



# 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 12.0 million head on December 1, 2024. The inventory was slightly below December 1, 2023.

**Placements** in feedlots during November totaled 1.80 million head, 4 percent below 2023. Net placements were 1.74 million head. During November, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 495,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 420,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 375,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 276,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 145,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 85,000 head.

**Marketings** of fed cattle during November totaled 1.73 million head, 1 percent below 2023.

**Other disappearance** totaled 55,000 head during November, 2 percent above 2023.

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

Item	2023	2024	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed November 1 .....	11,956	11,966	100
Placed on feed during November .....	1,865	1,796	96
Fed cattle marketed during November .....	1,751	1,725	99
Other disappearance during November .....	54	55	102
On feed December 1 .....	12,016	11,982	100

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

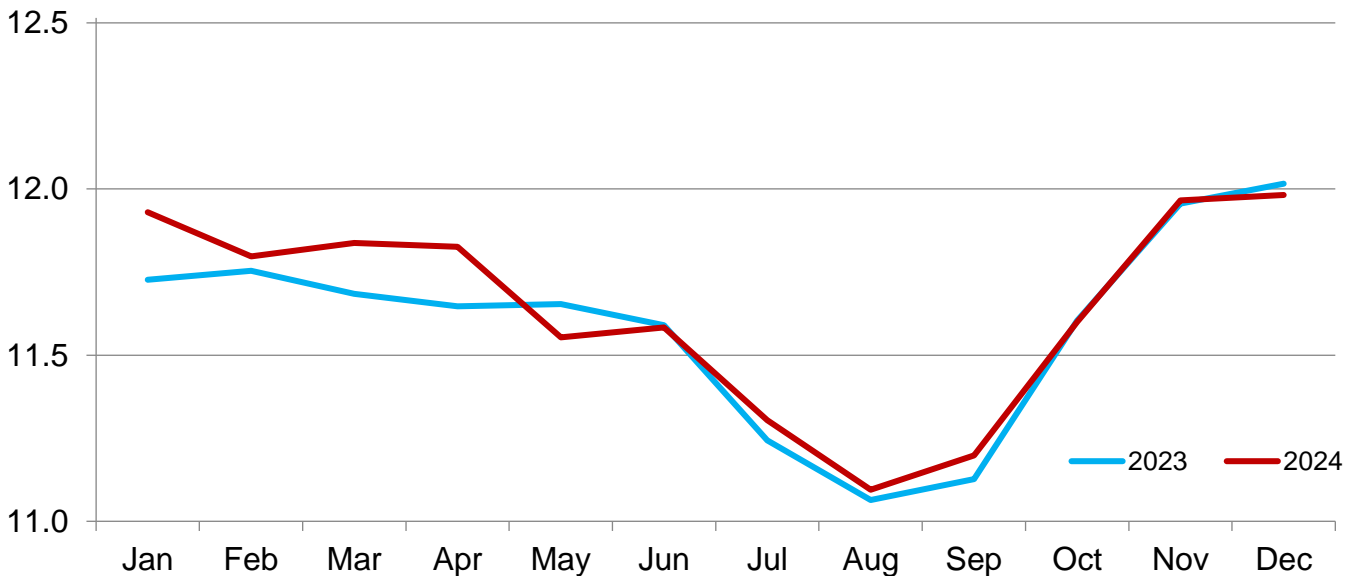
Item	2023	2024	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed October 1 .....	11,604	11,600	100
Placed on feed during October .....	2,170	2,266	104
Fed cattle marketed during October .....	1,763	1,845	105
Other disappearance during October .....	55	55	100
On feed November 1 .....	11,956	11,966	100

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

State	December 1, 2023	November 1, 2024	December 1, 2024		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	266	231	232	87	100
California .....	510	515	510	100	99
Colorado .....	1,030	1,060	1,060	103	100
Idaho .....	330	330	330	100	100
Iowa .....	640	670	660	103	99
Kansas .....	2,500	2,410	2,420	97	100
Minnesota .....	100	105	105	105	100
Nebraska .....	2,580	2,580	2,600	101	101
Oklahoma .....	325	365	365	112	100
South Dakota .....	230	225	235	102	104
Texas .....	2,910	2,880	2,880	99	100
Washington .....	270	270	260	96	96
Other States .....	325	325	325	100	100
United States .....	12,016	11,966	11,982	100	100

