



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 11.4 million head on October 1, 2026. The inventory was slightly below October 1, 2025. The inventory included 7.07 million steers and steer calves, up slightly from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.30 million head, down 1 percent from 2025.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 1.78 million head, 12 percent below 2025. Net placements were 1.73 million head. Placements were the lowest for September since the series began in 1996. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 360,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 260,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 385,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 422,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 255,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 95,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.52 million head, 7 percent below 2025. Marketings were the lowest for September since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 49,000 head during September, 4 percent below 2025.

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: October 1, 2025 and 2026

Item	2025	2026	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed September 1	11,080	11,168	101
Placed on feed during September	2,021	1,777	88
Fed cattle marketed during September	1,632	1,524	93
Other disappearance during September	51	49	96
On feed October 1	11,418	11,372	100

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: September 1, 2025 and 2026

Item	2025	2026	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed August 1	10,922	11,117	102
Placed on feed during August	1,780	1,620	91
Fed cattle marketed during August	1,571	1,517	97
Other disappearance during August	51	52	102
On feed September 1	11,080	11,168	101

Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: October 1, 2025 and 2026

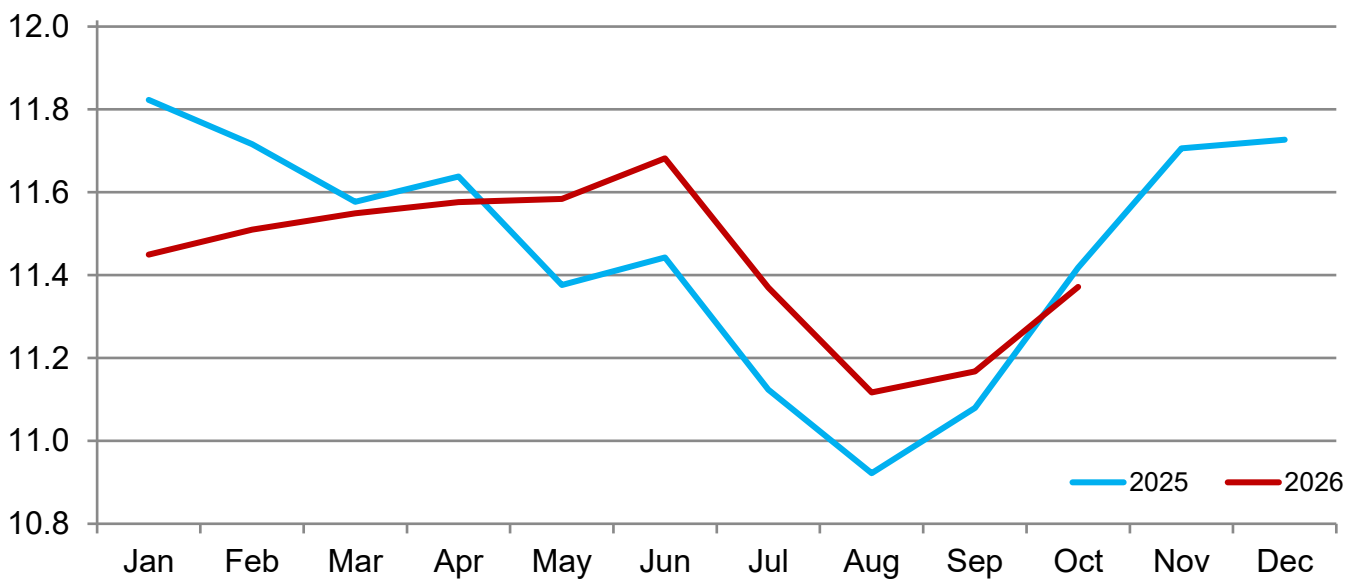
Item	2025	2026	Percent of	
			previous year	inventory
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed October 1				
Steers and steer calves	7,063	7,072	100	62
Heifers and heifer calves	4,355	4,300	99	38

Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2025 and 2026

State	October 1, 2025	September 1, 2026	October 1, 2026		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	213	218	222	104	102
California	480	480	485	101	101
Colorado	920	905	905	98	100
Idaho	345	320	330	96	103
Iowa	690	670	670	97	100
Kansas	2,410	2,320	2,380	99	103
Nebraska	2,560	2,470	2,550	100	103
Oklahoma	320	350	355	111	101
South Dakota	200	210	210	105	100
Texas	2,570	2,500	2,520	98	101
Washington	280	270	280	100	104
Other States	430	455	465	108	102
United States	11,418	11,168	11,372	100	102

