



# Cattle on Feed

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## United States Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

**Cattle and calves on feed** for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.8 million head on March 1, 2016. The inventory was 1 percent above March 1, 2015.

**Placements** in feedlots during February totaled 1.71 million head, 10 percent above 2015. Net placements were 1.65 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 335,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 300,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 445,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 630,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during February totaled 1.59 million head, 5 percent above 2015.

**Other disappearance** totaled 58,000 head during February, 3 percent below 2015.

**Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2015 and 2016**

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2015	2016	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1 .....	10,713	10,709	100
Placed on feed during February .....	1,551	1,710	110
Fed cattle marketed during February .....	1,516	1,591	105
Other disappearance during February .....	60	58	97
On feed March 1 .....	10,688	10,770	101

**Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: February 1, 2015 and 2016**

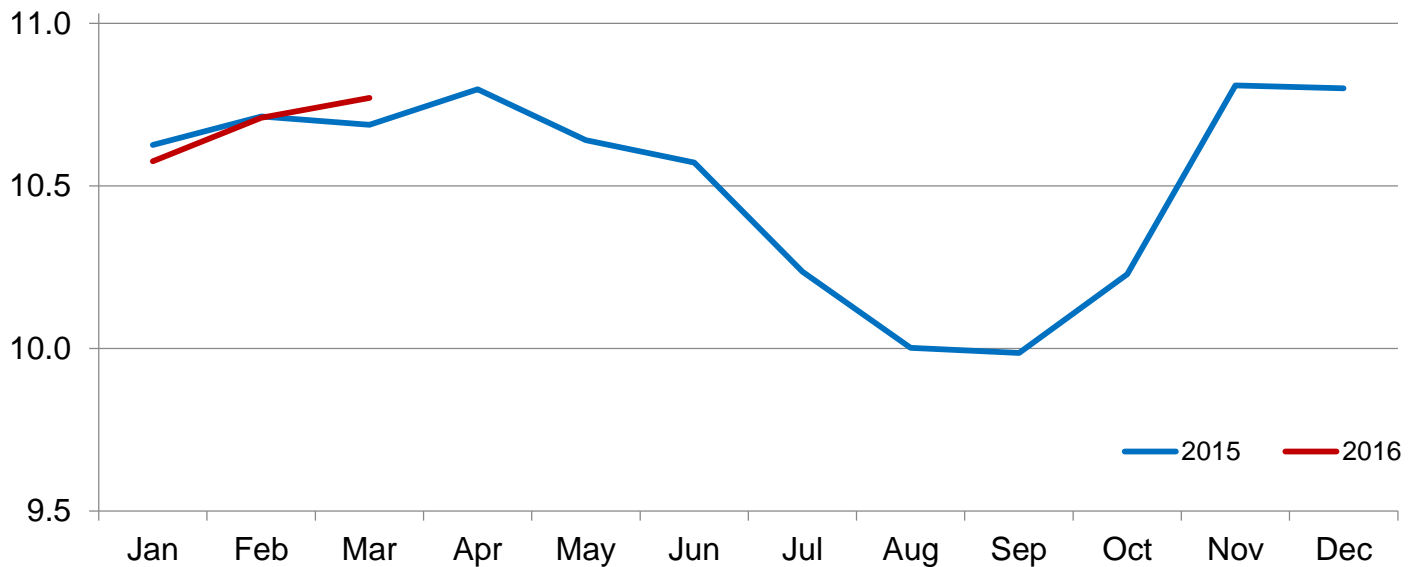
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2015	2016	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1 .....	10,626	10,575	100
Placed on feed during January .....	1,789	1,779	99
Fed cattle marketed during January .....	1,625	1,589	98
Other disappearance during January .....	77	56	73
On feed February 1 .....	10,713	10,709	100

**Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2015 and 2016**

State	March 1, 2015	February 1, 2016	March 1, 2016		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	243	276	297	122	108
California .....	440	445	440	100	99
Colorado .....	890	880	890	100	101
Idaho .....	230	245	240	104	98
Iowa .....	660	620	630	95	102
Kansas .....	2,080	2,140	2,160	104	101
Minnesota .....	145	158	163	112	103
Nebraska .....	2,500	2,460	2,420	97	98
Oklahoma .....	275	280	290	105	104
South Dakota .....	235	260	270	115	104
Texas .....	2,450	2,430	2,450	100	101
Washington .....	215	195	195	91	100
Other States .....	325	320	325	100	102
United States .....	10,688	10,709	10,770	101	101

