



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Down Slightly

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.5 million head on March 1, 2026. The inventory was slightly below March 1, 2025.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.61 million head, 4 percent above 2025. Net placements were 1.56 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 305,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 280,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 445,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 396,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 130,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 55,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.52 million head, 7 percent below 2025. Marketings were the second lowest for February since the series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 50,000 head during February, 17 percent below 2025.

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

Item	2025	2026	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1	11,716	11,510	98
Placed on feed during February	1,554	1,611	104
Fed cattle marketed during February	1,633	1,522	93
Other disappearance during February	60	50	83
On feed March 1	11,577	11,549	100

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

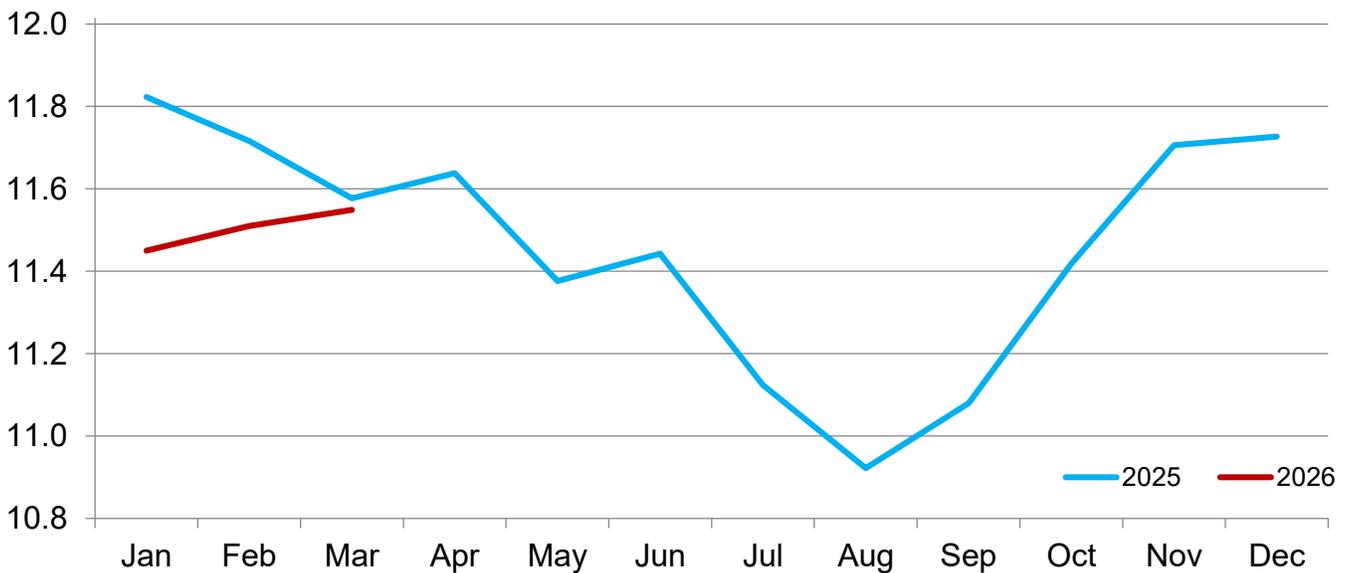
Item	2025	2026	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1	11,823	11,450	97
Placed on feed during January	1,822	1,741	96
Fed cattle marketed during January	1,869	1,626	87
Other disappearance during January	60	55	92
On feed February 1	11,716	11,510	98

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

State	March 1, 2025	February 1, 2026	March 1, 2026		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	227	220	224	99	102
California	510	510	510	100	100
Colorado	1,010	920	925	92	101
Idaho	335	350	350	104	100
Iowa	670	670	680	101	101
Kansas	2,320	2,350	2,350	101	100
Nebraska	2,590	2,680	2,670	103	100
Oklahoma	340	330	330	97	100
South Dakota	235	235	245	104	104
Texas	2,640	2,510	2,530	96	101
Washington	260	270	275	106	102
Other States	440	465	460	105	99
United States	11,577	11,510	11,549	100	100

