



# Cattle on Feed

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## United States Cattle on Feed Up 1 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 12.0 million head on November 1, 2020. The inventory was 1 percent above November 1, 2019. This is the highest November 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

**Placements** in feedlots during October totaled 2.19 million head, 11 percent below 2019. Net placements were 2.13 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 570,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 495,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 465,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 387,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 185,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 90,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during October totaled 1.87 million head, slightly below 2019.

**Other disappearance** totaled 63,000 head during October, 7 percent above 2019.

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

Item	2019	2020	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed October 1 .....	11,288	11,717	104
Placed on feed during October .....	2,462	2,192	89
Fed cattle marketed during October .....	1,875	1,873	100
Other disappearance during October .....	59	63	107
On feed November 1 .....	11,816	11,973	101

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

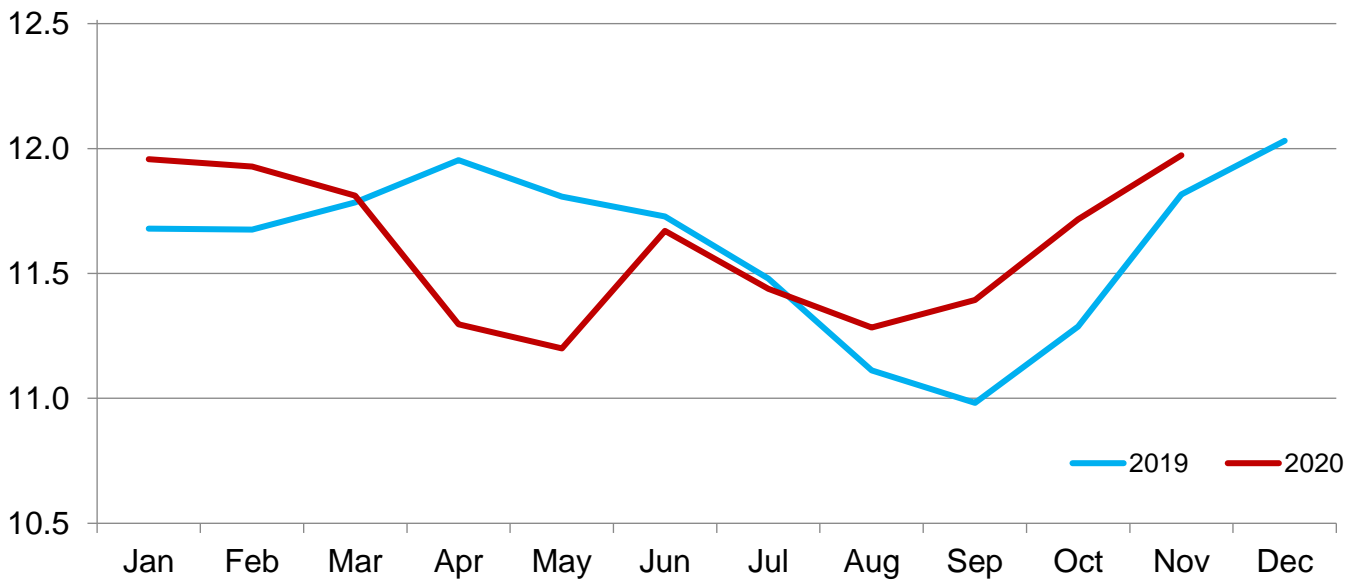
Item	2019	2020	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed September 1 .....	10,982	11,394	104
Placed on feed during September .....	2,103	2,227	106
Fed cattle marketed during September .....	1,738	1,846	106
Other disappearance during September .....	59	58	98
On feed October 1 .....	11,288	11,717	104

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

State	November 1, 2019	October 1, 2020	November 1, 2020		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	256	257	258	101	100
California .....	540	545	555	103	102
Colorado .....	1,070	1,110	1,120	105	101
Idaho .....	290	270	280	97	104
Iowa .....	660	610	620	94	102
Kansas .....	2,420	2,540	2,520	104	99
Minnesota .....	130	105	125	96	119
Nebraska .....	2,450	2,410	2,500	102	104
Oklahoma .....	325	315	320	98	102
South Dakota .....	240	190	225	94	118
Texas .....	2,870	2,870	2,910	101	101
Washington .....	235	220	245	104	111
Other States .....	330	275	295	89	107
United States .....	11,816	11,717	11,973	101	102

