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## United States Cattle on Feed Down 5 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 11.3 million head on April 1, 2020. The inventory was 5 percent below April 1, 2019. The inventory included 7.08 million steers and steer calves, down 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.22 million head, down 7 percent from 2019.

**Placements** in feedlots during March totaled 1.56 million head, 23 percent below 2019. Placements were the lowest for March since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 1.50 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 310,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 220,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 410,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 402,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 155,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 60,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during March totaled 2.01 million head, 13 percent above 2019. Marketings were the second highest for March since the series began in 1996.

**Other disappearance** totaled 61,000 head during March, 12 percent below 2019.

**Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2019 and 2020**

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1 .....	11,785	11,811	100
Placed on feed during March .....	2,014	1,557	77
Fed cattle marketed during March .....	1,777	2,010	113
Other disappearance during March .....	69	61	88
On feed April 1 .....	11,953	11,297	95

**Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2019 and 2020**

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1 .....	11,676	11,928	102
Placed on feed during February .....	1,858	1,716	92
Fed cattle marketed during February .....	1,683	1,775	105
Other disappearance during February .....	66	58	88
On feed March 1 .....	11,785	11,811	100

**Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2019 and 2020**

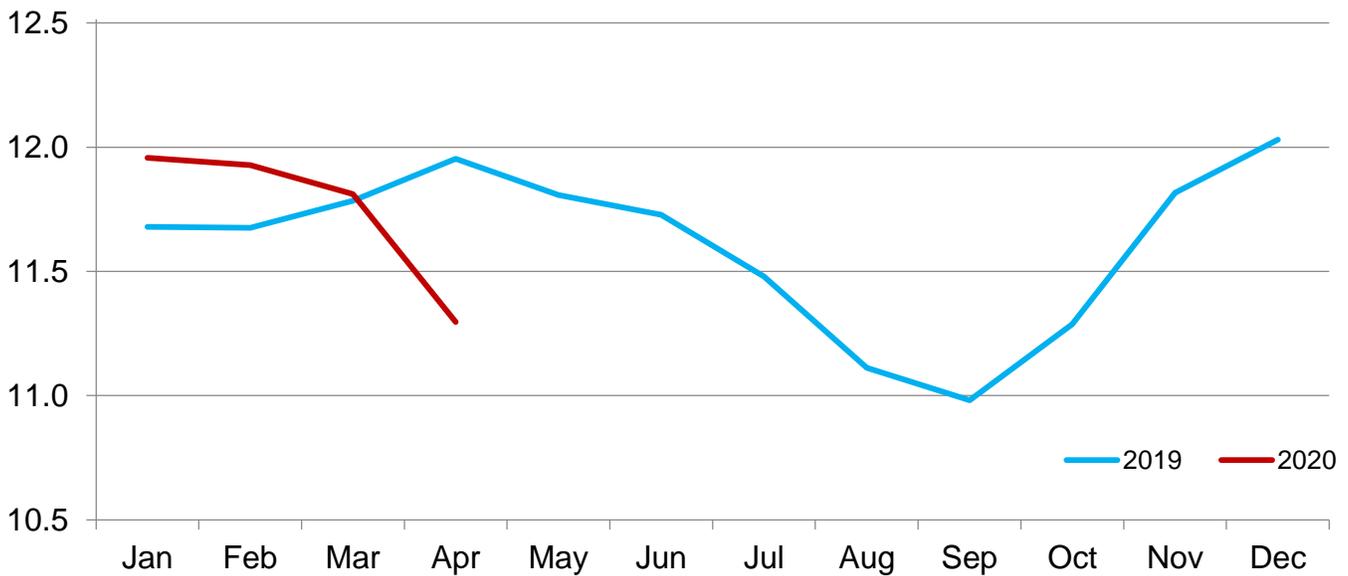
Item	Number		Percent of	
	2019	2020	previous year	inventory
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed April 1				
Steers and steer calves .....	7,443	7,082	95	63
Heifers and heifer calves .....	4,510	4,215	93	37

**Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2019 and 2020**

State	April 1, 2019	March 1, 2020	April 1, 2020		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	303	256	262	86	102
California .....	535	545	535	100	98
Colorado .....	1,060	1,050	960	91	91
Idaho .....	285	295	285	100	97
Iowa .....	710	670	630	89	94
Kansas .....	2,380	2,380	2,290	96	96
Minnesota .....	150	135	130	87	96
Nebraska .....	2,580	2,500	2,390	93	96
Oklahoma .....	315	320	305	97	95
South Dakota .....	250	240	215	86	90
Texas .....	2,850	2,880	2,760	97	96
Washington .....	225	235	235	104	100
Other States .....	310	305	300	97	98
United States .....	11,953	11,811	11,297	95	96

