



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Up 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 10.6 million head on June 1, 2015. The inventory was 1 percent above June 1, 2014.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 1.71 million, 10 percent below 2014. Net placements were 1.63 million head. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 355,000, 600-699 pounds were 260,000, 700-799 pounds were 389,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 710,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.71 million, 8 percent below 2014. May marketings are the lowest since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 82,000 during May, 19 percent below 2014.

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: June 1, 2014 and 2015

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed May 1	10,554	10,640	101
Placed on feed during May	1,909	1,714	90
Fed cattle marketed during May	1,865	1,711	92
Other disappearance during May	101	82	81
On feed June 1	10,497	10,561	101

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: May 1, 2014 and 2015

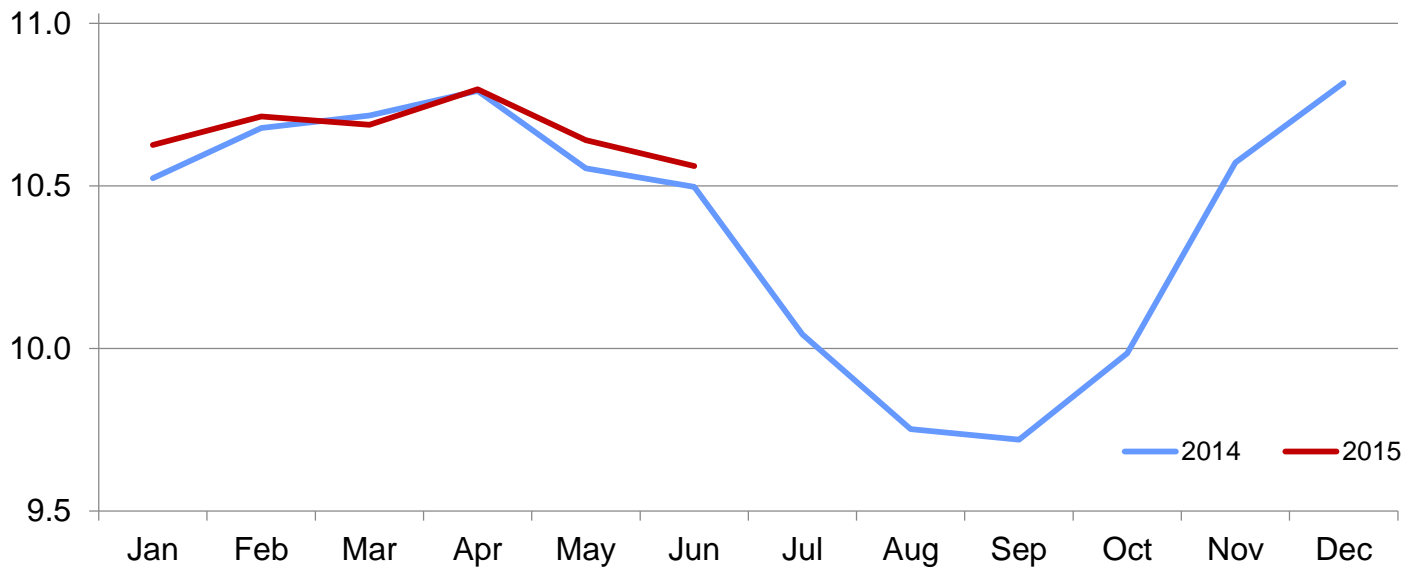
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1	10,792	10,797	100
Placed on feed during April	1,623	1,548	95
Fed cattle marketed during April	1,778	1,639	92
Other disappearance during April	83	66	80
On feed May 1	10,554	10,640	101

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	June 1, 2014	May 1, 2015	June 1, 2015		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	275	240	238	87	99
California	435	450	460	106	102
Colorado	910	900	890	98	99
Idaho	195	235	235	121	100
Iowa	640	660	650	102	98
Kansas	2,020	2,060	2,020	100	98
Minnesota	122	145	143	117	99
Nebraska	2,380	2,500	2,400	101	96
Oklahoma	265	270	275	104	102
South Dakota	210	240	230	110	96
Texas	2,550	2,410	2,490	98	103
Washington	180	230	230	128	100
Other States	315	300	300	95	100
United States	10,497	10,640	10,561	101	99

