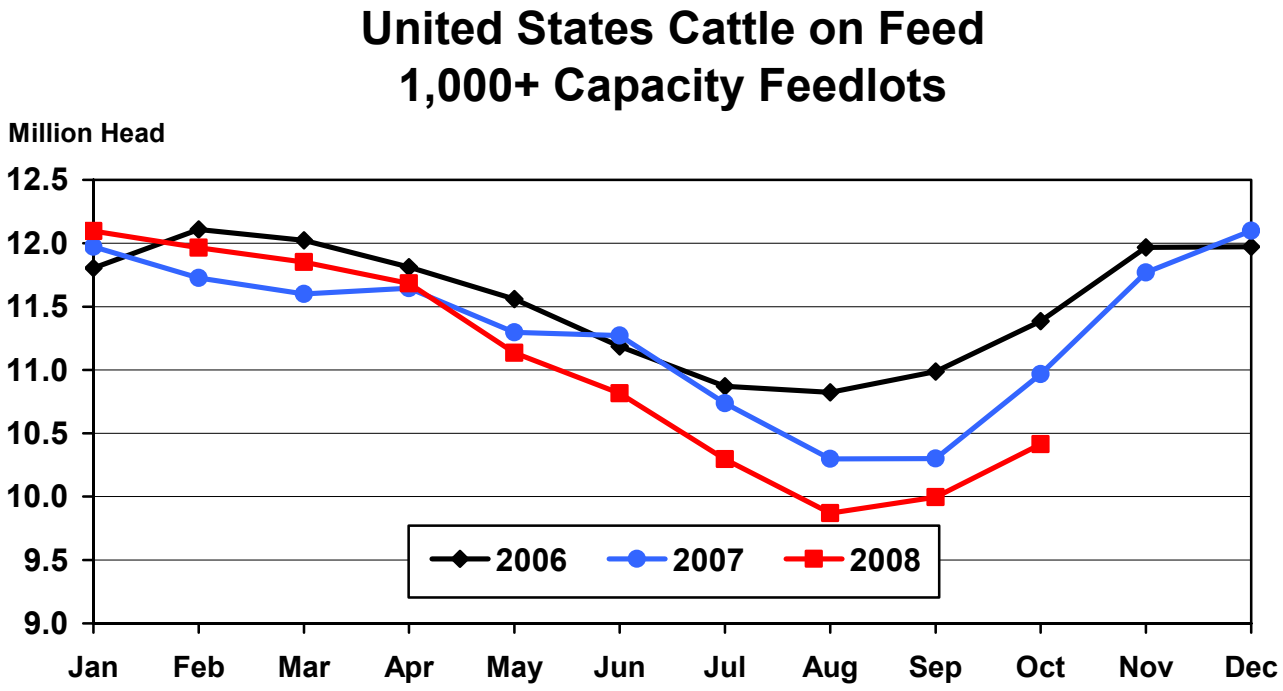
Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed by Class, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, United States, October 1, 2006-2008

Item	Number			2008 as % of	
	2006	2007	2008	2006	2007
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*	*Percent*
Class on Feed Oct 1					
Steers and Steer Calves	7,197	6,832	6,513	90	95
Heifers and Heifer Calves	4,122	4,070	3,848	93	95
Cows and Bulls	66	65	54	82	83

