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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 11.8 million head on May 1, 2019. The inventory was 2 percent above May 1, 2018. This is the highest May 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

**Placements** in feedlots during April totaled 1.84 million head, 9 percent above 2018. Net placements were 1.78 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 355,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 250,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 447,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 495,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 210,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 85,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during April totaled 1.93 million head, 7 percent above 2018.

**Other disappearance** totaled 60,000 head during April, 5 percent below 2018.

**Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: May 1, 2018 and 2019**

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2018	2019	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1 .....	11,729	11,964	102
Placed on feed during April .....	1,695	1,842	109
Fed cattle marketed during April .....	1,803	1,928	107
Other disappearance during April .....	63	60	95
On feed May 1 .....	11,558	11,818	102

**Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2018 and 2019**

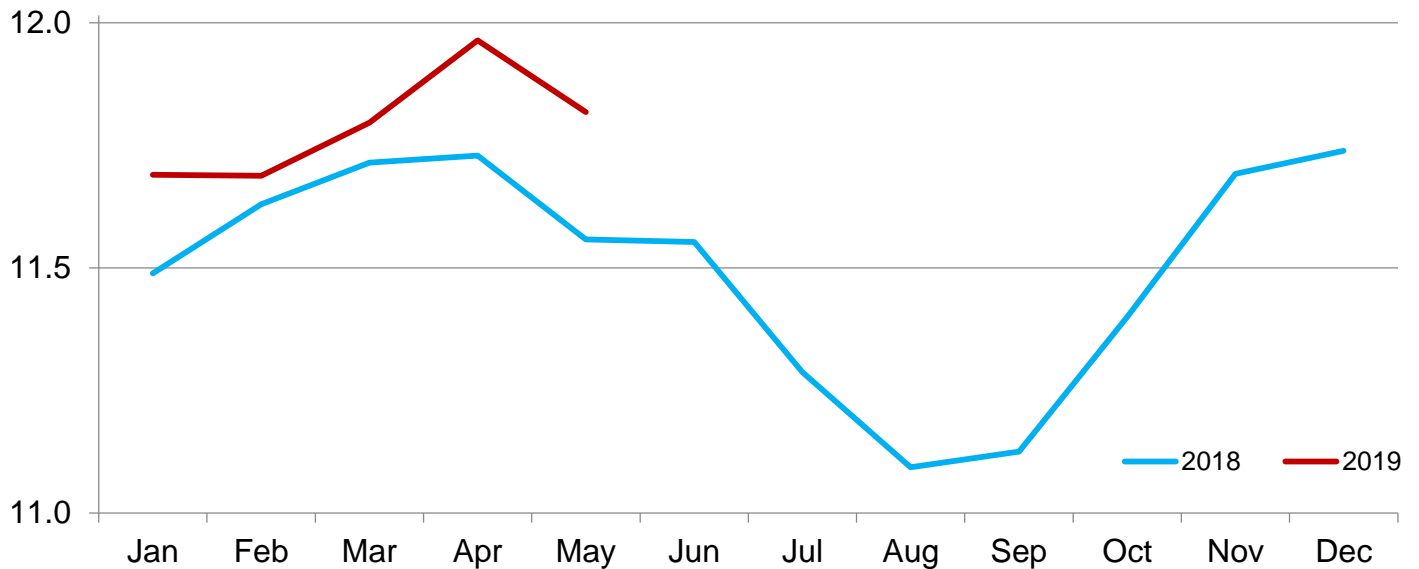
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2018	2019	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1 .....	11,715	11,796	101
Placed on feed during March .....	1,921	2,014	105
Fed cattle marketed during March .....	1,840	1,777	97
Other disappearance during March .....	67	69	103
On feed April 1 .....	11,729	11,964	102

**Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2018 and 2019**

State	May 1, 2018	April 1, 2019	May 1, 2019		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	298	314	313	105	100
California .....	500	535	530	106	99
Colorado .....	940	1,060	1,060	113	100
Idaho .....	255	285	285	112	100
Iowa .....	730	710	680	93	96
Kansas .....	2,290	2,380	2,380	104	100
Minnesota .....	155	150	140	90	93
Nebraska .....	2,660	2,580	2,560	96	99
Oklahoma .....	310	315	305	98	97
South Dakota .....	255	250	245	96	98
Texas .....	2,630	2,850	2,790	106	98
Washington .....	210	225	235	112	104
Other States .....	325	310	295	91	95
United States .....	11,558	11,964	11,818	102	99

