



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Up 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.9 million head on December 1, 2014. The inventory was 1 percent above December 1, 2013.

Placements in feedlots during November totaled 1.79 million, 4 percent below 2013. Net placements were 1.72 million head. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 550,000, 600-699 pounds were 440,000, 700-799 pounds were 362,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 440,000. For the month of November, placements are the second lowest since the series began in 1996.

Marketings of fed cattle during November totaled 1.48 million, 11 percent below 2013. November marketings are the lowest since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 74,000 during November, 9 percent above 2013.

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: December 1, 2013 and 2014

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2013	2014	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed November 1	10,585	10,633	100
Placed on feed during November	1,867	1,792	96
Fed cattle marketed during November	1,660	1,475	89
Other disappearance during November	68	74	109
On feed December 1	10,724	10,876	101

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: November 1, 2013 and 2014

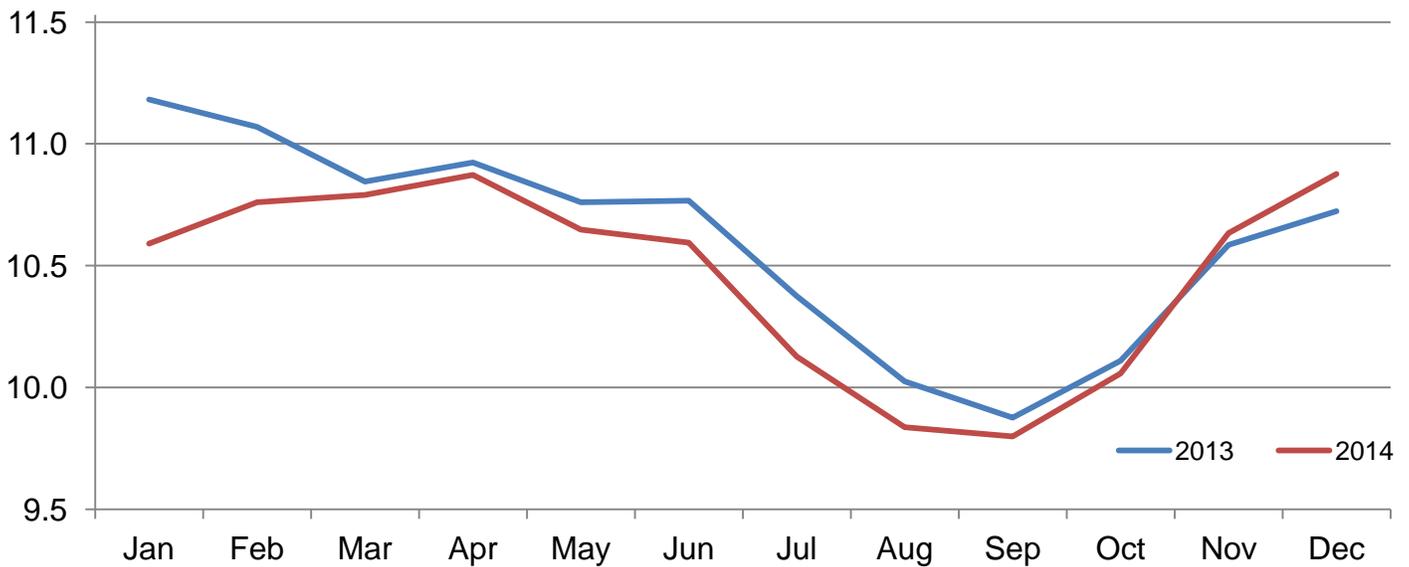
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2013	2014	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed October 1	10,110	10,058	99
Placed on feed during October	2,378	2,357	99
Fed cattle marketed during October	1,827	1,685	92
Other disappearance during October	76	97	128
On feed November 1	10,585	10,633	100

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 and 2014

State	December 1, 2013	November 1, 2014	December 1, 2014		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	275	250	252	92	101
California	505	420	435	86	104
Colorado	970	900	930	96	103
Idaho	225	220	230	102	105
Iowa	610	590	610	100	103
Kansas	2,050	2,080	2,100	102	101
Minnesota	122	132	135	111	102
Nebraska	2,430	2,450	2,550	105	104
Oklahoma	265	260	260	98	100
South Dakota	220	230	245	111	107
Texas	2,510	2,550	2,560	102	100
Washington	207	226	234	113	104
Other States	335	325	335	100	103
United States	10,724	10,633	10,876	101	102

