Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

Released November 20, 2026, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

United States Cattle on Feed Down 1 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 11.6 million head on November 1, 2026. The inventory was 1 percent below November 1, 2025.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 1.89 million head, 7 percent below 2025. Net placements were 1.84 million head. Placements were the lowest for October since the series began in 1996. During October, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 490,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 400,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 395,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 341,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 190,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 75,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during October totaled 1.62 million head, 5 percent below 2025. Marketings were the lowest for October since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 53,000 head during October, 2 percent below 2025.

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

Item	2025	2026	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed October 1	11,418	11,372	100
Placed on feed during October	2,040	1,891	93
Fed cattle marketed during October	1,698	1,620	95
Other disappearance during October	54	53	98
On feed November 1	11,706	11,590	99

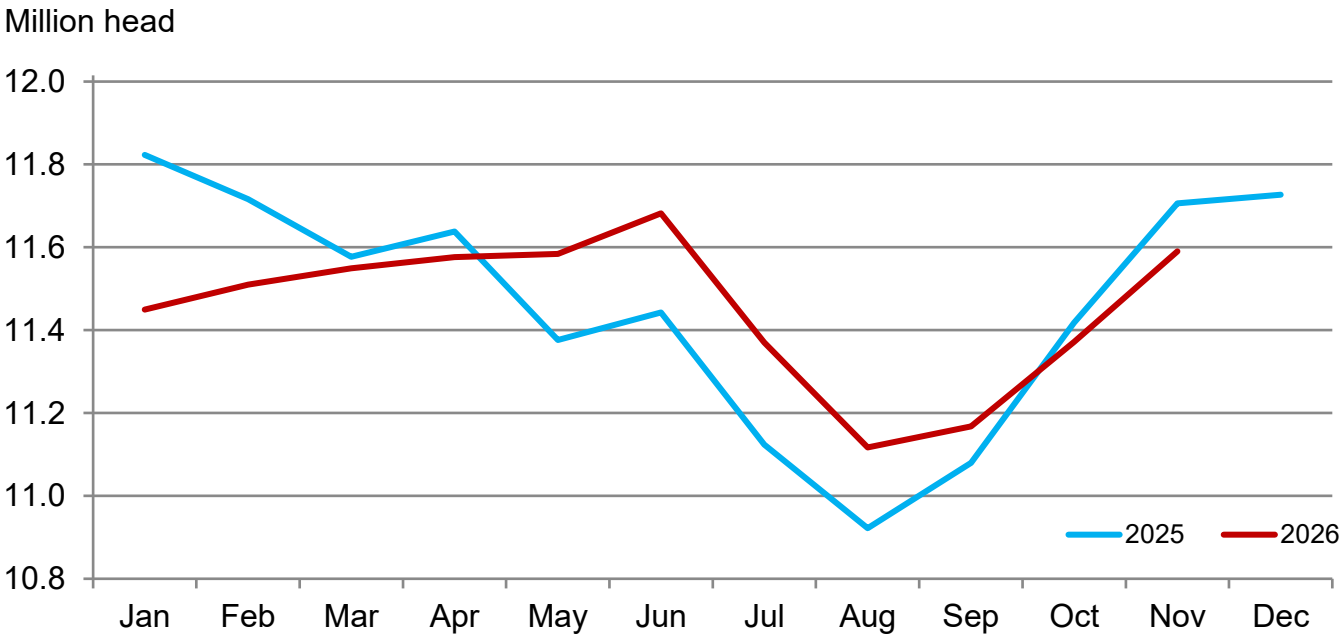
Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: October 1, 2025 and 2026

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

State	November 1, 2025	October 1, 2026	November 1, 2026		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	211	222	225	107	101
California	485	485	485	100	100
Colorado	920	905	905	98	100
Idaho	345	330	330	96	100
Iowa	700	670	680	97	101
Kansas	2,460	2,380	2,400	98	101
Nebraska	2,640	2,550	2,610	99	102
Oklahoma	335	355	360	107	101
South Dakota	235	210	235	100	112
Texas	2,630	2,520	2,580	98	102
Washington	295	280	295	100	105
Other States	450	465	485	108	104
United States	11,706	11,372	11,590	99	102

