



Cattle on Feed

ISSN: 1948-9080

Released March 17, 2023, by the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), Agricultural Statistics Board, United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

United States Cattle on Feed Down 4 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 March 1, 2023. The inventory was 4 percent below March 1, 2022.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.73 million head, 7 percent below 2022. Net placements were 1.68 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 345,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 315,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 470,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 424,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 130,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 50,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.74 million head, 5 percent below 2022.

Other disappearance totaled 58,000 head during February, 2 percent below 2022.

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2022 and 2023

Item	2022	2023	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1	12,209	11,704	96
Placed on feed during February	1,868	1,734	93
Fed cattle marketed during February	1,825	1,735	95
Other disappearance during February	59	58	98
On feed March 1	12,193	11,645	96

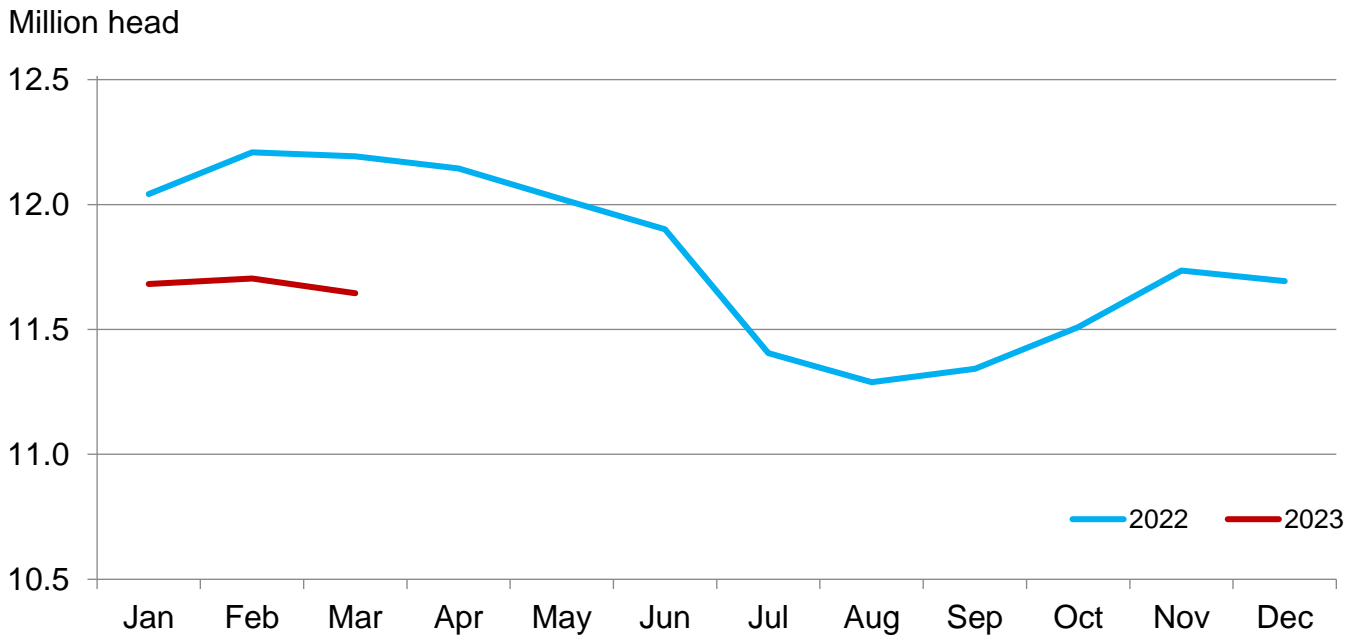
Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: February 1, 2022 and 2023

Item	2022	2023	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1	12,042	11,682	97
Placed on feed during January	2,004	1,931	96
Fed cattle marketed during January	1,773	1,846	104
Other disappearance during January	64	63	98
On feed February 1	12,209	11,704	96

Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2022 and 2023

State	March 1, 2022	February 1, 2023	March 1, 2023		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	283	264	260	92	98
California	560	520	515	92	99
Colorado	1,120	1,030	1,010	90	98
Idaho	310	325	325	105	100
Iowa	620	620	620	100	100
Kansas	2,510	2,450	2,460	98	100
Minnesota	100	95	95	95	100
Nebraska	2,690	2,570	2,530	94	98
Oklahoma	300	275	270	90	98
South Dakota	235	215	215	91	100
Texas	2,940	2,770	2,780	95	100
Washington	220	255	255	116	100
Other States	305	315	310	102	98
United States	12,193	11,704	11,645	96	99

