



Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

Released May 20, 2016, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

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 May 1, 2016. The inventory was 1 percent above May 1, 2015.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.66 million head, 7 percent above 2015. Net placements were 1.59 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 334,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 225,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 390,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 715,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.66 million head, 1 percent above 2015.

Other disappearance totaled 76,000 head during April, 15 percent above 2015.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2015	2016	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1	10,797	10,853	101
Placed on feed during April	1,548	1,664	107
Fed cattle marketed during April	1,639	1,658	101
Other disappearance during April	66	76	115
On feed May 1	10,640	10,783	101

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

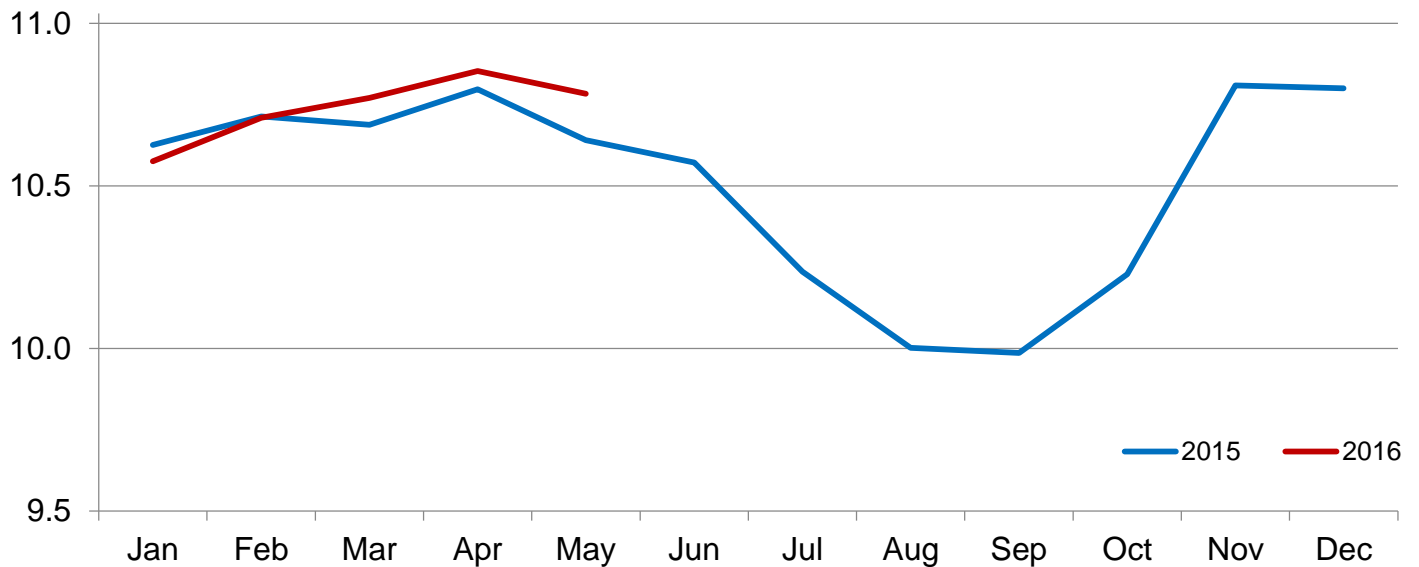
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2015	2016	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1	10,688	10,770	101
Placed on feed during March	1,809	1,892	105
Fed cattle marketed during March	1,631	1,747	107
Other disappearance during March	69	62	90
On feed April 1	10,797	10,853	101

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

State	May 1, 2015	April 1, 2016	May 1, 2016		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	240	303	305	127	101
California	450	420	415	92	99
Colorado	900	900	900	100	100
Idaho	235	240	240	102	100
Iowa	660	640	640	97	100
Kansas	2,060	2,180	2,150	104	99
Minnesota	145	160	158	109	99
Nebraska	2,500	2,440	2,420	97	99
Oklahoma	270	295	300	111	102
South Dakota	240	265	265	110	100
Texas	2,410	2,500	2,490	103	100
Washington	230	195	195	85	100
Other States	300	315	305	102	97
United States	10,640	10,853	10,783	101	99