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

Million head

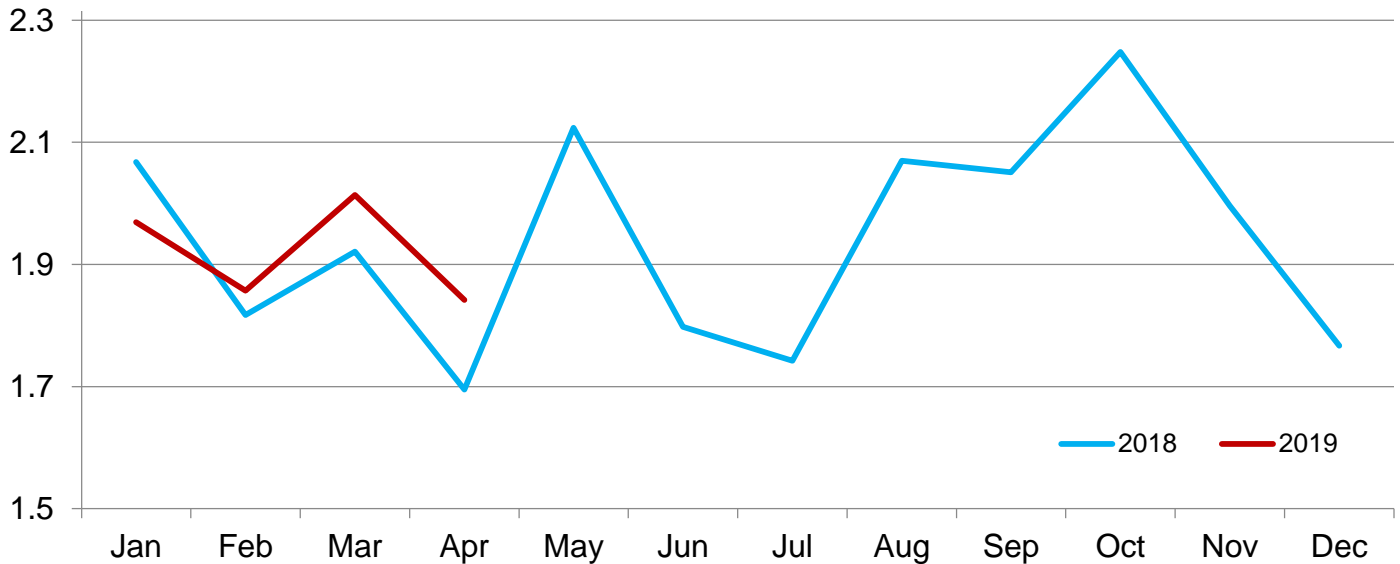


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2018 and 2019**

State	During April 2018 (1,000 head)	During March 2019 (1,000 head)	During April 2019		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	26	31	25	96	81
California .....	59	71	63	107	89
Colorado .....	145	200	170	117	85
Idaho .....	28	44	31	111	70
Iowa .....	80	104	85	106	82
Kansas .....	380	470	435	114	93
Minnesota .....	12	17	11	92	65
Nebraska .....	420	425	435	104	102
Oklahoma .....	60	60	58	97	97
South Dakota .....	25	29	27	108	93
Texas .....	385	480	415	108	86
Washington .....	27	34	40	148	118
Other States .....	48	49	47	98	96
United States .....	1,695	2,014	1,842	109	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: 2018 and 2019**

State	During April 2018							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	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	20	35	40	25	(D)	(D)	145
Kansas .....	40	55	105	110	70	(D)	(D)	380
Nebraska .....	40	45	95	125	115	(D)	(D)	420
Texas .....	115	70	100	75	25	(D)	(D)	385
Other States ...	100	40	80	95	50	(D)	(D)	365
United States ..	320	230	415	445	(X)	205	80	1,695

State	During March 2019							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	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	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 April 2019							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	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	30	40	45	25	(D)	(D)	170
Kansas .....	45	60	125	130	75	(D)	(D)	435
Nebraska .....	40	50	95	130	120	(D)	(D)	435
Texas .....	125	70	105	90	25	(D)	(D)	415
Other States ...	115	40	82	100	50	(D)	(D)	387
United States ..	355	250	447	495	(X)	210	85	1,842

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

(X) Not applicable.

