



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 10.9 million head on April 1, 2016. The inventory was 1 percent above April 1, 2015. The inventory included 7.36 million steers and steer calves, down 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 68 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.49 million head, up 4 percent from 2015.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.89 million head, 5 percent above 2015. Net placements were 1.83 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 352,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 275,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 495,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 770,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.75 million head, 7 percent above 2015.

Other disappearance totaled 62,000 head during March, 10 percent below 2015.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2015	2016	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1	10,688	10,770	101
Placed on feed during March	1,809	1,892	105
Fed cattle marketed during March	1,631	1,747	107
Other disappearance during March	69	62	90
On feed April 1	10,797	10,853	101

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 on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2015 and 2016

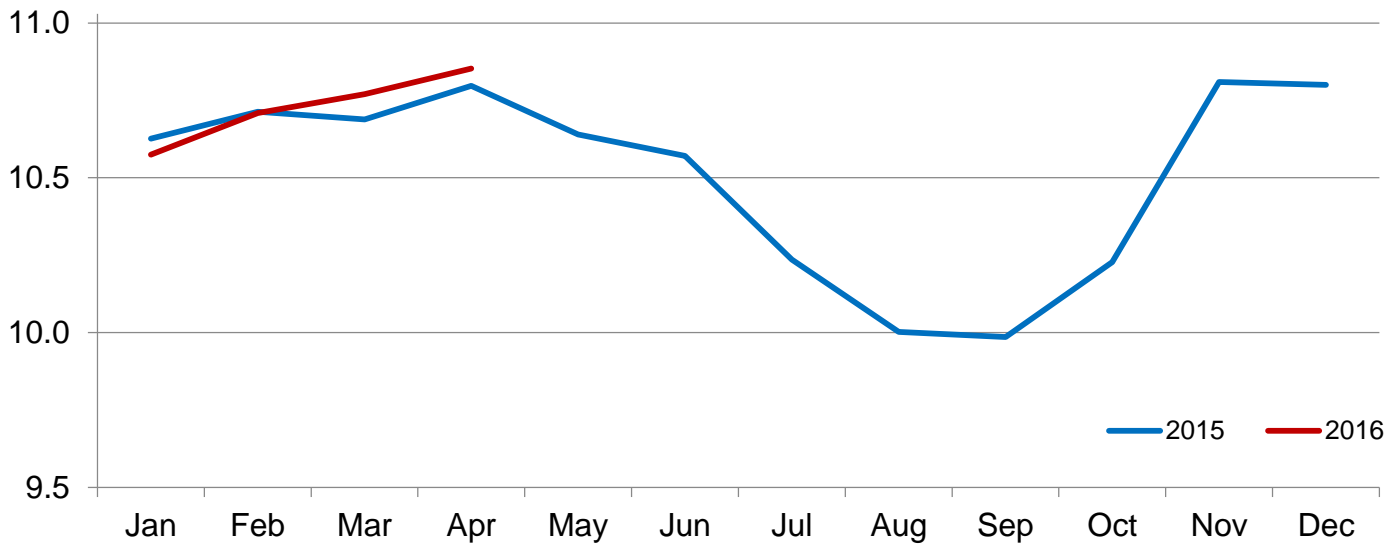
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2015	2016	
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)
Class on feed April 1			
Steers and steer calves	7,455	7,361	99
Heifers and heifer calves	3,342	3,492	104

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

State	April 1, 2015	March 1, 2016	April 1, 2016		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	241	297	303	126	102
California	445	440	420	94	95
Colorado	890	890	900	101	101
Idaho	230	240	240	104	100
Iowa	670	630	640	96	102
Kansas	2,110	2,160	2,180	103	101
Minnesota	146	163	160	110	98
Nebraska	2,530	2,420	2,440	96	101
Oklahoma	285	290	295	104	102
South Dakota	235	270	265	113	98
Texas	2,470	2,450	2,500	101	102
Washington	225	195	195	87	100
Other States	320	325	315	98	97
United States	10,797	10,770	10,853	101	101

