

Cattle On Feed

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U.S. Cattle on Feed Up 9 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.4 million head on October 1, 2006. The inventory was 9 percent above October 1, 2005 and 8 percent above October 1, 2004. This is the highest October 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.20 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.12 million head, up 16 percent from 2005.

Placements in feedlots during September totaled 2.23 million, 5 percent below 2005 and 6 percent below 2004. Net placements were 2.16 million head. During September, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 725,000, 600-699 pounds were 412,000, 700-799 pounds were 450,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 645,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during September totaled 1.77 million, 3 percent below 2005 and 2 percent below 2004. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of September since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 68,000 during September, 19 percent above 2005 and 11 percent above 2004.

**Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and
Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots,
United States, October 1, 2004-2006**

Item	Number			2006 as % of	
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
On Feed Sep 1 ¹	9,988	10,000	10,986	110	110
Placed on Feed During Sep	2,375	2,355	2,232	94	95
Fed Cattle Marketed During Sep	1,800	1,816	1,765	98	97
Other Disappearance During Sep ²	61	57	68	111	119
On Feed Oct 1 ¹	10,502	10,482	11,385	108	109

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

² Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

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Item	Number			2006 as % of	
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
On Feed Aug 1 ¹	9,868	10,093	10,822	110	107
Placed on Feed During Aug	2,102	1,993	*2,295	109	115
Fed Cattle Marketed During Aug	1,926	2,033	*2,072	108	102
Other Disappearance During Aug ²	56	53	59	105	111
On Feed Sep 1 ¹	9,988	10,000	10,986	110	110

* Revised.

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

² Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

**Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed by Class, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots,
United States, October 1, 2004-2006**

Item	Number			2006 as % of	
	2004	2005	2006	2004	2005
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Class on Feed Oct 1					
Steers and Steer Calves	6,468	6,872	7,197	111	105
Heifers and Heifer Calves	3,974	3,553	4,122	104	116
Cows and Bulls	60	57	66	110	116

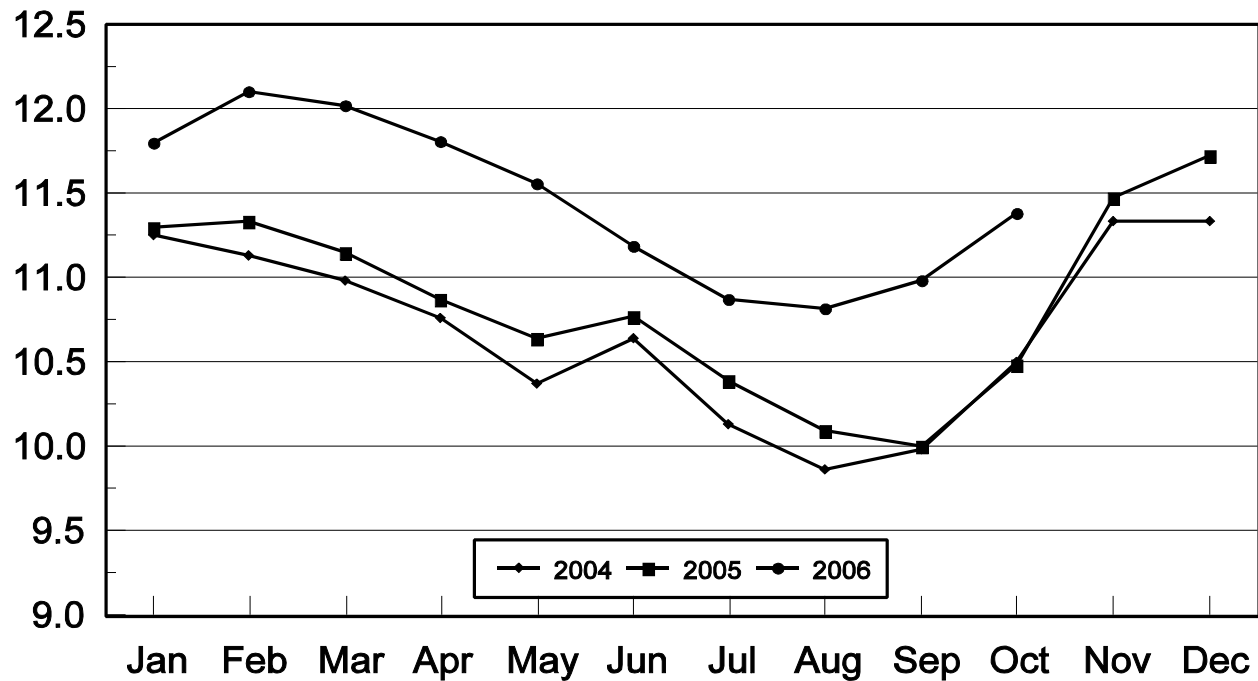
**Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots,
by Month, State, and United States 2005-2006 ¹**

