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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 February 1, 2017. The inventory was 1 percent above February 1, 2016.

Placements in feedlots during January totaled 1.98 million head, 11 percent above 2016. Net placements were 1.93 million head. During January, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 380,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 445,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 585,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 410,000, 900-999 pounds were 116,000, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 45,000 head.

New placement weight categories are available this month. The new categories are 800-899 pounds, 900-999 pounds, and 1,000 pounds and greater. Information for January 2017 and January a year ago can be found on page 5 of this publication. This additional information will be published monthly in the *Cattle on Feed* report.

Marketings of fed cattle during January totaled 1.75 million head, 10 percent above 2016.

Other disappearance totaled 53,000 head during January, 5 percent below 2016.

2016 Cattle on Feed and Annual Size Group Estimates

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head represented 81.2 percent of all cattle and calves on feed in the United States on January 1, 2017. This is comparable to the 80.4 percent on January 1, 2016.

Marketings of fed cattle for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head during 2016 represented 87.1 percent of total cattle marketed from all feedlots in the United States, down slightly from 87.2 percent during 2015.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1	10,575	10,605	100
Placed on feed during January	1,779	1,981	111
Fed cattle marketed during January	1,589	1,751	110
Other disappearance during January	56	53	95
On feed February 1	10,709	10,782	101

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	1,785	117
Fed cattle marketed during December	1,674	1,777	106
Other disappearance during December	78	55	71
On feed January 1	10,575	10,605	100

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

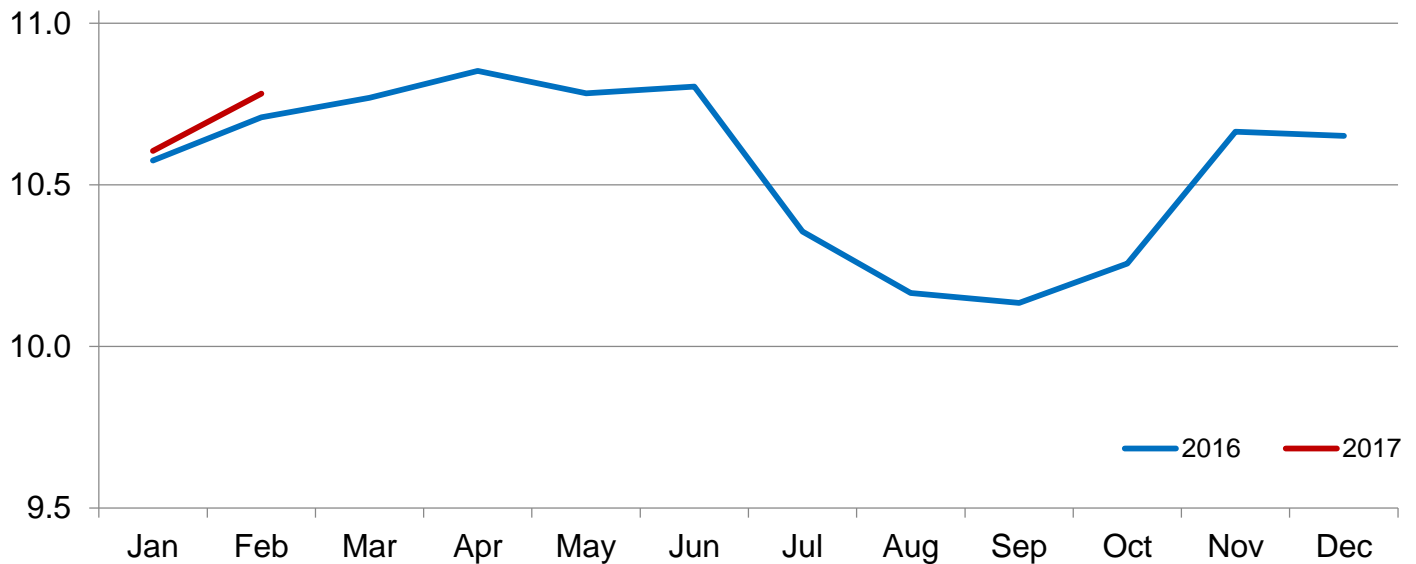
Item	Number		Percent of	
	2016	2017	previous year	inventory
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed January 1				
Steers and steer calves	7,164	7,022	98	66
Heifers and heifer calves	3,411	3,583	105	34