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

Million head

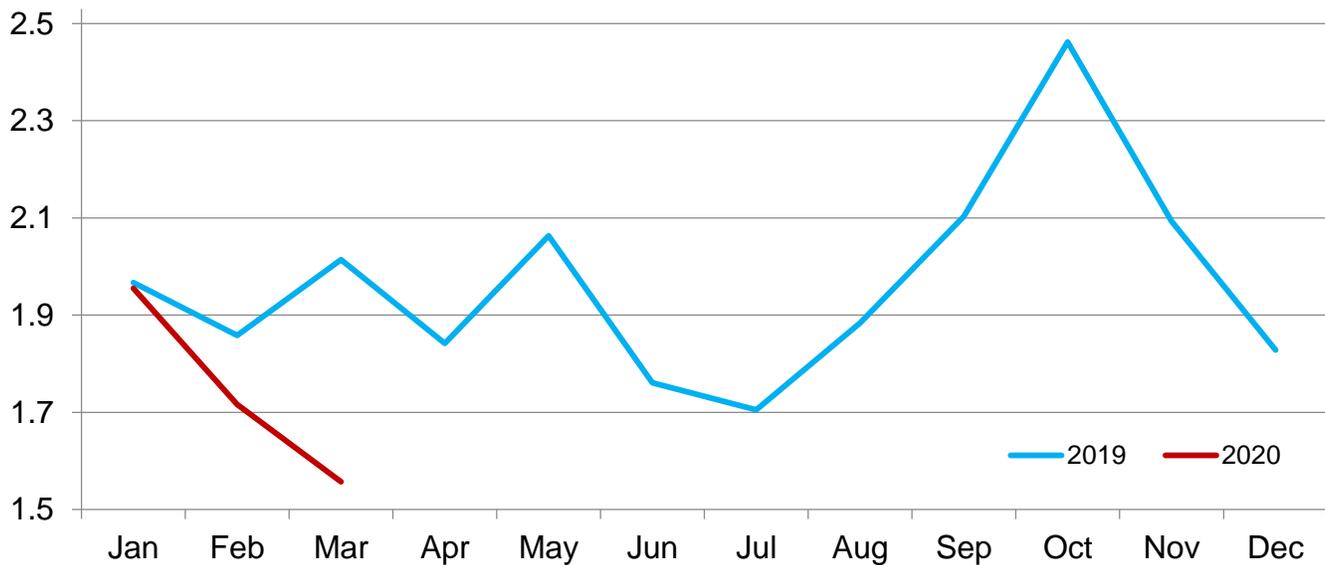


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2019 and 2020**

State	During March 2019 (1,000 head)	During February 2020 (1,000 head)	During March 2020		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	31	26	31	100	119
California .....	71	64	62	87	97
Colorado .....	200	165	135	68	82
Idaho .....	44	32	28	64	88
Iowa .....	104	108	69	66	64
Kansas .....	470	390	345	73	88
Minnesota .....	17	13	12	71	92
Nebraska .....	425	450	380	89	84
Oklahoma .....	60	36	40	67	111
South Dakota .....	29	36	23	79	64
Texas .....	480	320	350	73	109
Washington .....	34	35	33	97	94
Other States .....	49	41	49	100	120
United States .....	2,014	1,716	1,557	77	91

**Number of 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: 2019 and 2020**

State	During March 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 .....	30	35	55	55	25	(D)	(D)	200
Kansas .....	45	55	170	140	60	(D)	(D)	470
Nebraska .....	25	55	115	130	100	(D)	(D)	425
Texas .....	115	100	140	100	25	(D)	(D)	480
Other States ...	110	55	115	114	45	(D)	(D)	439
United States ..	325	300	595	539	(X)	185	70	2,014
State	During February 2020							
	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	30	40	45	20	(D)	(D)	165
Kansas .....	45	70	125	110	40	(D)	(D)	390
Nebraska .....	30	75	140	130	75	(D)	(D)	450
Texas .....	130	70	70	40	10	(D)	(D)	320
Other States ...	105	70	95	86	35	(D)	(D)	391
United States ..	340	315	470	411	(X)	120	60	1,716
State	During March 2020							
	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	35	35	20	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas .....	40	50	110	100	45	(D)	(D)	345
Nebraska .....	25	45	100	120	90	(D)	(D)	380
Texas .....	115	65	85	65	20	(D)	(D)	350
Other States ...	105	40	80	82	40	(D)	(D)	347
United States ..	310	220	410	402	(X)	155	60	1,557

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

(X) Not applicable.