State	Oct 1, 2005	Sep 1, 2006	Oct 1, 2006		
			Number	as % of 2005	as % of Sep
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	318	336	336	106	100
CA	535	520	525	98	101
CO	900	960	1,060	118	110
ID	270	235	265	98	113
IA	410	455	460	112	101
KS	2,250	2,390	2,450	109	103
NE	1,940	2,050	2,220	114	108
NM	136	142	143	105	101
OK	335	345	355	106	103
SD	130	155	170	131	110
TX	2,830	2,960	2,930	104	99
WA	153	158	171	112	108
Oth Sts	275	280	300	109	107
US	10,482	10,986	11,385	109	104

¹ Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better.

United States Cattle on Feed 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots

Million Head



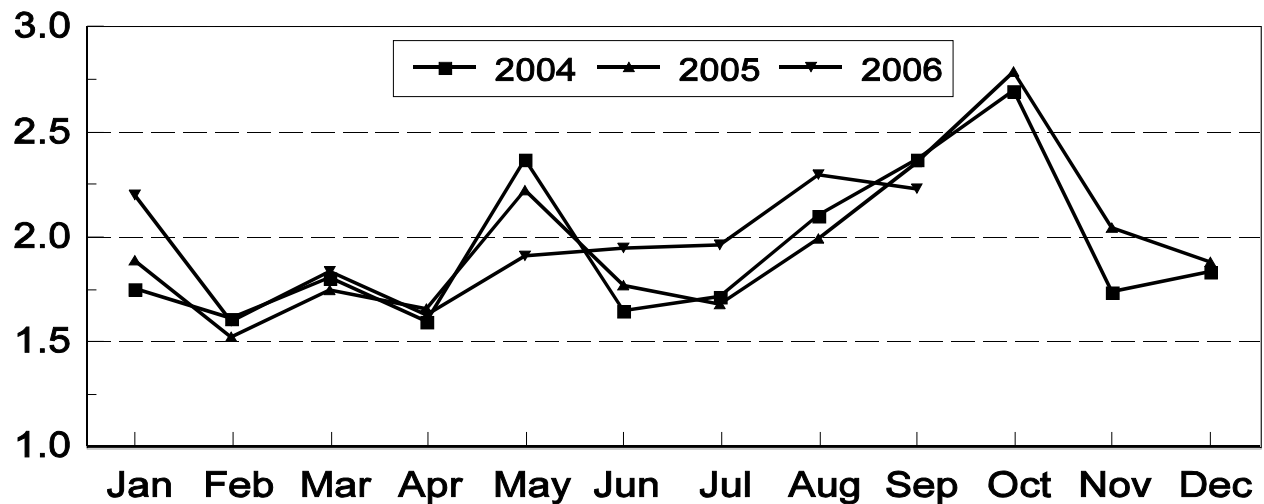
**Cattle on Feed: Number Placed on Feed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots,
by Month, State, and United States 2005-2006**

State	During Sep 2005	During Aug 2006	During Sep 2006		
			Number	as % of 2005	as % of Aug
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	29	30	28	97	93
CA	68	66	72	106	109
CO	280	*205	245	88	120
ID	69	55	72	104	131
IA	90	80	81	90	101
KS	510	590	500	98	85
NE	500	470	500	100	106
NM	26	26	21	81	81
OK	69	77	71	103	92
SD	40	30	50	125	167
TX	550	570	495	90	87
WA	40	35	37	93	106
Oth Sts	84	61	60	71	98
US	2,355	*2,295	2,232	95	97

* Revised.

