



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Down 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 11.1 million head on February 1, 2013. The inventory was 6 percent below February 1, 2012.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.88 million, 2 percent above 2012. Net placements were 1.80 million head. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 445,000, 600-699 pounds were 395,000, 700-799 pounds were 535,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 501,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.92 million, 6 percent above 2012.

Other disappearance totaled 79,000 during January, 2 percent below 2012.

2012 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 83.8 percent of all cattle and calves on feed in the United States on January 1, 2013, down from 84.0 on January 1, 2012.

Marketings of fed cattle for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head during 2012 represented 88.6 percent of all cattle marketed from feedlots in the United States, up from 87.7 percent during 2011.

Special Note

This report contains the 2012 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 2011 and 2012. 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, 2012 and 2013

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2012	2013	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1	11,861	11,193	94
Placed on feed during January	1,847	1,876	102
Fed cattle marketed during January	1,816	1,917	106
Other disappearance during January	81	79	98
On feed February 1	11,811	11,073	94

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2012 and 2013

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2012	2013	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed December 1 ¹	12,055	11,348	94
Placed on feed during December	1,673	1,664	99
Fed cattle marketed during December	1,776	1,745	98
Other disappearance during December	91	74	81
On feed January 1	11,861	11,193	94

¹ December prior year.

Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2012 and 2013

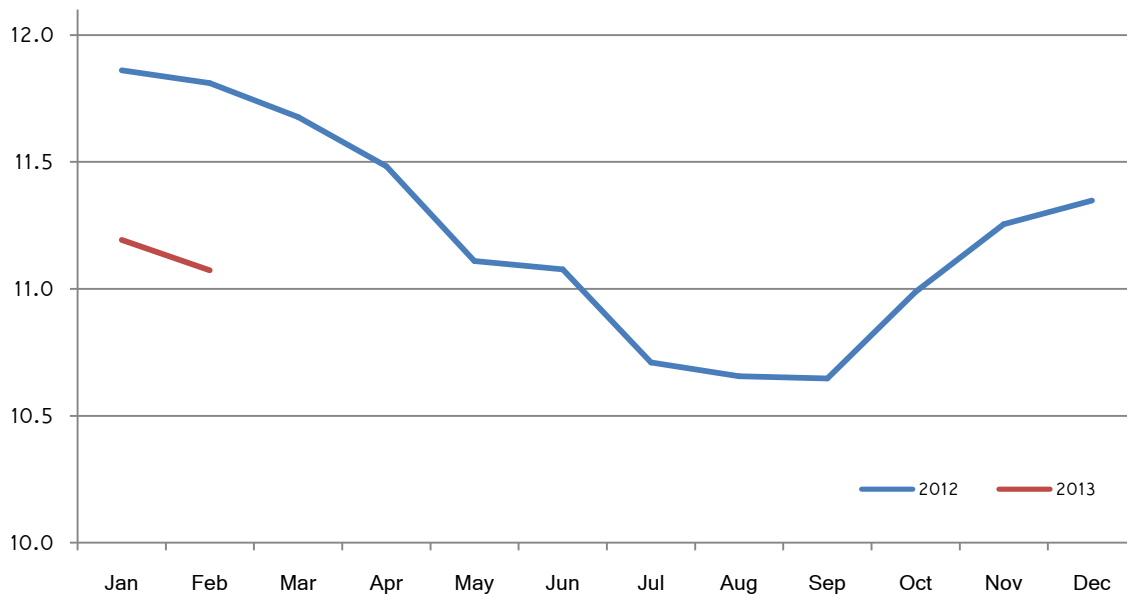
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2012	2013	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Class on feed January 1			
Steers and steer calves	7,281	7,047	97
Heifers and heifer calves	4,496	4,070	91
Cows and bulls	84	76	90

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2012 and 2013

State	February 1, 2012	January 1, 2013	February 1, 2013		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	276	272	275	100	101
California	505	480	480	95	100
Colorado	1,140	1,000	1,010	89	101
Idaho	235	230	225	96	98
Iowa	650	620	640	98	103
Kansas	2,230	2,110	2,110	95	100
Nebraska	2,570	2,480	2,470	96	100
Oklahoma	355	345	325	92	94
South Dakota	260	230	225	87	98
Texas	2,900	2,720	2,620	90	96
Washington	227	247	234	103	95
Other States	463	459	459	99	100
United States	11,811	11,193	11,073	94	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: 2012 and 2013

