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## United States Cattle on Feed Up 8 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 11.5 million head on January 1, 2018. The inventory was 8 percent above January 1, 2017. The inventory included 7.34 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.15 million head, up 16 percent from 2017.

**Placements** in feedlots during December totaled 1.80 million head, 1 percent above 2016. Net placements were 1.73 million head. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 470,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 410,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 445,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 279,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 100,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 95,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during December totaled 1.75 million head, 1 percent below 2016.

**Other disappearance** totaled 74,000 head during December, 35 percent above 2016.

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

[December preceding year]

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2017	2018	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed December 1 .....	10,652	11,516	108
Placed on feed during December .....	1,785	1,799	101
Fed cattle marketed during December .....	1,777	1,752	99
Other disappearance during December .....	55	74	135
On feed January 1 .....	10,605	11,489	108

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

(X) Not applicable.

**Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: December 1, 2016 and 2017**

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed November 1 .....	10,665	11,332	106
Placed on feed during November .....	1,843	2,099	114
Fed cattle marketed during November .....	1,787	1,844	103
Other disappearance during November .....	69	71	103
On feed December 1 .....	10,652	11,516	108

**Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: January 1, 2017 and 2018**

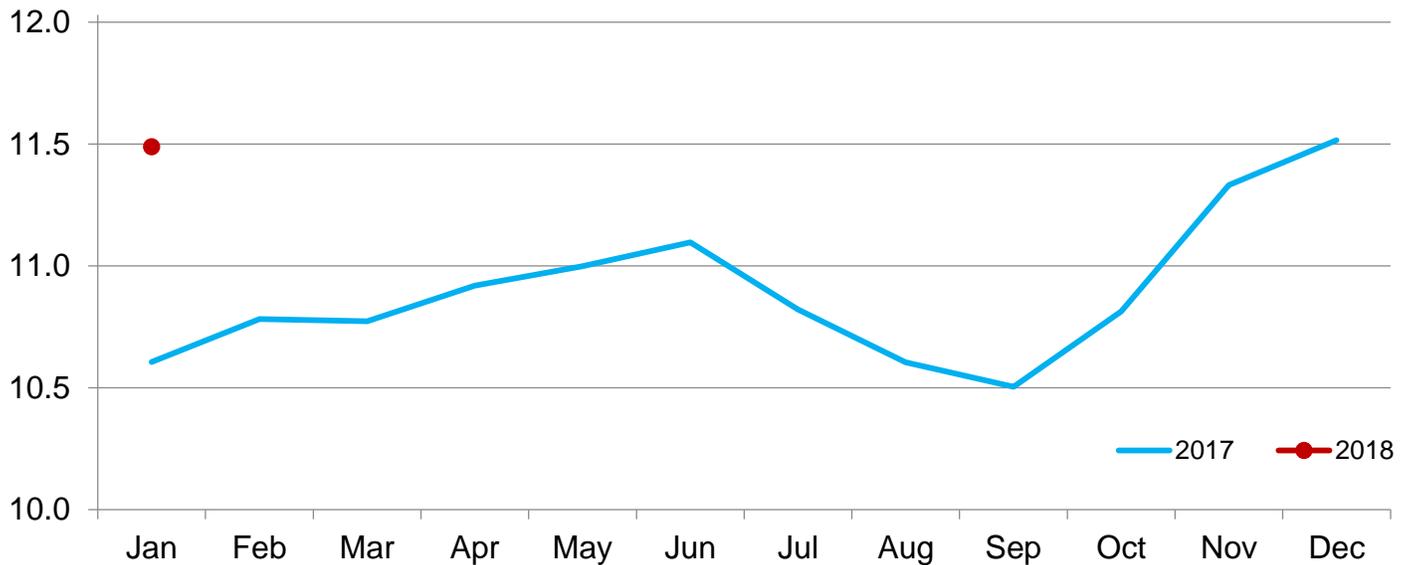
Item	Number		Percent of	
	2017	2018	previous year	inventory
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed January 1				
Steers and steer calves .....	7,022	7,335	104	64
Heifers and heifer calves .....	3,583	4,154	116	36

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

State	January 1, 2017	December 1, 2017	January 1, 2018		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	250	261	269	108	103
California .....	430	470	490	114	104
Colorado .....	900	990	970	108	98
Idaho .....	260	260	255	98	98
Iowa .....	600	700	700	117	100
Kansas .....	2,170	2,310	2,290	106	99
Minnesota .....	150	155	160	107	103
Nebraska .....	2,370	2,590	2,610	110	101
Oklahoma .....	300	315	315	105	100
South Dakota .....	230	260	250	109	96
Texas .....	2,420	2,660	2,640	109	99
Washington .....	185	215	210	114	98
Other States .....	340	330	330	97	100
United States .....	10,605	11,516	11,489	108	100

