



# Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

---

Released August 23, 2019, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## United States Cattle on Feed Up Slightly

**Cattle and calves on feed** for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.1 million head on August 1, 2019. The inventory was slightly above August 1, 2018. This is the highest August 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

**Placements** in feedlots during July totaled 1.71 million head, 2 percent below 2018. Net placements were 1.63 million head. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 360,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 260,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 410,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 385,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 200,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 90,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during July totaled 2.00 million head, 7 percent above 2018.

**Other disappearance** totaled 71,000 head during July, 13 percent above 2018.

**Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: August 1, 2018 and 2019**

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2018	2019	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed July 1 .....	11,287	11,480	102
Placed on feed during July .....	1,742	1,705	98
Fed cattle marketed during July .....	1,873	2,002	107
Other disappearance during July .....	63	71	113
On feed August 1 .....	11,093	11,112	100

**Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: July 1, 2018 and 2019**

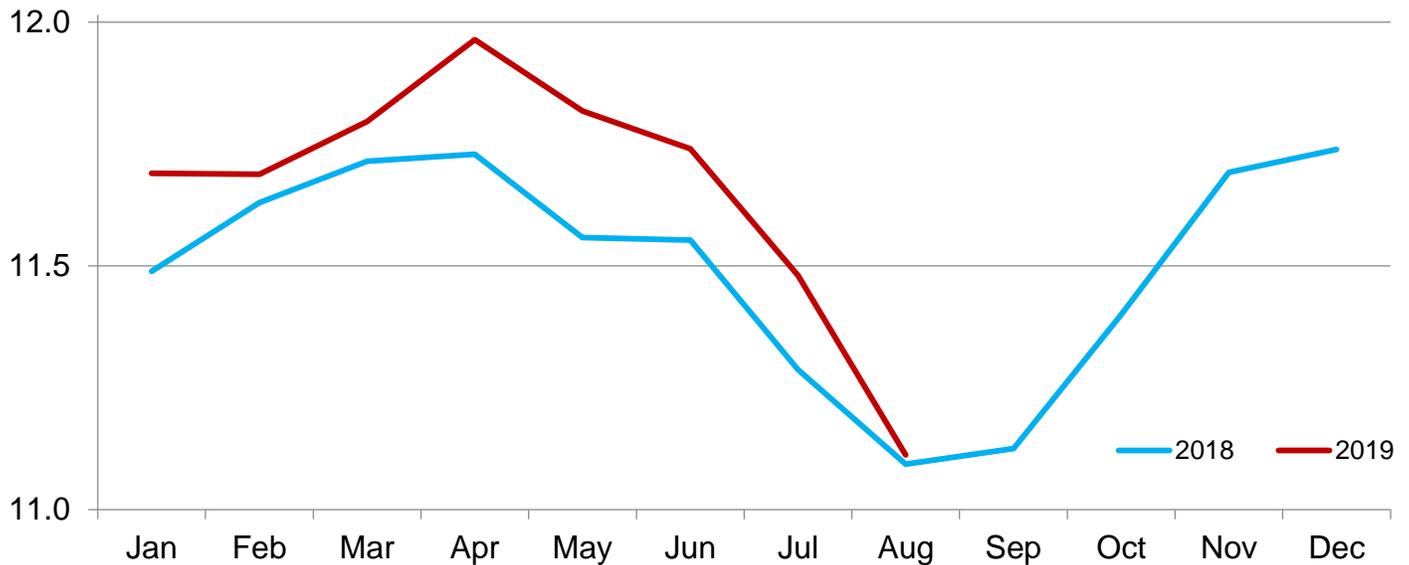
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2018	2019	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed June 1 .....	11,553	11,740	102
Placed on feed during June .....	1,798	1,749	97
Fed cattle marketed during June .....	2,006	1,943	97
Other disappearance during June .....	58	66	114
On feed July 1 .....	11,287	11,480	102

**Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2018 and 2019**

State	August 1, 2018	July 1, 2019	August 1, 2019		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	298	295	272	91	92
California .....	525	535	535	102	100
Colorado .....	890	1,030	970	109	94
Idaho .....	245	290	280	114	97
Iowa .....	700	650	630	90	97
Kansas .....	2,230	2,360	2,340	105	99
Minnesota .....	130	125	110	85	88
Nebraska .....	2,330	2,300	2,190	94	95
Oklahoma .....	315	320	315	100	98
South Dakota .....	200	210	195	98	93
Texas .....	2,720	2,840	2,760	101	97
Washington .....	220	235	225	102	96
Other States .....	290	290	290	100	100
United States .....	11,093	11,480	11,112	100	97

