



Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

Released May 18, 2012, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

United States Cattle on Feed Down 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 11.1 million head on May 1, 2012. The inventory was 1 percent below May 1, 2011.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.52 million, 15 percent below 2011. Net placements were 1.44 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 355,000, 600-699 pounds were 250,000, 700-799 pounds were 380,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 536,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.82 million, slightly above 2011.

Other disappearance totaled 78,000 during April, 30 percent above 2011.

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: May 1, 2011 and 2012

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2011	2012	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1	11,257	11,482	102
Placed on feed during April	1,785	1,521	85
Fed cattle marketed during April	1,807	1,815	100
Other disappearance during April	60	78	130
On feed May 1	11,175	11,110	99

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2011 and 2012

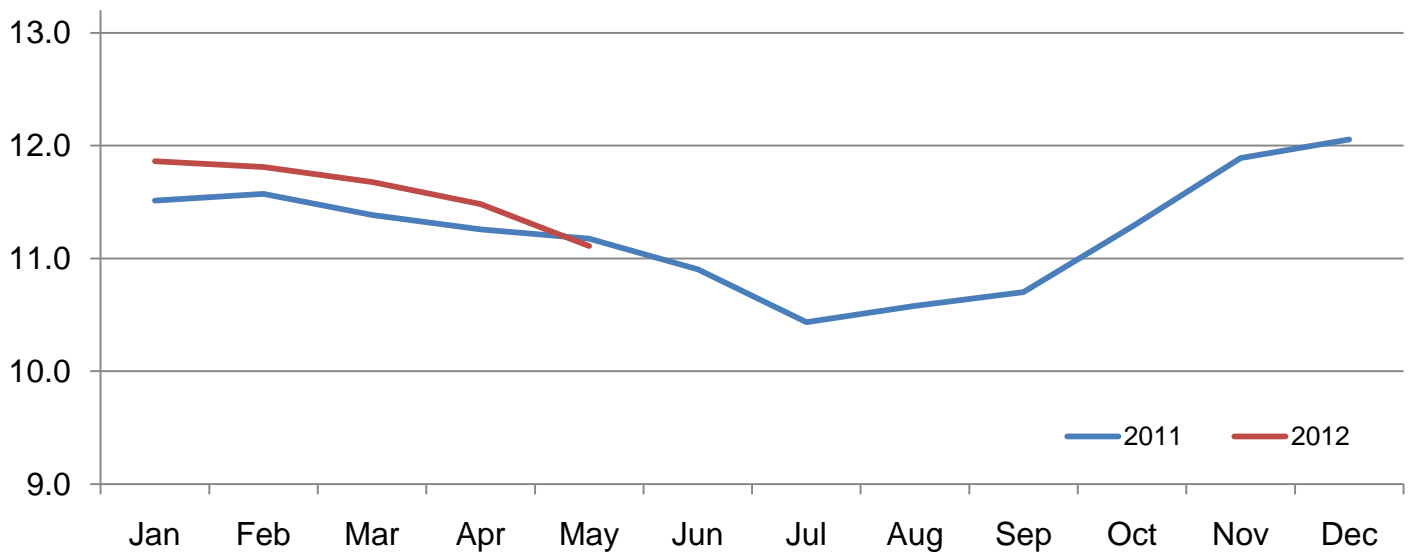
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2011	2012	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1	11,386	11,677	103
Placed on feed during March	1,914	1,792	94
Fed cattle marketed during March	1,990	1,918	96
Other disappearance during March	53	69	130
On feed April 1	11,257	11,482	102

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2011 and 2012

State	May 1, 2011	April 1, 2012	May 1, 2012		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	282	278	276	98	99
California	450	490	475	106	97
Colorado	1,100	1,070	1,030	94	96
Idaho	230	225	215	93	96
Iowa	640	670	650	102	97
Kansas	2,170	2,170	2,080	96	96
Nebraska	2,370	2,530	2,460	104	97
Oklahoma	355	320	295	83	92
South Dakota	255	255	245	96	96
Texas	2,730	2,780	2,710	99	97
Washington	200	233	224	112	96
Other States	393	461	450	115	98
United States	11,175	11,482	11,110	99	97