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

Million head

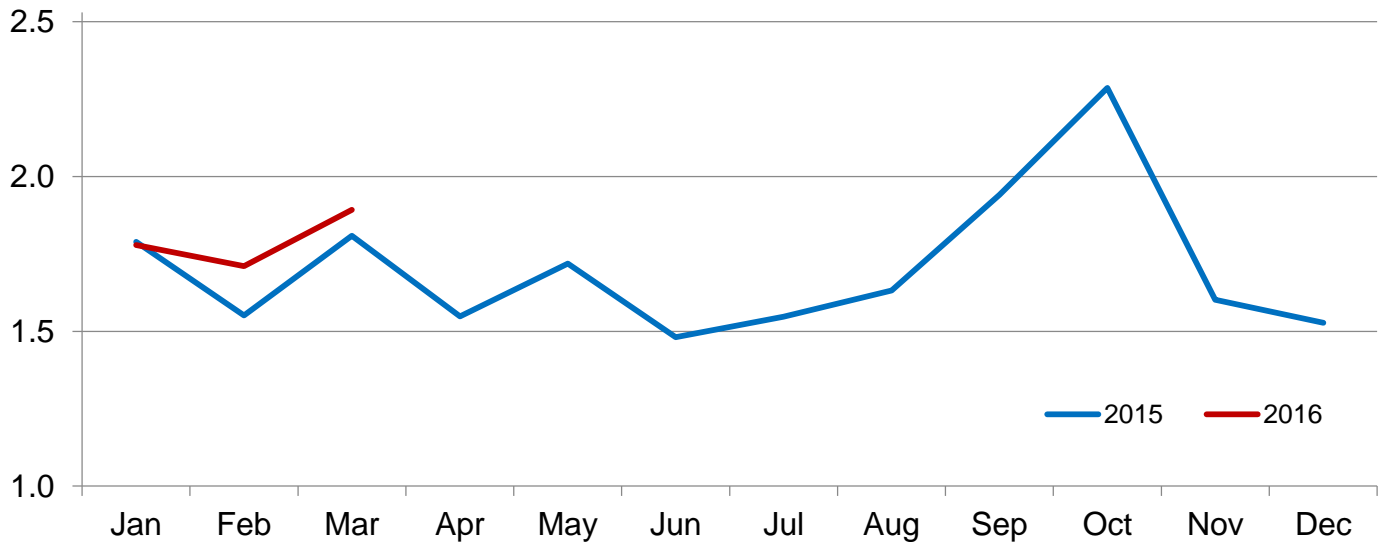


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2015 and 2016

State	During March 2015	During February 2016	During March 2016		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	25	43	31	124	72
California	55	46	44	80	96
Colorado	150	170	165	110	97
Idaho	30	38	37	123	97
Iowa	90	92	94	104	102
Kansas	410	375	425	104	113
Minnesota	23	23	17	74	74
Nebraska	440	395	455	103	115
Oklahoma	49	54	53	108	98
South Dakota	33	48	34	103	71
Texas	420	345	455	108	132
Washington	39	38	38	97	100
Other States	45	43	44	98	102
United States	1,809	1,710	1,892	105	111

Number of Cattle Placed on 1000+ 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 March									
	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	40	45	55	65	150	165
Kansas	60	55	65	70	110	125	175	175	410	425
Nebraska	55	55	65	60	100	110	220	230	440	455
Texas	115	115	70	70	120	125	115	145	420	455
Other States	105	102	50	45	79	90	155	155	389	392
United States	365	352	275	275	449	495	720	770	1,809	1,892

