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United States Cattle on Feed Up 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 11.8 million head on April 1, 2024. The inventory was 1 percent above April 1, 2023. The inventory included 7.27 million steers and steer calves, up 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 61 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.56 million head, up 1 percent from 2023.

Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.75 million head, 12 percent below 2023. Net placements were 1.69 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 330,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 260,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 460,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 466,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 170,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 60,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 1.71 million head, 14 percent below 2023.

Other disappearance totaled 57,000 head during March, 8 percent above 2023.

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2023 and 2024

Item	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
On feed March 1	11,685	11,838	101	
Placed on feed during March	1,992	1,746	88	
Fed cattle marketed during March	1,977	1,706	86	
Other disappearance during March	53	57	108	
On feed April 1	11,647	11,821	101	

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2023 and 2024

Item	2023	2024	Percent of previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
On feed February 1	11,754	11,797	100	
Placed on feed during February	1,723	1,890	110	
Fed cattle marketed during February	1,734	1,793	103	
Other disappearance during February	58	56	97	
On feed March 1	11,685	11,838	101	

Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2023 and 2024

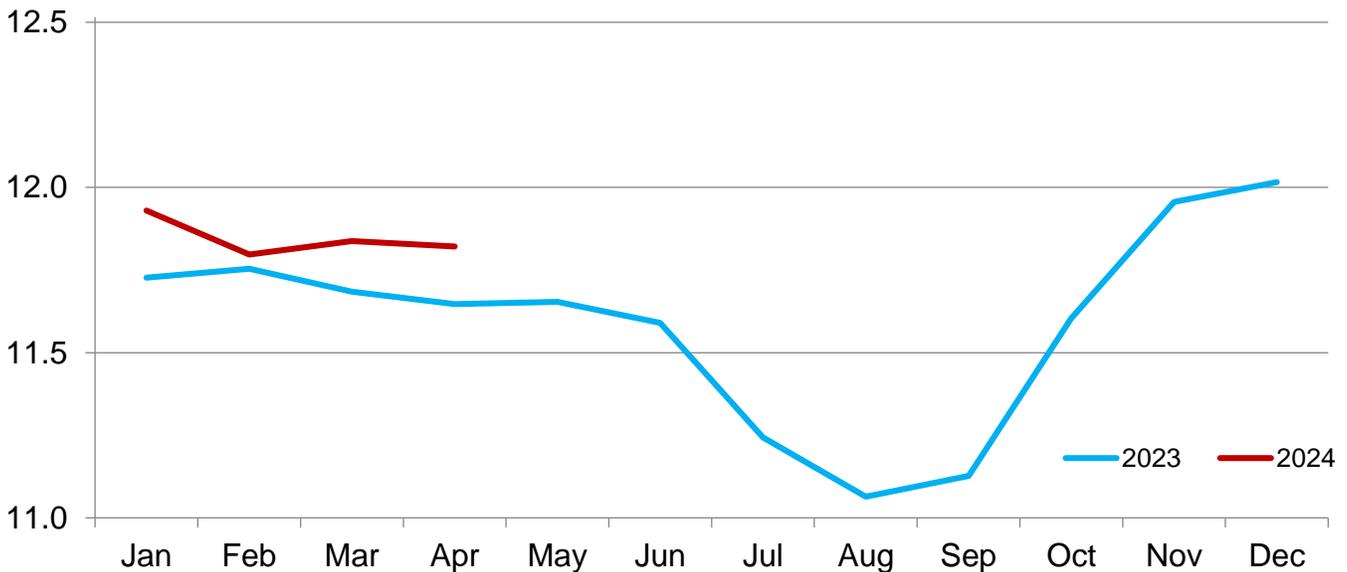
Item	2023	2024	Percent of	
			previous year	inventory
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed April 1				
Steers and steer calves	7,142	7,266	102	61
Heifers and heifer calves	4,505	4,555	101	39

Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024

State	April 1, 2023	March 1, 2024	April 1, 2024		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	257	258	256	100	99
California	525	520	530	101	102
Colorado	980	1,020	990	101	97
Idaho	320	345	345	108	100
Iowa	640	650	660	103	102
Kansas	2,430	2,400	2,400	99	100
Minnesota	95	105	105	111	100
Nebraska	2,530	2,560	2,540	100	99
Oklahoma	260	330	330	127	100
South Dakota	220	245	250	114	102
Texas	2,810	2,820	2,840	101	101
Washington	255	255	245	96	96
Other States	325	330	330	102	100
United States	11,647	11,838	11,821	101	100

