



Cattle on Feed

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Special Note

NASS is in the process of modifying report layouts in order to improve readability. This is the first issue produced using the new layout. This report issue is published using both layouts but future issues will only be produced using this layout. The previous layout is available on the NASS website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>.

United States Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.5 million head on June 1, 2010. The inventory was 1 percent above June 1, 2009.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 2.02 million, 23 percent above 2009. Net placements were 1.92 million head. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 445,000, 600-699 pounds were 405,000, 700-799 pounds were 537,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 635,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.87 million, 4 percent below 2009. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of May since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 102,000 during May, 1 percent above 2009.

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots - United States: June 1, 2009 and 2010

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2009	2010	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed May 1	10,822	*10,443	96
Placed on feed during May	1,638	2,022	123
Fed cattle marketed during May	1,952	1,869	96
Other disappearance during May	101	102	101
On feed June 1	10,407	10,494	101

* Revised.

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots - United States: May 1, 2009 and 2010

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2009	2010	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1	11,162	10,767	96
Placed on feed during April	1,600	*1,627	102
Fed cattle marketed during April	1,871	*1,857	99
Other disappearance during April	69	*94	136
On feed May 1	10,822	*10,443	96

* Revised.

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month - States and United States: 2009 and 2010

State	June 1, 2009	May 1, 2010	June 1, 2010		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	301	268	263	87	98
California	470	*425	425	90	100
Colorado	980	940	970	99	103
Idaho	205	210	210	102	100
Iowa	530	600	590	111	98
Kansas	2,080	2,130	2,130	102	100
Nebraska	2,110	2,240	2,140	101	96
New Mexico	105	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oklahoma	310	325	345	111	106
South Dakota	220	235	230	105	98
Texas	2,610	2,510	2,640	101	105
Washington	156	175	178	114	102
Other States ¹	330	385	373	(X)	97
United States	10,407	*10,443	10,494	101	100

* Revised.

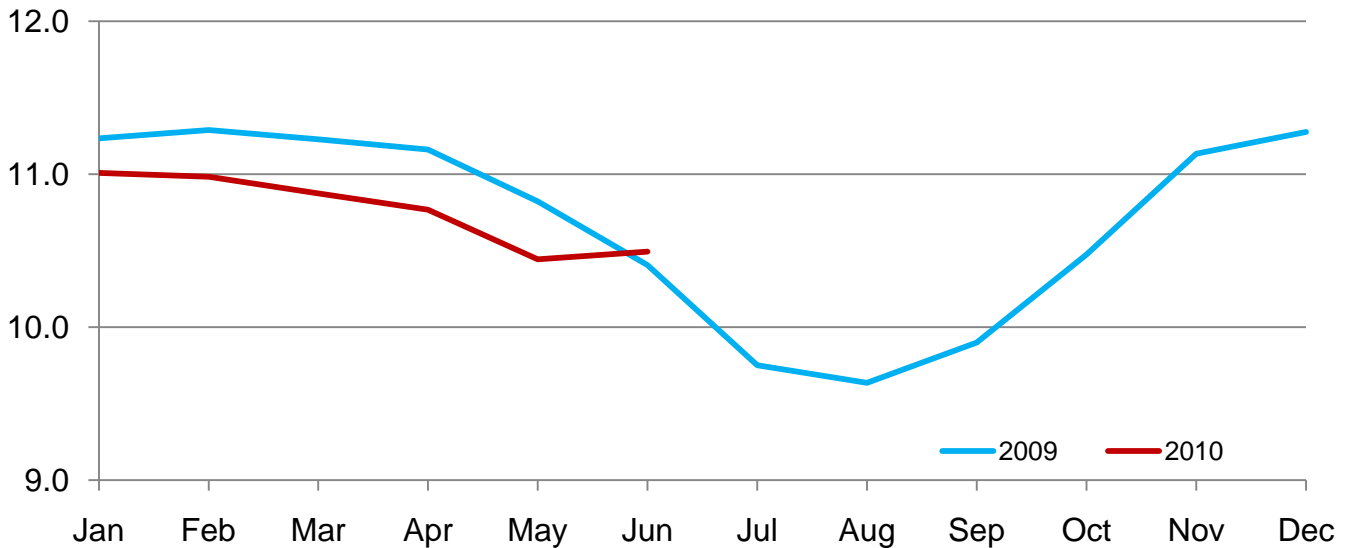
(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Beginning in July 2009, New Mexico is included in the Other State total.