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

State	February 1, 2016	January 1, 2017	February 1, 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	276	250	243	88	97
California	445	430	430	97	100
Colorado	880	900	900	102	100
Idaho	245	260	250	102	96
Iowa	620	600	640	103	107
Kansas	2,140	2,170	2,210	103	102
Minnesota	158	150	159	101	106
Nebraska	2,460	2,370	2,450	100	103
Oklahoma	280	300	300	107	100
South Dakota	260	230	240	92	104
Texas	2,430	2,420	2,450	101	101
Washington	195	185	180	92	97
Other States	320	340	330	103	97
United States	10,709	10,605	10,782	101	102

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: 2016 and 2017

State	During January 2016	During December 2016	During January 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	43	30	26	60	87
California	46	65	55	120	85
Colorado	145	130	180	124	138
Idaho	43	38	35	81	92
Iowa	89	104	128	144	123
Kansas	415	395	480	116	122
Minnesota	17	19	25	147	132
Nebraska	490	450	540	110	120
Oklahoma	45	54	36	80	67
South Dakota	37	38	45	122	118
Texas	335	365	360	107	99
Washington	37	32	31	84	97
Other States	37	65	40	108	62
United States	1,779	1,785	1,981	111	111

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

State	During January 2016							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs ¹	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	Total
	(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	40	35	15	(D)	(D)	145
Kansas	50	90	135	105	35	(D)	(D)	415
Nebraska	45	105	140	145	55	(D)	(D)	490
Texas	105	65	95	60	10	(D)	(D)	335
Other States ...	115	75	84	85	35	(D)	(D)	394
United States ..	340	365	494	430	(X)	110	40	1,779
State	During January 2017							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs ¹	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	Total
	(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	50	45	35	15	(D)	(D)	180
Kansas	60	110	160	105	45	(D)	(D)	480
Nebraska	50	115	180	140	55	(D)	(D)	540
Texas	115	80	100	55	10	(D)	(D)	360
Other States ...	120	90	100	75	36	(D)	(D)	421
United States ..	380	445	585	410	(X)	116	45	1,981

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(X) Not applicable.

¹ The 900+ weight group is the sum of 900-999 pound and 1,000+ pound weight group.

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

State	During January 2016	During December 2016	During January 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	21	30	32	152	107
California	46	52	52	113	100
Colorado	130	135	175	135	130
Idaho	37	36	43	116	119
Iowa	86	102	86	100	84
Kansas	355	430	430	121	100
Minnesota	13	14	15	115	107
Nebraska	435	440	450	103	102
Oklahoma	34	43	35	103	81
South Dakota	30	46	34	113	74
Texas	325	365	320	98	88
Washington	36	41	33	92	80
Other States	41	43	46	112	107
United States	1,589	1,777	1,751	110	99

**Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States:
2016 and 2017**

State	During January 2016	During December 2016	During January 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	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	10	15	10	100	67
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	15	10	10	67	100
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	2	2	1	50	50
Texas	10	10	10	100	100
Washington	1	1	3	300	300
Other States	1	2	4	400	200
United States	56	55	53	95	96

