



Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

Released July 24, 2015, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

United States Cattle on Feed Up 2 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 10.2 million head on July 1, 2015. The inventory was 2 percent above July 1, 2014. The inventory included 6.91 million steers and steer calves, up 7 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 67 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.33 million head, down 7 percent from 2014. July 1, 2015 heifers and heifer calves inventory is the lowest percent of total July inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.48 million, 1 percent above 2014. Net placements were 1.41 million head. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 350,000, 600-699 pounds were 250,000, 700-799 pounds were 336,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 545,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 1.75 million, 5 percent below 2014. Marketings are the lowest for June since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 69,000 during June, 8 percent below 2014.

United States All Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for all feedlots totaled 12.1 million head on July 1, 2015. The inventory was up 2 percent from the July 1, 2014 total of 11.9 million head. Cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head accounted for 85 percent of the total cattle on feed on July 1, 2015, up slightly from the previous year.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed June 1	10,497	10,571	101
Placed on feed during June	1,468	1,481	101
Fed cattle marketed during June	1,847	1,747	95
Other disappearance during June	75	69	92
On feed July 1	10,043	10,236	102

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed May 1	10,554	10,640	101
Placed on feed during May	1,909	1,719	90
Fed cattle marketed during May	1,865	1,711	92
Other disappearance during May	101	77	76
On feed June 1	10,497	10,571	101

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2014	2015	
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)
Class on feed July 1			
Steers and steer calves	6,448	6,909	107
Heifers and heifer calves	3,595	3,327	93

Total Number on Feed – United States: July 1, 2014 and 2015

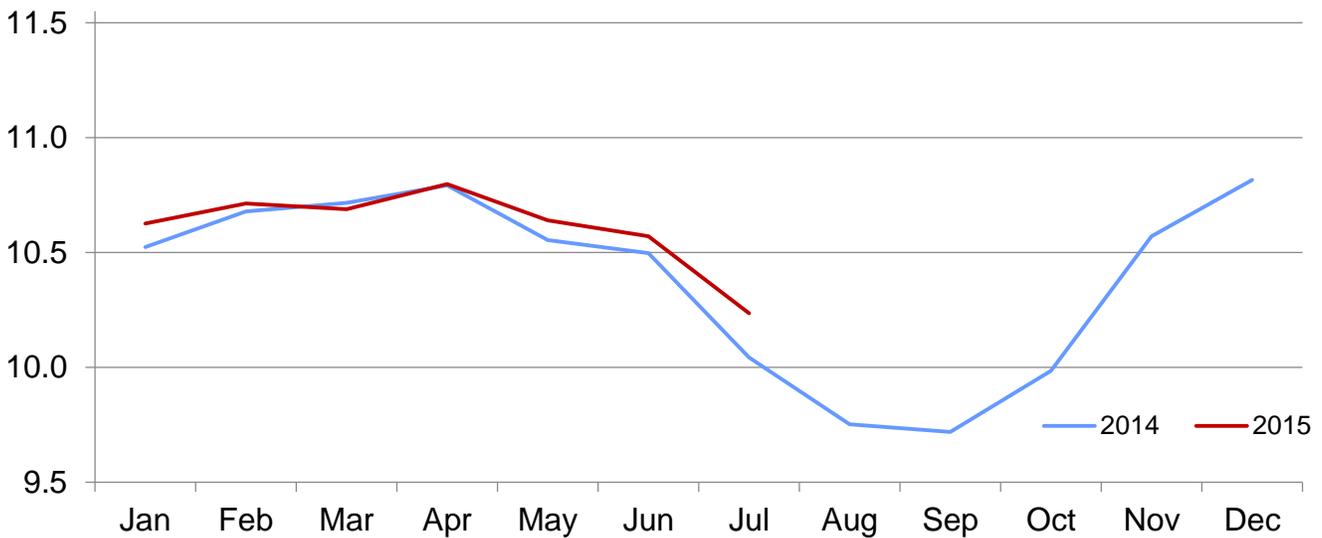
State	Number		Percent of 2014
	2014	2015	
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)
United States	11,900	12,100	102

