



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 10.8 million head on February 1, 2014. The inventory was 3 percent below February 1, 2013.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 2.03 million, 9 percent above 2013. Net placements were 1.96 million head. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 470,000, 600-699 pounds were 440,000, 700-799 pounds were 560,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 559,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.79 million, 5 percent below 2013.

Other disappearance totaled 71,000 during January, 10 percent below 2013.

2013 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 83.4 percent of all cattle and calves on feed in the United States on January 1, 2014, down from 83.8 on January 1, 2013.

Marketings of fed cattle for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head during 2013 represented 87.8 percent of all cattle marketed from feedlots in the United States, down from 88.5 percent during 2012.

Special Note

This report contains the 2013 monthly cattle on feed estimates for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head. Also included are the U.S. number of feedlots, inventory, and annual marketings by size group for 2012 and 2013. Data for total U.S. 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, 2013 and 2014

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2013	2014	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1	11,172	10,590	95
Placed on feed during January	1,869	2,029	109
Fed cattle marketed during January	1,892	1,788	95
Other disappearance during January	79	71	90
On feed February 1	11,070	10,760	97

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2013 and 2014

[December preceeding year.]

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2013	2014	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed December 1	11,348	10,724	95
Placed on feed during December	1,576	1,679	107
Fed cattle marketed during December	1,678	1,736	103
Other disappearance during December	74	77	104
On feed January 1	11,172	10,590	95

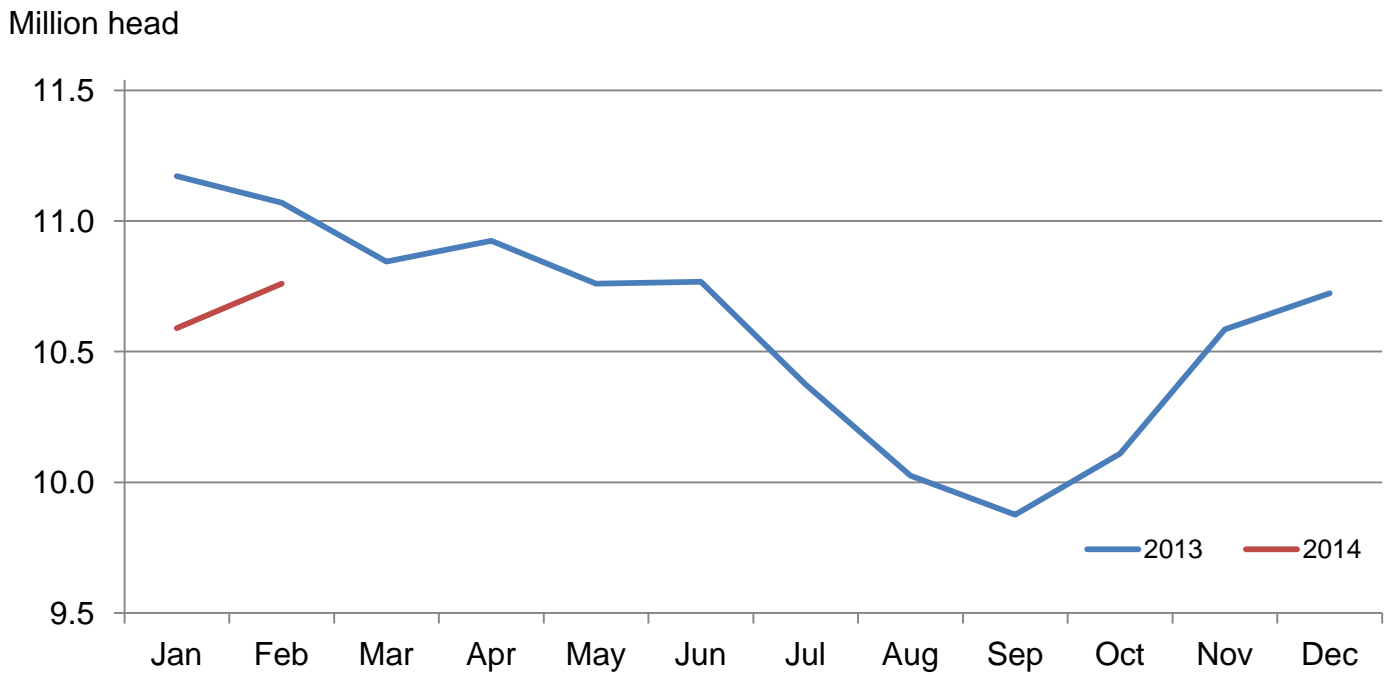
Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2013 and 2014

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2013	2014	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Class on feed January 1			
Steers and steer calves	7,032	6,780	96
Heifers and heifer calves	4,064	3,730	92
Cows and bulls	76	80	105