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

State	January 1	February 1	March 1	April 1	May 1	June 1
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	255	276	297	303	305	300
California	450	445	440	420	415	415
Colorado	870	880	890	900	900	890
Idaho	240	245	240	240	240	245
Iowa	620	620	630	640	640	630
Kansas	2,090	2,140	2,160	2,180	2,150	2,160
Minnesota	155	158	163	160	158	154
Nebraska	2,420	2,460	2,420	2,440	2,420	2,340
Oklahoma	270	280	290	295	300	320
South Dakota	255	260	270	265	265	250
Texas	2,430	2,430	2,450	2,500	2,490	2,610
Washington	195	195	195	195	195	195
Other States	325	320	325	315	305	295
United States	10,575	10,709	10,770	10,853	10,783	10,804
State	July 1	August 1	September 1	October 1	November 1	December 1
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	286	282	271	263	253	251
California	425	410	405	415	420	420
Colorado	850	810	800	850	910	910
Idaho	235	230	225	240	250	260
Iowa	610	600	580	570	600	600
Kansas	2,050	2,110	2,170	2,220	2,240	2,220
Minnesota	145	133	119	118	142	146
Nebraska	2,180	2,090	2,100	2,160	2,320	2,370
Oklahoma	310	300	300	290	295	290
South Dakota	235	220	215	210	240	240
Texas	2,550	2,520	2,490	2,450	2,490	2,430
Washington	195	190	180	185	195	195
Other States	285	270	280	285	310	320
United States	10,356	10,165	10,135	10,256	10,665	10,652

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

State	During					
	December ¹	January	February	March	April	May
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	33	43	43	31	25	19
California	49	46	46	44	50	54
Colorado	115	145	170	165	145	135
Idaho	43	43	38	37	24	41
Iowa	90	89	92	94	78	64
Kansas	335	415	375	425	370	420
Minnesota	16	17	23	17	12	14
Nebraska	390	490	395	455	380	405
Oklahoma	35	45	54	53	56	68
South Dakota	41	37	48	34	24	29
Texas	305	335	345	455	435	560
Washington	38	37	38	38	34	48
Other States	37	37	43	44	31	32
United States	1,527	1,779	1,710	1,892	1,664	1,889

State	During					
	June	July	August	September	October	November
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	19	20	14	14	14	27
California	58	35	40	52	46	48
Colorado	105	115	170	225	205	140
Idaho	38	34	45	58	50	51
Iowa	54	68	71	79	129	102
Kansas	350	445	485	420	390	370
Minnesota	12	9	15	22	39	19
Nebraska	365	350	465	470	615	510
Oklahoma	42	36	58	48	63	52
South Dakota	24	18	33	43	71	47
Texas	380	380	395	385	445	390
Washington	41	30	35	40	50	41
Other States	37	32	53	39	54	46
United States	1,525	1,572	1,879	1,895	2,171	1,843

¹ December prior year.

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

State	During December prior year				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	25	25	25	40	115
Kansas	50	75	105	105	335
Nebraska	50	95	95	150	390
Texas	115	70	70	50	305
Other States	135	90	62	95	382
United States	375	355	357	440	1,527
State	During January				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	25	30	40	50	145
Kansas	50	90	135	140	415
Nebraska	45	105	140	200	490
Texas	105	65	95	70	335
Other States	115	75	84	120	394
United States	340	365	494	580	1,779
State	During February				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	25	40	40	65	170
Kansas	50	65	105	155	375
Nebraska	45	60	105	185	395
Texas	105	70	95	75	345
Other States	110	65	100	150	425
United States	335	300	445	630	1,710

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Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 (continued)

State	During March				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	25	30	40	70	165
Kansas	55	70	125	175	425
Nebraska	55	60	110	230	455
Texas	115	70	125	145	455
Other States	102	45	90	155	392
United States	352	275	490	775	1,892
State	During April				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	25	20	35	65	145
Kansas	55	50	100	165	370
Nebraska	45	45	85	205	380
Texas	120	70	110	135	435
Other States	89	40	60	145	334
United States	334	225	390	715	1,664
State	During May				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	20	15	35	65	135
Kansas	50	55	120	195	420
Nebraska	40	50	85	230	405
Texas	115	85	170	190	560
Other States	85	40	69	175	369
United States	310	245	479	855	1,889

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Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 (continued)

State	During June				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	15	15	30	45	105
Kansas	55	65	90	140	350
Nebraska	30	50	70	215	365
Texas	115	85	90	90	380
Other States	75	40	60	150	325
United States	290	255	340	640	1,525
State	During July				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	25	15	30	45	115
Kansas	65	75	130	175	445
Nebraska	30	35	70	215	350
Texas	155	80	75	70	380
Other States	77	30	55	120	282
United States	352	235	360	625	1,572
State	During August				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	25	20	35	90	170
Kansas	75	85	135	190	485
Nebraska	40	45	90	290	465
Texas	140	100	95	60	395
Other States	80	40	74	170	364
United States	360	290	429	800	1,879