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

Million head

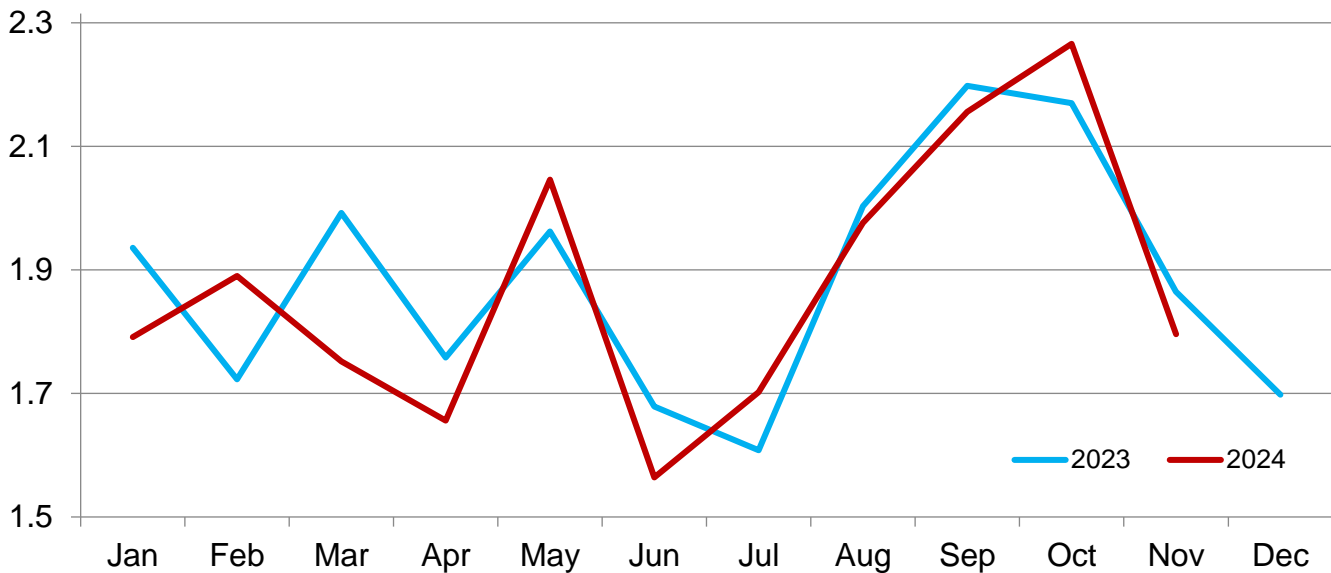


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024**

State	During November 2023 (1,000 head)	During October 2024 (1,000 head)	During November 2024		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	26	21	22	85	105
California .....	65	57	52	80	91
Colorado .....	155	210	135	87	64
Idaho .....	55	50	45	82	90
Iowa .....	88	95	91	103	96
Kansas .....	385	480	400	104	83
Minnesota .....	15	22	15	100	68
Nebraska .....	490	615	510	104	83
Oklahoma .....	49	66	44	90	67
South Dakota .....	59	70	56	95	80
Texas .....	390	470	345	88	73
Washington .....	41	50	34	83	68
Other States .....	47	60	47	100	78
United States .....	1,865	2,266	1,796	96	79

**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 November 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 .....	50	35	30	20	20	(D)	(D)	155
Kansas .....	55	90	115	80	45	(D)	(D)	385
Nebraska .....	95	115	90	90	100	(D)	(D)	490
Texas .....	160	100	75	40	15	(D)	(D)	390
Other States ...	170	100	70	60	45	(D)	(D)	445
United States ..	530	440	380	290	(X)	140	85	1,865
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	140	105	55	(D)	(D)	480
Nebraska .....	130	115	105	135	130	(D)	(D)	615
Texas .....	170	115	115	55	15	(D)	(D)	470
Other States ...	165	105	80	86	55	(D)	(D)	491
United States ..	580	480	485	431	(X)	210	80	2,266
State	During November 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	30	25	20	20	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas .....	60	95	120	80	45	(D)	(D)	400
Nebraska .....	100	120	95	90	105	(D)	(D)	510
Texas .....	140	85	70	35	15	(D)	(D)	345
Other States ...	155	90	65	51	45	(D)	(D)	406
United States ..	495	420	375	276	(X)	145	85	1,796

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

(X) Not applicable.