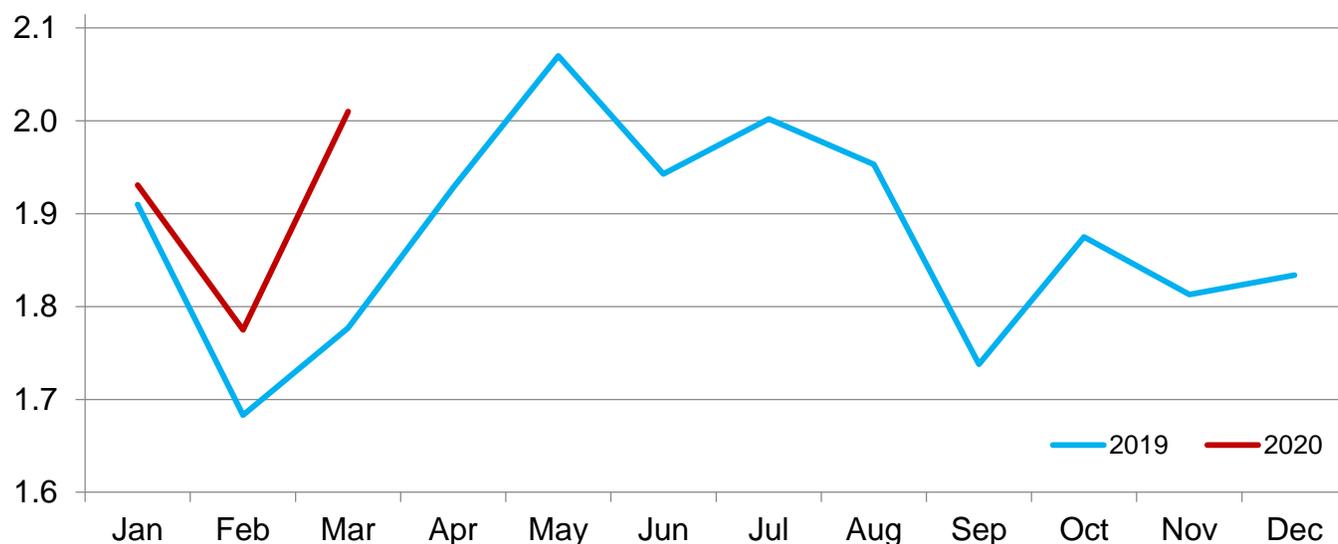
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

**Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2019 and 2020**

State	During March 2019 (1,000 head)	During February 2020 (1,000 head)	During March 2020		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
			Arizona .....	27	22
California .....	57	58	66	116	114
Colorado .....	185	210	220	119	105
Idaho .....	32	36	37	116	103
Iowa .....	100	106	105	105	99
Kansas .....	375	400	425	113	106
Minnesota .....	16	12	16	100	133
Nebraska .....	425	420	475	112	113
Oklahoma .....	53	40	54	102	135
South Dakota .....	37	33	44	119	133
Texas .....	390	365	460	118	126
Washington .....	33	29	32	97	110
Other States .....	47	44	52	111	118
United States .....	1,777	1,775	2,010	113	113

## 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: 2019 and 2020

State	During March 2019 (1,000 head)	During February 2020 (1,000 head)	During March 2020		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	4	6	6	150	100
Colorado .....	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho .....	2	1	1	50	100
Iowa .....	4	2	4	100	200
Kansas .....	15	10	10	67	100
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	20	10	15	75	150
Oklahoma .....	2	1	1	50	100
South Dakota .....	2	3	4	200	133
Texas .....	10	15	10	100	67
Washington .....	1	1	1	100	100
Other States .....	2	2	2	100	100
United States .....	69	58	61	88	105

**Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States: 2019 and 2020**

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Apr 1, 2019	Jan 1, 2020	Apr 1, 2020	Apr 1, 2019	Jan 1, 2020	Apr 1, 2020
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona .....	298	248	257	5	5	5
California .....	465	465	465	70	75	70
Colorado .....	580	585	525	480	505	435
Idaho .....	185	185	190	100	115	95
Iowa .....	480	490	465	230	180	165
Kansas .....	1,320	1,300	1,260	1,060	1,120	1,030
Minnesota .....	130	115	115	20	20	15
Nebraska .....	1,610	1,490	1,500	970	970	890
Oklahoma .....	170	185	165	145	145	140
South Dakota .....	145	140	125	105	105	90
Texas .....	1,730	1,830	1,675	1,120	1,130	1,085
Washington .....	140	135	140	85	100	95
Other States .....	190	205	200	120	115	100
United States .....	7,443	7,373	7,082	4,510	4,585	4,215

## 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 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 11.3 million head by more than 0.1 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 4,000 head, ranging from 0 to 15,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 8 times 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 .....	0.1	0.1	4	0	15	3	8
Placements .....	0.2	0.4	3	0	15	6	3
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).

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Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 690-8632
Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-0585
Heidi Lanouette – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(202) 720-3278
Suzanne Richards – Dairy Products .....	(202) 720-4448
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106

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- 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.

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