



Cattle on Feed

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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 October 1, 2024. The inventory was slightly below October 1, 2023. The inventory included 7.00 million steers and steer calves, up 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.60 million head, down 1 percent from 2023.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.16 million head, 2 percent below 2023. Net placements were 2.10 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 430,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 330,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 465,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 526,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 305,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 100,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.70 million head, 2 percent above 2023.

Other disappearance totaled 56,000 head during September, 2 percent below 2023.

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, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: September 1, 2023 and 2024

Item	2023	2024	Percent of	
			previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
On feed August 1	11,064	11,095		100
Placed on feed during August	2,003	1,976		99
Fed cattle marketed during August	1,885	1,819		96
Other disappearance during August	55	54		98
On feed September 1	11,127	11,198		101

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

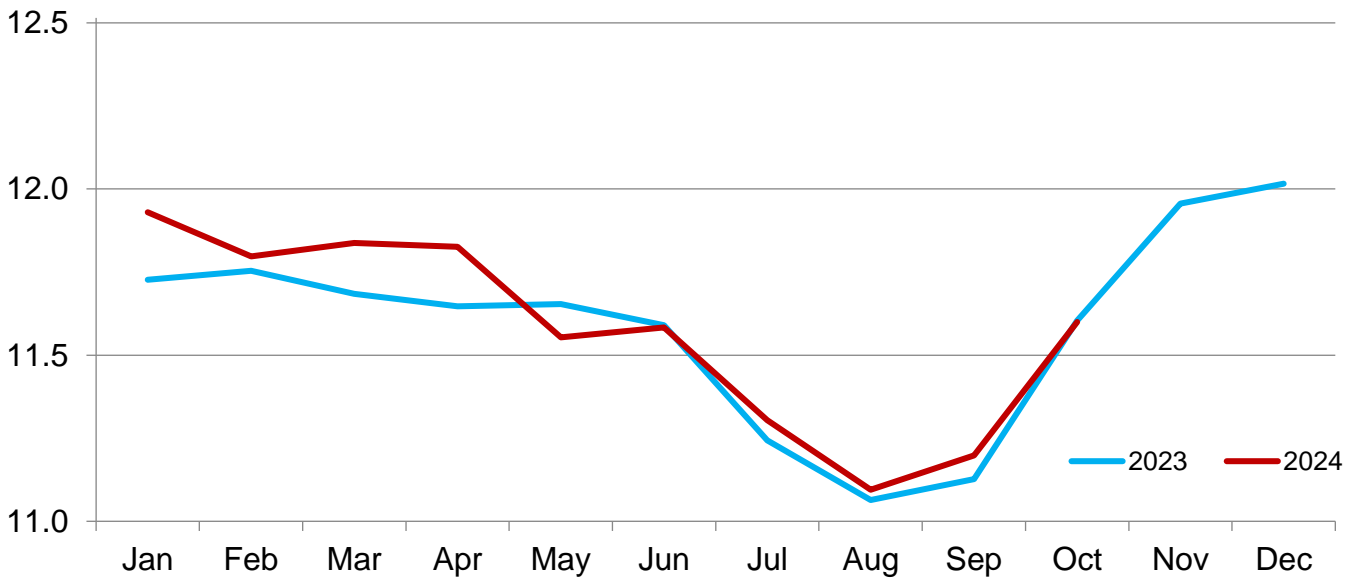
Item	2023	2024	Percent of	
			previous year	inventory
			(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed October 1	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Steers and steer calves	6,964	7,000	101	60
Heifers and heifer calves	4,640	4,600	99	40

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

State	October 1, 2023	September 1, 2024	October 1, 2024		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	254	233	230	91	99
California	505	520	515	102	99
Colorado	990	970	1,000	101	103
Idaho	300	315	330	110	105
Iowa	650	660	660	102	100
Kansas	2,500	2,280	2,370	95	104
Minnesota	95	95	100	105	105
Nebraska	2,420	2,320	2,470	102	106
Oklahoma	290	330	345	119	105
South Dakota	185	185	195	105	105
Texas	2,850	2,750	2,820	99	103
Washington	255	245	255	100	104
Other States	310	295	310	100	105
United States	11,604	11,198	11,600	100	104

