



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 10.8 million head on March 1, 2017. The inventory was slightly above March 1, 2016.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.69 million head, 1 percent below 2016. Net placements were 1.64 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 315,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 330,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 490,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 395,000, 900-999 pounds were 124,000, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 40,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.65 million head, 4 percent above 2016.

Other disappearance totaled 56,000 head during February, 3 percent below 2016.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1	10,709	10,782	101
Placed on feed during February	1,710	1,694	99
Fed cattle marketed during February	1,591	1,648	104
Other disappearance during February	58	56	97
On feed March 1	10,770	10,772	100

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

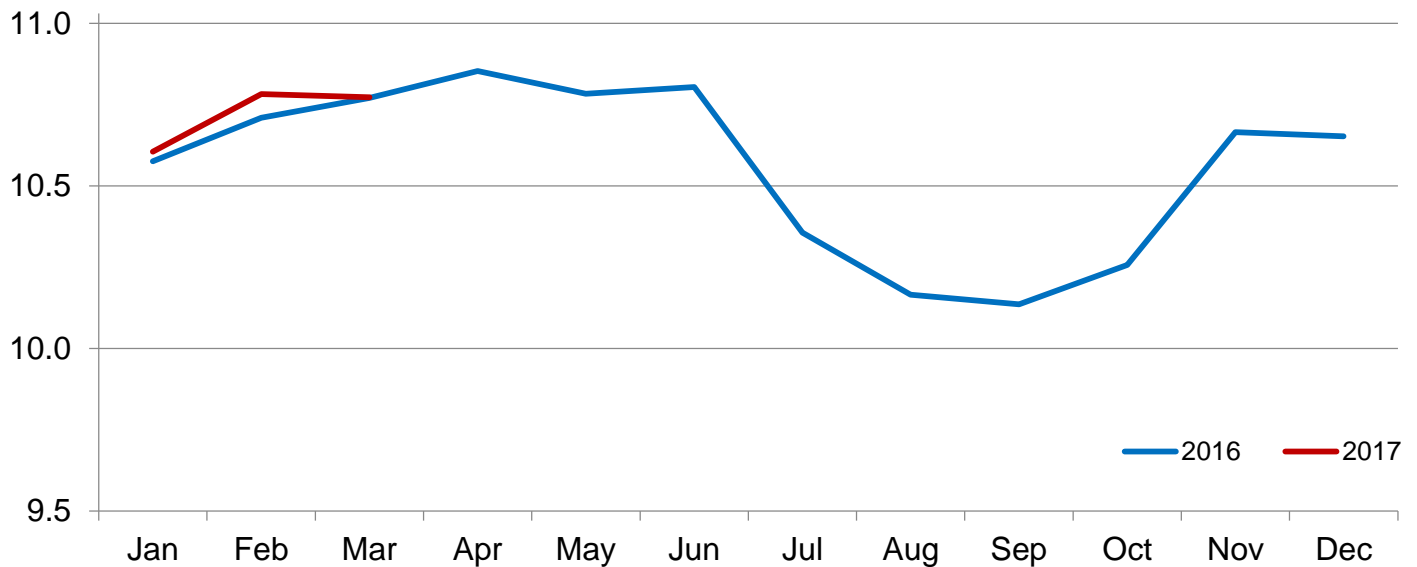
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1	10,575	10,605	100
Placed on feed during January	1,779	1,981	111
Fed cattle marketed during January	1,589	1,751	110
Other disappearance during January	56	53	95
On feed February 1	10,709	10,782	101

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

State	March 1, 2016	February 1, 2017	March 1, 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	297	243	242	81	100
California	440	425	420	95	99
Colorado	890	900	910	102	101
Idaho	240	250	250	104	100
Iowa	630	640	650	103	102
Kansas	2,160	2,210	2,210	102	100
Minnesota	163	159	160	98	101
Nebraska	2,420	2,450	2,440	101	100
Oklahoma	290	300	295	102	98
South Dakota	270	240	250	93	104
Texas	2,450	2,450	2,440	100	100
Washington	195	185	185	95	100
Other States	325	330	320	98	97
United States	10,770	10,782	10,772	100	100