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 and 2014

State	February 1, 2013	January 1, 2014	February 1, 2014		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	275	274	272	99	99
California	475	510	520	109	102
Colorado	1,010	960	970	96	101
Idaho	225	220	215	96	98
Iowa	640	620	660	103	106
Kansas	2,110	2,010	2,050	97	102
Minnesota	136	130	137	101	105
Nebraska	2,470	2,400	2,460	100	103
Oklahoma	325	260	265	82	102
South Dakota	225	230	240	107	104
Texas	2,620	2,440	2,440	93	100
Washington	234	201	206	88	102
Other States	325	335	325	100	97
United States	11,070	10,590	10,760	97	102

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: 2013 and 2014

State	During January 2013	During December 2013	During January 2014		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	30	28	31	103	111
California	55	59	70	127	119
Colorado	190	150	190	100	127
Idaho	37	32	41	111	128
Iowa	110	96	114	104	119
Kansas	425	360	435	102	121
Minnesota	19	20	18	95	90
Nebraska	465	405	545	117	135
Oklahoma	51	43	47	92	109
South Dakota	36	43	54	150	126
Texas	385	370	405	105	109
Washington	29	34	42	145	124
Other States	37	39	37	100	95
United States	1,869	1,679	2,029	109	121

Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2012 and 2014

State	During January									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(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	45	45	45	60	50	55	50	190	190
Kansas	70	65	95	90	145	145	115	135	425	435
Nebraska	60	75	95	115	155	165	155	190	465	545
Texas	175	160	75	80	75	95	60	70	385	405
Other States	115	125	80	110	95	105	114	114	404	454
United States	450	470	390	440	530	560	499	559	1,869	2,029

State	During December									
	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	35	40	30	40	35	35	30	35	130	150
Kansas	70	70	90	90	95	110	90	90	345	360
Nebraska	65	80	85	100	110	95	120	130	380	405
Texas	195	160	100	90	60	75	50	45	405	370
Other States	105	125	81	105	55	79	75	85	316	394
United States	470	475	386	425	355	394	365	385	1,576	1,679

**Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States:
2013 and 2014**

State	During January 2013	During December 2013	During January 2014		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	26	28	32	123	114
California	50	52	58	116	112
Colorado	175	150	170	97	113
Idaho	40	36	45	113	125
Iowa	77	84	71	92	85
Kansas	410	385	385	94	100
Minnesota	15	11	10	67	91
Nebraska	460	420	470	102	112
Oklahoma	64	45	40	63	89
South Dakota	40	30	41	103	137
Texas	460	420	385	84	92
Washington	40	37	35	88	95
Other States	35	38	46	131	121
United States	1,892	1,736	1,788	95	103

**Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States:
2013 and 2014**

State	During January 2013	During December 2013	During January 2014		
			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	5	2	2	40	100
Colorado	5	10	10	200	100
Idaho	2	1	1	50	100
Iowa	3	2	3	100	150
Kansas	15	15	10	67	67
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	15	15	15	100	100
Oklahoma	2	3	2	100	67
South Dakota	1	3	3	300	100
Texas	25	20	20	80	100
Washington	2	3	2	100	67
Other States	2	1	1	50	100
United States	79	77	71	90	92

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

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	272	275	270	278	275	272
California	475	475	480	485	495	510
Colorado	1,000	1,010	990	980	960	960
Idaho	230	225	225	215	210	205
Iowa	610	640	630	630	620	610
Kansas	2,110	2,110	2,050	2,100	2,070	2,070
Minnesota	133	136	132	133	130	131
Nebraska	2,480	2,470	2,430	2,430	2,400	2,340
Oklahoma	340	325	305	305	295	310
South Dakota	230	225	230	230	225	215
Texas	2,720	2,620	2,550	2,580	2,540	2,630
Washington	247	234	233	233	220	214
Other States	325	325	320	325	320	300
United States	11,172	11,070	10,845	10,924	10,760	10,767
	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	267	262	266	268	270	275
California	515	515	505	495	495	505
Colorado	920	870	830	870	950	970
Idaho	195	185	190	210	220	225
Iowa	580	560	550	550	590	610
Kansas	2,020	2,000	1,980	2,000	2,050	2,050
Minnesota	125	109	101	103	117	122
Nebraska	2,180	2,080	2,090	2,200	2,370	2,430
Oklahoma	305	285	280	285	270	265
South Dakota	200	180	170	180	200	220
Texas	2,560	2,490	2,430	2,450	2,520	2,510
Washington	203	189	184	184	203	207
Other States	305	300	300	315	330	335
United States	10,375	10,025	9,876	10,110	10,585	10,724

