



# Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

---

Released March 23, 2018, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## United States Cattle on Feed Up 9 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 11.7 million head on March 1, 2018. The inventory was 9 percent above March 1, 2017.

**Placements** in feedlots during February totaled 1.82 million head, 7 percent above 2017. Net placements were 1.76 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 325,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 335,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 537,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 420,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 150,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 50,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during February totaled 1.68 million head, 2 percent above 2017.

**Other disappearance** totaled 57,000 head during February, 2 percent above 2017.

**Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2017 and 2018**

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2017	2018	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1 .....	10,782	11,630	108
Placed on feed during February .....	1,694	1,817	107
Fed cattle marketed during February .....	1,648	1,675	102
Other disappearance during February .....	56	57	102
On feed March 1 .....	10,772	11,715	109

**Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: February 1, 2017 and 2018**

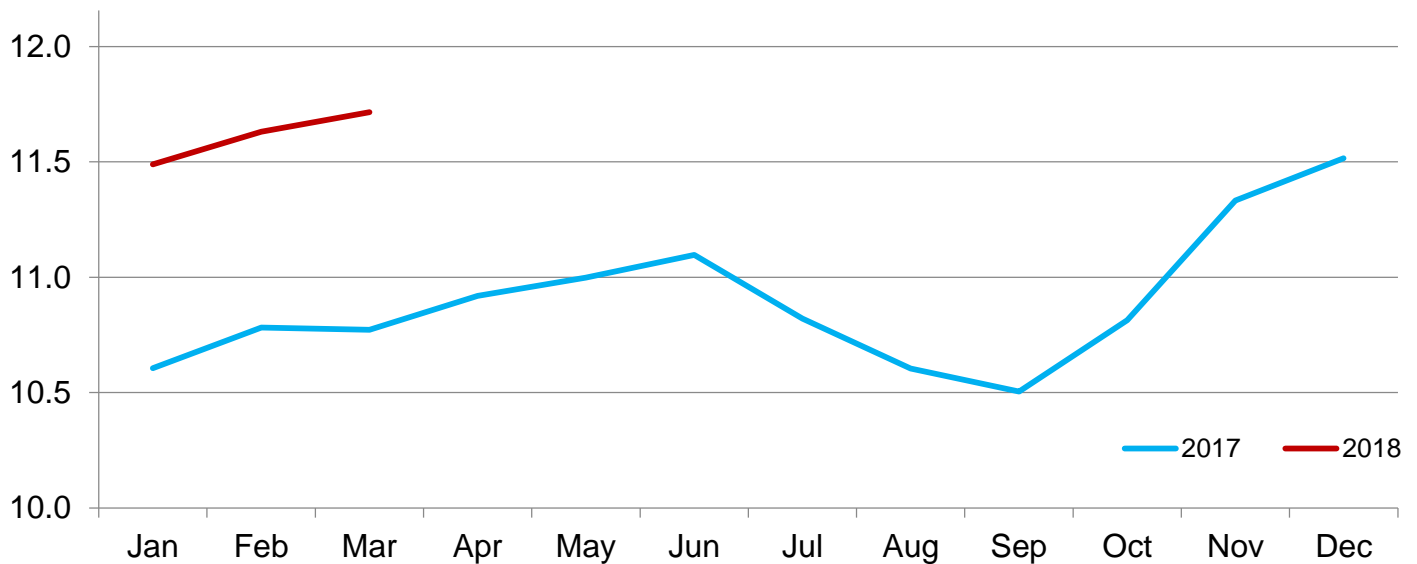
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2017	2018	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1 .....	10,605	11,489	108
Placed on feed during January .....	1,981	2,068	104
Fed cattle marketed during January .....	1,751	1,858	106
Other disappearance during January .....	53	69	130
On feed February 1 .....	10,782	11,630	108

**Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2017 and 2018**

State	March 1, 2017	February 1, 2018	March 1, 2018		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	242	280	285	118	102
California .....	420	485	490	117	101
Colorado .....	910	960	950	104	99
Idaho .....	250	260	255	102	98
Iowa .....	650	720	730	112	101
Kansas .....	2,210	2,320	2,350	106	101
Minnesota .....	160	170	165	103	97
Nebraska .....	2,440	2,670	2,690	110	101
Oklahoma .....	295	320	315	107	98
South Dakota .....	250	260	270	108	104
Texas .....	2,440	2,650	2,680	110	101
Washington .....	185	205	210	114	102
Other States .....	320	330	325	102	98
United States .....	10,772	11,630	11,715	109	101