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

Million head

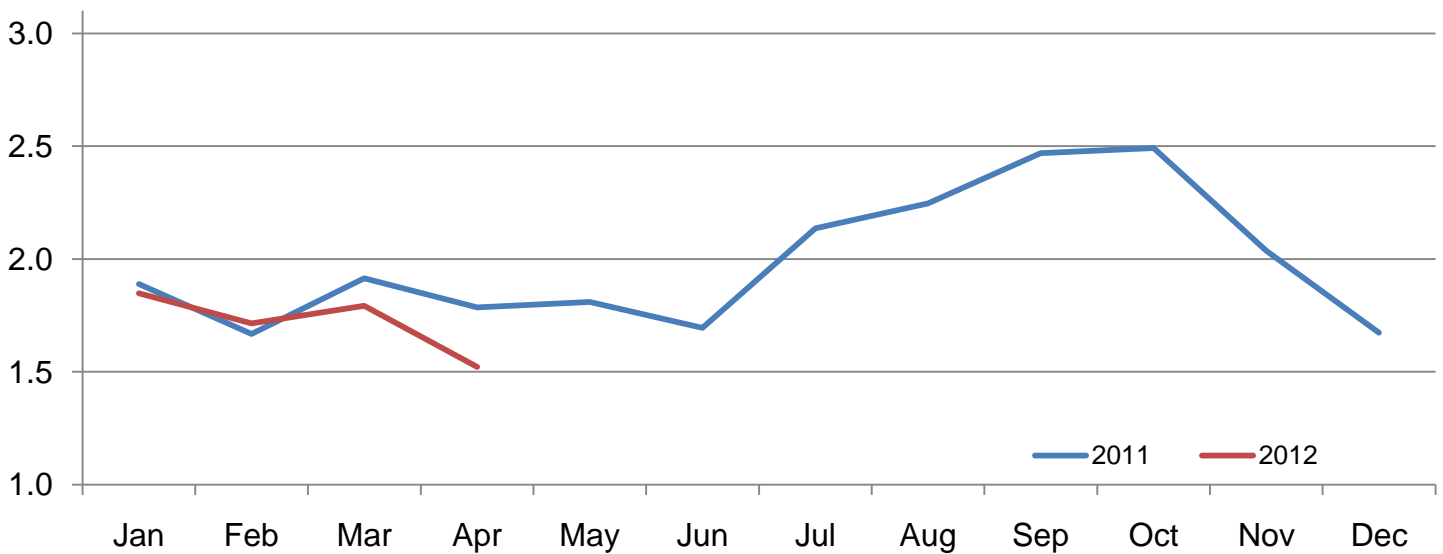


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2011 and 2012

State	During April 2011 (1,000 head)	During March 2012 (1,000 head)	During April 2012		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	25	27	26	104	96
California	57	53	45	79	85
Colorado	165	160	120	73	75
Idaho	34	34	28	82	82
Iowa	69	73	55	80	75
Kansas	380	375	300	79	80
Nebraska	370	440	370	100	84
Oklahoma	76	56	47	62	84
South Dakota	31	45	32	103	71
Texas	500	430	410	82	95
Washington	28	37	28	100	76
Other States	50	62	60	120	97
United States	1,785	1,792	1,521	85	85

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: 2011 and 2012

State	During April									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(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	35	25	30	20	45	30	55	45	165	120
Kansas	60	60	60	55	130	85	130	100	380	300
Nebraska	60	50	60	50	100	90	150	180	370	370
Texas	190	130	95	80	120	105	95	95	500	410
Other States	100	90	65	45	90	70	115	116	370	321
United States	445	355	310	250	485	380	545	536	1,785	1,521

