



# Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

---

Released July 22, 2011, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## United States Cattle on Feed Up 4 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 July 1, 2011. The inventory was 4 percent above July 1, 2010. The inventory included 6.52 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.89 million head, up 3 percent from 2010.

**Placements** in feedlots during June totaled 1.70 million, 4 percent above 2010. Net placements were 1.63 million head. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 460,000, 600-699 pounds were 380,000, 700-799 pounds were 420,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 435,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during June totaled 2.10 million, 5 percent above 2010.

**Other disappearance** totaled 70,000 during June, 27 percent above 2010.

## United States All Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

**Cattle on feed** July 1, 2011, from all feedlots in the United States, totaled 12.2 million, up 3 percent from the 11.9 million on July 1, 2010. Cattle on feed in feedlots with 1,000 or more head accounted for 86 percent of the total cattle on feed on July 1, 2011, up from 85 percent last year.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed June 1 .....	10,495	10,928	104
Placed on feed during June .....	1,628	1,695	104
Fed cattle marketed during June .....	1,997	2,102	105
Other disappearance during June .....	55	70	127
On feed July 1 .....	10,071	10,451	104

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed May 1 .....	10,428	11,200	107
Placed on feed during May .....	2,030	1,810	89
Fed cattle marketed during May .....	1,865	2,002	107
Other disappearance during May .....	98	80	82
On feed June 1 .....	10,495	10,928	104

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)
Class on Feed July 1			
Steers and Steer Calves .....	6,255	6,516	104
Heifers and Heifer Calves .....	3,766	3,894	103
Cows and Bulls .....	50	41	82

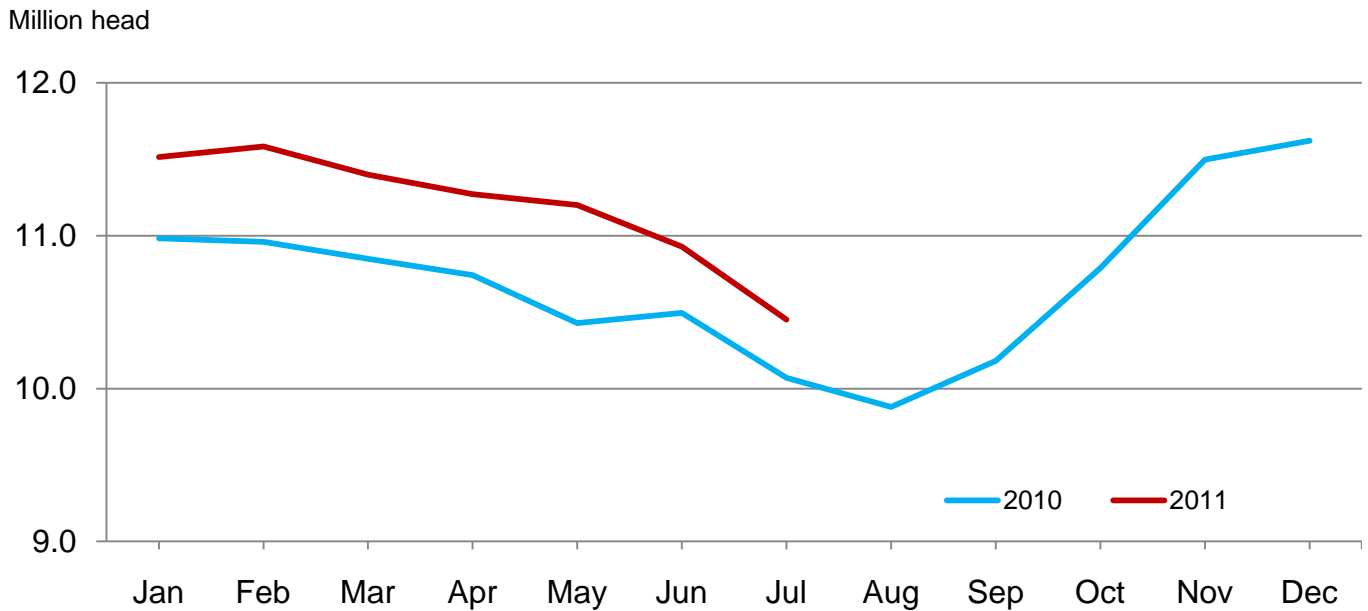
**Total Number on Feed – United States: July 1, 2010 and 2011**

State	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)
United States .....	11,900	12,200	103

