



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Up 5 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 10.8 million head on October 1, 2017. The inventory was 5 percent above October 1, 2016. The inventory included 6.93 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.88 million head, up 13 percent from 2016.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.15 million head, 13 percent above 2016. Net placements were 2.09 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 405,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 340,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 490,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 515,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 285,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 115,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.78 million head, 3 percent above 2016.

Other disappearance totaled 58,000 head during September, 38 percent above 2016.

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed September 1	10,135	10,504	104
Placed on feed during September	1,895	2,150	113
Fed cattle marketed during September	1,732	1,783	103
Other disappearance during September	42	58	138
On feed October 1	10,256	10,813	105

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

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2016	2017	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed August 1	10,165	10,604	104
Placed on feed during August	1,879	1,928	103
Fed cattle marketed during August	1,868	1,979	106
Other disappearance during August	41	49	120
On feed September 1	10,135	10,504	104

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

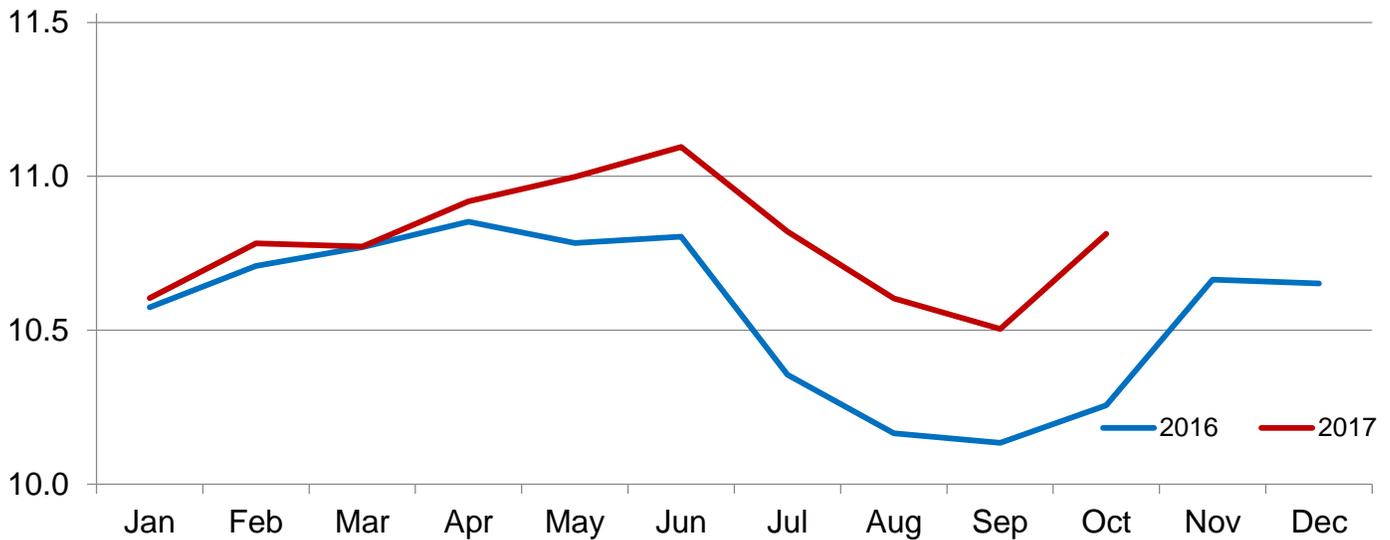
Item	Number		Percent of	
	2016	2017	previous year	inventory
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed October 1				
Steers and steer calves	6,824	6,934	102	64
Heifers and heifer calves	3,432	3,879	113	36

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

State	October 1, 2016	September 1, 2017	October 1, 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	263	244	248	94	102
California	415	420	430	104	102
Colorado	850	860	940	111	109
Idaho	240	240	245	102	102
Iowa	570	640	650	114	102
Kansas	2,220	2,220	2,250	101	101
Minnesota	118	120	120	102	100
Nebraska	2,160	2,150	2,290	106	107
Oklahoma	290	315	320	110	102
South Dakota	210	215	220	105	102
Texas	2,450	2,590	2,600	106	100
Washington	185	200	200	108	100
Other States	285	290	300	105	103
United States	10,256	10,504	10,813	105	103