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

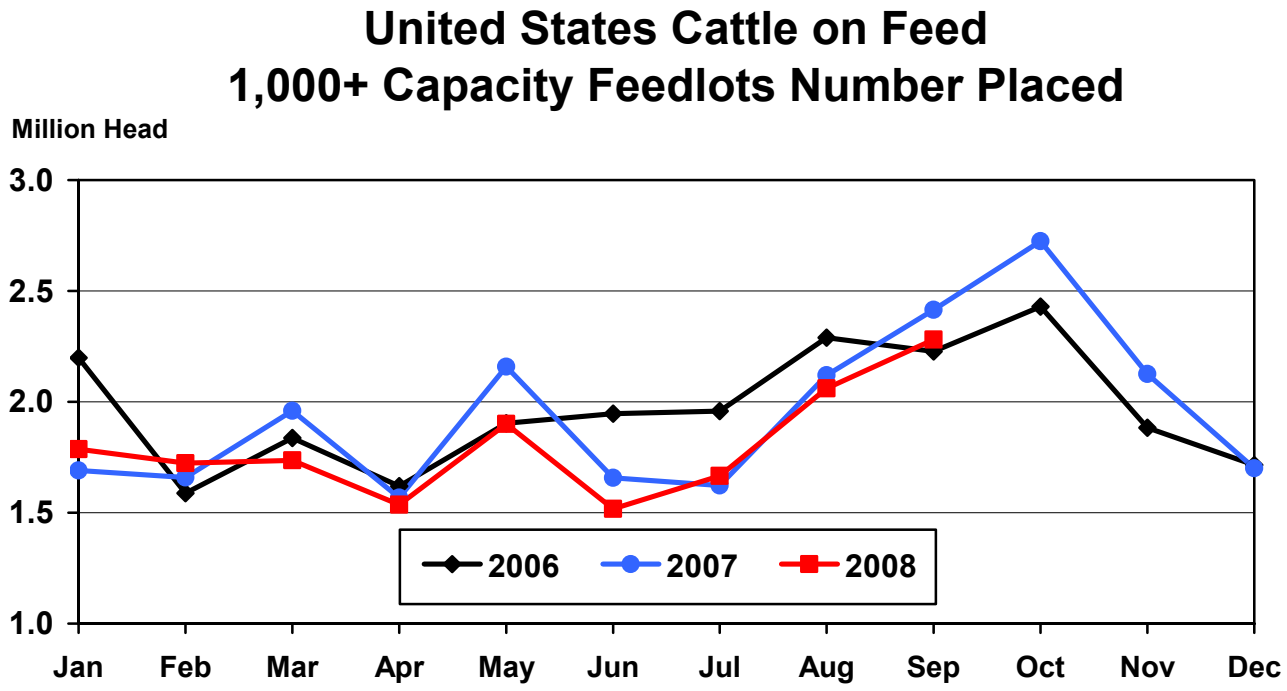
State	Oct 1, 2007	Sep 1, 2008	Oct 1, 2008		
			Number	as % of 2007	as % of Sep
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*	*Percent*
AZ	350	362	360	103	99
CA	540	505	505	94	100
CO	940	770	870	93	113
ID	210	180	195	93	108
IA	510	470	475	93	101
KS	2,310	2,090	2,160	94	103
NE	2,140	1,960	2,110	99	108
NM	133	167	173	130	104
OK	325	305	315	97	103
SD	180	165	175	97	106
TX	2,840	2,580	2,590	91	100
WA	154	138	157	102	114
Oth Sts	335	305	330	99	108
US	10,967	9,997	10,415	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.



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

State	During Sep 2007	During Aug 2008	During Sep 2008		
			Number	as % of 2007	as % of Aug
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*	*Percent*
AZ	28	33	24	86	73
CA	60	37	55	92	149
CO	255	190	255	100	134
ID	48	45	57	119	127
IA	100	72	81	81	113
KS	540	520	485	90	93
NE	540	445	550	102	124
NM	17	27	27	159	100
OK	72	70	60	83	86
SD	43	28	56	130	200
TX	590	510	510	86	100
WA	36	36	44	122	122
Oth Sts	86	48	77	90	160
US	2,415	2,061	2,281	94	111