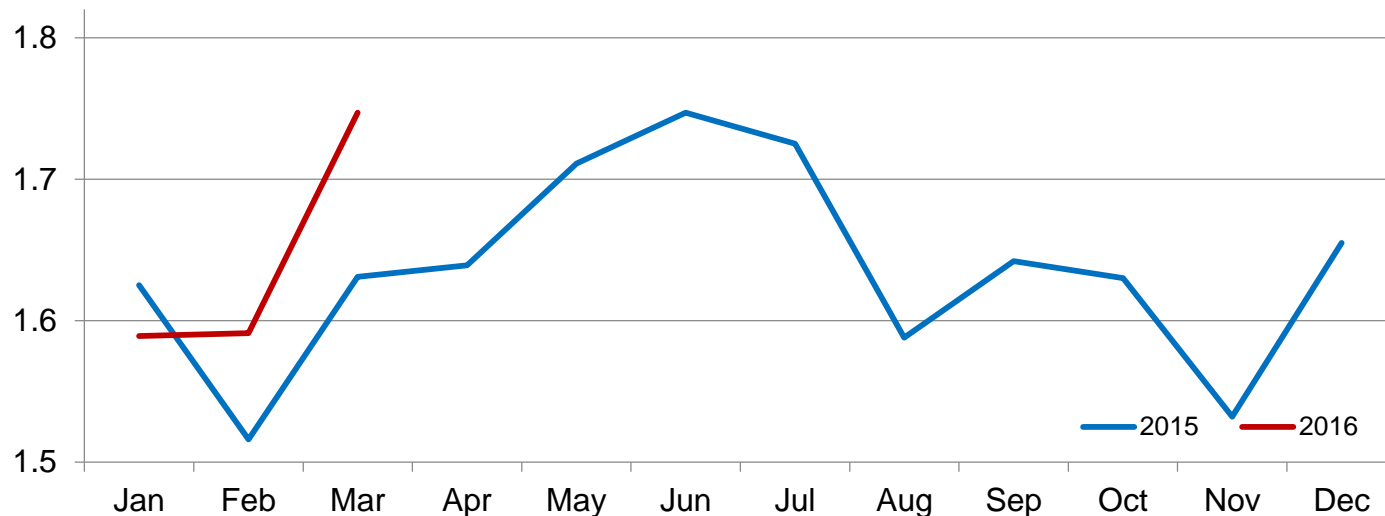
State	During February									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	25	25	25	40	40	40	60	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

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

State	During March 2015	During February 2016	During March 2016		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	21	21	24	114	114
California	46	46	58	126	126
Colorado	140	155	150	107	97
Idaho	29	41	35	121	85
Iowa	79	78	81	103	104
Kansas	370	345	390	105	113
Minnesota	21	17	19	90	112
Nebraska	395	420	425	108	101
Oklahoma	38	43	47	124	109
South Dakota	32	37	38	119	103
Texas	385	315	395	103	125
Washington	28	36	37	132	103
Other States	47	37	48	102	130
United States	1,631	1,591	1,747	107	110

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 March 2015	During February 2016	During March 2016		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	6	1	1	17	100
California	4	5	6	150	120
Colorado	10	5	5	50	100
Idaho	1	2	2	200	100
Iowa	1	4	3	300	75
Kansas	10	10	15	150	150
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	15	15	10	67	67
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	1	1	1	100	100
Texas	15	10	10	67	100
Washington	1	2	1	100	50
Other States	3	1	6	200	600
United States	69	58	62	90	107

**Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States:
2015 and 2016**

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Apr 1, 2015	Jan 1, 2016	Apr 1, 2016	Apr 1, 2015	Jan 1, 2016	Apr 1, 2016
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona	237	247	294	4	8	9
California	410	420	400	35	30	20
Colorado	610	590	610	280	280	290
Idaho	150	165	165	80	75	75
Iowa	520	470	460	150	150	180
Kansas	1,190	1,160	1,200	920	930	980
Minnesota	128	127	139	18	28	21
Nebraska	1,830	1,560	1,620	700	860	820
Oklahoma	200	185	185	85	85	110
South Dakota	150	150	153	85	105	112
Texas	1,680	1,740	1,800	790	690	700
Washington	140	125	125	85	70	70
Other States	210	225	210	110	100	105
United States	7,455	7,164	7,361	3,342	3,411	3,492

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 10.9 million head by more than 0.5 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.8 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 33,000 head, ranging from 0 to 97,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 9 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	0.8	33	0	97	8	9
Placements	0.5	0.9	5	0	28	14	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.

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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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