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

Million head

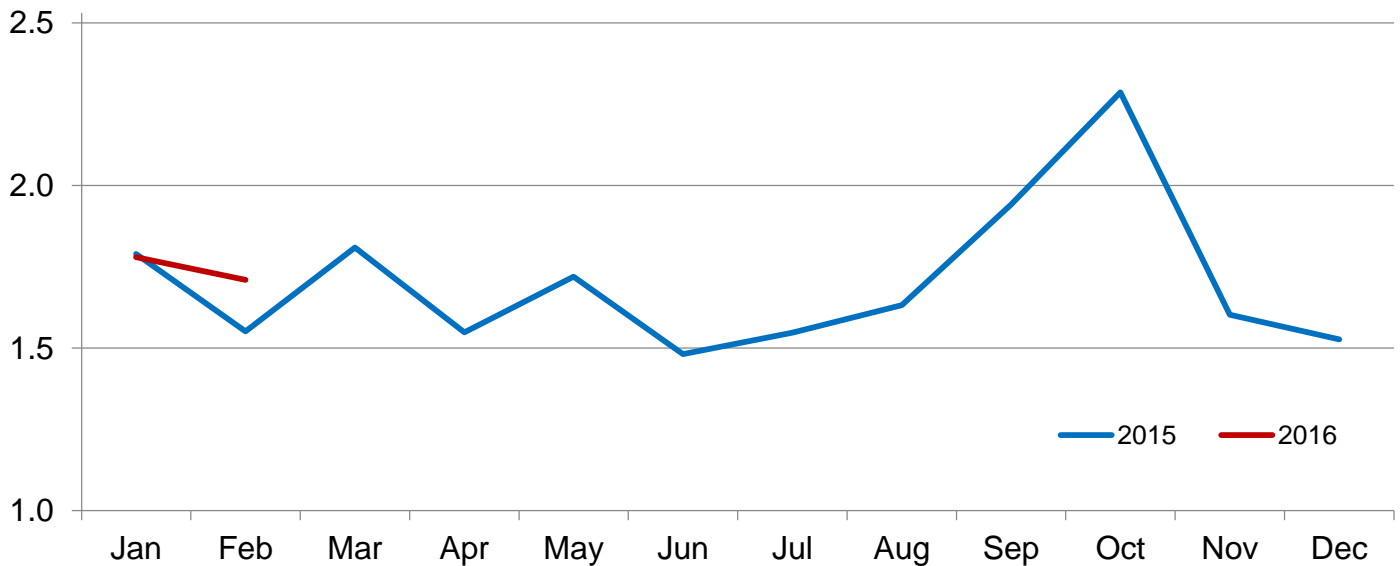


**Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2015 and 2016**

State	During February 2015 (1,000 head)	During January 2016 (1,000 head)	During February 2016		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	19	43	43	226	100
California .....	48	46	46	96	100
Colorado .....	150	145	170	113	117
Idaho .....	31	43	38	123	88
Iowa .....	85	89	92	108	103
Kansas .....	355	415	375	106	90
Minnesota .....	18	17	23	128	135
Nebraska .....	400	490	395	99	81
Oklahoma .....	42	45	54	129	120
South Dakota .....	41	37	48	117	130
Texas .....	285	335	345	121	103
Washington .....	43	37	38	88	103
Other States .....	34	37	43	126	116
United States .....	1,551	1,779	1,710	110	96

**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: 2015 - 2016**

State	During February									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(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	40	40	40	60	65	150	170
Kansas .....	60	50	65	65	95	105	135	155	355	375
Nebraska .....	60	45	65	60	100	105	175	185	400	395
Texas .....	100	105	45	70	75	95	65	75	285	345
Other States .....	85	110	65	65	86	100	125	150	361	425
United States .....	330	335	265	300	396	445	560	630	1,551	1,710

