



# Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

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Released April 25, 2014, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## United States Cattle on Feed Down 1 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, 2014. The inventory was 1 percent below April 1, 2013. The inventory included 7.07 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 65 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.71 million head, down 6 percent from 2013.

**Placements** in feedlots during March totaled 1.80 million, 5 percent below 2013. Net placements were 1.73 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 425,000, 600-699 pounds were 290,000, 700-799 pounds were 465,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 615,000.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during March totaled 1.66 million, 4 percent below 2013. Marketings for March are the lowest since the series began in 1996.

**Other disappearance** totaled 65,000 during March, 20 percent below 2013.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2013	2014	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1 .....	10,845	10,790	99
Placed on feed during March .....	1,884	1,795	95
Fed cattle marketed during March .....	1,724	1,660	96
Other disappearance during March .....	81	65	80
On feed April 1 .....	10,924	10,860	99

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2013	2014	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1 .....	11,070	10,760	97
Placed on feed during February .....	1,438	1,650	115
Fed cattle marketed during February .....	1,603	1,549	97
Other disappearance during February .....	60	71	118
On feed March 1 .....	10,845	10,790	99

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

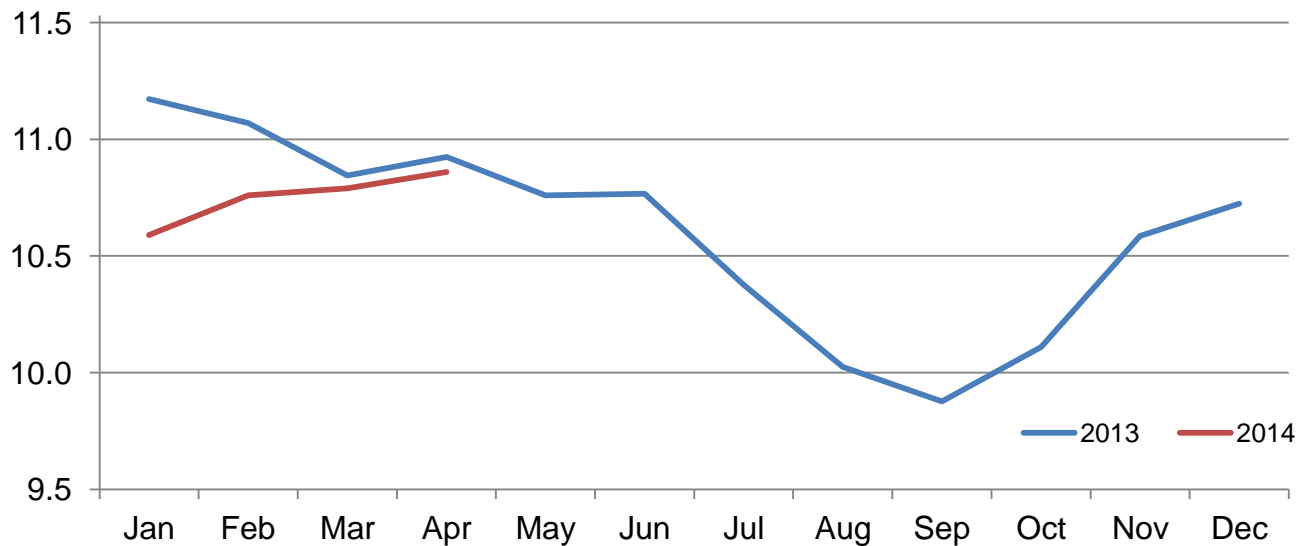
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2013	2014	
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)
Class on Feed April 1			
Steers and Steer Calves .....	6,915	7,066	102
Heifers and Heifer Calves .....	3,944	3,710	94
Cows and Bulls .....	65	84	129

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

State	April 1, 2013	March 1, 2014	April 1, 2014		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	278	272	277	100	102
California .....	485	500	475	98	95
Colorado .....	980	940	970	99	103
Idaho .....	215	210	205	95	98
Iowa .....	630	670	670	106	100
Kansas .....	2,100	2,060	2,090	100	101
Minnesota .....	133	135	136	102	101
Nebraska .....	2,430	2,500	2,500	103	100
Oklahoma .....	305	270	275	90	102
South Dakota .....	230	240	240	104	100
Texas .....	2,580	2,470	2,500	97	101
Washington .....	233	198	202	87	102
Other States .....	325	325	320	98	98
United States .....	10,924	10,790	10,860	99	101

