



Cattle on Feed

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Special Note

Beginning with this publication, Other States will also include Minnesota.

United States Cattle on Feed Down 1 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 11.8 million head on January 1, 2025. The inventory was 1 percent below January 1, 2024. The inventory included 7.25 million steers and steer calves, up 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.58 million head, down 3 percent from 2024.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.64 million head, 3 percent below 2023. Net placements were 1.58 million head. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 395,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 380,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 375,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 287,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 115,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 90,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.74 million head, 1 percent above 2023.

Other disappearance totaled 59,000 head during December, 2 percent below 2023.

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2024 and 2025

[December preceding year]

Item	2024	2025	Percent of previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
On feed December 1	12,016	11,982	100	
Placed on feed during December	1,698	1,642	97	
Fed cattle marketed during December	1,724	1,742	101	
Other disappearance during December	60	59	98	
On feed January 1	11,930	11,823	99	

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: December 1, 2023 and 2024

Item	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
On feed November 1	11,956	11,966	100	
Placed on feed during November	1,865	1,796	96	
Fed cattle marketed during November	1,751	1,725	99	
Other disappearance during November	54	55	102	
On feed December 1	12,016	11,982	100	

Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2024 and 2025

Item	2024	2025	Percent of	
			previous year	inventory
			(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed January 1	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)		
Steers and steer calves	7,195	7,248	101	61
Heifers and heifer calves	4,735	4,575	97	39

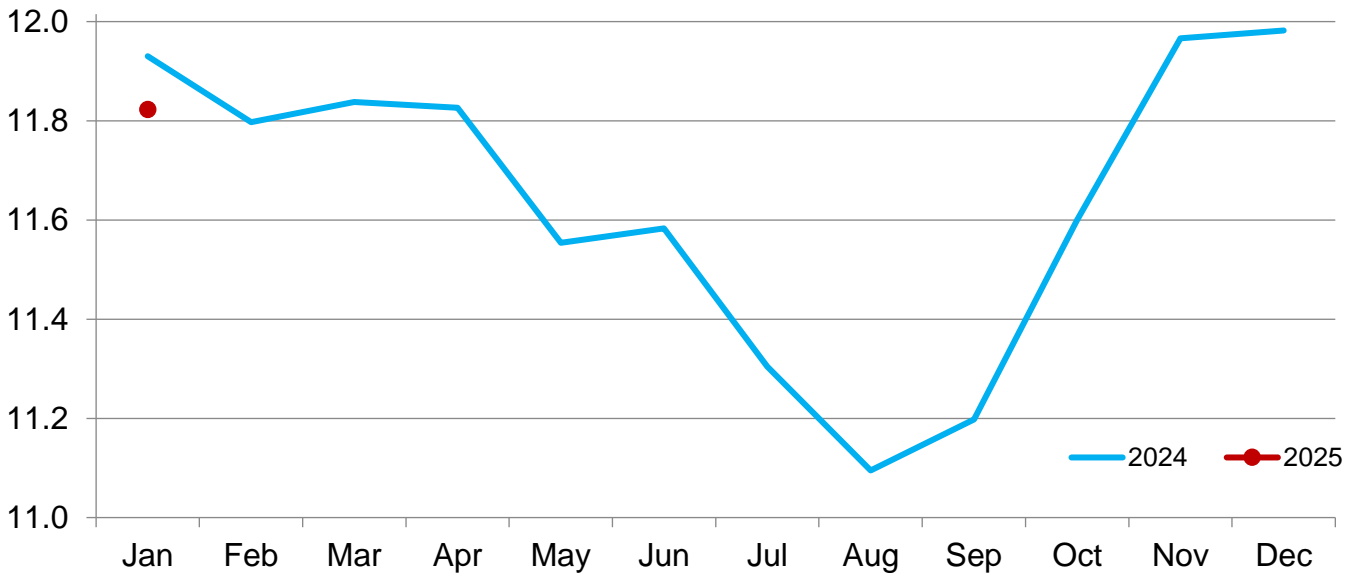
Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2024 and 2025

State	January 1, 2024	December 1, 2024	January 1, 2025		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	265	232	233	88	100
California	520	510	520	100	102
Colorado	1,020	1,060	1,050	103	99
Idaho	335	330	330	99	100
Iowa	630	660	650	103	98
Kansas	2,480	2,420	2,400	97	99
Minnesota	105	105	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Nebraska	2,560	2,600	2,580	101	99
Oklahoma	335	365	360	107	99
South Dakota	230	235	230	100	98
Texas	2,860	2,880	2,780	97	97
Washington	270	260	255	94	98
Other States	320	325	435	136	134
United States	11,930	11,982	11,823	99	99

(NA) Not available.

