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## United States Cattle on Feed Down 1 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 11.6 million head on May 1, 2024. The inventory was 1 percent below May 1, 2023.

**Placements** in feedlots during April totaled 1.66 million head, 6 percent below 2023. Net placements were 1.60 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 335,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 220,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 375,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 451,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 205,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 70,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during April totaled 1.87 million head, 10 percent above 2023.

**Other disappearance** totaled 56,000 head during April, 10 percent above 2023.

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

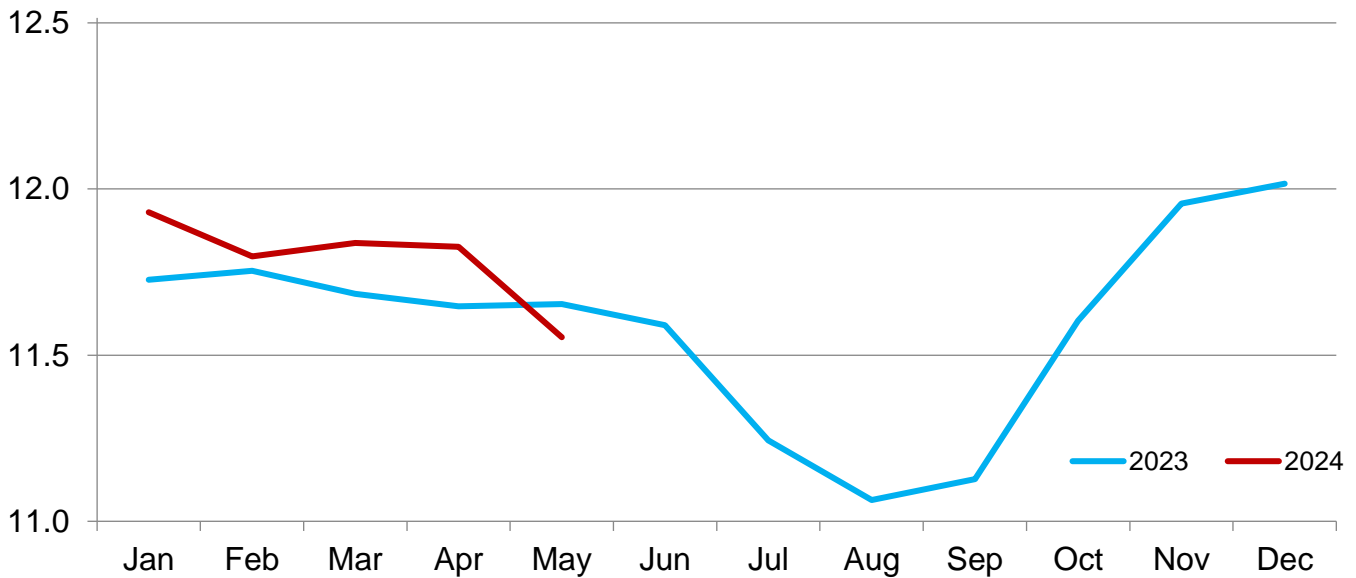
Item	2023	2024	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1 .....	11,685	11,838	101
Placed on feed during March .....	1,992	1,752	88
Fed cattle marketed during March .....	1,977	1,707	86
Other disappearance during March .....	53	57	108
On feed April 1 .....	11,647	11,826	102

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

State	May 1, 2023	April 1, 2024	May 1, 2024		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	259	256	254	98	99
California .....	535	530	525	98	99
Colorado .....	980	990	950	97	96
Idaho .....	315	345	340	108	99
Iowa .....	650	660	660	102	100
Kansas .....	2,440	2,400	2,300	94	96
Minnesota .....	100	105	110	110	105
Nebraska .....	2,540	2,540	2,510	99	99
Oklahoma .....	250	330	320	128	97
South Dakota .....	220	250	245	111	98
Texas .....	2,790	2,840	2,770	99	98
Washington .....	255	250	245	96	98
Other States .....	320	330	325	102	98
United States .....	11,654	11,826	11,554	99	98

