



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 10.9 million head on April 1, 2017. The inventory was slightly above April 1, 2016. The inventory included 7.23 million steers and steer calves, down 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 66 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.67 million head, up 5 percent from 2016.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 2.10 million head, 11 percent above 2016. Placements were the highest for March since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 2.05 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 350,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 295,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 620,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 585,000, 900-999 pounds were 185,000, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 67,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.91 million head, 10 percent above 2016.

Other disappearance totaled 56,000 head during March, 10 percent below 2016.

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2016 and 2017

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1	10,770	10,772	100
Placed on feed during March	1,892	2,102	111
Fed cattle marketed during March	1,747	1,914	110
Other disappearance during March	62	56	90
On feed April 1	10,853	10,904	100

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2016 and 2017

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1	10,709	10,782	101
Placed on feed during February	1,710	1,694	99
Fed cattle marketed during February	1,591	1,648	104
Other disappearance during February	58	56	97
On feed March 1	10,770	10,772	100

Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2016 and 2017

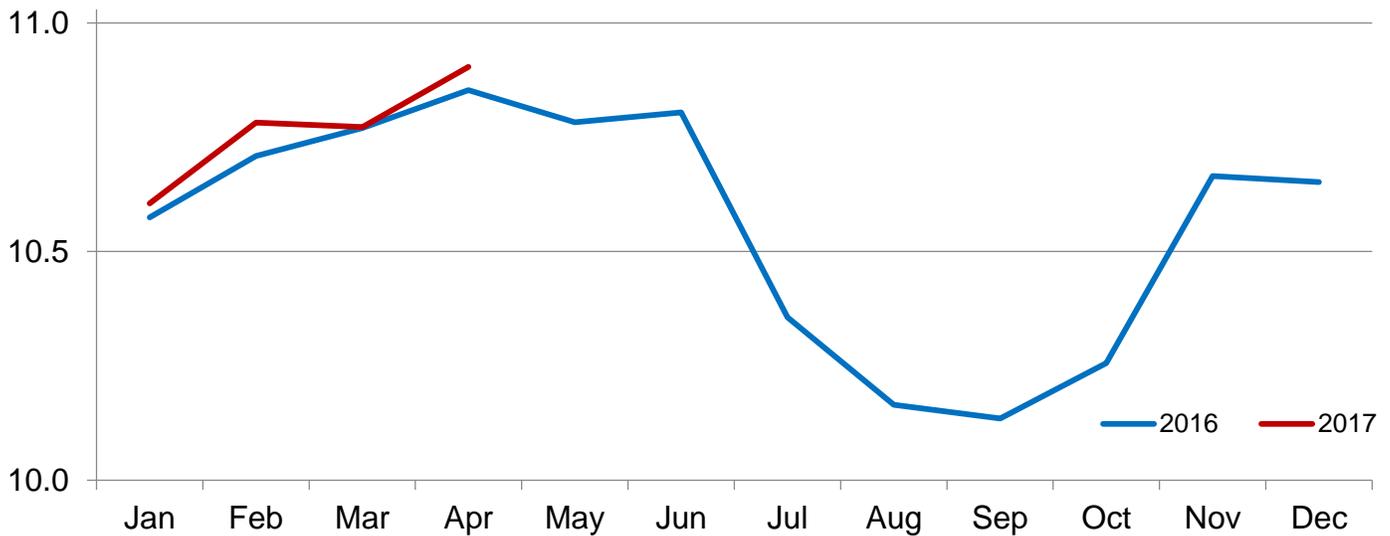
Item	Number		Percent of	
	2016	2017	previous year	inventory
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed April 1				
Steers and steer calves	7,361	7,230	98	66
Heifers and heifer calves	3,492	3,674	105	34

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 and 2017

State	April 1, 2016	March 1, 2017	April 1, 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	303	242	239	79	99
California	420	420	415	99	99
Colorado	900	910	930	103	102
Idaho	240	250	255	106	102
Iowa	640	650	670	105	103
Kansas	2,180	2,210	2,260	104	102
Minnesota	160	160	160	100	100
Nebraska	2,440	2,440	2,460	101	101
Oklahoma	295	295	300	102	102
South Dakota	265	250	250	94	100
Texas	2,500	2,440	2,460	98	101
Washington	195	185	195	100	105
Other States	315	320	310	98	97
United States	10,853	10,772	10,904	100	101