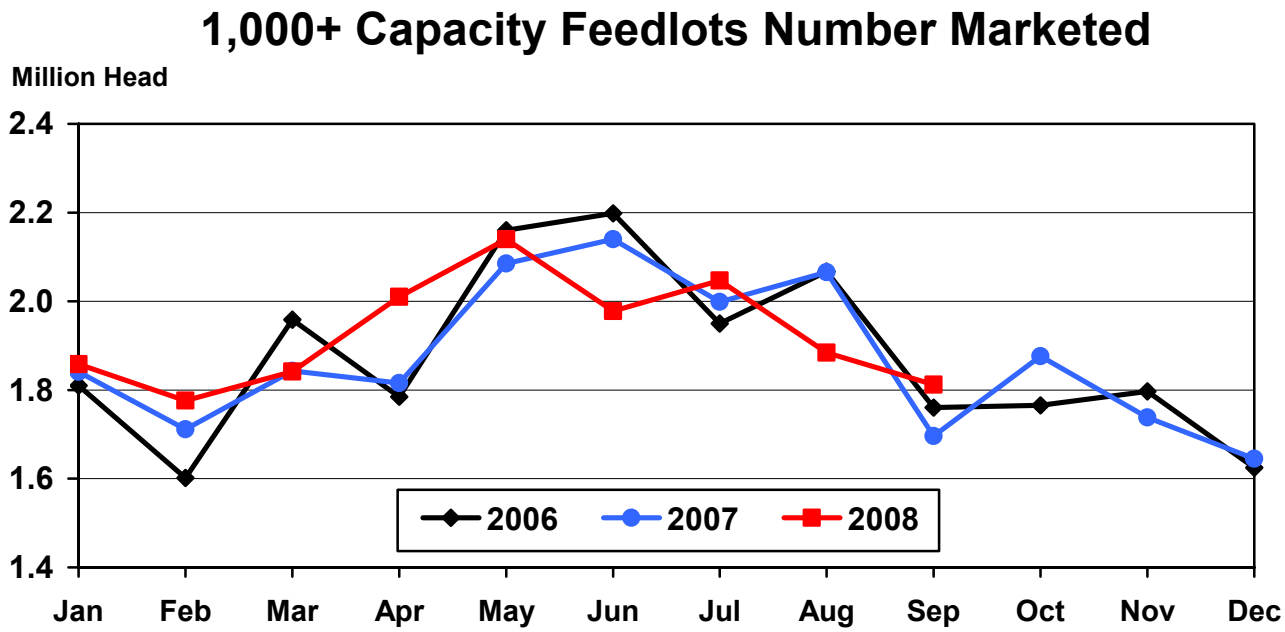


Cattle on Feed: Number Placed on Feed by Weight Group, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2007-2008

State	During September									
	Under 600		600-699		700-799		800 Plus		Total	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*
CO	35	20	40	30	60	45	120	160	255	255
KS	140	80	140	100	130	155	130	150	540	485
NE	100	80	80	70	120	120	240	280	540	550
TX	190	145	170	150	165	130	65	85	590	510
Oth Sts	145	120	75	65	90	91	180	205	490	481
US	610	445	505	415	565	541	735	880	2,415	2,281
	During August									
	Under 600		600-699		700-799		800 Plus		Total	
	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008	2007	2008
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*
CO	25	15	30	20	40	50	75	105	170	190
KS	100	65	120	105	160	190	140	160	520	520
NE	75	60	70	60	115	105	205	220	465	445
TX	160	125	160	170	140	140	60	75	520	510
Oth Sts	130	100	60	55	94	81	160	160	444	396
US	490	365	440	410	549	566	640	720	2,119	2,061

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

State	During Sep 2007	During Aug 2008	During Sep 2008		
			Number	as % of 2007	as % of Aug
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*	*Percent*
AZ	24	27	25	104	93
CA	47	45	53	113	118
CO	160	165	150	94	91
ID	41	44	41	100	93
IA	79	75	75	95	100
KS	355	430	400	113	93
NE	320	395	390	122	99
NM	13	23	20	154	87
OK	56	54	49	88	91
SD	37	32	44	119	138
TX	480	510	490	102	96
WA	29	30	24	83	80
Oth Sts	55	54	51	93	94
US	1,696	1,884	1,812	107	96



