



# Cattle on Feed

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## United States Cattle on Feed Up Slightly

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.6 million head on November 1, 2014. The inventory was slightly above November 1, 2013.

**Placements** in feedlots during October totaled 2.36 million, 1 percent below 2013. Net placements were 2.26 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 690,000, 600-699 pounds were 570,000, 700-799 pounds were 462,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 635,000. For the month of October, placements are the second lowest since the series began in 1996.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during October totaled 1.69 million, 8 percent below 2013. October marketings are the lowest since the series began in 1996.

**Other disappearance** totaled 97,000 during October, 28 percent above 2013.

**Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: November 1, 2013 and 2014**

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2013	2014	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed October 1 .....	10,110	10,058	99
Placed on feed during October .....	2,378	2,357	99
Fed cattle marketed during October .....	1,827	1,685	92
Other disappearance during October .....	76	97	128
On feed November 1 .....	10,585	10,633	100

**Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: October 1, 2013 and 2014**

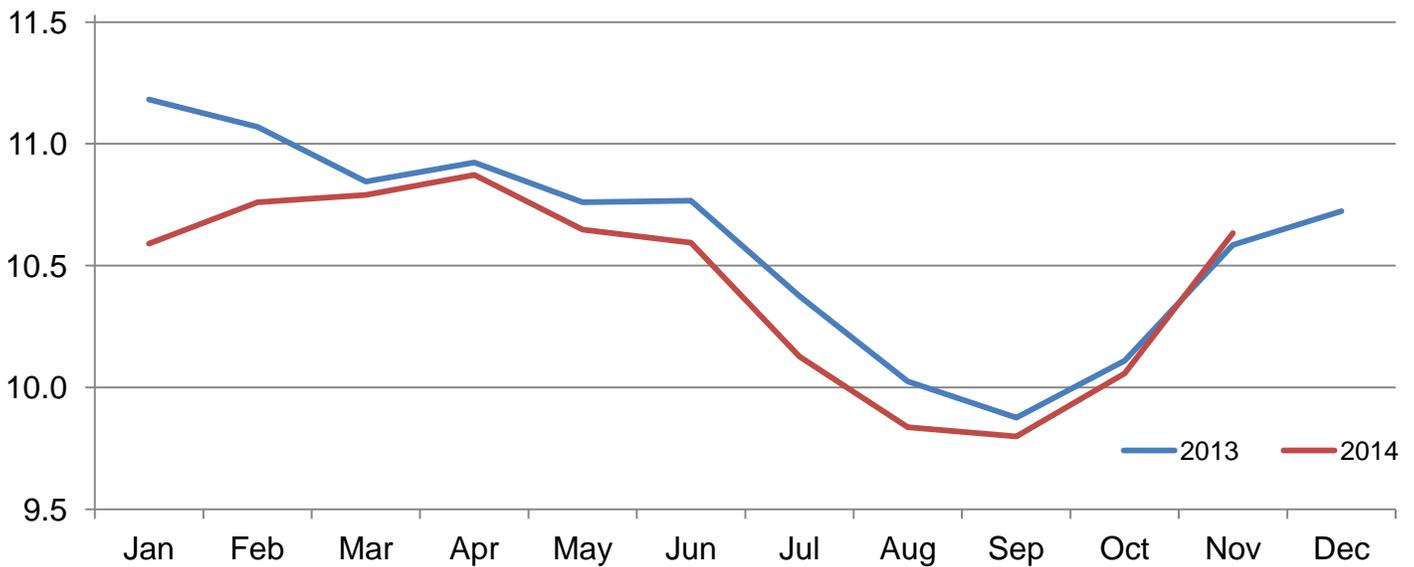
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2013	2014	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed September 1 .....	9,876	9,799	99
Placed on feed during September .....	1,988	2,007	101
Fed cattle marketed during September .....	1,692	1,683	99
Other disappearance during September .....	62	65	105
On feed October 1 .....	10,110	10,058	99

**Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 and 2014**

State	November 1, 2013	October 1, 2014	November 1, 2014		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	270	252	250	93	99
California .....	495	415	420	85	101
Colorado .....	950	840	900	95	107
Idaho .....	220	205	220	100	107
Iowa .....	590	560	590	100	105
Kansas .....	2,050	2,010	2,080	101	103
Minnesota .....	117	114	132	113	116
Nebraska .....	2,370	2,240	2,450	103	109
Oklahoma .....	270	245	260	96	106
South Dakota .....	200	190	230	115	121
Texas .....	2,520	2,470	2,550	101	103
Washington .....	203	212	226	111	107
Other States .....	330	305	325	98	107
United States .....	10,585	10,058	10,633	100	106

