



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Up 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 11.3 million head on April 1, 2011. The inventory was 5 percent above April 1, 2010. The inventory included 7.12 million steers and steer calves, up 7 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.10 million head, up 2 percent from 2010.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.92 million, 3 percent above 2010. Net placements were 1.87 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 380,000, 600-699 pounds were 360,000, 700-799 pounds were 588,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 590,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.99 million, 4 percent above 2010. This is the second highest fed cattle marketings for the month of March since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 52,000 during March, 13 percent below 2010.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1	10,849	11,399	105
Placed on feed during March	1,856	1,918	103
Fed cattle marketed during March	1,903	1,988	104
Other disappearance during March	60	52	87
On feed April 1	10,742	11,277	105

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1	10,959	11,583	106
Placed on feed during February	1,674	1,667	100
Fed cattle marketed during February	1,716	1,791	104
Other disappearance during February	68	60	88
On feed March 1	10,849	11,399	105

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

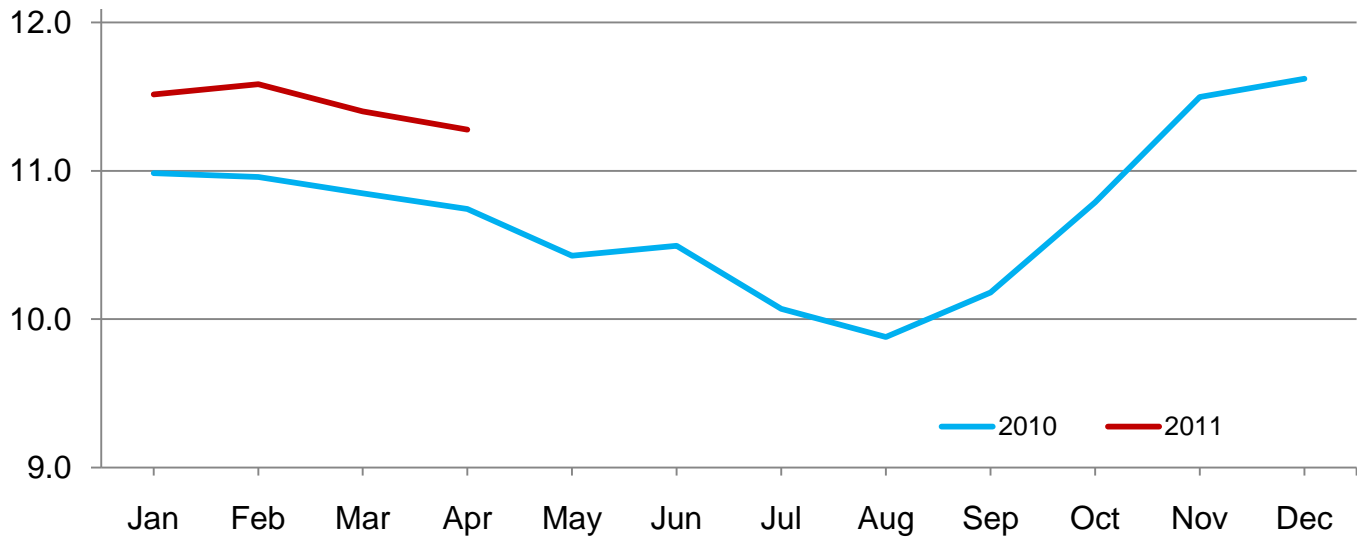
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)
Class on Feed April 1			
Steers and Steer Calves	6,681	7,124	107
Heifers and Heifer Calves	4,020	4,101	102
Cows and Bulls	41	52	127

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

State	April 1, 2010	March 1, 2011	April 1, 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	278	269	282	101	105
California	415	460	450	108	98
Colorado	930	1,070	1,090	117	102
Idaho	205	220	220	107	100
Iowa	600	650	650	108	100
Kansas	2,240	2,220	2,190	98	99
Nebraska	2,290	2,430	2,380	104	98
Oklahoma	340	360	355	104	99
South Dakota	235	265	265	113	100
Texas	2,640	2,840	2,780	105	98
Washington	171	208	211	123	101
Other States	398	407	404	102	99
United States	10,742	11,399	11,277	105	99