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

Million head

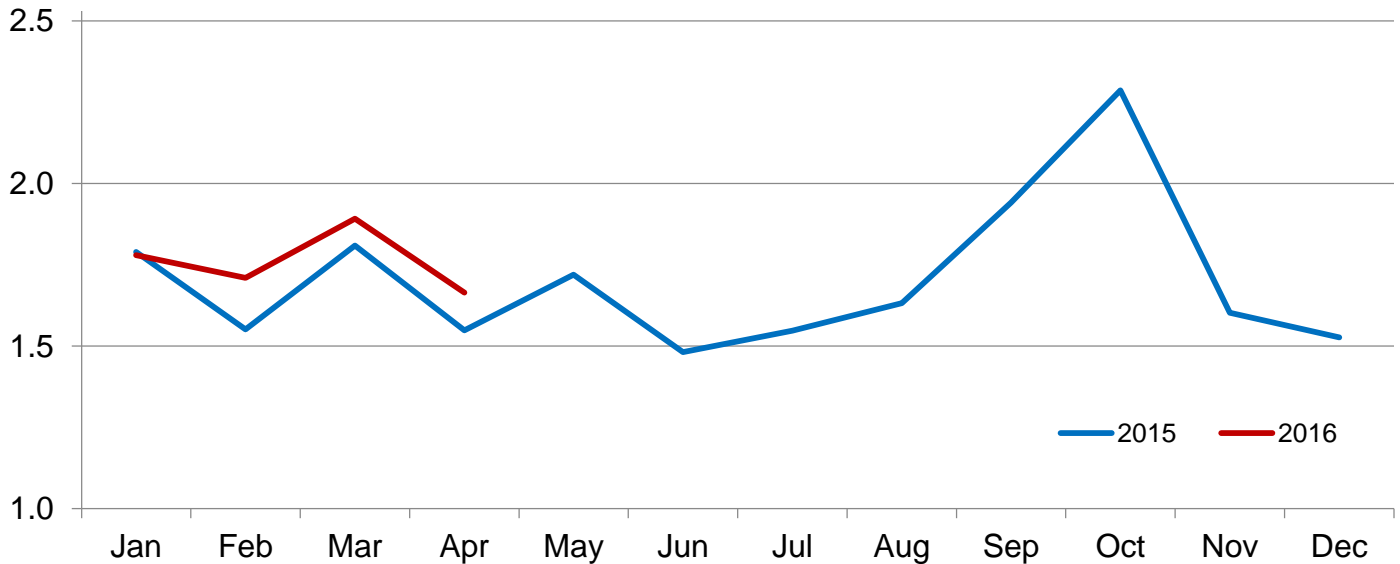


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2015 and 2016

State	During April 2015	During March 2016	During April 2016		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	24	31	25	104	81
California	49	44	50	102	114
Colorado	145	165	145	100	88
Idaho	30	37	24	80	65
Iowa	63	94	78	124	83
Kansas	315	425	370	117	87
Minnesota	11	17	12	109	71
Nebraska	390	455	380	97	84
Oklahoma	34	53	56	165	106
South Dakota	28	34	24	86	71
Texas	385	455	435	113	96
Washington	42	38	34	81	89
Other States	32	44	31	97	70
United States	1,548	1,892	1,664	107	88

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 April									
	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	20	35	35	60	65	145	145
Kansas	55	55	50	50	80	100	130	165	315	370
Nebraska	50	45	55	45	85	85	200	205	390	380
Texas	105	120	70	70	95	110	115	135	385	435
Other States	85	89	40	40	53	60	135	145	313	334
United States	320	334	240	225	348	390	640	715	1,548	1,664

