



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Up 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 March 1, 2024. The inventory was 1 percent above March 1, 2023.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.89 million head, 10 percent above 2023. Placements were the highest for February since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.83 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 360,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 330,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 515,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 485,000 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 1.79 million head, 3 percent above 2023.

Other disappearance totaled 56,000 head during February, 3 percent below 2023.

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

Item	2023	2024	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1	11,754	11,797	100
Placed on feed during February	1,723	1,890	110
Fed cattle marketed during February	1,734	1,793	103
Other disappearance during February	58	56	97
On feed March 1	11,685	11,838	101

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

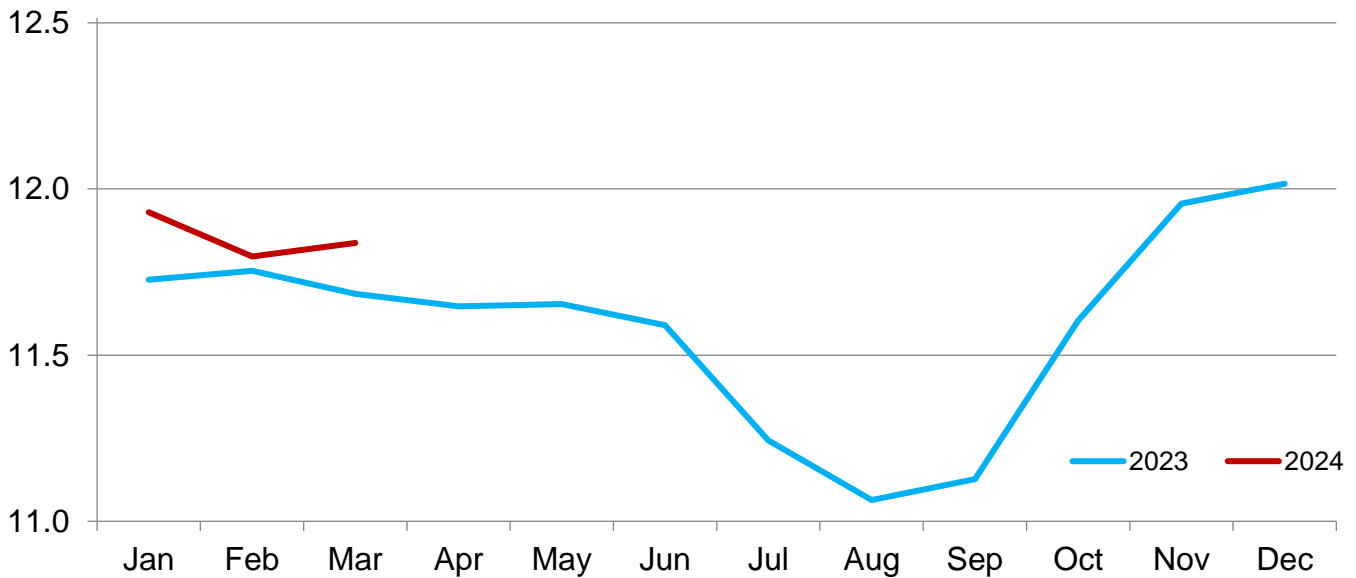
Item	2023	2024	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1	11,727	11,930	102
Placed on feed during January	1,936	1,791	93
Fed cattle marketed during January	1,846	1,843	100
Other disappearance during January	63	81	129
On feed February 1	11,754	11,797	100

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

State	March 1, 2023	February 1, 2024	March 1, 2024		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	260	262	258	99	98
California	520	520	520	100	100
Colorado	1,010	1,010	1,020	101	101
Idaho	325	345	345	106	100
Iowa	640	640	650	102	102
Kansas	2,460	2,390	2,400	98	100
Minnesota	95	105	105	111	100
Nebraska	2,530	2,550	2,560	101	100
Oklahoma	270	330	330	122	100
South Dakota	215	240	245	114	102
Texas	2,780	2,820	2,820	101	100
Washington	255	260	255	100	98
Other States	325	325	330	102	102
United States	11,685	11,797	11,838	101	100