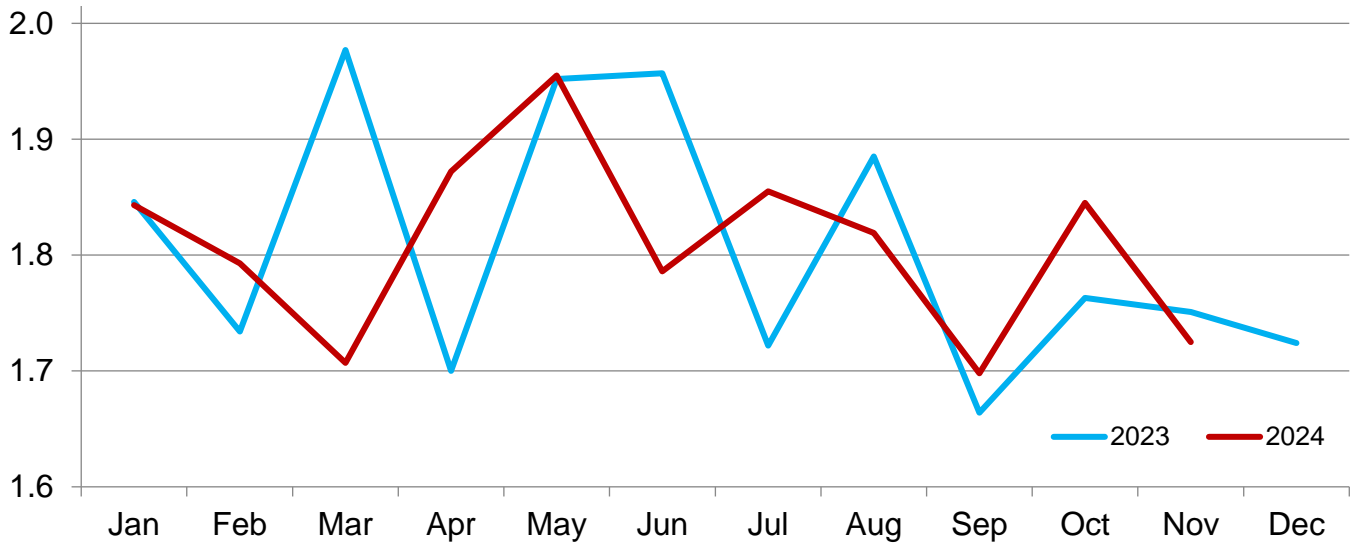
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During November 2023	During October 2024	During November 2024		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	20	19	20	100	105
California .....	55	51	51	93	100
Colorado .....	150	145	130	87	90
Idaho .....	43	48	44	102	92
Iowa .....	97	84	100	103	119
Kansas .....	395	430	380	96	88
Minnesota .....	14	16	14	100	88
Nebraska .....	440	495	480	109	97
Oklahoma .....	38	45	42	111	93
South Dakota .....	48	39	45	94	115
Texas .....	365	395	330	90	84
Washington .....	40	34	43	108	126
Other States .....	46	44	46	100	105
United States .....	1,751	1,845	1,725	99	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 November 2023 (1,000 head)	During October 2024 (1,000 head)	During November 2024		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	1	1	1	100	100
California .....	5	6	6	120	100
Colorado .....	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho .....	2	2	1	50	50
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	1	2	200	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 .....	54	55	55	102	100

## 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 0.4 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 21,000 head, ranging from 0 to 65,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 1 time and has been below the latest estimate 14 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	0.4	21	0	65	14	1
Placements .....	0.5	0.8	6	0	24	7	9
Marketings .....	0.1	0.2	1	0	6	7	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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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](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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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



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# Agricultural Outlook Forum

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