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Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 (continued)

State	During September				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	25	20	50	130	225
Kansas	60	80	130	150	420
Nebraska	55	45	80	290	470
Texas	105	105	115	60	385
Other States	100	50	75	170	395
United States	345	300	450	800	1,895
State	During October				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	55	45	35	70	205
Kansas	65	95	115	115	390
Nebraska	200	145	95	175	615
Texas	105	115	145	80	445
Other States	185	125	81	125	516
United States	610	525	471	565	2,171
State	During November				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	45	35	25	35	140
Kansas	55	90	110	115	370
Nebraska	120	150	85	155	510
Texas	105	95	125	65	390
Other States	145	120	80	88	433
United States	470	490	425	458	1,843
State	During December				
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	30	30	30	40	130
Kansas	60	95	130	110	395
Nebraska	60	110	120	160	450
Texas	135	90	90	50	365
Other States	150	115	80	100	445
United States	435	440	450	460	1,785

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

State	During					
	December ¹	January	February	March	April	May
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	21	21	21	24	22	21
California	49	46	46	58	52	50
Colorado	130	130	155	150	135	130
Idaho	37	37	41	35	23	35
Iowa	97	86	78	81	75	72
Kansas	370	355	345	390	385	400
Minnesota	12	13	17	19	13	17
Nebraska	440	435	420	425	380	465
Oklahoma	38	34	43	47	50	47
South Dakota	35	30	37	38	22	40
Texas	370	325	315	395	435	430
Washington	45	36	36	37	33	46
Other States	30	41	37	48	33	41
United States	1,674	1,589	1,591	1,747	1,658	1,794

State	During					
	June	July	August	September	October	November
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	27	22	24	21	23	28
California	45	45	42	40	39	45
Colorado	140	150	175	170	140	135
Idaho	47	38	49	41	39	39
Iowa	72	76	90	87	96	100
Kansas	450	375	415	360	350	370
Minnesota	20	20	28	22	14	14
Nebraska	510	430	450	405	445	445
Oklahoma	51	45	57	57	57	55
South Dakota	36	32	37	47	40	46
Texas	430	400	415	415	395	435
Washington	40	34	44	34	39	40
Other States	44	46	42	33	28	35
United States	1,912	1,713	1,868	1,732	1,705	1,787

¹ December prior year.

Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016

State	During					
	December ¹	January	February	March	April	May
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	5	1	1	1	1	3
California	5	5	5	6	3	4
Colorado	5	5	5	5	10	15
Idaho	1	1	2	2	1	1
Iowa	3	3	4	3	3	2
Kansas	15	10	10	15	15	10
Minnesota	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nebraska	20	15	15	10	20	20
Oklahoma	2	1	1	1	1	1
South Dakota	1	2	1	1	2	4
Texas	15	10	10	10	10	10
Washington	3	1	2	1	1	2
Other States	2	1	1	6	8	1
United States	78	56	58	62	76	74

State	During					
	June	July	August	September	October	November
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	6	2	1	1	1	1
California	3	5	3	2	2	3
Colorado	5	5	5	5	5	5
Idaho	1	1	1	2	1	2
Iowa	2	2	1	2	3	2
Kansas	10	10	10	10	20	20
Minnesota	1	1	1	1	1	1
Nebraska	15	10	5	5	10	15
Oklahoma	1	1	1	1	1	2
South Dakota	3	1	1	1	1	1
Texas	10	10	10	10	10	15
Washington	1	1	1	1	1	1
Other States	3	1	1	1	1	1
United States	61	50	41	42	57	69

¹ December prior year.