**United States Cattle on Feed
1,000+ Capacity Feedlots**

Million head



Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month - States and United States: 2009 and 2010

State	During May 2009	During April 2010	During May 2010		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	26	16	20	77	125
California	74	*47	60	81	128
Colorado	140	170	185	132	109
Idaho	35	27	32	91	119
Iowa	60	76	64	107	84
Kansas	345	315	420	122	133
Nebraska	310	400	380	123	95
New Mexico	16	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oklahoma	67	57	93	139	163
South Dakota	40	39	42	105	108
Texas	455	400	620	136	155
Washington	31	29	41	132	141
Other States ¹	39	51	65	(X)	127
United States	1,638	*1,627	2,022	123	124

* Revised.

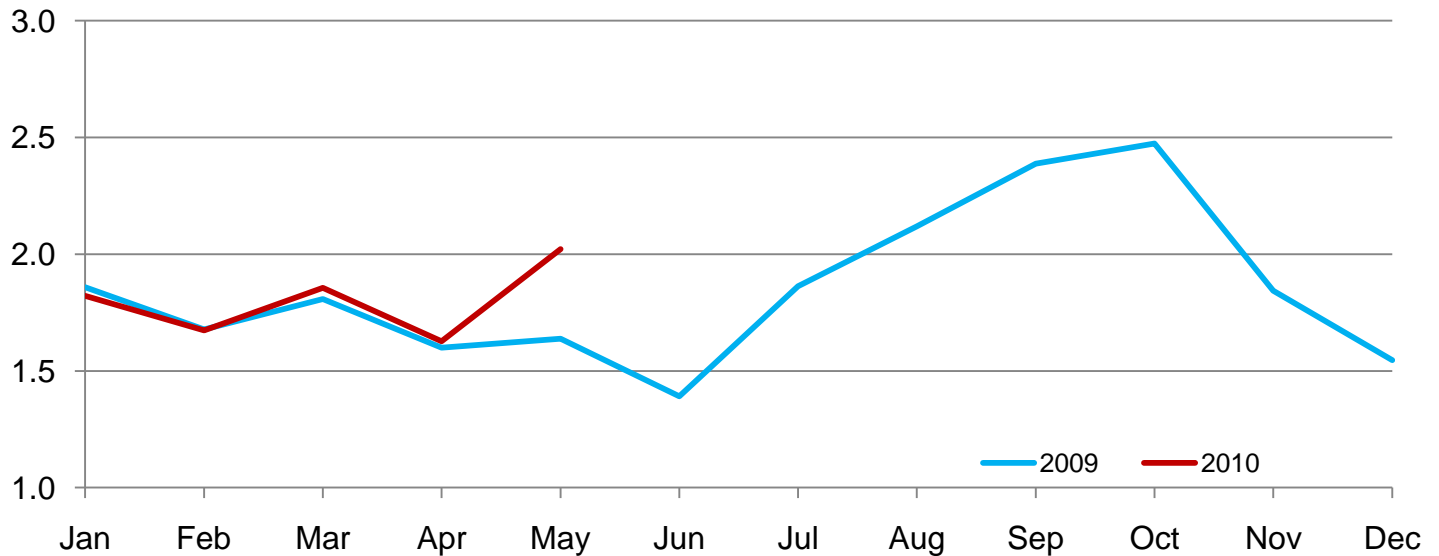
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(X) Not applicable.

¹ Beginning in July 2009, New Mexico is included in the Other State total.

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

Million Head



Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month - States and United States: 2009 and 2010

State	During May									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	(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)
Colorado	25	25	25	25	45	45	45	90	140	185
Kansas	65	60	70	80	110	130	100	150	345	420
Nebraska	30	55	60	70	80	105	140	150	310	380
Texas	170	180	100	180	110	170	75	90	455	620
Other States	105	125	50	50	88	87	145	155	388	417
United States	395	445	305	405	433	537	505	635	1,638	2,022

State	During April									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010	2009	2010
	(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)
Colorado	20	30	30	35	40	45	60	60	150	170
Kansas	55	55	70	60	90	100	115	100	330	315
Nebraska	55	70	65	70	90	120	140	140	350	400
Texas	125	115	90	85	95	120	85	80	395	400
Other States	100	95	60	50	90	*82	125	115	375	*342
United States	355	365	315	300	405	*467	525	495	1,600	*1,627

* Revised.

