



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Up 3 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 10.0 million head on August 1, 2015. The inventory was 3 percent above August 1, 2014.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 1.55 million head, 1 percent below 2014. Net placements were 1.49 million head. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 365,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 235,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 327,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 620,000 head. Placements are the lowest for July since the series began in 1996.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.73 million head, 3 percent below 2014. Marketings are the lowest for July since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 56,000 head during July, 11 percent below 2014.

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: August 1, 2014 and 2015

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed July 1	10,043	10,236	102
Placed on feed during July	1,559	1,547	99
Fed cattle marketed during July	1,787	1,725	97
Other disappearance during July	63	56	89
On feed August 1	9,752	10,002	103

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: July 1, 2014 and 2015

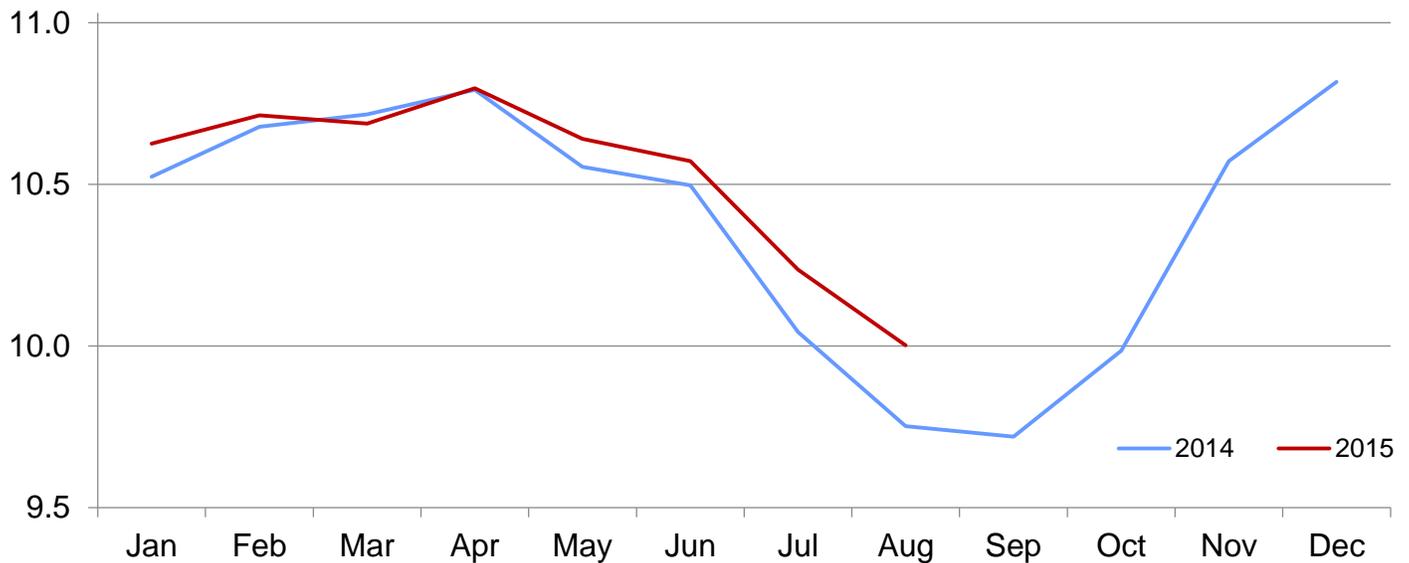
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2014	2015	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed June 1	10,497	10,571	101
Placed on feed during June	1,468	1,481	101
Fed cattle marketed during June	1,847	1,747	95
Other disappearance during June	75	69	92
On feed July 1	10,043	10,236	102

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	August 1, 2014	July 1, 2015	August 1, 2015		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	262	240	239	91	100
California	420	460	455	108	99
Colorado	790	830	790	100	95
Idaho	175	225	220	126	98
Iowa	600	640	630	105	98
Kansas	1,900	1,940	1,930	102	99
Minnesota	115	141	133	116	94
Nebraska	2,140	2,280	2,200	103	96
Oklahoma	240	260	250	104	96
South Dakota	175	230	210	120	91
Texas	2,470	2,480	2,440	99	98
Washington	170	215	210	124	98
Other States	295	295	295	100	100
United States	9,752	10,236	10,002	103	98