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

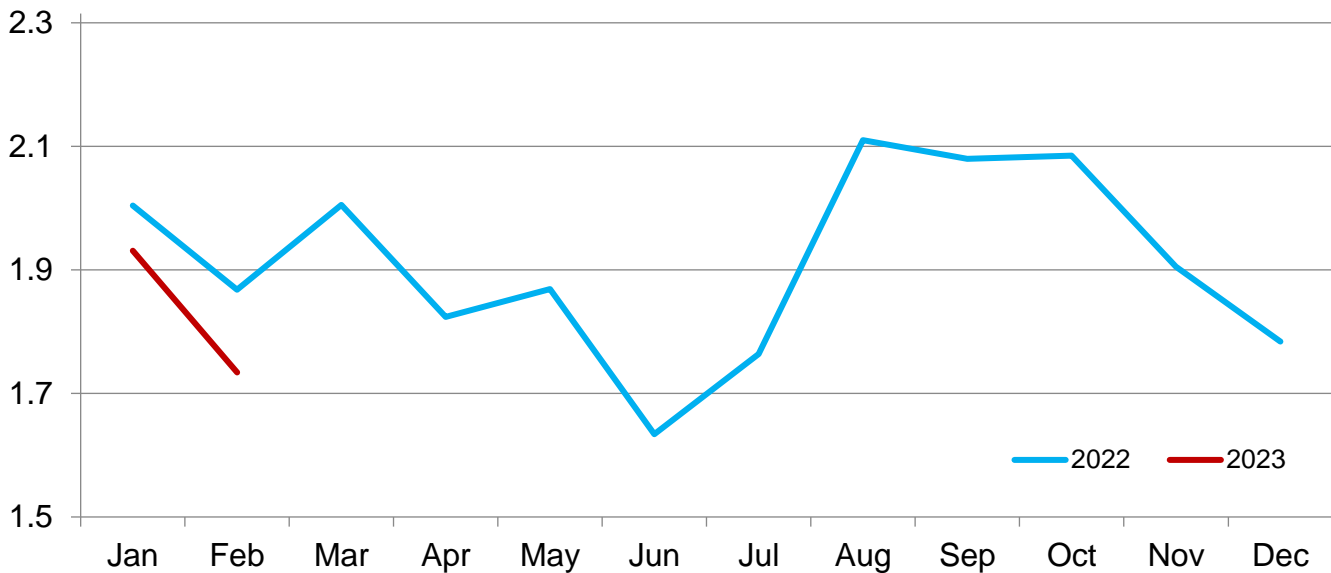


Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2022 and 2023

State	During February 2022 (1,000 head)	During January 2023 (1,000 head)	During February 2023		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	30	24	23	77	96
California	61	61	55	90	90
Colorado	175	165	140	80	85
Idaho	42	41	36	86	88
Iowa	116	105	105	91	100
Kansas	430	500	425	99	85
Minnesota	15	13	14	93	108
Nebraska	495	490	435	88	89
Oklahoma	35	37	26	74	70
South Dakota	39	40	37	95	93
Texas	350	380	360	103	95
Washington	35	28	36	103	129
Other States	45	47	42	93	89
United States	1,868	1,931	1,734	93	90

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: 2022 and 2023

State	During February 2022							
	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	45	45	20	(D)	(D)	175
Kansas	45	75	140	125	45	(D)	(D)	430
Nebraska	35	70	150	160	80	(D)	(D)	495
Texas	140	75	75	50	10	(D)	(D)	350
Other States ...	115	75	95	98	35	(D)	(D)	418
United States ..	365	330	505	478	(X)	135	55	1,868
State	During January 2023							
	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	40	45	30	20	(D)	(D)	165
Kansas	55	110	180	110	45	(D)	(D)	500
Nebraska	40	100	150	140	60	(D)	(D)	490
Texas	155	85	80	50	10	(D)	(D)	380
Other States ...	125	85	85	71	30	(D)	(D)	396
United States ..	405	420	540	401	(X)	100	65	1,931
State	During February 2023							
	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	35	35	20	(D)	(D)	140
Kansas	45	75	145	115	45	(D)	(D)	425
Nebraska	30	65	130	140	70	(D)	(D)	435
Texas	145	80	75	50	10	(D)	(D)	360
Other States ...	100	70	85	84	35	(D)	(D)	374
United States ..	345	315	470	424	(X)	130	50	1,734

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

(X) Not applicable.

