



# 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**

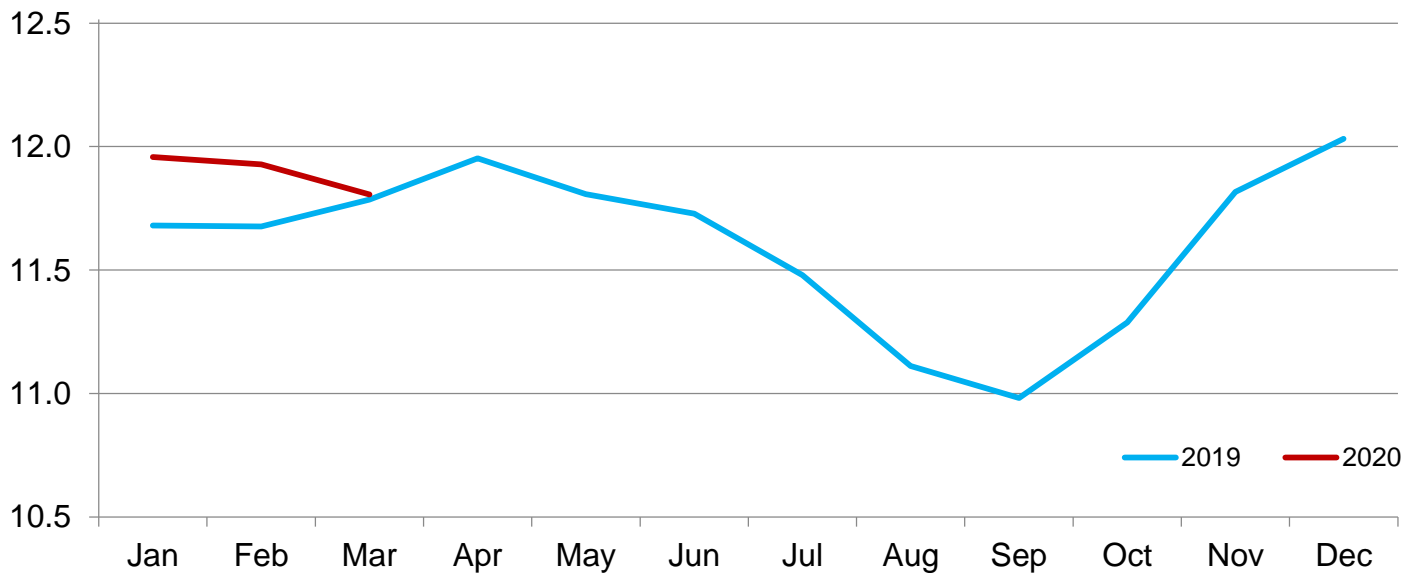
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2019	2020	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1 .....	11,680	11,958	102
Placed on feed during January .....	1,967	1,955	99
Fed cattle marketed during January .....	1,910	1,931	101
Other disappearance during January .....	61	54	89
On feed February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

