



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Down 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.7 million head on May 1, 2013. The inventory was 3 percent below May 1, 2012.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.75 million, 15 percent above 2012. Net placements were 1.68 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 375,000, 600-699 pounds were 270,000, 700-799 pounds were 455,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 650,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.86 million, 2 percent above 2012.

Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during April, 12 percent below 2012.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2012	2013	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1	11,482	10,909	95
Placed on feed during April	1,521	1,750	115
Fed cattle marketed during April	1,815	1,855	102
Other disappearance during April	78	69	88
On feed May 1	11,110	10,735	97

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

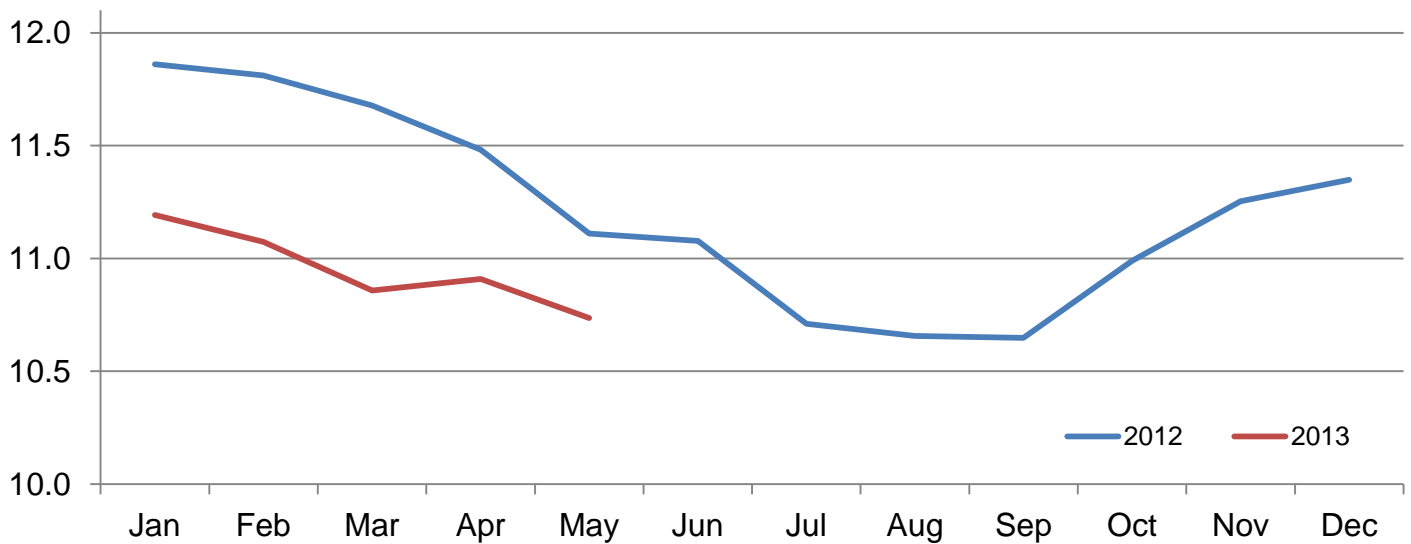
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2012	2013	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1	11,677	10,857	93
Placed on feed during March	1,792	1,899	106
Fed cattle marketed during March	1,918	1,771	92
Other disappearance during March	69	76	110
On feed April 1	11,482	10,909	95

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

State	May 1, 2012	April 1, 2013	May 1, 2013		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	276	278	275	100	99
California	475	480	490	103	102
Colorado	1,030	980	960	93	98
Idaho	215	215	210	98	98
Iowa	650	630	620	95	98
Kansas	2,080	2,090	2,060	99	99
Nebraska	2,460	2,420	2,390	97	99
Oklahoma	295	305	295	100	97
South Dakota	245	230	225	92	98
Texas	2,710	2,590	2,540	94	98
Washington	224	233	220	98	94
Other States	450	458	450	100	98
United States	11,110	10,909	10,735	97	98

