



Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

Released November 17, 2023, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

United States Cattle on Feed Up 2 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 11.9 million head on November 1, 2023. The inventory was 2 percent above November 1, 2022.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.16 million head, 4 percent above 2022. Net placements were 2.11 million head. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 550,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 470,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 465,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 394,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 205,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 80,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.76 million head, 3 percent below 2022.

Other disappearance totaled 55,000 head during October, 2 percent above 2022.

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: November 1, 2022 and 2023

Item	2022	2023	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed October 1	11,509	11,580	101
Placed on feed during October	2,085	2,164	104
Fed cattle marketed during October	1,804	1,758	97
Other disappearance during October	54	55	102
On feed November 1	11,736	11,931	102

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: October 1, 2022 and 2023

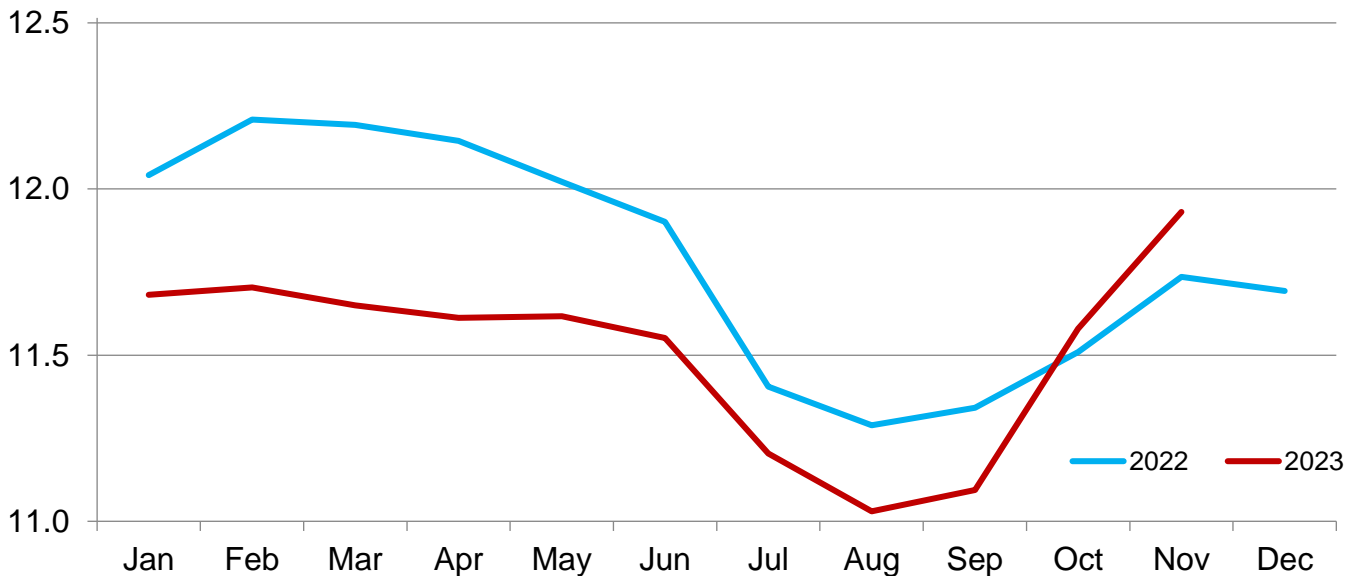
Item	2022	2023	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed September 1	11,342	11,094	98
Placed on feed during September	2,080	2,206	106
Fed cattle marketed during September	1,860	1,663	89
Other disappearance during September	53	57	108
On feed October 1	11,509	11,580	101

Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2022 and 2023

State	November 1, 2022	October 1, 2023	November 1, 2023		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	271	250	256	94	102
California	505	505	505	100	100
Colorado	1,070	990	1,030	96	104
Idaho	305	295	315	103	107
Iowa	630	640	640	102	100
Kansas	2,330	2,500	2,520	108	101
Minnesota	95	95	100	105	105
Nebraska	2,600	2,420	2,540	98	105
Oklahoma	290	290	315	109	109
South Dakota	210	185	220	105	119
Texas	2,860	2,850	2,900	101	102
Washington	260	255	270	104	106
Other States	310	305	320	103	105
United States	11,736	11,580	11,931	102	103

