



Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

Released August 19, 2011, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

United States Cattle on Feed Up 8 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.6 million head on August 1, 2011. The inventory was 8 percent above August 1, 2010. This is the third highest August 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during July totaled 2.15 million, 22 percent above 2010. This is the highest placement total for the month of July since the series began in 1996. Net placements were 2.09 million head. During July, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 625,000, 600-699 pounds were 405,000, 700-799 pounds were 498,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 625,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during July totaled 1.91 million, slightly above 2010. This is the second lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of July since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 67,000 during July, 40 percent above 2010.

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: August 1, 2010 and 2011

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed July 1	10,071	10,448	104
Placed on feed during July	1,758	2,153	122
Fed cattle marketed during July	1,901	1,908	100
Other disappearance during July	48	67	140
On feed August 1	9,880	10,626	108

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: July 1, 2010 and 2011

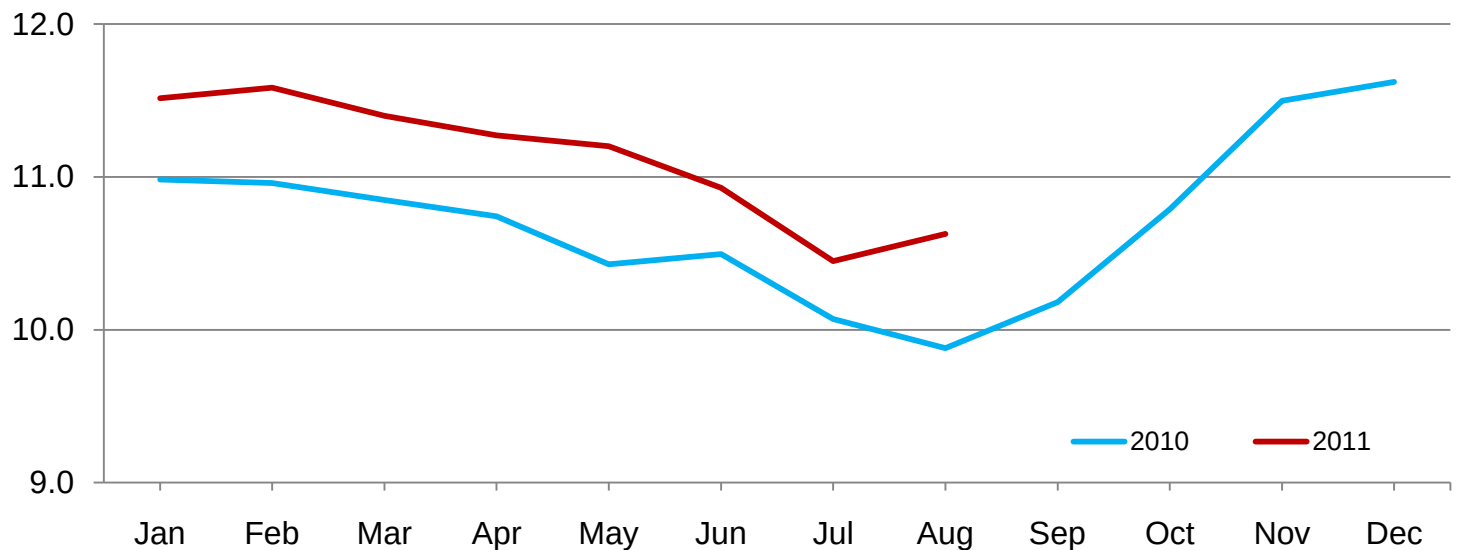
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2010	2011	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed June 1	10,495	10,928	104
Placed on feed during June	1,628	1,695	104
Fed cattle marketed during June	1,997	2,102	105
Other disappearance during June	55	73	133
On feed July 1	10,071	10,448	104

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011

State	August 1, 2010	July 1, 2011	August 1, 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	248	287	289	117	101
California	435	470	480	110	102
Colorado	890	1,000	970	109	97
Idaho	190	215	195	103	91
Iowa	560	590	560	100	95
Kansas	2,040	2,030	2,180	107	107
Nebraska	1,960	2,020	1,980	101	98
Oklahoma	335	350	360	107	103
South Dakota	200	210	195	98	93
Texas	2,520	2,700	2,860	113	106
Washington	163	197	190	117	96
Other States	339	379	367	108	97
United States	9,880	10,448	10,626	108	102