United States Cattle on Feed 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots Number Placed

Million Head



**Cattle on Feed: Number Placed on Feed by Weight Group, 1,000+ Capacity
Feedlots, by Month, State, and United States, 2005-2006**

State	During September									
	Under 600		600-699		700-799		800 Plus		Total	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
CO	30	50	45	35	70	50	135	110	280	245
KS	120	185	120	105	130	100	140	110	510	500
NE	85	105	90	70	120	120	205	205	500	500
TX	175	230	185	135	130	85	60	45	550	495
Oth Sts	155	155	65	67	100	95	195	175	515	492
US	565	725	505	412	550	450	735	645	2,355	2,232
	During August									
	Under 600		600-699		700-799		800 Plus		Total	
	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006	2005	2006
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
CO	20	50	25	*25	40	50	70	80	155	*205
KS	85	140	105	120	165	185	165	145	520	590
NE	43	80	65	75	112	115	195	200	415	470
TX	140	280	130	140	135	95	75	55	480	570
Oth Sts	130	130	60	70	88	90	145	170	423	460
US	418	680	385	*430	540	535	650	650	1,993	*2,295

* Revised.

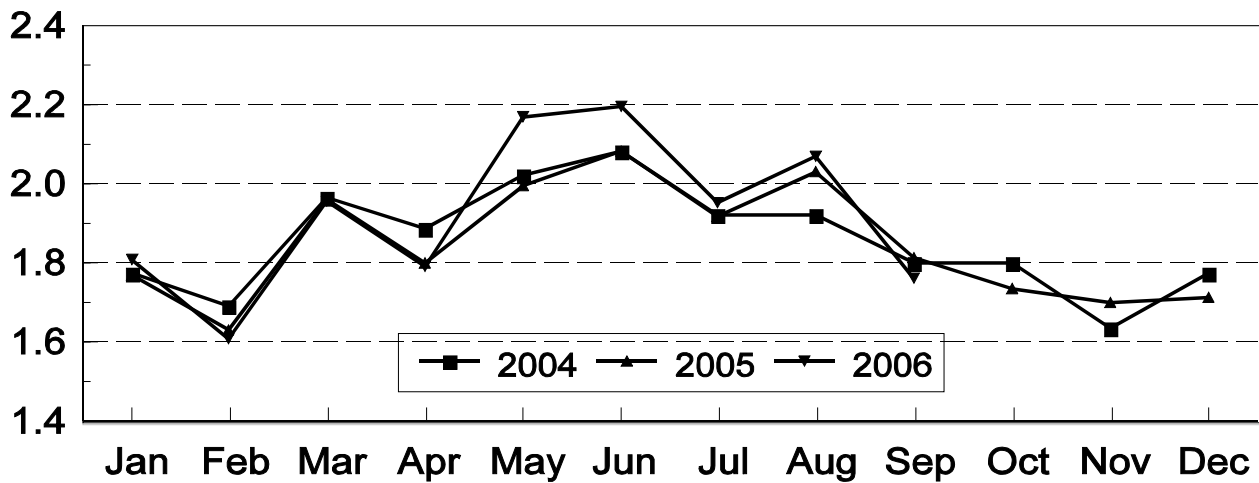
**Cattle on Feed: Number Marketed, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots,
by Month, State, and United States 2005-2006**

State	During Sep 2005	During Aug 2006	During Sep 2006		
			Number	as % of 2005	as % of Aug
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	24	31	26	108	84
CA	57	59	64	112	108
CO	145	*180	140	97	78
ID	48	44	41	85	93
IA	74	69	73	99	106
KS	455	540	420	92	78
NE	320	360	320	100	89
NM	22	26	16	73	62
OK	53	76	59	111	78
SD	40	37	34	85	92
TX	510	570	510	100	89
WA	25	30	23	92	77
Oth Sts	43	50	39	91	78
US	1,816	*2,072	1,765	97	85

* Revised.