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

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	29	30	23	32	26	25
California	41	55	50	58	62	72
Colorado	130	190	155	160	140	170
Idaho	26	37	34	26	33	41
Iowa	68	110	61	72	89	65
Kansas	345	425	285	425	335	430
Minnesota	20	19	12	17	16	17
Nebraska	380	465	340	400	440	470
Oklahoma	43	51	37	55	51	78
South Dakota	32	36	45	32	26	39
Texas	405	385	335	530	435	570
Washington	25	29	35	35	26	40
Other States	32	37	26	42	41	38
United States	1,576	1,869	1,438	1,884	1,720	2,055
	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	22	23	23	23	28	30
California	61	57	55	45	55	63
Colorado	115	120	145	190	230	165
Idaho	36	39	52	62	56	42
Iowa	45	48	66	89	131	122
Kansas	350	425	380	390	470	365
Minnesota	10	9	13	17	25	18
Nebraska	330	370	440	510	630	475
Oklahoma	49	45	47	67	65	40
South Dakota	27	19	28	43	59	61
Texas	425	450	440	470	520	405
Washington	39	41	43	37	59	44
Other States	42	38	40	45	50	37
United States	1,551	1,684	1,772	1,988	2,378	1,867

¹ December prior year.

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

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	35	30	35	30	130
Kansas	70	90	95	90	345
Nebraska	65	85	110	120	380
Texas	195	100	60	50	405
Other States	105	81	55	75	316
United States	470	386	355	365	1,576
	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	45	60	55	190
Kansas	70	95	145	115	425
Nebraska	60	95	155	155	465
Texas	175	75	75	60	385
Other States	115	80	95	114	404
United States	450	390	530	499	1,869
	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	25	50	50	155
Kansas	60	45	85	95	285
Nebraska	60	55	100	125	340
Texas	110	70	100	55	335
Other States	85	60	63	115	323
United States	345	255	398	440	1,438

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Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 (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	25	30	55	50	160
Kansas	60	60	130	175	425
Nebraska	55	60	110	175	400
Texas	170	115	160	85	530
Other States	100	50	80	139	369
United States	410	315	535	624	1,884
	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	20	35	40	45	140
Kansas	55	50	90	140	335
Nebraska	70	70	105	195	440
Texas	140	65	115	115	435
Other States	85	50	90	145	370
United States	370	270	440	640	1,720
	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	30	20	50	70	170
Kansas	55	70	130	175	430
Nebraska	55	60	130	225	470
Texas	160	105	155	150	570
Other States	95	55	90	175	415
United States	395	310	555	795	2,055

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Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 (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	30	15	30	40	115
Kansas	50	55	100	145	350
Nebraska	30	45	80	175	330
Texas	125	75	135	90	425
Other States	80	36	65	150	331
United States	315	226	410	600	1,551
	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	30	20	30	40	120
Kansas	60	75	140	150	425
Nebraska	45	55	90	180	370
Texas	165	75	125	85	450
Other States	90	45	60	124	319
United States	390	270	445	579	1,684
	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	25	20	45	55	145
Kansas	65	80	115	120	380
Nebraska	55	65	100	220	440
Texas	175	115	95	55	440
Other States	85	47	70	165	367
United States	405	327	425	615	1,772

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Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 (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	35	20	50	85	190
Kansas	70	85	120	115	390
Nebraska	75	70	105	260	510
Texas	180	110	110	70	470
Other States	105	50	90	183	428
United States	465	335	475	713	1,988
	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	80	50	45	55	230
Kansas	90	120	140	120	470
Nebraska	170	170	90	200	630
Texas	190	120	145	65	520
Other States	190	118	85	135	528
United States	720	578	505	575	2,378
	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	50	50	30	35	165
Kansas	80	90	105	90	365
Nebraska	120	135	80	140	475
Texas	165	115	75	50	405
Other States	165	120	62	110	457
United States	580	510	352	425	1,867

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

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	23	26	27	23	28	27
California	51	50	43	50	49	54
Colorado	145	175	165	160	150	150
Idaho	40	40	33	35	36	45
Iowa	64	77	68	68	97	72
Kansas	405	410	335	350	350	410
Minnesota	19	15	15	15	18	15
Nebraska	415	460	370	390	460	510
Oklahoma	45	64	55	53	60	61
South Dakota	31	40	39	31	30	45
Texas	370	460	390	480	460	465
Washington	38	40	34	34	35	45
Other States	32	35	29	35	42	49
United States	1,678	1,892	1,603	1,724	1,815	1,948
	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	26	27	18	20	25	24
California	53	55	60	53	50	51
Colorado	145	165	180	145	145	140
Idaho	45	48	46	41	45	36
Iowa	73	64	73	87	89	100
Kansas	390	430	390	355	400	345
Minnesota	15	24	20	14	10	12
Nebraska	480	450	420	390	445	400
Oklahoma	53	64	51	60	78	43
South Dakota	41	37	37	32	38	39
Texas	480	510	490	430	430	400
Washington	48	54	47	36	39	39
Other States	31	42	39	29	33	31
United States	1,880	1,970	1,871	1,692	1,827	1,660

¹ December prior year.