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

Million head

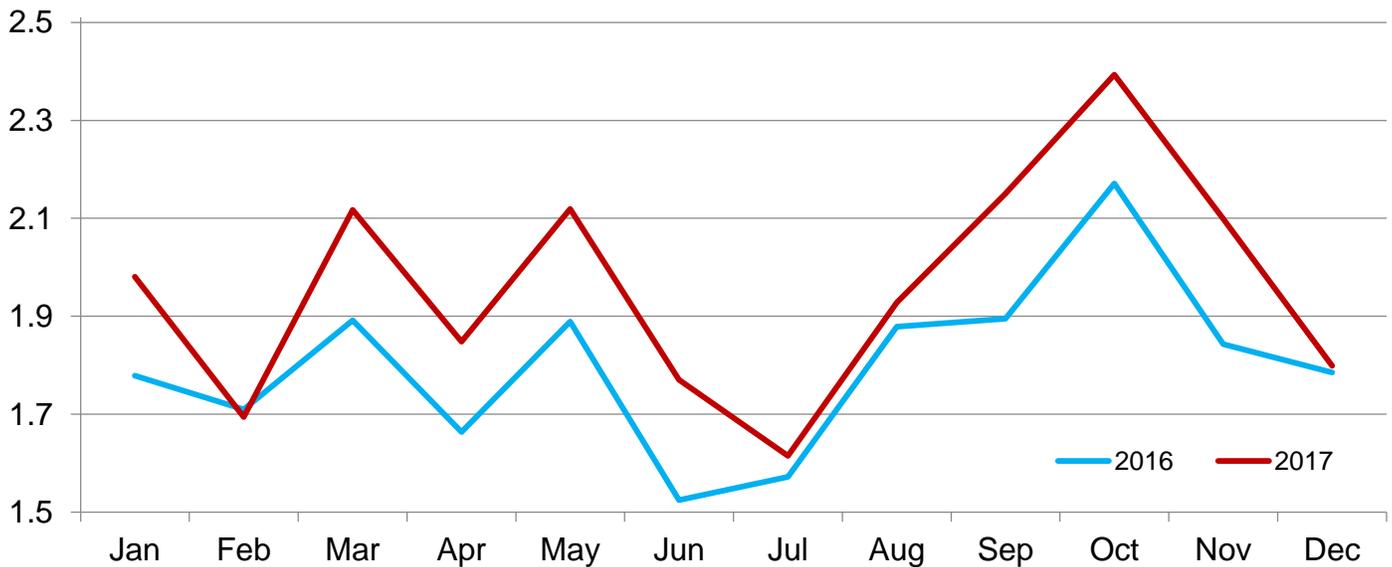


**Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 and 2017**

State	During December 2016 (1,000 head)	During November 2017 (1,000 head)	During December 2017		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	30	34	29	97	85
California .....	65	71	83	128	117
Colorado .....	130	150	120	92	80
Idaho .....	38	48	35	92	73
Iowa .....	104	122	100	96	82
Kansas .....	395	420	400	101	95
Minnesota .....	19	26	21	111	81
Nebraska .....	450	545	460	102	84
Oklahoma .....	54	60	54	100	90
South Dakota .....	38	54	32	84	59
Texas .....	365	480	385	105	80
Washington .....	32	43	27	84	63
Other States .....	65	46	53	82	115
United States .....	1,785	2,099	1,799	101	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: 2016 and 2017**

State	During December 2016							
	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 .....	30	30	30	25	15	(D)	(D)	130
Kansas .....	60	95	130	75	35	(D)	(D)	395
Nebraska .....	60	110	120	100	60	(D)	(D)	450
Texas .....	135	90	90	40	10	(D)	(D)	365
Other States ...	150	115	80	60	40	(D)	(D)	445
United States ..	435	440	450	300	(X)	100	60	1,785
State	During November 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 .....	45	40	30	20	15	(D)	(D)	150
Kansas .....	70	105	125	80	40	(D)	(D)	420
Nebraska .....	115	150	100	90	90	(D)	(D)	545
Texas .....	180	130	110	45	15	(D)	(D)	480
Other States ...	200	120	90	59	35	(D)	(D)	504
United States ..	610	545	455	294	(X)	75	120	2,099
State	During December 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 .....	30	30	25	20	15	(D)	(D)	120
Kansas .....	55	95	135	75	40	(D)	(D)	400
Nebraska .....	55	105	120	95	85	(D)	(D)	460
Texas .....	165	85	85	35	15	(D)	(D)	385
Other States ...	165	95	80	54	40	(D)	(D)	434
United States ..	470	410	445	279	(X)	100	95	1,799

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

(X) Not applicable.

