



# Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

---

Released June 24, 2016, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

## 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 10.8 million head on June 1, 2016. The inventory was 2 percent above June 1, 2015.

**Placements** in feedlots during May totaled 1.88 million head, 10 percent above 2015. Net placements were 1.81 million head. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 305,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 250,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 479,000 head, and 800 pounds and greater were 850,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during May totaled 1.79 million head, 5 percent above 2015.

**Other disappearance** totaled 74,000 head during May, 4 percent below 2015.

**Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: June 1, 2015 and 2016**

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2015	2016	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed May 1 .....	10,640	10,783	101
Placed on feed during May .....	1,719	1,884	110
Fed cattle marketed during May .....	1,711	1,794	105
Other disappearance during May .....	77	74	96
On feed June 1 .....	10,571	10,799	102

**Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: May 1, 2015 and 2016**

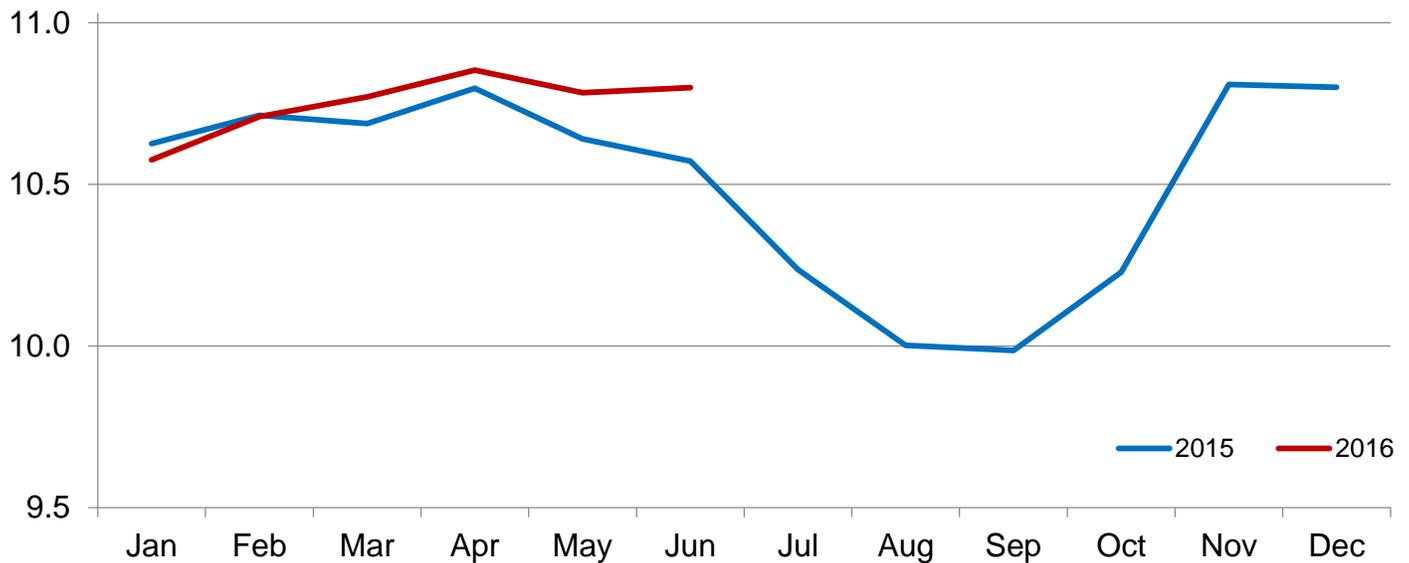
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2015	2016	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1 .....	10,797	10,853	101
Placed on feed during April .....	1,548	1,664	107
Fed cattle marketed during April .....	1,639	1,658	101
Other disappearance during April .....	66	76	115
On feed May 1 .....	10,640	10,783	101

**Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2015 and 2016**

State	June 1, 2015	May 1, 2016	June 1, 2016		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	238	305	300	126	98
California .....	460	415	415	90	100
Colorado .....	890	900	890	100	99
Idaho .....	235	240	245	104	102
Iowa .....	650	640	630	97	98
Kansas .....	2,020	2,150	2,160	107	100
Minnesota .....	143	158	154	108	97
Nebraska .....	2,400	2,420	2,340	98	97
Oklahoma .....	275	300	320	116	107
South Dakota .....	230	265	250	109	94
Texas .....	2,500	2,490	2,610	104	105
Washington .....	230	195	190	83	97
Other States .....	300	305	295	98	97
United States .....	10,571	10,783	10,799	102	100

