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## United States Cattle on Feed Down 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 11.7 million head on June 1, 2020. The inventory was slightly below June 1, 2019. This is the second highest June 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

**Placements** in feedlots during May totaled 2.04 million head, 1 percent below 2019. Net placements were 1.97 million head. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 375,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 305,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 485,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 532,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 235,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 105,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during May totaled 1.50 million head, 28 percent below 2019. Marketings were the lowest for May since the series began in 1996.

**Other disappearance** totaled 66,000 head during May, 8 percent below 2019.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed May 1 .....	11,807	11,200	95
Placed on feed during May .....	2,063	2,037	99
Fed cattle marketed during May .....	2,070	1,500	72
Other disappearance during May .....	72	66	92
On feed June 1 .....	11,728	11,671	100

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

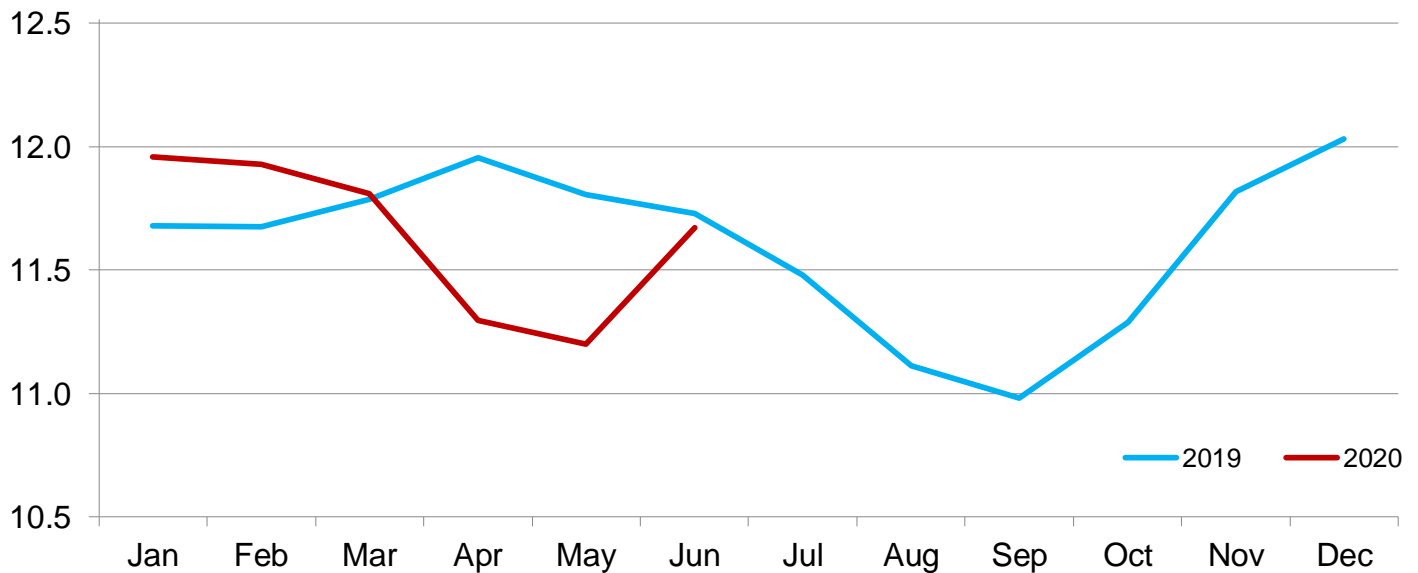
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1 .....	11,953	11,297	95
Placed on feed during April .....	1,842	1,432	78
Fed cattle marketed during April .....	1,928	1,459	76
Other disappearance during April .....	60	70	117
On feed May 1 .....	11,807	11,200	95

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

State	June 1, 2019	May 1, 2020	June 1, 2020		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	298	265	271	91	102
California .....	535	530	545	102	103
Colorado .....	1,060	950	1,010	95	106
Idaho .....	285	280	280	98	100
Iowa .....	660	620	640	97	103
Kansas .....	2,380	2,320	2,430	102	105
Minnesota .....	130	130	130	100	100
Nebraska .....	2,430	2,370	2,410	99	102
Oklahoma .....	315	295	315	100	107
South Dakota .....	230	205	200	87	98
Texas .....	2,870	2,690	2,930	102	109
Washington .....	240	245	230	96	94
Other States .....	295	300	280	95	93
United States .....	11,728	11,200	11,671	100	104

