



Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

Released April 19, 2013, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

United States Cattle on Feed Down 5 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 April 1, 2013. The inventory was 5 percent below April 1, 2012. The inventory included 6.91 million steers and steer calves, down 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.93 million head, down 8 percent from 2012.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.90 million, 6 percent above 2012. Net placements were 1.82 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 410,000, 600-699 pounds were 315,000, 700-799 pounds were 540,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 634,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.77 million, 8 percent below 2012.

Other disappearance totaled 76,000 during March, 10 percent above 2012.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2012	2013	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1	11,677	10,857	93
Placed on feed during March	1,792	1,899	106
Fed cattle marketed during March	1,918	1,771	92
Other disappearance during March	69	76	110
On feed April 1	11,482	10,909	95

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

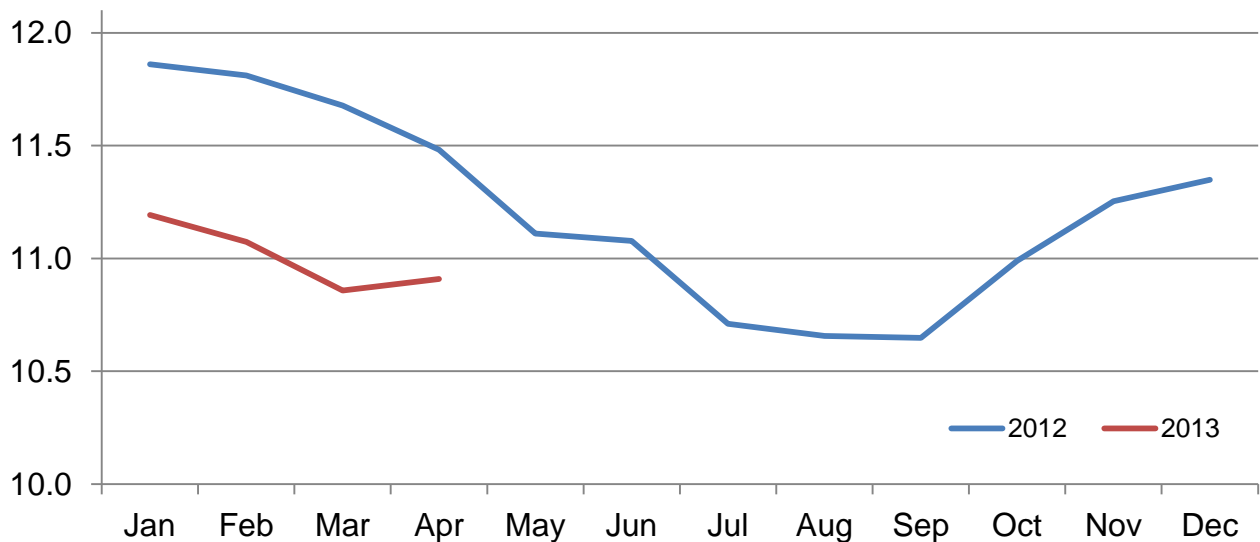
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2012	2013	
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)
Class on Feed April 1			
Steers and Steer Calves	7,174	6,914	96
Heifers and Heifer Calves	4,254	3,930	92
Cows and Bulls	54	65	120

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

State	April 1, 2012	March 1, 2013	April 1, 2013		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	278	270	278	100	103
California	490	480	480	98	100
Colorado	1,070	990	980	92	99
Idaho	225	225	215	96	96
Iowa	670	640	630	94	98
Kansas	2,170	2,050	2,090	96	102
Nebraska	2,530	2,430	2,420	96	100
Oklahoma	320	305	305	95	100
South Dakota	255	230	230	90	100
Texas	2,780	2,550	2,590	93	102
Washington	233	233	233	100	100
Other States	461	454	458	99	101
United States	11,482	10,857	10,909	95	100

