



Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

Released May 26, 2017, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

United States Cattle on Feed Up 2 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 11.0 million head on May 1, 2017. The inventory was 2 percent above May 1, 2016.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.85 million head, 11 percent above 2016. Net placements were 1.78 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 348,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 255,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 490,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 495,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 190,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 70,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.70 million head, 3 percent above 2016.

Other disappearance totaled 66,000 head during April, 13 percent below 2016.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1	10,853	10,919	101
Placed on feed during April	1,664	1,848	111
Fed cattle marketed during April	1,658	1,703	103
Other disappearance during April	76	66	87
On feed May 1	10,783	10,998	102

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

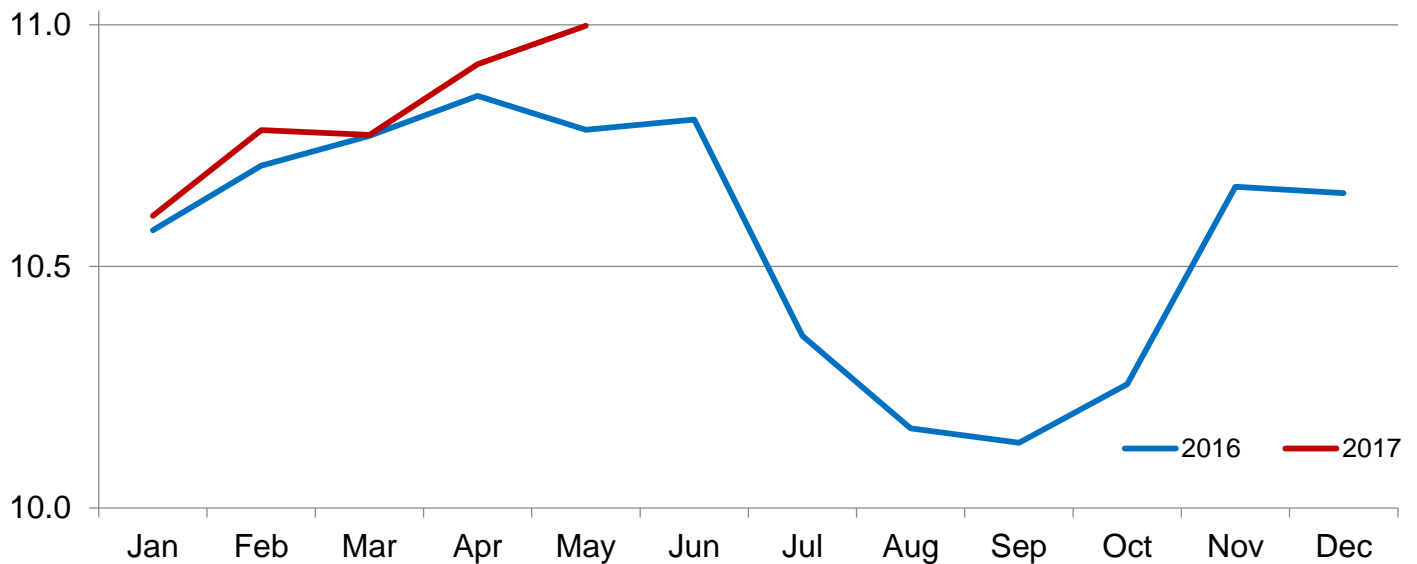
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1	10,770	10,772	100
Placed on feed during March	1,892	2,117	112
Fed cattle marketed during March	1,747	1,914	110
Other disappearance during March	62	56	90
On feed April 1	10,853	10,919	101

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

State	May 1, 2016	April 1, 2017	May 1, 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	305	239	243	80	102
California	415	415	425	102	102
Colorado	900	940	960	107	102
Idaho	240	260	275	115	106
Iowa	640	670	680	106	101
Kansas	2,150	2,260	2,280	106	101
Minnesota	158	160	155	98	97
Nebraska	2,420	2,460	2,450	101	100
Oklahoma	300	300	310	103	103
South Dakota	265	250	255	96	102
Texas	2,490	2,460	2,460	99	100
Washington	195	195	200	103	103
Other States	305	310	305	100	98
United States	10,783	10,919	10,998	102	101

