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## United States Cattle on Feed Up 4 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 July 1, 2017. The inventory was 4 percent above July 1, 2016. The inventory included 6.96 million steers and steer calves, up 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.86 million head, up 11 percent from 2016.

**Placements** in feedlots during June totaled 1.77 million head, 16 percent above 2016. Net placements were 1.71 million head. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 375,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 315,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 430,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 385,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 170,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 95,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during June totaled 1.99 million head, 4 percent above 2016.

**Other disappearance** totaled 56,000 head during June, 8 percent below 2016.

## United States All Cattle on Feed Up 6 Percent from 2015

**Cattle and calves on feed** for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 12.8 million head on July 1, 2017. The inventory was up 6 percent from the July 1, 2015 total of 12.1 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head, accounted for 84.5 percent of the total cattle on feed on July 1, 2017. This is down 0.1 percent from 2015.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed June 1 .....	10,804	11,096	103
Placed on feed during June .....	1,525	1,770	116
Fed cattle marketed during June .....	1,912	1,989	104
Other disappearance during June .....	61	56	92
On feed July 1 .....	10,356	10,821	104

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

Item	Number		Percent of	
	2016	2017	previous year	inventory
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed July 1				
Steers and steer calves .....	6,869	6,964	101	64
Heifers and heifer calves .....	3,487	3,857	111	36

**All Cattle on Feed – United States: July 1, 2015 and 2017**

[2016 all cattle on feed estimate not available due to the July 2016 *Cattle* report being suspended]

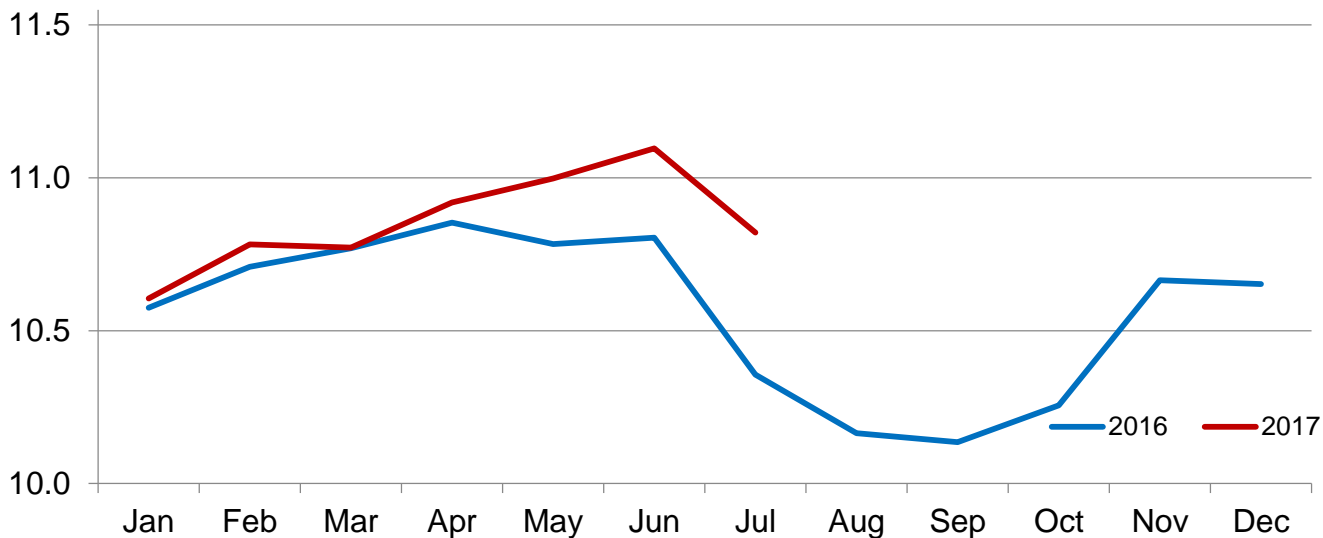
State	Number		Percent of 2015
	2015	2017	
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)
United States .....	12,100	12,800	106

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

State	July 1, 2016	June 1, 2017	July 1, 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	286	246	246	86	100
California .....	425	440	440	104	100
Colorado .....	850	970	930	109	96
Idaho .....	235	270	260	111	96
Iowa .....	610	680	670	110	99
Kansas .....	2,050	2,270	2,190	107	96
Minnesota .....	145	145	140	97	97
Nebraska .....	2,180	2,350	2,230	102	95
Oklahoma .....	310	330	325	105	98
South Dakota .....	235	240	225	96	94
Texas .....	2,550	2,650	2,670	105	101
Washington .....	195	205	205	105	100
Other States .....	285	300	290	102	97
United States .....	10,356	11,096	10,821	104	98