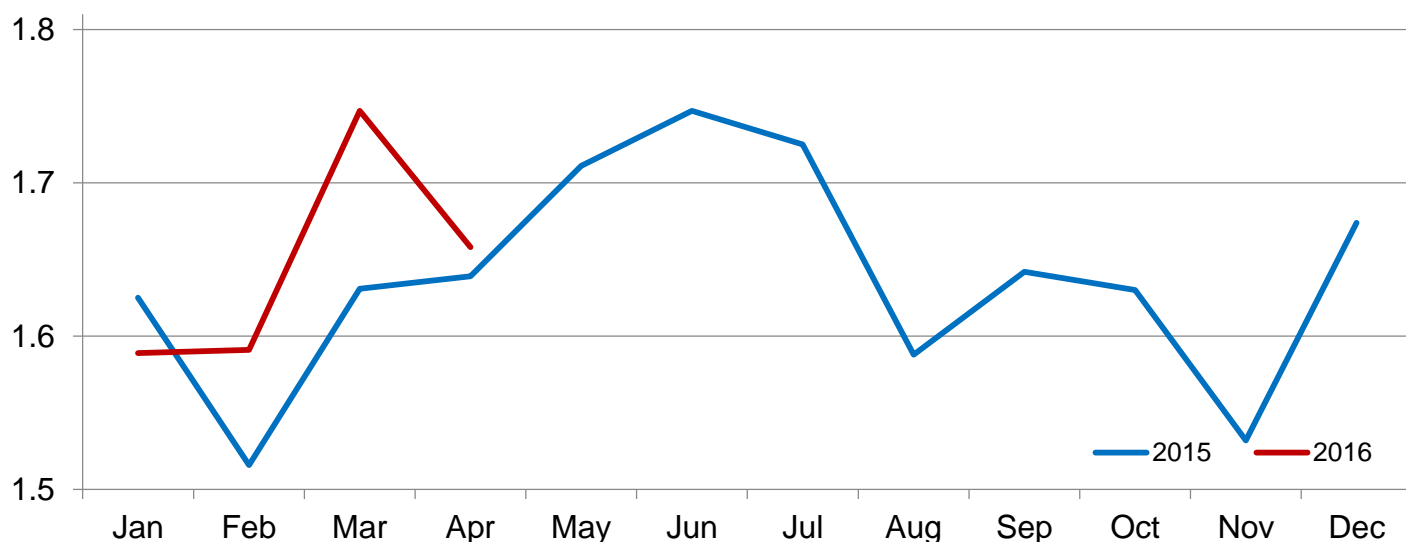
State	During March									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	30	25	25	30	40	45	55	65	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

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

State	During April 2015 (1,000 head)	During March 2016 (1,000 head)	During April 2016		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	24	24	22	92	92
California	40	58	52	130	90
Colorado	120	150	135	113	90
Idaho	24	35	23	96	66
Iowa	72	81	75	104	93
Kansas	355	390	385	108	99
Minnesota	11	19	13	118	68
Nebraska	405	425	380	94	89
Oklahoma	48	47	50	104	106
South Dakota	21	38	22	105	58
Texas	435	395	435	100	110
Washington	35	37	33	94	89
Other States	49	48	33	67	69
United States	1,639	1,747	1,658	101	95

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 April 2015 (1,000 head)	During March 2016 (1,000 head)	During April 2016		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	4	6	3	75	50
Colorado	15	5	10	67	200
Idaho	1	2	1	100	50
Iowa	1	3	3	300	100
Kansas	10	15	15	150	100
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	15	10	20	133	200
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	2	1	2	100	200
Texas	10	10	10	100	100
Washington	2	1	1	50	100
Other States	3	6	8	267	133
United States	66	62	76	115	123

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 0.8 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 30,000 head, ranging from 0 to 97,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 8 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	30	0	97	8	8
Placements	0.5	0.9	5	0	28	13	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.

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
David Colwell – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-8784
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Michael Klamm – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and 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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (PDF), found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.