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

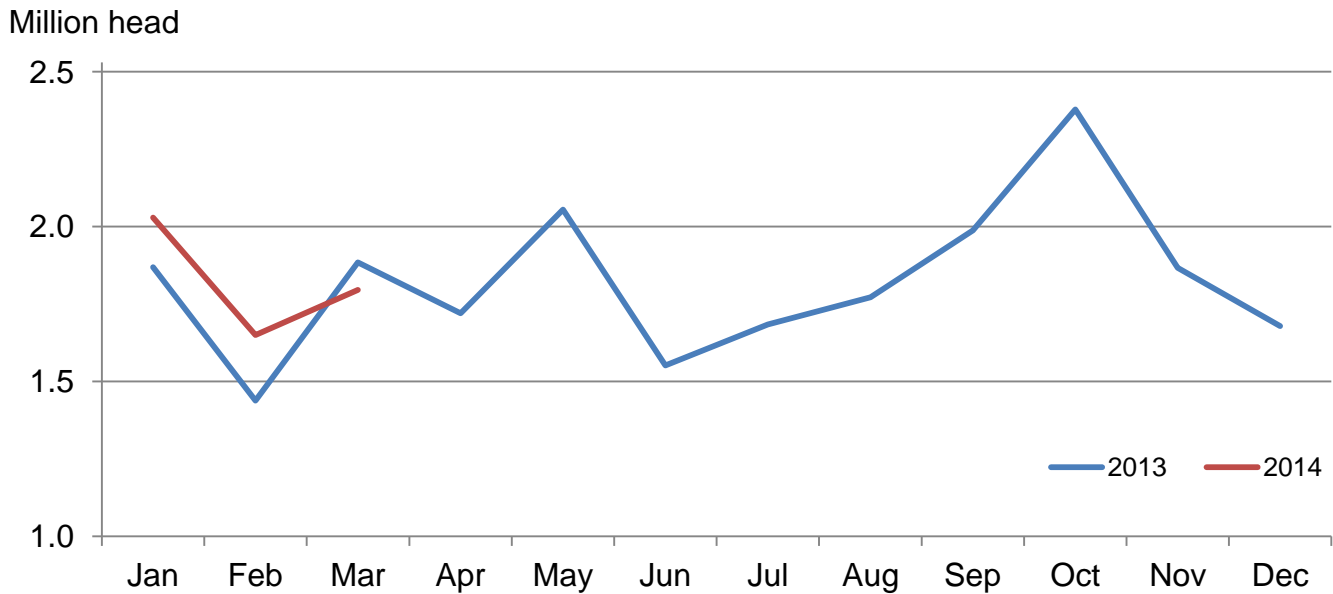
Million head



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

State	During March 2013	During February 2014	During March 2014		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	32	28	30	94	107
California .....	58	38	53	91	139
Colorado .....	160	135	165	103	122
Idaho .....	26	37	29	112	78
Iowa .....	72	86	71	99	83
Kansas .....	425	335	390	92	116
Minnesota .....	17	11	18	106	164
Nebraska .....	400	430	410	103	95
Oklahoma .....	55	43	52	95	121
South Dakota .....	32	39	37	116	95
Texas .....	530	410	470	89	115
Washington .....	35	30	35	100	117
Other States .....	42	28	35	83	125
United States .....	1,884	1,650	1,795	95	109

**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: 2013 and 2014**

State	During March									
	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 .....	25	35	30	30	55	50	50	50	160	165
Kansas .....	60	65	60	55	130	110	175	160	425	390
Nebraska .....	55	55	60	65	110	105	175	185	400	410
Texas .....	170	170	115	90	160	125	85	85	530	470
Other States .....	100	100	50	50	80	75	139	135	369	360
United States .....	410	425	315	290	535	465	624	615	1,884	1,795