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

Million head

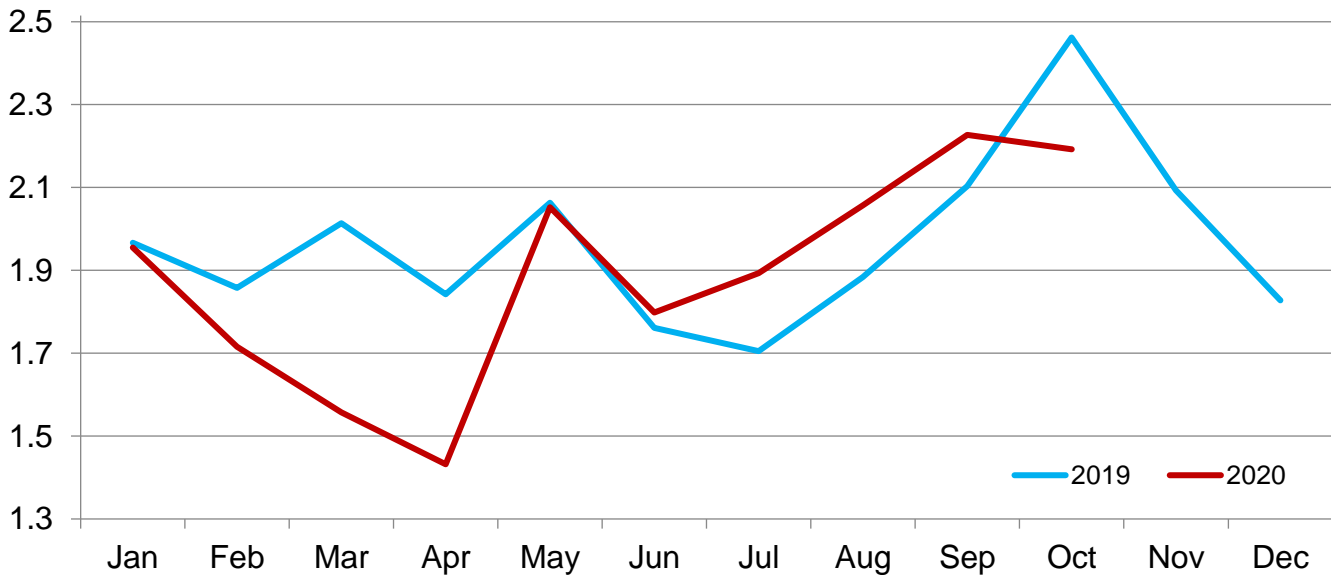


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2019 and 2020**

State	During October 2019 (1,000 head)	During September 2020 (1,000 head)	During October 2020		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	25	16	27	108	169
California .....	75	68	66	88	97
Colorado .....	240	245	175	73	71
Idaho .....	63	54	53	84	98
Iowa .....	114	72	105	92	146
Kansas .....	450	490	430	96	88
Minnesota .....	39	19	35	90	184
Nebraska .....	670	600	560	84	93
Oklahoma .....	61	62	51	84	82
South Dakota .....	77	45	84	109	187
Texas .....	530	450	480	91	107
Washington .....	51	45	61	120	136
Other States .....	67	61	65	97	107
United States .....	2,462	2,227	2,192	89	98

**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 October 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 .....	50	45	40	55	50	(D)	(D)	240
Kansas .....	65	100	140	95	50	(D)	(D)	450
Nebraska .....	140	130	110	140	150	(D)	(D)	670
Texas .....	170	135	140	65	20	(D)	(D)	530
Other States ...	175	130	87	105	75	(D)	(D)	572
United States ..	600	540	517	460	(X)	230	115	2,462
State	During September 2020							
	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	55	65	65	(D)	(D)	245
Kansas .....	65	95	155	115	60	(D)	(D)	490
Nebraska .....	55	60	115	180	190	(D)	(D)	600
Texas .....	175	125	95	45	10	(D)	(D)	450
Other States ...	120	50	80	112	80	(D)	(D)	442
United States ..	445	360	500	517	(X)	300	105	2,227
State	During October 2020							
	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 .....	35	30	35	40	35	(D)	(D)	175
Kansas .....	65	90	140	90	45	(D)	(D)	430
Nebraska .....	120	125	90	110	115	(D)	(D)	560
Texas .....	170	125	115	55	15	(D)	(D)	480
Other States ...	180	125	85	92	65	(D)	(D)	547
United States ..	570	495	465	387	(X)	185	90	2,192

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

(X) Not applicable.

