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Released April 17, 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 April 1, 2026. The inventory was 1 percent below April 1, 2025. The inventory included 7.26 million steers and steer calves, down slightly from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.32 million head, down 1 percent from 2025.

**Placements** in feedlots during March totaled 1.71 million head, 7 percent below 2025. Net placements were 1.66 million head. Placements were the second lowest for March since the series began in 1996. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 320,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 250,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 435,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 474,000 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 1.63 million head, 6 percent below 2025. Marketings were the second lowest for March since the series began in 1996.

**Other disappearance** totaled 50,000 head during March, 9 percent below 2025.

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

Item	2025	2026	Percent of previous year	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	
On feed March 1 .....	11,577	11,549	100	
Placed on feed during March .....	1,843	1,709	93	
Fed cattle marketed during March .....	1,727	1,632	94	
Other disappearance during March .....	55	50	91	
On feed April 1 .....	11,638	11,576	99	

**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 by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: April 1, 2025 and 2026**

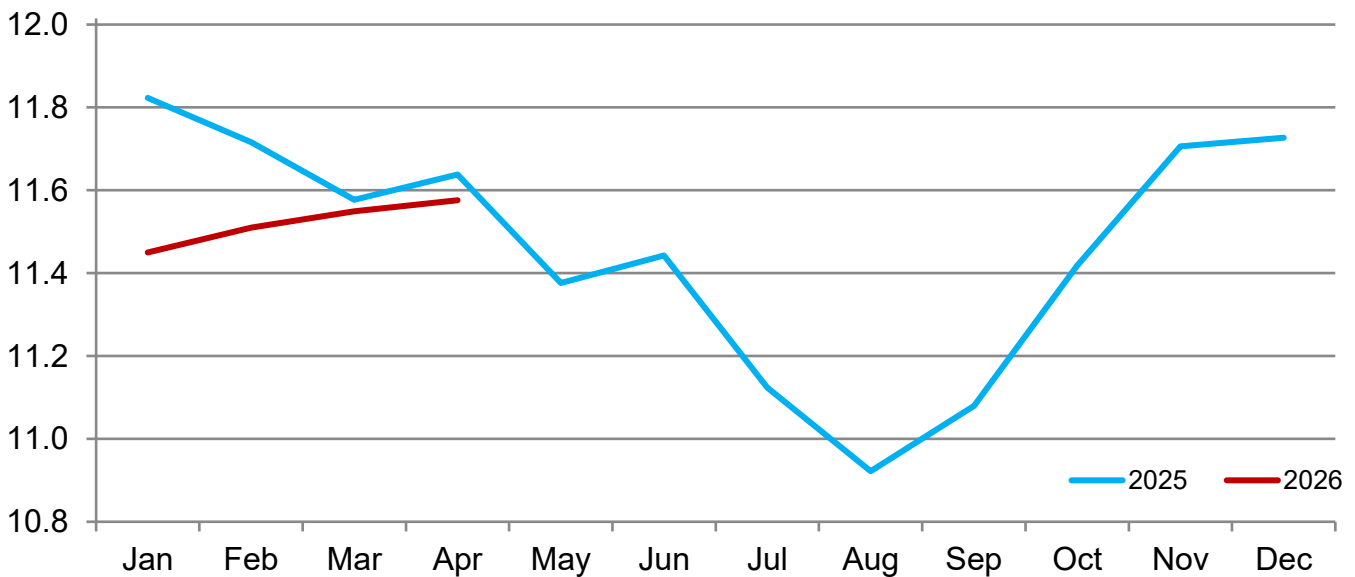
Item	2025	2026	Percent of	
			previous year	inventory
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Class on feed April 1 .....				
Steers and steer calves .....	7,258	7,256	100	63
Heifers and heifer calves .....	4,380	4,320	99	37

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

State	April 1, 2025	March 1, 2026	April 1, 2026		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	228	224	226	99	101
California .....	500	510	505	101	99
Colorado .....	1,000	925	915	92	99
Idaho .....	340	350	355	104	101
Iowa .....	680	680	690	101	101
Kansas .....	2,340	2,350	2,360	101	100
Nebraska .....	2,600	2,670	2,640	102	99
Oklahoma .....	335	330	335	100	102
South Dakota .....	240	245	245	102	100
Texas .....	2,670	2,530	2,560	96	101
Washington .....	260	275	270	104	98
Other States .....	445	460	475	107	103
United States .....	11,638	11,549	11,576	99	100