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

Million head

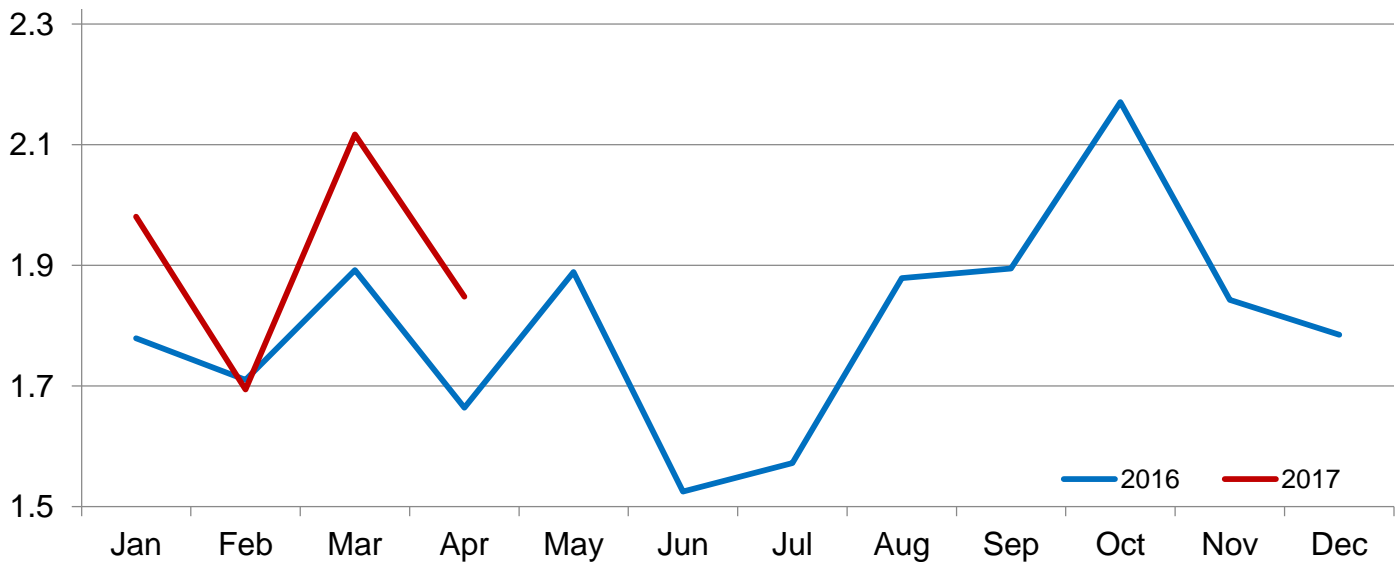


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 and 2017

State	During April 2016	During March 2017	During April 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	25	26	27	108	104
California	50	59	65	130	110
Colorado	145	205	155	107	76
Idaho	24	46	40	167	87
Iowa	78	116	95	122	82
Kansas	370	490	420	114	86
Minnesota	12	23	12	100	52
Nebraska	380	495	395	104	80
Oklahoma	56	73	72	129	99
South Dakota	24	39	34	142	87
Texas	435	460	460	106	100
Washington	34	42	36	106	86
Other States	31	43	37	119	86
United States	1,664	2,117	1,848	111	87

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 April 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	20	35	40	25	(D)	(D)	145
Kansas	55	50	100	110	55	(D)	(D)	370
Nebraska	45	45	85	110	95	(D)	(D)	380
Texas	120	70	110	110	25	(D)	(D)	435
Other States ...	89	40	60	95	50	(D)	(D)	334
United States ..	334	225	390	465	(X)	175	75	1,664

State	During March 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	30	30	65	55	25	(D)	(D)	205
Kansas	60	75	150	145	60	(D)	(D)	490
Nebraska	50	65	135	150	95	(D)	(D)	495
Texas	110	75	140	110	25	(D)	(D)	460
Other States ...	100	50	140	130	47	(D)	(D)	467
United States ..	350	295	630	590	(X)	185	67	2,117

State	During April 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	25	40	40	25	(D)	(D)	155
Kansas	50	50	125	130	65	(D)	(D)	420
Nebraska	45	45	95	115	95	(D)	(D)	395
Texas	115	85	140	95	25	(D)	(D)	460
Other States ...	113	50	90	115	50	(D)	(D)	418
United States ..	348	255	490	495	(X)	190	70	1,848

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

(X) Not applicable.