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

Million head

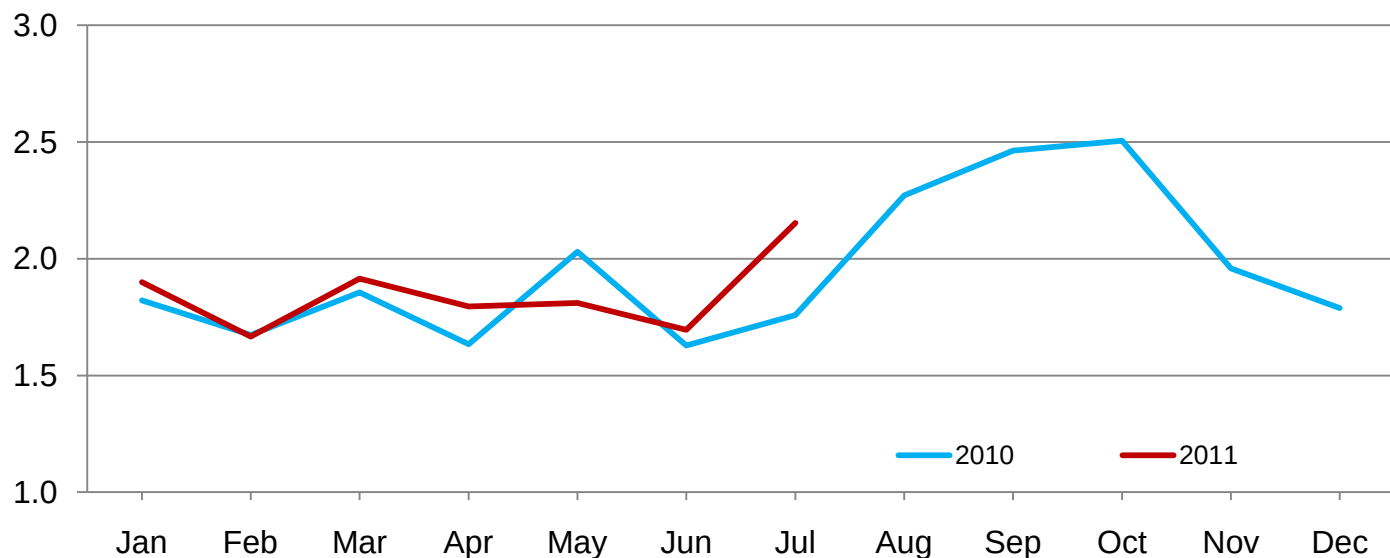


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011

State	During July 2010	During June 2011	During July 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	21	25	26	124	104
California	51	70	62	122	89
Colorado	140	105	170	121	162
Idaho	34	34	24	71	71
Iowa	69	64	60	87	94
Kansas	500	390	580	116	149
Nebraska	370	310	390	105	126
Oklahoma	49	62	86	176	139
South Dakota	33	31	22	67	71
Texas	410	500	640	156	128
Washington	34	41	42	124	102
Other States	47	63	51	109	81
United States	1,758	1,695	2,153	122	127

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

Million Head



Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011

State	During July									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(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	15	45	20	25	40	40	65	60	140	170
Kansas	75	95	90	115	165	190	170	180	500	580
Nebraska	50	60	70	70	90	100	160	160	370	390
Texas	190	305	75	140	85	100	60	95	410	640
Other States	85	120	50	55	68	68	135	130	338	373
United States	415	625	305	405	448	498	590	625	1,758	2,153

