



Cattle on Feed

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Special Note

The 2013 monthly data for cattle on feed, inventory, placements, placement weights, and quarterly class breakouts are now available on Quick Stats. Please contact the Livestock Branch at (202) 720-3570 or email at hq_sd_lb@nass.usda.gov with any questions or concerns.

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 10.7 million head on January 1, 2015. The inventory was 1 percent above January 1, 2014. The inventory included 6.94 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 65 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.67 million head, down 2 percent from 2014.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.54 million, 8 percent below 2013. Net placements were 1.47 million head. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 435,000, 600-699 pounds were 375,000, 700-799 pounds were 339,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 395,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.66 million, 5 percent below 2013.

Other disappearance totaled 72,000 during December, 6 percent below 2013.

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2014 and 2015

[December preceeding year.]

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed December 1	10,724	10,873	101
Placed on feed during December	1,679	1,544	92
Fed cattle marketed during December	1,736	1,655	95
Other disappearance during December	77	72	94
On feed January 1	10,590	10,690	101

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	1,789	96
Fed cattle marketed during November	1,660	1,475	89
Other disappearance during November	68	74	109
On feed December 1	10,724	10,873	101

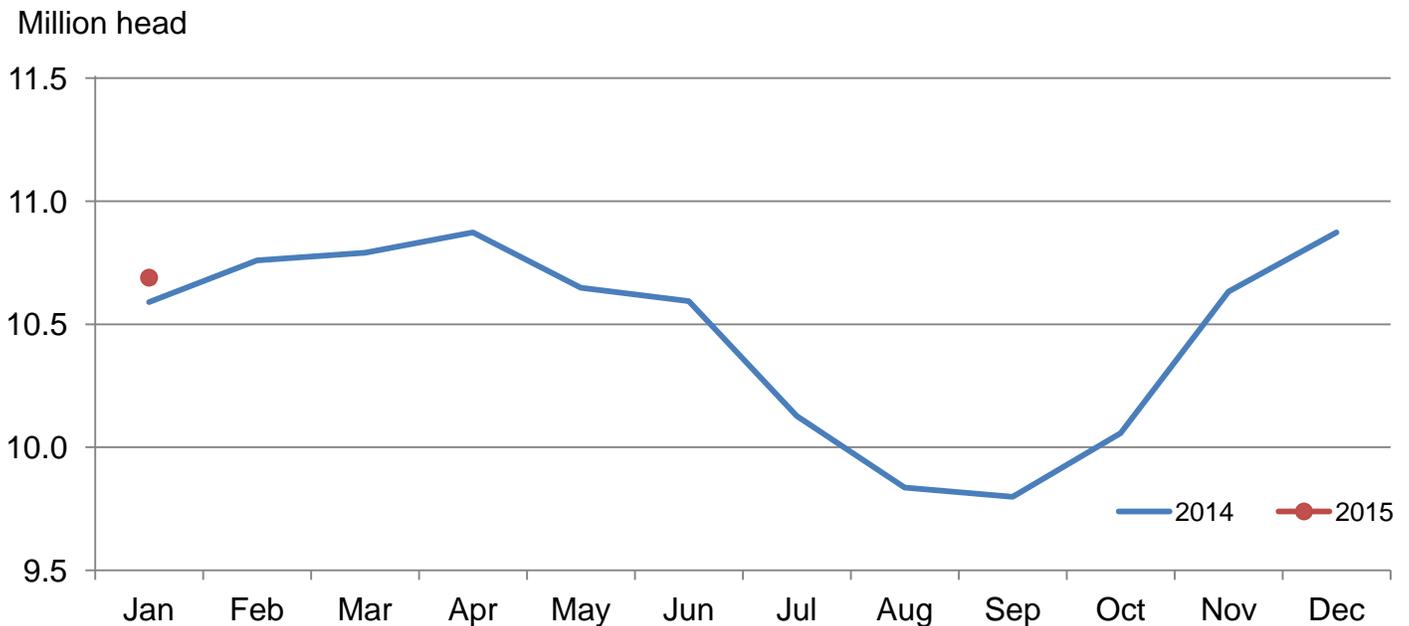
Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2014 and 2015

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2014	2015	
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)
Class on Feed January 1			
Steers and Steer Calves	6,780	6,935	102
Heifers and Heifer Calves	3,730	3,671	98
Cows and Bulls	80	84	105

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	January 1, 2014	December 1, 2014	January 1, 2015		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	274	252	249	91	99
California	510	435	425	83	98
Colorado	940	930	920	98	99
Idaho	220	225	230	105	102
Iowa	620	620	640	103	103
Kansas	2,010	2,100	2,050	102	98
Minnesota	130	135	137	105	101
Nebraska	2,400	2,550	2,490	104	98
Oklahoma	260	260	255	98	98
South Dakota	250	245	245	98	100
Texas	2,440	2,560	2,500	102	98
Washington	201	226	209	104	92
Other States	335	335	340	101	101
United States	10,590	10,873	10,690	101	98

