



# Cattle on Feed

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## 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 11.7 million head on December 1, 2018. The inventory was 2 percent above December 1, 2017.

**Placements** in feedlots during November totaled 2.00 million head, 5 percent below 2017. Net placements were 1.92 million head. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 550,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 495,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 416,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 315,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 115,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 105,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during November totaled 1.87 million head, 1 percent above 2017. Marketings were the highest for November since the series began in 1996.

**Other disappearance** totaled 80,000 head during November, 13 percent above 2017.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2017	2018	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed November 1 .....	11,332	11,692	103
Placed on feed during November .....	2,099	1,996	95
Fed cattle marketed during November .....	1,844	1,869	101
Other disappearance during November .....	71	80	113
On feed December 1 .....	11,516	11,739	102

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

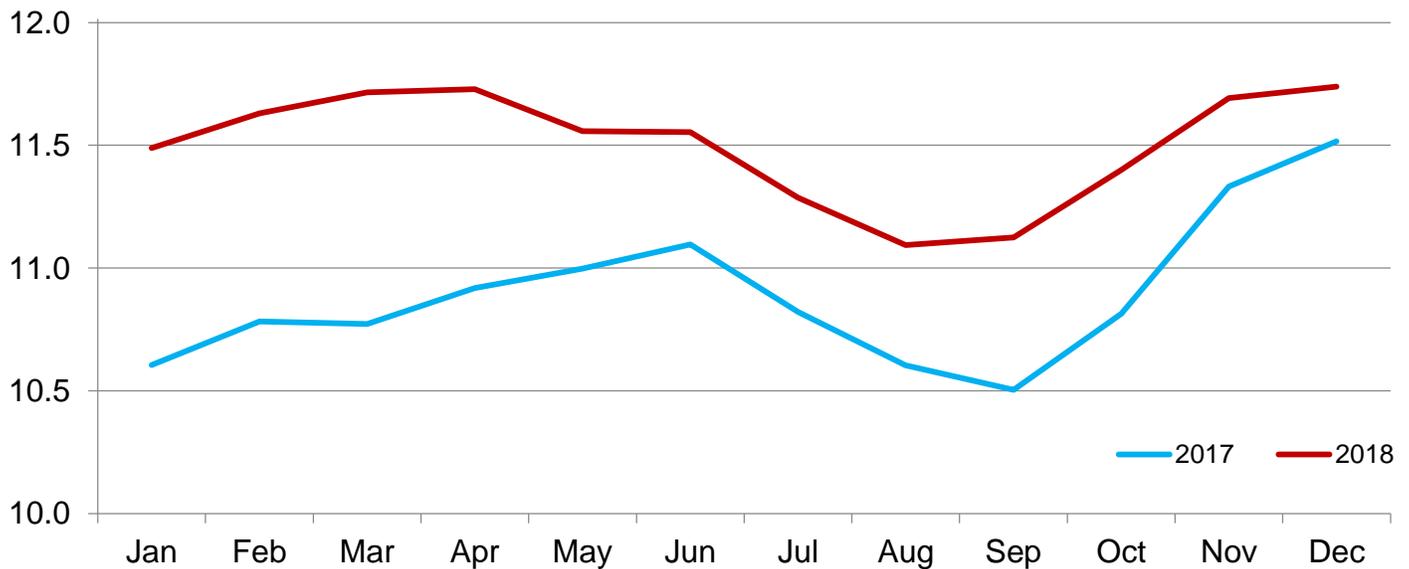
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2017	2018	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed October 1 .....	10,813	11,400	105
Placed on feed during October .....	2,393	2,248	94
Fed cattle marketed during October .....	1,801	1,887	105
Other disappearance during October .....	73	69	95
On feed November 1 .....	11,332	11,692	103

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

State	December 1, 2017	November 1, 2018	December 1, 2018		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	261	287	289	111	101
California .....	470	520	535	114	103
Colorado .....	990	1,020	1,010	102	99
Idaho .....	260	270	285	110	106
Iowa .....	700	700	700	100	100
Kansas .....	2,310	2,360	2,360	102	100
Minnesota .....	155	150	160	103	107
Nebraska .....	2,590	2,590	2,600	100	100
Oklahoma .....	315	325	325	103	100
South Dakota .....	260	240	240	92	100
Texas .....	2,660	2,680	2,680	101	100
Washington .....	215	230	235	109	102
Other States .....	330	320	320	97	100
United States .....	11,516	11,692	11,739	102	100

