



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Up 2 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 May 1, 2026. The inventory was 2 percent above May 1, 2025.

Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.70 million head, 6 percent above 2025. Net placements were 1.65 million head. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 330,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 245,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 390,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 457,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 210,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 70,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.64 million head, 10 percent below 2025.

Other disappearance totaled 52,000 head during April, 4 percent above 2025.

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

Item	2025	2026	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed April 1	11,638	11,576	99
Placed on feed during April	1,613	1,702	106
Fed cattle marketed during April	1,825	1,642	90
Other disappearance during April	50	52	104
On feed May 1	11,376	11,584	102

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

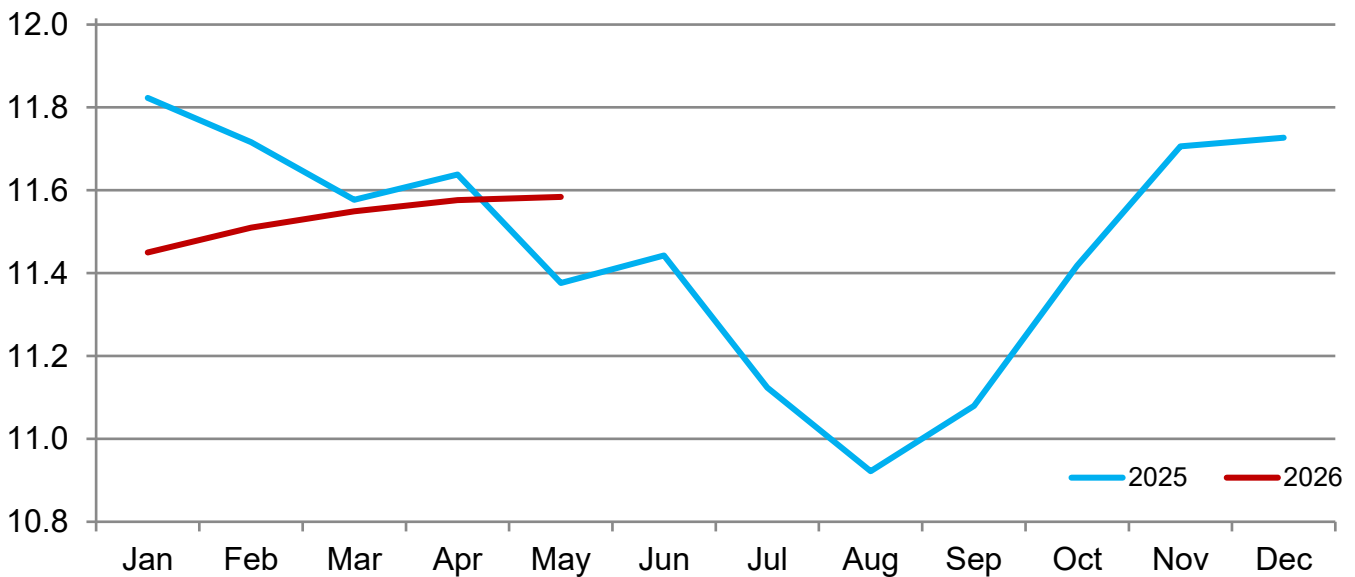
Item	2025	2026	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed March 1	11,577	11,549	100
Placed on feed during March	1,843	1,711	93
Fed cattle marketed during March	1,727	1,634	95
Other disappearance during March	55	50	91
On feed April 1	11,638	11,576	99

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

State	May 1, 2025	April 1, 2026	May 1, 2026		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	231	226	219	95	97
California	485	505	495	102	98
Colorado	960	915	920	96	101
Idaho	335	355	355	106	100
Iowa	680	690	680	100	99
Kansas	2,290	2,360	2,370	103	100
Nebraska	2,550	2,640	2,640	104	100
Oklahoma	325	335	335	103	100
South Dakota	235	245	245	104	100
Texas	2,590	2,560	2,580	100	101
Washington	255	270	270	106	100
Other States	440	475	475	108	100
United States	11,376	11,576	11,584	102	100