United States Cattle on Feed 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots Number Marketed

Million Head



**Cattle on Feed: Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots,
by Month, State, and United States 2005-2006 ¹**

State	During Sep 2005	During Aug 2006	During Sep 2006		
			Number	as % of 2005	as % of Aug
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
AZ	1	2	2	200	100
CA	6	2	3	50	150
CO	5	5	5	100	100
ID	1	1	1	100	100
IA	1	1	3	300	300
KS	15	20	20	133	100
NE	10	10	10	100	100
NM	3	2	4	133	200
OK	1	1	2	200	200
SD	2	3	1	50	33
TX	10	10	15	150	150
WA	1	1	1	100	100
Oth Sts	1	1	1	100	100
US	57	59	68	119	115

¹ Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

**Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed by Class, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots,
by Quarter, State, and United States, 2005-2006**

State	Steers & Steer Calves			Heifers & Heifer Calves			Cows and Bulls		
	Oct 1, 2005	Jul 1, 2006	Oct 1, 2006	Oct 1, 2005	Jul 1, 2006	Oct 1, 2006	Oct 1, 2005	Jul 1, 2006	Oct 1, 2006
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
AZ	316	341	334	2	3	2	0	0	0
CA	505	487	480	30	40	45	0	3	0
CO	585	650	730	310	320	325	5	10	5
ID	166	149	172	101	79	92	3	2	1
IA	280	320	310	129	139	149	1	1	1
KS	1,330	1,300	1,280	900	970	1,150	20	10	20
NE	1,140	1,240	1,250	790	740	950	10	10	20
NM	76	84	82	60	56	61	0	0	0
OK	235	240	245	100	100	110	0	0	0
SD	64	85	82	56	72	74	10	23	14
TX	1,880	1,900	1,900	947	1,075	1,027	3	5	3
WA	90	81	97	62	66	73	1	1	1
Oth Sts	205	215	235	66	50	64	4	5	1
US	6,872	7,092	7,197	3,553	3,710	4,122	57	70	66

Terms and Definitions of Cattle on Feed Estimates

Cattle on feed are animals 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 cattle 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 cattle 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.

Reliability of Cattle on Feed Estimates

Survey Procedures: During January and July all known feedlots in the U.S. 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 17 States are surveyed. The 17 States account for 98 percent of the cattle on feed in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head.

Estimating Procedures: These cattle on feed estimates were prepared by the Agricultural Statistics Board after reviewing recommendations and analysis submitted by each State office. Regional and State survey data were reviewed for reasonableness with each other and with estimates from the previous month when setting 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 1000+ 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 following table. 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 10 years is .2 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 .2 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed .3 percent.

The following table also shows a 10 year 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 10 years have averaged 10,000 head, ranging from 0

to 36,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been below the final estimate 5 times, and above the final estimate 0 times. This does not imply that the initial estimate is likely to understate or overstate final inventory.

Reliability of U.S. October 1 Cattle on Feed Estimates ¹

Item	Root Mean Square Error	90% Confidence Level		Difference Between First and Final Estimates ¹			Number of Years	
		Percent	(000) Head	Average	Smallest	Largest	First Above Final	First Below Final
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Number</i>
Number on Feed	0.2	0.3	34.6	10	0	36	0	5
Placements	0.2	0.4	8.6	3	0	11	0	5
Marketings	0.2	0.4	7.1	2	0	10	0	2

¹ Based on data for the past 10 years.

Information Contacts

Listed below are the commodity specialists in the Livestock Branch of the National Agricultural Statistics Service to contact for additional information.

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