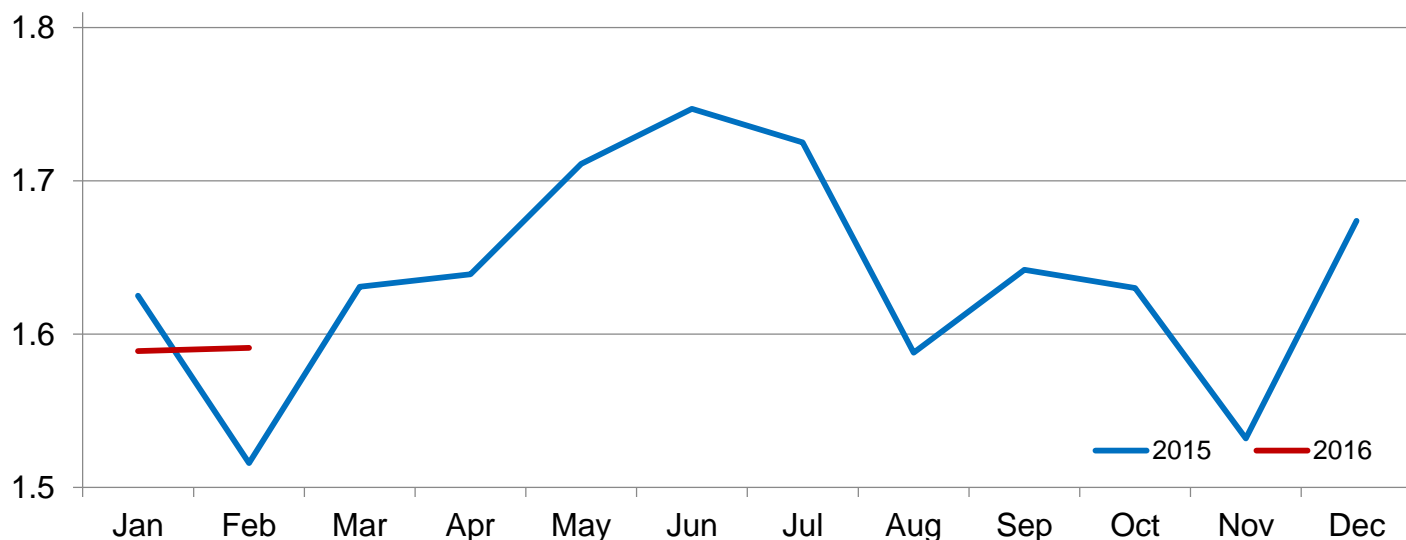
State	During January									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado .....	30	25	25	30	35	40	45	50	135	145
Kansas .....	65	50	85	90	125	135	135	140	410	415
Nebraska .....	65	45	100	105	140	140	200	200	505	490
Texas .....	125	105	60	65	95	95	70	70	350	335
Other States .....	125	115	70	75	79	84	115	120	389	394
United States .....	410	340	340	365	474	494	565	580	1,789	1,779

**Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2015 and 2016**

State	During February 2015	During January 2016	During February 2016		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	19	21	21	111	100
California .....	43	46	46	107	100
Colorado .....	145	130	155	107	119
Idaho .....	29	37	41	141	111
Iowa .....	74	86	78	105	91
Kansas .....	355	355	345	97	97
Minnesota .....	13	13	17	131	131
Nebraska .....	385	435	420	109	97
Oklahoma .....	30	34	43	143	126
South Dakota .....	35	30	37	106	123
Texas .....	315	325	315	100	97
Washington .....	36	36	36	100	100
Other States .....	37	41	37	100	90
United States .....	1,516	1,589	1,591	105	100

## 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: 2015 and 2016

State	During February 2015 (1,000 head)	During January 2016 (1,000 head)	During February 2016		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	4	1	1	25	100
California .....	5	5	5	100	100
Colorado .....	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho .....	2	1	2	100	200
Iowa .....	1	3	4	400	133
Kansas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	15	15	15	100	100
Oklahoma .....	2	1	1	50	100
South Dakota .....	1	2	1	100	50
Texas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Washington .....	2	1	2	100	200
Other States .....	2	1	1	50	100
United States .....	60	56	58	97	104

## 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.

## Statistical Methodology

**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 0.5 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 0.5 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.9 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 36,000 head, ranging from 0 to 97,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 10 times and has been below the latest estimate 8 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 .....	0.5	0.9	36	0	97	8	10
Placements .....	0.5	0.9	6	0	28	15	3
Marketings .....	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0

## 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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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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