



Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

Released June 23, 2017, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

United States Cattle on Feed Up 3 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 11.1 million head on June 1, 2017. The inventory was 3 percent above June 1, 2016.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 2.12 million head, 12 percent above 2016. Net placements were 2.05 million head. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 400,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 315,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 529,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 550,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 235,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 90,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.95 million head, 9 percent above 2016.

Other disappearance totaled 70,000 head during May, 5 percent below 2016.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed May 1	10,783	10,998	102
Placed on feed during May	1,889	2,119	112
Fed cattle marketed during May	1,794	1,951	109
Other disappearance during May	74	70	95
On feed June 1	10,804	11,096	103

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

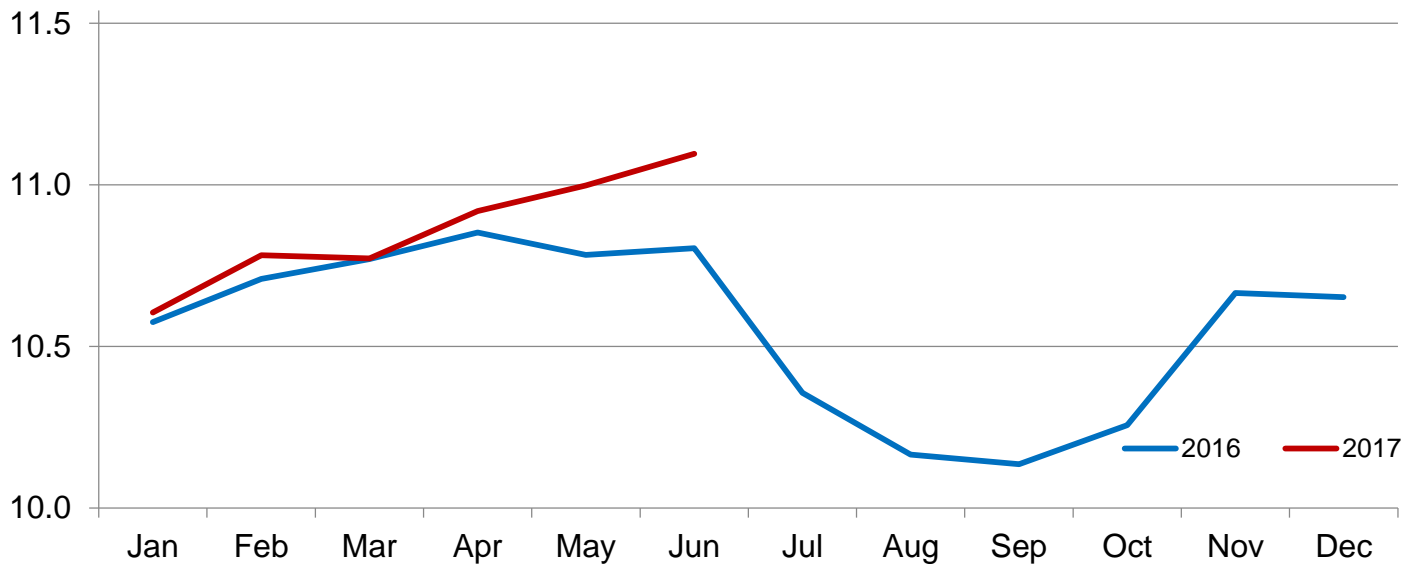
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1	10,853	10,919	101
Placed on feed during April	1,664	1,848	111
Fed cattle marketed during April	1,658	1,703	103
Other disappearance during April	76	66	87
On feed May 1	10,783	10,998	102

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

State	June 1, 2016	May 1, 2017	June 1, 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	300	243	246	82	101
California	415	425	440	106	104
Colorado	890	960	970	109	101
Idaho	245	275	270	110	98
Iowa	630	680	680	108	100
Kansas	2,160	2,280	2,270	105	100
Minnesota	154	155	145	94	94
Nebraska	2,340	2,450	2,350	100	96
Oklahoma	320	310	330	103	106
South Dakota	250	255	240	96	94
Texas	2,610	2,460	2,650	102	108
Washington	195	200	205	105	103
Other States	295	305	300	102	98
United States	10,804	10,998	11,096	103	101