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

Million head

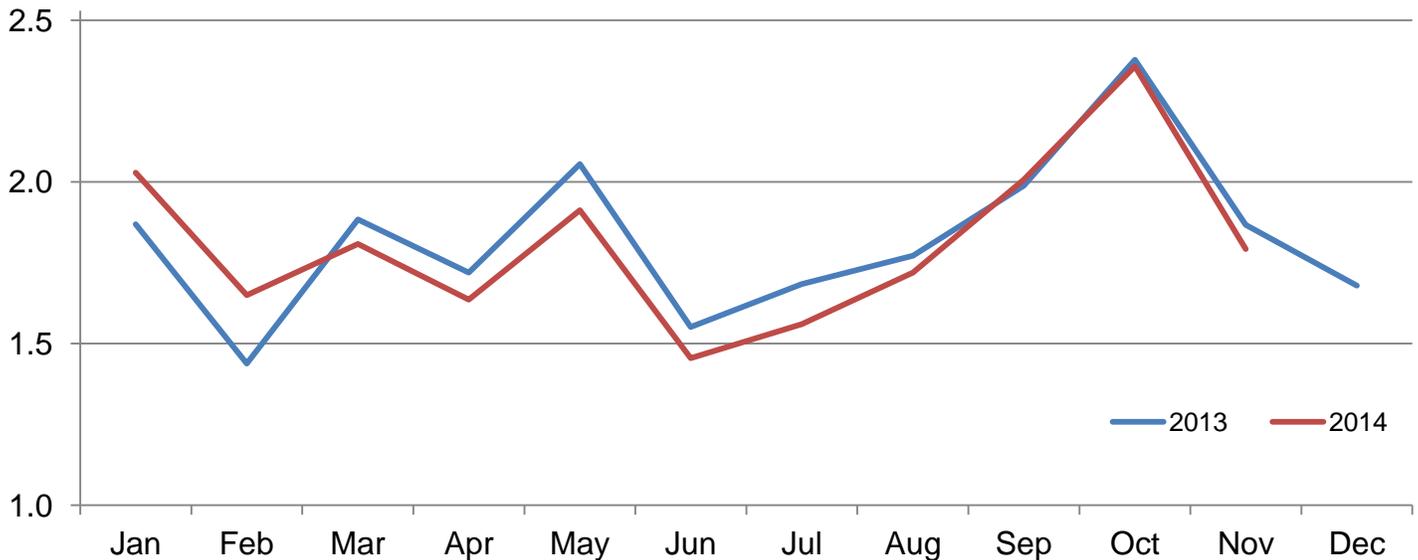


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 and 2014

State	During November 2013 (1,000 head)	During October 2014 (1,000 head)	During November 2014		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	30	22	26	87	118
California	63	53	62	98	117
Colorado	165	210	155	94	74
Idaho	42	61	43	102	70
Iowa	122	132	117	96	89
Kansas	365	420	320	88	76
Minnesota	18	30	15	83	50
Nebraska	475	660	485	102	73
Oklahoma	40	60	45	113	75
South Dakota	61	84	53	87	63
Texas	405	520	385	95	74
Washington	44	51	47	107	92
Other States	37	54	39	105	72
United States	1,867	2,357	1,792	96	76

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: 2013 and 2014

State	During November									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(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	50	45	50	40	30	30	35	40	165	155
Kansas	80	65	90	75	105	95	90	85	365	320
Nebraska	120	120	135	120	80	85	140	160	475	485
Texas	165	160	115	95	75	80	50	50	405	385
Other States	165	160	120	110	62	72	110	105	457	447
United States	580	550	510	440	352	362	425	440	1,867	1,792