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

Million Head

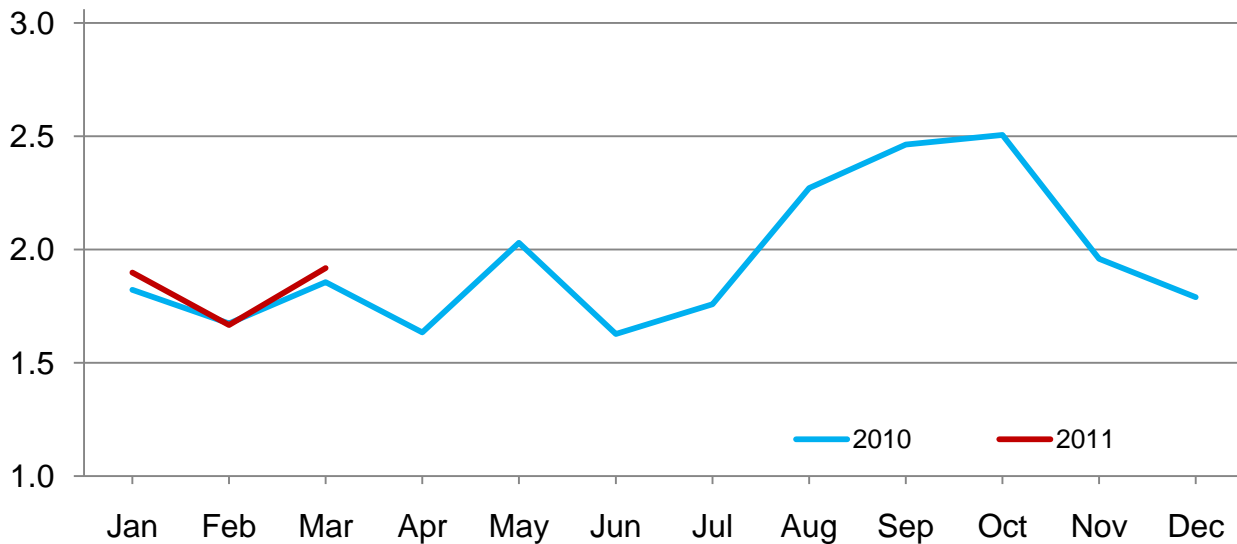


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011

State	During March 2010	During February 2011	During March 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	20	29	37	185	128
California	47	43	48	102	112
Colorado	185	215	215	116	100
Idaho	34	31	35	103	113
Iowa	77	71	81	105	114
Kansas	440	365	415	94	114
Nebraska	380	350	390	103	111
Oklahoma	64	60	75	117	125
South Dakota	42	45	46	110	102
Texas	490	380	490	100	129
Washington	32	31	33	103	106
Other States	45	47	53	118	113
United States	1,856	1,667	1,918	103	115

Number of Cattle Placed on 1000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million Head



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

State	During March									
	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	30	40	40	35	70	70	45	70	185	215
Kansas	70	55	90	70	165	145	115	145	440	415
Nebraska	60	60	70	70	120	120	130	140	380	390
Texas	145	135	125	110	150	150	70	95	490	490
Other States	90	90	50	75	96	103	125	140	361	408
United States	395	380	375	360	601	588	485	590	1,856	1,918

