



Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

Released February 18, 2011, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

United States Cattle on Feed Up 6 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.6 million head on February 1, 2011. The inventory was 6 percent above February 1, 2010.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.90 million, 4 percent above 2010. Net placements were 1.84 million head. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 465,000, 600-699 pounds were 475,000, 700-799 pounds were 547,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 410,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.78 million, slightly above 2010.

Other disappearance totaled 56,000 during January, 20 percent below 2010. This is the lowest other disappearance for the month of January since the series began in 1996.

2010 Cattle on Feed and Annual Size Group Estimates

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head represented 82.1 percent of all cattle and calves on feed in the United States on January 1, 2011, up from 80.5 on January 1, 2010.

Marketings of fed cattle for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head during 2010 represented 84.6 percent of all cattle marketed from feedlots in the United States, down from 84.7 percent during 2009.

Special Note

This report contains the 2010 monthly cattle on feed estimates for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head. Also included are the United States number of feedlots, inventory, and annual marketings by size group for 2009 and 2010. Data for total United States capacity of 1,000 or more head feedlots are also published in this issue.

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Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: February 1, 2010 and 2011

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1	10,983	11,514	105
Placed on feed during January	1,822	1,897	104
Fed cattle marketed during January	1,776	1,777	100
Other disappearance during January	70	56	80
On feed February 1	10,959	11,578	106

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2010 and 2011

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed December ¹ 1	11,277	11,620	103
Placed on feed during December ¹	1,526	1,789	117
Fed cattle marketed during December ¹	1,745	1,830	105
Other disappearance during December ¹	75	65	87
On feed January 1	10,983	11,514	105

¹ December preceding year.

Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2010 and 2011

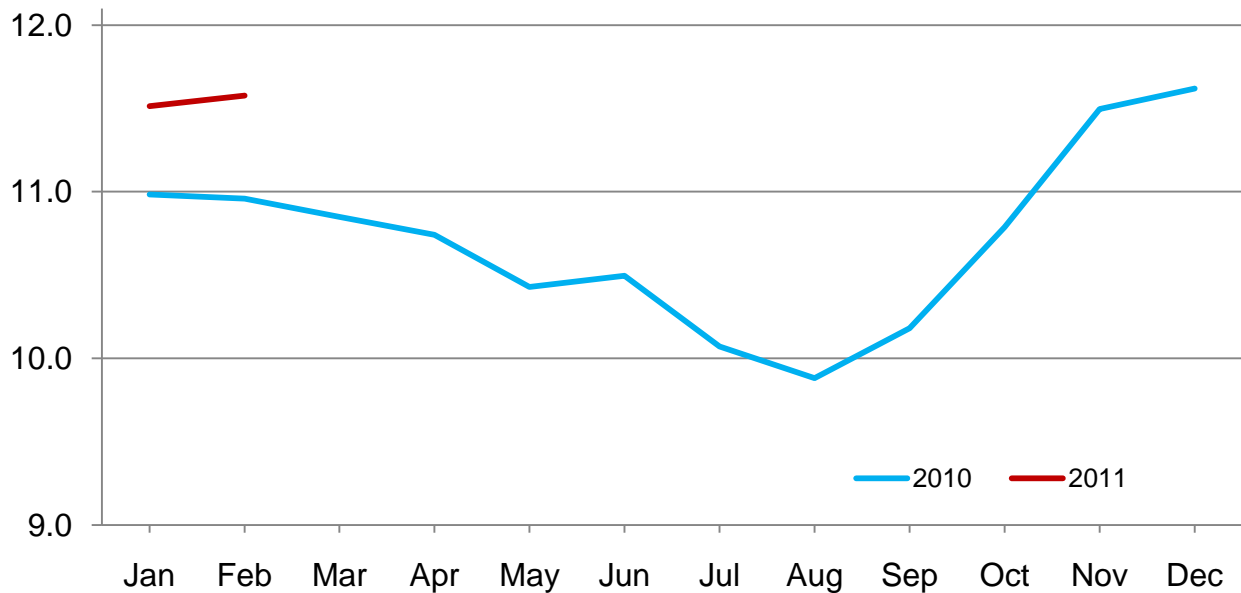
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Class on feed January 1			
Steers and steer calves	6,852	7,178	105
Heifers and heifer calves	4,068	4,259	105
Cows and bulls	63	77	122