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

Million head

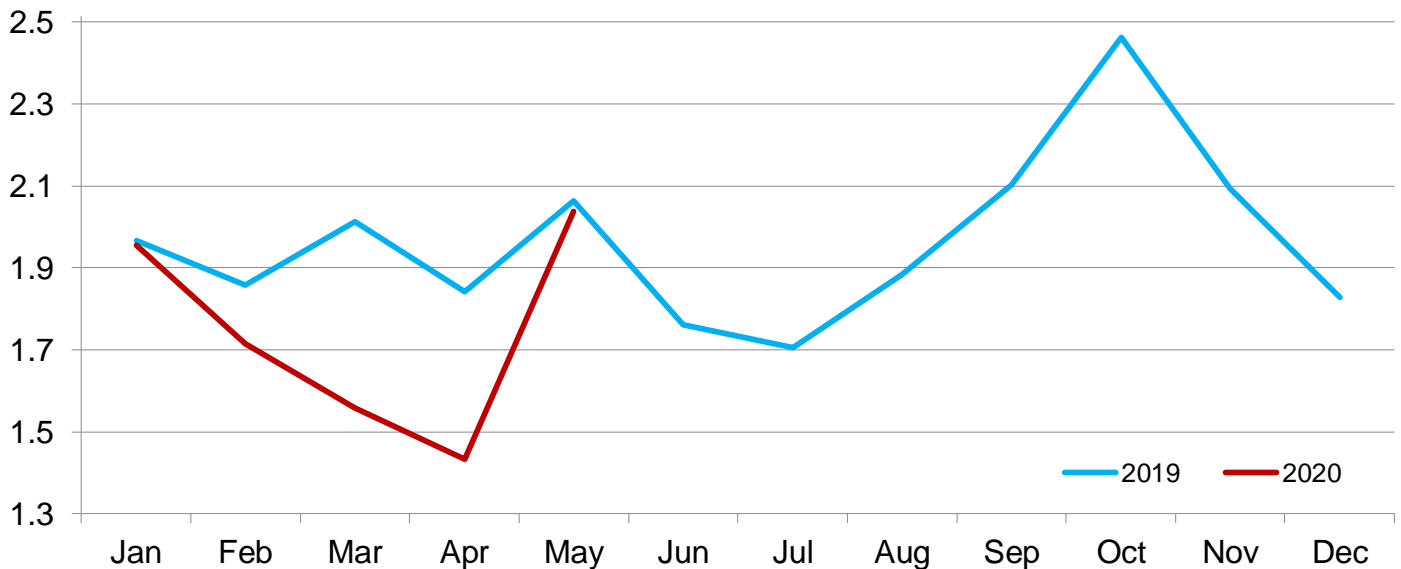


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2019 and 2020**

State	During May 2019 (1,000 head)	During April 2020 (1,000 head)	During May 2020		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	23	25	23	100	92
California .....	72	68	76	106	112
Colorado .....	160	115	210	131	183
Idaho .....	37	26	36	97	138
Iowa .....	68	62	75	110	121
Kansas .....	450	355	485	108	137
Minnesota .....	16	13	11	69	85
Nebraska .....	460	310	410	89	132
Oklahoma .....	73	37	65	89	176
South Dakota .....	40	23	33	83	143
Texas .....	575	330	565	98	171
Washington .....	37	34	16	43	47
Other States .....	52	34	32	62	94
United States .....	2,063	1,432	2,037	99	142

**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 May 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	35	45	35	(D)	(D)	160
Kansas .....	50	70	130	125	75	(D)	(D)	450
Nebraska .....	40	45	85	145	145	(D)	(D)	460
Texas .....	145	120	165	115	30	(D)	(D)	575
Other States ....	110	50	85	108	65	(D)	(D)	418
United States ..	370	305	500	538	(X)	235	115	2,063
State	During April 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	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 May 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 .....	35	30	50	55	40	(D)	(D)	210
Kansas .....	50	65	140	140	90	(D)	(D)	485
Nebraska .....	30	35	80	145	120	(D)	(D)	410
Texas .....	150	120	145	110	40	(D)	(D)	565
Other States ....	110	55	70	82	50	(D)	(D)	367
United States ..	375	305	485	532	(X)	235	105	2,037

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

(X) Not applicable.