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

Million head

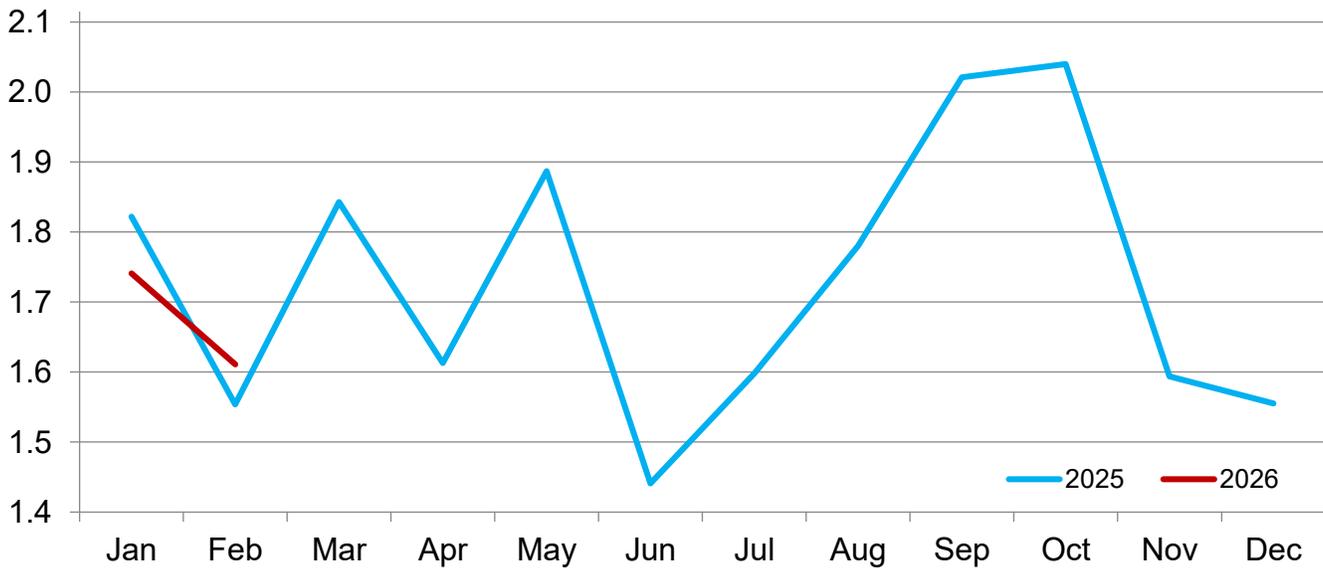


Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2025 and 2026

State	During February 2025 (1,000 head)	During January 2026 (1,000 head)	During February 2026		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	17	27	24	141	89
California	55	63	59	107	94
Colorado	130	140	120	92	86
Idaho	36	44	40	111	91
Iowa	94	100	104	111	104
Kansas	365	400	405	111	101
Nebraska	440	495	410	93	83
Oklahoma	35	43	39	111	91
South Dakota	35	34	36	103	106
Texas	260	290	280	108	97
Washington	35	37	39	111	105
Other States	52	68	55	106	81
United States	1,554	1,741	1,611	104	93

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: 2025 and 2026

State	During February 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	25	25	30	30	20	(D)	(D)	130
Kansas	40	65	115	100	45	(D)	(D)	365
Nebraska	30	65	135	140	70	(D)	(D)	440
Texas	100	55	55	40	10	(D)	(D)	260
Other States ...	100	65	85	74	35	(D)	(D)	359
United States ..	295	275	420	384	(X)	130	50	1,554
State	During January 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	30	35	25	20	(D)	(D)	140
Kansas	45	85	135	95	40	(D)	(D)	400
Nebraska	40	100	140	145	70	(D)	(D)	495
Texas	115	65	60	40	10	(D)	(D)	290
Other States ...	130	85	85	81	35	(D)	(D)	416
United States ..	360	365	455	386	(X)	105	70	1,741
State	During February 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	25	30	25	20	(D)	(D)	120
Kansas	45	70	130	110	50	(D)	(D)	405
Nebraska	30	60	125	130	65	(D)	(D)	410
Texas	105	55	65	45	10	(D)	(D)	280
Other States ...	105	70	95	86	40	(D)	(D)	396
United States ..	305	280	445	396	(X)	130	55	1,611

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

(X) Not applicable.