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

Million head

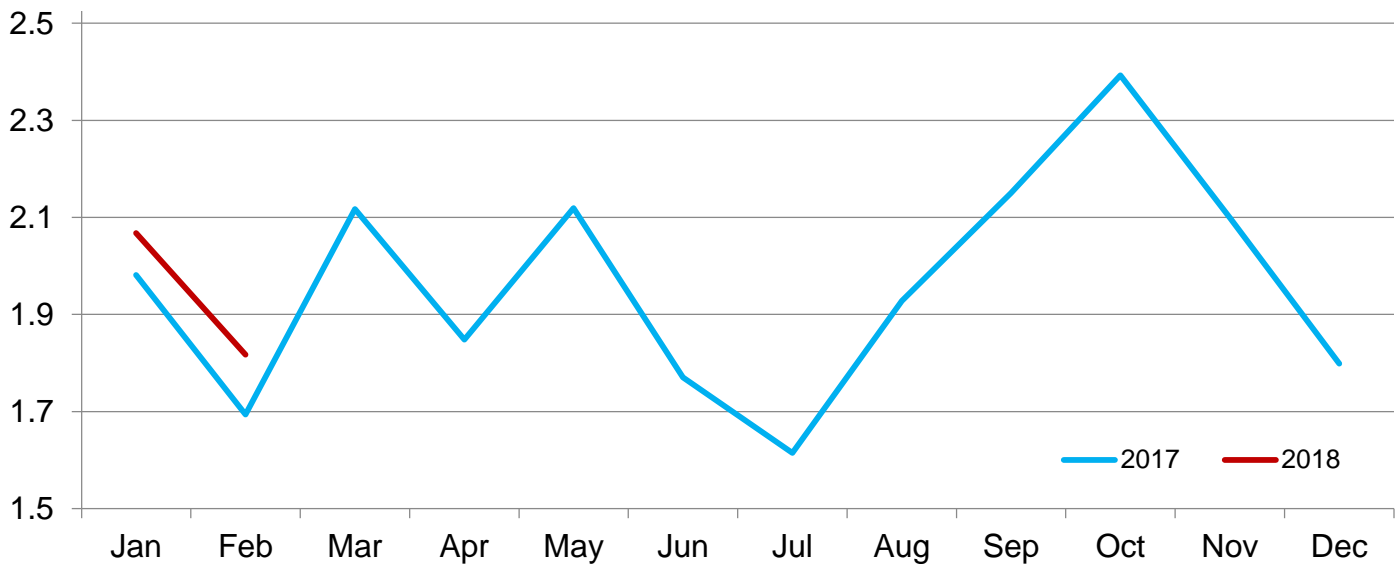


**Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2017 and 2018**

State	During February 2017 (1,000 head)	During January 2018 (1,000 head)	During February 2018		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	27	38	30	111	79
California .....	47	58	59	126	102
Colorado .....	180	180	165	92	92
Idaho .....	36	41	34	94	83
Iowa .....	102	130	118	116	91
Kansas .....	380	480	420	111	88
Minnesota .....	21	25	16	76	64
Nebraska .....	425	540	440	104	81
Oklahoma .....	41	47	46	112	98
South Dakota .....	44	45	46	105	102
Texas .....	320	400	365	114	91
Washington .....	34	32	36	106	113
Other States .....	37	52	42	114	81
United States .....	1,694	2,068	1,817	107	88

**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 and Month – States and United States: 2017 and 2018**

State	During February 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	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
State	During January 2018							
	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	45	50	40	20	(D)	(D)	180
Kansas .....	45	100	180	105	50	(D)	(D)	480
Nebraska .....	35	110	180	140	75	(D)	(D)	540
Texas .....	135	95	105	55	10	(D)	(D)	400
Other States ...	135	100	110	78	45	(D)	(D)	468
United States ..	375	450	625	418	(X)	115	85	2,068
State	During February 2018							
	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 .....	20	35	40	45	25	(D)	(D)	165
Kansas .....	45	70	155	105	45	(D)	(D)	420
Nebraska .....	30	75	140	125	70	(D)	(D)	440
Texas .....	125	80	90	55	15	(D)	(D)	365
Other States ...	105	75	112	90	45	(D)	(D)	427
United States ..	325	335	537	420	(X)	150	50	1,817

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

(X) Not applicable.