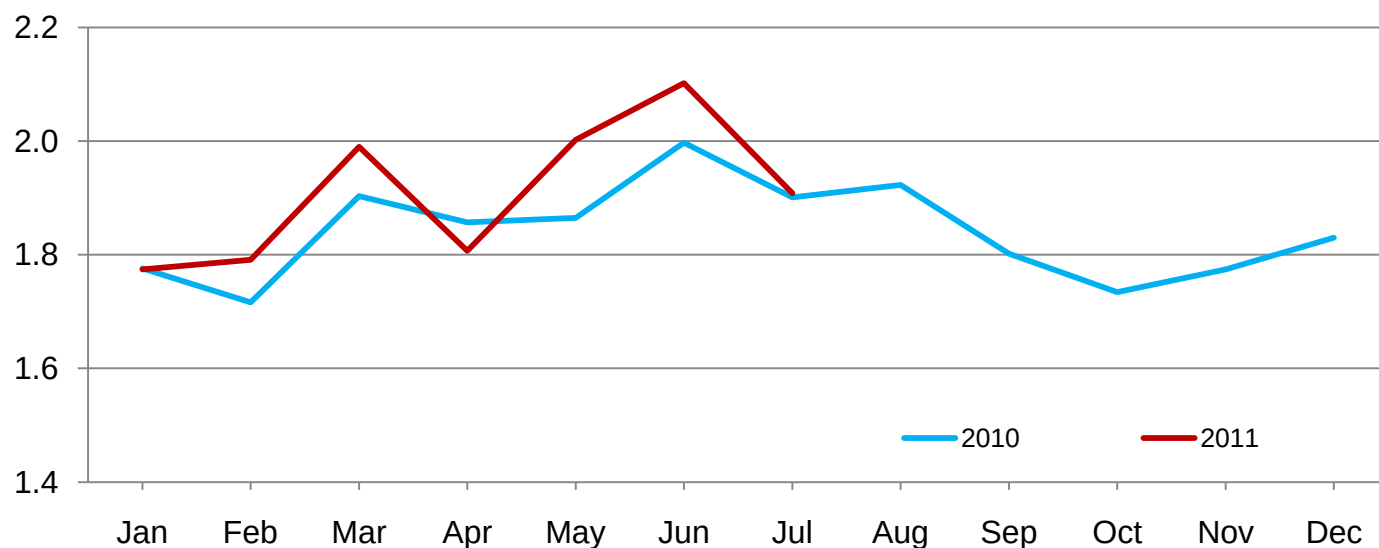
State	During June									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011	2010	2011
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	20	20	20	25	30	30	55	30	125	105
Kansas	65	75	80	95	115	120	105	100	365	390
Nebraska	60	50	50	60	70	70	130	130	310	310
Texas	175	210	105	130	125	120	65	40	470	500
Other States	120	105	45	70	68	80	125	135	358	390
United States	440	460	300	380	408	420	480	435	1,628	1,695

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011

State	During July 2010	During June 2011	During July 2011		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	27	27	23	85	85
California	43	58	48	112	83
Colorado	165	175	195	118	111
Idaho	43	47	41	95	87
Iowa	77	80	88	114	110
Kansas	460	460	420	91	91
Nebraska	400	465	415	104	89
Oklahoma	63	65	74	117	114
South Dakota	47	46	35	74	76
Texas	470	570	465	99	82
Washington	38	39	44	116	113
Other States	68	70	60	88	86
United States	1,901	2,102	1,908	100	91

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

Million Head



Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2010 and 2011

State	During July 2010	During June 2011	During July 2011		
			Number	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	3	2	4	133	200
Colorado	5	10	5	100	50
Idaho	1	2	3	300	150
Iowa	2	4	2	100	50
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Nebraska	10	15	15	150	100
Oklahoma	1	2	2	200	100
South Dakota	1	10	2	200	20
Texas	10	10	15	150	150
Washington	1	4	5	500	125
Other States	3	3	3	100	100
United States	48	73	67	140	92

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 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 each State office. 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 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 10.6 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.2 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 9,000 head, ranging from 0 to 30,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 10 times and has been below the latest estimate 10 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)
Number on feed	0.1	0.2	9	0	30	10	10
Placements	0.3	0.6	3	0	20	11	6
Marketings	0.3	0.5	3	0	21	9	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@nass.usda.gov

Dan Kerestes, Chief, Livestock Branch (202) 720-3570

Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section (202) 690-2424

Travis Averill – Dairy Products Prices (202) 690-2168

Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter (515) 284-4340

Doug Bounds – Hogs and Pigs (202) 720-3106

Jason Hardegree – Cattle, Cattle on Feed (202) 720-3040

Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows (202) 720-3278

Everett Olbert – Sheep and Goats (202) 720-4751

Lorie Warren – Dairy Products (202) 690-3236

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: <http://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 <http://www.nass.usda.gov> and in the “Receive NASS Updates” box under “Receive reports by Email,” click on “National” or “State” to select the reports you would like to receive.
- Printed reports may be purchased from the National Technical Information Service (NTIS) by calling toll-free (800) 999-6779, or (703) 605-6220 if calling from outside the United States or Canada. Accepted methods of payment are Visa, MasterCard, check, or money order.

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@nass.usda.gov.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, political beliefs, genetic information, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.