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

Million head

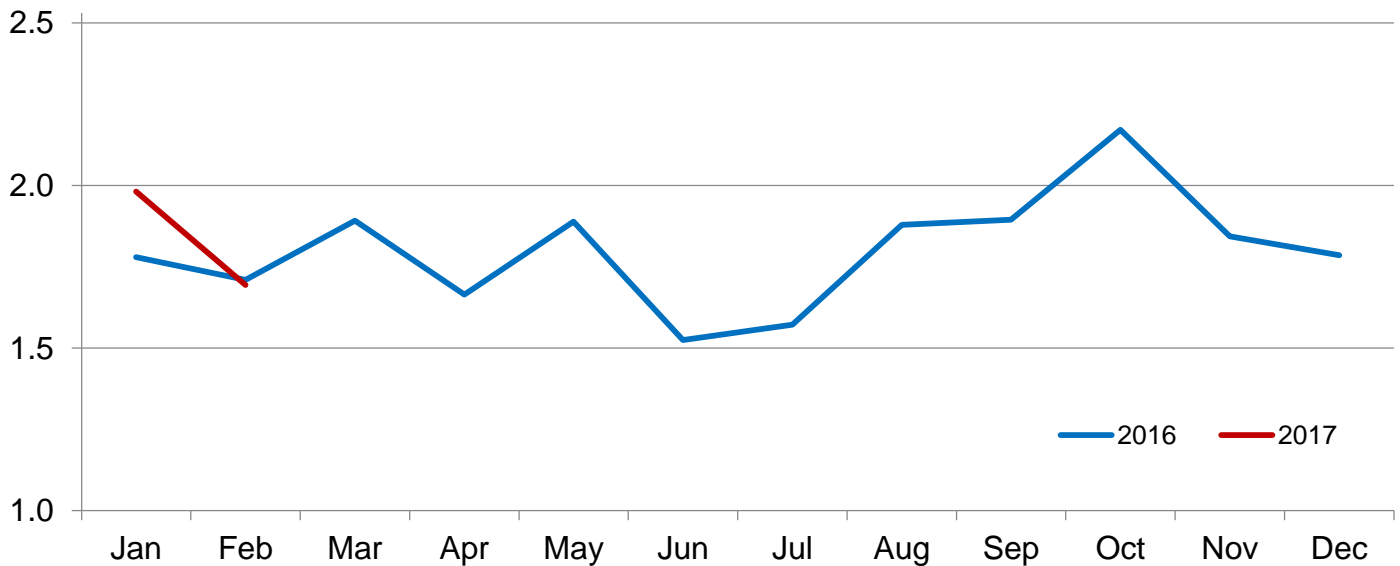


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 and 2017

State	During February 2016 (1,000 head)	During January 2017 (1,000 head)	During February 2017		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	43	26	27	63	104
California	46	50	47	102	94
Colorado	170	180	180	106	100
Idaho	38	35	36	95	103
Iowa	92	128	102	111	80
Kansas	375	480	380	101	79
Minnesota	23	25	21	91	84
Nebraska	395	540	425	108	79
Oklahoma	54	36	41	76	114
South Dakota	48	45	44	92	98
Texas	345	360	320	93	89
Washington	38	36	34	89	94
Other States	43	40	37	86	93
United States	1,710	1,981	1,694	99	86

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: 2016 and 2017

State	During February 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	40	40	40	25	(D)	(D)	170
Kansas	50	65	105	110	45	(D)	(D)	375
Nebraska	45	60	105	115	70	(D)	(D)	395
Texas	105	70	95	65	10	(D)	(D)	345
Other States ...	110	65	100	100	50	(D)	(D)	425
United States ..	335	300	445	430	(X)	145	55	1,710
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
State	During February 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	25	40	50	45	20	(D)	(D)	180
Kansas	50	70	120	100	40	(D)	(D)	380
Nebraska	40	75	140	115	55	(D)	(D)	425
Texas	100	70	85	55	10	(D)	(D)	320
Other States ...	100	75	95	80	39	(D)	(D)	389
United States ..	315	330	490	395	(X)	124	40	1,694

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

(X) Not applicable.