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

Million head

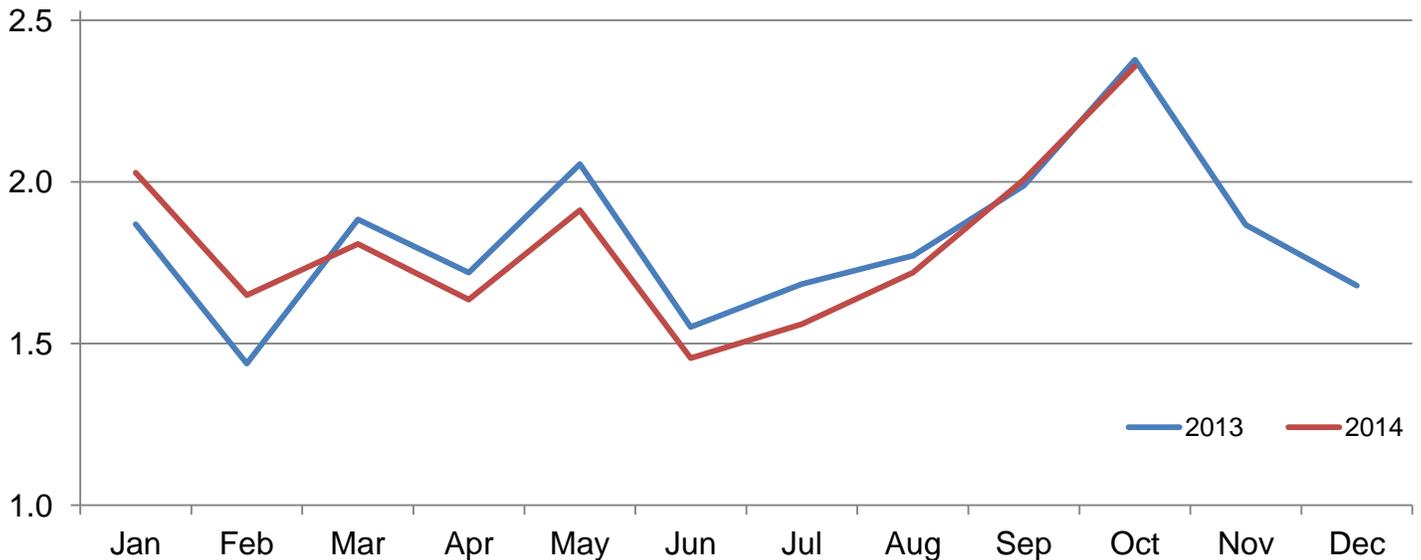


**Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 and 2014**

State	During October 2013 (1,000 head)	During September 2014 (1,000 head)	During October 2014		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	28	20	22	79	110
California .....	55	43	53	96	123
Colorado .....	230	200	210	91	105
Idaho .....	56	64	61	109	95
Iowa .....	131	99	132	101	133
Kansas .....	470	400	420	89	105
Minnesota .....	25	20	30	120	150
Nebraska .....	630	520	660	105	127
Oklahoma .....	65	55	60	92	109
South Dakota .....	59	50	84	142	168
Texas .....	520	445	520	100	117
Washington .....	59	46	51	86	111
Other States .....	50	45	54	108	120
United States .....	2,378	2,007	2,357	99	117

**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: 2013 and 2014**

State	During October									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(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 .....	80	55	50	45	45	45	55	65	230	210
Kansas .....	90	85	120	100	140	115	120	120	470	420
Nebraska .....	170	170	170	165	90	95	200	230	630	660
Texas .....	190	180	120	130	145	130	65	80	520	520
Other States .....	190	200	118	130	85	77	135	140	528	547
United States .....	720	690	578	570	505	462	575	635	2,378	2,357