State	During January 2012	During December 2012	During January 2013		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	28	29	30	107	103
California	55	50	55	100	110
Colorado	190	140	190	100	136
Idaho	47	26	37	79	142
Iowa	103	82	100	97	122
Kansas	410	365	430	105	118
Nebraska	430	390	475	110	122
Oklahoma	50	52	50	100	96
South Dakota	45	34	36	80	106
Texas	400	415	390	98	94
Washington	35	25	29	83	116
Other States	54	56	54	100	96
United States	1,847	1,664	1,876	102	113

Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2011 and 2013

State	During January									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(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	30	50	45	60	60	50	55	190	190
Kansas	70	70	100	95	155	150	85	115	410	430
Nebraska	60	60	110	95	120	160	140	160	430	475
Texas	150	175	85	80	105	75	60	60	400	390
Other States	135	110	85	80	85	90	112	111	417	391
United States	445	445	430	395	525	535	447	501	1,847	1,876

State	During December									
	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	50	35	35	35	30	35	45	35	160	140
Kansas	75	70	100	100	105	105	70	90	350	365
Nebraska	60	70	90	90	100	110	130	120	380	390
Texas	225	200	75	100	55	65	45	50	400	415
Other States	140	120	85	90	70	64	88	80	383	354
United States	550	495	385	415	360	379	378	375	1,673	1,664

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2012 and 2013

State	During January 2012	During December 2012	During January 2013		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	30	23	26	87	113
California	57	55	50	88	91
Colorado	190	155	175	92	113
Idaho	41	40	40	98	100
Iowa	70	68	77	110	113
Kansas	415	425	415	100	98
Nebraska	395	425	470	119	111
Oklahoma	68	49	68	100	139
South Dakota	44	33	40	91	121
Texas	415	380	465	112	122
Washington	39	38	40	103	105
Other States	52	54	51	98	94
United States	1,816	1,745	1,917	106	110

Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2012 and 2013

State	During January 2012	During December 2012	During January 2013		
			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	3	5	5	167	100
Colorado	10	5	5	50	100
Idaho	1	1	2	200	200
Iowa	3	4	3	100	75
Kansas	15	20	15	100	75
Nebraska	15	15	15	100	100
Oklahoma	2	3	2	100	67
South Dakota	1	1	1	100	100
Texas	25	15	25	100	167
Washington	1	1	2	200	200
Other States	4	3	3	75	100
United States	81	74	79	98	107

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

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	279	276	279	278	276	282
California	510	505	500	490	475	490
Colorado	1,150	1,140	1,090	1,070	1,030	1,020
Idaho	230	235	230	225	215	210
Iowa	620	650	670	670	650	640
Kansas	2,250	2,230	2,200	2,170	2,080	2,090
Nebraska	2,550	2,570	2,570	2,530	2,460	2,360
Oklahoma	375	355	340	320	295	320
South Dakota	260	260	260	255	245	230
Texas	2,940	2,900	2,840	2,780	2,710	2,770
Washington	232	227	233	233	224	220
Other States	465	463	465	461	450	445
United States	11,861	11,811	11,677	11,482	11,110	11,077
	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	279	274	271	272	265	267
California	480	475	480	475	480	490
Colorado	970	940	930	1,000	1,030	1,020
Idaho	200	190	205	230	240	245
Iowa	620	600	590	590	590	610
Kansas	2,050	2,160	2,180	2,230	2,220	2,190
Nebraska	2,270	2,230	2,240	2,330	2,480	2,530
Oklahoma	320	320	325	335	345	345
South Dakota	210	190	185	195	220	230
Texas	2,670	2,650	2,620	2,680	2,670	2,700
Washington	210	210	208	213	248	261
Other States	431	417	413	439	466	460
United States	10,710	10,656	10,647	10,989	11,254	11,348