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

Million head

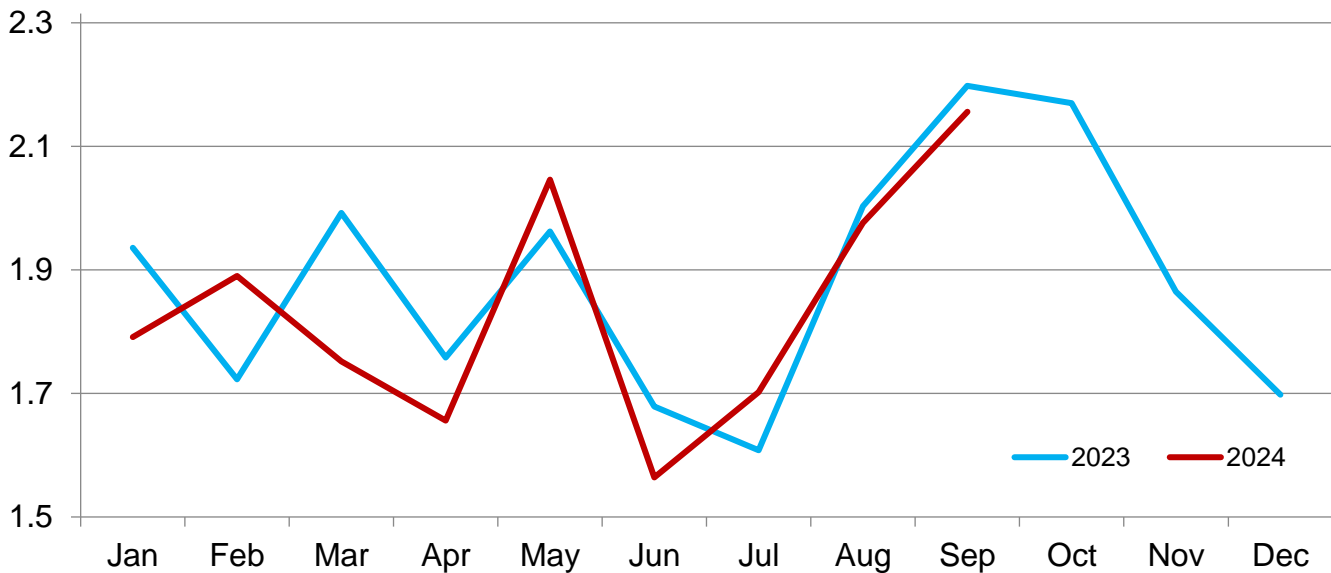


Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024

State	During September 2023 (1,000 head)	During August 2024 (1,000 head)	During September 2024		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	25	15	16	64	107
California	43	61	61	142	100
Colorado	195	155	185	95	119
Idaho	60	50	63	105	126
Iowa	78	75	72	92	96
Kansas	505	535	505	100	94
Minnesota	14	10	16	114	160
Nebraska	610	495	610	100	123
Oklahoma	56	50	57	102	114
South Dakota	49	30	47	96	157
Texas	465	415	425	91	102
Washington	43	36	42	98	117
Other States	55	49	57	104	116
United States	2,198	1,976	2,156	98	109

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 September 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	25	40	60	40	(D)	(D)	195
Kansas	65	100	160	120	60	(D)	(D)	505
Nebraska	65	60	110	180	195	(D)	(D)	610
Texas	180	125	95	55	10	(D)	(D)	465
Other States ...	120	45	75	103	80	(D)	(D)	423
United States ..	460	355	480	518	(X)	290	95	2,198
State	During August 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	30	30	40	30	(D)	(D)	155
Kansas	65	95	160	145	70	(D)	(D)	535
Nebraska	40	45	95	150	165	(D)	(D)	495
Texas	175	95	80	50	15	(D)	(D)	415
Other States ...	90	40	70	101	75	(D)	(D)	376
United States ..	395	305	435	486	(X)	265	90	1,976
State	During September 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	20	40	55	40	(D)	(D)	185
Kansas	65	95	155	125	65	(D)	(D)	505
Nebraska	60	60	105	185	200	(D)	(D)	610
Texas	160	110	90	55	10	(D)	(D)	425
Other States ...	115	45	75	106	90	(D)	(D)	431
United States ..	430	330	465	526	(X)	305	100	2,156

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

(X) Not applicable.