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

Million head

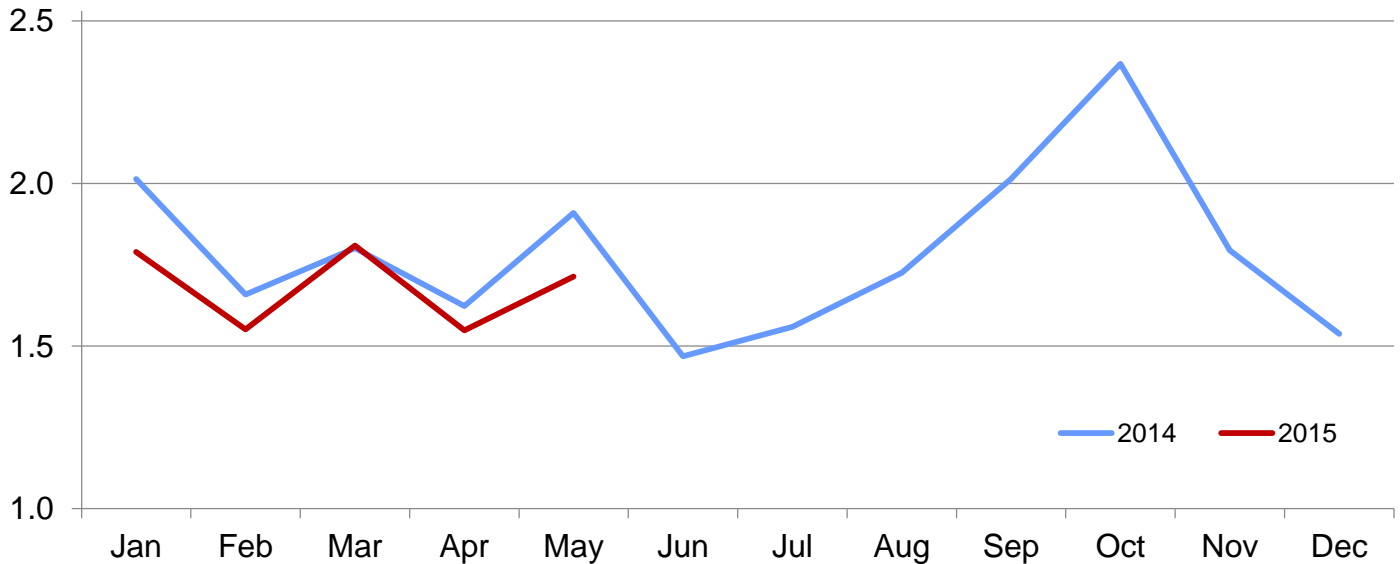


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During May 2014	During April 2015	During May 2015		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	24	24	25	104	104
California	50	49	54	108	110
Colorado	140	145	140	100	97
Idaho	23	30	30	130	100
Iowa	54	63	65	120	103
Kansas	435	315	345	79	110
Minnesota	8	11	14	175	127
Nebraska	425	390	390	92	100
Oklahoma	67	34	49	73	144
South Dakota	34	28	29	85	104
Texas	580	385	490	84	127
Washington	37	42	45	122	107
Other States	32	32	38	119	119
United States	1,909	1,548	1,714	90	111

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: 2014 and 2015

State	During May									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(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	30	20	20	35	35	50	55	140	140
Kansas	80	50	75	55	120	90	160	150	435	345
Nebraska	55	45	55	55	95	75	220	215	425	390
Texas	180	140	100	90	160	125	140	135	580	490
Other States	85	90	40	40	64	64	140	155	329	349
United States	435	355	290	260	474	389	710	710	1,909	1,714