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

Million head

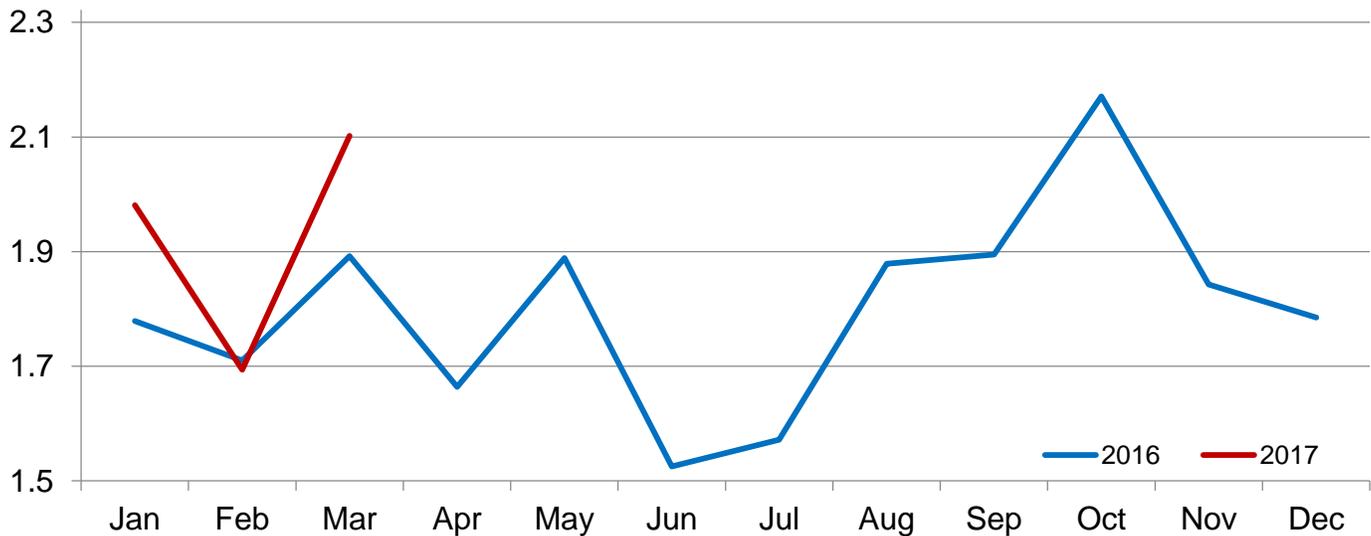


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 and 2017

State	During March 2016	During February 2017	During March 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	31	27	26	84	96
California	44	47	59	134	126
Colorado	165	180	195	118	108
Idaho	37	36	41	111	114
Iowa	94	102	116	123	114
Kansas	425	380	490	115	129
Minnesota	17	21	23	135	110
Nebraska	455	425	495	109	116
Oklahoma	53	41	73	138	178
South Dakota	34	44	39	115	89
Texas	455	320	460	101	144
Washington	38	34	42	111	124
Other States	44	37	43	98	116
United States	1,892	1,694	2,102	111	124

Number of Cattle Placed on 1000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head



Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 and 2017

State	During March 2016							
	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 ¹ (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	25	30	40	45	25	(D)	(D)	165
Kansas	55	70	125	130	45	(D)	(D)	425
Nebraska	55	60	110	135	95	(D)	(D)	455
Texas	115	70	125	120	25	(D)	(D)	455
Other States ...	102	45	90	110	45	(D)	(D)	392
United States ..	352	275	490	540	(X)	175	60	1,892
State	During February 2017							
	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 ¹ (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	25	40	50	45	20	(D)	(D)	180
Kansas	50	70	120	100	40	(D)	(D)	380
Nebraska	40	75	140	115	55	(D)	(D)	425
Texas	100	70	85	55	10	(D)	(D)	320
Other States ...	100	75	95	80	39	(D)	(D)	389
United States ..	315	330	490	395	(X)	124	40	1,694
State	During March 2017							
	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 ¹ (1,000 head)	900-999 lbs (1,000 head)	1,000+ lbs (1,000 head)	Total (1,000 head)
Colorado	30	30	60	50	25	(D)	(D)	195
Kansas	60	75	150	145	60	(D)	(D)	490
Nebraska	50	65	135	150	95	(D)	(D)	495
Texas	110	75	140	110	25	(D)	(D)	460
Other States ...	100	50	135	130	47	(D)	(D)	462
United States ..	350	295	620	585	(X)	185	67	2,102

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

(X) Not applicable.