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

Million head

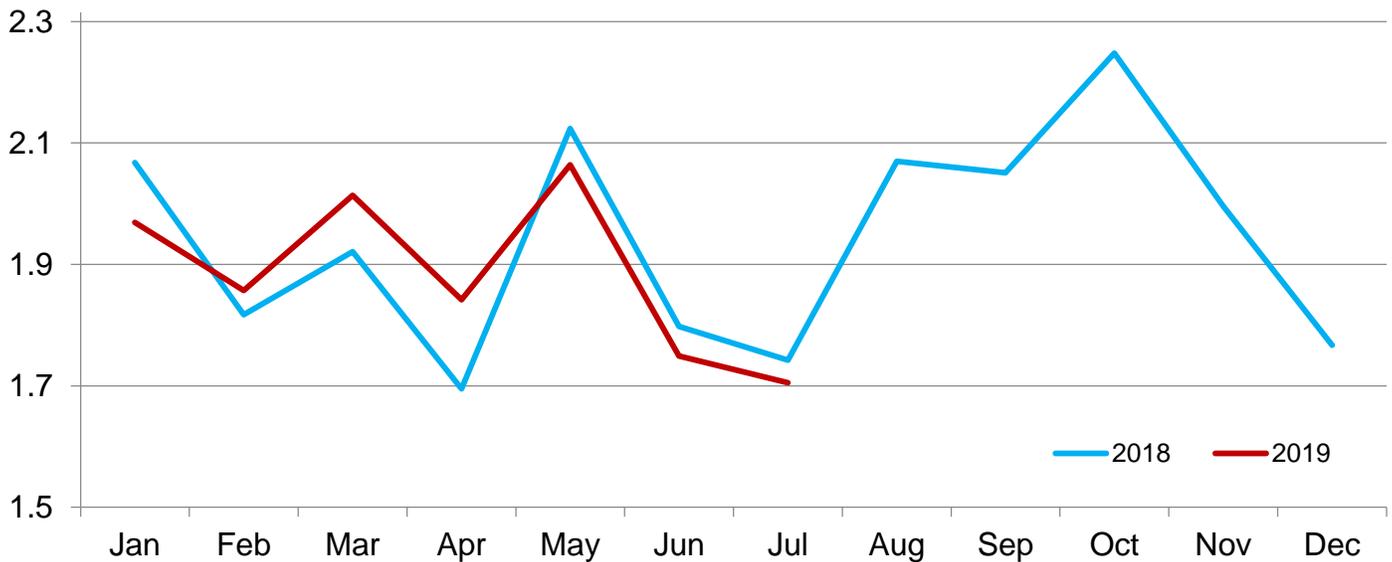


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2018 and 2019**

State	During July 2018 (1,000 head)	During June 2019 (1,000 head)	During July 2019		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	23	14	17	74	121
California .....	52	61	63	121	103
Colorado .....	140	135	130	93	96
Idaho .....	44	42	38	86	90
Iowa .....	66	65	61	92	94
Kansas .....	465	430	450	97	105
Minnesota .....	17	14	11	65	79
Nebraska .....	400	415	400	100	96
Oklahoma .....	45	62	45	100	73
South Dakota .....	26	31	23	88	74
Texas .....	385	400	380	99	95
Washington .....	31	32	32	103	100
Other States .....	48	48	55	115	115
United States .....	1,742	1,749	1,705	98	97

**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: 2018 and 2019**

State	During July 2018							
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800-899 lbs (1,000 head)	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup> (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado .....	30	20	30	30	30	(D)	(D)	140
Kansas .....	60	95	155	105	50	(D)	(D)	465
Nebraska .....	45	45	90	120	100	(D)	(D)	400
Texas .....	165	95	70	40	15	(D)	(D)	385
Other States ...	110	35	70	72	65	(D)	(D)	352
United States ..	410	290	415	367	(X)	175	85	1,742
State	During June 2019							
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800-899 lbs (1,000 head)	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup> (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado .....	25	20	30	30	30	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas .....	60	80	130	105	55	(D)	(D)	430
Nebraska .....	40	55	80	115	125	(D)	(D)	415
Texas .....	160	90	80	50	20	(D)	(D)	400
Other States ...	100	50	69	85	65	(D)	(D)	369
United States ..	385	295	389	385	(X)	185	110	1,749
State	During July 2019							
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800-899 lbs (1,000 head)	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup> (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado .....	25	20	30	25	30	(D)	(D)	130
Kansas .....	50	75	145	115	65	(D)	(D)	450
Nebraska .....	35	35	95	125	110	(D)	(D)	400
Texas .....	155	95	70	45	15	(D)	(D)	380
Other States ...	95	35	70	75	70	(D)	(D)	345
United States ..	360	260	410	385	(X)	200	90	1,705

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

(X) Not applicable.