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month - States and United States: 2009 and 2010

State	During May 2009	During April 2010	During May 2010		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	35	24	24	69	100
California	52	*54	52	100	96
Colorado	145	145	135	93	93
Idaho	39	21	31	79	148
Iowa	68	72	72	106	100
Kansas	425	405	405	95	100
Nebraska	450	435	455	101	105
New Mexico	28	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oklahoma	71	70	72	101	103
South Dakota	44	38	44	100	116
Texas	510	510	475	93	93
Washington	35	24	37	106	154
Other States ¹	50	59	67	(X)	114
United States	1,952	*1,857	1,869	96	101

* Revised.

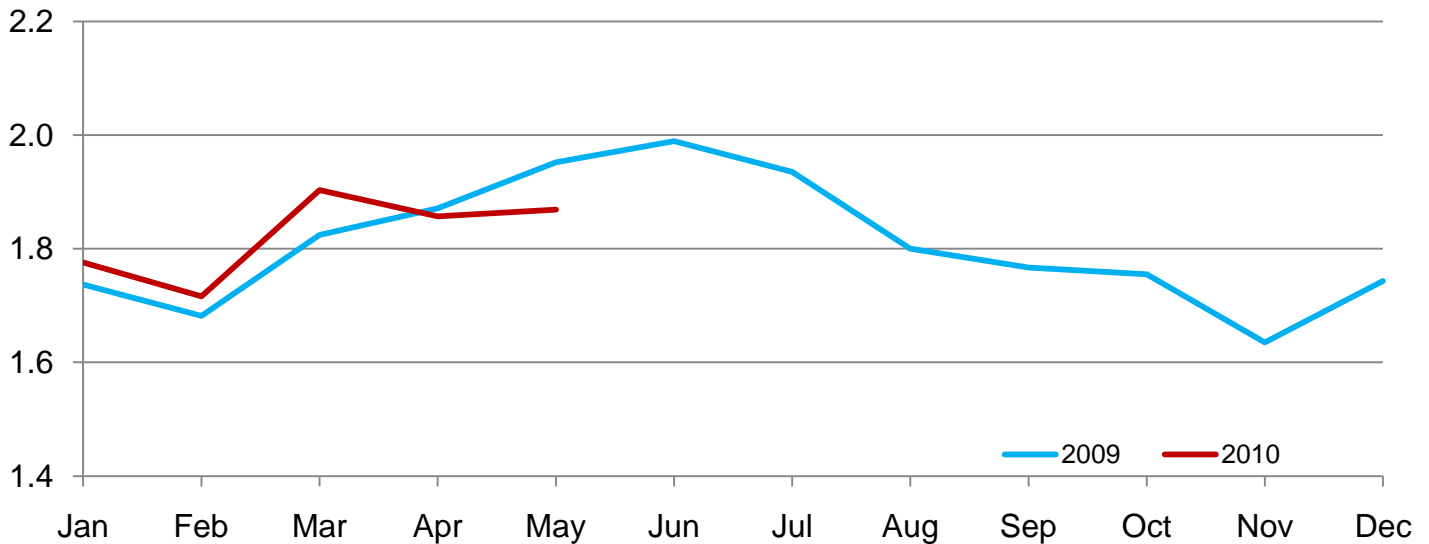
(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ Beginning in July 2009, New Mexico is included in the Other State total.

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

Million Head



Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month - States and United States: 2009 and 2010

State	During May 2009 (1,000 head)	During April 2010 (1,000 head)	During May 2010		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	2	1	100	50
California	2	*8	8	400	100
Colorado	25	15	20	80	133
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	2	4	2	100	50
Kansas	20	20	15	75	75
Nebraska	20	15	25	125	167
New Mexico	3	(D)	(D)	(D)	(D)
Oklahoma	1	2	1	100	50
South Dakota	6	1	3	50	300
Texas	15	20	15	100	75
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States ¹	4	5	10	(X)	200
United States	101	*94	102	101	109

* Revised.

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(X) Not applicable.

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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 16 States are surveyed. The 16 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 0.05 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.5 million head by more than 0.05 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.10 percent.

The table on the following page 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 3,000 head, ranging from 0 to 18,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the final estimate 6 times and has been below the final estimate 5 times. This does not imply that the initial estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

Reliability of Monthly Cattle on Feed Estimates

[Based on data for the past 24 months]

Item	Root mean square error	90 percent confidence level		Difference between first and final estimates			Number of months	
				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	0.05	0.10	10.5	3	0	18	6	5
Placements	0.19	0.30	6.1	2	0	9	5	6
Marketings	0.30	0.50	9.3	3	0	21	4	8

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information. E-mail inquiries may be sent to nass@nass.usda.gov

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