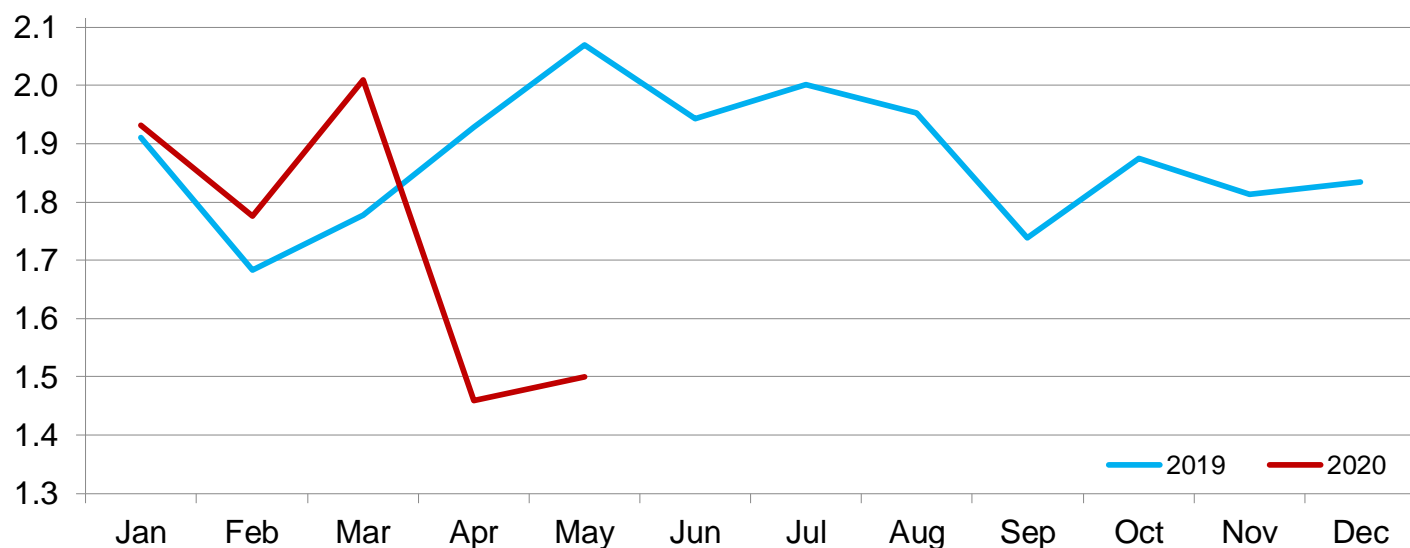
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During May 2019 (1,000 head)	During April 2020 (1,000 head)	During May 2020		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
			Arizona .....	26	21
California .....	63	62	54	86	87
Colorado .....	150	120	140	93	117
Idaho .....	35	30	35	100	117
Iowa .....	85	68	52	61	76
Kansas .....	440	310	365	83	118
Minnesota .....	25	12	10	40	83
Nebraska .....	570	315	355	62	113
Oklahoma .....	62	46	44	71	96
South Dakota .....	49	30	34	69	113
Texas .....	485	390	315	65	81
Washington .....	31	23	30	97	130
Other States .....	49	32	50	102	156
United States .....	2,070	1,459	1,500	72	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: 2019 and 2020

State	During May 2019 (1,000 head)	During April 2020 (1,000 head)	During May 2020		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	4	11	7	175	64
Colorado .....	10	5	10	100	200
Idaho .....	2	1	1	50	100
Iowa .....	3	4	3	100	75
Kansas .....	10	15	10	100	67
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	20	15	15	75	100
Oklahoma .....	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota .....	6	3	4	67	133
Texas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Washington .....	1	1	1	100	100
Other States .....	3	2	2	67	100
United States .....	72	70	66	92	94

## 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 11.7 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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Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-0585
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
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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.

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](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

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