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

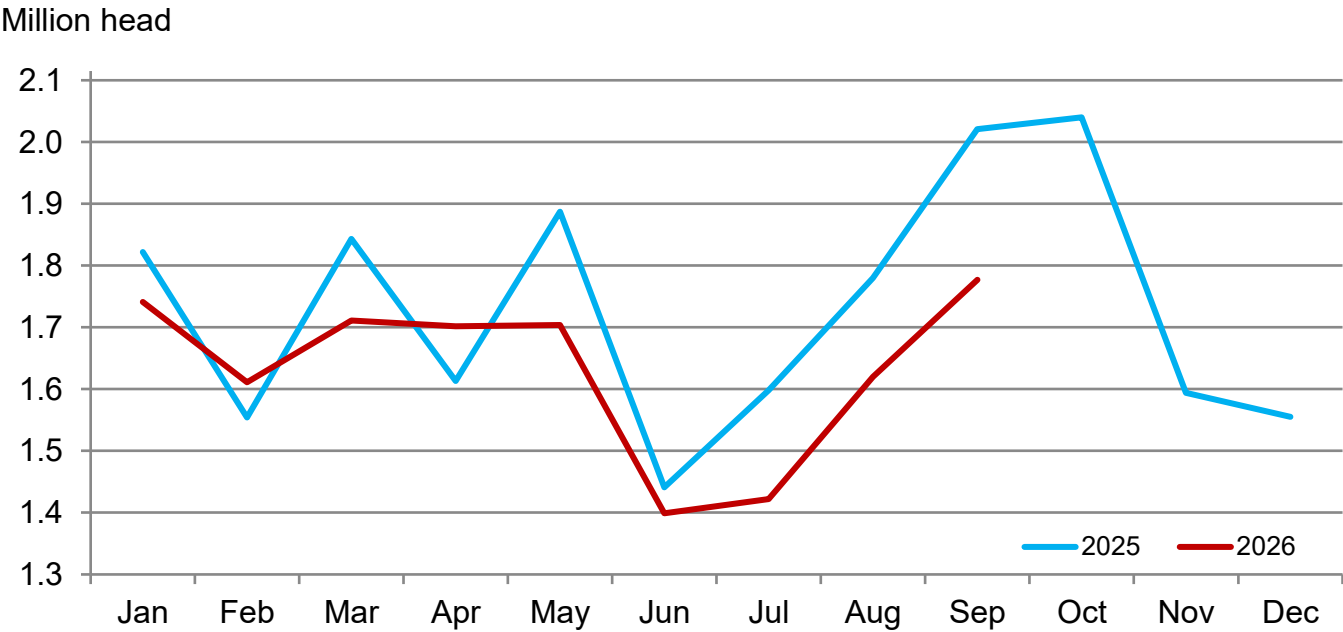
Million head



Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2025 and 2026

State	During September 2025	During August 2026	During September 2026		
			Placements	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	13	18	19	146	106
California	66	49	58	88	118
Colorado	155	115	130	84	113
Idaho	62	40	58	94	145
Iowa	76	61	70	92	115
Kansas	465	440	420	90	95
Nebraska	585	410	490	84	120
Oklahoma	46	53	48	104	91
South Dakota	40	23	31	78	135
Texas	390	320	330	85	103
Washington	49	38	44	90	116
Other States	74	53	79	107	149
United States	2,021	1,620	1,777	88	110

Cattle Placed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States



Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots and Month – States and United States: 2025 and 2026

State	During September 2025							
	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	20	30	45	35	(D)	(D)	155
Kansas	60	85	140	115	65	(D)	(D)	465
Nebraska	60	60	100	175	190	(D)	(D)	585
Texas	145	100	90	45	10	(D)	(D)	390
Other States ...	115	45	75	106	85	(D)	(D)	426
United States ..	405	310	435	486	(X)	285	100	2,021

State	During August 2026							
	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	20	20	20	30	25	(D)	(D)	115
Kansas	55	75	135	110	65	(D)	(D)	440
Nebraska	35	35	80	120	140	(D)	(D)	410
Texas	130	70	65	40	15	(D)	(D)	320
Other States ...	80	40	60	85	70	(D)	(D)	335
United States ..	320	240	360	385	(X)	230	85	1,620

State	During September 2026							
	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	20	15	25	40	30	(D)	(D)	130
Kansas	55	75	125	105	60	(D)	(D)	420
Nebraska	50	50	85	140	165	(D)	(D)	490
Texas	125	80	75	40	10	(D)	(D)	330
Other States ...	110	40	75	97	85	(D)	(D)	407
United States ..	360	260	385	422	(X)	255	95	1,777

