



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Up 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 11.8 million head on March 1, 2020. The inventory was slightly above March 1, 2019.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.71 million head, 8 percent below 2019. Net placements were 1.65 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 340,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 315,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 470,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 411,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 115,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 60,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.78 million head, 5 percent above 2019.

Other disappearance totaled 58,000 head during February, 12 percent below 2019.

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2019 and 2020

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1	11,676	11,928	102
Placed on feed during February	1,858	1,711	92
Fed cattle marketed during February	1,683	1,775	105
Other disappearance during February	66	58	88
On feed March 1	11,785	11,806	100

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: February 1, 2019 and 2020

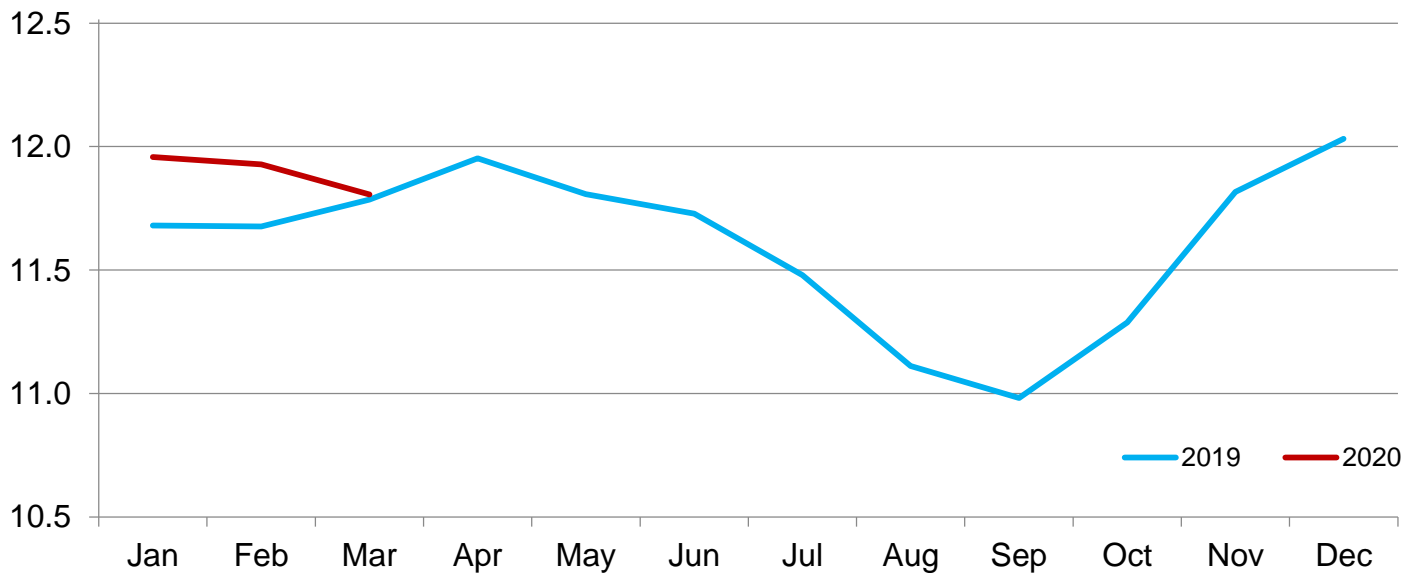
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1	11,680	11,958	102
Placed on feed during January	1,967	1,955	99
Fed cattle marketed during January	1,910	1,931	101
Other disappearance during January	61	54	89
On feed February 1	11,676	11,928	102

Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2019 and 2020

State	March 1, 2019	February 1, 2020	March 1, 2020		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	300	253	256	85	101
California	525	545	545	104	100
Colorado	1,050	1,100	1,050	100	95
Idaho	275	300	295	107	98
Iowa	710	670	670	94	100
Kansas	2,300	2,400	2,380	103	99
Minnesota	150	135	135	90	100
Nebraska	2,600	2,480	2,500	96	101
Oklahoma	310	325	320	103	98
South Dakota	260	240	240	92	100
Texas	2,770	2,940	2,880	104	98
Washington	225	230	230	102	100
Other States	310	310	305	98	98
United States	11,785	11,928	11,806	100	99