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

State	July 1, 2014	June 1, 2015	July 1, 2015		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	272	238	240	88	101
California	435	460	460	106	100
Colorado	850	890	830	98	93
Idaho	180	235	225	125	96
Iowa	620	650	640	103	98
Kansas	1,900	2,020	1,940	102	96
Minnesota	121	143	141	117	99
Nebraska	2,240	2,400	2,280	102	95
Oklahoma	255	275	260	102	95
South Dakota	195	230	230	118	100
Texas	2,490	2,500	2,480	100	99
Washington	175	230	215	123	93
Other States	310	300	295	95	98
United States	10,043	10,571	10,236	102	97

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

Million head

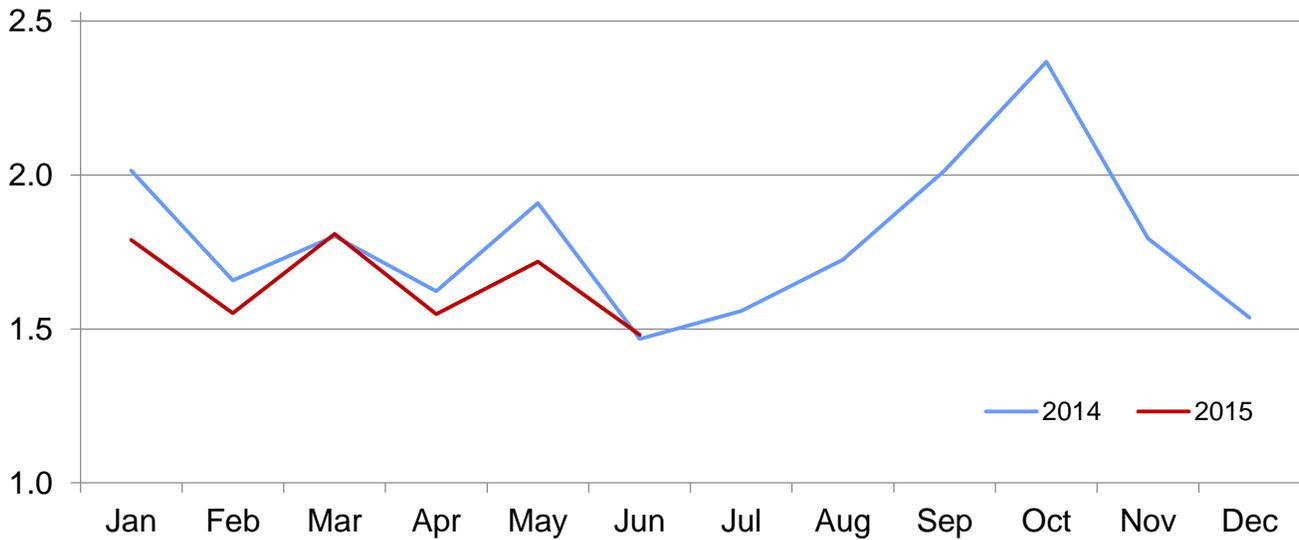


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During June 2014	During May 2015	During June 2015		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	20	25	28	140	112
California	45	54	45	100	83
Colorado	95	140	80	84	57
Idaho	26	30	31	119	103
Iowa	54	65	67	124	103
Kansas	315	345	335	106	97
Minnesota	15	14	17	113	121
Nebraska	385	390	375	97	96
Oklahoma	37	49	38	103	78
South Dakota	31	29	28	90	97
Texas	370	495	375	101	76
Washington	40	45	30	75	67
Other States	35	38	32	91	84
United States	1,468	1,719	1,481	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: 2014 and 2015

State	During June									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	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)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	30	20	15	15	20	15	30	30	95	80
Kansas	65	60	60	65	80	95	110	115	315	335
Nebraska	55	50	50	50	90	75	190	200	385	375
Texas	155	125	75	80	85	95	55	75	370	375
Other States	100	95	45	40	53	56	105	125	303	316
United States	405	350	245	250	328	336	490	545	1,468	1,481