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

Million head

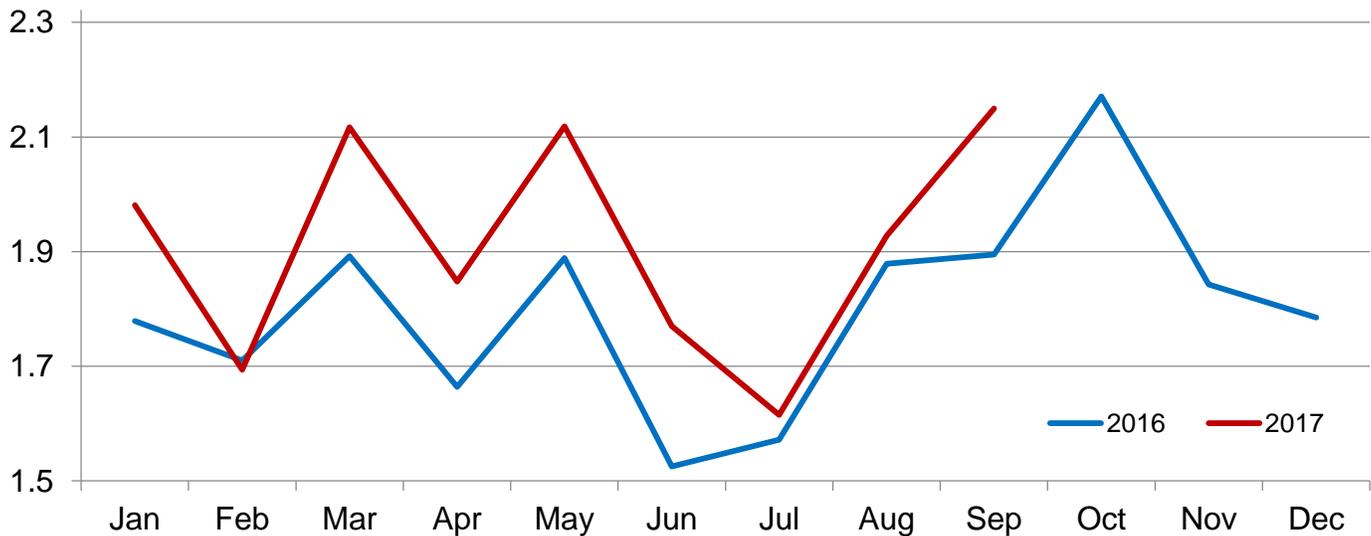


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2016 and 2017

State	During September 2016	During August 2017	During September 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	14	20	20	143	100
California	52	39	56	108	144
Colorado	225	175	250	111	143
Idaho	58	44	55	95	125
Iowa	79	92	106	134	115
Kansas	420	495	435	104	88
Minnesota	22	20	26	118	130
Nebraska	470	470	570	121	121
Oklahoma	48	65	63	131	97
South Dakota	43	45	48	112	107
Texas	385	385	440	114	114
Washington	40	33	34	85	103
Other States	39	45	47	121	104
United States	1,895	1,928	2,150	113	112

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 September 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	20	50	75	55	(D)	(D)	225
Kansas	60	80	130	100	50	(D)	(D)	420
Nebraska	55	45	80	125	165	(D)	(D)	470
Texas	105	105	115	50	10	(D)	(D)	385
Other States ...	100	50	75	90	80	(D)	(D)	395
United States ..	345	300	450	440	(X)	250	110	1,895
State	During August 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	20	30	50	50	(D)	(D)	175
Kansas	70	95	135	120	75	(D)	(D)	495
Nebraska	40	40	90	140	160	(D)	(D)	470
Texas	135	85	90	60	15	(D)	(D)	385
Other States ...	90	45	73	115	80	(D)	(D)	403
United States ..	360	285	418	485	(X)	270	110	1,928
State	During September 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	25	50	75	70	(D)	(D)	250
Kansas	60	90	130	105	50	(D)	(D)	435
Nebraska	55	60	110	160	185	(D)	(D)	570
Texas	140	110	120	60	10	(D)	(D)	440
Other States ...	120	55	80	115	85	(D)	(D)	455
United States ..	405	340	490	515	(X)	285	115	2,150

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

(X) Not applicable.