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

Million head

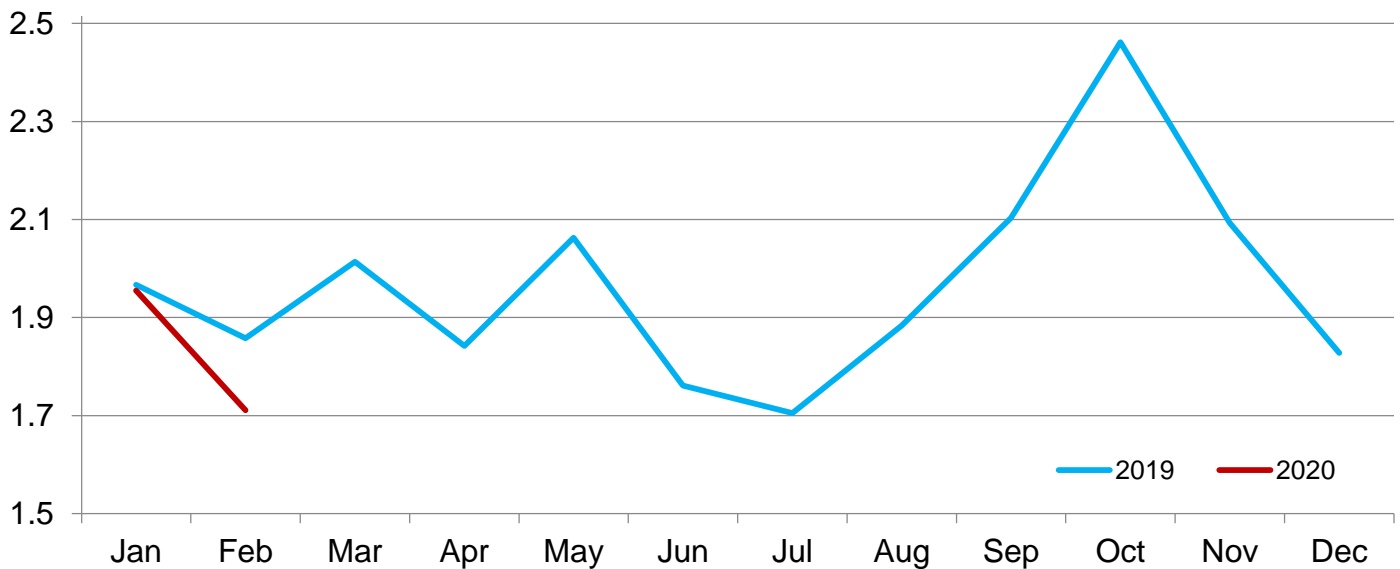


Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2019 and 2020

State	During February 2019 (1,000 head)	During January 2020 (1,000 head)	During February 2020		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	29	29	26	90	90
California	55	72	64	116	89
Colorado	185	205	165	89	80
Idaho	38	33	32	84	97
Iowa	133	111	108	81	97
Kansas	425	445	390	92	88
Minnesota	14	17	13	93	76
Nebraska	455	510	450	99	88
Oklahoma	44	43	36	82	84
South Dakota	42	41	36	86	88
Texas	370	370	320	86	86
Washington	26	34	30	115	88
Other States	42	45	41	98	91
United States	1,858	1,955	1,711	92	88

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: 2019 and 2020

State	During February 2019							
	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	35	50	45	25	(D)	(D)	185
Kansas	45	75	150	115	40	(D)	(D)	425
Nebraska	30	80	145	125	75	(D)	(D)	455
Texas	130	75	85	60	20	(D)	(D)	370
Other States ...	105	80	100	98	40	(D)	(D)	423
United States ..	340	345	530	443	(X)	135	65	1,858
State	During January 2020							
	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	40	50	55	40	20	(D)	(D)	205
Kansas	40	95	160	105	45	(D)	(D)	445
Nebraska	40	115	150	140	65	(D)	(D)	510
Texas	135	100	75	45	15	(D)	(D)	370
Other States ...	135	95	95	70	30	(D)	(D)	425
United States ..	390	455	535	400	(X)	105	70	1,955
State	During February 2020							
	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	40	45	20	(D)	(D)	165
Kansas	45	70	125	110	40	(D)	(D)	390
Nebraska	30	75	140	130	75	(D)	(D)	450
Texas	130	70	70	40	10	(D)	(D)	320
Other States ...	105	70	95	86	30	(D)	(D)	386
United States ..	340	315	470	411	(X)	115	60	1,711

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

(X) Not applicable.