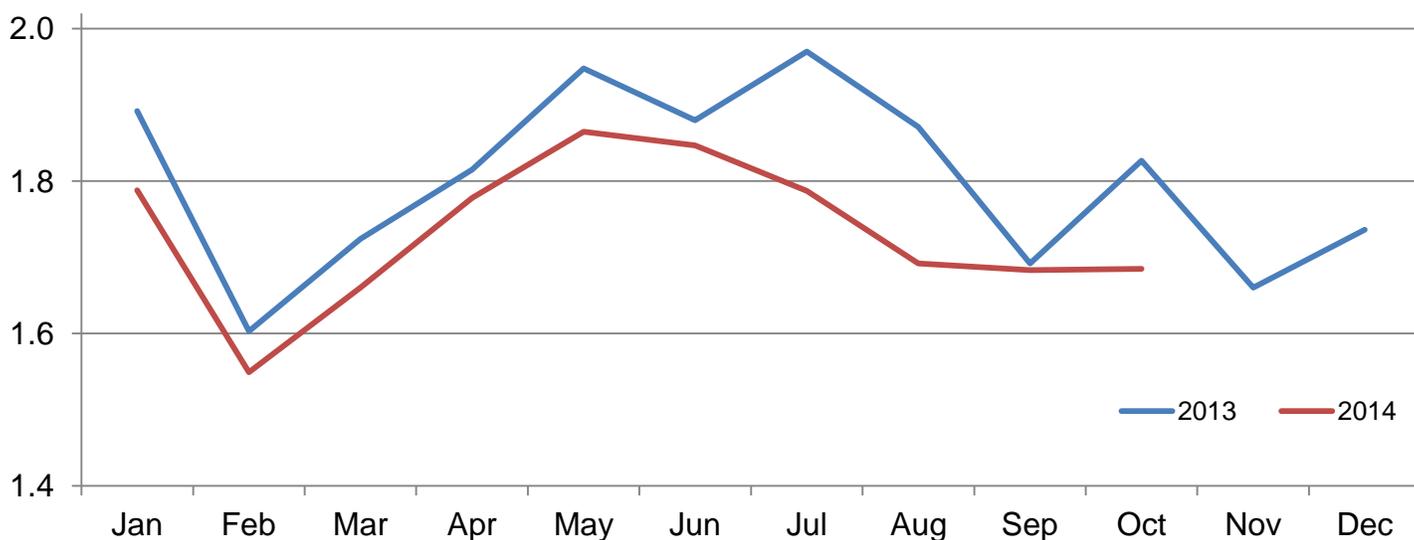
State	During September									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado .....	35	35	20	20	50	45	85	100	190	200
Kansas .....	70	70	85	80	120	115	115	135	390	400
Nebraska .....	75	75	70	65	105	95	260	285	510	520
Texas .....	180	170	110	115	110	100	70	60	470	445
Other States .....	105	110	50	60	90	82	183	190	428	442
United States .....	465	460	335	340	475	437	713	770	1,988	2,007

**Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 and 2014**

State	During October 2013	During September 2014	During October 2014		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	25	24	21	84	88
California .....	50	38	40	80	105
Colorado .....	145	155	145	100	94
Idaho .....	45	38	45	100	118
Iowa .....	89	114	100	112	88
Kansas .....	400	325	320	80	98
Minnesota .....	10	18	11	110	61
Nebraska .....	445	400	430	97	108
Oklahoma .....	78	54	43	55	80
South Dakota .....	38	42	43	113	102
Texas .....	430	410	420	98	102
Washington .....	39	32	35	90	109
Other States .....	33	33	32	97	97
United States .....	1,827	1,683	1,685	92	100

## 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: 2013 and 2014

State	During October 2013 (1,000 head)	During September 2014 (1,000 head)	During October 2014		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	3	300	300
California .....	5	5	8	160	160
Colorado .....	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho .....	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa .....	2	5	2	100	40
Kansas .....	20	15	30	150	200
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	15	10	20	133	200
Oklahoma .....	2	1	2	100	200
South Dakota .....	1	3	1	100	33
Texas .....	20	15	20	100	133
Washington .....	1	1	2	200	200
Other States .....	2	2	2	100	100
United States .....	76	65	97	128	149

## Terms and Definitions of Cattle on Feed Estimates

**Cattle on feed** are animals 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 cattle 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 cattle 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 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.6 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.2 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 9,000 head, ranging from 0 to 34,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 8 times and has been below the latest estimate 7 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	0.2	9	0	34	7	8
Placements .....	1.7	2.9	17	0	88	2	14
Marketings .....	1.5	2.5	17	0	67	0	13

## 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).

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section .....	(202) 690-2424
Travis Averill – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 720-3240
Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products .....	(202) 690-3236
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(202) 720-3278
Evan Schulz – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-6147

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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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Feb. 19-20, 2015

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- **February 19** includes a morning plenary, a networking luncheon, five concurrent afternoon sessions, and a dinner speaker.
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#### Session Topics are expected to include:

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- Tomorrow's Opportunities
- Big Data
- Commodity Situation and Outlook
- Food Price & Farm Income Outlook
- Conservation & Regulation
- Water Issues
- Weather, Drought & Big Data
- Climate Change
- Moving Feed, Food & Fuel to Market
- 100-Year Anniversary of USDA Market News
- Nutrition & New Opportunities for Producers
- Regional Approaches to Rural Growth
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