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

State	During Sep 2007	During Aug 2008	During Sep 2008		
			Number	as % of 2007	as % of Aug
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*Percent*	*Percent*
AZ	2	1	1	50	100
CA	3	2	2	67	100
CO	5	5	5	100	100
ID	2	1	1	50	100
IA	1	2	1	100	50
KS	15	10	15	100	150
NE	10	10	10	100	100
NM	2	1	1	50	100
OK	1	1	1	100	100
SD	1	1	2	200	200
TX	10	10	10	100	100
WA	1	1	1	100	100
Oth Sts	1	4	1	100	25
US	54	49	51	94	104

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

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed by Class, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, by Quarter, State, and United States, 2007-2008

State	Steers & Steer Calves			Heifers & Heifer Calves			Cows and Bulls		
	Oct 1, 2007	Jul 1, 2008	Oct 1, 2008	Oct 1, 2007	Jul 1, 2008	Oct 1, 2008	Oct 1, 2007	Jul 1, 2008	Oct 1, 2008
	1,000 Head	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*
AZ	349	354	359	1	2	1	0	0	0
CA	490	470	455	50	50	50	0	0	0
CO	575	485	515	360	330	350	5	5	5
ID	114	112	101	91	86	89	5	2	5
IA	350	335	345	159	165	130	1	0	0
KS	1,220	1,135	1,225	1,065	940	920	25	5	15
NE	1,280	1,270	1,200	850	775	900	10	5	10
NM	82	78	77	51	76	96	0	0	0
OK	220	190	225	105	110	90	0	0	0
SD	87	93	82	80	75	78	13	17	15
TX	1,740	1,600	1,590	1,097	1,059	998	3	1	2
WA	80	65	84	73	74	72	1	1	1
Oth Sts	245	245	255	88	81	74	2	4	1
US	6,832	6,432	6,513	4,070	3,823	3,848	65	40	54

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 24 months is less than 0.1 percent (0.04). This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final

estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.4 million head by more than 0.04 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.1 percent.

The following table also shows a 24 month 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 24 months have averaged 2,000 head, ranging from 0 to 18,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has not been above the final estimate, but has been below the final estimate 4 times. This does not imply that the initial estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

Reliability of Monthly Cattle on Feed Estimates [1]

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90% Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Final Estimates [1]			Number of Months	
		Percent	(000) Head	Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Final	First Below Final
	Percent	*Percent*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*1,000 Head*	*Number*	*Number*
Number on Feed	0.0	0.1	10.4	2	0	18	0	4
Placements	0.2	0.3	6.8	3	0	10	5	6
Marketings	0.2	0.3	5.4	2	0	10	6	2

[1] Based on data for the past 24 months.

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
- Jim Collom - Dairy Products ..... (202) 690-3236
- Joe Gaynor - Dairy Products Prices ..... (202) 690-2168
- Jason Hardegree - Cattle, Cattle on Feed ..... (202) 720-3040
- Benita Hodge - Livestock Slaughter ..... (515) 284-4340
- Everett Olbert - Sheep and Goats ..... (202) 720-4751
- Mike Miller - Milk Production and Milk Cows ..... (202) 720-3278
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USDA Data Users' Meeting

October 20, 2008

Doubletree Hotel Chicago O'Hare Airport-Rosemont
Rosemont, Illinois
(847) 292-9100

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will be organizing an open forum for data users. The purpose will be to provide updates on pending changes in the various statistical and information programs and seek comments and input from data users. Other USDA agencies to be represented will include the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Economic Research Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board. The Foreign Trade Division from the Census Bureau will also be included in the meeting.

For registration details or additional information for the Data Users' Meeting, see the NASS homepage at www.nass.usda.gov/forum/ or contact Marjorie Taylor (NASS) at (202) 690-8141 or at marjorie_taylor@nass.usda.gov.

This Data Users' Meeting precedes an Industry Outlook meeting that will be held at the same location on October 21, 2008. The Outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss the outlook situation. For registration details or additional information for the Industry Outlook Meeting see the Livestock and Marketing Information Center (LMIC) homepage at www.lmic.info or contact Jim Robb at (720) 544-2941 or at robb@lmic.info.