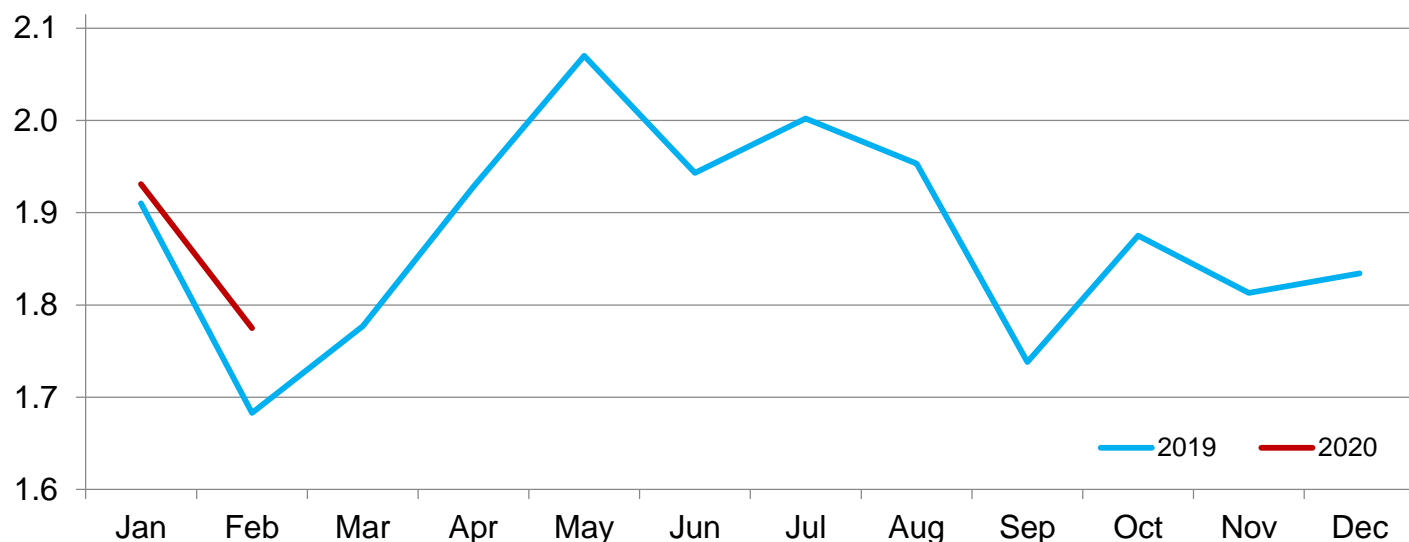
¹ The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2019 and 2020

State	During February 2019	During January 2020	During February 2020		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
			(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	19	28	22	116	79
California	51	62	58	114	94
Colorado	170	190	210	124	111
Idaho	35	32	36	103	113
Iowa	109	108	106	97	98
Kansas	365	455	400	110	88
Minnesota	18	16	12	67	75
Nebraska	415	480	420	101	88
Oklahoma	48	46	40	83	87
South Dakota	34	43	33	97	77
Texas	340	380	365	107	96
Washington	30	38	29	97	76
Other States	49	53	44	90	83
United States	1,683	1,931	1,775	105	92

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: 2019 and 2020

State	During February 2019 (1,000 head)	During January 2020 (1,000 head)	During February 2020		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	4	5	6	150	120
Colorado	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho	3	1	1	33	100
Iowa	4	3	2	50	67
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	20	10	10	50	100
Oklahoma	1	2	1	100	50
South Dakota	3	3	3	100	100
Texas	10	10	15	150	150
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	3	2	2	67	100
United States	66	54	58	88	107

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 0.1 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 11.8 million head by more than 0.1 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 4,000 head, ranging from 0 to 15,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 8 times 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)
Number on feed	0.1	0.1	4	0	15	2	8
Placements	0.2	0.4	2	0	15	5	3
Marketings	0.0	0.0	0	0	2	0	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.

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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.

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