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

State	July 1, 2010	June 1, 2011	July 1, 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	255	290	287	113	99
California .....	430	460	470	109	102
Colorado .....	920	1,080	1,000	109	93
Idaho .....	200	230	215	108	93
Iowa .....	570	610	590	104	97
Kansas .....	2,010	2,110	2,030	101	96
Nebraska .....	2,000	2,190	2,020	101	92
Oklahoma .....	350	355	350	100	99
South Dakota .....	215	235	210	98	89
Texas .....	2,590	2,780	2,700	104	97
Washington .....	168	199	200	119	101
Other States .....	363	389	379	104	97
United States .....	10,071	10,928	10,451	104	96

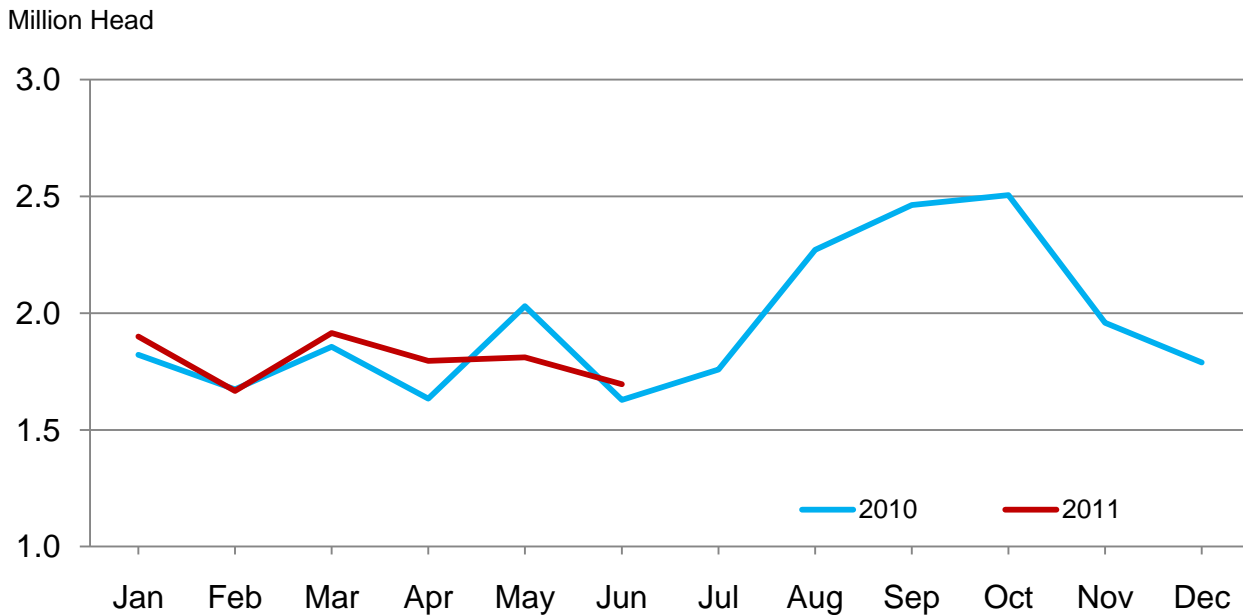
**Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States**



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

State	During June 2010	During May 2011	During June 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	21	28	25	119	89
California .....	64	71	70	109	99
Colorado .....	125	140	105	84	75
Idaho .....	34	36	34	100	94
Iowa .....	57	47	64	112	136
Kansas .....	365	375	390	107	104
Nebraska .....	310	340	310	100	91
Oklahoma .....	66	66	62	94	94
South Dakota .....	23	33	31	135	94
Texas .....	470	560	500	106	89
Washington .....	32	39	41	128	105
Other States .....	61	75	63	103	84
United States .....	1,628	1,810	1,695	104	94

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



**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 June									
	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	20	20	25	30	30	55	30	125	105
Kansas .....	65	75	80	95	115	120	105	100	365	390
Nebraska .....	60	50	50	60	70	70	130	130	310	310
Texas .....	175	210	105	130	125	120	65	40	470	500
Other States .....	120	105	45	70	68	80	125	135	358	390
United States .....	440	460	300	380	408	420	480	435	1,628	1,695