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

Million head

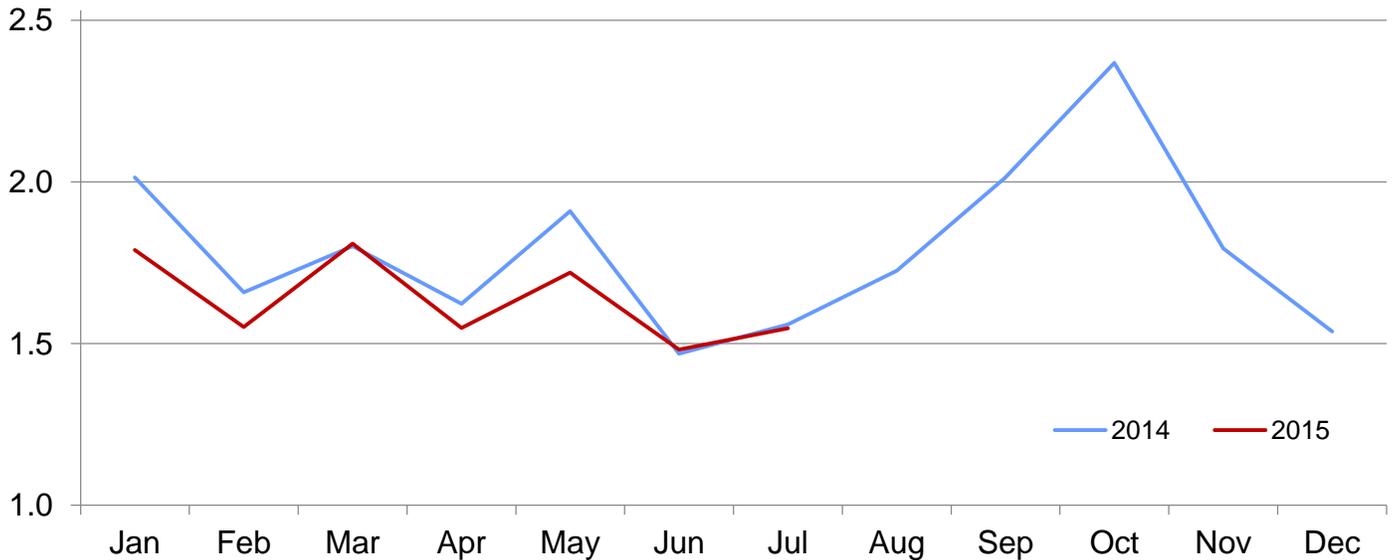


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During July 2014	During June 2015	During July 2015		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	23	28	23	100	82
California	39	45	41	105	91
Colorado	90	80	90	100	113
Idaho	37	31	37	100	119
Iowa	56	67	71	127	106
Kansas	400	335	395	99	118
Minnesota	10	17	11	110	65
Nebraska	375	375	390	104	104
Oklahoma	32	38	38	119	100
South Dakota	20	28	17	85	61
Texas	410	375	365	89	97
Washington	36	30	34	94	113
Other States	31	32	35	113	109
United States	1,559	1,481	1,547	99	104

Number of Cattle Placed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head



Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During July									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(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	15	15	20	15	30	40	90	90
Kansas	80	65	70	70	110	115	140	145	400	395
Nebraska	55	40	50	50	85	85	185	215	375	390
Texas	185	155	85	70	85	65	55	75	410	365
Other States	80	85	40	30	54	47	110	145	284	307
United States	425	365	260	235	354	327	520	620	1,559	1,547