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011

State	February 1, 2010	January 1, 2011	February 1, 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	290	258	261	90	101
California	430	470	470	109	100
Colorado	960	1,080	1,070	111	99
Idaho	200	240	230	115	96
Iowa	600	640	660	110	103
Kansas	2,240	2,280	2,270	101	100
Nebraska	2,370	2,430	2,460	104	101
Oklahoma	365	375	375	103	100
South Dakota	235	260	270	115	104
Texas	2,700	2,840	2,880	107	101
Washington	166	209	209	126	100
Other States	403	432	423	105	98
United States	10,959	11,514	11,578	106	101

Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million Head



Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011

State	During January 2010	During December 2010	During January 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	28	36	34	121	94
California	54	61	54	100	89
Colorado	130	160	185	142	116
Idaho	27	42	31	115	74
Iowa	95	93	93	98	100
Kansas	475	410	435	92	106
Nebraska	410	380	430	105	113
Oklahoma	60	55	66	110	120
South Dakota	35	45	51	146	113
Texas	420	420	440	105	105
Washington	29	36	31	107	86
Other States	59	51	47	80	92
United States	1,822	1,789	1,897	104	106

Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2009-2011

State	During January									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(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	25	25	50	45	65	40	45	130	185
Kansas	60	55	125	120	190	165	100	95	475	435
Nebraska	70	70	110	105	120	130	110	125	410	430
Texas	135	165	100	115	115	105	70	55	420	440
Other States	110	150	85	85	92	82	100	90	387	407
United States	395	465	445	475	562	547	420	410	1,822	1,897

State	During December									
	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	30	30	50	30	40	25	40	110	160
Kansas	70	75	100	115	135	130	70	90	375	410
Nebraska	60	55	80	110	100	105	80	110	320	380
Texas	140	180	110	120	70	80	30	40	350	420
Other States	130	135	95	100	66	84	80	100	371	419
United States	425	475	415	495	401	439	285	380	1,526	1,789

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011

State	During January 2010	During December 2010	During January 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	24	26	30	125	115
California	57	57	51	89	89
Colorado	170	165	190	112	115
Idaho	41	35	40	98	114
Iowa	62	80	69	111	86
Kansas	475	480	435	92	91
Nebraska	380	400	385	101	96
Oklahoma	58	58	64	110	110
South Dakota	34	39	40	118	103
Texas	390	400	390	100	98
Washington	28	39	30	107	77
Other States	57	51	53	93	104
United States	1,776	1,830	1,777	100	97

Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011

State	During January 2010	During December 2010	During January 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	7	4	3	43	75
Colorado	10	5	5	50	100
Idaho	1	2	1	100	50
Iowa	3	3	4	133	133
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Nebraska	20	10	15	75	150
Oklahoma	2	2	2	100	100
South Dakota	1	1	1	100	100
Texas	10	20	10	100	50
Washington	1	2	1	100	50
Other States	4	5	3	75	60
United States	70	65	56	80	86

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

State	January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1	May 1	June 1
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	287	290	286	278	268	263
California	440	430	425	415	410	425
Colorado	1,010	960	940	930	940	970
Idaho	215	200	195	205	210	210
Iowa	570	600	610	600	600	590
Kansas	2,250	2,240	2,220	2,240	2,130	2,130
Nebraska	2,360	2,370	2,350	2,290	2,240	2,140
Oklahoma	365	365	355	340	325	345
South Dakota	235	235	240	235	235	230
Texas	2,680	2,700	2,650	2,640	2,510	2,640
Washington	166	166	168	171	175	179
Other States	405	403	410	398	385	373
United States	10,983	10,959	10,849	10,742	10,428	10,495
	July 1	August 1	September 1	October 1	November 1	December 1
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	255	248	240	240	251	249
California	430	435	435	445	460	470
Colorado	920	890	890	1,000	1,090	1,090
Idaho	200	190	190	205	220	235
Iowa	570	560	560	570	610	630
Kansas	2,010	2,040	2,200	2,330	2,400	2,360
Nebraska	2,000	1,960	2,050	2,220	2,420	2,460
Oklahoma	350	335	355	370	385	380
South Dakota	215	200	195	205	230	255
Texas	2,590	2,520	2,550	2,640	2,820	2,840
Washington	168	163	170	181	197	214
Other States	363	339	346	382	414	437
United States	10,071	9,880	10,181	10,788	11,497	11,620