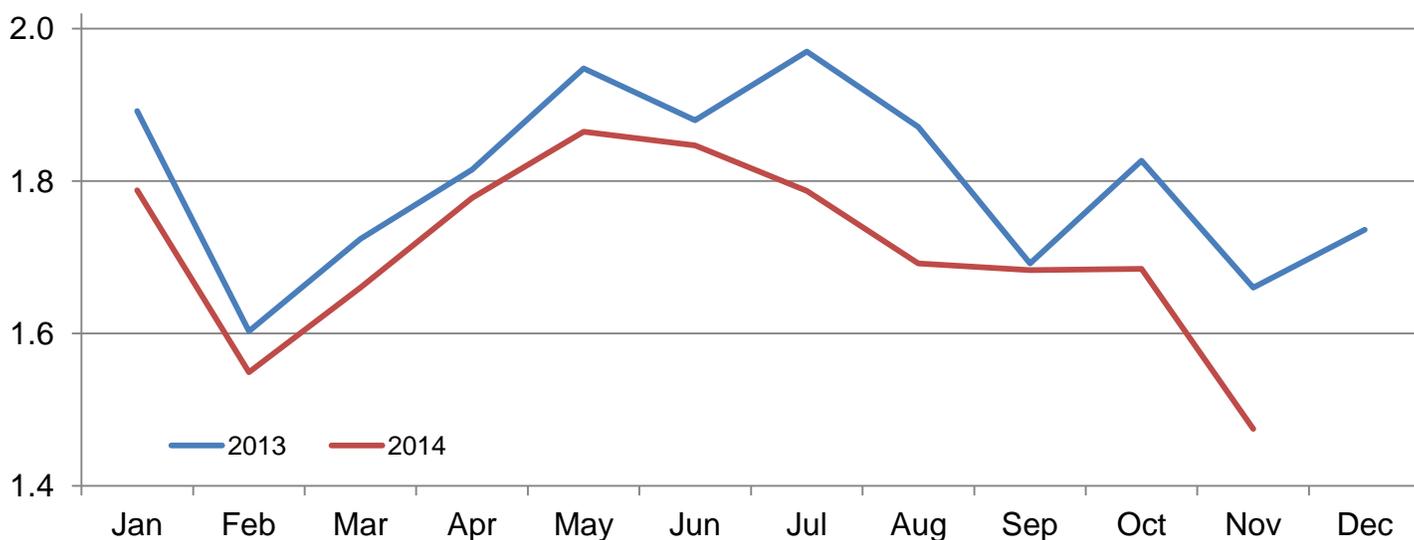
State	During October									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	80	55	50	45	45	45	55	65	230	210
Kansas	90	85	120	100	140	115	120	120	470	420
Nebraska	170	170	170	165	90	95	200	230	630	660
Texas	190	180	120	130	145	130	65	80	520	520
Other States	190	200	118	130	85	77	135	140	528	547
United States	720	690	578	570	505	462	575	635	2,378	2,357

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 and 2014

State	During November 2013	During October 2014	During November 2014		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	24	21	19	79	90
California	51	40	43	84	108
Colorado	140	145	120	86	83
Idaho	36	45	32	89	71
Iowa	100	100	95	95	95
Kansas	345	320	285	83	89
Minnesota	12	11	11	92	100
Nebraska	400	430	370	93	86
Oklahoma	43	43	43	100	100
South Dakota	39	43	34	87	79
Texas	400	420	360	90	86
Washington	39	35	37	95	106
Other States	31	32	26	84	81
United States	1,660	1,685	1,475	89	88

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: 2013 and 2014

State	During November 2013 (1,000 head)	During October 2014 (1,000 head)	During November 2014		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	3	5	500	167
California	2	8	4	200	50
Colorado	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	2	2	2	100	100
Kansas	20	30	15	75	50
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	15	20	15	100	75
Oklahoma	2	2	2	100	100
South Dakota	2	1	4	200	400
Texas	15	20	15	100	75
Washington	1	2	2	200	100
Other States	1	2	3	300	150
United States	68	97	74	109	76

Terms and Definitions of Cattle on Feed Estimates

Cattle on feed are animals 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 cattle 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 cattle 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.

Reliability of Cattle on Feed Estimates

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 each State office. 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 10.9 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.2 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 9,000 head, ranging from 0 to 34,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 8 times 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	0.2	9	0	34	6	8
Placements	1.6	2.7	15	0	88	2	13
Marketings	1.4	2.3	15	0	67	0	12

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.

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Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
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Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
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Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Evan Schulz – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-6147

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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.

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USDA 2015 Agricultural Outlook Forum

Smart Agriculture in the 21st Century

Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel

Arlington, VA

Feb. 19-20, 2015

SAVE the Date!

The USDA Outlook Forum, first held in 1923, brings together renowned speakers including farmers, ranchers, economists, academics, statisticians, consultants, industry leaders, and government policymakers. The Secretary of Agriculture will present the keynote address, followed by a distinguished guest speaker. The economic outlook for the coming year will be presented by the USDA Chief Economist. In addition, a plenary panel of industry leaders will discuss an important topic relevant to agriculture.

- **February 19** includes a morning plenary, a networking luncheon, five concurrent afternoon sessions, and a dinner speaker.
- **February 20** includes a day of 5 concurrent sessions and luncheon speakers.

Session Topics are expected to include:

- Perspectives on Global & U.S. Trade
- Tomorrow's Opportunities
- Big Data
- Commodity Situation and Outlook
- Food Price & Farm Income Outlook
- Conservation & Regulation
- Water Issues
- Weather, Drought & Big Data
- Climate Change
- Moving Feed, Food & Fuel to Market
- 100-Year Anniversary of USDA Market News
- Nutrition & New Opportunities for Producers
- Regional Approaches to Rural Growth
- Bio-Economy
- Antimicrobial Resistance
- Agriculture & Bees
- Local Foods
- Food Waste

Register in November at: www.usda.gov/oc/forum