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

Million head

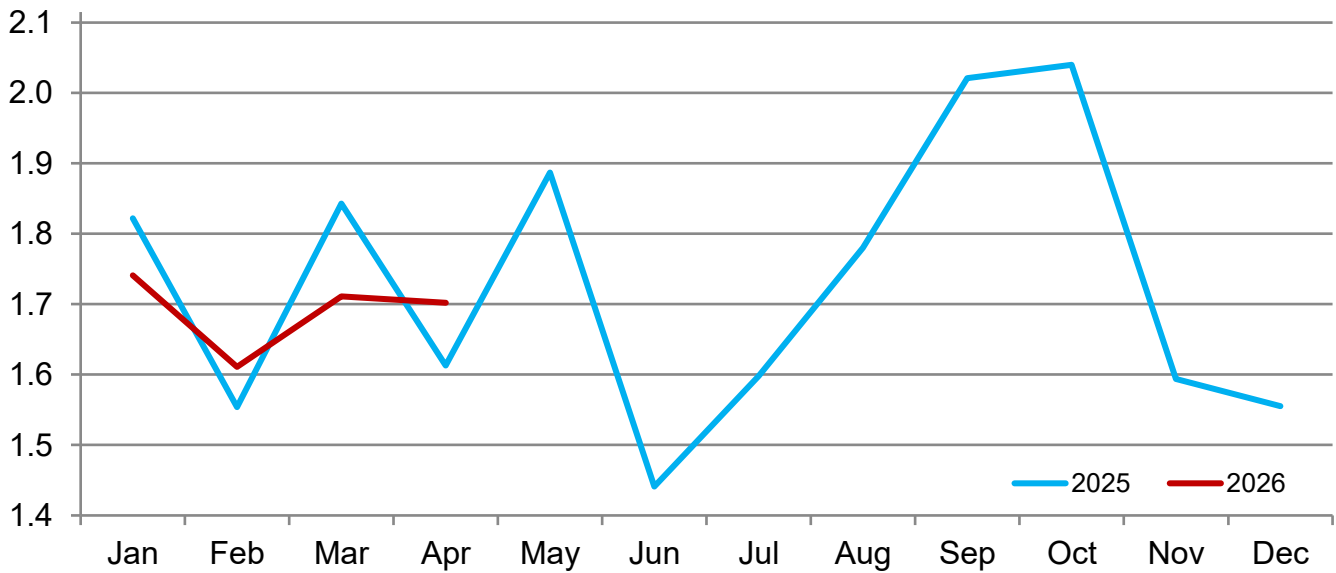


Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2025 and 2026

State	During April 2025 (1,000 head)	During March 2026 (1,000 head)	During April 2026		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	23	23	20	87	87
California	51	62	53	104	85
Colorado	120	125	140	117	112
Idaho	38	49	45	118	92
Iowa	87	107	89	102	83
Kansas	380	410	400	105	98
Nebraska	445	425	435	98	102
Oklahoma	45	45	49	109	109
South Dakota	29	36	31	107	86
Texas	310	315	335	108	106
Washington	33	38	44	133	116
Other States	52	76	61	117	80
United States	1,613	1,711	1,702	106	99

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 April 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	20	25	30	20	(D)	(D)	120
Kansas	45	55	115	105	60	(D)	(D)	380
Nebraska	30	45	100	160	110	(D)	(D)	445
Texas	110	55	65	55	25	(D)	(D)	310
Other States ...	100	50	65	93	50	(D)	(D)	358
United States ..	310	225	370	443	(X)	195	70	1,613
State	During March 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	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	121	45	(D)	(D)	436
United States ..	320	250	435	476	(X)	170	60	1,711
State	During April 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	25	25	30	35	25	(D)	(D)	140
Kansas	45	60	120	110	65	(D)	(D)	400
Nebraska	30	45	100	150	110	(D)	(D)	435
Texas	120	60	70	60	25	(D)	(D)	335
Other States ...	110	55	70	102	55	(D)	(D)	392
United States ..	330	245	390	457	(X)	210	70	1,702

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

(X) Not applicable.

