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## United States Cattle on Feed Up 5 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 11.9 million head on April 1, 2021. The inventory was 5 percent above April 1, 2020. This is the second highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.41 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.49 million head, up 7 percent from 2020.

**Placements** in feedlots during March totaled 2.00 million head, 28 percent above 2020. Net placements were 1.94 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 405,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 325,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 510,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 522,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 175,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 60,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during March totaled 2.04 million head, 1 percent above 2020. Marketings were the second highest for March since the series began in 1996.

**Other disappearance** totaled 60,000 head during March, 2 percent below 2020.

**Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2020 and 2021**

Item	2020	2021	Percent of previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
On feed March 1 .....	11,811	12,000	102	
Placed on feed during March .....	1,557	1,997	128	
Fed cattle marketed during March .....	2,010	2,040	101	
Other disappearance during March .....	61	60	98	
On feed April 1 .....	11,297	11,897	105	

**Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2020 and 2021**

Item	2020	2021	Percent of previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
On feed February 1 .....	11,928	12,106	101	
Placed on feed during February .....	1,716	1,691	99	
Fed cattle marketed during February .....	1,775	1,739	98	
Other disappearance during February .....	58	58	100	
On feed March 1 .....	11,811	12,000	102	

**Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2020 and 2021**

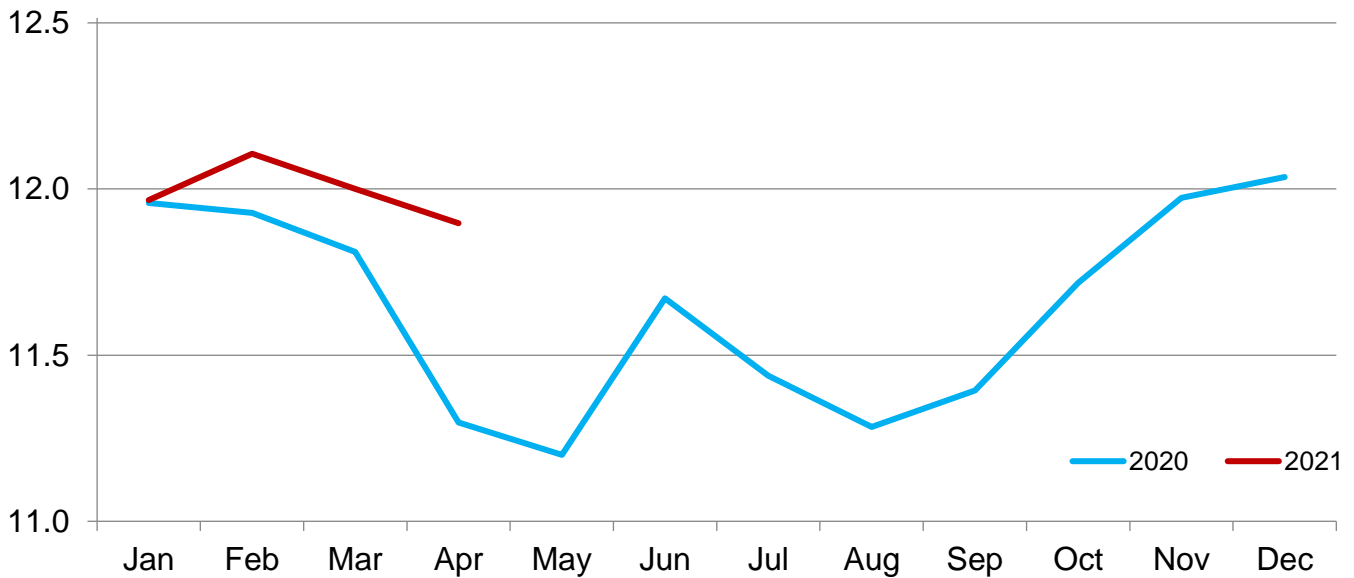
Item	2020	2021	Percent of	
			previous year	inventory
			(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed April 1 .....	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Steers and steer calves .....	7,082	7,407	105	62
Heifers and heifer calves .....	4,215	4,490	107	38

**Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2020 and 2021**

State	April 1, 2020	March 1, 2021	April 1, 2021		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	262	270	272	104	101
California .....	535	565	555	104	98
Colorado .....	960	1,100	1,060	110	96
Idaho .....	285	290	290	102	100
Iowa .....	630	630	630	100	100
Kansas .....	2,290	2,470	2,480	108	100
Minnesota .....	130	115	115	88	100
Nebraska .....	2,390	2,610	2,580	108	99
Oklahoma .....	305	315	300	98	95
South Dakota .....	215	245	240	112	98
Texas .....	2,760	2,870	2,870	104	100
Washington .....	235	225	205	87	91
Other States .....	300	295	300	100	102
United States .....	11,297	12,000	11,897	105	99