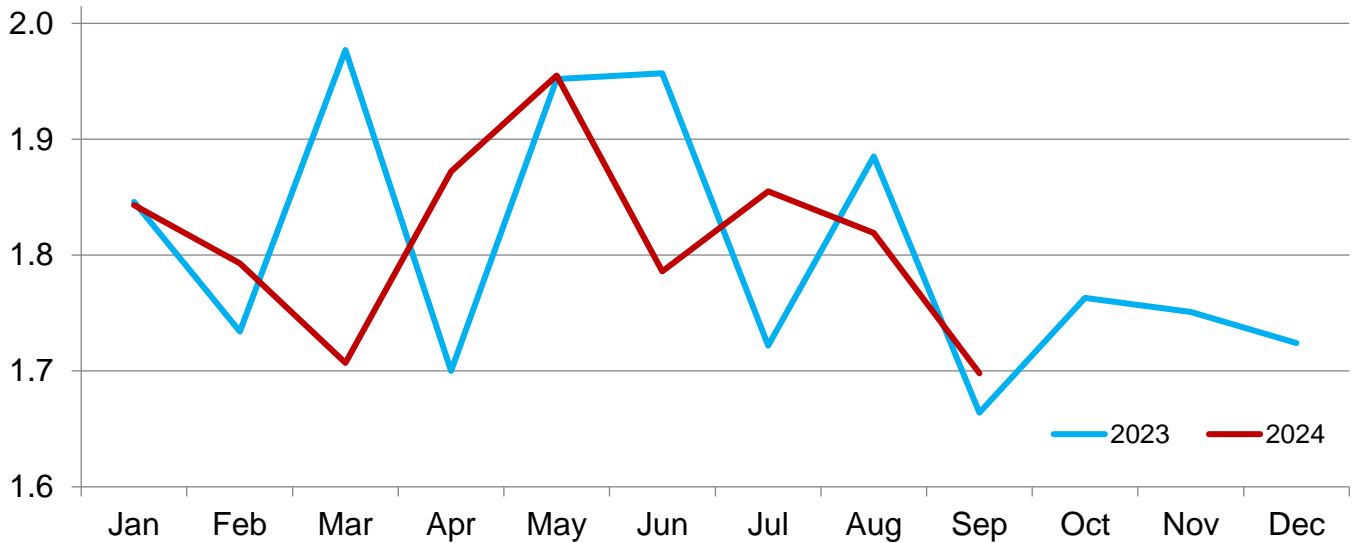
¹ The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During September 2023	During August 2024	During September 2024		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	17	21	18	106	86
California	46	55	60	130	109
Colorado	150	140	150	100	107
Idaho	43	44	46	107	105
Iowa	67	64	71	106	111
Kansas	405	455	405	100	89
Minnesota	13	14	10	77	71
Nebraska	450	485	450	100	93
Oklahoma	29	44	40	138	91
South Dakota	33	34	36	109	106
Texas	340	390	340	100	87
Washington	32	30	31	97	103
Other States	39	43	41	105	95
United States	1,664	1,819	1,698	102	93

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 September 2023 (1,000 head)	During August 2024 (1,000 head)	During September 2024		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	7	6	6	86	100
Colorado	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho	2	1	2	100	200
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	2	1	2	100	200
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	57	54	56	98	104

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

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Oct 1, 2023	Jul 1, 2024	Oct 1, 2024	Oct 1, 2023	Jul 1, 2024	Oct 1, 2024
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona	244	239	220	10	10	10
California	405	435	420	100	95	95
Colorado	530	500	525	460	470	475
Idaho	165	180	175	135	150	155
Iowa	480	510	510	170	140	150
Kansas	1,350	1,220	1,340	1,150	1,000	1,030
Minnesota	80	90	85	15	15	15
Nebraska	1,490	1,510	1,530	930	880	940
Oklahoma	155	180	190	135	145	155
South Dakota	105	125	110	80	80	85
Texas	1,630	1,510	1,560	1,220	1,280	1,260
Washington	135	130	135	120	110	120
Other States	195	195	200	115	105	110
United States	6,964	6,824	7,000	4,640	4,480	4,600

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 11.6 million head by more than 0.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.6 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 28,000 head, ranging from 0 to 110,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 0 times and has been below the latest estimate 16 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	0.6	28	0	110	16	0
Placements	0.5	0.9	6	0	24	8	9
Marketings	0.1	0.2	1	0	6	9	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.

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 692-0069
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Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Kim DaPra – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
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 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.

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