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

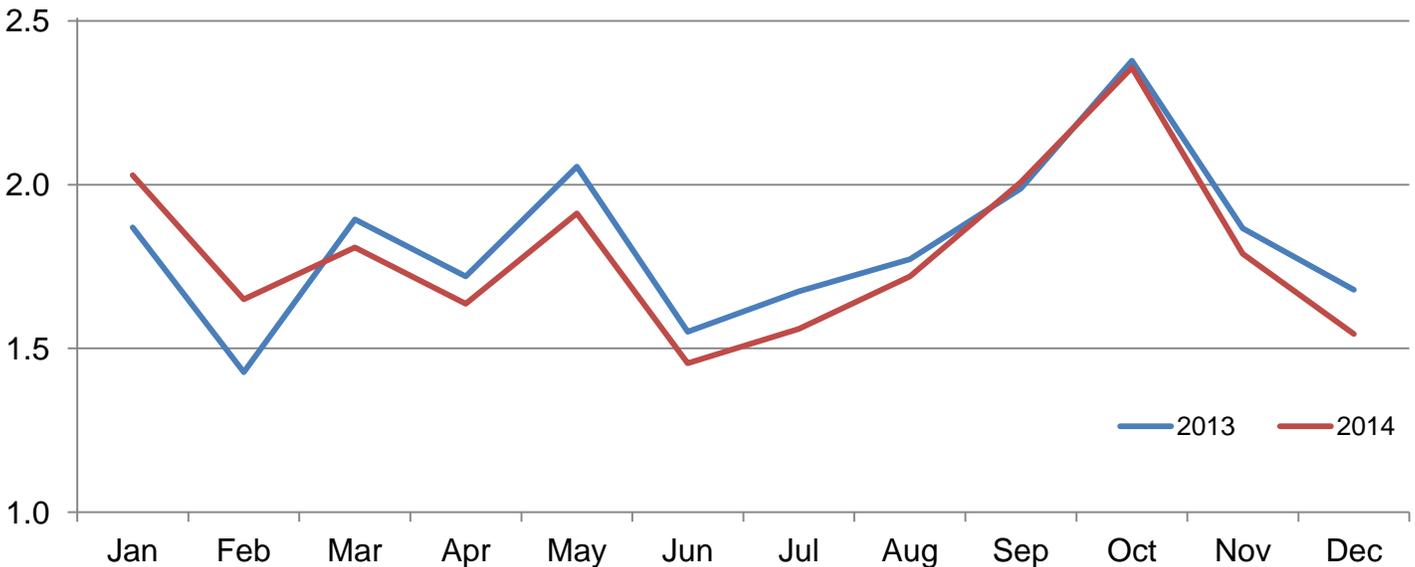


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 and 2014

State	During December 2013 (1,000 head)	During November 2014 (1,000 head)	During December 2014		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	28	26	26	93	100
California	59	62	51	86	82
Colorado	150	155	130	87	84
Idaho	32	38	40	125	105
Iowa	96	127	101	105	80
Kansas	360	320	330	92	103
Minnesota	20	15	16	80	107
Nebraska	405	485	395	98	81
Oklahoma	43	45	36	84	80
South Dakota	43	53	32	74	60
Texas	370	385	325	88	84
Washington	34	39	28	82	72
Other States	39	39	34	87	87
United States	1,679	1,789	1,544	92	86

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 December									
	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	40	35	40	35	35	25	35	35	150	130
Kansas	70	60	90	75	110	100	90	95	360	330
Nebraska	80	65	100	100	95	90	130	140	405	395
Texas	160	145	90	75	75	65	45	40	370	325
Other States	125	130	105	90	79	59	85	85	394	364
United States	475	435	425	375	394	339	385	395	1,679	1,544

