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United States Cattle on Feed Up 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 11.7 million head on May 1, 2021. The inventory was 5 percent above May 1, 2020. This is the second highest May 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.82 million head, 27 percent above 2020. Net placements were 1.77 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 380,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 250,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 420,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 481,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 220,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 70,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.94 million head, 33 percent above 2020.

Other disappearance totaled 55,000 head during April, 21 percent below 2020. Other disappearance was the lowest for April since the series began in 1996.

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: May 1, 2020 and 2021

Item	2020	2021	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1	11,297	11,897	105
Placed on feed during April	1,432	1,821	127
Fed cattle marketed during April	1,459	1,938	133
Other disappearance during April	70	55	79
On feed May 1	11,200	11,725	105

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2020 and 2021

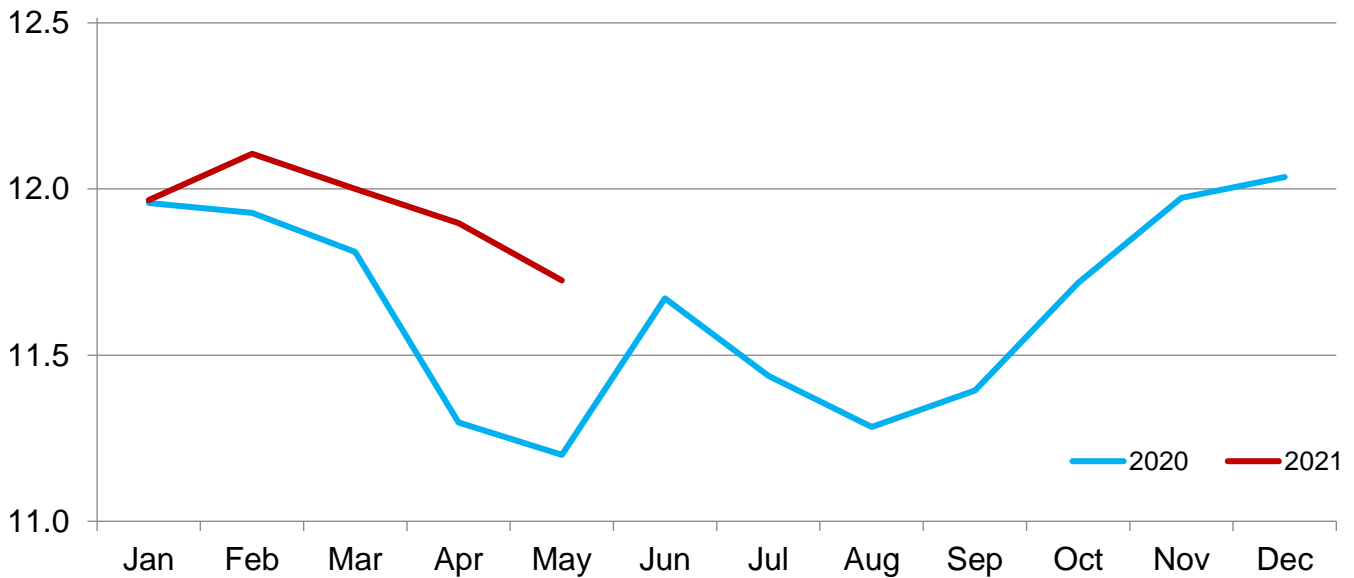
Item	2020	2021	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1	11,811	12,000	102
Placed on feed during March	1,557	1,998	128
Fed cattle marketed during March	2,010	2,041	102
Other disappearance during March	61	60	98
On feed April 1	11,297	11,897	105

Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2020 and 2021

State	May 1, 2020	April 1, 2021	May 1, 2021		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	265	272	275	104	101
California	530	555	545	103	98
Colorado	950	1,060	1,040	109	98
Idaho	280	290	295	105	102
Iowa	620	630	630	102	100
Kansas	2,320	2,480	2,470	106	100
Minnesota	130	115	110	85	96
Nebraska	2,370	2,580	2,530	107	98
Oklahoma	295	300	275	93	92
South Dakota	205	240	235	115	98
Texas	2,690	2,870	2,820	105	98
Washington	245	205	200	82	98
Other States	300	300	300	100	100
United States	11,200	11,897	11,725	105	99

