



# Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

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Released February 22, 2013, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## 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 <sup>1</sup> .....	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

<sup>1</sup> December prior year.

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

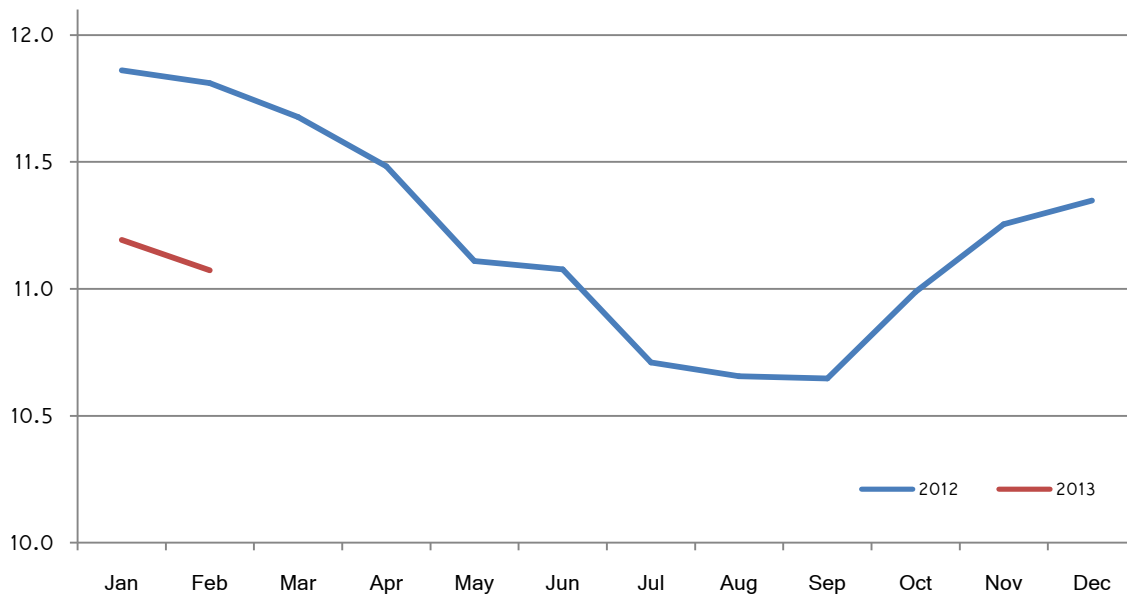
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2012	2013	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Class on feed January 1			
Steers and steer calves .....	7,281	7,047	97
Heifers and heifer calves .....	4,496	4,070	91
Cows and bulls .....	84	76	90

**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 <sup>1</sup>	January	February	March	April	May
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(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	July	August	September	October	November
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(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

<sup>1</sup> 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 <sup>1</sup> (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

<sup>1</sup> December prior year.

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

State	During					
	December <sup>1</sup> (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

<sup>1</sup> 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	0	0	0	0
California .....	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Colorado .....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Idaho .....	1	2	2	4	4	4	4	4
Iowa .....	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas .....	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Nebraska .....	40	20	20	30	20	20	30	30
Oklahoma .....	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Dakota .....	28	17	17	12	18	18	12	12
Texas .....	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Washington .....	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2
Other States .....	1	1	1	3	1	1	3	3
United States .....	84	54	54	62	56	56	62	62

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

Feedlot capacity	2011			2012		
	Lots	Inventory <sup>1</sup>	Cattle marketed	Lots	Inventory <sup>1</sup>	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

<sup>1</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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