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

Million head

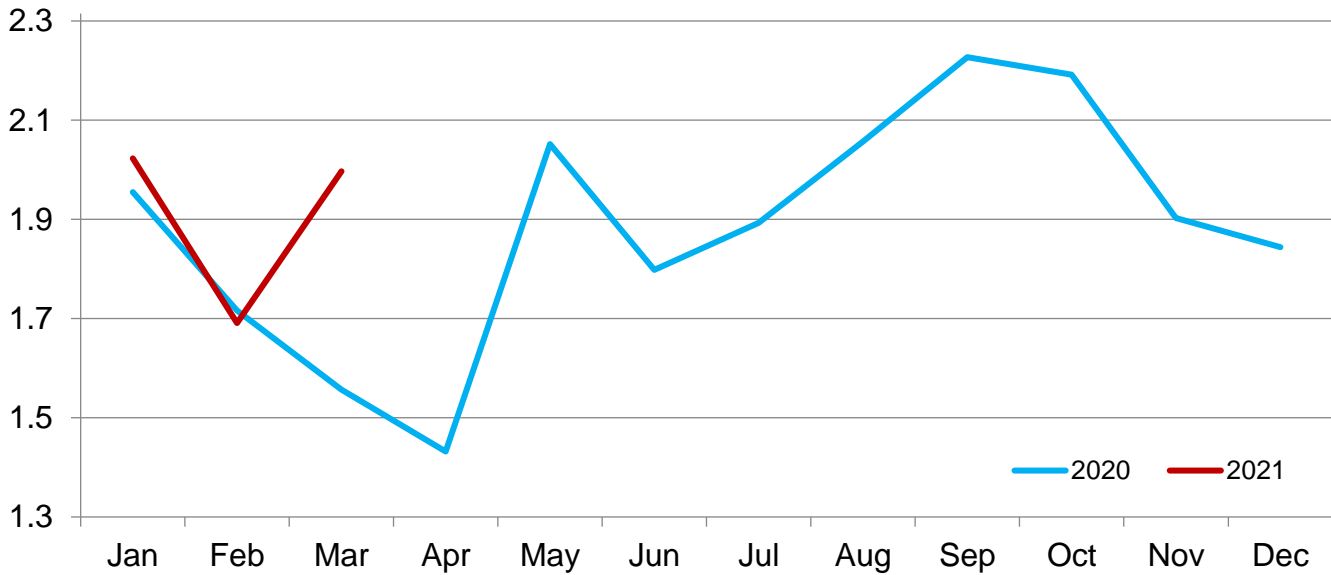


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2020 and 2021**

State	During March 2020 (1,000 head)	During February 2021 (1,000 head)	During March 2021		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	31	29	30	97	103
California .....	62	67	63	102	94
Colorado .....	135	165	180	133	109
Idaho .....	28	36	35	125	97
Iowa .....	69	111	112	162	101
Kansas .....	345	380	490	142	129
Minnesota .....	12	13	15	125	115
Nebraska .....	380	440	440	116	100
Oklahoma .....	40	34	55	138	162
South Dakota .....	23	39	39	170	100
Texas .....	350	310	465	133	150
Washington .....	33	25	19	58	76
Other States .....	49	42	54	110	129
United States .....	1,557	1,691	1,997	128	118

**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: 2020 and 2021**

State	During March 2020							
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800-899 lbs (1,000 head)	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup> (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado .....	25	20	35	35	20	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas .....	40	50	110	100	45	(D)	(D)	345
Nebraska .....	25	45	100	120	90	(D)	(D)	380
Texas .....	115	65	85	65	20	(D)	(D)	350
Other States ...	105	40	80	82	40	(D)	(D)	347
United States ..	310	220	410	402	(X)	155	60	1,557
State	During February 2021							
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800-899 lbs (1,000 head)	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup> (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado .....	30	30	40	45	20	(D)	(D)	165
Kansas .....	40	65	125	110	40	(D)	(D)	380
Nebraska .....	30	65	135	135	75	(D)	(D)	440
Texas .....	125	65	70	40	10	(D)	(D)	310
Other States ...	110	70	95	86	35	(D)	(D)	396
United States ..	335	295	465	416	(X)	125	55	1,691
State	During March 2021							
	Under 600 lbs (1,000 head)	600-699 lbs (1,000 head)	700-799 lbs (1,000 head)	800-899 lbs (1,000 head)	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup> (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado .....	35	30	45	45	25	(D)	(D)	180
Kansas .....	45	75	160	150	60	(D)	(D)	490
Nebraska .....	30	60	115	145	90	(D)	(D)	440
Texas .....	170	100	95	80	20	(D)	(D)	465
Other States ...	125	60	95	102	40	(D)	(D)	422
United States ..	405	325	510	522	(X)	175	60	1,997

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

(X) Not applicable.