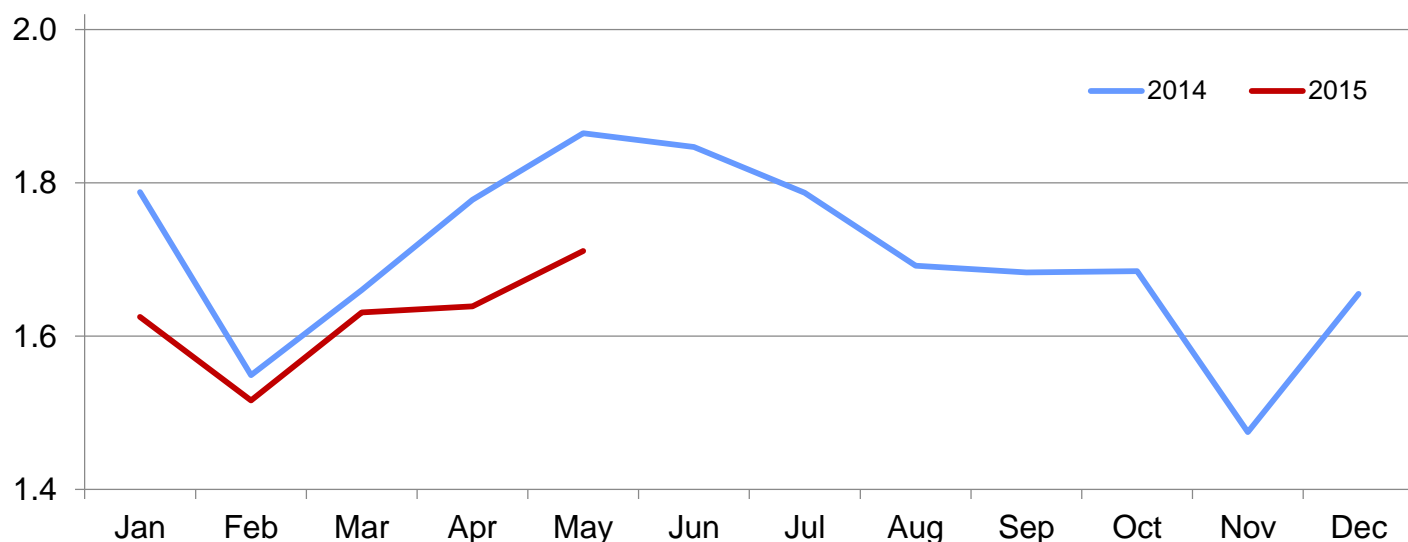
State	During April									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	25	25	25	25	35	35	45	60	130	145
Kansas	60	55	50	50	90	80	125	130	325	315
Nebraska	65	50	65	55	95	85	195	200	420	390
Texas	140	105	70	70	110	95	100	115	420	385
Other States	90	85	40	40	63	53	135	135	328	313
United States	380	320	250	240	393	348	600	640	1,623	1,548

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During May 2014 (1,000 head)	During April 2015 (1,000 head)	During May 2015		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	25	24	26	104	108
California	60	40	39	65	98
Colorado	145	120	130	90	108
Idaho	32	24	29	91	121
Iowa	70	72	74	106	103
Kansas	400	355	375	94	106
Minnesota	22	11	15	68	136
Nebraska	485	405	470	97	116
Oklahoma	55	48	42	76	88
South Dakota	41	21	37	90	176
Texas	450	435	395	88	91
Washington	45	35	44	98	126
Other States	35	49	35	100	71
United States	1,865	1,639	1,711	92	104

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: 2014 and 2015

State	During May 2014 (1,000 head)	During April 2015 (1,000 head)	During May 2015		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	5	4	5	100	125
Colorado	25	15	20	80	133
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	4	1	1	25	100
Kansas	25	10	10	40	100
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	20	15	20	100	133
Oklahoma	2	1	2	100	200
South Dakota	3	2	2	67	100
Texas	10	10	15	150	150
Washington	2	2	1	50	50
Other States	2	3	3	150	100
United States	101	66	82	81	124

Terms and Definitions of Cattle on Feed Estimates

Cattle on feed are steers and heifers 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 steers and heifers 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 steers and heifers 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 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 0.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.6 million head by more than 0.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.0 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 51,000 head, ranging from 0 to 97,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 18 times and has been below the latest estimate 4 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	0.6	1.0	51	0	97	4	18
Placements	1.1	1.9	14	0	55	11	11
Marketings	0.6	1.0	5	0	30	0	6

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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