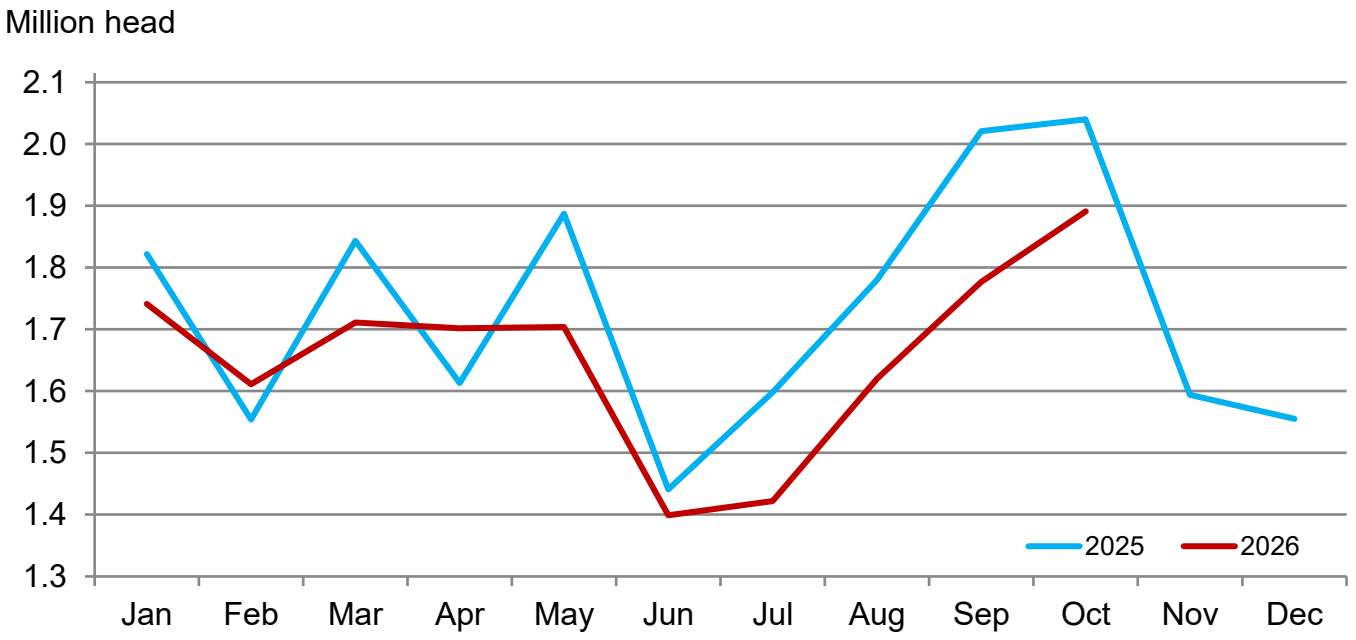
Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States



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

State	During October 2025	During September 2026	During October 2026		
			Placements	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	16	19	20	125	105
California	62	58	55	89	95
Colorado	135	130	135	100	104
Idaho	53	58	53	100	91
Iowa	96	70	92	96	131
Kansas	455	420	410	90	98
Nebraska	560	490	495	88	101
Oklahoma	62	48	50	81	104
South Dakota	69	31	61	88	197
Texas	410	330	390	95	118
Washington	49	44	52	106	118
Other States	73	79	78	107	99
United States	2,040	1,777	1,891	93	106

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 October 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	30	25	25	30	25	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas	70	95	140	95	55	(D)	(D)	455
Nebraska	115	105	95	120	125	(D)	(D)	560
Texas	140	95	105	55	15	(D)	(D)	410
Other States	160	100	80	85	55	(D)	(D)	480
United States	515	420	445	385	(X)	195	80	2,040

