



Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

Released June 21, 2024, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

United States Cattle on Feed Down Slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.6 million head on June 1, 2024. The inventory was slightly below June 1, 2023.

Placements in feedlots during May totaled 2.05 million head, 4 percent above 2023. Net placements were 1.98 million head. During May, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 395,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 315,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 485,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 531,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 230,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 90,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during May totaled 1.96 million head, slightly above 2023.

Other disappearance totaled 62,000 head during May, 16 percent below 2023.

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: June 1, 2023 and 2024

Item	2023	2024	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed May 1	11,654	11,554	99
Placed on feed during May	1,962	2,046	104
Fed cattle marketed during May	1,952	1,955	100
Other disappearance during May	74	62	84
On feed June 1	11,590	11,583	100

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: May 1, 2023 and 2024

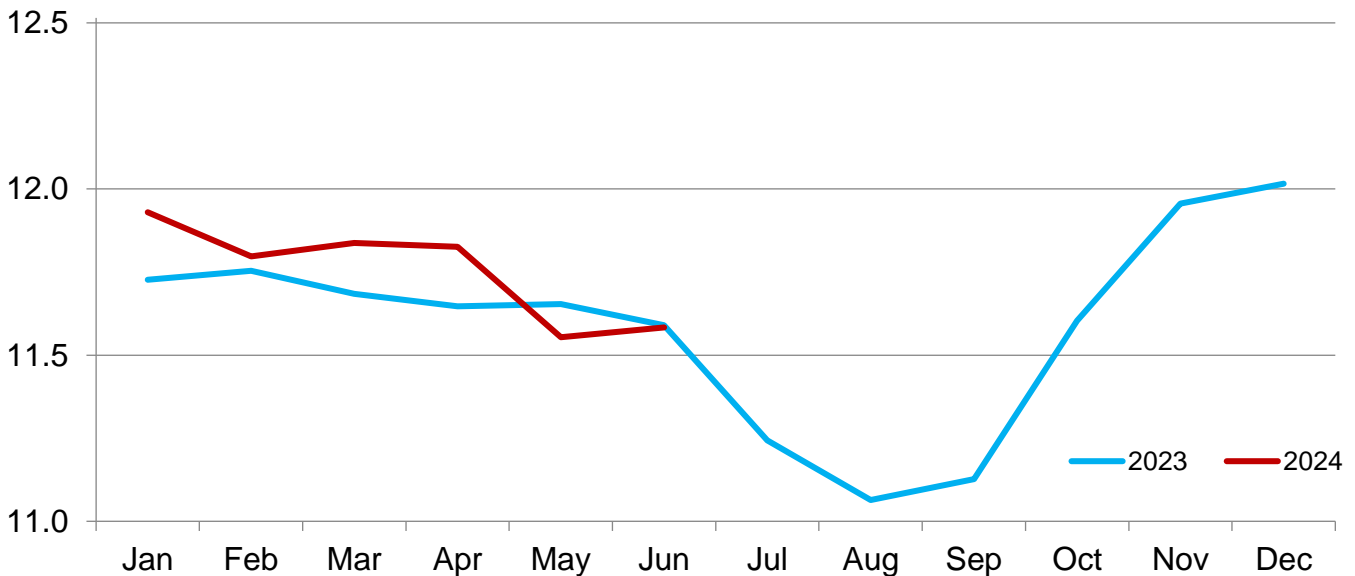
Item	2023	2024	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1	11,647	11,826	102
Placed on feed during April	1,758	1,656	94
Fed cattle marketed during April	1,700	1,872	110
Other disappearance during April	51	56	110
On feed May 1	11,654	11,554	99

Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024

State	June 1, 2023	May 1, 2024	June 1, 2024		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	255	254	253	99	100
California	545	525	525	96	100
Colorado	1,000	950	960	96	101
Idaho	305	340	335	110	99
Iowa	650	660	660	102	100
Kansas	2,470	2,300	2,320	94	101
Minnesota	100	110	105	105	95
Nebraska	2,450	2,510	2,480	101	99
Oklahoma	250	320	330	132	103
South Dakota	200	245	220	110	90
Texas	2,810	2,770	2,840	101	103
Washington	245	245	245	100	100
Other States	310	325	310	100	95
United States	11,590	11,554	11,583	100	100