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

Million head

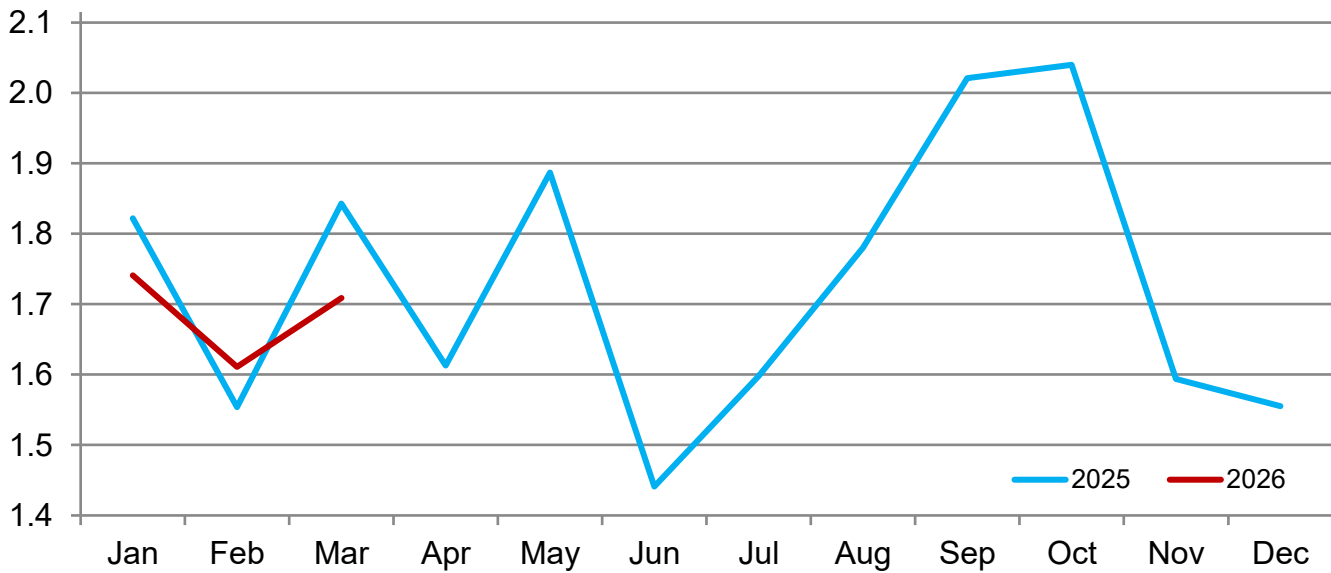


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2025 and 2026**

State	During March 2025 (1,000 head)	During February 2026 (1,000 head)	During March 2026		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona .....	24	24	23	96	96
California .....	54	59	62	115	105
Colorado .....	135	120	125	93	104
Idaho .....	43	40	49	114	123
Iowa .....	104	104	105	101	101
Kansas .....	430	405	410	95	101
Nebraska .....	500	410	425	85	104
Oklahoma .....	40	39	45	113	115
South Dakota .....	41	36	36	88	100
Texas .....	370	280	315	85	113
Washington .....	34	39	38	112	97
Other States .....	68	55	76	112	138
United States .....	1,843	1,611	1,709	93	106

**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 March 2025							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	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 .....	45	65	125	135	60	(D)	(D)	430
Nebraska .....	30	70	135	165	100	(D)	(D)	500
Texas .....	130	75	85	60	20	(D)	(D)	370
Other States ...	105	55	100	108	40	(D)	(D)	408
United States ..	335	285	475	508	(X)	175	65	1,843

State	During February 2026							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	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

State	During March 2026							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs <sup>1</sup>	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	25	35	20	(D)	(D)	125
Kansas .....	40	60	125	125	60	(D)	(D)	410
Nebraska .....	25	60	115	140	85	(D)	(D)	425
Texas .....	115	55	70	55	20	(D)	(D)	315
Other States ...	115	55	100	119	45	(D)	(D)	434
United States ..	320	250	435	474	(X)	170	60	1,709

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

(X) Not applicable.