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

Million head

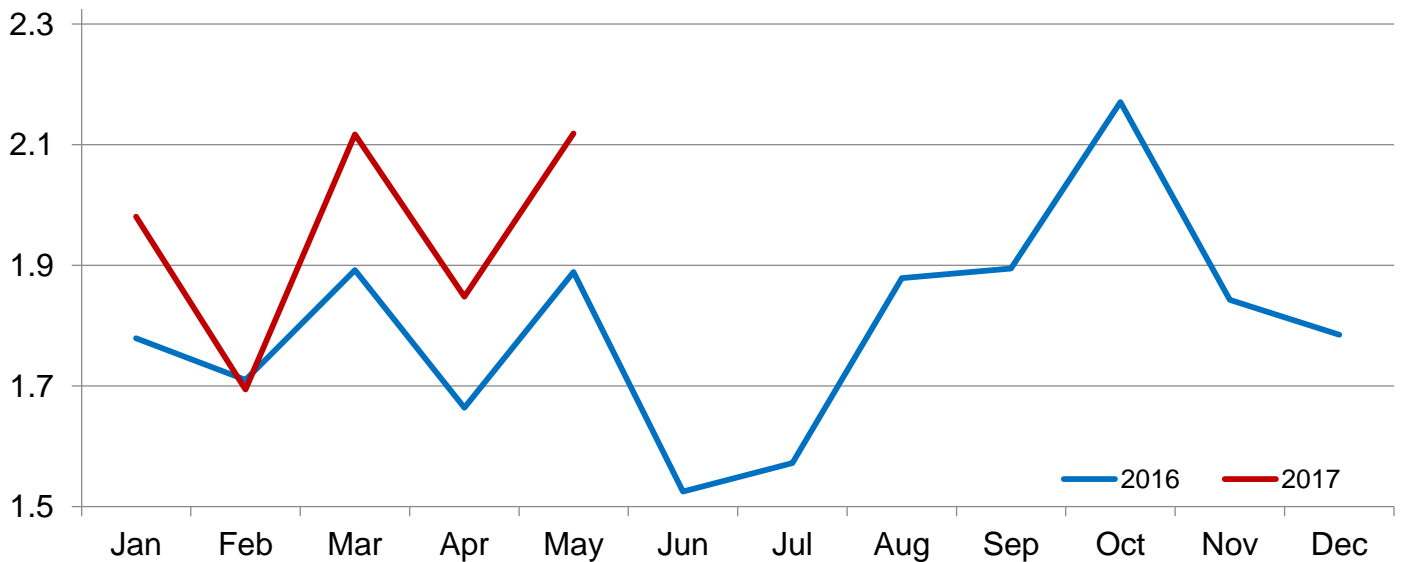


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 and 2017

State	During May 2016	During April 2017	During May 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	19	27	26	137	96
California	54	65	71	131	109
Colorado	135	155	160	119	103
Idaho	41	40	39	95	98
Iowa	64	95	85	133	89
Kansas	420	420	440	105	105
Minnesota	14	12	17	121	142
Nebraska	405	395	445	110	113
Oklahoma	68	72	80	118	111
South Dakota	29	34	39	134	115
Texas	560	460	640	114	139
Washington	48	36	41	85	114
Other States	32	37	36	113	97
United States	1,889	1,848	2,119	112	115

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 May 2016							Total
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs ¹	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	
	(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	20	15	35	40	25	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas	50	55	120	135	60	(D)	(D)	420
Nebraska	40	50	85	120	110	(D)	(D)	405
Texas	115	85	170	155	35	(D)	(D)	560
Other States ...	85	40	69	115	60	(D)	(D)	369
United States ..	310	245	479	565	(X)	200	90	1,889

State	During April 2017							Total
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs ¹	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	
	(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

State	During May 2017							Total
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs ¹	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	
	(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	45	35	(D)	(D)	160
Kansas	50	70	135	115	70	(D)	(D)	440
Nebraska	50	50	95	130	120	(D)	(D)	445
Texas	155	125	180	145	35	(D)	(D)	640
Other States ...	120	50	84	115	65	(D)	(D)	434
United States ..	400	315	529	550	(X)	235	90	2,119

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

(X) Not applicable.