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

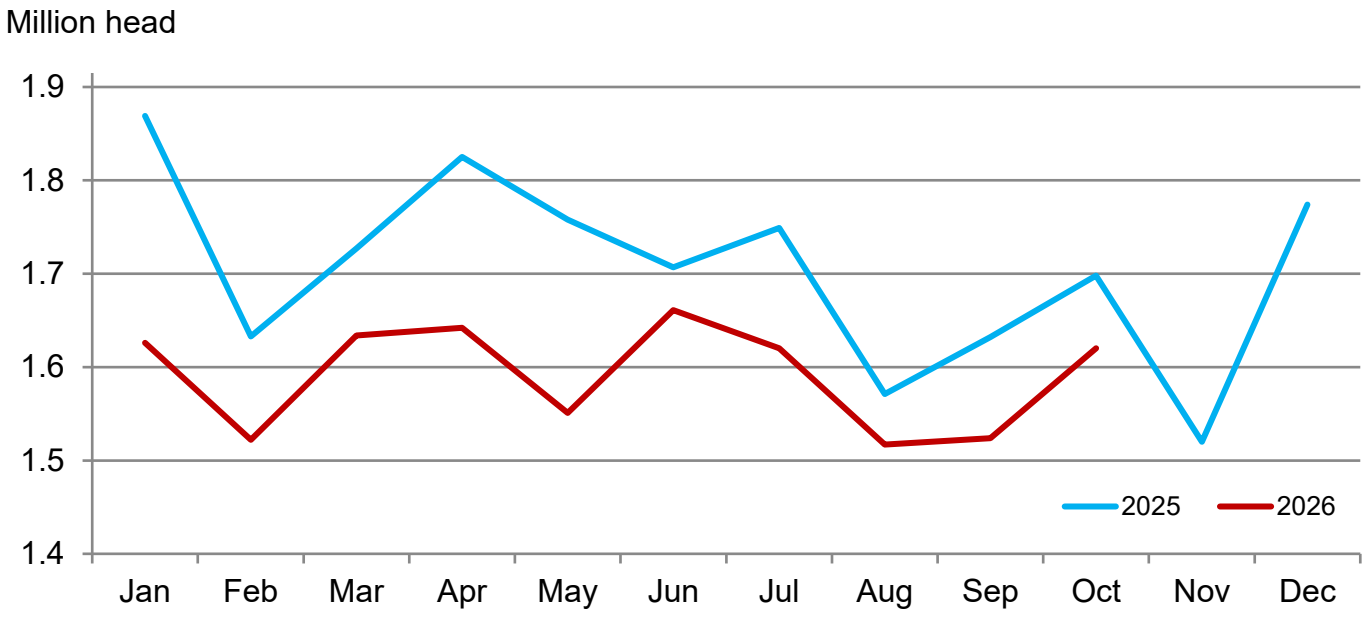
State	During October 2026							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs [1]	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	Total
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	30	25	25	30	25	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas	60	85	125	85	55	(D)	(D)	410
Nebraska	105	100	80	95	115	(D)	(D)	495
Texas	135	95	95	50	15	(D)	(D)	390
Other States	160	95	70	81	55	(D)	(D)	461
United States	490	400	395	341	(X)	190	75	1,891

(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 October 2025	During September 2026	During October 2026		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	17	14	16	94	114
California	51	49	51	100	104
Colorado	130	125	130	100	104
Idaho	52	47	52	100	111
Iowa	85	68	80	94	118
Kansas	395	350	380	96	109
Nebraska	470	400	425	90	106
Oklahoma	46	42	44	96	105
South Dakota	33	30	35	106	117
Texas	335	300	315	94	105
Washington	33	33	36	109	109
Other States	51	66	56	110	85
United States	1,698	1,524	1,620	95	106

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 October 2025	During September 2026	During October 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	1	1	100	100
Iowa	1	2	2	200	100
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Nebraska	10	10	10	100	100
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	1	1	1	100	100
Texas	15	10	15	100	150
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	2	3	2	100	67
United States	54	49	53	98	108

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 11.6 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.

Anthony Prillaman, Associate Deputy Administrator ..... (202) 720-2127

Darin Jantzi, Section Chief ..... (701) 412-5953

Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery, Eggs, Hogs and Pigs, Layers, Sheep and Goats

Jeff Lemmons, Section Chief ..... (202) 973-3272

Cattle, Cattle on Feed, Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses, Cold Storage

Tiffany Byrne, Section Chief ..... (651) 440-7789

Catfish, Census of Aquaculture, Dairy Products, Livestock Slaughter, Poultry Slaughter, Trout, Turkey Hatchery, Turkey Raised

Julie Weber, Section Chief ..... (202) 317-0165

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

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.
- The national 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" in upper right corner above "search" box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- Economics, Statistics, and Market Information (ESMIS) – National Agricultural Library (NAL) website houses NASS's and other agency archived reports at https://esmis.nal.usda.gov. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from https://esmis.nal.usda.gov. To receive the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the website, create a new account and subscribe to the reports. You should whitelist notifications@esmis.nal.usda.gov 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.

If you have specific questions you would like an expert to respond to, please visit our "Ask A Specialist" website at www.nass.usda.gov/Contact_Us/Ask_a_Specialist.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.