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

Million head

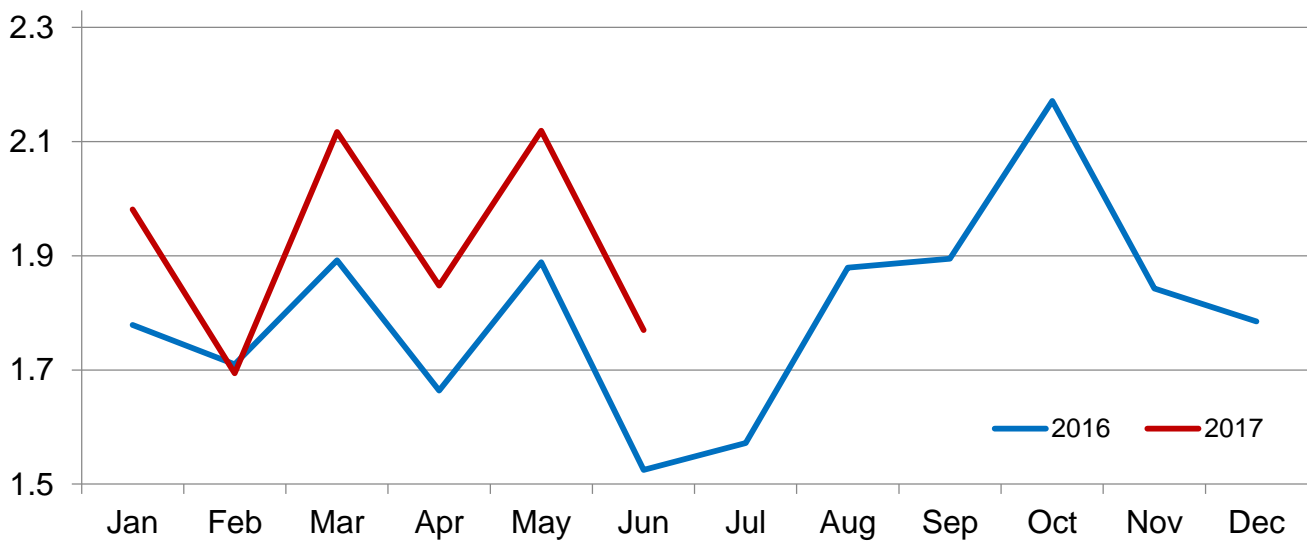


**Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 and 2017**

State	During June 2016	During May 2017	During June 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	19	26	22	116	85
California .....	58	71	56	97	79
Colorado .....	105	160	125	119	78
Idaho .....	38	39	35	92	90
Iowa .....	54	85	72	133	85
Kansas .....	350	440	395	113	90
Minnesota .....	12	17	15	125	88
Nebraska .....	365	445	425	116	96
Oklahoma .....	42	80	51	121	64
South Dakota .....	24	39	40	167	103
Texas .....	380	640	450	118	70
Washington .....	41	41	40	98	98
Other States .....	37	36	44	119	122
United States .....	1,525	2,119	1,770	116	84

**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 June 2016							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	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 .....	15	15	30	20	25	(D)	(D)	105
Kansas .....	55	65	90	95	45	(D)	(D)	350
Nebraska .....	30	50	70	105	110	(D)	(D)	365
Texas .....	115	85	90	65	25	(D)	(D)	380
Other States ...	75	40	60	90	60	(D)	(D)	325
United States ..	290	255	340	375	(X)	170	95	1,525
State	During May 2017							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	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	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
State	During June 2017							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	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	35	20	20	(D)	(D)	125
Kansas .....	65	80	110	95	45	(D)	(D)	395
Nebraska .....	35	55	105	110	120	(D)	(D)	425
Texas .....	155	105	105	65	20	(D)	(D)	450
Other States ...	95	50	75	95	60	(D)	(D)	375
United States ..	375	315	430	385	(X)	170	95	1,770

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

(X) Not applicable.