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

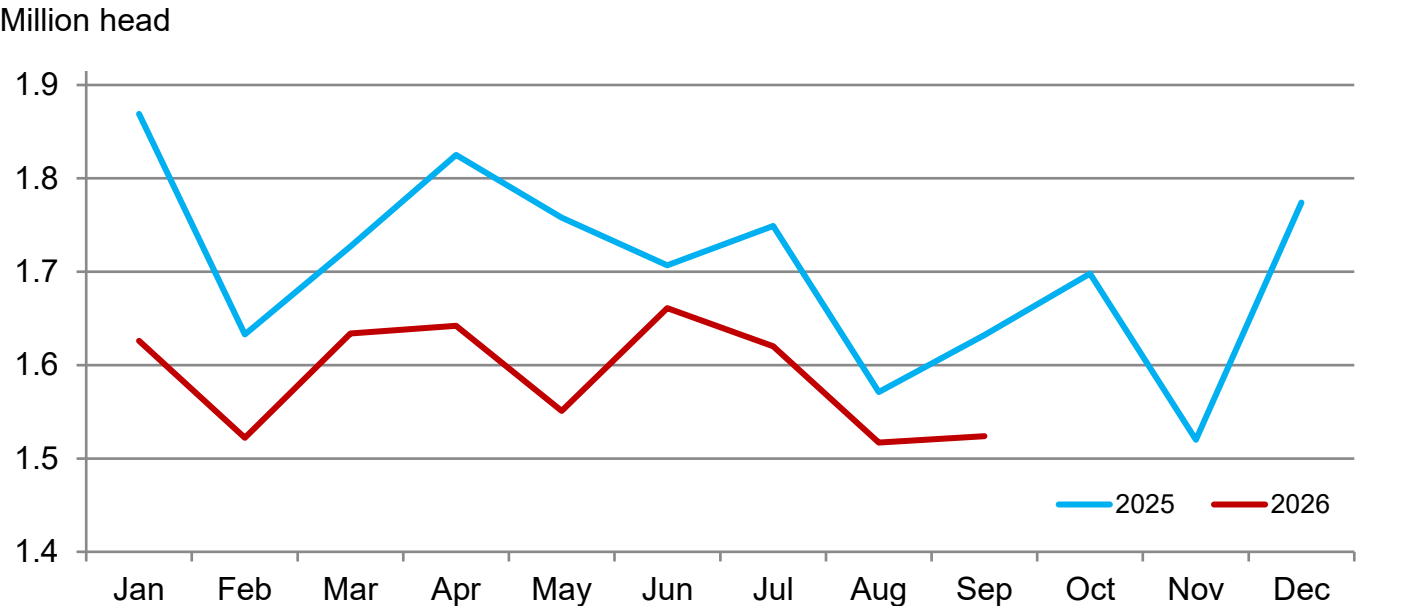
(X) Not applicable.

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: 2025 and 2026

State	During September 2025	During August 2026	During September 2026		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	19	16	14	74	88
California	55	50	49	89	98
Colorado	120	110	125	104	114
Idaho	46	43	47	102	109
Iowa	74	59	68	92	115
Kansas	395	370	350	89	95
Nebraska	445	400	400	90	100
Oklahoma	40	36	42	105	117
South Dakota	34	21	30	88	143
Texas	310	320	300	97	94
Washington	33	32	33	100	103
Other States	61	60	66	108	110
United States	1,632	1,517	1,524	93	100

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



Cattle Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2025 and 2026

State	During September 2025	During August 2026	During September 2026		
			Other disappearance	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	6	4	4	67	100
Colorado	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho	1	2	1	100	50
Iowa	2	2	2	100	100
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Nebraska	10	10	10	100	100
Oklahoma	1	2	1	100	50
South Dakota	1	2	1	100	50
Texas	10	10	10	100	100
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	3	3	3	100	100
United States	51	52	49	96	94

**Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States:
2025 and 2026**

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Oct 1, 2025	Jul 1, 2026	Oct 1, 2026	Oct 1, 2025	Jul 1, 2026	Oct 1, 2026
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona	198	205	207	15	10	15
California	390	410	395	90	90	90
Colorado	485	495	480	435	435	425
Idaho	195	190	190	150	150	140
Iowa	550	540	530	140	140	140
Kansas	1,460	1,390	1,430	950	910	950
Nebraska	1,650	1,660	1,640	910	880	910
Oklahoma	180	205	210	140	135	145
South Dakota	115	140	130	85	85	80
Texas	1,400	1,400	1,380	1,170	1,160	1,140
Washington	145	150	155	135	120	125
Other States	295	335	325	135	135	140
United States	7,063	7,120	7,072	4,355	4,250	4,300

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 11 of the 16 States. Data collected from the remaining 5 States are used to establish the "Other States" estimates. These 5 States include Illinois, Minnesota, 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 11.4 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 1,000 head, ranging from 0 to 20,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 1 time and has been below the latest estimate 2 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	0.0	0.1	1	0	20	2	1
Placements	0.2	0.3	2	0	20	7	2
Marketings	0.0	0.1	0	0	2	4	2

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service - Estimation Branch Contacts

For more information about specific data items, please contact the Estimation Branch staff members below. You can also email inquiries to nass@usda.gov.

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Cost of Pollination, Egg Products, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies, Milk Production

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