



# Cattle on Feed

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## United States Cattle on Feed Up 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 12.0 million head on November 1, 2024. The inventory was slightly above November 1, 2023.

**Placements** in feedlots during October totaled 2.29 million head, 5 percent above 2023. Net placements were 2.23 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 585,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 480,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 490,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 436,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 215,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 80,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during October totaled 1.85 million head, 5 percent above 2023.

**Other disappearance** totaled 55,000 head during October, unchanged from 2023.

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

Item	2023	2024	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed October 1 .....	11,604	11,600	100
Placed on feed during October .....	2,170	2,286	105
Fed cattle marketed during October .....	1,763	1,845	105
Other disappearance during October .....	55	55	100
On feed November 1 .....	11,956	11,986	100

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

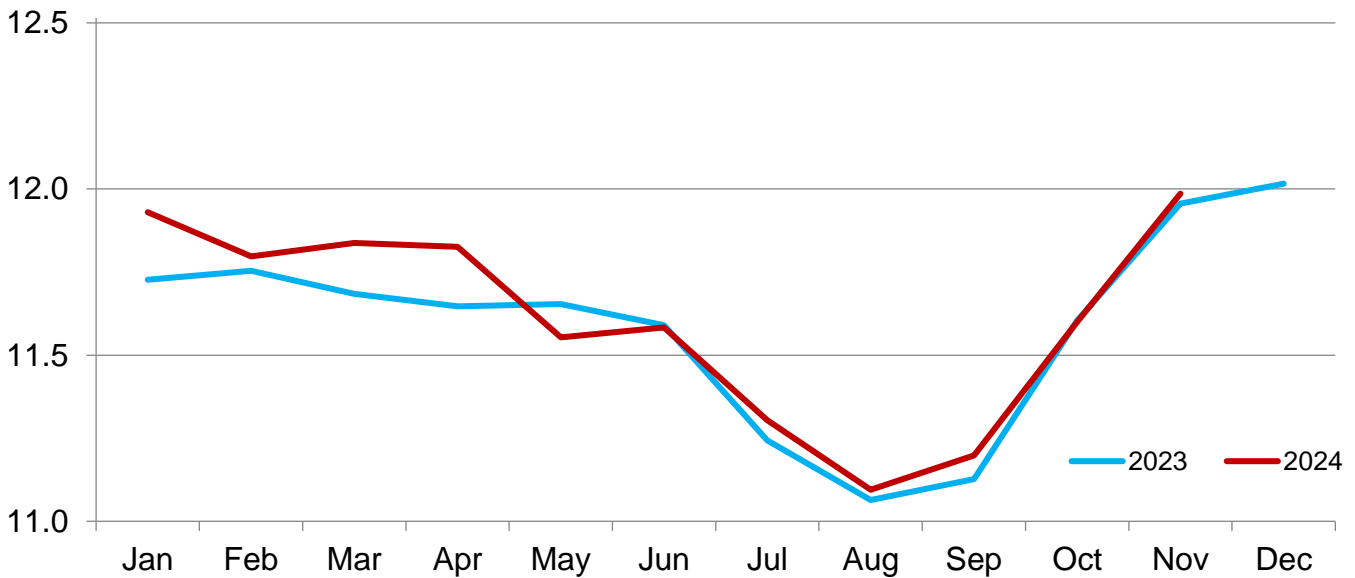
Item	2023	2024	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed September 1 .....	11,127	11,198	101
Placed on feed during September .....	2,198	2,156	98
Fed cattle marketed during September .....	1,664	1,698	102
Other disappearance during September .....	57	56	98
On feed October 1 .....	11,604	11,600	100

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

State	November 1, 2023	October 1, 2024	November 1, 2024		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	261	230	231	89	100
California .....	505	515	515	102	100
Colorado .....	1,030	1,000	1,060	103	106
Idaho .....	320	330	330	103	100
Iowa .....	650	660	670	103	102
Kansas .....	2,520	2,370	2,415	96	102
Minnesota .....	100	100	105	105	105
Nebraska .....	2,540	2,470	2,590	102	105
Oklahoma .....	315	345	365	116	106
South Dakota .....	220	195	225	102	115
Texas .....	2,900	2,820	2,880	99	102
Washington .....	270	255	270	100	106
Other States .....	325	310	330	102	106
United States .....	11,956	11,600	11,986	100	103