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

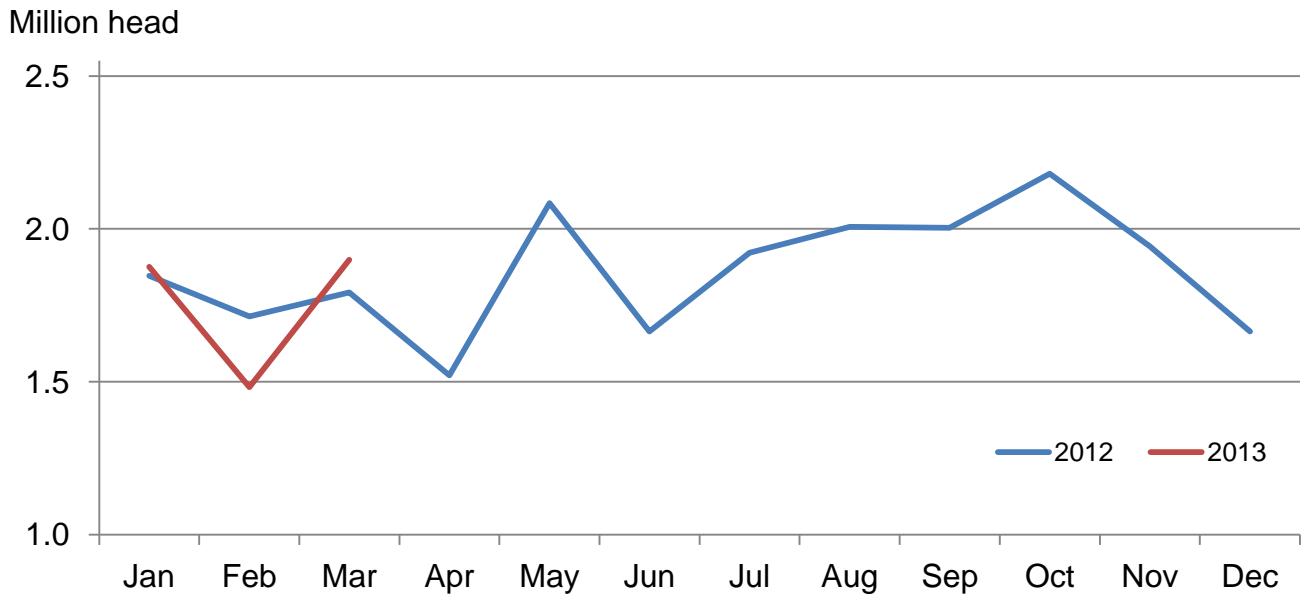
Million head



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

State	During March 2012 (1,000 head)	During February 2013 (1,000 head)	During March 2013		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	27	23	32	119	139
California	53	48	56	106	117
Colorado	160	160	165	103	103
Idaho	34	36	26	76	72
Iowa	73	71	71	97	100
Kansas	375	295	425	113	144
Nebraska	440	350	400	91	114
Oklahoma	56	37	55	98	149
South Dakota	45	45	32	71	71
Texas	430	340	540	126	159
Washington	37	35	37	100	106
Other States	62	42	60	97	143
United States	1,792	1,482	1,899	106	128

Number of Cattle Placed on 1000+ 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 March									
	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	25	25	30	45	55	60	55	160	165
Kansas	60	60	65	60	125	130	125	175	375	425
Nebraska	50	55	70	60	120	110	200	175	440	400
Texas	155	170	90	115	115	165	70	90	430	540
Other States	95	100	50	50	95	80	147	139	387	369
United States	390	410	300	315	500	540	602	634	1,792	1,899