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

Million head

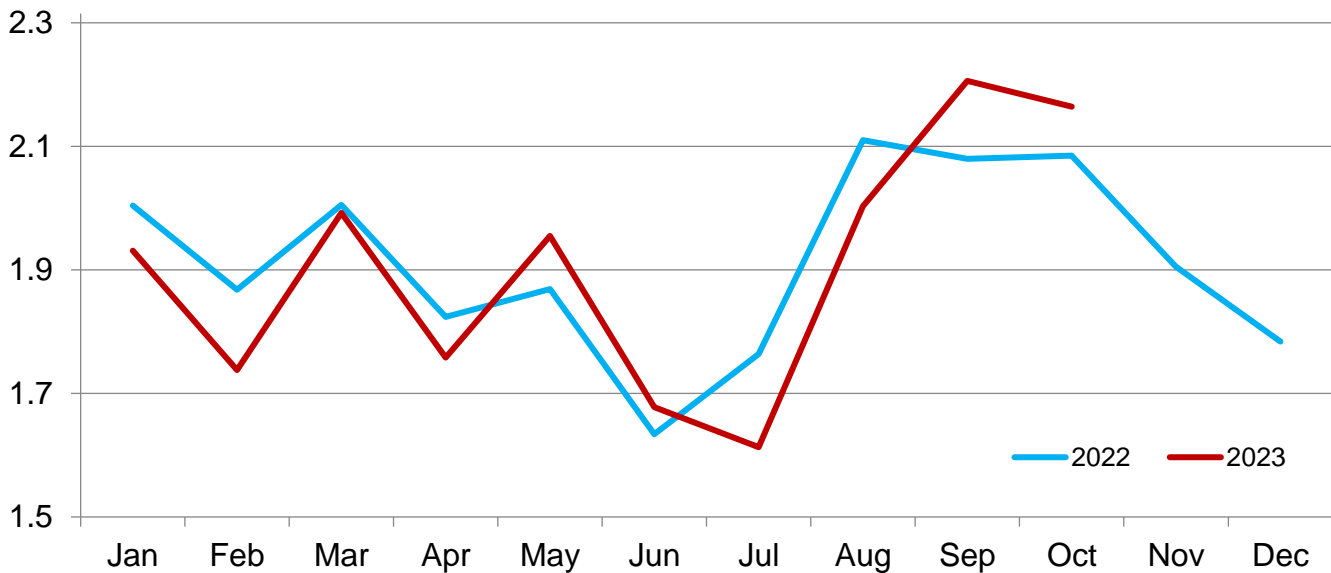


Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2022 and 2023

State	During October 2022 (1,000 head)	During September 2023 (1,000 head)	During October 2023		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	19	24	25	132	104
California	44	43	52	118	121
Colorado	175	195	200	114	103
Idaho	61	56	59	97	105
Iowa	101	88	83	82	94
Kansas	410	505	440	107	87
Minnesota	24	14	20	83	143
Nebraska	585	610	610	104	100
Oklahoma	44	56	58	132	104
South Dakota	72	49	69	96	141
Texas	440	465	440	100	95
Washington	52	43	51	98	119
Other States	58	58	57	98	98
United States	2,085	2,206	2,164	104	98

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: 2022 and 2023

State	During October 2022							
	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	35	35	35	40	30	(D)	(D)	175
Kansas	65	90	125	85	45	(D)	(D)	410
Nebraska	130	120	95	115	125	(D)	(D)	585
Texas	150	110	110	55	15	(D)	(D)	440
Other States ...	155	105	80	80	55	(D)	(D)	475
United States ..	535	460	445	375	(X)	190	80	2,085
State	During September 2023							
	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	30	25	40	60	40	(D)	(D)	195
Kansas	65	100	160	120	60	(D)	(D)	505
Nebraska	65	60	110	180	195	(D)	(D)	610
Texas	180	125	95	55	10	(D)	(D)	465
Other States ...	120	45	80	106	80	(D)	(D)	431
United States ..	460	355	485	521	(X)	290	95	2,206
State	During October 2023							
	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	40	40	40	45	35	(D)	(D)	200
Kansas	65	95	135	95	50	(D)	(D)	440
Nebraska	130	120	105	125	130	(D)	(D)	610
Texas	160	110	105	50	15	(D)	(D)	440
Other States ...	155	105	80	79	55	(D)	(D)	474
United States ..	550	470	465	394	(X)	205	80	2,164

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

(X) Not applicable.