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

Million head

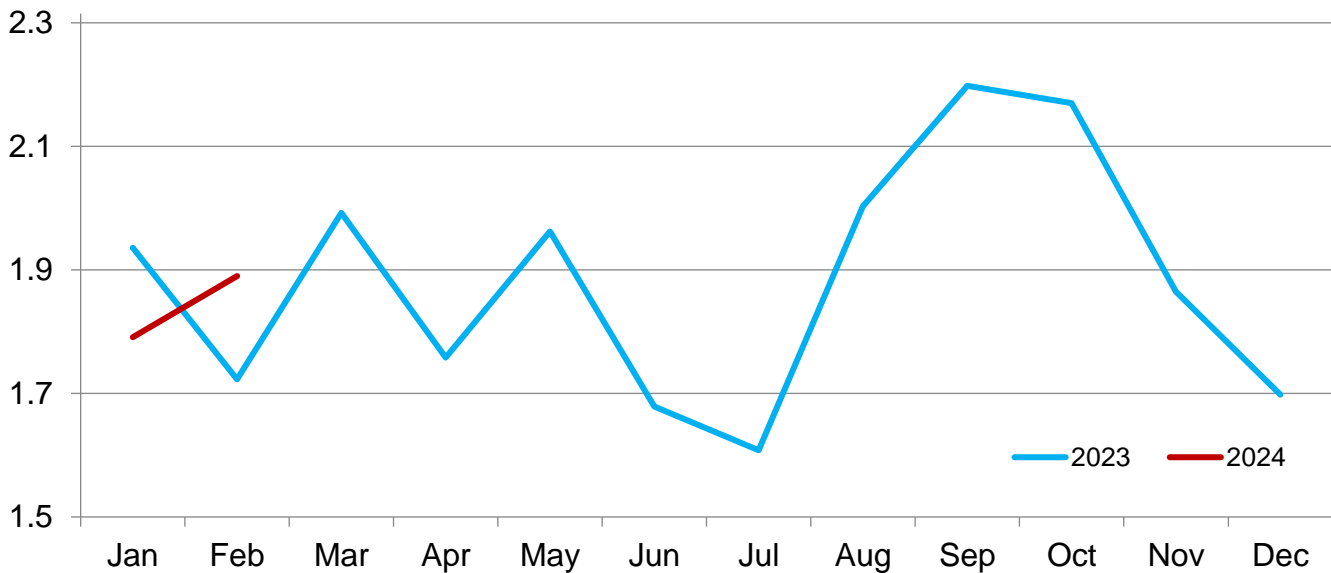


Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024

State	During February 2023 (1,000 head)	During January 2024 (1,000 head)	During February 2024		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	23	24	22	96	92
California	59	63	66	112	105
Colorado	135	135	155	115	115
Idaho	36	46	43	119	93
Iowa	100	115	118	118	103
Kansas	425	390	455	107	117
Minnesota	14	11	14	100	127
Nebraska	435	505	505	116	100
Oklahoma	26	35	38	146	109
South Dakota	37	41	42	114	102
Texas	360	345	355	99	103
Washington	36	32	33	92	103
Other States	37	49	44	119	90
United States	1,723	1,791	1,890	110	106

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 February 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	25	25	30	35	20	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas	45	75	145	115	45	(D)	(D)	425
Nebraska	30	65	130	140	70	(D)	(D)	435
Texas	145	80	75	50	10	(D)	(D)	360
Other States ...	100	65	85	83	35	(D)	(D)	368
United States ..	345	310	465	423	(X)	130	50	1,723
State	During January 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	25	30	35	25	20	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas	45	90	130	85	40	(D)	(D)	390
Nebraska	40	100	155	140	70	(D)	(D)	505
Texas	135	80	70	50	10	(D)	(D)	345
Other States ...	130	90	85	76	35	(D)	(D)	416
United States ..	375	390	475	376	(X)	105	70	1,791
State	During February 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	25	30	35	40	25	(D)	(D)	155
Kansas	45	75	155	130	50	(D)	(D)	455
Nebraska	35	75	155	165	75	(D)	(D)	505
Texas	140	75	70	55	15	(D)	(D)	355
Other States ...	115	75	100	95	35	(D)	(D)	420
United States ..	360	330	515	485	(X)	150	50	1,890

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

(X) Not applicable.