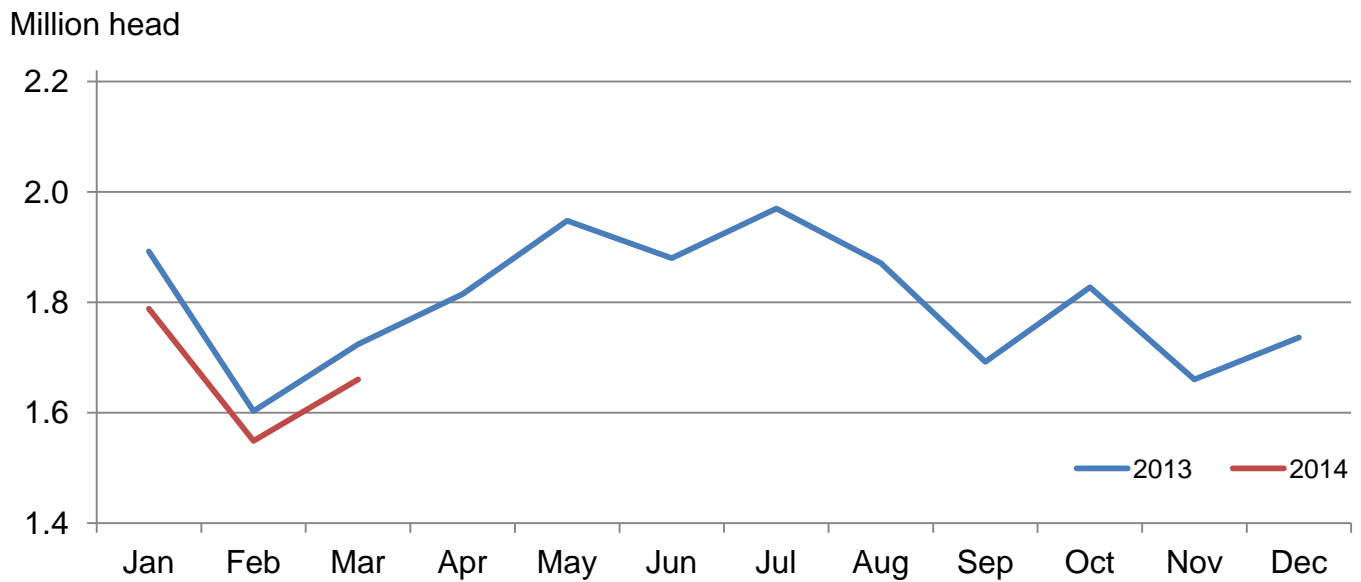
  

State	During February									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado .....	30	30	25	25	50	35	50	45	155	135
Kansas .....	60	60	45	60	85	90	95	125	285	335
Nebraska .....	60	65	55	90	100	105	125	170	340	430
Texas .....	110	155	70	90	100	100	55	65	335	410
Other States .....	85	80	60	65	63	85	115	110	323	340
United States .....	345	390	255	330	398	415	440	515	1,438	1,650

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

State	During March 2013	During February 2014	During March 2014		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	23	27	24	104	89
California .....	50	55	70	140	127
Colorado .....	160	155	130	81	84
Idaho .....	35	41	33	94	80
Iowa .....	68	74	69	101	93
Kansas .....	350	315	345	99	110
Minnesota .....	15	12	16	107	133
Nebraska .....	390	375	395	101	105
Oklahoma .....	53	36	46	87	128
South Dakota .....	31	36	35	113	97
Texas .....	480	360	430	90	119
Washington .....	34	36	29	85	81
Other States .....	35	27	38	109	141
United States .....	1,724	1,549	1,660	96	107

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



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

State	During March 2013 (1,000 head)	During February 2014 (1,000 head)	During March 2014		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	3	3	8	267	267
Colorado .....	10	10	5	50	50
Idaho .....	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa .....	4	2	2	50	100
Kansas .....	25	10	15	60	150
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	10	15	15	150	100
Oklahoma .....	2	2	1	50	50
South Dakota .....	1	3	2	200	67
Texas .....	20	20	10	50	50
Washington .....	1	2	2	200	100
Other States .....	2	1	2	100	200
United States .....	81	71	65	80	92

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

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves			Cows and bulls		
	Apr 1, 2013	Jan 1, 2014	Apr 1, 2014	Apr 1, 2013	Jan 1, 2014	Apr 1, 2014	Apr 1, 2013	Jan 1, 2014	Apr 1, 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)
Arizona .....	271	268	272	7	6	5	0	0	0
California .....	420	470	435	64	40	40	1	0	0
Colorado .....	610	615	640	365	340	325	5	5	5
Idaho .....	122	125	120	91	91	83	2	4	2
Iowa .....	430	425	490	200	195	180	0	0	0
Kansas .....	1,160	1,060	1,120	935	945	960	5	5	10
Minnesota .....	105	107	103	27	22	32	1	1	1
Nebraska .....	1,540	1,545	1,680	860	820	775	30	35	45
Oklahoma .....	195	170	180	110	90	95	0	0	0
South Dakota .....	123	125	136	91	80	86	16	25	18
Texas .....	1,590	1,510	1,550	989	929	949	1	1	1
Washington .....	144	120	125	86	77	76	3	4	1
Other States .....	205	240	215	119	95	104	1	0	1
United States .....	6,915	6,780	7,066	3,944	3,730	3,710	65	80	84

## 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 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.9 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 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 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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov)

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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

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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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