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

Million head

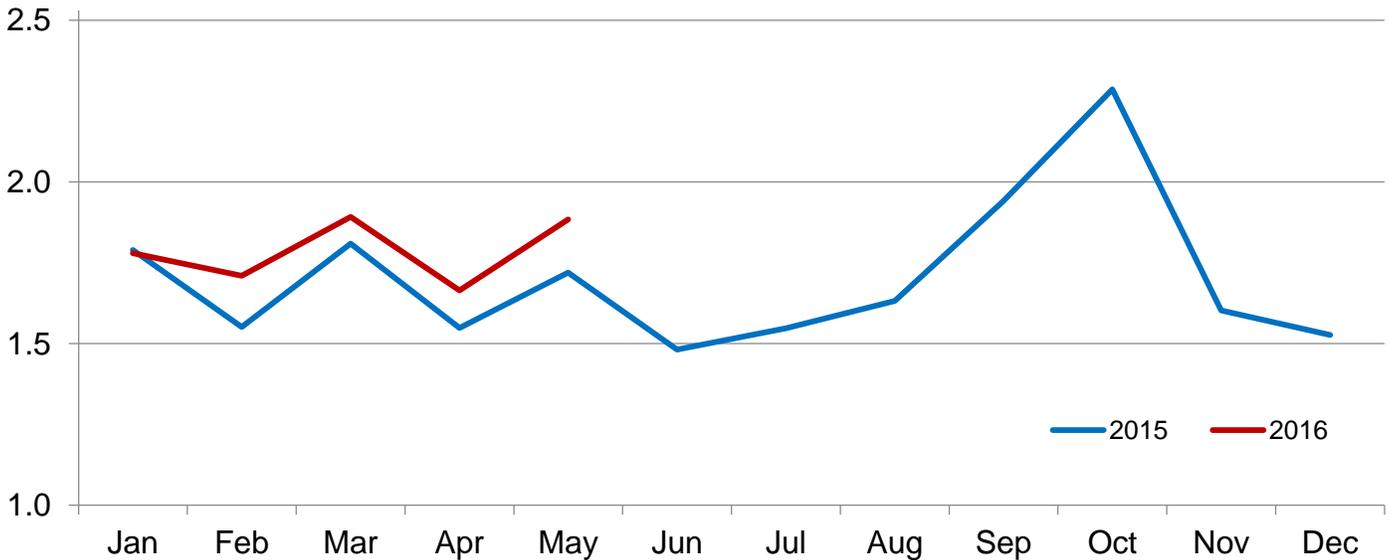


**Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2015 and 2016**

State	During May 2015	During April 2016	During May 2016		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	25	25	19	76	76
California .....	54	50	54	100	108
Colorado .....	140	145	135	96	93
Idaho .....	30	24	41	137	171
Iowa .....	65	78	64	98	82
Kansas .....	345	370	420	122	114
Minnesota .....	14	12	14	100	117
Nebraska .....	390	380	405	104	107
Oklahoma .....	49	56	68	139	121
South Dakota .....	29	24	29	100	121
Texas .....	495	435	560	113	129
Washington .....	45	34	43	96	126
Other States .....	38	31	32	84	103
United States .....	1,719	1,664	1,884	110	113

**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: 2015 - 2016**

State	During May									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(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	20	20	35	35	55	60	140	135
Kansas .....	50	50	55	55	90	120	150	195	345	420
Nebraska .....	45	40	55	50	75	85	215	230	390	405
Texas .....	145	115	90	85	125	170	135	190	495	560
Other States .....	90	80	40	40	64	69	155	175	349	364
United States .....	360	305	260	250	389	479	710	850	1,719	1,884

