



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Down 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 10.9 million head on March 1, 2013. The inventory was 7 percent below March 1, 2012.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.48 million, 14 percent below 2012. Net placements were 1.42 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 355,000, 600-699 pounds were 270,000, 700-799 pounds were 407,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 450,000. Placements are the lowest for February since the series began in 1996.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.64 million, 7 percent below 2012.

Other disappearance totaled 60,000 during February, 35 percent below 2012.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2012	2013	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1	11,811	11,073	94
Placed on feed during February	1,714	1,482	86
Fed cattle marketed during February	1,755	1,638	93
Other disappearance during February	93	60	65
On feed March 1	11,677	10,857	93

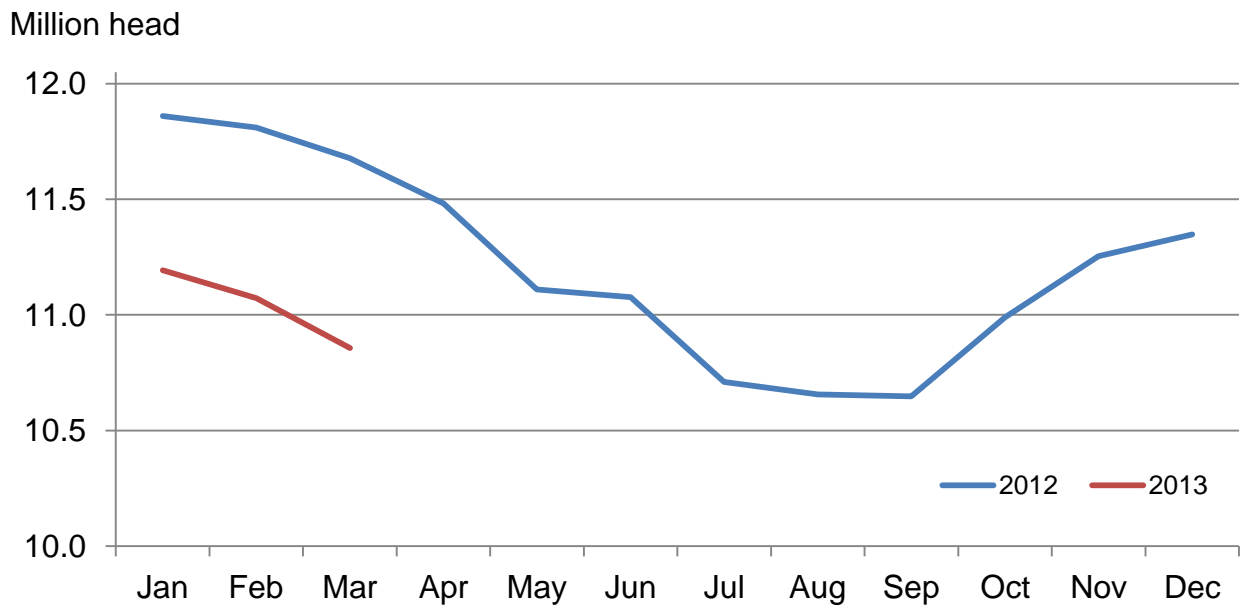
Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: February 1, 2012 and 2013

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

State	March 1, 2012	February 1, 2013	March 1, 2013		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	279	275	270	97	98
California	500	480	480	96	100
Colorado	1,090	1,010	990	91	98
Idaho	230	225	225	98	100
Iowa	670	640	640	96	100
Kansas	2,200	2,110	2,050	93	97
Nebraska	2,570	2,470	2,430	95	98
Oklahoma	340	325	305	90	94
South Dakota	260	225	230	88	102
Texas	2,840	2,620	2,550	90	97
Washington	233	234	233	100	100
Other States	465	459	454	98	99
United States	11,677	11,073	10,857	93	98

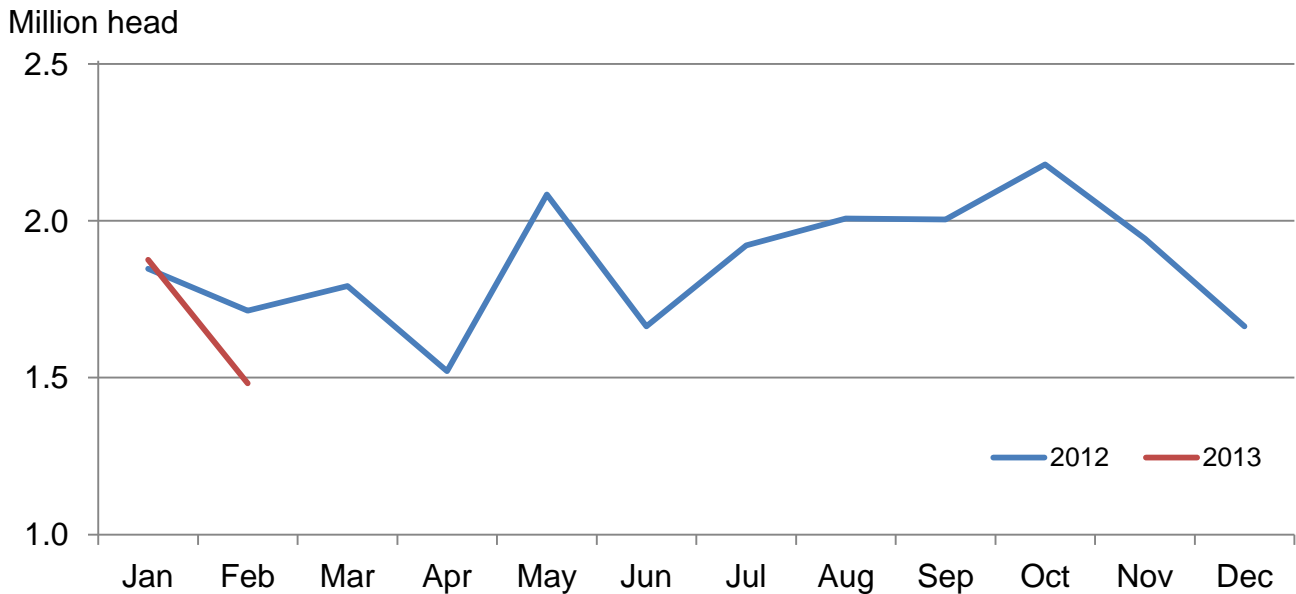
Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States