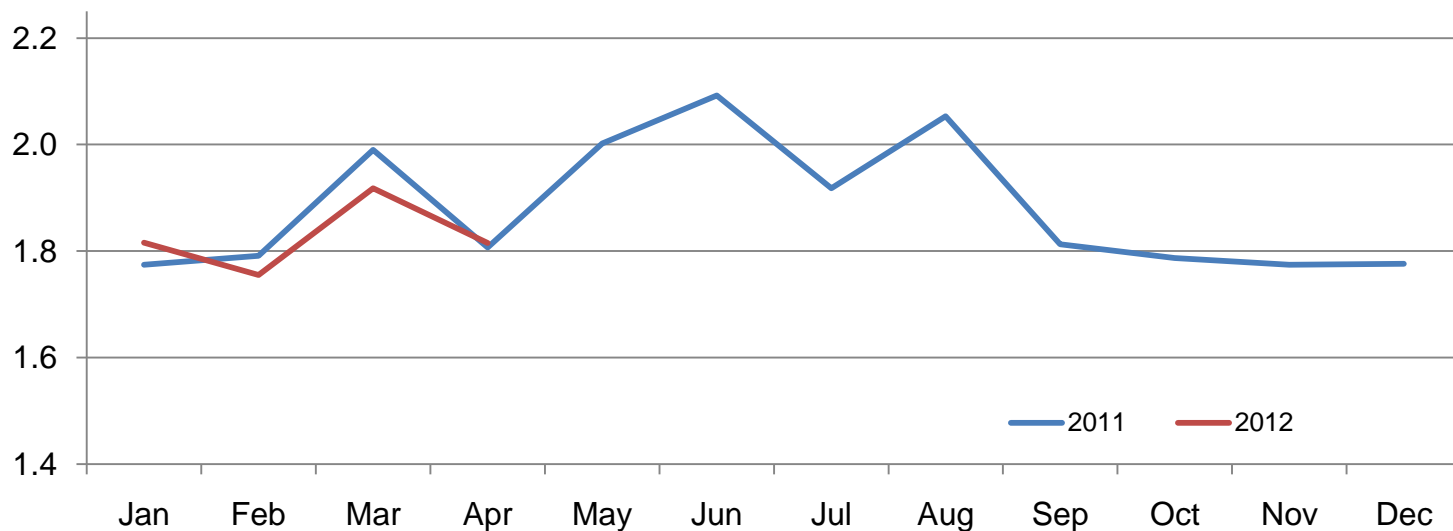
State	During March									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	40	30	35	25	70	45	70	60	215	160
Kansas	55	60	70	65	145	125	145	125	415	375
Nebraska	60	50	70	70	120	120	140	200	390	440
Texas	135	155	110	90	150	115	95	70	490	430
Other States	90	95	75	50	104	95	135	147	404	387
United States	380	390	360	300	589	500	585	602	1,914	1,792

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2011 and 2012

State	During April 2011	During March 2012	During April 2012		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	18	27	27	150	100
California	55	61	58	105	95
Colorado	150	175	150	100	86
Idaho	23	38	36	157	95
Iowa	76	71	72	95	101
Kansas	385	395	380	99	96
Nebraska	370	460	420	114	91
Oklahoma	74	74	70	95	95
South Dakota	39	48	40	103	83
Texas	530	470	465	88	99
Washington	33	36	34	103	94
Other States	54	63	63	117	100
United States	1,807	1,918	1,815	100	95

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: 2011 and 2012

State	During April 2011 (1,000 head)	During March 2012 (1,000 head)	During April 2012		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	2	2	2	100	100
Colorado	5	5	10	200	200
Idaho	1	1	2	200	200
Iowa	3	2	3	100	150
Kansas	15	10	10	67	100
Nebraska	10	20	20	200	100
Oklahoma	2	2	2	100	100
South Dakota	2	2	2	100	100
Texas	10	20	15	150	75
Washington	2	1	3	150	300
Other States	7	3	8	114	267
United States	60	69	78	130	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 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 0.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 11.1 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.3 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 14,000 head, ranging from 0 to 47,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 13 times and has been below the latest estimate 7 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	0.2	0.3	14	0	47	7	13
Placements	0.3	0.5	4	0	18	9	8
Marketings	0.3	0.5	3	0	20	7	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

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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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