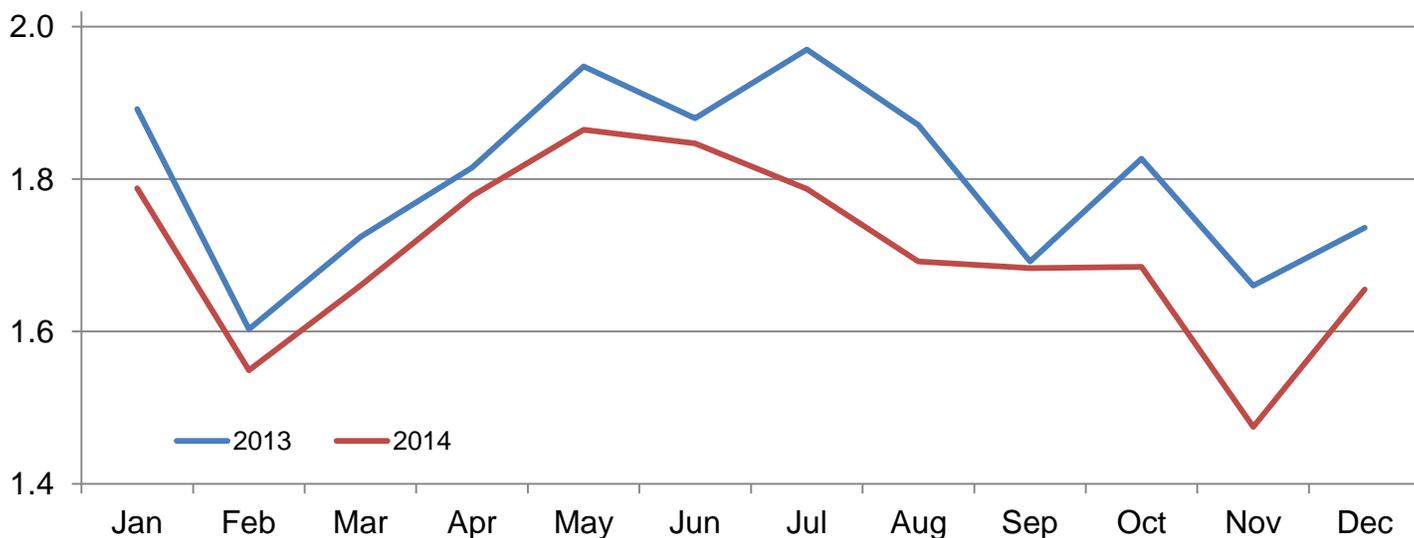
State	During November									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	50	45	50	40	30	30	35	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	74	110	100	457	444
United States	580	550	510	440	352	364	425	435	1,867	1,789

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

State	During December 2013	During November 2014	During December 2014		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	28	19	26	93	137
California	52	43	54	104	126
Colorado	150	120	135	90	113
Idaho	36	32	34	94	106
Iowa	84	95	80	95	84
Kansas	385	285	370	96	130
Minnesota	11	11	13	118	118
Nebraska	420	370	440	105	119
Oklahoma	45	43	39	87	91
South Dakota	30	34	30	100	88
Texas	420	360	365	87	101
Washington	37	37	42	114	114
Other States	38	26	27	71	104
United States	1,736	1,475	1,655	95	112

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 December 2013 (1,000 head)	During November 2014 (1,000 head)	During December 2014		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	5	3	300	60
California	2	4	7	350	175
Colorado	10	5	5	50	100
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	2	2	1	50	50
Kansas	15	15	10	67	67
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	15	15	15	100	100
Oklahoma	3	2	2	67	100
South Dakota	3	4	2	67	50
Texas	20	15	20	100	133
Washington	3	2	3	100	150
Other States	1	3	2	200	67
United States	77	74	72	94	97

Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves			Cows and bulls		
	Jan 1, 2014	Oct 1, 2014	Jan 1, 2015	Jan 1, 2014	Oct 1, 2014	Jan 1, 2015	Jan 1, 2014	Oct 1, 2014	Jan 1, 2015
	(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)
Arizona	268	249	246	6	3	3	0	0	0
California	470	365	395	40	50	30	0	0	0
Colorado	605	530	585	330	305	320	5	5	15
Idaho	125	112	137	91	88	92	4	5	1
Iowa	425	430	490	195	130	150	0	0	0
Kansas	1,060	1,050	1,100	945	955	945	5	5	5
Minnesota	107	96	108	22	17	28	1	1	1
Nebraska	1,545	1,450	1,615	820	765	840	35	25	35
Oklahoma	170	165	170	90	80	85	0	0	0
South Dakota	135	104	139	90	78	82	25	8	24
Texas	1,510	1,590	1,600	929	879	899	1	1	1
Washington	120	119	120	77	92	87	4	1	2
Other States	240	200	230	95	105	110	0	0	0
United States	6,780	6,460	6,935	3,730	3,547	3,671	80	51	84

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 10.7 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.3 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 41,000 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	0.3	9	0	41	6	8
Placements	1.7	2.9	16	0	88	2	13
Marketings	1.3	2.3	14	0	67	0	11

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.

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
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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United States Department of Agriculture

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Phil Hogan
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Food, Foreign Policy & International Order



Dr. Richard N. Haass
President, Council on
Foreign Relations

Dinner Speaker



Ambassador Darci Vetter
Chief Agricultural Negotiator
Office of the United States
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Plenary Panel A Discussion on Innovation, Biotechnology, and Big Data



Cory J. Reed
John Deere & Company



Dr. Robert F. Fraley
Monsanto



Mary Kay Thatcher
American Farm Bureau
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Dr. Robert Sutor
IBM Corporation

Deputy Secretary Harden Moderates Session: Tomorrow's Opportunities & Hosts Women's Networking Event

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