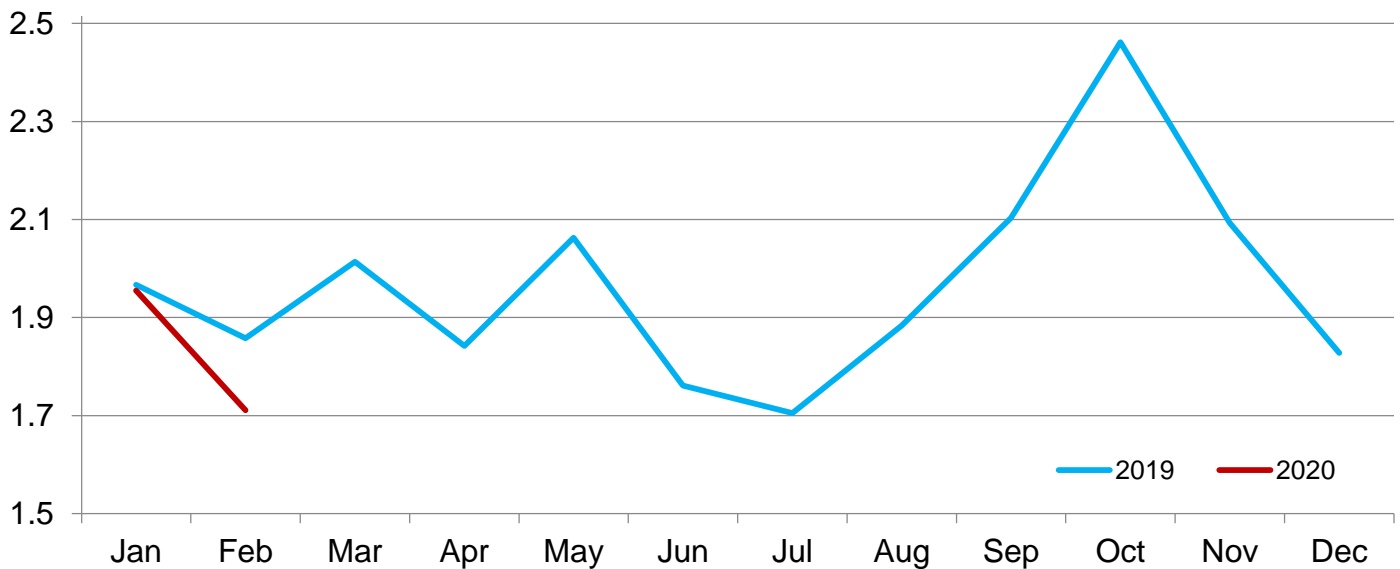


**Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2019 and 2020**

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 <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 .....	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 <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 .....	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 <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 .....	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.

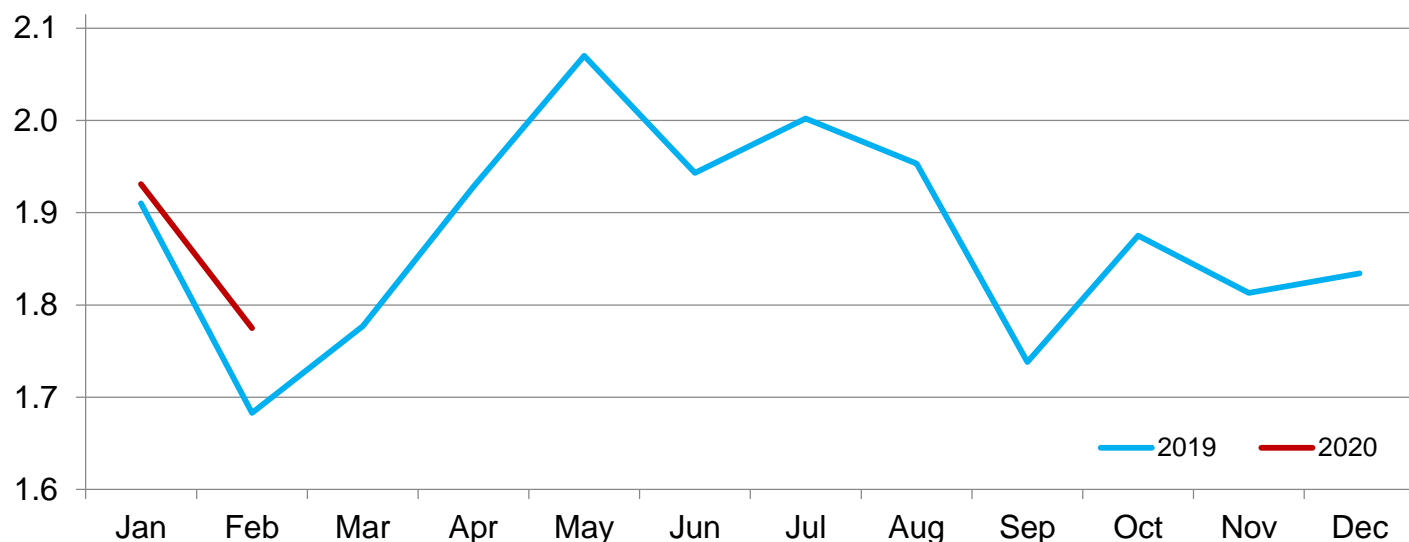
<sup>1</sup> The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

**Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 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](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch .....	(202) 692-0069
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section .....	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter .....	(202) 690-8632
Holly Brenize – Sheep and Goats .....	(202) 720-0585
Heidi Lanouette – Cattle, Cattle on Feed .....	(202) 720-3040
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows .....	(202) 720-3278
Suzanne Richards – Dairy Products .....	(202) 720-4448
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs .....	(202) 720-3106



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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](mailto: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](mailto:nass@usda.gov).

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