



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Up Slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.6 million head on January 1, 2017. The inventory was slightly above January 1, 2016. The inventory included 7.02 million steers and steer calves, down 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 66 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.58 million head, up 5 percent from 2016.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.80 million head, 18 percent above 2015. Net placements were 1.74 million head. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 435,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 450,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 450,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 460,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.79 million head, 7 percent above 2015.

Other disappearance totaled 55,000 head during December, 29 percent below 2015.

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2016 and 2017

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed December 1	10,800	10,652	99
Placed on feed during December	1,527	1,795	118
Fed cattle marketed during December	1,674	1,787	107
Other disappearance during December	78	55	71
On feed January 1	10,575	10,605	100

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2015	2016	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed November 1	10,809	10,665	99
Placed on feed during November	1,602	1,843	115
Fed cattle marketed during November	1,532	1,787	117
Other disappearance during November	79	69	87
On feed December 1	10,800	10,652	99

Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2016 and 2017

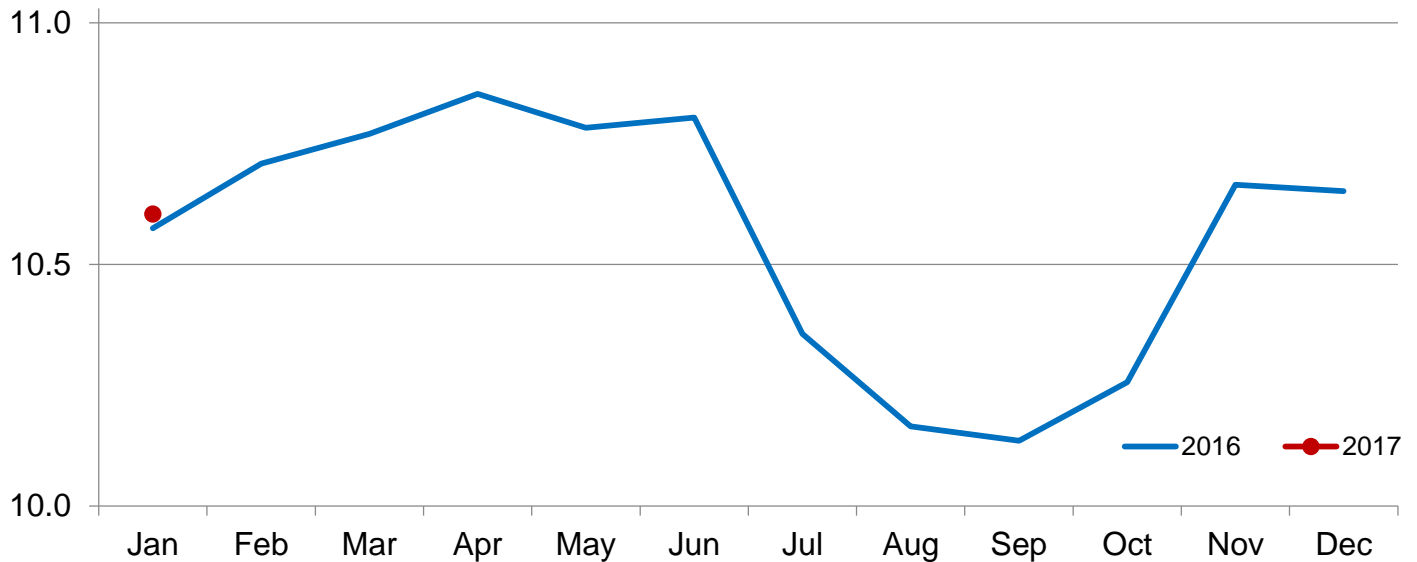
Item	Number		Percent of	
	2016	2017	previous year	inventory
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed January 1				
Steers and steer calves	7,164	7,022	98	66
Heifers and heifer calves	3,411	3,583	105	34

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 and 2017

State	January 1, 2016	December 1, 2016	January 1, 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	255	251	250	98	100
California	450	420	430	96	102
Colorado	870	910	900	103	99
Idaho	240	260	260	108	100
Iowa	620	600	600	97	100
Kansas	2,090	2,220	2,170	104	98
Minnesota	155	146	150	97	103
Nebraska	2,420	2,370	2,370	98	100
Oklahoma	270	290	300	111	103
South Dakota	255	240	230	90	96
Texas	2,430	2,430	2,420	100	100
Washington	195	195	185	95	95
Other States	325	320	340	105	106
United States	10,575	10,652	10,605	100	100