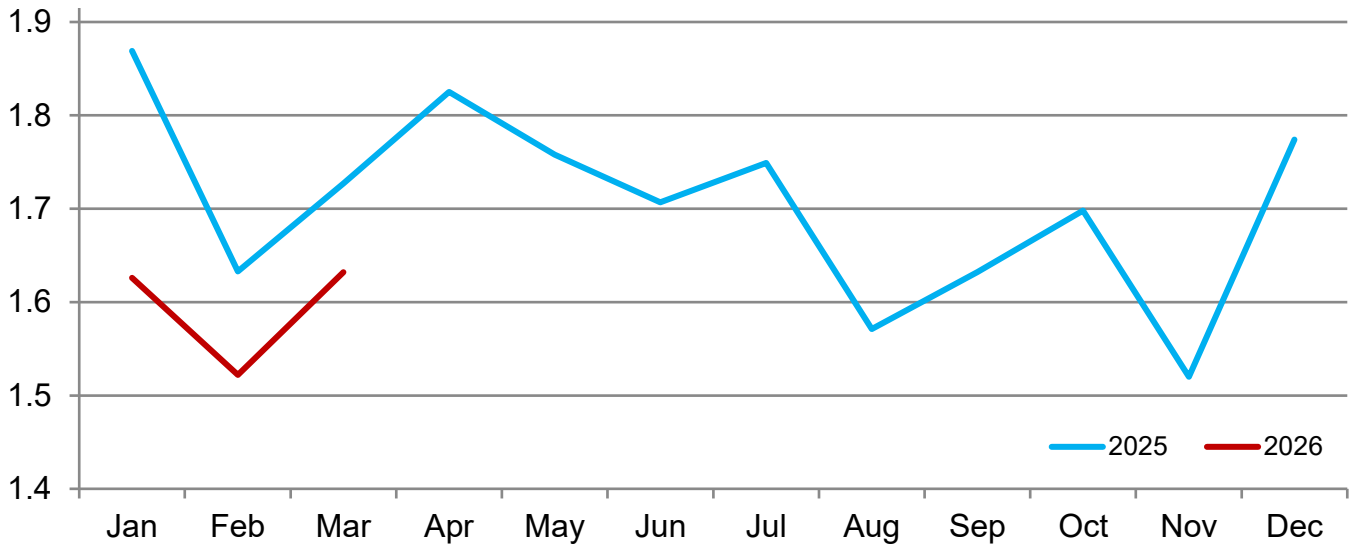
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During March 2025	During February 2026	During March 2026		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona .....	22	19	20	91	105
California .....	58	55	63	109	115
Colorado .....	140	110	130	93	118
Idaho .....	37	39	43	116	110
Iowa .....	93	92	93	100	101
Kansas .....	400	395	390	98	99
Nebraska .....	475	410	445	94	109
Oklahoma .....	44	38	39	89	103
South Dakota .....	34	24	34	100	142
Texas .....	330	250	275	83	110
Washington .....	33	33	42	127	127
Other States .....	61	57	58	95	102
United States .....	1,727	1,522	1,632	94	107

# 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 March 2025 (1,000 head)	During February 2026 (1,000 head)	During March 2026		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (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 .....	15	10	10	67	100
Oklahoma .....	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota .....	2	2	2	100	100
Texas .....	10	10	10	100	100
Washington .....	1	1	1	100	100
Other States .....	2	3	3	150	100
United States .....	55	50	50	91	100

**Cattle on Feed by Class on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – States and United States:  
2025 and 2026**

State	Steers and steer calves			Heifers and heifer calves		
	Apr 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2026	Apr 1, 2026	Apr 1, 2025	Jan 1, 2026	Apr 1, 2026
	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)	(1,000 Head)
Arizona .....	213	200	211	15	10	15
California .....	410	400	415	90	100	90
Colorado .....	535	475	495	465	415	420
Idaho .....	180	185	195	160	160	160
Iowa .....	530	530	540	150	150	150
Kansas .....	1,350	1,400	1,400	990	990	960
Nebraska .....	1,710	1,660	1,750	890	960	890
Oklahoma .....	195	190	205	140	135	130
South Dakota .....	150	140	155	90	95	90
Texas .....	1,530	1,375	1,405	1,140	1,155	1,155
Washington .....	140	150	150	120	120	120
Other States .....	315	310	335	130	145	140
United States .....	7,258	7,015	7,256	4,380	4,435	4,320

## 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 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](mailto: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

## Access to NASS Reports

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- The national specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit [www.nass.usda.gov](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](https://www.nass.usda.gov/go/data_users)).