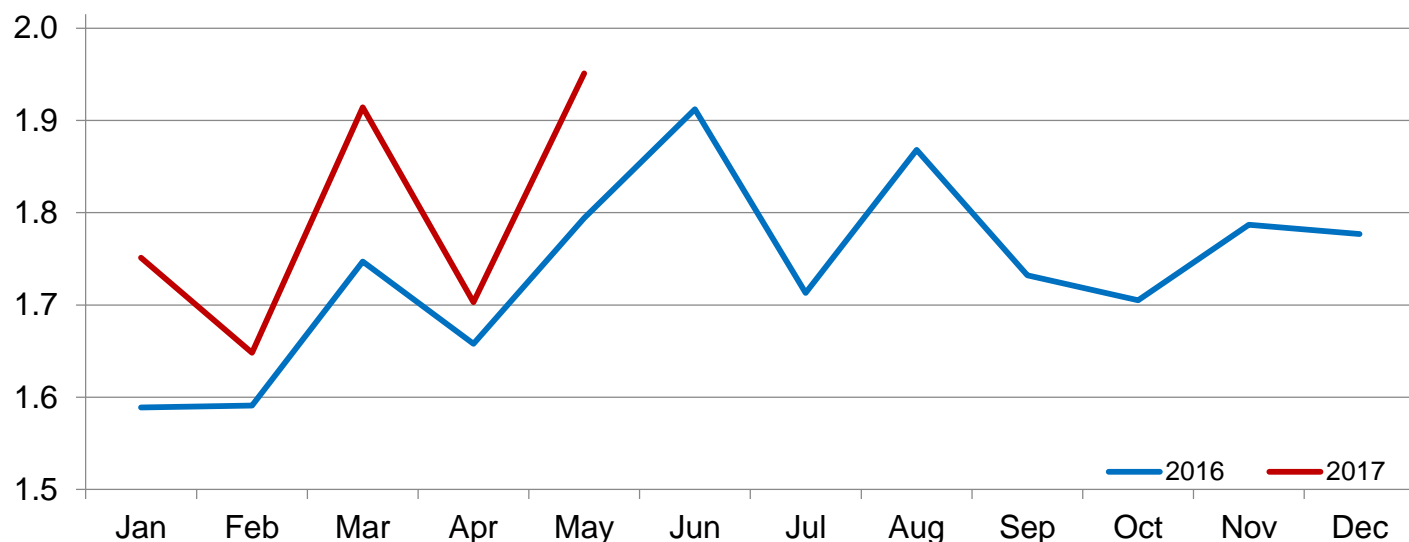
¹ The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During May 2016	During April 2017	During May 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	21	22	22	105	100
California	50	53	53	106	100
Colorado	130	125	140	108	112
Idaho	35	24	42	120	175
Iowa	72	82	82	114	100
Kansas	400	385	435	109	113
Minnesota	17	16	26	153	163
Nebraska	465	390	530	114	136
Oklahoma	47	60	58	123	97
South Dakota	40	27	51	128	189
Texas	430	450	440	102	98
Washington	46	29	35	76	121
Other States	41	40	37	90	93
United States	1,794	1,703	1,951	109	115

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 May 2016 (1,000 head)	During April 2017 (1,000 head)	During May 2017		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	3	1	1	33	100
California	4	2	3	75	150
Colorado	15	10	10	67	100
Idaho	1	1	2	200	200
Iowa	2	3	3	150	100
Kansas	10	15	15	150	100
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	20	15	15	75	100
Oklahoma	1	2	2	200	100
South Dakota	4	2	3	75	150
Texas	10	10	10	100	100
Washington	2	2	1	50	50
Other States	1	2	4	400	200
United States	74	66	70	95	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 11.1 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.

Vacant, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
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
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106

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.