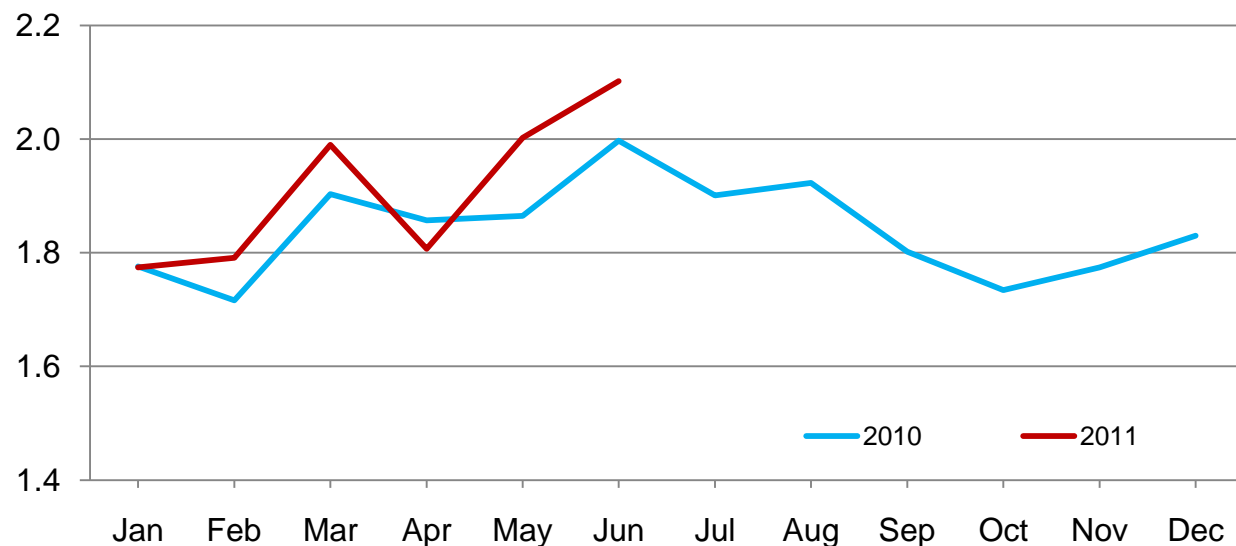
State	During May									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado .....	25	30	25	25	45	35	90	50	185	140
Kansas .....	60	65	80	70	130	110	150	130	420	375
Nebraska .....	55	50	70	55	105	80	150	155	380	340
Texas .....	180	170	180	150	170	165	90	75	620	560
Other States .....	130	100	55	55	85	90	155	150	425	395
United States .....	450	415	410	355	535	480	635	560	2,030	1,810

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

State	During June 2010	During May 2011	During June 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	27	19	27	100	142
California .....	56	59	58	104	98
Colorado .....	170	150	175	103	117
Idaho .....	43	35	47	109	134
Iowa .....	75	73	80	107	110
Kansas .....	475	420	460	97	110
Nebraska .....	435	495	465	107	94
Oklahoma .....	60	65	65	108	100
South Dakota .....	36	50	46	128	92
Texas .....	510	520	570	112	110
Washington .....	42	44	39	93	89
Other States .....	68	72	70	103	97
United States .....	1,997	2,002	2,102	105	105

## 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 June 2010 (1,000 head)	During May 2011 (1,000 head)	During June 2011		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	2	1	1	50	100
California .....	3	2	2	67	100
Colorado .....	5	10	10	200	100
Idaho .....	1	1	2	200	200
Iowa .....	2	4	4	200	100
Kansas .....	10	15	10	100	67
Nebraska .....	15	25	15	100	60
Oklahoma .....	1	1	2	200	200
South Dakota .....	2	3	10	500	333
Texas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Washington .....	1	1	1	100	100
Other States .....	3	7	3	100	43
United States .....	55	80	70	127	88

**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		
	Jul 1, 2010	Apr 1, 2011	Jul 1, 2011	Jul 1, 2010	Apr 1, 2011	Jul 1, 2011	Jul 1, 2010	Apr 1, 2011	Jul 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 .....	254	257	283	1	19	4	0	0	0
California .....	425	390	410	5	59	60	0	1	0
Colorado .....	635	740	690	280	345	305	5	5	5
Idaho .....	115	120	110	77	94	104	8	6	1
Iowa .....	400	460	410	170	190	180	0	0	0
Kansas .....	1,030	1,220	1,070	970	965	955	10	5	5
Nebraska .....	1,210	1,480	1,190	785	890	820	5	10	10
Oklahoma .....	185	210	210	165	145	140	0	0	0
South Dakota .....	106	135	107	91	114	86	18	16	17
Texas .....	1,550	1,690	1,640	1,039	1,090	1,059	1	0	1
Washington .....	98	135	124	69	68	75	1	8	1
Other States .....	247	281	272	114	122	106	2	1	1
United States .....	6,255	7,118	6,516	3,766	4,101	3,894	50	52	41

## 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 approximately 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 10.5 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

## Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Receive NASS Updates” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.
- 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).

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.