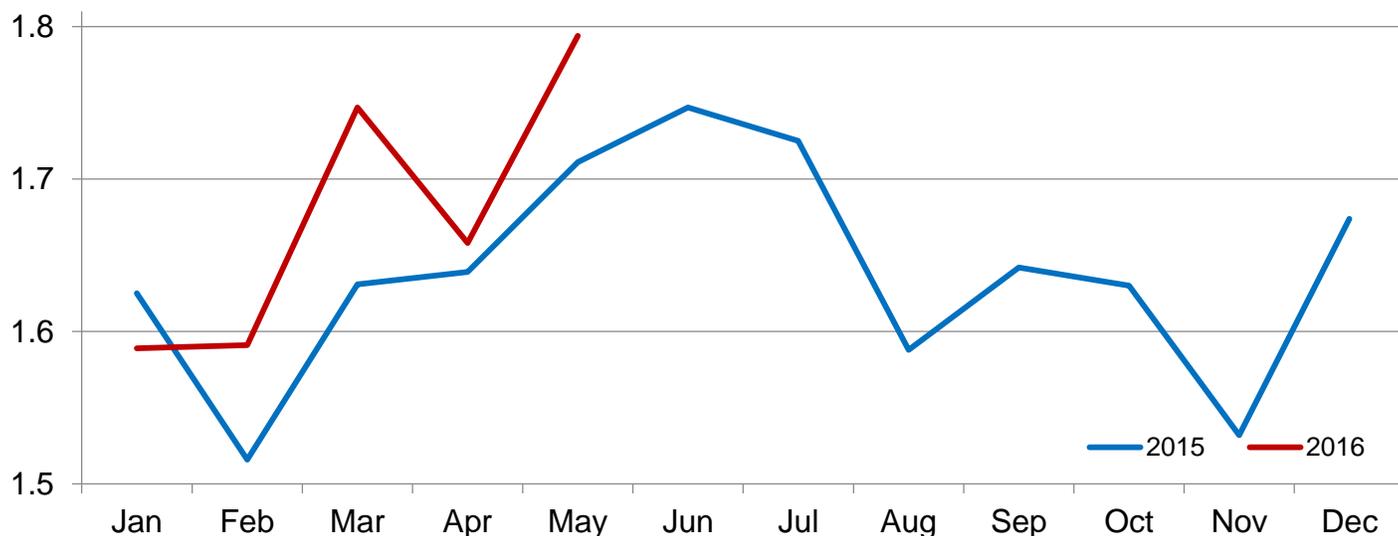
State	During April									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016	2015	2016
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado .....	25	25	25	20	35	35	60	65	145	145
Kansas .....	55	55	50	50	80	100	130	165	315	370
Nebraska .....	50	45	55	45	85	85	200	205	390	380
Texas .....	105	120	70	70	95	110	115	135	385	435
Other States .....	85	89	40	40	53	60	135	145	313	334
United States .....	320	334	240	225	348	390	640	715	1,548	1,664

**Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2015 and 2016**

State	During May 2015	During April 2016	During May 2016		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	26	22	21	81	95
California .....	39	52	50	128	96
Colorado .....	130	135	130	100	96
Idaho .....	29	23	35	121	152
Iowa .....	74	75	72	97	96
Kansas .....	375	385	400	107	104
Minnesota .....	15	13	17	113	131
Nebraska .....	470	380	465	99	122
Oklahoma .....	42	50	47	112	94
South Dakota .....	37	22	40	108	182
Texas .....	395	435	430	109	99
Washington .....	44	33	46	105	139
Other States .....	35	33	41	117	124
United States .....	1,711	1,658	1,794	105	108

## 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: 2015 and 2016

State	During May 2015 (1,000 head)	During April 2016 (1,000 head)	During May 2016		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	3	300	300
California .....	5	3	4	80	133
Colorado .....	20	10	15	75	150
Idaho .....	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa .....	1	3	2	200	67
Kansas .....	10	15	10	100	67
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	20	20	20	100	100
Oklahoma .....	2	1	1	50	100
South Dakota .....	2	2	4	200	200
Texas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Washington .....	1	1	2	200	200
Other States .....	3	8	1	33	13
United States .....	77	76	74	96	97

## 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 0.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.8 million head by more than 0.4 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.7 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 26,000 head, ranging from 0 to 97,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 7 times and has been below the latest estimate 8 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 .....	0.4	0.7	26	0	97	8	7
Placements .....	0.5	0.8	4	0	28	13	2
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).

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
David Colwell – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-8784
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

## Access to NASS Reports

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: [www.nass.usda.gov](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 [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).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (PDF), found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).