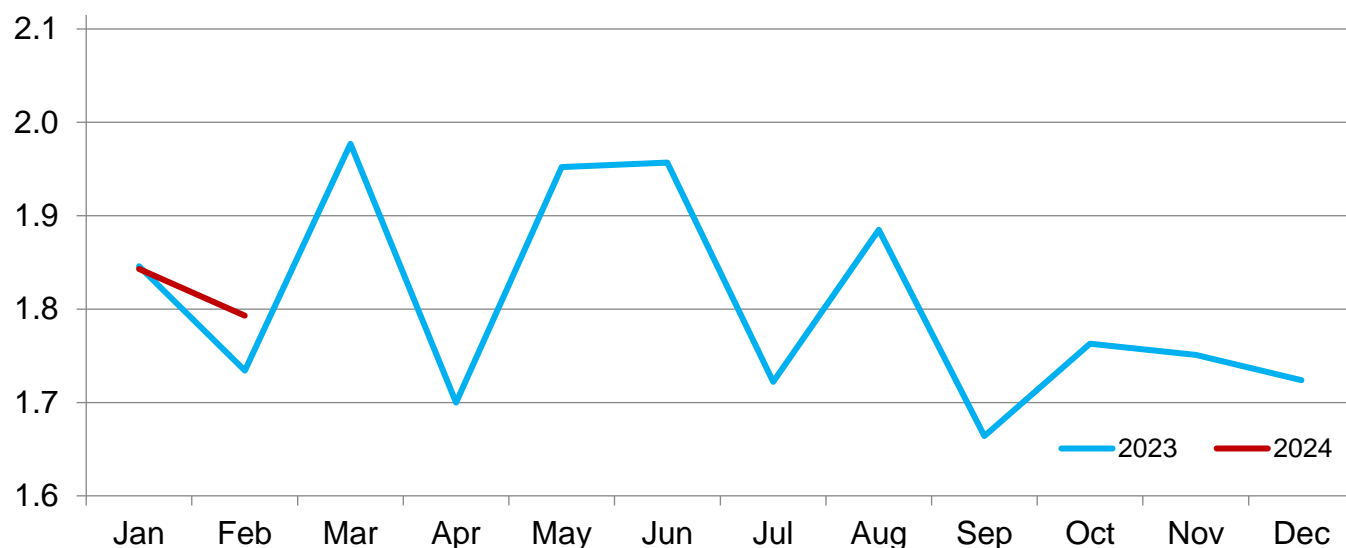
¹ The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During February 2023	During January 2024	During February 2024		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	26	26	25	96	96
California	52	57	60	115	105
Colorado	150	135	140	93	104
Idaho	35	35	41	117	117
Iowa	108	103	106	98	103
Kansas	405	465	435	107	94
Minnesota	13	10	13	100	130
Nebraska	460	490	480	104	98
Oklahoma	30	39	37	123	95
South Dakota	35	30	36	103	120
Texas	340	370	345	101	93
Washington	35	41	37	106	90
Other States	45	42	38	84	90
United States	1,734	1,843	1,793	103	97

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 February 2023 (1,000 head)	During January 2024 (1,000 head)	During February 2024		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	7	6	6	86	100
Colorado	5	10	5	100	50
Idaho	1	1	2	200	200
Iowa	2	2	2	100	100
Kansas	10	15	10	100	67
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	15	25	15	100	60
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	2	1	1	50	100
Texas	10	15	10	100	67
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	2	2	1	50	50
United States	58	81	56	97	69

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 0.6 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 0.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.0 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 58,000 head, ranging from 0 to 115,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 0 times and has been below the latest estimate 22 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	0.6	1.0	58	0	115	22	0
Placements	0.6	1.0	8	0	24	11	11
Marketings	0.1	0.2	2	0	6	10	8

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.

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 692-0069
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Kim DaPra – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(512) 501-3266
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3347
Anthony Fischer – 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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2024 USDA Spring Data Users' Meeting

April 16, 2024

**Register at: nass.usda.gov/go/data_users
Free and open to the public**

USDA Spring Data Users' Meeting Join Us Online or in Chicago April 16, 2024

University of Chicago – Gleacher Center
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, IL 60611

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2024 Spring 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/go/data_users).