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

Million head

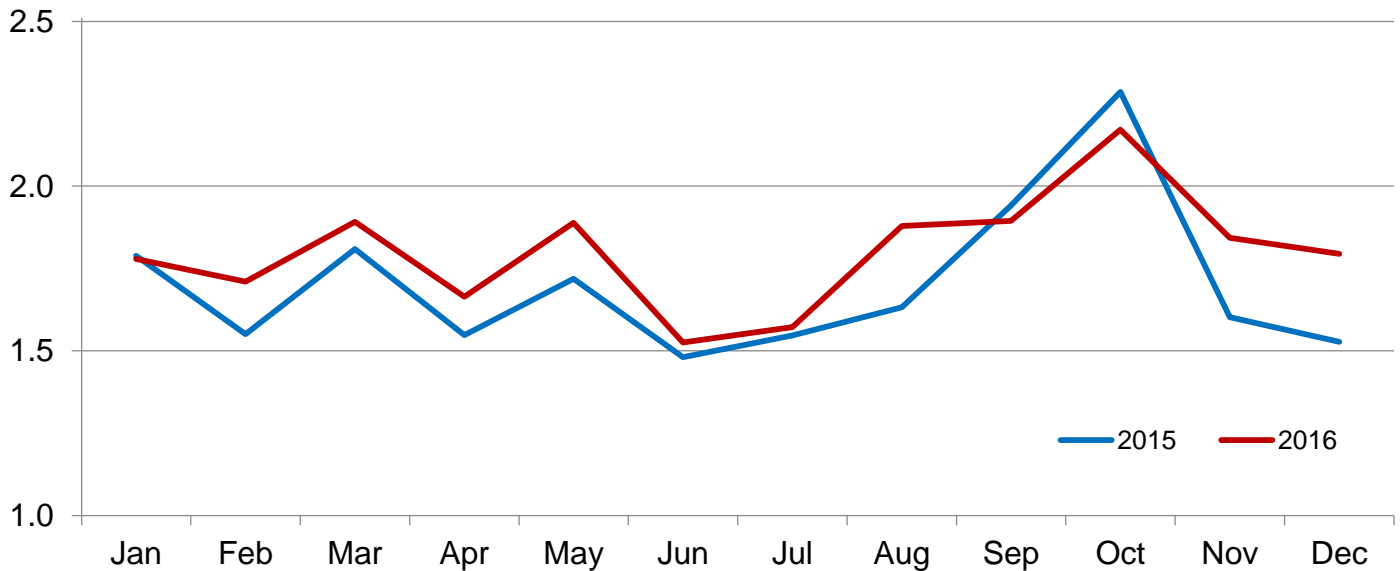


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2015 and 2016

State	During December 2015	During November 2016	During December 2016		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	33	27	30	91	111
California	49	48	65	133	135
Colorado	115	140	130	113	93
Idaho	43	51	38	88	75
Iowa	90	102	104	116	102
Kansas	335	370	395	118	107
Minnesota	16	19	19	119	100
Nebraska	390	510	450	115	88
Oklahoma	35	52	54	154	104
South Dakota	41	47	38	93	81
Texas	305	390	375	123	96
Washington	38	41	32	84	78
Other States	37	46	65	176	141
United States	1,527	1,843	1,795	118	97

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 and 2016

State	During December									
	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	30	25	30	25	30	40	40	115	130
Kansas	50	60	75	95	105	130	105	110	335	395
Nebraska	50	60	95	110	95	120	150	160	390	450
Texas	115	135	70	100	70	90	50	50	305	375
Other States	135	150	90	115	62	80	95	100	382	445
United States	375	435	355	450	357	450	440	460	1,527	1,795

