



# Cattle on Feed

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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 11.1 million head on August 1, 2018. The inventory was 5 percent above August 1, 2017. This is the highest August 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

**Placements** in feedlots during July totaled 1.74 million head, 8 percent above 2017. Net placements were 1.68 million head. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 410,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 290,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 415,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 367,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 175,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 85,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during July totaled 1.87 million head, 5 percent above 2017.

**Other disappearance** totaled 63,000 head during July, 31 percent above 2017.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2017	2018	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed July 1 .....	10,821	11,287	104
Placed on feed during July .....	1,615	1,742	108
Fed cattle marketed during July .....	1,784	1,873	105
Other disappearance during July .....	48	63	131
On feed August 1 .....	10,604	11,093	105

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

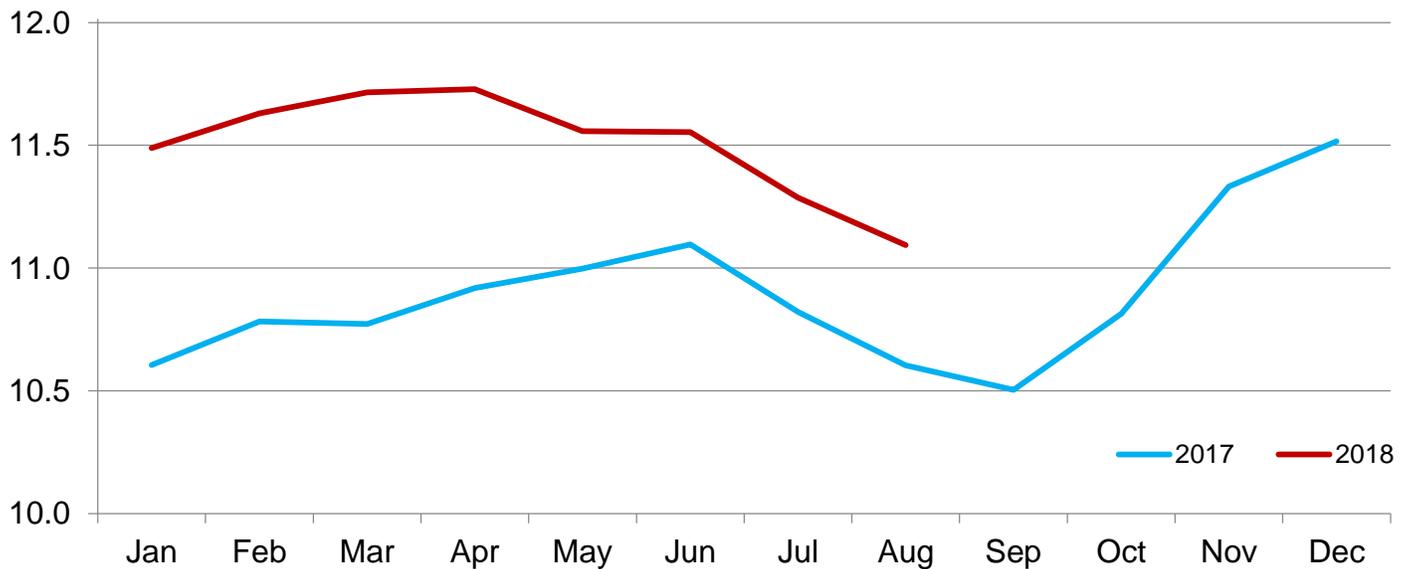
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2017	2018	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed June 1 .....	11,096	11,553	104
Placed on feed during June .....	1,770	1,798	102
Fed cattle marketed during June .....	1,989	2,006	101
Other disappearance during June .....	56	58	104
On feed July 1 .....	10,821	11,287	104

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

State	August 1, 2017	July 1, 2018	August 1, 2018		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	244	297	298	122	100
California .....	430	530	525	122	99
Colorado .....	880	930	890	101	96
Idaho .....	250	240	245	98	102
Iowa .....	650	710	700	108	99
Kansas .....	2,180	2,240	2,230	102	100
Minnesota .....	130	135	130	100	96
Nebraska .....	2,160	2,400	2,330	108	97
Oklahoma .....	315	315	315	100	100
South Dakota .....	220	215	200	91	93
Texas .....	2,650	2,740	2,720	103	99
Washington .....	205	230	220	107	96
Other States .....	290	305	290	100	95
United States .....	10,604	11,287	11,093	105	98