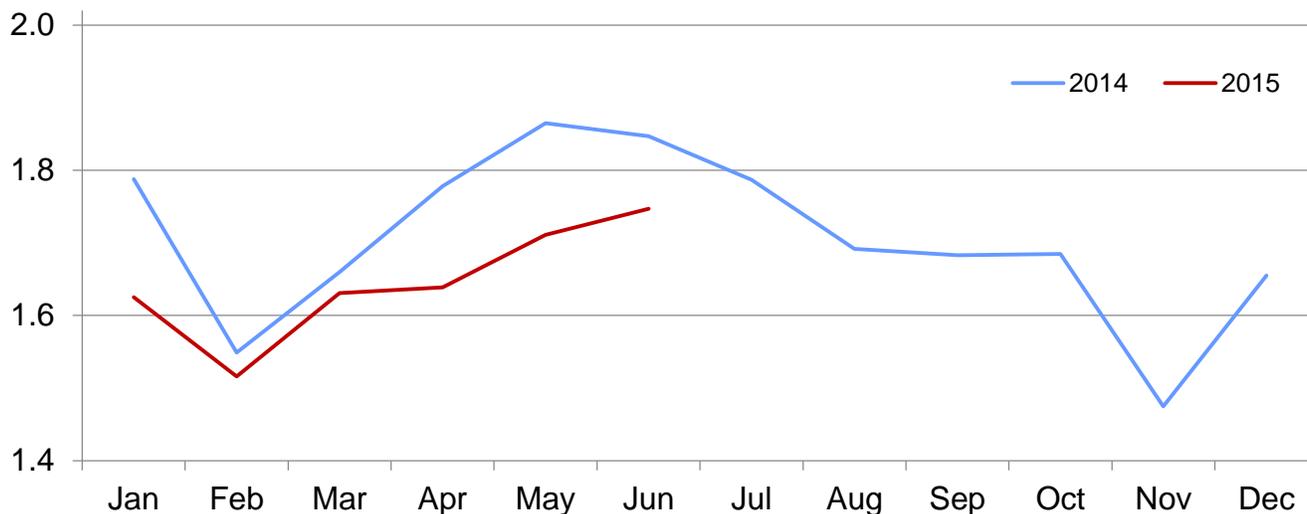
State	During May									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	35	30	20	20	35	35	50	55	140	140
Kansas	80	50	75	55	120	90	160	150	435	345
Nebraska	55	45	55	55	95	75	220	215	425	390
Texas	180	145	100	90	160	125	140	135	580	495
Other States	85	90	40	40	64	64	140	155	329	349
United States	435	360	290	260	474	389	710	710	1,909	1,719

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

State	During June 2014 (1,000 head)	During May 2015 (1,000 head)	During June 2015		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	22	26	25	114	96
California	40	39	40	100	103
Colorado	150	130	125	83	96
Idaho	39	29	40	103	138
Iowa	70	74	76	109	103
Kansas	420	375	400	95	107
Minnesota	15	15	18	120	120
Nebraska	500	470	480	96	102
Oklahoma	46	42	52	113	124
South Dakota	45	37	26	58	70
Texas	420	395	385	92	97
Washington	44	44	44	100	100
Other States	36	35	36	100	103
United States	1,847	1,711	1,747	95	102

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: 2014 and 2015

State	During June 2014 (1,000 head)	During May 2015 (1,000 head)	During June 2015		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	5	5	5	100	100
Colorado	5	20	15	300	75
Idaho	2	1	1	50	100
Iowa	4	1	1	25	100
Kansas	15	10	15	100	150
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	25	20	15	60	75
Oklahoma	1	2	1	100	50
South Dakota	1	2	2	200	100
Texas	10	10	10	100	100
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	4	3	1	25	33
United States	75	77	69	92	90

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		
	Jul 1, 2014	Apr 1, 2015	Jul 1, 2015	Jul 1, 2014	Apr 1, 2015	Jul 1, 2015
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona	268	237	236	4	4	4
California	390	410	425	45	35	35
Colorado	550	610	560	300	280	270
Idaho	100	150	150	80	80	75
Iowa	430	520	490	190	150	150
Kansas	970	1,190	1,030	930	920	910
Minnesota	95	128	126	26	18	15
Nebraska	1,470	1,830	1,570	770	700	710
Oklahoma	170	200	190	85	85	70
South Dakota	115	150	142	80	85	88
Texas	1,580	1,680	1,650	910	790	830
Washington	100	140	135	75	85	80
Other States	210	210	205	100	110	90
United States	6,448	7,455	6,909	3,595	3,342	3,327

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.

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 0.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.2 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 52,000 head, ranging from 0 to 97,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 18 times and has been below the latest estimate 4 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	0.6	1.0	52	0	97	4	18
Placements	1.1	1.9	14	0	55	11	11
Marketings	0.6	1.0	5	0	30	0	6

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
Vacant – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-3570

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: <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 <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Follow NASS” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.

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.

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 http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, 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.