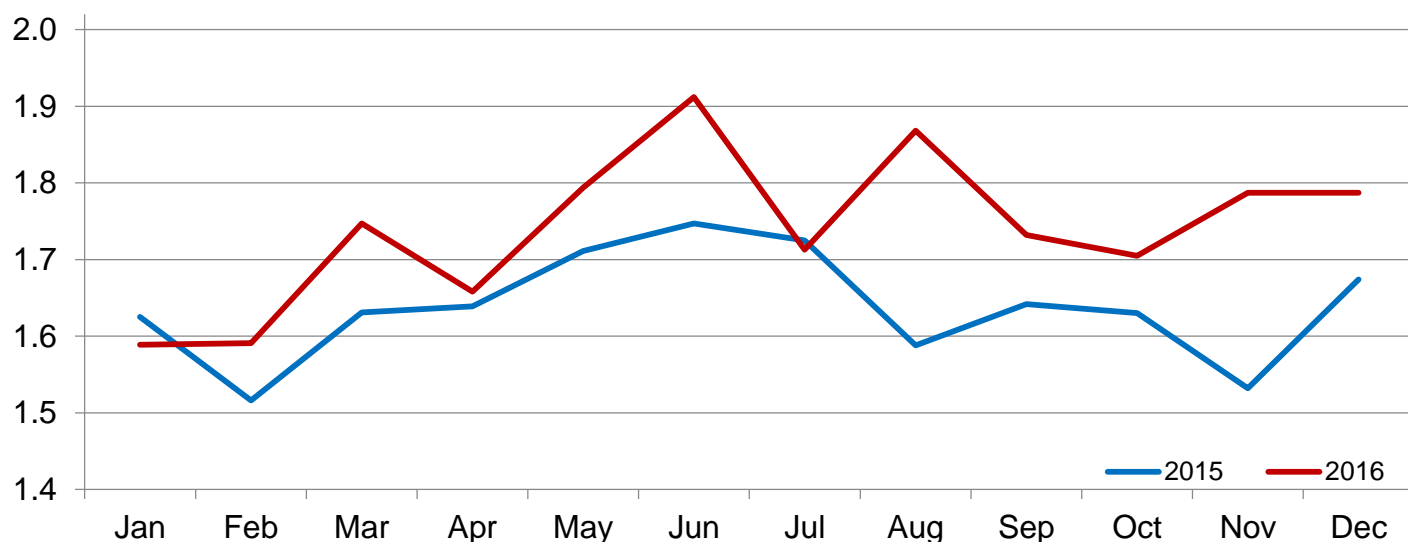
State	During November									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	35	45	35	35	30	25	40	35	140	140
Kansas	55	55	70	90	85	110	95	115	305	370
Nebraska	115	120	110	150	60	85	155	155	440	510
Texas	110	105	75	95	75	125	50	65	310	390
Other States	155	145	97	120	60	80	95	88	407	433
United States	470	470	387	490	310	425	435	458	1,602	1,843

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

State	During December 2015	During November 2016	During December 2016		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	21	28	30	143	107
California	49	45	52	106	116
Colorado	130	135	135	104	100
Idaho	37	39	36	97	92
Iowa	97	100	102	105	102
Kansas	370	370	430	116	116
Minnesota	12	14	14	117	100
Nebraska	440	445	440	100	99
Oklahoma	38	55	43	113	78
South Dakota	35	46	46	131	100
Texas	370	435	375	101	86
Washington	45	40	41	91	103
Other States	30	35	43	143	123
United States	1,674	1,787	1,787	107	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 December 2015 (1,000 head)	During November 2016 (1,000 head)	During December 2016		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	5	1	1	20	100
California	5	3	3	60	100
Colorado	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho	1	2	2	200	100
Iowa	3	2	2	67	100
Kansas	15	20	15	100	75
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	20	15	10	50	67
Oklahoma	2	2	1	50	50
South Dakota	1	1	2	200	200
Texas	15	15	10	67	67
Washington	3	1	1	33	100
Other States	2	1	2	100	200
United States	78	69	55	71	80

**Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States:
2016 and 2017**

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Jan 1, 2016	Oct 1, 2016	Jan 1, 2017	Jan 1, 2016	Oct 1, 2016	Jan 1, 2017
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona	247	258	242	8	5	8
California	420	385	400	30	30	30
Colorado	590	560	570	280	290	330
Idaho	165	155	180	75	85	80
Iowa	470	410	460	150	160	140
Kansas	1,160	1,200	1,170	930	1,020	1,000
Minnesota	127	101	125	28	17	25
Nebraska	1,560	1,410	1,510	860	750	860
Oklahoma	185	185	190	85	105	110
South Dakota	150	125	135	105	85	95
Texas	1,740	1,730	1,710	690	720	710
Washington	125	115	115	70	70	70
Other States	225	185	215	100	100	125
United States	7,164	6,819	7,022	3,411	3,437	3,583

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 Regional Field Offices. 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 10.6 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.1 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 4,000 head, ranging from 0 to 30,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 1 time and has been below the latest estimate 9 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	0.1	4	0	30	9	1
Placements	0.4	0.7	3	0	28	9	1
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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Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106

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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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