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

Million head

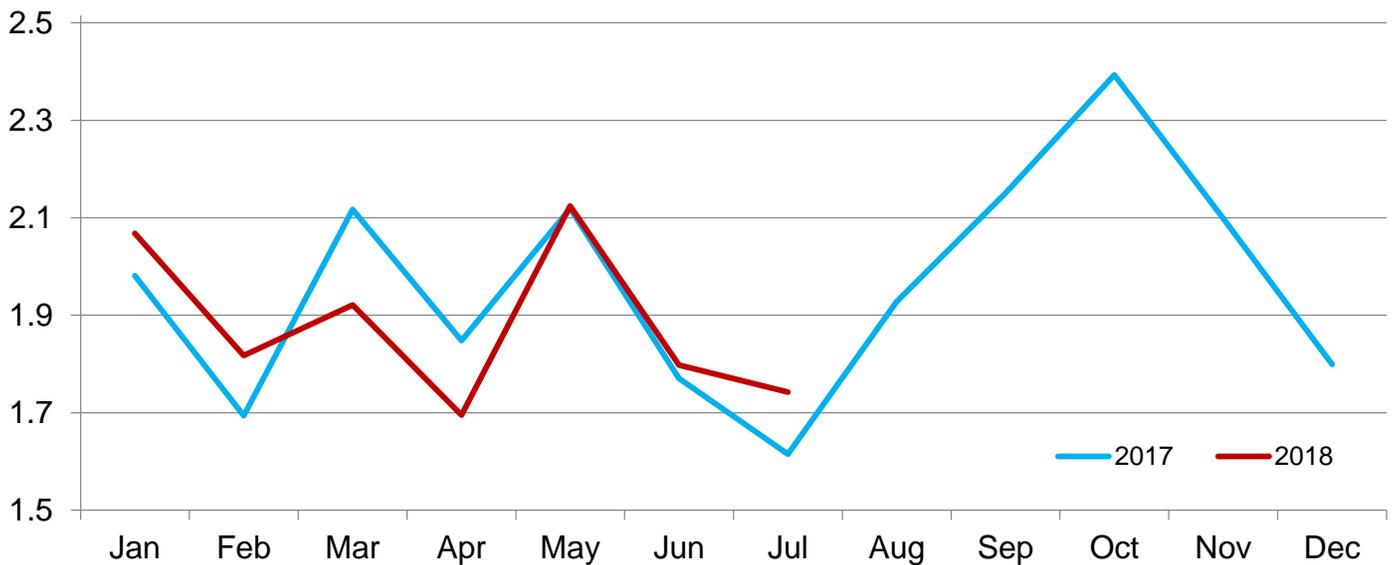


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2017 and 2018**

State	During July 2017 (1,000 head)	During June 2018 (1,000 head)	During July 2018		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	18	22	23	128	105
California .....	34	64	52	153	81
Colorado .....	115	145	140	122	97
Idaho .....	35	40	44	126	110
Iowa .....	60	77	66	110	86
Kansas .....	430	405	465	108	115
Minnesota .....	15	14	17	113	121
Nebraska .....	385	415	400	104	96
Oklahoma .....	41	58	45	110	78
South Dakota .....	26	39	26	100	67
Texas .....	380	430	385	101	90
Washington .....	39	46	31	79	67
Other States .....	37	43	48	130	112
United States .....	1,615	1,798	1,742	108	97

**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 July 2017							Total
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	
	(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 .....	60	75	130	110	55	(D)	(D)	430
Nebraska .....	40	35	85	110	115	(D)	(D)	385
Texas .....	155	80	80	45	20	(D)	(D)	380
Other States ...	80	30	65	75	55	(D)	(D)	305
United States ..	360	235	385	370	(X)	190	75	1,615
State	During June 2018							Total
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	
	(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	30	35	30	25	(D)	(D)	145
Kansas .....	65	90	110	90	50	(D)	(D)	405
Nebraska .....	40	60	80	110	125	(D)	(D)	415
Texas .....	160	110	85	55	20	(D)	(D)	430
Other States ...	110	55	75	93	70	(D)	(D)	403
United States ..	400	345	385	378	(X)	190	100	1,798
State	During July 2018							Total
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	
	(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	30	30	30	(D)	(D)	140
Kansas .....	60	95	155	105	50	(D)	(D)	465
Nebraska .....	45	45	90	120	100	(D)	(D)	400
Texas .....	165	95	70	40	15	(D)	(D)	385
Other States ...	110	35	70	72	65	(D)	(D)	352
United States ..	410	290	415	367	(X)	175	85	1,742

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

(X) Not applicable.

