



# Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

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Released May 20, 2011, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## United States Cattle on Feed Up 7 Percent

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.2 million head on May 1, 2011. The inventory was 7 percent above May 1, 2010.

**Placements** in feedlots during April totaled 1.80 million, 10 percent above 2010. This is the second highest placements for the month of April since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.74 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 450,000, 600-699 pounds were 310,000, 700-799 pounds were 490,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 545,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during April totaled 1.81 million, 3 percent below 2010.

**Other disappearance** totaled 59,000 during April, 35 percent below 2010. This is the lowest other disappearance for the month of April since the series began in 1996.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1 .....	10,742	11,271	105
Placed on feed during April .....	1,634	1,795	110
Fed cattle marketed during April .....	1,857	1,807	97
Other disappearance during April .....	91	59	65
On feed May 1 .....	10,428	11,200	107

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

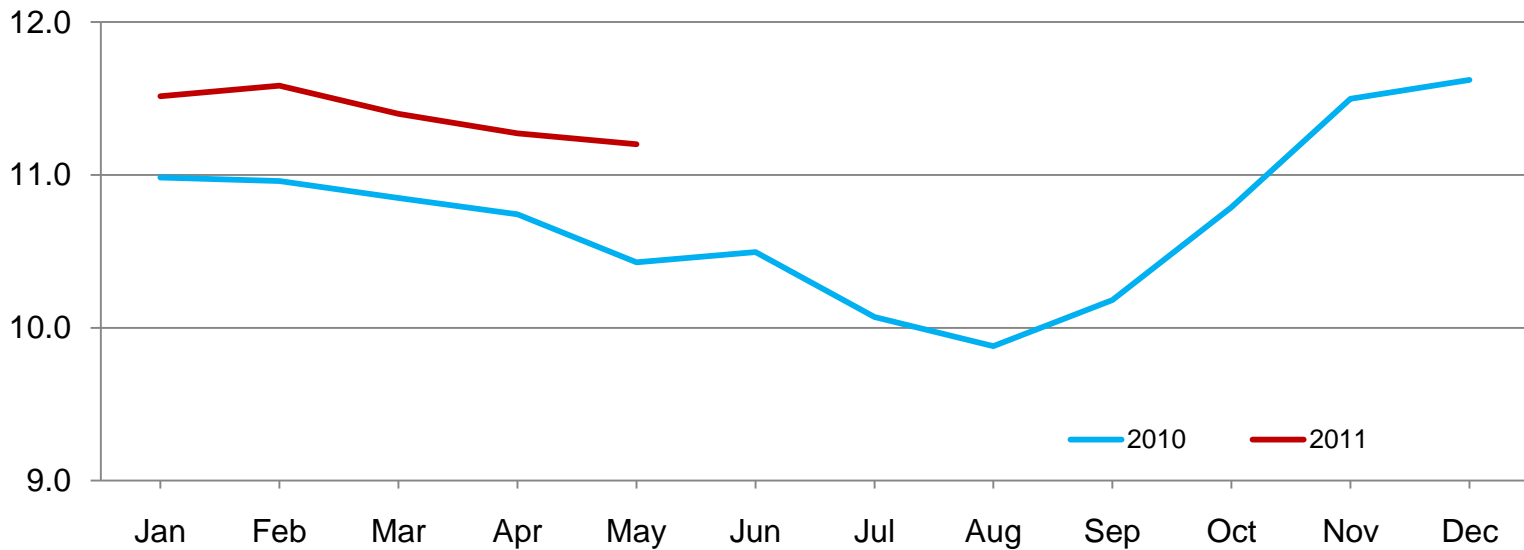
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1 .....	10,849	11,399	105
Placed on feed during March .....	1,856	1,914	103
Fed cattle marketed during March .....	1,903	1,990	105
Other disappearance during March .....	60	52	87
On feed April 1 .....	10,742	11,271	105