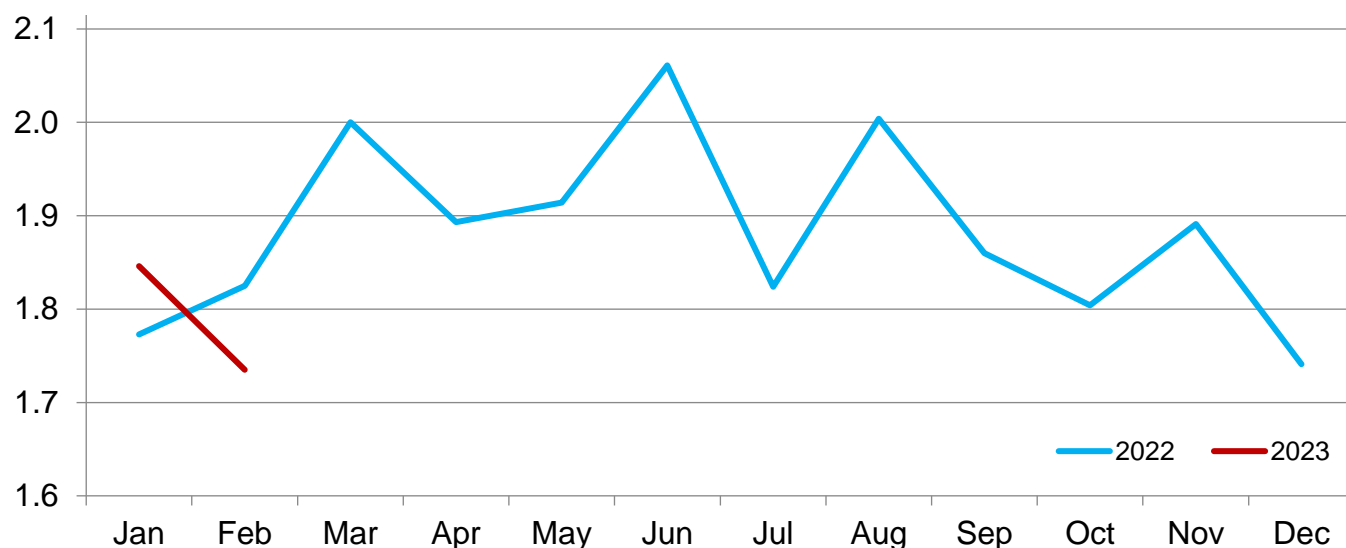
¹ The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2022 and 2023

State	During February 2022	During January 2023	During February 2023		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	25	26	26	104	100
California	54	49	53	98	108
Colorado	190	170	155	82	91
Idaho	36	35	35	97	100
Iowa	103	103	103	100	100
Kansas	450	430	405	90	94
Minnesota	14	12	13	93	108
Nebraska	455	500	460	101	92
Oklahoma	44	36	30	68	83
South Dakota	37	33	35	95	106
Texas	335	370	340	101	92
Washington	34	37	35	103	95
Other States	48	45	45	94	100
United States	1,825	1,846	1,735	95	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: 2022 and 2023

State	During February 2022 (1,000 head)	During January 2023 (1,000 head)	During February 2023		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	7	7	7	100	100
Colorado	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	3	2	2	67	100
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	10	20	15	150	75
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	2	2	2	100	100
Texas	15	10	10	67	100
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	2	2	2	100	100
United States	59	63	58	98	92

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 0.3 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 0.3 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.5 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 21,000 head, ranging from 0 to 65,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 0 times and has been below the latest estimate 15 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	0.3	0.5	21	0	65	15	0
Placements	0.5	0.9	6	0	23	10	11
Marketings	0.1	0.2	1	0	7	4	8

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
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Donnie Fike – Dairy Products	(202) 690-3347
Anthony Fischer – Hogs and Pigs.....	(202) 720-3106
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Suzanne Richards – Sheep and Goats	(202) 720-4448

Access to NASS Reports

For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov.
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- 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 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.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination against its customers, employees, and applicants for employment on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, gender identity, religion, reprisal, and where applicable, political beliefs, marital status, familial or parental status, sexual orientation, or all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program, or protected genetic information in employment or in any program or activity conducted or funded by the Department. (Not all prohibited bases will apply to all programs and/or employment activities.)

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the [USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form](#) (PDF), found online at www.ascr.usda.gov/filing-program-discrimination-complaint-usda-customer, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.