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

Million head

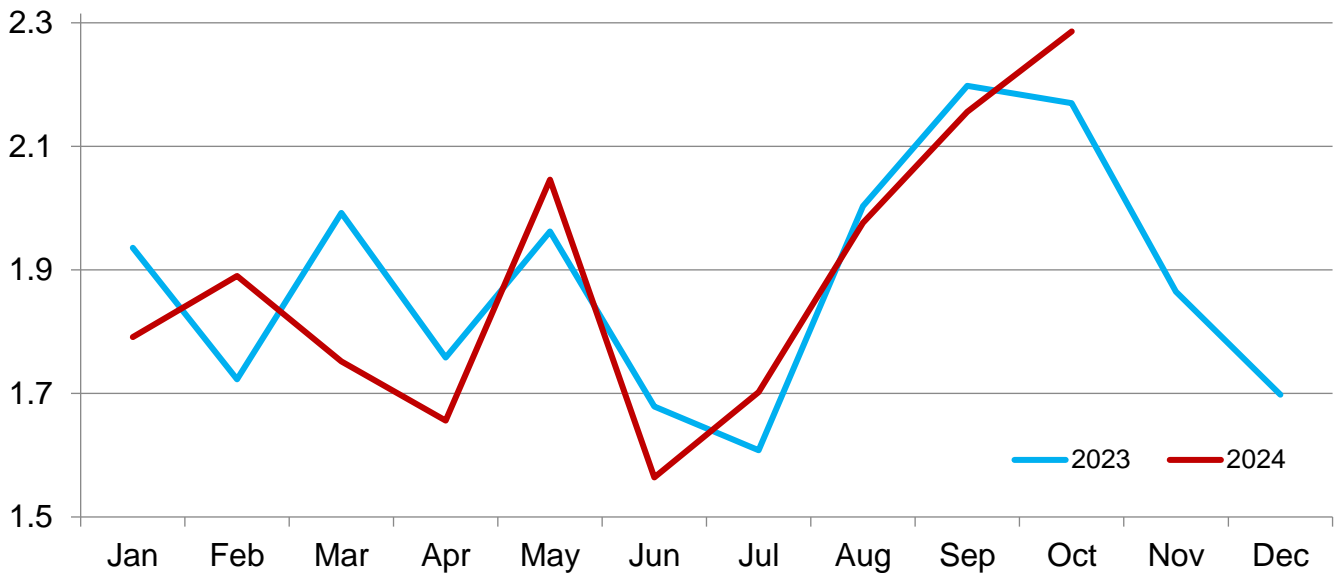


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024**

State	During October 2023 (1,000 head)	During September 2024 (1,000 head)	During October 2024		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	26	16	21	81	131
California .....	52	61	57	110	93
Colorado .....	205	180	210	102	117
Idaho .....	59	63	50	85	79
Iowa .....	83	72	95	114	132
Kansas .....	440	505	485	110	96
Minnesota .....	20	16	22	110	138
Nebraska .....	610	615	625	102	102
Oklahoma .....	58	57	66	114	116
South Dakota .....	69	47	70	101	149
Texas .....	440	425	470	107	111
Washington .....	51	42	50	98	119
Other States .....	57	57	65	114	114
United States .....	2,170	2,156	2,286	105	106

**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 October 2023							
	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 .....	40	40	40	50	35	(D)	(D)	205
Kansas .....	65	95	135	95	50	(D)	(D)	440
Nebraska .....	130	115	105	130	130	(D)	(D)	610
Texas .....	160	110	105	50	15	(D)	(D)	440
Other States ...	155	105	80	80	55	(D)	(D)	475
United States ..	550	465	465	405	(X)	205	80	2,170
State	During September 2024							
	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 .....	25	20	40	55	40	(D)	(D)	180
Kansas .....	65	95	155	125	65	(D)	(D)	505
Nebraska .....	60	60	110	185	200	(D)	(D)	615
Texas .....	160	110	90	55	10	(D)	(D)	425
Other States ...	115	45	75	106	90	(D)	(D)	431
United States ..	425	330	470	526	(X)	305	100	2,156
State	During October 2024							
	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 .....	40	40	45	50	35	(D)	(D)	210
Kansas .....	75	105	145	105	55	(D)	(D)	485
Nebraska .....	135	115	105	135	135	(D)	(D)	625
Texas .....	170	115	115	55	15	(D)	(D)	470
Other States ...	165	105	80	91	55	(D)	(D)	496
United States ..	585	480	490	436	(X)	215	80	2,286

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

(X) Not applicable.