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

State	May 1, 2010	April 1, 2011	May 1, 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	268	276	282	105	102
California .....	410	450	450	110	100
Colorado .....	940	1,090	1,100	117	101
Idaho .....	210	220	230	110	105
Iowa .....	600	650	640	107	98
Kansas .....	2,130	2,190	2,170	102	99
Nebraska .....	2,240	2,380	2,370	106	100
Oklahoma .....	325	355	355	109	100
South Dakota .....	235	265	255	109	96
Texas .....	2,510	2,780	2,750	110	99
Washington .....	175	211	205	117	97
Other States .....	385	404	393	102	97
United States .....	10,428	11,271	11,200	107	99

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

Million head

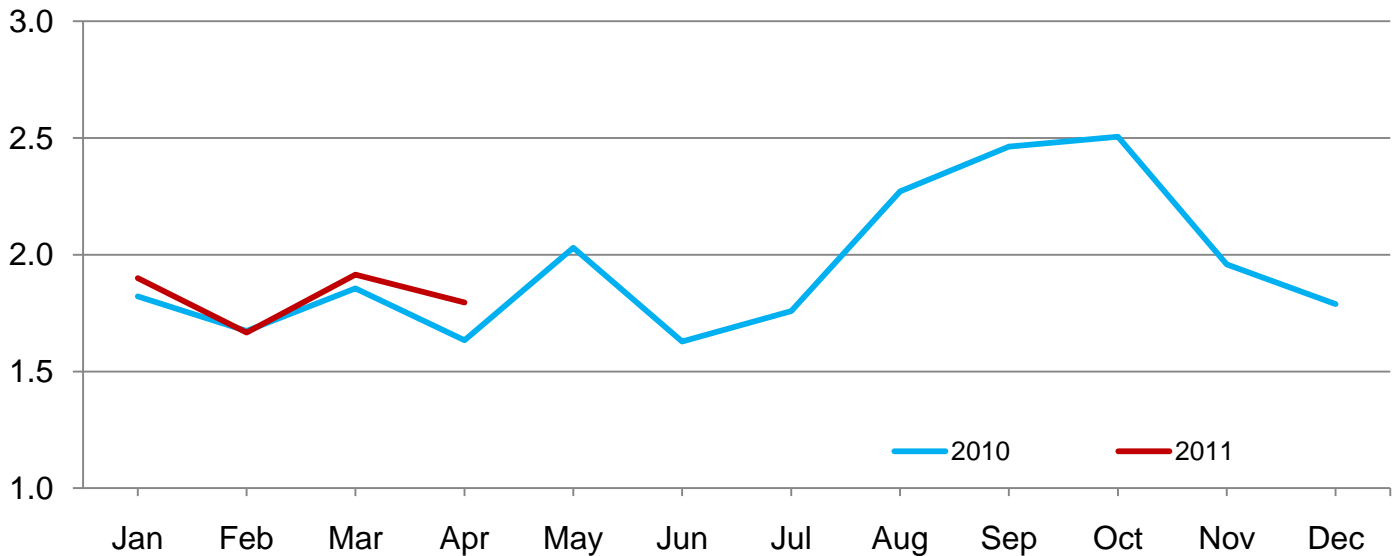


**Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011**

State	During April 2010	During March 2011	During April 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	16	33	25	156	76
California .....	54	48	57	106	119
Colorado .....	170	215	165	97	77
Idaho .....	27	35	34	126	97
Iowa .....	76	81	69	91	85
Kansas .....	315	415	380	121	92
Nebraska .....	400	390	370	93	95
Oklahoma .....	57	75	76	133	101
South Dakota .....	39	46	31	79	67
Texas .....	400	490	510	128	104
Washington .....	29	33	28	97	85
Other States .....	51	53	50	98	94
United States .....	1,634	1,914	1,795	110	94

**Number of Cattle Placed on 1,000+ 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 April									
	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	35	35	30	45	45	60	55	170	165
Kansas .....	55	60	60	60	100	130	100	130	315	380
Nebraska .....	70	60	70	60	120	100	140	150	400	370
Texas .....	115	195	85	95	120	125	80	95	400	510
Other States .....	95	100	55	65	84	90	115	115	349	370
United States .....	365	450	305	310	469	490	495	545	1,634	1,795