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

Million head

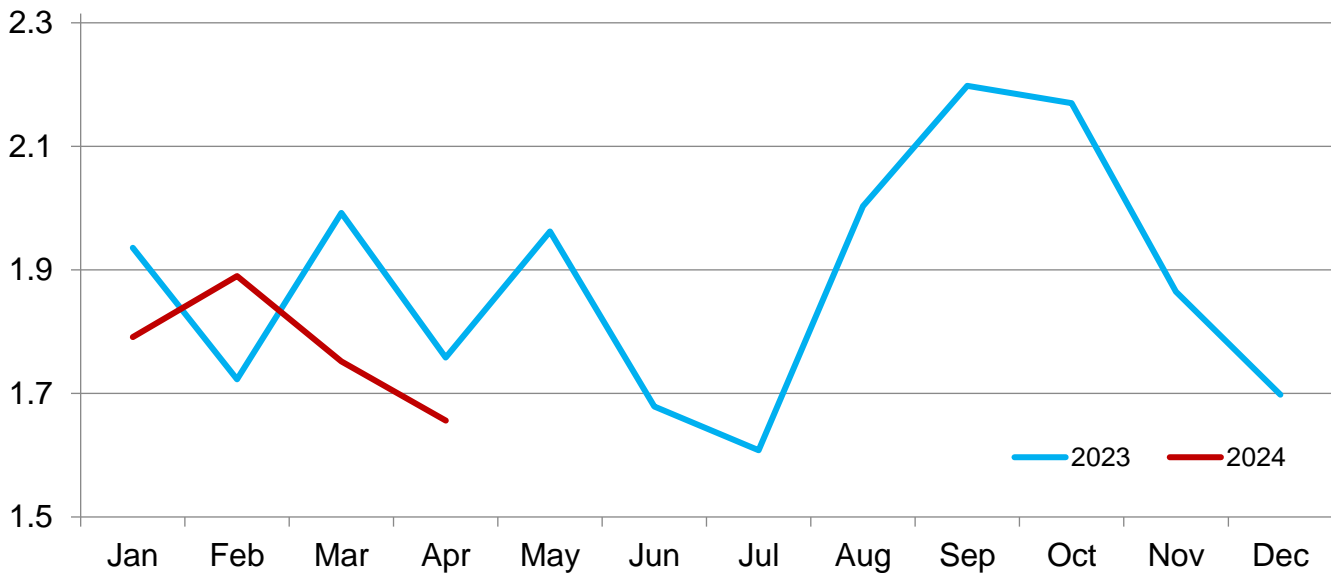


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024**

State	During April 2023 (1,000 head)	During March 2024 (1,000 head)	During April 2024		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	28	22	23	82	105
California .....	69	65	60	87	92
Colorado .....	145	135	135	93	100
Idaho .....	37	37	39	105	105
Iowa .....	91	105	89	98	85
Kansas .....	420	400	370	88	93
Minnesota .....	16	14	16	100	114
Nebraska .....	430	450	445	103	99
Oklahoma .....	45	41	44	98	107
South Dakota .....	31	40	30	97	75
Texas .....	370	365	330	89	90
Washington .....	37	33	34	92	103
Other States .....	39	45	41	105	91
United States .....	1,758	1,752	1,656	94	95

**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 April 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 .....	25	25	35	35	25	(D)	(D)	145
Kansas .....	45	60	125	125	65	(D)	(D)	420
Nebraska .....	30	45	95	150	110	(D)	(D)	430
Texas .....	140	65	80	60	25	(D)	(D)	370
Other States ...	120	50	75	98	50	(D)	(D)	393
United States ..	360	245	410	468	(X)	205	70	1,758
State	During March 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	30	40	20	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas .....	40	55	125	125	55	(D)	(D)	400
Nebraska .....	25	60	130	140	95	(D)	(D)	450
Texas .....	135	70	80	60	20	(D)	(D)	365
Other States ...	105	55	100	102	40	(D)	(D)	402
United States ..	330	260	465	467	(X)	170	60	1,752
State	During April 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	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

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

(X) Not applicable.