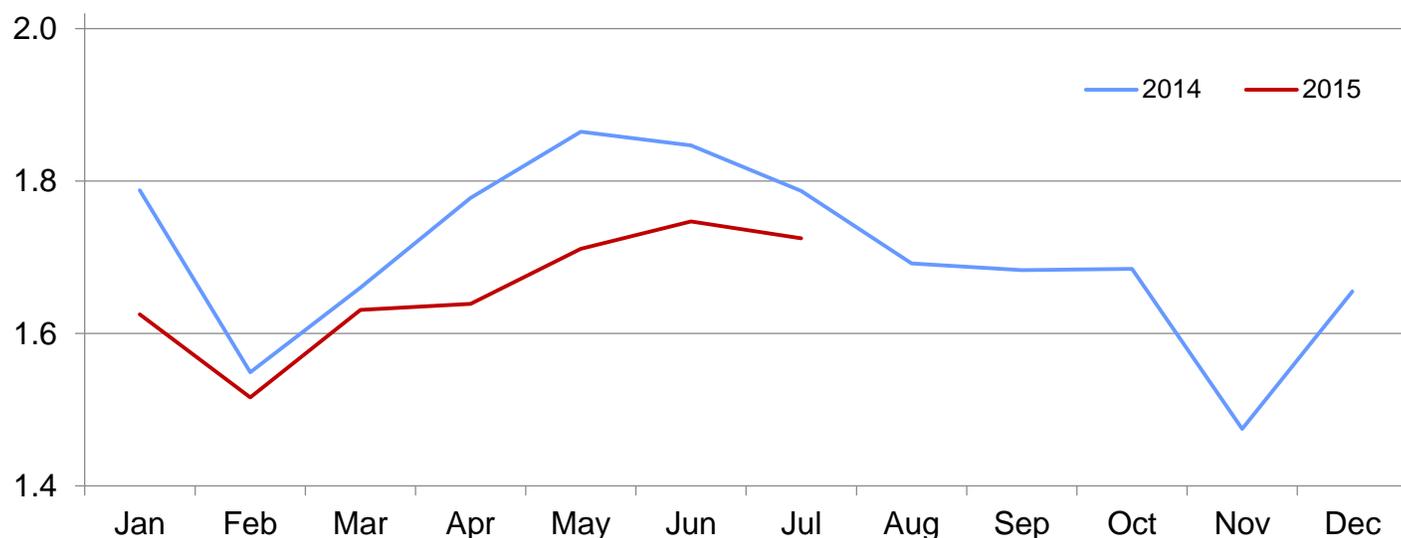
State	During June									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	30	20	15	15	20	15	30	30	95	80
Kansas	65	60	60	65	80	95	110	115	315	335
Nebraska	55	50	50	50	90	75	190	200	385	375
Texas	155	125	75	80	85	95	55	75	370	375
Other States	100	95	45	40	53	56	105	125	303	316
United States	405	350	245	250	328	336	490	545	1,468	1,481

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During July 2014 (1,000 head)	During June 2015 (1,000 head)	During July 2015		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	26	25	22	85	88
California	47	40	41	87	103
Colorado	145	125	125	86	100
Idaho	41	40	41	100	103
Iowa	74	76	80	108	105
Kansas	390	400	395	101	99
Minnesota	15	18	18	120	100
Nebraska	465	480	455	98	95
Oklahoma	46	52	47	102	90
South Dakota	39	26	34	87	131
Texas	415	385	395	95	103
Washington	40	44	38	95	86
Other States	44	36	34	77	94
United States	1,787	1,747	1,725	97	99

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head



Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2014 and 2015

State	During July 2014 (1,000 head)	During June 2015 (1,000 head)	During July 2015		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	7	1	2	29	200
California	7	5	5	71	100
Colorado	5	15	5	100	33
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	2	1	1	50	100
Kansas	10	15	10	100	67
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	10	15	15	150	100
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	1	2	3	300	150
Texas	15	10	10	67	100
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	2	1	1	50	100
United States	63	69	56	89	81

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.

Reliability of Cattle on Feed Estimates

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 each State office. 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 0.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.0 million head by more than 0.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.0 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 50,000 head, ranging from 0 to 97,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 17 times and has been below the latest estimate 4 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	0.6	1.0	50	0	97	4	17
Placements	0.9	1.5	11	0	37	11	10
Marketings	0.5	0.9	4	0	30	0	5

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.

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Michael Klamm – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Vacant – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-3570

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For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Follow NASS” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to 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.

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USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting
Wednesday, October 28, 2015

University of Chicago – Gleacher Center
450 North Cityfront Plaza Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60611
312-464-8787

The USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will be organizing an open forum for data users. The purpose will be to provide updates on pending changes in the various statistical and information programs and seek comments and input from data users. Other USDA agencies to be represented will include the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Economic Research Service, the Foreign Agricultural Service, and the World Agricultural Outlook Board. The Foreign Trade Division from the Census Bureau will also be included in the meeting.

For registration details or additional information for the Data Users' Meeting, see the NASS homepage at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/meeting/> or contact Tina Hall (NASS) at 202-720-3896 or at tina.hall@nass.usda.gov.

This Data Users' Meeting precedes the Industry Outlook Conference that will be held at the same location on Thursday, October 29, 2015. The outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss the outlook situation. For registration details or additional information for the Industry Outlook Conference, see the conference webpage on the LMIC website: <http://lmic.info/page/meetings>. For more information, contact James Robb at (303) 716-9933.