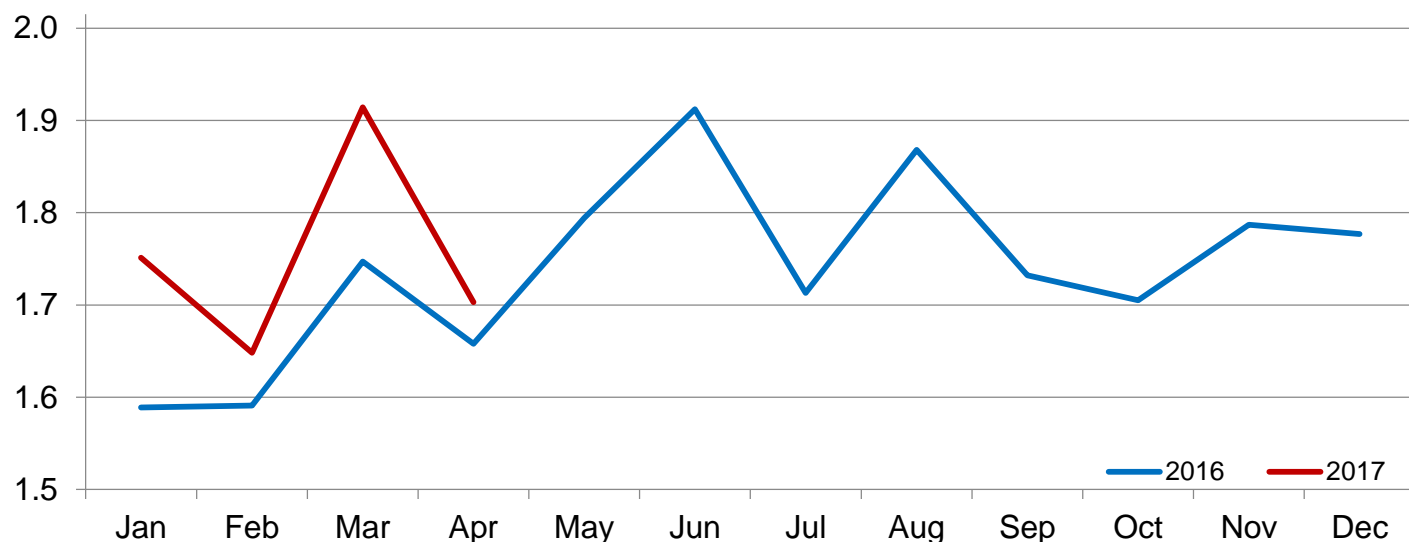
¹ The 900+ weight group is the sum of 900-999 pound and 1,000+ pound weight group.

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

State	During April 2016	During March 2017	During April 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	22	28	22	100	79
California	52	62	53	102	85
Colorado	135	170	125	93	74
Idaho	23	34	24	104	71
Iowa	75	93	82	109	88
Kansas	385	430	385	100	90
Minnesota	13	22	16	123	73
Nebraska	380	465	390	103	84
Oklahoma	50	67	60	120	90
South Dakota	22	38	27	123	71
Texas	435	425	450	103	106
Washington	33	30	29	88	97
Other States	33	50	40	121	80
United States	1,658	1,914	1,703	103	89

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 April 2016 (1,000 head)	During March 2017 (1,000 head)	During April 2017		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	3	2	2	67	100
Colorado	10	5	10	100	200
Idaho	1	2	1	100	50
Iowa	3	3	3	100	100
Kansas	15	10	15	100	150
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	20	10	15	75	150
Oklahoma	1	1	2	200	200
South Dakota	2	1	2	100	200
Texas	10	15	10	100	67
Washington	1	2	2	200	100
Other States	8	3	2	25	67
United States	76	56	66	87	118

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 11.0 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 3,000 head, ranging from 0 to 15,000 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	3	0	15	7	1
Placements	0.3	0.4	3	0	15	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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