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

Million head

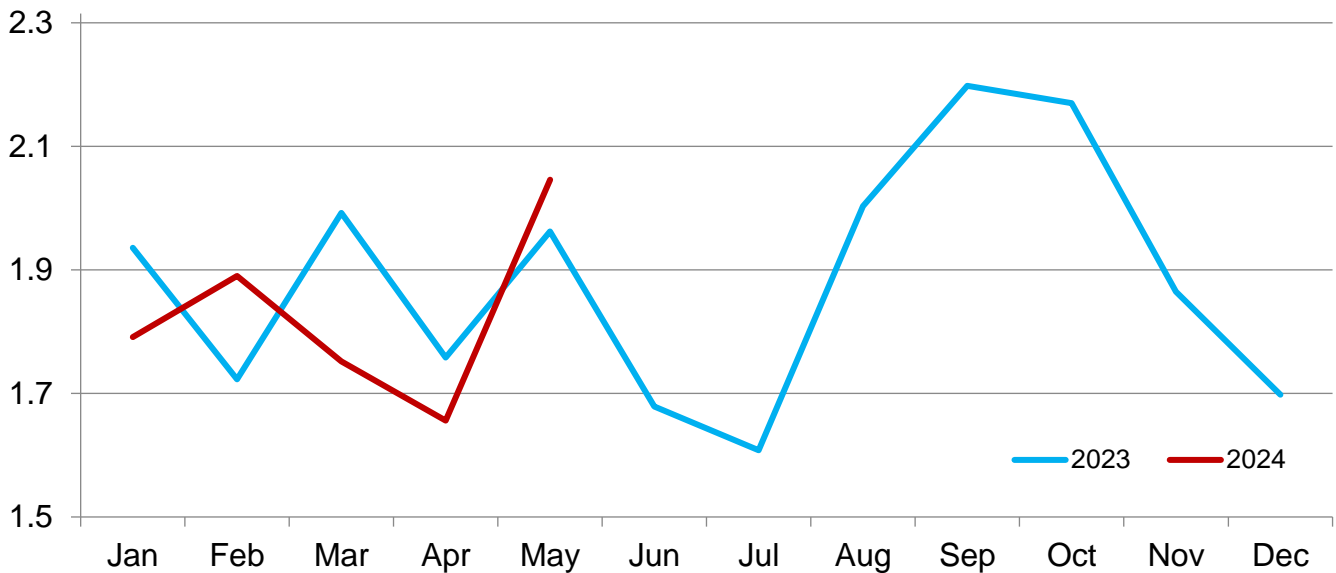


Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024

State	During May 2023 (1,000 head)	During April 2024 (1,000 head)	During May 2024		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	24	23	25	104	109
California	74	60	60	81	100
Colorado	175	135	170	97	126
Idaho	39	39	43	110	110
Iowa	75	89	73	97	82
Kansas	495	370	485	98	131
Minnesota	11	16	9	82	56
Nebraska	450	445	495	110	111
Oklahoma	57	44	74	130	168
South Dakota	28	30	24	86	80
Texas	455	330	505	111	153
Washington	33	34	39	118	115
Other States	46	41	44	96	107
United States	1,962	1,656	2,046	104	124

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: 2023 and 2024

State	During May 2023							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs ¹	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	40	45	30	(D)	(D)	175
Kansas	55	80	155	130	75	(D)	(D)	495
Nebraska	35	40	105	155	115	(D)	(D)	450
Texas	150	90	110	80	25	(D)	(D)	455
Other States ...	110	60	70	97	50	(D)	(D)	387
United States ..	380	300	480	507	(X)	215	80	1,962
State	During April 2024							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs ¹	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	25	20	30	35	25	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas	40	50	110	105	65	(D)	(D)	370
Nebraska	30	45	100	160	110	(D)	(D)	445
Texas	125	55	65	60	25	(D)	(D)	330
Other States ...	115	50	70	91	50	(D)	(D)	376
United States ..	335	220	375	451	(X)	205	70	1,656
State	During May 2024							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs ¹	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	25	40	45	30	(D)	(D)	170
Kansas	55	75	145	130	80	(D)	(D)	485
Nebraska	40	50	110	165	130	(D)	(D)	495
Texas	160	105	120	90	30	(D)	(D)	505
Other States ...	110	60	70	101	50	(D)	(D)	391
United States ..	395	315	485	531	(X)	230	90	2,046

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

(X) Not applicable.