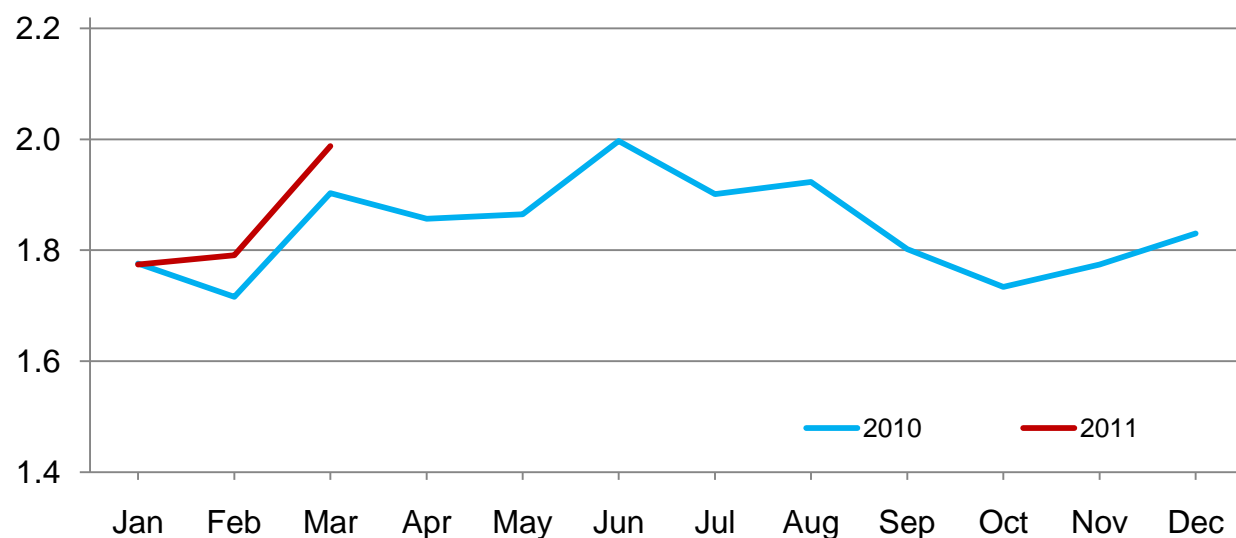
State	During February									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	15	30	35	45	50	65	60	75	160	215
Kansas	50	55	90	80	150	150	115	80	405	365
Nebraska	55	60	80	85	110	100	120	105	365	350
Texas	105	160	95	85	110	85	55	50	365	380
Other States	95	95	70	70	99	92	115	100	379	357
United States	320	400	370	365	519	492	465	410	1,674	1,667

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

State	During March 2010	During February 2011	During March 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	27	25	23	85	92
California	51	50	55	108	110
Colorado	190	210	190	100	90
Idaho	23	40	34	148	85
Iowa	84	79	78	93	99
Kansas	410	405	435	106	107
Nebraska	430	365	430	100	118
Oklahoma	77	73	78	101	107
South Dakota	45	48	44	98	92
Texas	485	405	540	111	133
Washington	28	30	28	100	93
Other States	53	61	53	100	87
United States	1,903	1,791	1,988	104	111

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

Million Head



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

State	During March 2010 (1,000 head)	During February 2011 (1,000 head)	During March 2011		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	6	3	3	50	100
Colorado	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	3	2	3	100	150
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Nebraska	10	15	10	100	67
Oklahoma	2	2	2	100	100
South Dakota	2	2	2	100	100
Texas	15	15	10	67	67
Washington	1	2	2	200	100
Other States	4	2	3	75	150
United States	60	60	52	87	87

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

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves			Cows and bulls		
	Apr 1, 2010	Jan 1, 2011	Apr 1, 2011	Apr 1, 2010	Jan 1, 2011	Apr 1, 2011	Apr 1, 2010	Jan 1, 2011	Apr 1, 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)
Arizona	275	255	263	3	3	19	0	0	0
California	335	405	390	80	65	59	0	0	1
Colorado	630	710	740	295	365	345	5	5	5
Idaho	122	116	120	82	108	94	1	16	6
Iowa	420	440	460	180	199	190	0	1	0
Kansas	1,190	1,220	1,220	1,045	1,055	965	5	5	5
Nebraska	1,410	1,520	1,480	870	895	890	10	15	10
Oklahoma	190	210	210	150	165	145	0	0	0
South Dakota	125	129	135	93	107	114	17	24	16
Texas	1,610	1,750	1,690	1,029	1,089	1,090	1	1	0
Washington	101	130	135	69	71	68	1	8	8
Other States	273	293	281	124	137	122	1	2	1
United States	6,681	7,178	7,124	4,020	4,259	4,101	41	77	52

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 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 11.3 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 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 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 11 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	11	8
Placements	0.3	0.6	3	0	20	12	5
Marketings	0.3	0.5	3	0	21	8	7

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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Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(515) 284-4340
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
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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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