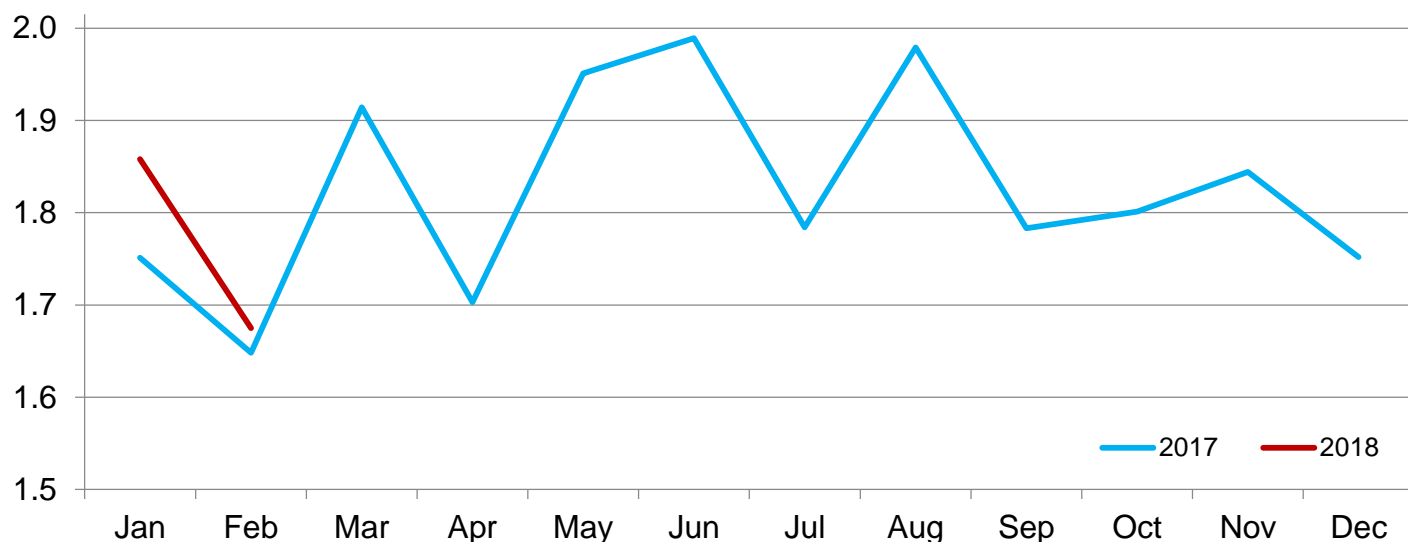
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

**Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2017 and 2018**

State	During February 2017	During January 2018	During February 2018		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	27	26	24	89	92
California .....	49	60	51	104	85
Colorado .....	165	185	170	103	92
Idaho .....	35	34	36	103	106
Iowa .....	89	107	106	119	99
Kansas .....	370	435	380	103	87
Minnesota .....	19	14	20	105	143
Nebraska .....	420	465	410	98	88
Oklahoma .....	45	41	50	111	122
South Dakota .....	33	34	35	106	103
Texas .....	320	375	320	100	85
Washington .....	33	34	30	91	88
Other States .....	43	48	43	100	90
United States .....	1,648	1,858	1,675	102	90

## 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: 2017 and 2018

State	During February 2017 (1,000 head)	During January 2018 (1,000 head)	During February 2018		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	3	3	3	100	100
Colorado .....	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho .....	1	2	3	300	150
Iowa .....	3	3	2	67	67
Kansas .....	10	15	10	100	67
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	15	15	10	67	67
Oklahoma .....	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Texas .....	10	15	15	150	100
Washington .....	1	3	1	100	33
Other States .....	4	4	4	100	100
United States .....	56	69	57	102	83

## 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 0.0 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 11.7 million head by more than 0.0 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 1,000 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 2 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 .....	0.0	0.1	1	0	15	2	1
Placements .....	0.2	0.4	2	0	15	2	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).

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section .....	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 720-3240
Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-0585
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products .....	(202) 690-3236
Heidi Gleich – 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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 [www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer), 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](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).



**USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 24, 2018**

University of Chicago – Gleacher Center  
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive  
Chicago, Illinois 60611  
312-464-8787

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2018 Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies – Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will provide updates on recent and pending changes in statistical and information programs important to agriculture, answer questions, and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website ([https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education\\_and\\_Outreach/Meeting/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php)). Contact Tina Hall (NASS) at 202-720-3896 or [tina.hall@nass.usda.gov](mailto:tina.hall@nass.usda.gov) or Patricia Snipe (NASS) at 202-720-2248 or [patricia.snipe@nass.usda.gov](mailto:patricia.snipe@nass.usda.gov) for information.

The Data Users' Meeting precedes the Industry Outlook Conference at the same location on Wednesday, April 25, 2018. The outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss developments and trends. For registration details or additional information about the Industry Outlook Conference, see the conference page on the LMIC website (<http://lmic.info/page/meetings>) or contact James Robb at 303-716-9933.