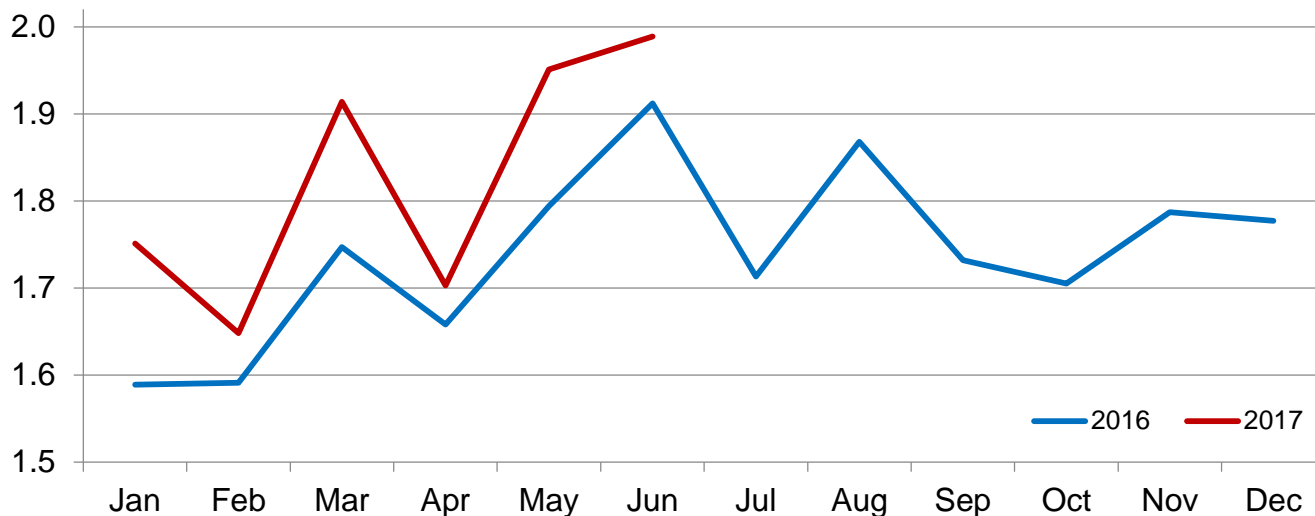
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During June 2016	During May 2017	During June 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	27	22	21	78	95
California .....	45	53	52	116	98
Colorado .....	140	140	160	114	114
Idaho .....	47	42	43	91	102
Iowa .....	72	82	80	111	98
Kansas .....	450	435	465	103	107
Minnesota .....	20	26	19	95	73
Nebraska .....	510	530	530	104	100
Oklahoma .....	51	58	55	108	95
South Dakota .....	36	51	53	147	104
Texas .....	430	440	420	98	95
Washington .....	40	35	39	98	111
Other States .....	44	37	52	118	141
United States .....	1,912	1,951	1,989	104	102

## 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 June 2016 (1,000 head)	During May 2017 (1,000 head)	During June 2017		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	6	1	1	17	100
California .....	3	3	4	133	133
Colorado .....	5	10	5	100	50
Idaho .....	1	2	2	200	100
Iowa .....	2	3	2	100	67
Kansas .....	10	15	10	100	67
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	15	15	15	100	100
Oklahoma .....	1	2	1	100	50
South Dakota .....	3	3	2	67	67
Texas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Washington .....	1	1	1	100	100
Other States .....	3	4	2	67	50
United States .....	61	70	56	92	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		
	Jul 1, 2016	Apr 1, 2017	Jul 1, 2017	Jul 1, 2016	Apr 1, 2017	Jul 1, 2017
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona .....	280	228	239	6	11	7
California .....	380	390	410	45	25	30
Colorado .....	550	605	575	300	335	355
Idaho .....	155	180	180	80	80	80
Iowa .....	440	500	510	170	170	160
Kansas .....	1,070	1,230	1,120	980	1,030	1,070
Minnesota .....	124	132	120	21	28	20
Nebraska .....	1,430	1,640	1,440	750	820	790
Oklahoma .....	195	185	190	115	115	135
South Dakota .....	140	145	135	95	105	90
Texas .....	1,780	1,680	1,730	770	780	940
Washington .....	125	125	125	70	70	80
Other States .....	200	200	190	85	110	100
United States .....	6,869	7,240	6,964	3,487	3,679	3,857

## 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 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 6 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	6	1
Placements .....	0.2	0.4	2	0	15	6	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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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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

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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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

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