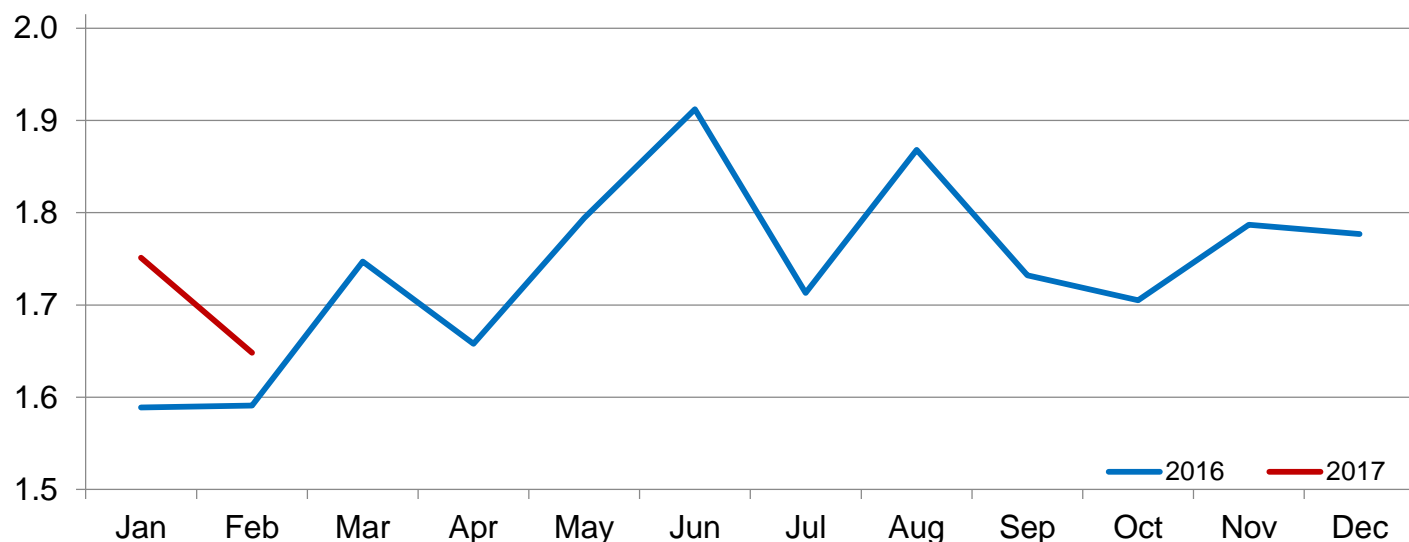
¹ The 900+ weight group is the sum of 900-999 pound and 1,000+ pound weight group.

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

State	During February 2016	During January 2017	During February 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	21	32	27	129	84
California	46	52	49	107	94
Colorado	155	175	165	106	94
Idaho	41	43	35	85	81
Iowa	78	86	89	114	103
Kansas	345	430	370	107	86
Minnesota	17	15	19	112	127
Nebraska	420	450	420	100	93
Oklahoma	43	35	45	105	129
South Dakota	37	34	33	89	97
Texas	315	320	320	102	100
Washington	36	33	33	92	100
Other States	37	46	43	116	93
United States	1,591	1,751	1,648	104	94

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: 2016 and 2017

State	During February 2016 (1,000 head)	During January 2017 (1,000 head)	During February 2017		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	5	3	3	60	100
Colorado	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho	2	2	1	50	50
Iowa	4	2	3	75	150
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	15	10	15	100	150
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	1	1	1	100	100
Texas	10	10	10	100	100
Washington	2	3	1	50	33
Other States	1	4	4	400	100
United States	58	53	56	97	106

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 10.8 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 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 7 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	7	1
Placements	0.4	0.7	3	0	28	7	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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