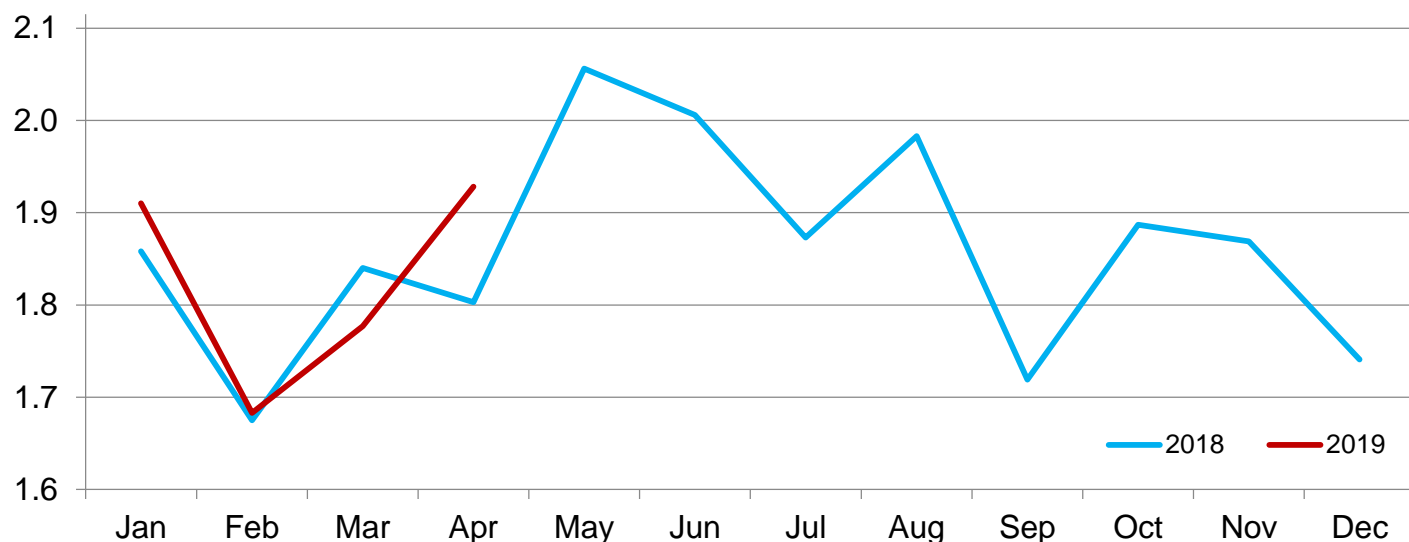
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

**Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2018 and 2019**

State	During April 2018	During March 2019	During April 2019		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	21	27	25	119	93
California .....	56	57	65	116	114
Colorado .....	150	185	165	110	89
Idaho .....	21	32	30	143	94
Iowa .....	87	100	113	130	113
Kansas .....	420	375	420	100	112
Minnesota .....	16	16	20	125	125
Nebraska .....	430	425	440	102	104
Oklahoma .....	59	53	67	114	126
South Dakota .....	27	37	30	111	81
Texas .....	445	390	465	104	119
Washington .....	26	33	28	108	85
Other States .....	45	47	60	133	128
United States .....	1,803	1,777	1,928	107	108

## 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: 2018 and 2019

State	During April 2018 (1,000 head)	During March 2019 (1,000 head)	During April 2019		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	3	4	3	100	75
Colorado .....	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho .....	2	2	1	50	50
Iowa .....	3	4	2	67	50
Kansas .....	10	15	15	150	100
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	20	20	15	75	75
Oklahoma .....	1	2	1	100	50
South Dakota .....	3	2	2	67	100
Texas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Washington .....	1	1	2	200	200
Other States .....	3	2	2	67	100
United States .....	63	69	60	95	87

## 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 11.8 million head by more than 0.0 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.0 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 10,000 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	0.0	1	0	10	2	0
Placements .....	0.1	0.2	1	0	10	2	0
Marketings .....	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0

## 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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