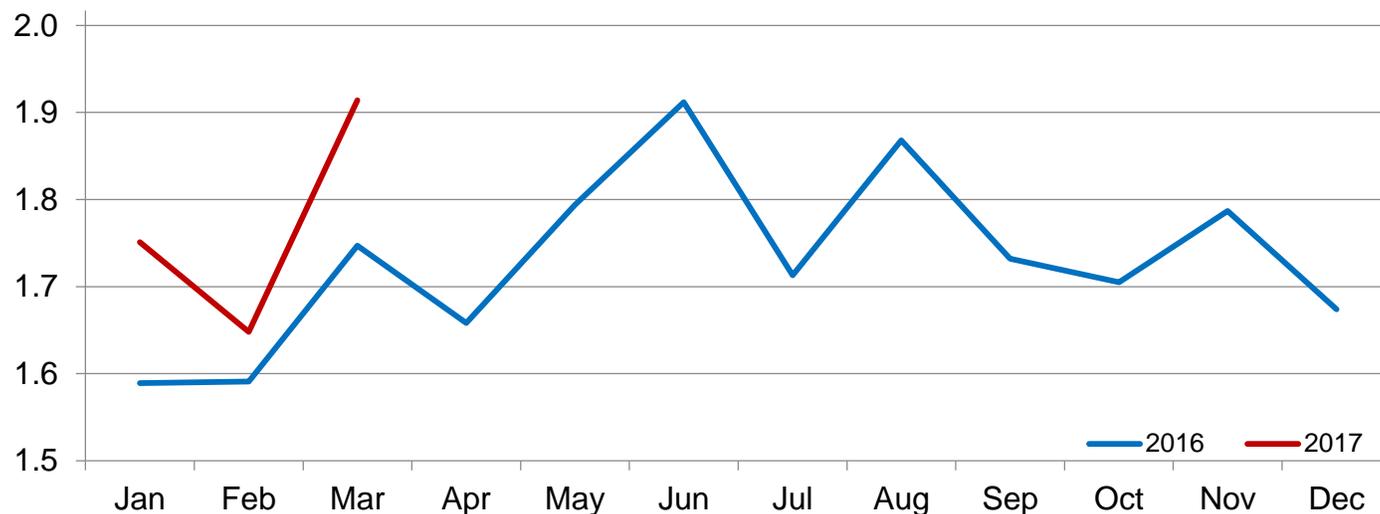
¹ The 900+ weight group is the sum of 900-999 pound and 1,000+ pound weight group.

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 and 2017

State	During March 2016 (1,000 head)	During February 2017 (1,000 head)	During March 2017		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	24	27	28	117	104
California	58	49	62	107	127
Colorado	150	165	170	113	103
Idaho	35	35	34	97	97
Iowa	81	89	93	115	104
Kansas	390	370	430	110	116
Minnesota	19	19	22	116	116
Nebraska	425	420	465	109	111
Oklahoma	47	45	67	143	149
South Dakota	38	33	38	100	115
Texas	395	320	425	108	133
Washington	37	33	30	81	91
Other States	48	43	50	104	116
United States	1,747	1,648	1,914	110	116

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States

Million head



Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 and 2017

State	During March 2016 (1,000 head)	During February 2017 (1,000 head)	During March 2017		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	6	3	2	33	67
Colorado	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho	2	1	2	100	200
Iowa	3	3	3	100	100
Kansas	15	10	10	67	100
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	10	15	10	100	67
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	1	1	1	100	100
Texas	10	10	15	150	150
Washington	1	1	2	200	200
Other States	6	4	3	50	75
United States	62	56	56	90	100

**Number on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States:
2016 and 2017**

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Apr 1, 2016	Jan 1, 2017	Apr 1, 2017	Apr 1, 2016	Jan 1, 2017	Apr 1, 2017
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona	294	242	228	9	8	11
California	400	400	390	20	30	25
Colorado	610	570	600	290	330	330
Idaho	165	180	175	75	80	80
Iowa	460	460	500	180	140	170
Kansas	1,200	1,170	1,230	980	1,000	1,030
Minnesota	139	125	132	21	25	28
Nebraska	1,620	1,510	1,640	820	860	820
Oklahoma	185	190	185	110	110	115
South Dakota	153	135	145	112	95	105
Texas	1,800	1,710	1,680	700	710	780
Washington	125	115	125	70	70	70
Other States	210	215	200	105	125	110
United States	7,361	7,022	7,230	3,492	3,583	3,674

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 10.9 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 2,000 head, ranging from 0 to 15,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 1 time and has been below the latest estimate 6 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)
Number on feed	0.0	0.1	2	0	15	6	1
Placements	0.2	0.4	2	0	10	6	2
Marketings	0.1	0.2	0	0	10	0	1

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@nass.usda.gov.

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 720-3570
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 720-3240
David Colwell – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-8784
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3236
Michael Klamm – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106

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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@nass.usda.gov.

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