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

Million head

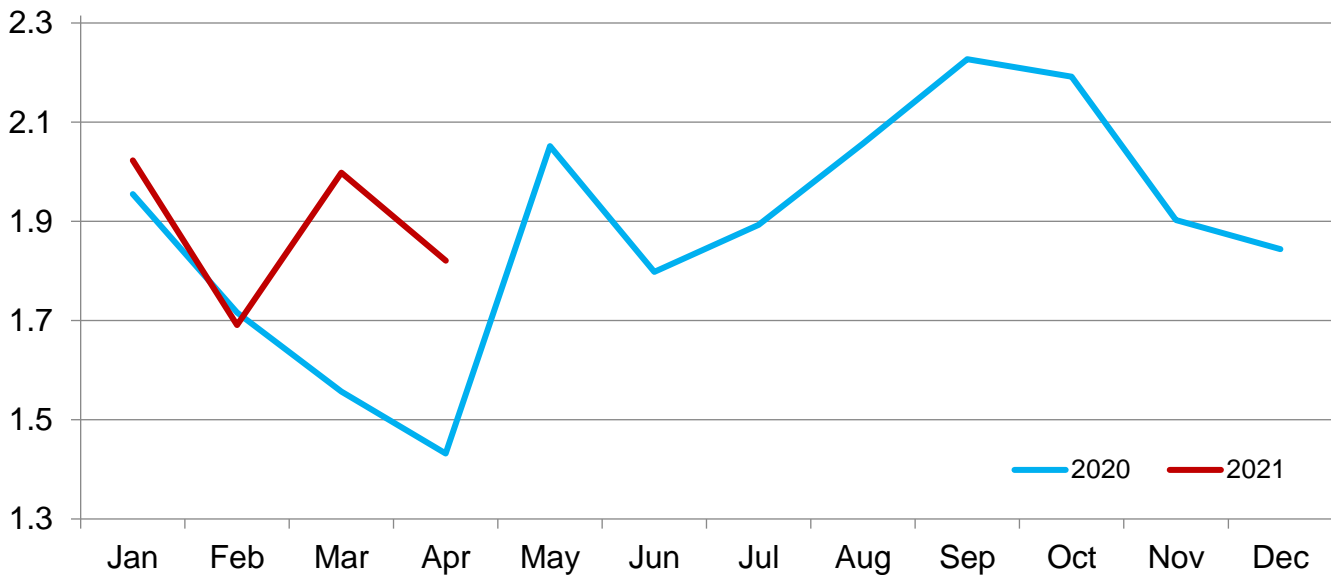


Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2020 and 2021

State	During April 2020 (1,000 head)	During March 2021 (1,000 head)	During April 2021		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	25	30	27	108	90
California	68	63	62	91	98
Colorado	115	180	160	139	89
Idaho	26	35	43	165	123
Iowa	62	112	101	163	90
Kansas	355	490	435	123	89
Minnesota	13	16	13	100	81
Nebraska	310	440	425	137	97
Oklahoma	37	55	39	105	71
South Dakota	23	39	36	157	92
Texas	330	465	410	124	88
Washington	34	19	26	76	137
Other States	34	54	44	129	81
United States	1,432	1,998	1,821	127	91

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: 2020 and 2021

State	During April 2020							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs ¹	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	25	15	25	30	20	(D)	(D)	115
Kansas	35	45	100	115	60	(D)	(D)	355
Nebraska	20	30	65	105	90	(D)	(D)	310
Texas	110	55	65	70	30	(D)	(D)	330
Other States ...	105	35	60	72	50	(D)	(D)	322
United States ..	295	180	315	392	(X)	180	70	1,432
State	During March 2021							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs ¹	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	35	30	45	45	25	(D)	(D)	180
Kansas	45	75	160	150	60	(D)	(D)	490
Nebraska	30	60	115	145	90	(D)	(D)	440
Texas	170	100	95	80	20	(D)	(D)	465
Other States ...	125	60	95	103	40	(D)	(D)	423
United States ..	405	325	510	523	(X)	175	60	1,998
State	During April 2021							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs ¹	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	25	35	40	30	(D)	(D)	160
Kansas	45	55	130	135	70	(D)	(D)	435
Nebraska	30	45	95	145	110	(D)	(D)	425
Texas	150	80	85	70	25	(D)	(D)	410
Other States ...	125	45	75	91	55	(D)	(D)	391
United States ..	380	250	420	481	(X)	220	70	1,821

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

(X) Not applicable.