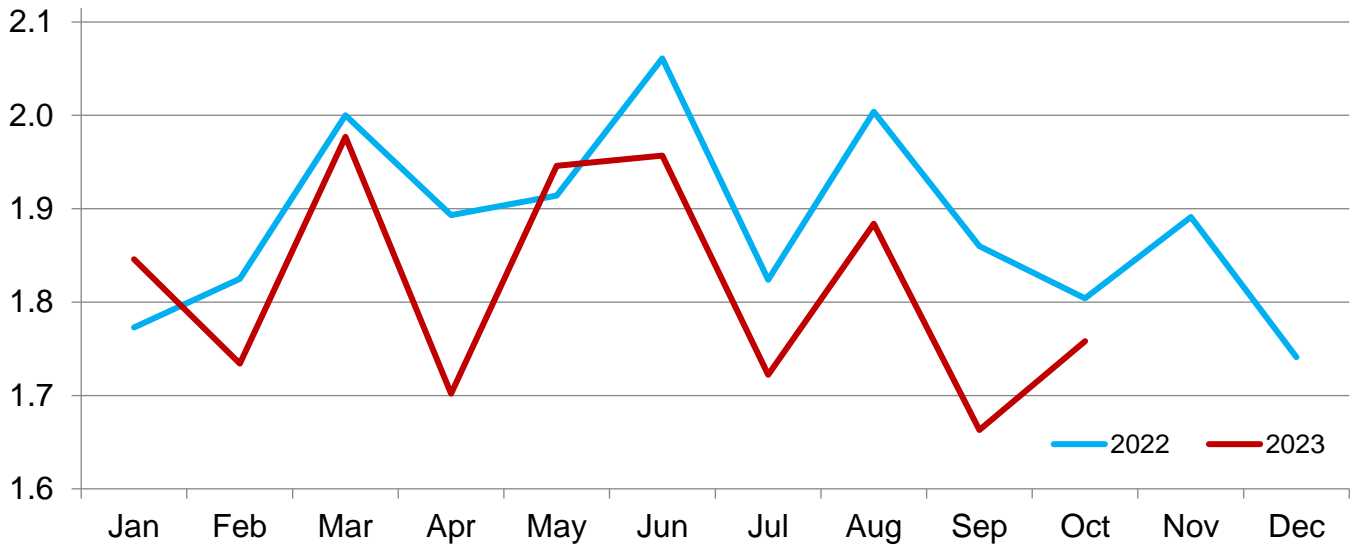
¹ The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2022 and 2023

State	During October 2022	During September 2023	During October 2023		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	21	17	18	86	106
California	42	46	46	110	100
Colorado	170	150	155	91	103
Idaho	44	44	37	84	84
Iowa	89	67	82	92	122
Kansas	430	405	410	95	101
Minnesota	13	13	14	108	108
Nebraska	445	450	480	108	107
Oklahoma	38	29	32	84	110
South Dakota	45	33	33	73	100
Texas	390	340	375	96	110
Washington	36	32	35	97	109
Other States	41	37	41	100	111
United States	1,804	1,663	1,758	97	106

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: 2022 and 2023

State	During October 2022 (1,000 head)	During September 2023 (1,000 head)	During October 2023		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	7	7	6	86	86
Colorado	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho	2	2	2	100	100
Iowa	2	1	1	50	100
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	10	10	10	100	100
Oklahoma	1	2	1	100	50
South Dakota	2	1	1	50	100
Texas	10	15	15	150	100
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	2	1	1	50	100
United States	54	57	55	102	96

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 11.9 million head by more than 0.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.5 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 0 times 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	0.5	21	0	65	14	0
Placements	0.5	0.9	6	0	23	9	8
Marketings	0.1	0.2	1	0	5	3	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.

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 692-0069
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
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

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov.
- 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.
- 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 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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (PDF), found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.