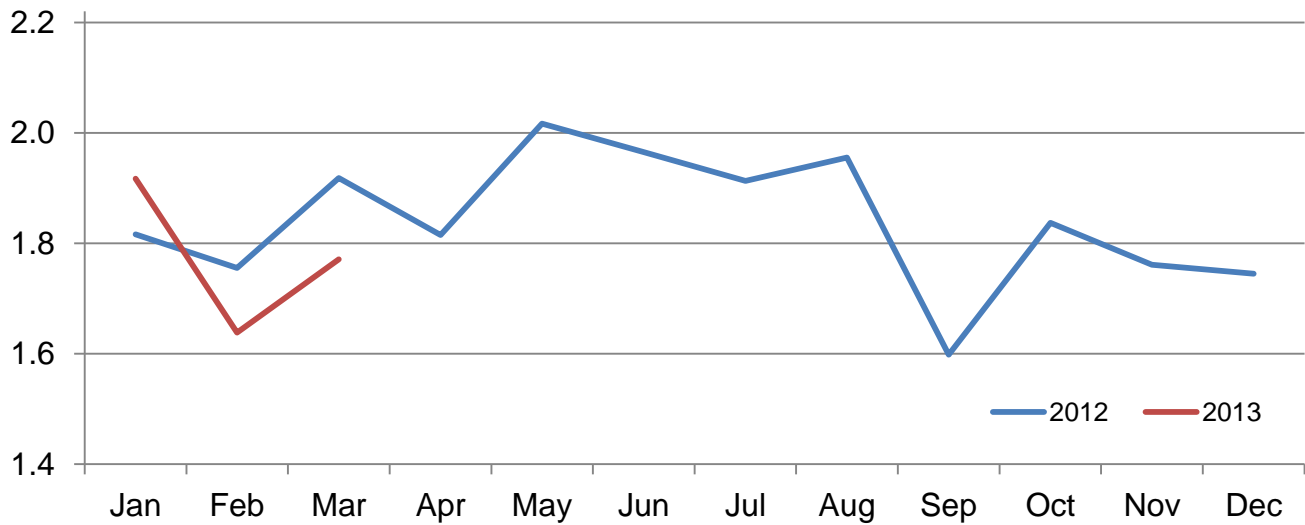
State	During February									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	30	30	30	25	40	50	65	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

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

State	During March 2012	During February 2013	During March 2013		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	27	27	23	85	85
California	61	46	53	87	115
Colorado	175	170	165	94	97
Idaho	38	35	35	92	100
Iowa	71	68	77	108	113
Kansas	395	345	360	91	104
Nebraska	460	380	400	87	105
Oklahoma	74	55	53	72	96
South Dakota	48	39	31	65	79
Texas	470	395	485	103	123
Washington	36	34	36	100	106
Other States	63	44	53	84	120
United States	1,918	1,638	1,771	92	108

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: 2012 and 2013

State	During March 2012 (1,000 head)	During February 2013 (1,000 head)	During March 2013		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	2	2	3	150	150
Colorado	5	10	10	200	100
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	2	3	4	200	133
Kansas	10	10	25	250	250
Nebraska	20	10	10	50	100
Oklahoma	2	2	2	100	100
South Dakota	2	1	1	50	100
Texas	20	15	15	75	100
Washington	1	2	1	100	50
Other States	3	3	3	100	100
United States	69	60	76	110	127

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

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves			Cows and bulls		
	Apr 1, 2012	Jan 1, 2013	Apr 1, 2013	Apr 1, 2012	Jan 1, 2013	Apr 1, 2013	Apr 1, 2012	Jan 1, 2013	Apr 1, 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)
Arizona	274	264	271	4	8	7	0	0	0
California	425	405	420	65	75	59	0	0	1
Colorado	730	620	610	335	370	365	5	10	5
Idaho	131	126	122	92	99	91	2	5	2
Iowa	480	420	430	189	200	200	1	0	0
Kansas	1,180	1,160	1,160	985	945	925	5	5	5
Nebraska	1,530	1,530	1,530	980	930	860	20	20	30
Oklahoma	200	220	195	120	125	110	0	0	0
South Dakota	138	113	123	100	91	91	17	26	16
Texas	1,610	1,720	1,600	1,169	999	989	1	1	1
Washington	143	147	144	88	96	86	2	4	3
Other States	333	322	309	127	132	147	1	5	2
United States	7,174	7,047	6,914	4,254	4,070	3,930	54	76	65

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 0.2 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 10 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	10
Placements	0.3	0.6	3	0	20	3	7
Marketings	0.3	0.5	2	0	20	6	3

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

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Alissa Cowell-Mytar – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4751
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Tiffany Hora – Livestock Slaughter	(515) 284-4340
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278

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 “Follow NASS” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.

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.

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.