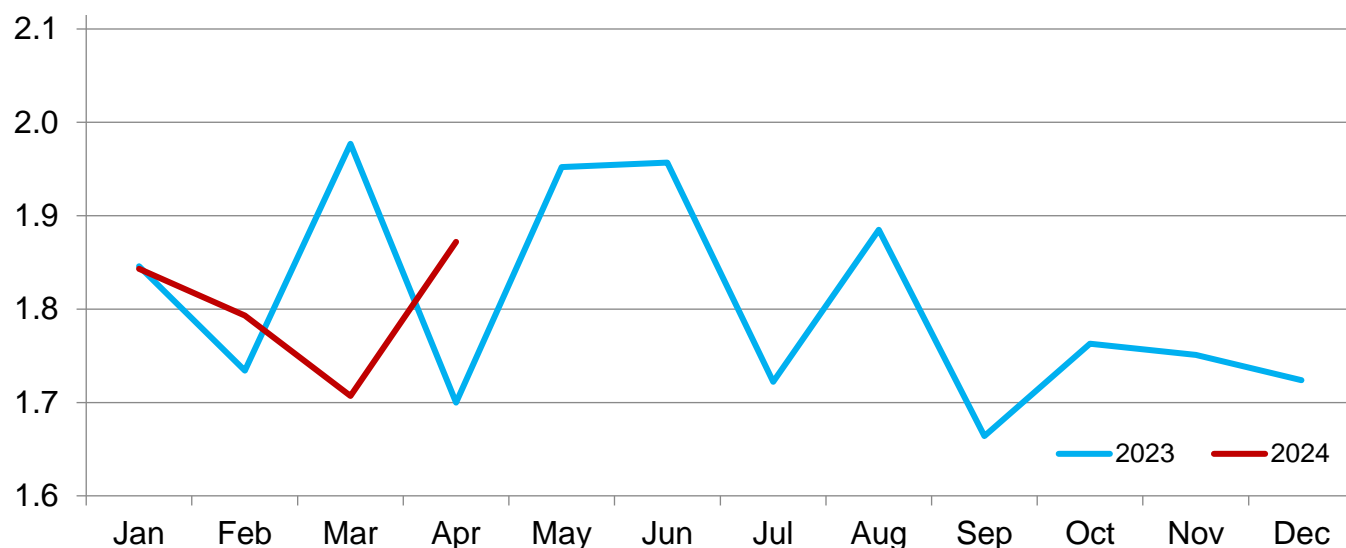
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During April 2023	During March 2024	During April 2024		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	25	23	24	96	104
California .....	53	49	59	111	120
Colorado .....	140	160	170	121	106
Idaho .....	41	36	43	105	119
Iowa .....	79	93	87	110	94
Kansas .....	400	390	460	115	118
Minnesota .....	10	13	10	100	77
Nebraska .....	410	460	465	113	101
Oklahoma .....	54	40	53	98	133
South Dakota .....	30	33	34	113	103
Texas .....	380	330	385	101	117
Washington .....	36	37	38	106	103
Other States .....	42	43	44	105	102
United States .....	1,700	1,707	1,872	110	110

## 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 April 2023 (1,000 head)	During March 2024 (1,000 head)	During April 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 .....	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa .....	2	2	2	100	100
Kansas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota .....	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska .....	10	10	10	100	100
Oklahoma .....	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota .....	1	2	1	100	50
Texas .....	10	15	15	150	100
Washington .....	1	1	1	100	100
Other States .....	2	2	2	100	100
United States .....	51	57	56	110	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 0.6 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 0.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.0 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 51,000 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 21 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 .....	0.6	1.0	51	0	115	21	0
Placements .....	0.5	0.9	7	0	24	10	11
Marketings .....	0.1	0.2	2	0	6	11	8

## 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
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



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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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