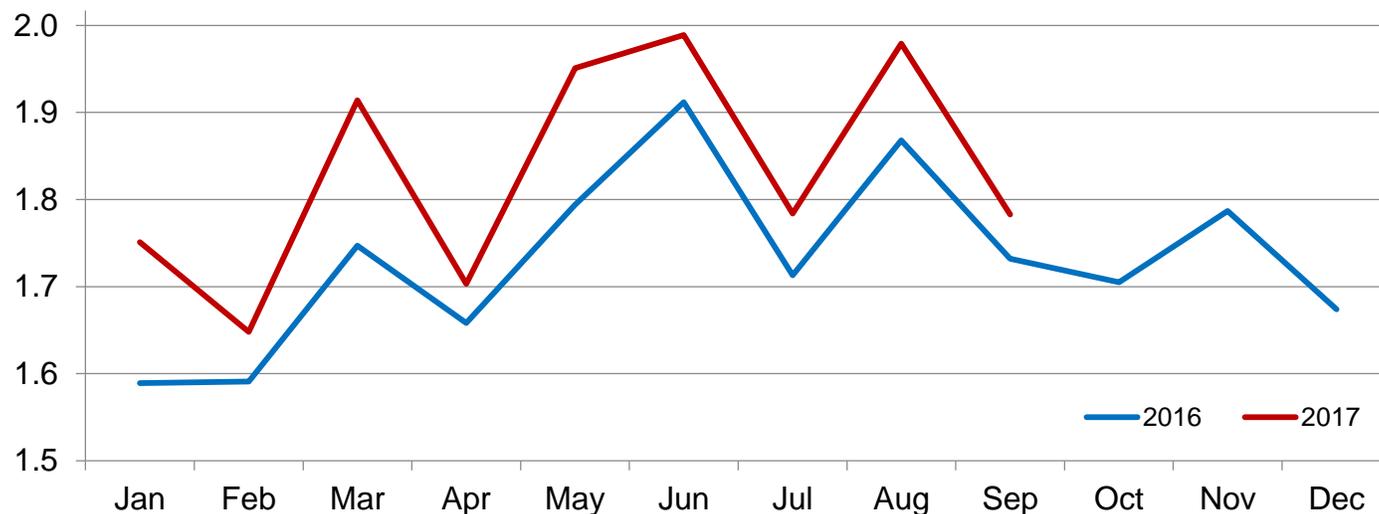
¹ The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During September 2016 (1,000 head)	During August 2017 (1,000 head)	During September 2017		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	21	19	15	71	79
California	40	46	44	110	96
Colorado	170	190	165	97	87
Idaho	41	52	48	117	92
Iowa	87	101	95	109	94
Kansas	360	445	390	108	88
Minnesota	22	29	25	114	86
Nebraska	405	470	420	104	89
Oklahoma	57	64	56	98	88
South Dakota	47	49	42	89	86
Texas	415	435	415	100	95
Washington	34	36	33	97	92
Other States	33	43	35	106	81
United States	1,732	1,979	1,783	103	90

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 September 2016 (1,000 head)	During August 2017 (1,000 head)	During September 2017		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	2	3	2	100	67
Colorado	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho	2	2	2	100	100
Iowa	2	1	1	50	100
Kansas	10	10	15	150	150
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	5	10	10	200	100
Oklahoma	1	1	2	200	200
South Dakota	1	1	1	100	100
Texas	10	10	15	150	150
Washington	1	2	1	100	50
Other States	1	2	2	200	100
United States	42	49	58	138	118

**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		
	Oct 1, 2016	Jul 1, 2017	Oct 1, 2017	Oct 1, 2016	Jul 1, 2017	Oct 1, 2017
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona	258	239	241	5	7	7
California	385	410	400	30	30	30
Colorado	565	575	560	285	355	380
Idaho	155	180	165	85	80	80
Iowa	410	510	480	160	160	170
Kansas	1,200	1,120	1,160	1,020	1,070	1,090
Minnesota	101	120	98	17	20	22
Nebraska	1,410	1,440	1,490	750	790	800
Oklahoma	185	190	185	105	135	135
South Dakota	125	135	135	85	90	85
Texas	1,730	1,730	1,700	720	940	900
Washington	115	125	130	70	80	70
Other States	185	190	190	100	100	110
United States	6,824	6,964	6,934	3,432	3,857	3,879

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 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.8 million head by more than 0.1 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 3,000 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	0.1	0.1	3	0	15	6	1
Placements	0.2	0.4	2	0	15	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.

Vacant, 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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- 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.

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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USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting Tuesday, October 24, 2017

**Embassy Suites Hotel Kansas City Plaza
220 West 43rd Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
816-756-1720**

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2017 Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will provide updates on recent and pending changes in statistical and information programs important to agriculture, answer questions, and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website (https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php) or contact Tina Hall (NASS) at 202-720-3896 or tina.hall@nass.usda.gov.

The Data Users' Meeting precedes the Industry Outlook Conference at the same location on Wednesday, October 25, 2017. The outlook meeting brings together analysts from various commodity sectors to discuss developments and trends. For registration details or additional information about the Industry Outlook Conference, see the conference page on the LMIC website (<http://lmic.info/page/meetings>) or contact James Robb at (303) 716-9933.