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

Million head



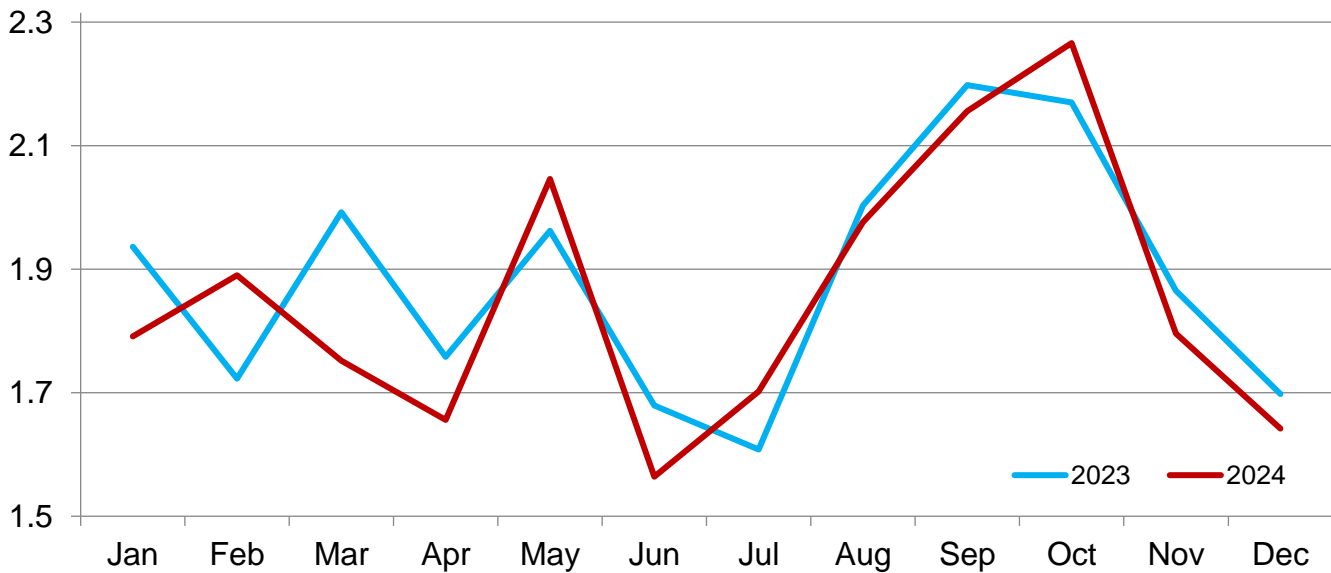
Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024

State	During December 2023 (1,000 head)	During November 2024 (1,000 head)	During December 2024		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	20	22	23	115	105
California	77	52	65	84	125
Colorado	135	135	135	100	100
Idaho	45	45	41	91	91
Iowa	83	91	86	104	95
Kansas	395	400	410	104	103
Minnesota	16	15	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Nebraska	435	510	460	106	90
Oklahoma	43	44	35	81	80
South Dakota	37	56	38	103	68
Texas	330	345	255	77	74
Washington	38	34	31	82	91
Other States	44	47	63	143	134
United States	1,698	1,796	1,642	97	91

(NA) Not available.

Cattle Placed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head



Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots and Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024

State	During December 2023							
	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	35	30	20	20	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas	60	90	120	80	45	(D)	(D)	395
Nebraska	50	105	100	90	90	(D)	(D)	435
Texas	150	85	55	30	10	(D)	(D)	330
Other States ...	145	95	75	58	30	(D)	(D)	403
United States ..	435	410	380	278	(X)	110	85	1,698
State	During November 2024							
	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	40	30	25	20	20	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas	60	95	120	80	45	(D)	(D)	400
Nebraska	100	120	95	90	105	(D)	(D)	510
Texas	140	85	70	35	15	(D)	(D)	345
Other States ...	155	90	65	51	45	(D)	(D)	406
United States ..	495	420	375	276	(X)	145	85	1,796
State	During December 2024							
	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	35	30	20	20	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas	60	95	120	90	45	(D)	(D)	410
Nebraska	55	105	105	100	95	(D)	(D)	460
Texas	110	60	50	25	10	(D)	(D)	255
Other States ...	140	85	70	52	35	(D)	(D)	382
United States ..	395	380	375	287	(X)	115	90	1,642

(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.