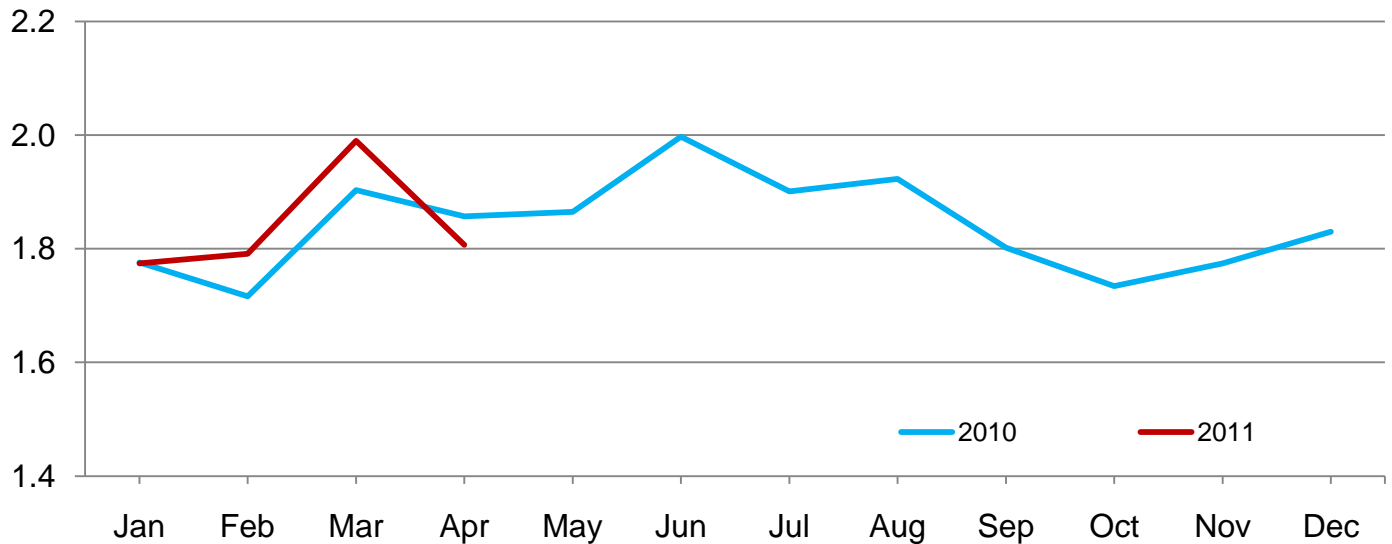
State	During March									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado .....	30	40	40	35	70	70	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	104	125	135	361	404
United States .....	395	380	375	360	601	589	485	585	1,856	1,914

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

State	During April 2010	During March 2011	During April 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	24	25	18	75	72
California .....	54	55	55	102	100
Colorado .....	145	190	150	103	79
Idaho .....	21	34	23	110	68
Iowa .....	72	78	76	106	97
Kansas .....	405	435	385	95	89
Nebraska .....	435	430	370	85	86
Oklahoma .....	70	78	74	106	95
South Dakota .....	38	44	39	103	89
Texas .....	510	540	530	104	98
Washington .....	24	28	33	138	118
Other States .....	59	53	54	92	102
United States .....	1,857	1,990	1,807	97	91

## 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 April 2010 (1,000 head)	During March 2011 (1,000 head)	During April 2011		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	2	1	1	50	100
California .....	5	3	2	40	67
Colorado .....	15	5	5	33	100
Idaho .....	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa .....	4	3	3	75	100
Kansas .....	20	10	15	75	150
Nebraska .....	15	10	10	67	100
Oklahoma .....	2	2	2	100	100
South Dakota .....	1	2	2	200	100
Texas .....	20	10	10	50	100
Washington .....	1	2	1	100	50
Other States .....	5	3	7	140	233
United States .....	91	52	59	65	113

## 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 11.2 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 9 times and has been below the latest estimate 10 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	10	9
Placements .....	0.3	0.6	3	0	20	11	6
Marketings .....	0.3	0.5	3	0	21	9	6

## 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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section .....	(202) 690-2424
Travis Averill – Dairy Products Prices .....	(202) 690-2168
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(515) 284-4340
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106
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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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