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

Million head

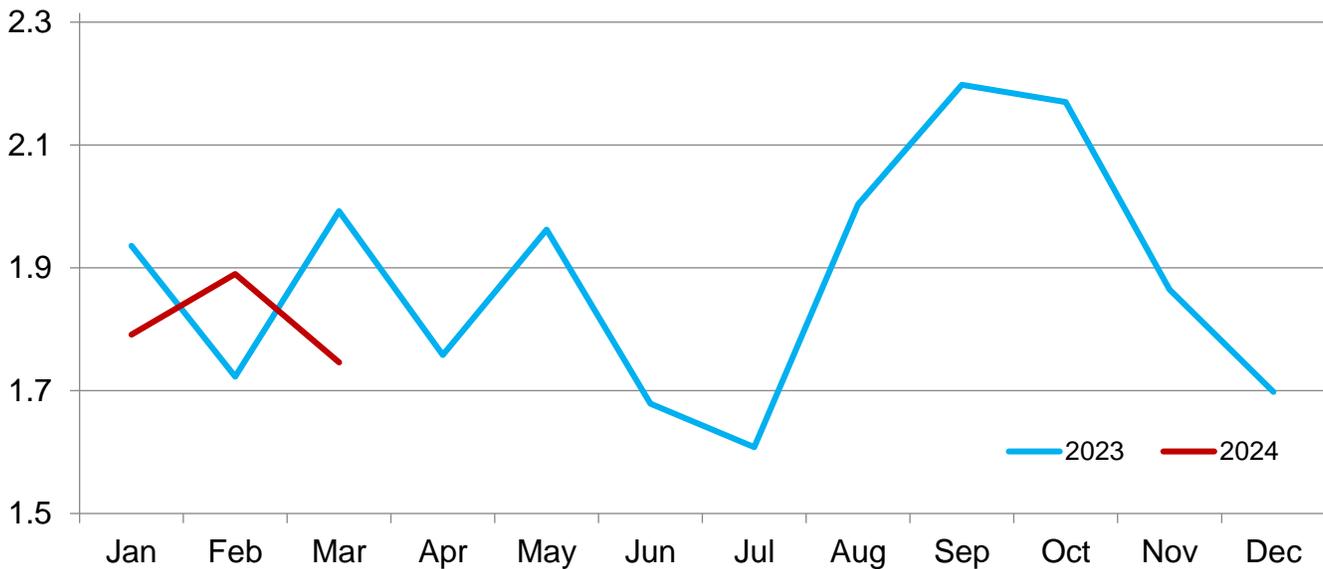


Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024

State	During March 2023 (1,000 head)	During February 2024 (1,000 head)	During March 2024		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	28	22	22	79	100
California	73	66	65	89	98
Colorado	155	150	135	87	90
Idaho	37	43	36	97	84
Iowa	109	118	105	96	89
Kansas	460	460	400	87	87
Minnesota	15	14	14	93	100
Nebraska	480	505	450	94	89
Oklahoma	43	38	41	95	108
South Dakota	44	42	40	91	95
Texas	455	355	365	80	103
Washington	40	33	29	73	88
Other States	53	44	44	83	100
United States	1,992	1,890	1,746	88	92

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: 2023 and 2024

State	During March 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	35	45	20	(D)	(D)	155
Kansas	50	70	150	135	55	(D)	(D)	460
Nebraska	30	65	140	150	95	(D)	(D)	480
Texas	160	95	105	75	20	(D)	(D)	455
Other States ...	120	60	110	112	40	(D)	(D)	442
United States ..	390	315	540	517	(X)	170	60	1,992
State	During February 2024							
	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	30	35	35	25	(D)	(D)	150
Kansas	45	75	155	135	50	(D)	(D)	460
Nebraska	35	75	155	165	75	(D)	(D)	505
Texas	140	75	70	55	15	(D)	(D)	355
Other States ...	115	75	100	95	35	(D)	(D)	420
United States ..	360	330	515	485	(X)	150	50	1,890
State	During March 2024							
	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	40	20	(D)	(D)	135
Kansas	40	55	125	125	55	(D)	(D)	400
Nebraska	25	60	130	140	95	(D)	(D)	450
Texas	135	70	80	60	20	(D)	(D)	365
Other States ...	105	55	95	101	40	(D)	(D)	396
United States ..	330	260	460	466	(X)	170	60	1,746

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

(X) Not applicable.