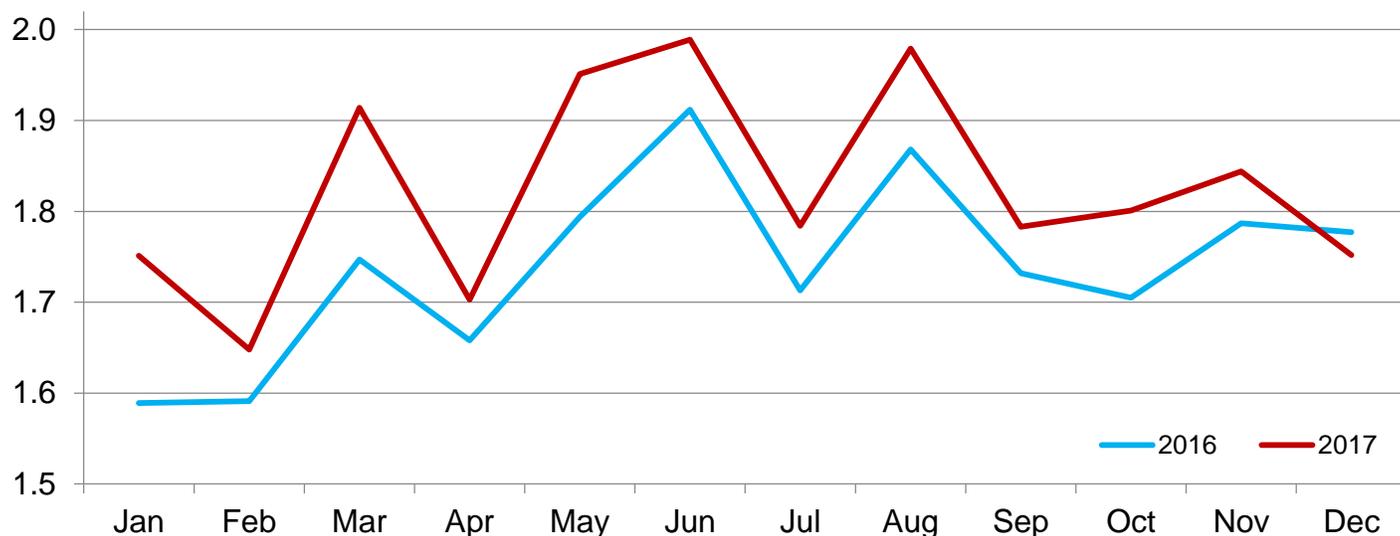
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

**Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 and 2017**

State	During December 2016	During November 2017	During December 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	30	24	20	67	83
California .....	52	38	60	115	158
Colorado .....	135	135	135	100	100
Idaho .....	36	41	38	106	93
Iowa .....	102	110	98	96	89
Kansas .....	430	380	405	94	107
Minnesota .....	14	20	15	107	75
Nebraska .....	440	460	425	97	92
Oklahoma .....	43	63	52	121	83
South Dakota .....	46	53	39	85	74
Texas .....	365	445	385	105	87
Washington .....	41	36	30	73	83
Other States .....	43	39	50	116	128
United States .....	1,777	1,844	1,752	99	95

## 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: 2016 and 2017

State	During December 2016 (1,000 head)	During November 2017 (1,000 head)	During December 2017		
			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 .....	2	2	2	100	100
Iowa .....	2	2	2	100	100
Kansas .....	15	20	15	100	75
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	10	15	15	150	100
Oklahoma .....	1	2	2	200	100
South Dakota .....	2	1	3	150	300
Texas .....	10	15	20	200	133
Washington .....	1	2	2	200	100
Other States .....	2	2	3	150	150
United States .....	55	71	74	135	104

**Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States: 2017 and 2018**

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Jan 1, 2017	Oct 1, 2017	Jan 1, 2018	Jan 1, 2017	Oct 1, 2017	Jan 1, 2018
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona .....	242	241	258	8	7	11
California .....	400	400	440	30	30	50
Colorado .....	570	560	565	330	380	405
Idaho .....	180	165	175	80	80	80
Iowa .....	460	480	530	140	170	170
Kansas .....	1,170	1,160	1,190	1,000	1,090	1,100
Minnesota .....	125	98	127	25	22	33
Nebraska .....	1,510	1,490	1,640	860	800	970
Oklahoma .....	190	185	185	110	135	130
South Dakota .....	135	135	145	95	85	105
Texas .....	1,710	1,700	1,730	710	900	910
Washington .....	115	130	140	70	70	70
Other States .....	215	190	210	125	110	120
United States .....	7,022	6,934	7,335	3,583	3,879	4,154

## 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 11.5 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 3 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	3	1
Placements .....	0.2	0.4	2	0	15	3	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
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
Vacant – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-8784

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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](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

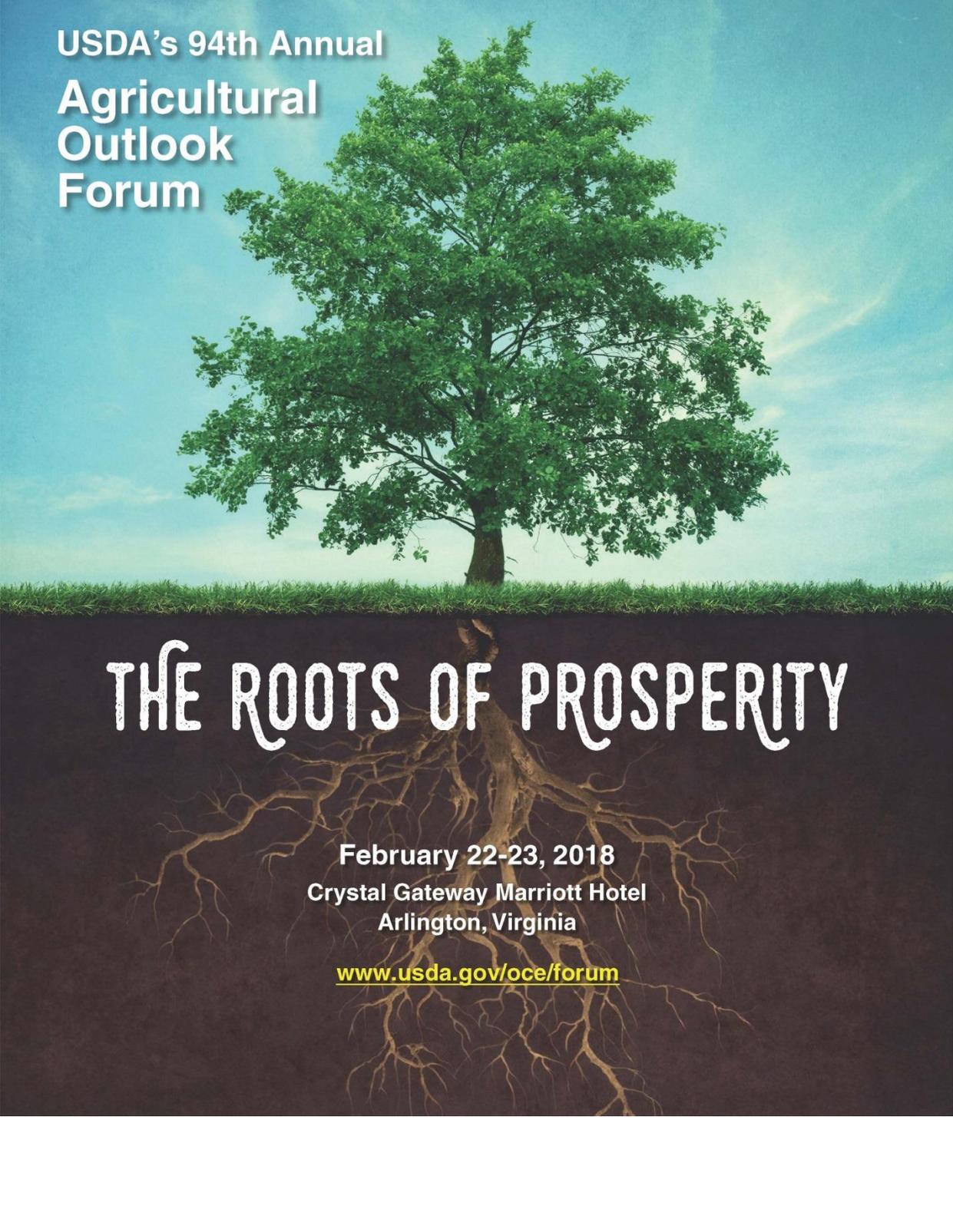
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United States Department of Agriculture

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