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

Million head

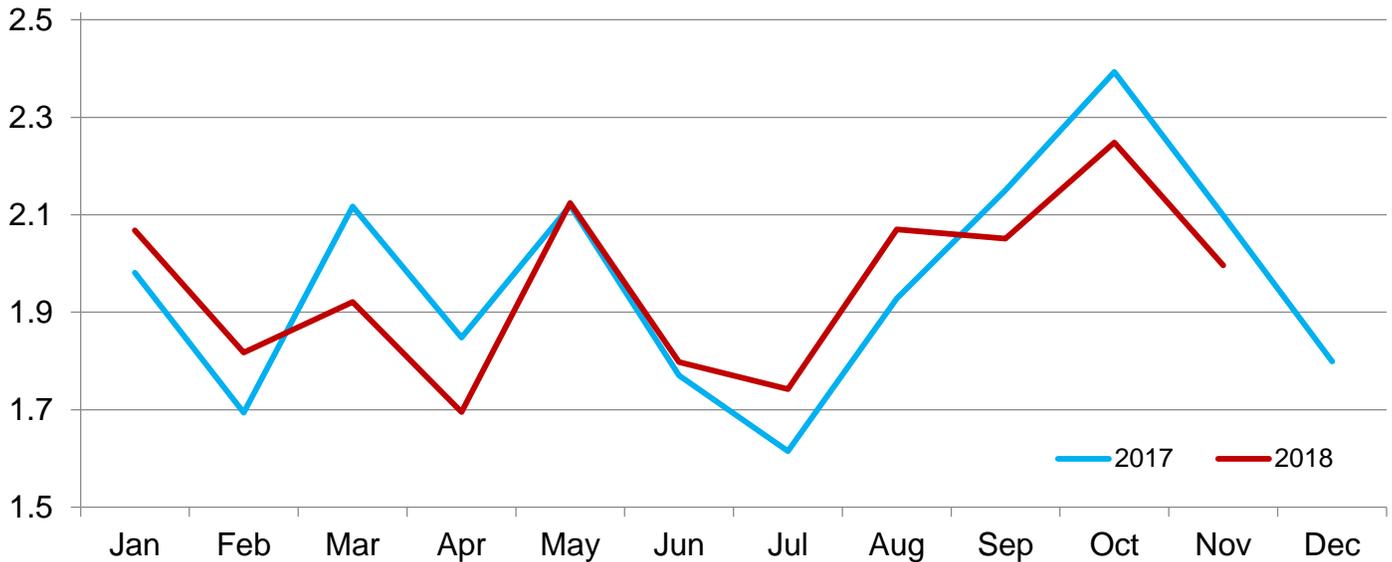


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2017 and 2018**

State	During November 2017 (1,000 head)	During October 2018 (1,000 head)	During November 2018		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	34	23	30	88	130
California .....	71	61	72	101	118
Colorado .....	150	195	140	93	72
Idaho .....	48	57	59	123	104
Iowa .....	122	107	106	87	99
Kansas .....	420	405	400	95	99
Minnesota .....	26	39	25	96	64
Nebraska .....	545	650	520	95	80
Oklahoma .....	60	54	52	87	96
South Dakota .....	54	74	47	87	64
Texas .....	480	465	450	94	97
Washington .....	43	51	40	93	78
Other States .....	46	67	55	120	82
United States .....	2,099	2,248	1,996	95	89

**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: 2017 and 2018

State	During November 2017							
	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 .....	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 October 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 .....	55	40	30	40	30	(D)	(D)	195
Kansas .....	70	95	120	80	40	(D)	(D)	405
Nebraska .....	170	140	100	110	130	(D)	(D)	650
Texas .....	160	120	120	50	15	(D)	(D)	465
Other States ...	185	130	80	83	55	(D)	(D)	533
United States ..	640	525	450	363	(X)	180	90	2,248
State	During November 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 .....	45	40	25	20	10	(D)	(D)	140
Kansas .....	55	100	120	80	45	(D)	(D)	400
Nebraska .....	100	125	95	90	110	(D)	(D)	520
Texas .....	170	110	105	55	10	(D)	(D)	450
Other States ...	180	120	71	70	45	(D)	(D)	486
United States ..	550	495	416	315	(X)	115	105	1,996

(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: 2017 and 2018

State	During November 2017 (1,000 head)	During October 2018 (1,000 head)	During November 2018		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
			Arizona .....	24	30
California .....	38	56	54	142	96
Colorado .....	135	150	145	107	97
Idaho .....	41	45	41	100	91
Iowa .....	110	93	104	95	112
Kansas .....	380	395	385	101	97
Minnesota .....	20	18	14	70	78
Nebraska .....	460	480	490	107	102
Oklahoma .....	63	52	50	79	96
South Dakota .....	53	48	44	83	92
Texas .....	445	430	430	97	100
Washington .....	36	40	34	94	85
Other States .....	39	50	51	131	102
United States .....	1,844	1,887	1,869	101	99

## 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: 2017 and 2018

State	During November 2017 (1,000 head)	During October 2018 (1,000 head)	During November 2018		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	3	5	3	100	60
Colorado .....	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho .....	2	2	3	150	150
Iowa .....	2	4	2	100	50
Kansas .....	20	20	15	75	75
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	15	10	20	133	200
Oklahoma .....	2	2	2	100	100
South Dakota .....	1	1	3	300	300
Texas .....	15	15	20	133	133
Washington .....	2	1	1	50	100
Other States .....	2	2	4	200	200
United States .....	71	69	80	113	116

## 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 11.7 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 0 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	0.1	1	0	15	2	0
Placements .....	0.2	0.3	1	0	15	2	1
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).

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Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 690-8632
Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-0585
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products .....	(202) 720-4448
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

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- 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).

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