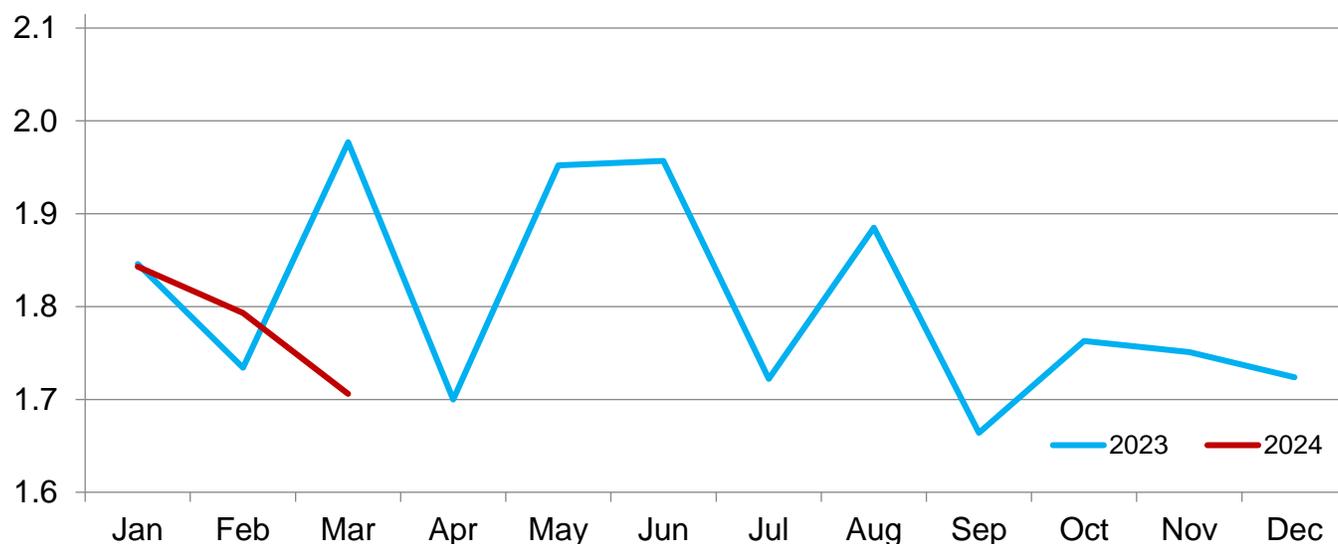
¹ The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2023 and 2024

State	During March 2023	During February 2024	During March 2024		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	30	25	23	77	92
California	61	60	49	80	82
Colorado	180	135	160	89	119
Idaho	41	41	35	85	85
Iowa	107	106	93	87	88
Kansas	480	440	390	81	89
Minnesota	14	13	13	93	100
Nebraska	470	480	460	98	96
Oklahoma	52	37	40	77	108
South Dakota	37	36	33	89	92
Texas	415	345	330	80	96
Washington	39	37	38	97	103
Other States	51	38	42	82	111
United States	1,977	1,793	1,706	86	95

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: 2023 and 2024

State	During March 2023 (1,000 head)	During February 2024 (1,000 head)	During March 2024		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	7	6	6	86	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
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	10	15	10	100	67
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	2	1	2	100	200
Texas	10	10	15	150	150
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	2	1	2	100	200
United States	53	56	57	108	102

**Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States:
2023 and 2024**

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Apr 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2024	Apr 1, 2024	Apr 1, 2023	Jan 1, 2024	Apr 1, 2024
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona	247	250	246	10	15	10
California	440	415	435	85	105	95
Colorado	545	540	530	435	480	460
Idaho	175	180	195	145	155	150
Iowa	485	475	510	155	155	150
Kansas	1,330	1,380	1,340	1,100	1,100	1,060
Minnesota	80	85	90	15	20	15
Nebraska	1,650	1,590	1,660	880	970	880
Oklahoma	145	195	185	115	140	145
South Dakota	135	135	155	85	95	95
Texas	1,560	1,610	1,570	1,250	1,250	1,270
Washington	140	145	135	115	125	110
Other States	210	195	215	115	125	115
United States	7,142	7,195	7,266	4,505	4,735	4,555

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 0.6 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 11.8 million head by more than 0.6 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 1.0 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 55,000 head, ranging from 0 to 115,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 0 times and has been below the latest estimate 21 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	0.6	1.0	55	0	115	21	0
Placements	0.5	0.9	7	0	24	10	11
Marketings	0.1	0.2	2	0	6	10	8

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.

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Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
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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

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- 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.

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