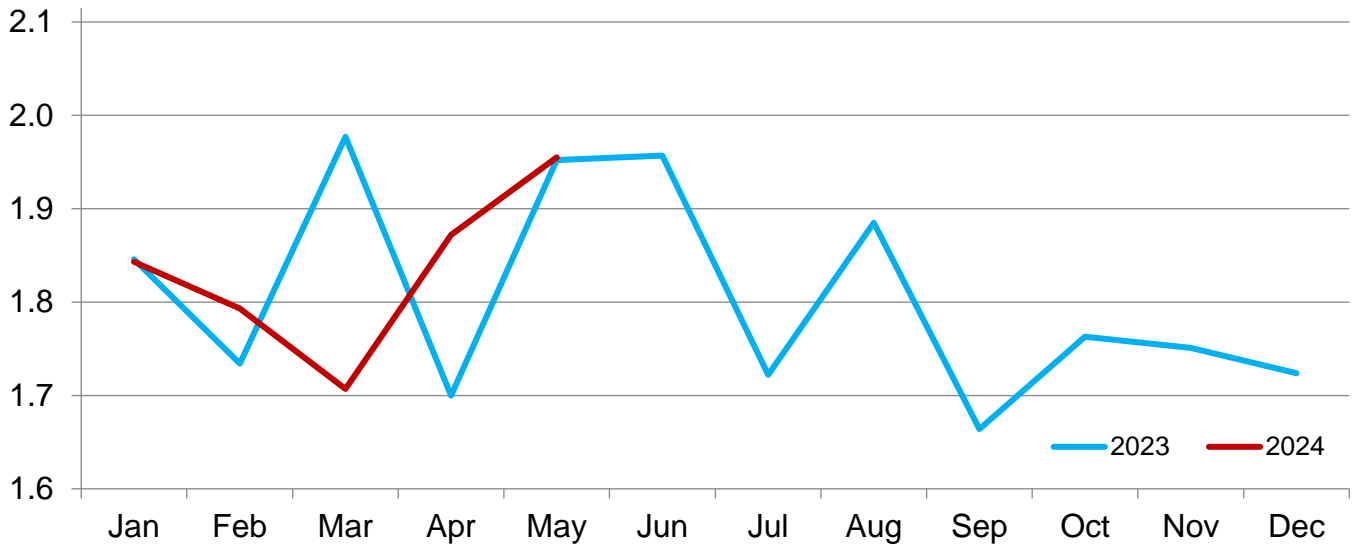
¹ The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024

State	During May 2023	During April 2024	During May 2024		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	27	24	25	93	104
California	56	59	54	96	92
Colorado	145	170	155	107	91
Idaho	48	43	47	98	109
Iowa	73	87	71	97	82
Kansas	455	460	455	100	99
Minnesota	10	10	13	130	130
Nebraska	520	465	510	98	110
Oklahoma	56	53	63	113	119
South Dakota	42	34	47	112	138
Texas	425	385	420	99	109
Washington	42	38	38	90	100
Other States	53	44	57	108	130
United States	1,952	1,872	1,955	100	104

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: 2023 and 2024

State	During May 2023 (1,000 head)	During April 2024 (1,000 head)	During May 2024		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	8	6	6	75	100
Colorado	10	5	5	50	100
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	2	2	2	100	100
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	20	10	15	75	150
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	6	1	2	33	200
Texas	10	15	15	150	100
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	3	2	2	67	100
United States	74	56	62	84	111

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 0.5 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 11.6 million head by more than 0.5 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.9 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 47,000 head, ranging from 0 to 115,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 0 times and has been below the latest estimate 20 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	0.5	0.9	47	0	115	20	0
Placements	0.5	0.9	7	0	24	9	11
Marketings	0.1	0.2	2	0	6	11	7

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.

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 692-0069
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Kim DaPra – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(512) 501-3266
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3347
Anthony Fischer – Hogs and Pigs.....	(202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4448

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.
- 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 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.
- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agency’s 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 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.

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 www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer, 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.