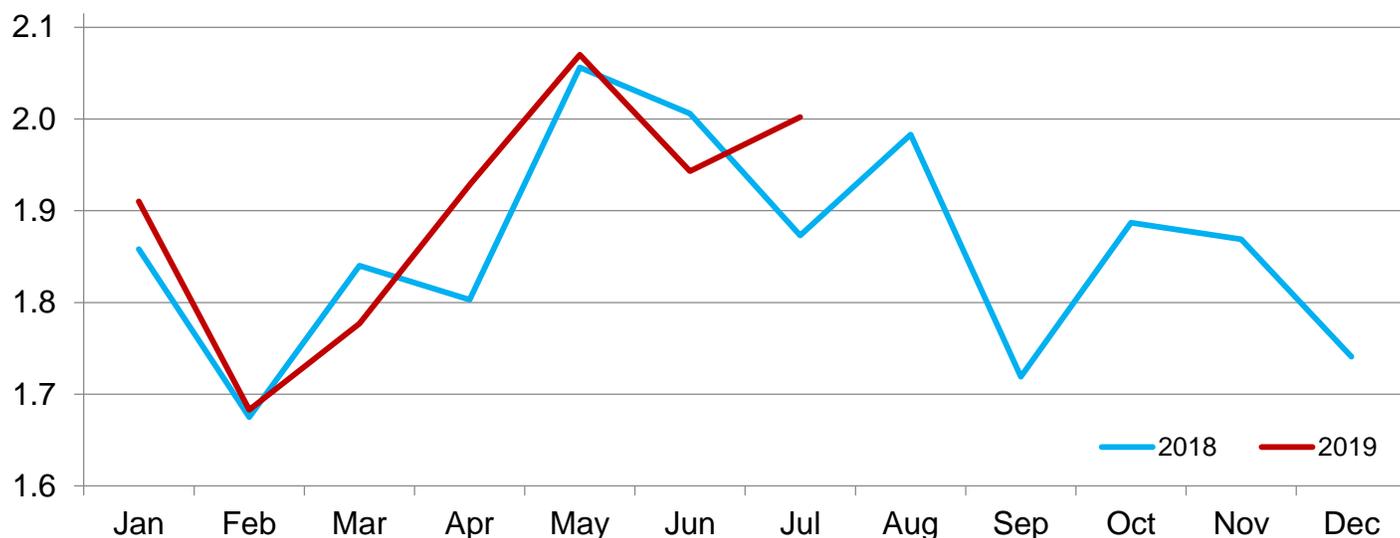
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

**Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2018 and 2019**

State	During July 2018 (1,000 head)	During June 2019 (1,000 head)	During July 2019		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
			Arizona .....	21	28
California .....	53	57	59	111	104
Colorado .....	170	160	185	109	116
Idaho .....	38	36	46	121	128
Iowa .....	74	72	77	104	107
Kansas .....	465	440	455	98	103
Minnesota .....	21	18	25	119	139
Nebraska .....	460	520	490	107	94
Oklahoma .....	43	56	49	114	88
South Dakota .....	37	48	37	100	77
Texas .....	390	420	445	114	106
Washington .....	40	36	41	103	114
Other States .....	61	52	54	89	104
United States .....	1,873	1,943	2,002	107	103

## 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: 2018 and 2019

State	During July 2018 (1,000 head)	During June 2019 (1,000 head)	During July 2019		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	4	4	4	100	100
Colorado .....	10	5	5	50	100
Idaho .....	1	1	2	200	200
Iowa .....	2	3	4	200	133
Kansas .....	10	10	15	150	150
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	10	25	20	200	80
Oklahoma .....	2	1	1	50	100
South Dakota .....	4	3	1	25	33
Texas .....	15	10	15	100	150
Washington .....	1	1	1	100	100
Other States .....	2	1	1	50	100
United States .....	63	66	71	113	108

## 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 11.1 million head by more than 0.0 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.0 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 1,000 head, ranging from 0 to 10,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 1 times and has been below the latest estimate 2 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	0.0	1	0	10	2	1
Placements .....	0.1	0.3	1	0	10	2	1
Marketings .....	0.0	0.0	0	0	2	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@usda.gov](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section .....	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 690-8632
Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-0585
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products .....	(202) 720-4448
Heidi Lanouette – 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

## Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov)
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://www.nass.usda.gov) and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- 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](mailto: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@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass@nass.usda.gov).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (PDF), found online at [www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

# USDA Data Users' Meeting



## **USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting** **Tuesday, October 15, 2019**

American Farm Bureau Federation  
600 Maryland Ave SW #1000w  
Washington, DC 20024

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 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 and additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website ([https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education\\_and\\_Outreach/Meeting/index.php](https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php)). Contact Vernita Murray (NASS) at 202-690-8141 or [vernita.murray@nass.usda.gov](mailto:vernita.murray@nass.usda.gov) or Patricia Snipe (NASS) at 202-720-2248 or [patricia.snipe@nass.usda.gov](mailto:patricia.snipe@nass.usda.gov) for information.