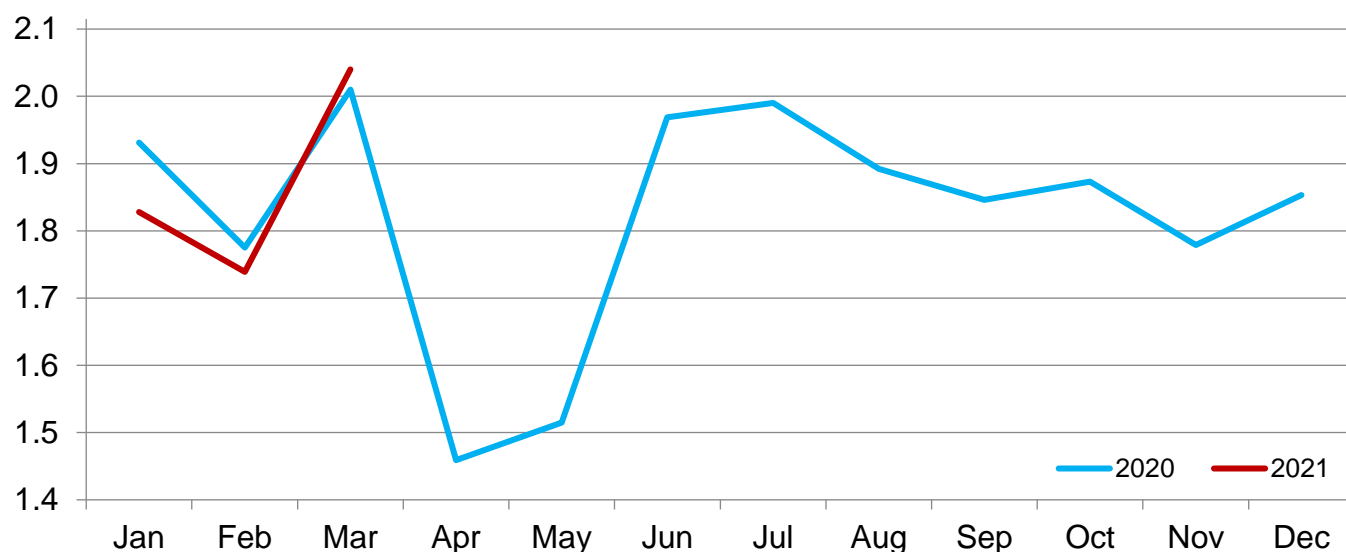
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

**Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2020 and 2021**

State	During March 2020 (1,000 head)	During February 2021 (1,000 head)	During March 2021		
			Marketings (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	24	24	27	113	113
California .....	66	56	66	100	118
Colorado .....	220	180	215	98	119
Idaho .....	37	35	34	92	97
Iowa .....	105	99	109	104	110
Kansas .....	425	420	470	111	112
Minnesota .....	16	12	14	88	117
Nebraska .....	475	430	455	96	106
Oklahoma .....	54	38	69	128	182
South Dakota .....	44	36	41	93	114
Texas .....	460	335	455	99	136
Washington .....	32	29	38	119	131
Other States .....	52	45	47	90	104
United States .....	2,010	1,739	2,040	101	117

## 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: 2020 and 2021

State	During March 2020 (1,000 head)	During February 2021 (1,000 head)	During March 2021		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	6	6	7	117	117
Colorado .....	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho .....	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa .....	4	2	3	75	150
Kansas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	15	10	15	100	150
Oklahoma .....	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota .....	4	3	3	75	100
Texas .....	10	15	10	100	67
Washington .....	1	1	1	100	100
Other States .....	2	2	2	100	100
United States .....	61	58	60	98	103

**Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States: 2020 and 2021**

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Apr 1, 2020	Jan 1, 2021	Apr 1, 2021	Apr 1, 2020	Jan 1, 2021	Apr 1, 2021
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona .....	257	257	267	5	5	5
California .....	465	470	465	70	85	90
Colorado .....	525	630	610	435	480	450
Idaho .....	190	150	155	95	135	135
Iowa .....	465	445	485	165	165	145
Kansas .....	1,260	1,340	1,360	1,030	1,160	1,120
Minnesota .....	115	95	95	15	20	20
Nebraska .....	1,500	1,590	1,590	890	960	990
Oklahoma .....	165	190	180	140	135	120
South Dakota .....	125	140	150	90	105	90
Texas .....	1,675	1,770	1,740	1,085	1,100	1,130
Washington .....	140	130	115	95	105	90
Other States .....	200	195	195	100	110	105
United States .....	7,082	7,402	7,407	4,215	4,565	4,490

## 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 11.9 million head by more than 0.0 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 3,000 head, ranging from 0 to 15,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 6 times and has been below the latest estimate 3 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 .....	0.0	0.1	3	0	15	3	5
Placements .....	0.3	0.4	3	0	15	7	3
Marketings .....	0.2	0.4	1	0	15	3	2

## 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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Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 690-8632
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
Logan Hartley-Sanguinett – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 690-3236
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(202) 720-3278
Suzanne Richards – Dairy Products .....	(202) 720-4448
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106

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