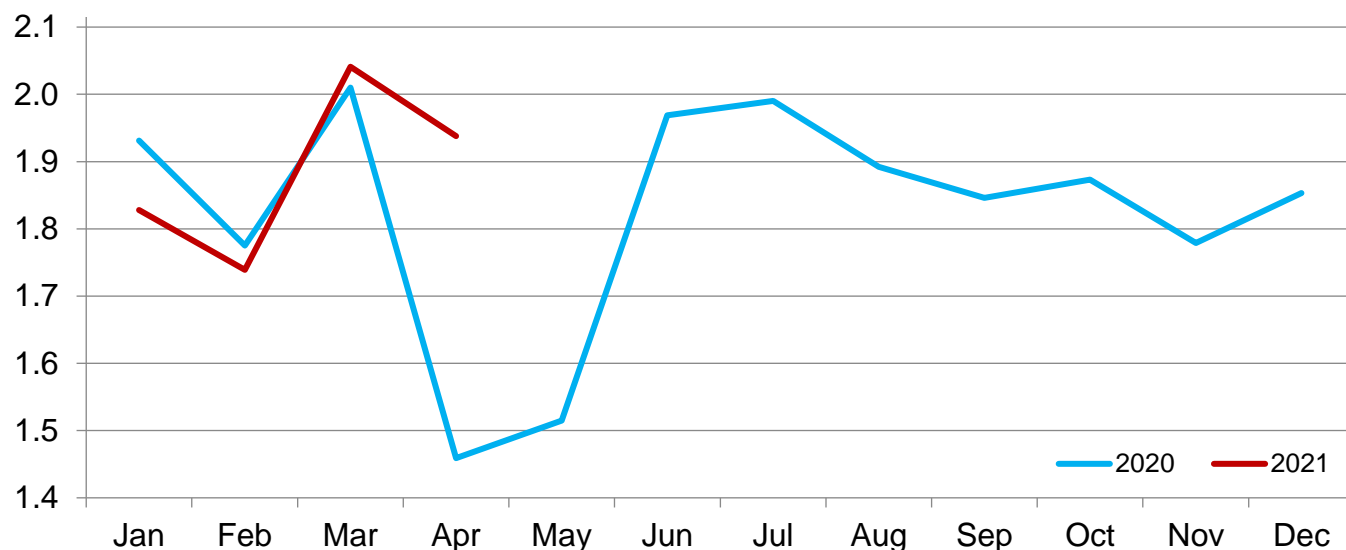
¹ The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2020 and 2021

State	During April 2020	During March 2021	During April 2021		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	21	27	23	110	85
California	62	66	65	105	98
Colorado	120	215	175	146	81
Idaho	30	34	37	123	109
Iowa	68	109	98	144	90
Kansas	310	470	435	140	93
Minnesota	12	15	17	142	113
Nebraska	315	455	465	148	102
Oklahoma	46	69	63	137	91
South Dakota	30	41	38	127	93
Texas	390	455	450	115	99
Washington	23	38	30	130	79
Other States	32	47	42	131	89
United States	1,459	2,041	1,938	133	95

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: 2020 and 2021

State	During April 2020 (1,000 head)	During March 2021 (1,000 head)	During April 2021		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	11	7	7	64	100
Colorado	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	4	3	3	75	100
Kansas	15	10	10	67	100
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	15	15	10	67	67
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	3	3	3	100	100
Texas	10	10	10	100	100
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	2	2	2	100	100
United States	70	60	55	79	92

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 3,000 head, ranging from 0 to 15,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 4 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)
On feed	0.0	0.1	3	0	15	3	4
Placements	0.3	0.4	3	0	15	8	3
Marketings	0.2	0.4	1	0	15	4	2

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.

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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@usda.gov.

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