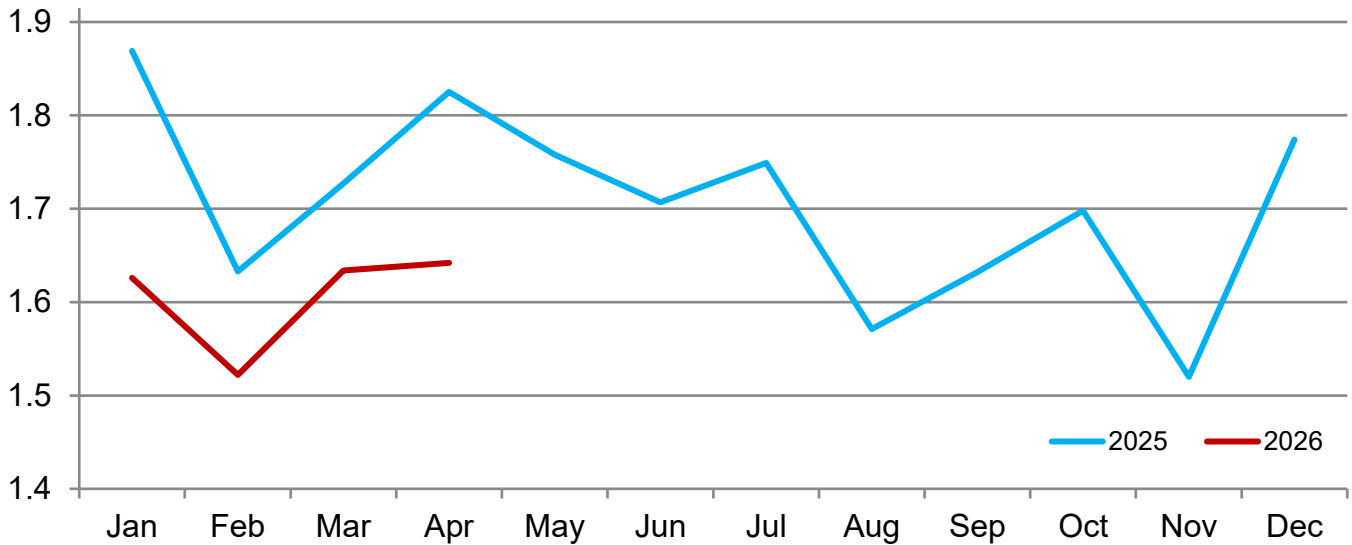
¹ The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

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

State	During April 2025	During March 2026	During April 2026		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	19	20	26	137	130
California	60	63	59	98	94
Colorado	155	130	130	84	100
Idaho	42	43	42	100	98
Iowa	86	95	97	113	102
Kansas	420	390	380	90	97
Nebraska	485	445	425	88	96
Oklahoma	54	39	47	87	121
South Dakota	33	34	30	91	88
Texas	380	275	305	80	111
Washington	37	42	43	116	102
Other States	54	58	58	107	100
United States	1,825	1,634	1,642	90	100

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 April 2025 (1,000 head)	During March 2026 (1,000 head)	During April 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	3	300	300
Iowa	1	2	2	200	100
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Nebraska	10	10	10	100	100
Oklahoma	1	1	2	200	200
South Dakota	1	2	1	100	50
Texas	10	10	10	100	100
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	3	3	3	100	100
United States	50	50	52	104	104

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 2 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	2	1
Placements	0.2	0.3	1	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
Shulonda Blackmon – Capacity of Refrigerated Warehouses, Cold Storage	(202) 720-3240
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
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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