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

State	Steers & steer calves				Heifers & heifer calves			
	January 1	April 1	July 1	October 1	January 1	April 1	July 1	October 1
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona	247	294	280	258	8	9	6	5
California	420	400	380	385	30	20	45	30
Colorado	590	610	550	565	280	290	300	285
Idaho	165	165	155	155	75	75	80	85
Iowa	470	460	440	410	150	180	170	160
Kansas	1,160	1,200	1,070	1,200	930	980	980	1,020
Minnesota	127	139	124	101	28	21	21	17
Nebraska	1,560	1,620	1,430	1,410	860	820	750	750
Oklahoma	185	185	195	185	85	110	115	105
South Dakota	150	153	140	125	105	112	95	85
Texas	1,740	1,800	1,780	1,730	690	700	770	720
Washington	125	125	125	115	70	70	70	70
Other States	225	210	200	185	100	105	85	100
United States	7,164	7,361	6,869	6,824	3,411	3,492	3,487	3,432

Number of Feedlots, Inventory, and Marketings by Size of Feedlot – United States: 2015 and 2016

Feedlot capacity	2015			2016		
	Lots	Inventory ¹	Cattle marketed	Lots	Inventory ¹	Cattle marketed
	(number)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(number)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Less than 1,000 head	26,000	2,582.0	2,895.0	28,000	2,462.0	3,100.0
1,000 head or more	2,189	10,575.0	19,660.0	2,219	10,605.0	20,873.0
1,000 - 1,999	820	355.0	650.0	830	375.0	673.0
2,000 - 3,999	580	660.0	1,230.0	590	650.0	1,260.0
4,000 - 7,999	340	900.0	1,740.0	350	890.0	1,740.0
8,000 - 15,999	180	1,210.0	2,250.0	190	1,140.0	2,250.0
16,000 - 23,999	84	920.0	1,680.0	77	840.0	1,740.0
24,000 - 31,999	57	970.0	1,750.0	54	930.0	1,950.0
32,000 - 49,999	57	1,470.0	2,820.0	55	1,520.0	3,010.0
50,000 and Over	71	4,090.0	7,540.0	73	4,260.0	8,250.0
All feedlots	28,189	13,157.0	22,555.0	30,219	13,067.0	23,973.0

¹ Inventory estimates as of January 1 of the following year.

Total Feedlot Capacity of 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2015 - 2017

Item	Feedlot capacity in number of head		
	2015 ¹	2016 ¹	2017
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
United States	17,100	17,100	17,300

¹ Revised.

Total Number of Cattle on Feed - States and United States: January 1, 2016 and 2017

[Cattle and calves 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 late placement in another feedlot. Cattle and calves on feed are included in the cattle inventory estimates by classes]

State	2016 (1,000 head)	2017 (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)
Arizona	257.0	253.0	98
California	450.0	430.0	96
Colorado	910.0	940.0	103
Idaho	250.0	270.0	108
Illinois	240.0	260.0	108
Indiana	115.0	110.0	96
Iowa	1,230.0	1,160.0	94
Kansas	2,230.0	2,300.0	103
Kentucky	17.0	18.0	106
Maryland	9.0	9.0	100
Michigan	170.0	145.0	85
Minnesota	405.0	375.0	93
Missouri	100.0	110.0	110
Montana	50.0	45.0	90
Nebraska	2,520.0	2,470.0	98
Nevada	2.0	3.0	150
New York	16.0	20.0	125
North Dakota	55.0	50.0	91
Ohio	160.0	150.0	94
Oklahoma	280.0	310.0	111
Oregon	75.0	85.0	113
Pennsylvania	85.0	95.0	112
South Dakota	435.0	380.0	87
Texas	2,440.0	2,430.0	100
Utah	27.0	20.0	74
Virginia	22.0	20.0	91
Washington	195.0	190.0	97
West Virginia	4.0	4.0	100
Wisconsin	275.0	270.0	98
Wyoming	70.0	75.0	107
Other States ¹	63.0	70.0	111
United States	13,157.0	13,067.0	99

¹ Individual state estimates not available for states not shown, but are included in Other States.

Terms and Definitions of Cattle on Feed Estimates

Number of feedlots is the number of lots operating at the end of the year with inventory of cattle on feed.

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 10.8 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 below 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 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	0.1	0.1	4	0	30	8	1
Placements	0.4	0.7	3	0	28	8	2
Marketings	0.1	0.2	0	0	10	0	1

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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