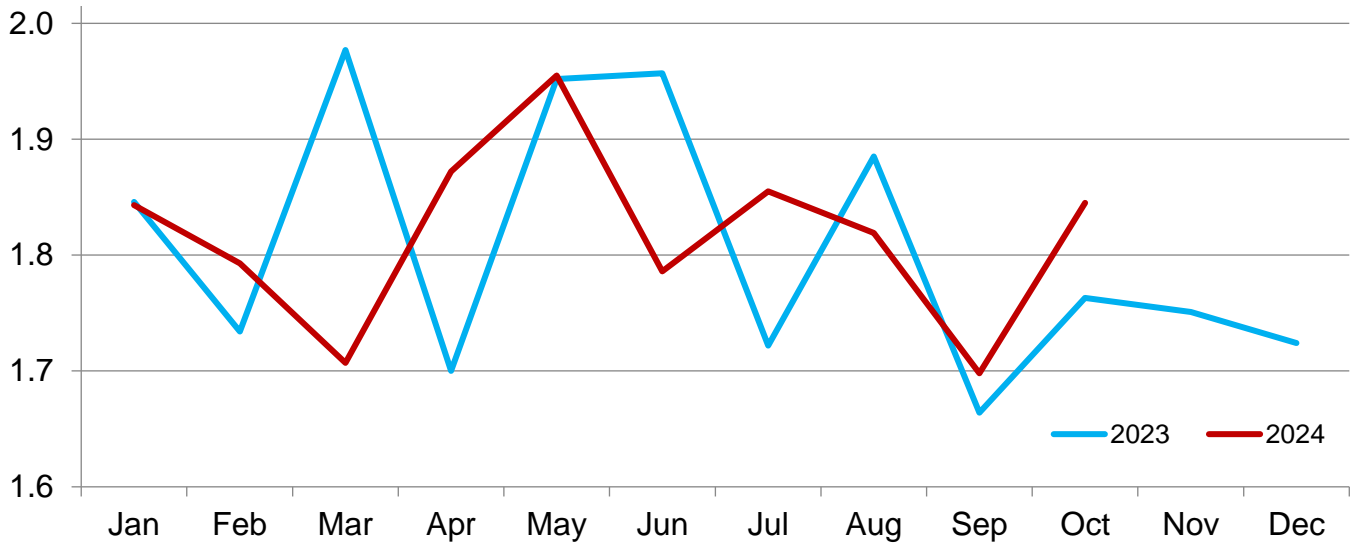
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During October 2023	During September 2024	During October 2024		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	18	18	19	106	106
California .....	46	60	51	111	85
Colorado .....	160	145	145	91	100
Idaho .....	37	46	48	130	104
Iowa .....	82	71	84	102	118
Kansas .....	410	405	430	105	106
Minnesota .....	14	10	16	114	160
Nebraska .....	480	455	495	103	109
Oklahoma .....	32	40	45	141	113
South Dakota .....	33	36	39	118	108
Texas .....	375	340	395	105	116
Washington .....	35	31	34	97	110
Other States .....	41	41	44	107	107
United States .....	1,763	1,698	1,845	105	109

# 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 October 2023 (1,000 head)	During September 2024 (1,000 head)	During October 2024		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	6	6	6	100	100
Colorado .....	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho .....	2	2	2	100	100
Iowa .....	1	1	1	100	100
Kansas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	10	10	10	100	100
Oklahoma .....	1	2	1	100	50
South Dakota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Texas .....	15	15	15	100	100
Washington .....	1	1	1	100	100
Other States .....	1	1	1	100	100
United States .....	55	56	55	100	98

## 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 0.3 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 0.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.5 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 24,000 head, ranging from 0 to 80,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 0 times and has been below the latest estimate 15 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 .....	0.3	0.5	24	0	80	15	0
Placements .....	0.5	0.9	6	0	24	7	9
Marketings .....	0.1	0.2	1	0	6	8	6

## 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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Donnie Fike – Dairy Products .....	(202) 690-3347
Ralph Mondesir – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-4448



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- 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](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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