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

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	5	5	2	3	3	3
Colorado	5	5	10	10	10	20
Idaho	1	2	1	1	2	1
Iowa	4	3	3	4	2	3
Kansas	20	15	10	25	15	20
Minnesota	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nebraska	15	15	10	10	10	20
Oklahoma	3	2	2	2	1	2
South Dakota	1	1	1	1	1	4
Texas	15	25	15	20	15	15
Washington	1	2	2	1	4	1
Other States	2	2	2	2	4	9
United States	74	79	60	81	69	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	2	5	2	5	2
Colorado	10	5	5	5	5	5
Idaho	1	1	1	1	1	1
Iowa	2	4	3	2	2	2
Kansas	10	15	10	15	20	20
Minnesota	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nebraska	10	20	10	10	15	15
Oklahoma	1	1	1	2	2	2
South Dakota	1	2	1	1	1	2
Texas	15	10	10	20	20	15
Washington	2	1	1	1	1	1
Other States	6	1	1	1	2	1
United States	63	64	50	62	76	68

¹ December prior year.

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

State	Steers & steer calves				Heifers & heifer calves			
	January 1 (1,000 head)	April 1 (1,000 head)	July 1 (1,000 head)	October 1 (1,000 head)	January 1 (1,000 head)	April 1 (1,000 head)	July 1 (1,000 head)	October 1 (1,000 head)
Arizona	264	271	262	261	8	7	5	7
California	400	420	445	450	75	64	68	44
Colorado	620	610	590	560	370	365	325	305
Idaho	126	122	102	115	99	91	92	90
Iowa	415	430	430	350	195	200	150	200
Kansas	1,160	1,160	1,080	1,060	945	935	930	935
Minnesota	102	105	111	92	29	27	13	10
Nebraska	1,530	1,540	1,355	1,380	930	860	810	810
Oklahoma	215	195	200	190	125	110	105	95
South Dakota	113	123	105	104	91	91	71	67
Texas	1,720	1,590	1,560	1,530	999	989	999	919
Washington	147	144	104	109	96	86	96	72
Other States	220	205	193	210	102	119	112	105
United States	7,032	6,915	6,537	6,411	4,064	3,944	3,776	3,659
	Cows and bulls							
	January 1 (1,000 head)	April 1 (1,000 head)	July 1 (1,000 head)	October 1 (1,000 head)				
Arizona	0	0	0	0				
California	0	1	1	2				
Colorado	10	5	5	5				
Idaho	5	2	2	1				
Iowa	0	0	0	0				
Kansas	5	5	5	10				
Minnesota	2	1	1	1				
Nebraska	20	30	15	15				
Oklahoma	0	0	0	0				
South Dakota	26	16	24	9				
Texas	1	1	1	1				
Washington	4	3	3	3				
Other States	3	1	0	0				
United States	76	65	62	40				

Number of Feedlots, Inventory, and Marketings by Size of Feedlot – United States: 2012 and 2013

Feedlot capacity	2012			2013		
	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	73,000	2,158.7	2,854	71,000	2,105.3	3,010
1,000 head or more	2,100	11,172	22,028	2,090	10,590	21,618
1,000 - 1,999	740	362	678	740	360	628
2,000 - 3,999	570	710	1,300	560	670	1,300
4,000 - 7,999	345	1,000	1,800	345	970	1,790
8,000 - 15,999	170	1,120	2,320	170	1,020	2,210
16,000 - 23,999	88	1,030	2,150	88	960	1,940
24,000 - 31,999	55	920	1,880	55	910	1,900
32,000 - 49,999	66	1,880	3,750	63	1,600	3,400
50,000 and Over	66	4,150	8,150	69	4,100	8,450
All feedlots	75,100	13,330.7	24,882	73,090	12,695.3	24,628

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

Total Feedlot Capacity of 1000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2013 and 2014

Item	Feedlot capacity in number of head	
	2013	2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
United States	16,900	16,800

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 12 of the 16 States. Data collected from the remaining 4 States are used to establish the "Other States" estimates. These 4 States include Illinois, 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 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.8 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.2 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 9,000 head, ranging from 0 to 34,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 9 times and has been below the latest estimate 6 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	0.1	0.2	9	0	34	6	9
Placements	1.6	2.7	16	0	88	3	13
Marketings	1.3	2.3	14	0	67	1	12

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, Honey	(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

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- 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.

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