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

State	During					
	December ¹	January	February	March	April	May
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	32	28	21	20	16	20
California	43	54	51	47	54	67
Colorado	110	130	160	185	170	185
Idaho	41	27	36	34	27	32
Iowa	85	95	78	77	76	64
Kansas	375	475	405	440	315	420
Nebraska	320	410	365	380	400	380
Oklahoma	50	60	54	64	57	93
South Dakota	38	35	52	42	39	42
Texas	350	420	365	490	400	620
Washington	29	29	30	32	29	42
Other States	53	59	57	45	51	65
United States	1,526	1,822	1,674	1,856	1,634	2,030
	During					
	June	July	August	September	October	November
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	21	21	20	22	32	22
California	64	51	55	55	65	69
Colorado	125	140	190	295	270	155
Idaho	34	34	46	57	53	52
Iowa	57	69	93	122	142	114
Kansas	365	500	610	510	435	375
Nebraska	310	370	480	540	580	445
Oklahoma	66	49	81	87	80	60
South Dakota	23	33	45	57	70	62
Texas	470	410	540	580	640	475
Washington	32	34	42	45	53	54
Other States	61	47	69	93	85	76
United States	1,628	1,758	2,271	2,463	2,505	1,959

¹ December prior year.

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

State	During December prior year				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	25	30	30	25	110
Kansas	70	100	135	70	375
Nebraska	60	80	100	80	320
Texas	140	110	70	30	350
Other States	130	95	66	80	371
United States	425	415	401	285	1,526
	During January				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	20	25	45	40	130
Kansas	60	125	190	100	475
Nebraska	70	110	120	110	410
Texas	135	100	115	70	420
Other States	110	85	92	100	387
United States	395	445	562	420	1,822
	During February				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	15	35	50	60	160
Kansas	50	90	150	115	405
Nebraska	55	80	110	120	365
Texas	105	95	110	55	365
Other States	95	70	99	115	379
United States	320	370	519	465	1,674

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Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 (continued)

State	During March				
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800+ lbs	Total
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	30	40	70	45	185
Kansas	70	90	165	115	440
Nebraska	60	70	120	130	380
Texas	145	125	150	70	490
Other States	90	50	96	125	361
United States	395	375	601	485	1,856
	During April				
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800+ lbs	Total
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	30	35	45	60	170
Kansas	55	60	100	100	315
Nebraska	70	70	120	140	400
Texas	115	85	120	80	400
Other States	95	55	84	115	349
United States	365	305	469	495	1,634
	During May				
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800+ lbs	Total
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	25	25	45	90	185
Kansas	60	80	130	150	420
Nebraska	55	70	105	150	380
Texas	180	180	170	90	620
Other States	130	55	85	155	425
United States	450	410	535	635	2,030

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Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 (continued)

State	During June				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	20	20	30	55	125
Kansas	65	80	115	105	365
Nebraska	60	50	70	130	310
Texas	175	105	125	65	470
Other States	120	45	68	125	358
United States	440	300	408	480	1,628
	During July				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	15	20	40	65	140
Kansas	75	90	165	170	500
Nebraska	50	70	90	160	370
Texas	190	75	85	60	410
Other States	85	50	68	135	338
United States	415	305	448	590	1,758
	During August				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	25	20	55	90	190
Kansas	90	115	200	205	610
Nebraska	55	80	100	245	480
Texas	215	120	120	85	540
Other States	110	60	91	190	451
United States	495	395	566	815	2,271