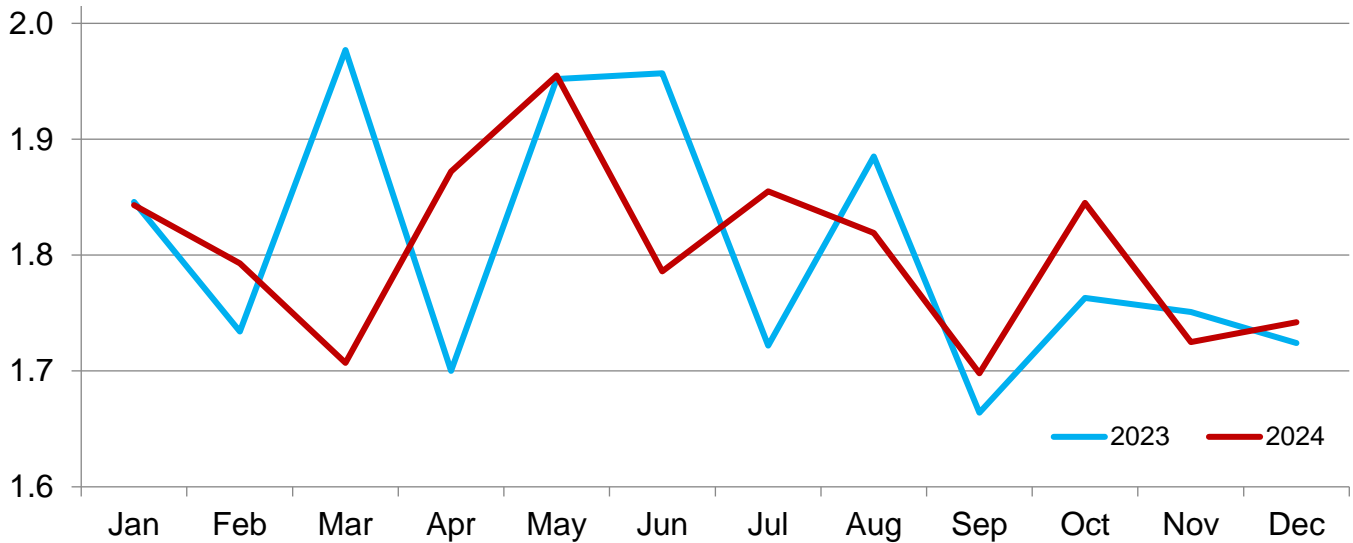
Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024

State	During December 2023	During November 2024	During December 2024		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	20	20	21	105	105
California	61	51	49	80	96
Colorado	140	130	135	96	104
Idaho	39	44	40	103	91
Iowa	92	100	95	103	95
Kansas	405	380	420	104	111
Minnesota	10	14	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Nebraska	440	480	465	106	97
Oklahoma	32	42	39	122	93
South Dakota	35	45	42	120	93
Texas	365	330	345	95	105
Washington	37	43	35	95	81
Other States	48	46	56	117	122
United States	1,724	1,725	1,742	101	101

(NA) Not available.

Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head



Cattle Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024

State	During December 2023 (1,000 head)	During November 2024 (1,000 head)	During December 2024		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	6	6	6	100	100
Colorado	5	5	10	200	200
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	1	1	1	100	100
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota	1	1	(NA)	(NA)	(NA)
Nebraska	15	10	15	100	150
Oklahoma	1	2	1	100	50
South Dakota	2	1	1	50	100
Texas	15	15	10	67	67
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	1	1	2	200	200
United States	60	55	59	98	107

(NA) Not available.

**Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States:
2024 and 2025**

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Jan 1, 2024	Oct 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2024	Oct 1, 2024	Jan 1, 2025
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona	250	220	218	15	10	15
California	415	420	420	105	95	100
Colorado	540	525	550	480	475	500
Idaho	180	175	175	155	155	155
Iowa	475	510	500	155	150	150
Kansas	1,380	1,340	1,410	1,100	1,030	990
Minnesota	85	85	(NA)	20	15	(NA)
Nebraska	1,590	1,530	1,630	970	940	950
Oklahoma	195	190	205	140	155	155
South Dakota	135	110	135	95	85	95
Texas	1,610	1,560	1,570	1,250	1,260	1,210
Washington	145	135	140	125	120	115
Other States	195	200	295	125	110	140
United States	7,195	7,000	7,248	4,735	4,600	4,575

(NA) Not available.

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 0.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 11.8 million head by more than 0.2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.4 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 19,000 head, ranging from 0 to 50,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 1 time and has been below the latest estimate 13 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)
On feed	0.2	0.4	19	0	50	13	1
Placements	0.4	0.7	5	0	20	7	8
Marketings	0.1	0.2	1	0	6	6	6

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@usda.gov.

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Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Kim DaPra – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3347
Ralph Mondesir – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4448

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- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

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@usda.gov.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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