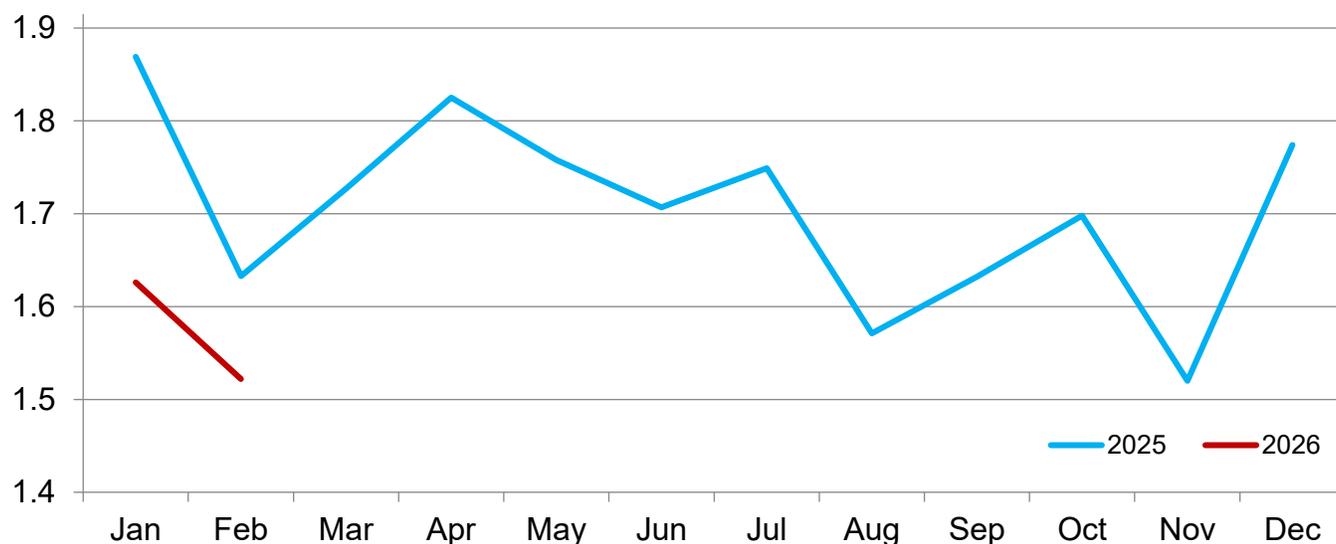
¹ The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During February 2025	During January 2026	During February 2026		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	20	16	19	95	119
California	58	49	55	95	112
Colorado	140	105	110	79	105
Idaho	35	38	39	111	103
Iowa	93	108	92	99	85
Kansas	405	430	395	98	92
Nebraska	425	425	410	96	96
Oklahoma	39	37	38	97	103
South Dakota	29	32	24	83	75
Texas	310	295	250	81	85
Washington	29	36	33	114	92
Other States	50	55	57	114	104
United States	1,633	1,626	1,522	93	94

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: 2025 and 2026

State	During February 2025 (1,000 head)	During January 2026 (1,000 head)	During February 2026		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	7	4	4	57	100
Colorado	10	5	5	50	100
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	1	2	2	200	100
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Nebraska	15	10	10	67	100
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	1	2	2	200	100
Texas	10	15	10	100	67
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	2	3	3	150	100
United States	60	55	50	83	91

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 11.5 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 3 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	3	1
Placements	0.2	0.4	2	0	20	7	2
Marketings	0.0	0.1	0	0	2	5	1

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
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Tiffany Byrne – Dairy Products.....	(651) 440-7789
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed.....	(202) 720-3040
Kim DaPra – Milk Production	(202) 720-3278
Fatema Haque – Poultry Slaughter, Turkey Hatchery, Turkeys Raised	(202) 720-3244
Derron Martin – Catfish, Census of Aquaculture, Egg Products, Trout.....	(202) 690-3237
Ralph Mondesir – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106
Suzanne Richards – Cost of Pollination, Honey, Honey Bee Colonies, Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4448
Shulonda Shaw – Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses, Cold Storage.....	(202) 720-3240
Autumn Stone – Layers, Eggs	(202) 690-3676
Takiyah Walker – Broiler Hatchery, Chicken Hatchery.....	(202) 720-6147

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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.

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Spring 2026

USDA Data Users' Meeting

April 22, 2026

1 p.m. CST

Join in-person or virtually

www.nass.usda.gov/go/data_users



USDA Spring Data Users' Meeting

Join Us Online or in Kansas City

April 22, 2026

Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City

1 Memorial Drive

Kansas City, MO 64198

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will hold an open forum for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. NASS is organizing the 2026 Spring Data Users' Meeting in cooperation with five other USDA agencies – Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, and World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Agency representatives will provide updates on recent and pending changes in statistical and information programs important to agriculture, answer questions, and welcome comments and input from data users.

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website (https://www.nass.usda.gov/go/data_users).