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Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 (continued)

State	During September				
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800+ lbs	Total
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	35	35	65	160	295
Kansas	75	110	160	165	510
Nebraska	75	80	130	255	540
Texas	190	165	145	80	580
Other States	135	65	103	235	538
United States	510	455	603	895	2,463
	During October				
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800+ lbs	Total
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	55	55	60	100	270
Kansas	90	115	125	105	435
Nebraska	170	160	90	160	580
Texas	220	190	145	85	640
Other States	190	120	95	175	580
United States	725	640	515	625	2,505
	During November				
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800+ lbs	Total
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	45	40	30	40	155
Kansas	80	105	120	70	375
Nebraska	110	160	65	110	445
Texas	195	145	85	50	475
Other States	195	140	74	100	509
United States	625	590	374	370	1,959

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

State	During					
	December ¹ (1,000 head)	January (1,000 head)	February (1,000 head)	March (1,000 head)	April (1,000 head)	May (1,000 head)
Arizona	26	24	24	27	24	24
California	61	57	48	51	54	48
Colorado	155	170	175	190	145	135
Idaho	35	41	40	23	21	31
Iowa	73	62	65	84	72	72
Kansas	445	475	415	410	405	405
Nebraska	350	380	370	430	435	455
Oklahoma	58	58	62	77	70	72
South Dakota	36	34	44	45	38	44
Texas	410	390	400	485	510	475
Washington	34	28	27	28	24	37
Other States	62	57	46	53	59	67
United States	1,745	1,776	1,716	1,903	1,857	1,865
	During					
	June (1,000 head)	July (1,000 head)	August (1,000 head)	September (1,000 head)	October (1,000 head)	November (1,000 head)
Arizona	27	27	27	21	20	23
California	56	43	52	43	48	55
Colorado	170	165	185	180	170	150
Idaho	43	43	45	41	37	35
Iowa	75	77	91	108	100	90
Kansas	475	460	440	370	350	400
Nebraska	435	400	380	360	370	395
Oklahoma	60	63	60	71	63	63
South Dakota	36	47	49	45	44	36
Texas	510	470	500	475	445	440
Washington	42	38	34	33	36	36
Other States	68	68	60	55	51	51
United States	1,997	1,901	1,923	1,802	1,734	1,774

¹ December prior year.

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

State	During					
	December ¹ (1,000 head)	January (1,000 head)	February (1,000 head)	March (1,000 head)	April (1,000 head)	May (1,000 head)
Arizona	1	1	1	1	2	1
California	7	7	8	6	5	4
Colorado	5	10	5	5	15	20
Idaho	1	1	1	1	1	1
Iowa	2	3	3	3	4	2
Kansas	10	10	10	10	20	15
Nebraska	20	20	15	10	15	25
Oklahoma	2	2	2	2	2	1
South Dakota	2	1	3	2	1	3
Texas	20	10	15	15	20	15
Washington	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other States	4	4	4	4	5	10
United States	75	70	68	60	91	98
	During					
	June (1,000 head)	July (1,000 head)	August (1,000 head)	September (1,000 head)	October (1,000 head)	November (1,000 head)
Arizona	2	1	1	1	1	1
California	3	3	3	2	2	4
Colorado	5	5	5	5	10	5
Idaho	1	1	1	1	1	2
Iowa	2	2	2	4	2	4
Kansas	10	10	10	10	15	15
Nebraska	15	10	10	10	10	10
Oklahoma	1	1	1	1	2	2
South Dakota	2	1	1	2	1	1
Texas	10	10	10	15	15	15
Washington	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other States	3	3	2	2	2	2
United States	55	48	47	54	62	62

¹ December prior year.

Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States: 2010

State	Steers & steer calves				Heifers & heifer calves			
	January 1 (1,000 head)	April 1 (1,000 head)	July 1 (1,000 head)	October 1 (1,000 head)	January 1 (1,000 head)	April 1 (1,000 head)	July 1 (1,000 head)	October 1 (1,000 head)
Arizona	285	275	254	239	2	3	1	1
California	385	335	425	355	53	80	5	90
Colorado	650	630	635	705	355	295	280	290
Idaho	120	122	115	119	90	82	77	80
Iowa	380	420	400	395	190	180	170	175
Kansas	1,250	1,190	1,030	1,230	990	1,045	970	1,090
Nebraska	1,440	1,410	1,210	1,340	910	870	785	865
Oklahoma	220	190	185	205	145	150	165	165
South Dakota	115	125	106	97	92	93	91	92
Texas	1,650	1,610	1,550	1,560	1,029	1,029	1,039	1,079
Washington	94	101	98	108	71	69	69	72
Other States	263	273	247	254	141	124	114	127
United States	6,852	6,681	6,255	6,607	4,068	4,020	3,766	4,126
	Cows and bulls							
	January 1	April 1	July 1	October 1				
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)				
Arizona	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
California	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colorado	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Idaho	5	1	1	1	8	8	6	6
Iowa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	10	5	5	5	10	10	10	10
Nebraska	10	10	10	10	5	5	15	15
Oklahoma	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Dakota	28	17	17	17	18	18	16	16
Texas	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Washington	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other States	1	1	1	1	2	2	1	1
United States	63	41	41	41	50	50	55	55

Number of Feedlots, Inventory, and Marketings by Size of Feedlot – United States: 2009 and 2010

Feedlot capacity	2009			2010		
	Lots	Inventory ¹	Cattle marketed	Lots	Inventory ¹	Cattle marketed
	(number)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(number)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Less than 1,000 head	80,000	2,659.2	3,914	75,000	2,508.9	4,032
1,000 head or more	2,170	10,983	21,692	2,140	11,514	22,078
1,000 - 1,999	810	433	772	790	454	778
2,000 - 3,999	570	800	1,400	560	800	1,400
4,000 - 7,999	345	1,010	1,760	335	1,030	1,760
8,000 - 15,999	180	1,250	2,470	180	1,250	2,470
16,000 - 23,999	80	990	1,920	85	1,130	2,040
24,000 - 31, 999	55	1,100	2,290	55	1,050	2,050
32,000 - 49,999	70	2,020	4,080	71	2,050	4,110
50,000 and Over	60	3,380	7,000	64	3,750	7,470
All feedlots	82,170	13,642.2	25,606	77,140	14,022.9	26,110

¹ Inventory estimates as of January 1 of the following year.

Total Feedlot Capacity of 1000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2010 and 2011

Item	Feedlot capacity in number of head	
	2010	2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
United States	16,800	17,000

Terms and Definitions of Cattle on Feed Estimates

Number of feedlots is the number of lots operating at the end of the year with inventory of cattle on feed.

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 United States 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. Individual State estimates are published monthly for 11 of the 16 States. Data collected from the remaining 5 States are used to establish the "Other States" estimates. These 5 States include Illinois, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, and Wyoming. The "Other States" category represents all cattle on feed with a capacity of 1,000 or more head for the rest of the United States.

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 establishing 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 table on the following page. 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 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 11.6 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.2 percent.

The table on this 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 9,000 head, ranging from 0 to 30,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 8 times and has been below the latest estimate 9 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 latest estimate				
			Average	Smallest	Largest	Months	
						Below latest	Above latest
	(percent)	(percent)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)	(number)	(number)
Number on feed	0.1	0.2	9	0	30	9	8
Placements	0.3	0.6	3	0	20	10	5
Marketings	0.3	0.5	3	0	21	8	5

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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Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(515) 284-4340
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Joe Gaynor – Dairy Products Prices	(202) 690-2168
Jason Hardegree – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Everett Olbert – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4751
Lorie Warren – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236

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- Printed reports may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling toll-free (800) 999-6779, or (703) 605-6220 if calling from outside the United States or Canada. Accepted methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order.

For more information on NASS surveys and reports, call the NASS Agricultural Statistics Hotline at (800) 727-9540, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET, or e-mail: nass@nass.usda.gov.

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