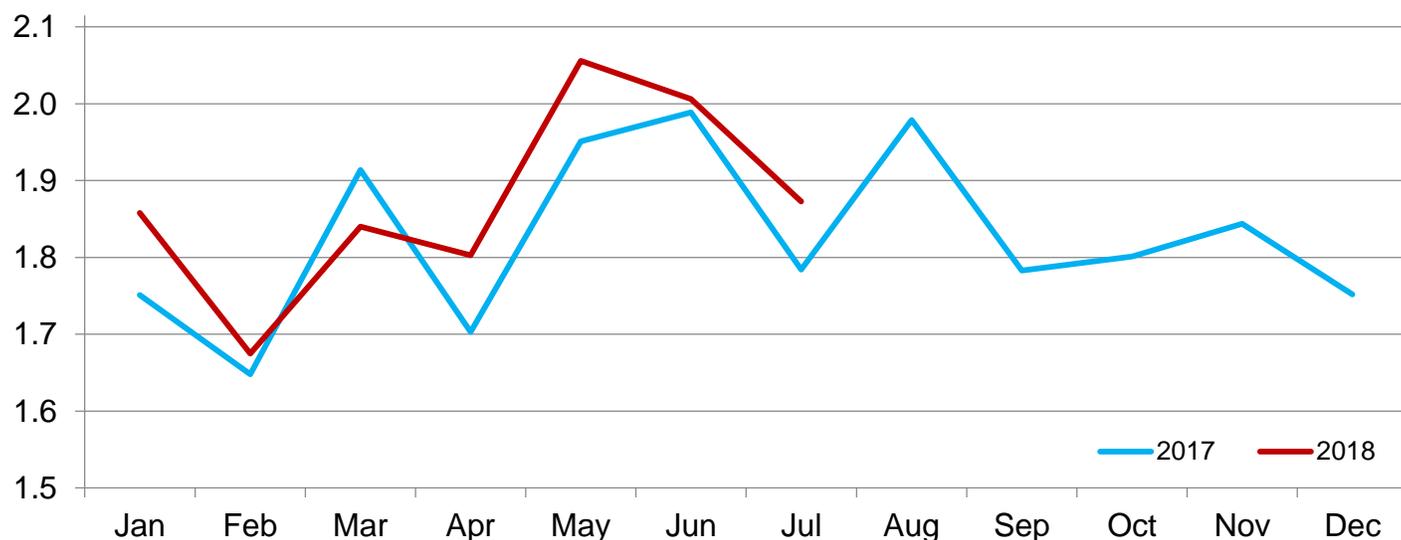
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During July 2017	During June 2018	During July 2018		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	19	22	21	111	95
California .....	41	54	53	129	98
Colorado .....	160	160	170	106	106
Idaho .....	43	44	38	88	86
Iowa .....	79	85	74	94	87
Kansas .....	430	475	465	108	98
Minnesota .....	24	23	21	88	91
Nebraska .....	445	530	460	103	87
Oklahoma .....	50	57	43	86	75
South Dakota .....	29	56	37	128	66
Texas .....	390	410	390	100	95
Washington .....	38	35	40	105	114
Other States .....	36	55	61	169	111
United States .....	1,784	2,006	1,873	105	93

## 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 July 2017 (1,000 head)	During June 2018 (1,000 head)	During July 2018		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	3	5	4	133	80
Colorado .....	5	5	10	200	200
Idaho .....	2	1	1	50	100
Iowa .....	1	2	2	200	100
Kansas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	10	15	10	100	67
Oklahoma .....	1	1	2	200	200
South Dakota .....	2	3	4	200	133
Texas .....	10	10	15	150	150
Washington .....	1	1	1	100	100
Other States .....	1	3	2	200	67
United States .....	48	58	63	131	109

## 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 11.1 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 1 time 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	1
Placements .....	0.2	0.4	2	0	15	2	2
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.

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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