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

State	During February 2012 (1,000 head)	During January 2013 (1,000 head)	During February 2013		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	25	30	23	92	77
California	50	55	48	96	87
Colorado	165	190	160	97	84
Idaho	37	37	36	97	97
Iowa	85	100	71	84	71
Kansas	370	430	295	80	69
Nebraska	410	475	350	85	74
Oklahoma	48	50	37	77	74
South Dakota	47	36	45	96	125
Texas	380	390	340	89	87
Washington	41	29	35	85	121
Other States	56	54	42	75	78
United States	1,714	1,876	1,482	86	79

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: 2012 and 2013

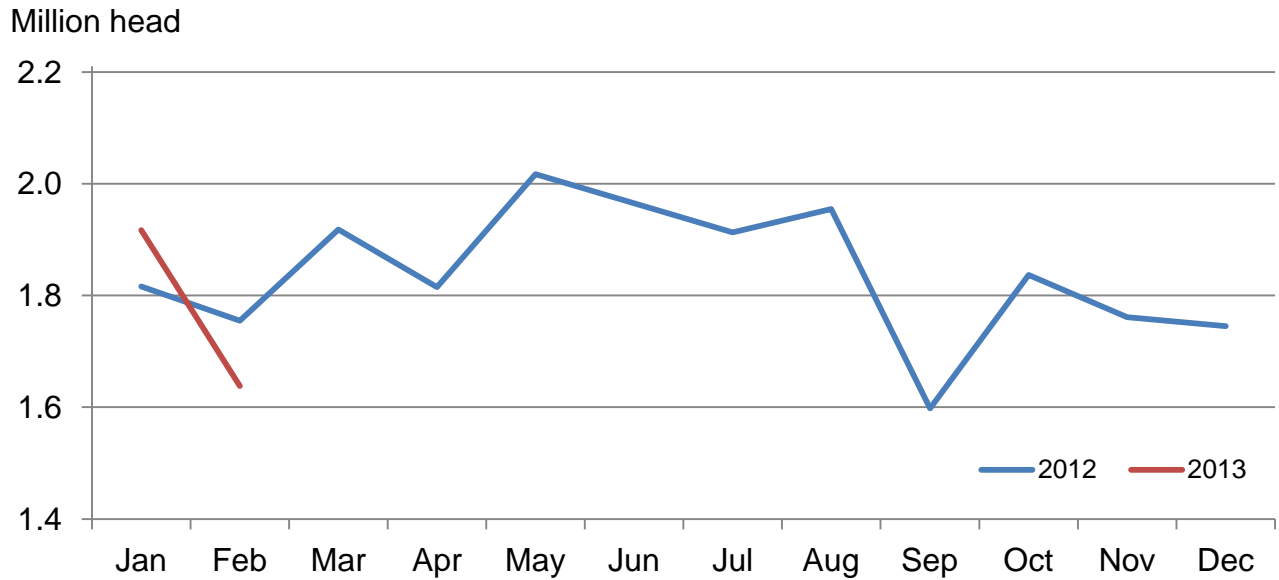
State	During February									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	30	30	30	25	40	50	65	55	165	160
Kansas	70	60	75	50	130	90	95	95	370	295
Nebraska	60	60	70	60	110	100	170	130	410	350
Texas	145	115	85	70	95	100	55	55	380	340
Other States	95	90	75	65	94	67	125	115	389	337
United States	400	355	335	270	469	407	510	450	1,714	1,482

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

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

State	During February 2012	During January 2013	During February 2013		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	21	26	27	129	104
California	53	50	46	87	92
Colorado	200	175	170	85	97
Idaho	41	40	35	85	88
Iowa	62	77	68	110	88
Kansas	385	415	345	90	83
Nebraska	390	470	380	97	81
Oklahoma	61	68	55	90	81
South Dakota	45	40	39	87	98
Texas	415	465	395	95	85
Washington	32	40	34	106	85
Other States	50	51	44	88	86
United States	1,755	1,917	1,638	93	85

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



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

State	During February 2012 (1,000 head)	During January 2013 (1,000 head)	During February 2013		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	2	5	2	100	40
Colorado	15	5	10	67	200
Idaho	1	2	1	100	50
Iowa	3	3	3	100	100
Kansas	15	15	10	67	67
Nebraska	20	15	10	50	67
Oklahoma	2	2	2	100	100
South Dakota	2	1	1	50	100
Texas	25	25	15	60	60
Washington	3	2	2	67	100
Other States	4	3	3	75	100
United States	93	79	60	65	76

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 10.9 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 12,000 head, ranging from 0 to 47,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 11 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	11
Placements	0.3	0.6	3	0	20	4	7
Marketings	0.3	0.5	3	0	20	6	4

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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