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

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	28	25	27	26	36
California	61	55	50	53	45	70
Colorado	160	190	165	160	120	180
Idaho	36	47	37	34	28	29
Iowa	77	103	85	73	55	59
Kansas	350	410	370	375	300	445
Nebraska	380	430	410	440	370	460
Oklahoma	45	50	48	56	47	81
South Dakota	37	45	47	45	32	35
Texas	400	400	380	430	410	580
Washington	44	35	41	37	28	43
Other States	57	54	56	62	60	66
United States	1,673	1,847	1,714	1,792	1,521	2,084
	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	28	22	18	20	19	28
California	49	52	63	50	62	65
Colorado	125	155	190	225	195	150
Idaho	34	35	53	61	55	40
Iowa	61	52	76	89	146	123
Kansas	390	540	435	375	380	375
Nebraska	385	410	470	470	590	465
Oklahoma	53	68	67	57	65	56
South Dakota	28	20	34	50	71	57
Texas	420	475	495	480	450	465
Washington	36	40	47	46	74	57
Other States	55	53	59	81	73	62
United States	1,664	1,922	2,007	2,004	2,180	1,943

¹ December prior year.

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

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	50	35	30	45	160
Kansas	75	100	105	70	350
Nebraska	60	90	100	130	380
Texas	225	75	55	45	400
Other States	140	85	70	88	383
United States	550	385	360	378	1,673
	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	30	50	60	50	190
Kansas	70	100	155	85	410
Nebraska	60	110	120	140	430
Texas	150	85	105	60	400
Other States	135	85	85	112	417
United States	445	430	525	447	1,847
	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	30	30	40	65	165
Kansas	70	75	130	95	370
Nebraska	60	70	110	170	410
Texas	145	85	95	55	380
Other States	95	75	94	125	389
United States	400	335	469	510	1,714

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Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2012 (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	25	45	60	160
Kansas	60	65	125	125	375
Nebraska	50	70	120	200	440
Texas	155	90	115	70	430
Other States	95	50	95	147	387
United States	390	300	500	602	1,792
	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	25	20	30	45	120
Kansas	60	55	85	100	300
Nebraska	50	50	90	180	370
Texas	130	80	105	95	410
Other States	90	45	70	116	321
United States	355	250	380	536	1,521
	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	35	30	45	70	180
Kansas	90	90	130	135	445
Nebraska	70	60	130	200	460
Texas	220	125	140	95	580
Other States	105	60	85	169	419
United States	520	365	530	669	2,084

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Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2012 (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	25	20	40	40	125
Kansas	95	80	110	105	390
Nebraska	70	70	90	155	385
Texas	180	100	75	65	420
Other States	90	50	75	129	344
United States	460	320	390	494	1,664
	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	25	20	40	70	155
Kansas	85	105	180	170	540
Nebraska	70	70	90	180	410
Texas	225	85	100	65	475
Other States	95	45	60	142	342
United States	500	325	470	627	1,922
	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	30	25	50	85	190
Kansas	80	105	120	130	435
Nebraska	70	75	120	205	470
Texas	200	120	110	65	495
Other States	102	60	75	180	417
United States	482	385	475	665	2,007

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Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2012 (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	40	20	55	110	225
Kansas	80	85	105	105	375
Nebraska	90	60	100	220	470
Texas	185	130	100	65	480
Other States	120	60	84	190	454
United States	515	355	444	690	2,004
	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	65	45	35	50	195
Kansas	80	95	120	85	380
Nebraska	190	130	80	190	590
Texas	165	125	100	60	450
Other States	180	110	100	175	565
United States	680	505	435	560	2,180
	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	40	40	30	40	150
Kansas	80	90	115	90	375
Nebraska	120	120	80	145	465
Texas	230	105	80	50	465
Other States	185	95	80	128	488
United States	655	450	385	453	1,943

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

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	36	30	21	27	27	29
California	52	57	53	61	58	53
Colorado	160	190	200	175	150	170
Idaho	40	41	41	38	36	32
Iowa	63	70	62	71	72	64
Kansas	445	415	385	395	380	415
Nebraska	380	395	390	460	420	540
Oklahoma	52	68	61	74	70	54
South Dakota	37	44	45	48	40	45
Texas	420	415	415	470	465	500
Washington	45	39	32	36	34	46
Other States	46	52	50	63	63	69
United States	1,776	1,816	1,755	1,918	1,815	2,017
	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	30	26	20	18	25	25
California	56	54	55	52	54	51
Colorado	170	180	195	150	160	155
Idaho	43	44	37	35	44	34
Iowa	77	70	84	87	143	100
Kansas	415	415	405	310	365	390
Nebraska	465	440	445	370	425	400
Oklahoma	51	66	60	45	54	54
South Dakota	47	39	38	39	45	45
Texas	500	475	510	400	440	415
Washington	45	39	48	40	38	43
Other States	66	65	58	52	44	49
United States	1,965	1,913	1,955	1,598	1,837	1,761

¹ December prior year.

Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2012

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	1	1
California	4	3	2	2	2	2
Colorado	10	10	15	5	10	20
Idaho	1	1	1	1	2	2
Iowa	4	3	3	2	3	5
Kansas	15	15	15	10	10	20
Nebraska	10	15	20	20	20	20
Oklahoma	3	2	2	2	2	2
South Dakota	5	1	2	2	2	5
Texas	30	25	25	20	15	20
Washington	3	1	3	1	3	1
Other States	5	4	4	3	8	2
United States	91	81	93	69	78	100
	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	1	1	1	1	1	1
California	3	3	3	3	3	4
Colorado	5	5	5	5	5	5
Idaho	1	1	1	1	1	1
Iowa	4	2	2	2	3	3
Kansas	15	15	10	15	25	15
Nebraska	10	10	15	10	15	15
Oklahoma	2	2	2	2	1	2
South Dakota	1	1	1	1	1	2
Texas	20	20	15	20	20	20
Washington	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other States	3	2	5	3	2	19
United States	66	63	61	64	78	88

¹ December prior year.

Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States: 2012

State	Steers & steer calves				Heifers & heifer calves			
	January 1	April 1	July 1	October 1	January 1	April 1	July 1	October 1
	(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	276	274	265	268	3	4	14	4
California	440	425	415	410	69	65	64	65
Colorado	745	730	645	670	400	335	320	325
Idaho	123	131	127	137	106	92	69	89
Iowa	450	480	445	415	170	189	175	175
Kansas	1,160	1,180	1,070	1,200	1,085	985	975	1,025
Nebraska	1,530	1,530	1,360	1,400	980	980	890	900
Oklahoma	215	200	200	225	160	120	120	110
South Dakota	131	138	121	108	101	100	71	75
Texas	1,730	1,610	1,630	1,690	1,209	1,169	1,039	989
Washington	150	143	133	137	80	88	76	74
Other States	331	333	325	300	133	127	105	136
United States	7,281	7,174	6,736	6,960	4,496	4,254	3,918	3,967
	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				
California	1	0	0	1				
Colorado	5	5	5	5				
Idaho	1	2	2	4				
Iowa	0	1	0	0				
Kansas	5	5	5	5				
Nebraska	40	20	20	30				
Oklahoma	0	0	0	0				
South Dakota	28	17	18	12				
Texas	1	1	1	1				
Washington	2	2	1	2				
Other States	1	1	1	3				
United States	84	54	56	62				

Number of Feedlots, Inventory, and Marketings by Size of Feedlot – United States: 2011 and 2012

Feedlot capacity	2011			2012		
	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	75,000	2,260.4	3,170	73,000	2,158.7	2,854
1,000 head or more	2,120	11,861	22,577	2,100	11,193	22,095
1,000 - 1,999	770	416	727	740	373	695
2,000 - 3,999	560	770	1,360	570	710	1,300
4,000 - 7,999	345	1,070	1,870	345	1,000	1,810
8,000 - 15,999	170	1,220	2,320	170	1,130	2,320
16,000 - 23,999	86	1,130	2,160	88	1,030	2,170
24,000 - 31,999	52	970	1,880	55	920	1,880
32,000 - 49,999	71	2,125	4,100	66	1,880	3,750
50,000 and Over	66	4,160	8,160	66	4,150	8,170
All feedlots	77,120	14,121.4	25,747	75,100	13,351.7	24,949

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

Total Feedlot Capacity of 1000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2012 and 2013

Item	Feedlot capacity in number of head	
	2012	2013
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
United States	17,000	16,900

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 0.2 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 0.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.3 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 12,000 head, ranging from 0 to 47,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 12 times and has been below the latest estimate 2 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	12	0	47	2	12
Placements	0.3	0.6	4	0	20	4	8
Marketings	0.3	0.5	3	0	20	6	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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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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