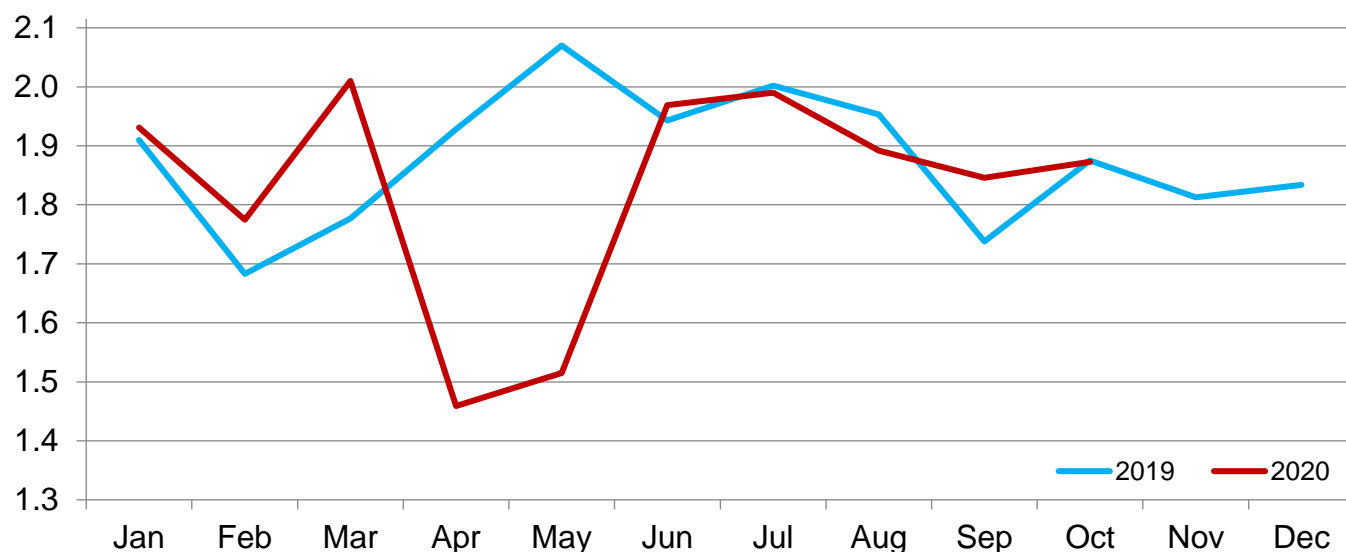
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During October 2019	During September 2020	During October 2020		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	21	22	25	119	114
California .....	54	49	49	91	100
Colorado .....	155	170	160	103	94
Idaho .....	45	38	41	91	108
Iowa .....	92	70	92	100	131
Kansas .....	400	410	440	110	107
Minnesota .....	13	23	14	108	61
Nebraska .....	480	460	460	96	100
Oklahoma .....	50	56	45	90	80
South Dakota .....	45	44	48	107	109
Texas .....	435	415	420	97	101
Washington .....	40	44	35	88	80
Other States .....	45	45	44	98	98
United States .....	1,875	1,846	1,873	100	101

## 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 October 2019 (1,000 head)	During September 2020 (1,000 head)	During October 2020		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	6	9	7	117	78
Colorado .....	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho .....	3	1	2	67	200
Iowa .....	2	2	3	150	150
Kansas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	10	10	10	100	100
Oklahoma .....	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota .....	2	1	1	50	100
Texas .....	15	15	20	133	133
Washington .....	1	1	1	100	100
Other States .....	2	1	1	50	100
United States .....	59	58	63	107	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 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 12.0 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 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)
On feed .....	0.1	0.1	4	0	15	2	8
Placements .....	0.3	0.5	3	0	15	6	3
Marketings .....	0.2	0.4	1	0	15	1	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
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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 agencies 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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