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

Million head

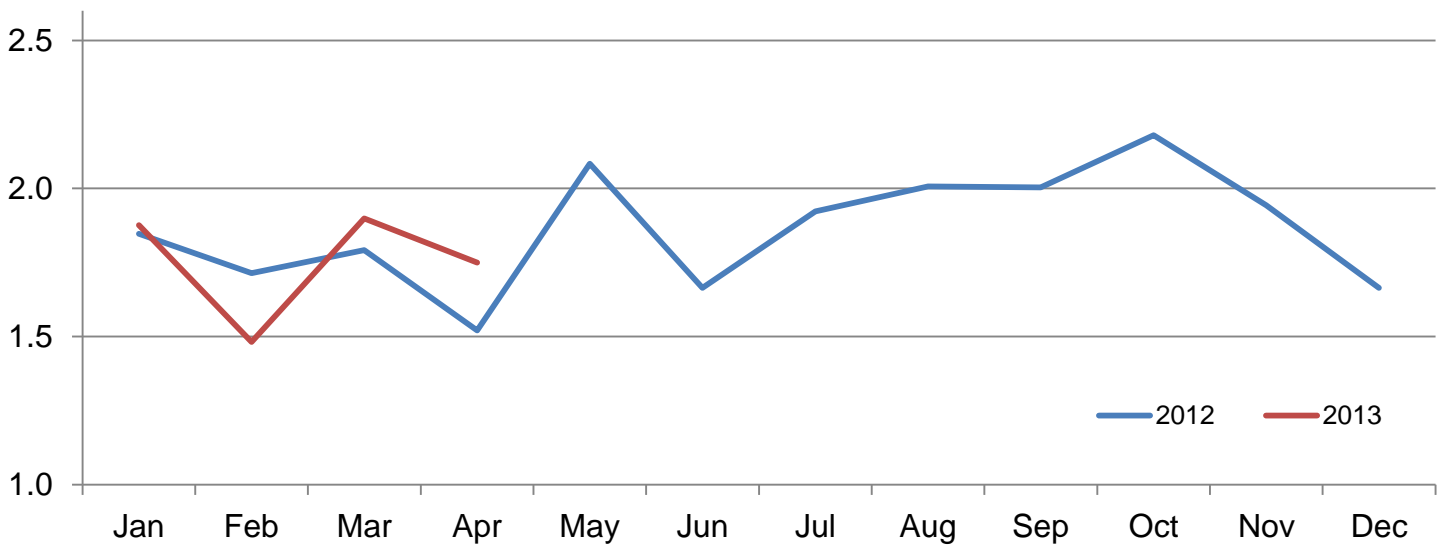


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2012 and 2013

State	During April 2012 (1,000 head)	During March 2013 (1,000 head)	During April 2013		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	26	32	26	100	81
California	45	56	65	144	116
Colorado	120	165	140	117	85
Idaho	28	26	33	118	127
Iowa	55	71	89	162	125
Kansas	300	425	350	117	82
Nebraska	370	400	450	122	113
Oklahoma	47	55	51	109	93
South Dakota	32	32	28	88	88
Texas	410	540	435	106	81
Washington	28	37	26	93	70
Other States	60	60	57	95	95
United States	1,521	1,899	1,750	115	92

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: 2012 and 2013

State	During April									
	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	25	20	20	35	30	40	45	45	120	140
Kansas	60	55	55	50	85	100	100	145	300	350
Nebraska	50	70	50	70	90	110	180	200	370	450
Texas	130	140	80	65	105	115	95	115	410	435
Other States	90	90	45	50	70	90	116	145	321	375
United States	355	375	250	270	380	455	536	650	1,521	1,750

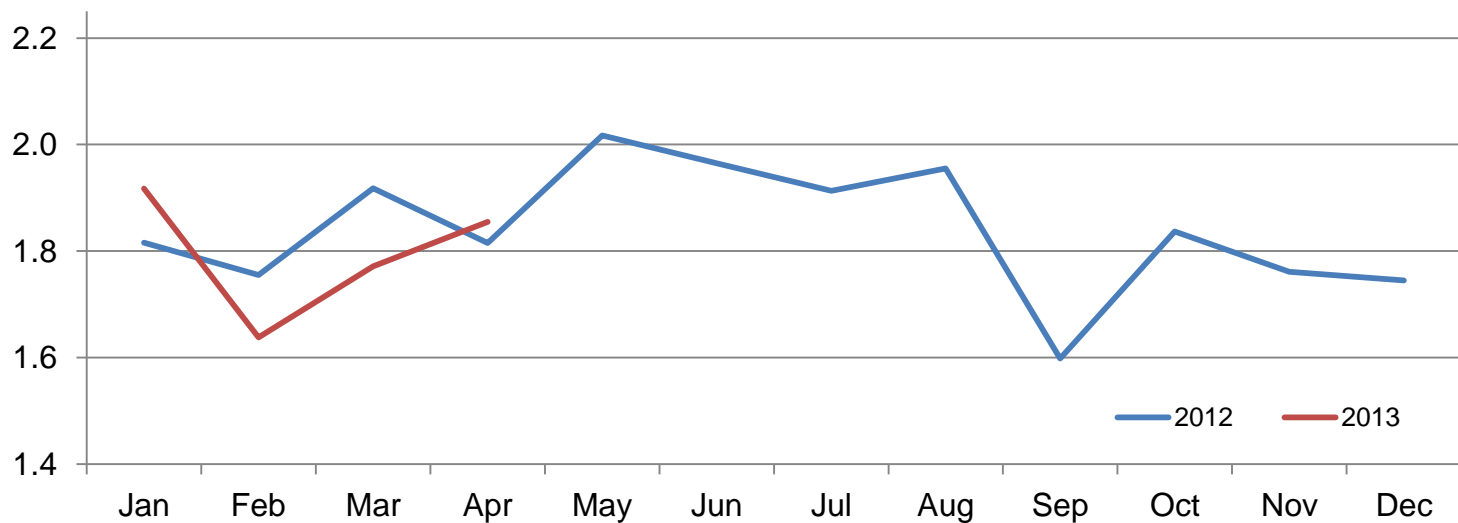
State	During March									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	30	25	25	30	45	55	60	55	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

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

State	During April 2012	During March 2013	During April 2013		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	27	23	28	104	122
California	58	53	52	90	98
Colorado	150	165	150	100	91
Idaho	36	35	36	100	103
Iowa	72	77	97	135	126
Kansas	380	360	365	96	101
Nebraska	420	400	470	112	118
Oklahoma	70	53	60	86	113
South Dakota	40	31	32	80	103
Texas	465	485	470	101	97
Washington	34	36	35	103	97
Other States	63	53	60	95	113
United States	1,815	1,771	1,855	102	105

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 April 2012 (1,000 head)	During March 2013 (1,000 head)	During April 2013		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	2	3	3	150	100
Colorado	10	10	10	100	100
Idaho	2	1	2	100	200
Iowa	3	4	2	67	50
Kansas	10	25	15	150	60
Nebraska	20	10	10	50	100
Oklahoma	2	2	1	50	50
South Dakota	2	1	1	50	100
Texas	15	15	15	100	100
Washington	3	1	4	133	400
Other States	8	3	5	63	167
United States	78	76	69	88	91

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 10.7 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 11,000 head, ranging from 0 to 47,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 9 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	11	0	47	2	9
Placements	0.3	0.6	3	0	20	3	6
Marketings	0.3	0.5	2	0	20	5	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

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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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