



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Down 1 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.8 million head on March 1, 2014. The inventory was 1 percent below March 1, 2013.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.65 million, 15 percent above 2013. Net placements were 1.58 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 390,000, 600-699 pounds were 330,000, 700-799 pounds were 415,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 515,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.55 million, 3 percent below 2013. Marketings for February are the lowest for the month since the data series began in 1996.

Other disappearance totaled 71,000 during February, 18 percent above 2013.

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2013 and 2014

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2013	2014	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1	11,070	10,760	97
Placed on feed during February	1,438	1,650	115
Fed cattle marketed during February	1,603	1,549	97
Other disappearance during February	60	71	118
On feed March 1	10,845	10,790	99

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: February 1, 2013 and 2014

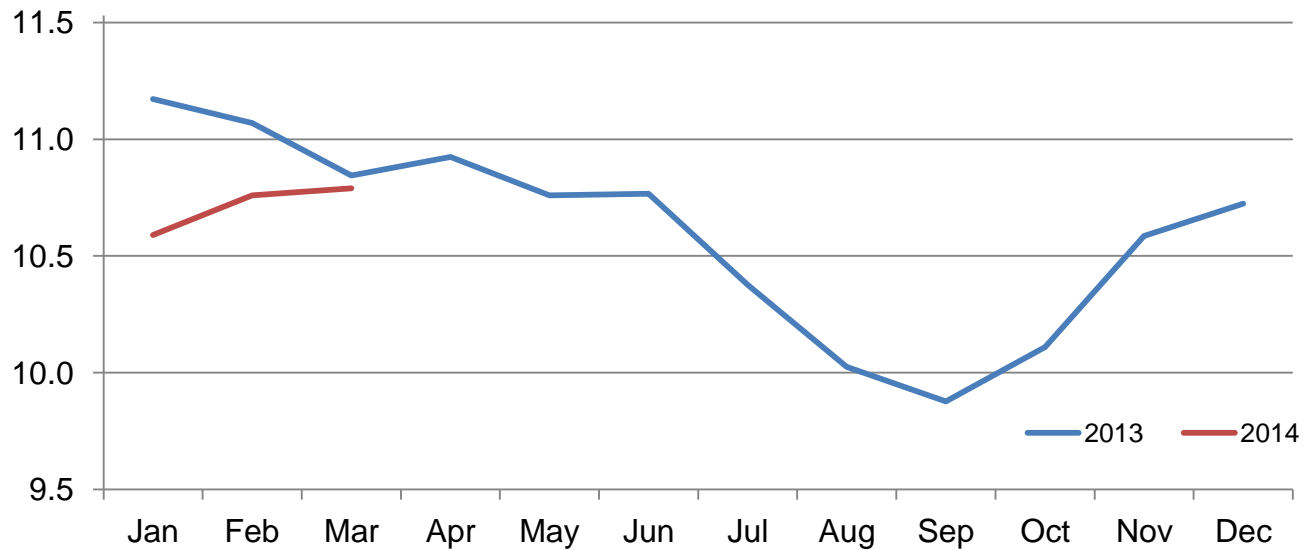
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2013	2014	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1	11,172	10,590	95
Placed on feed during January	1,869	2,029	109
Fed cattle marketed during January	1,892	1,788	95
Other disappearance during January	79	71	90
On feed February 1	11,070	10,760	97

Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 and 2014

State	March 1, 2013	February 1, 2014	March 1, 2014		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	270	272	272	101	100
California	480	520	500	104	96
Colorado	990	970	940	95	97
Idaho	225	215	210	93	98
Iowa	630	660	670	106	102
Kansas	2,050	2,050	2,060	100	100
Minnesota	132	137	135	102	99
Nebraska	2,430	2,460	2,500	103	102
Oklahoma	305	265	270	89	102
South Dakota	230	240	240	104	100
Texas	2,550	2,440	2,470	97	101
Washington	233	206	198	85	96
Other States	320	325	325	102	100
United States	10,845	10,760	10,790	99	100

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

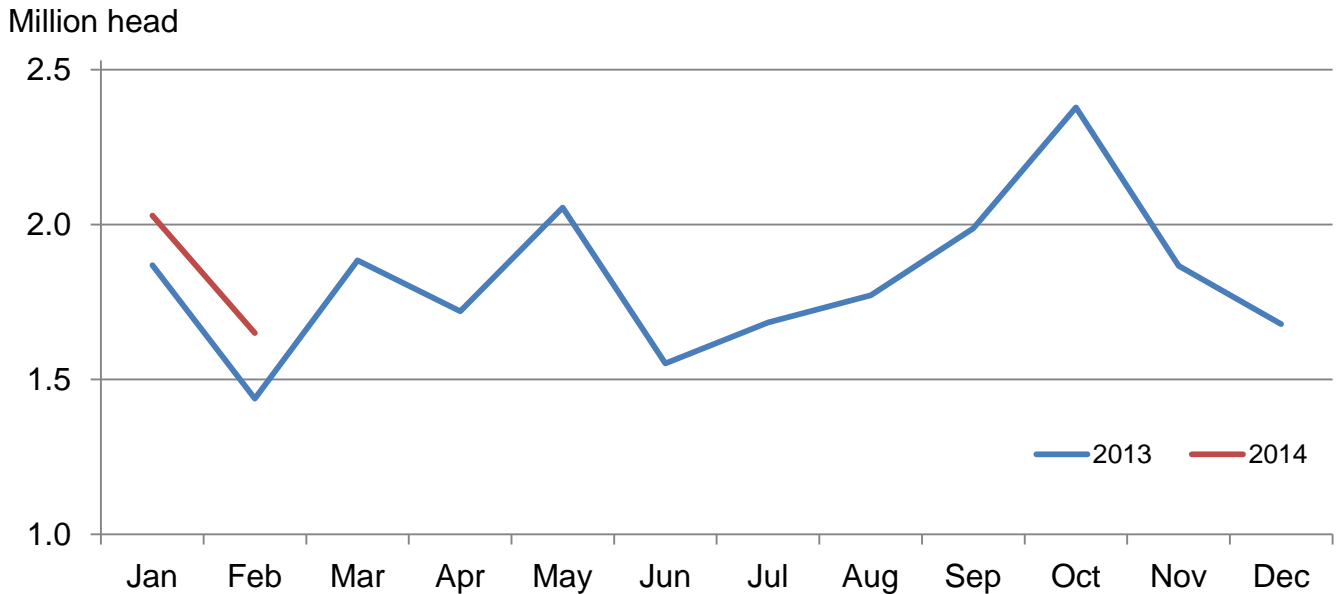
Million head



Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 and 2014

State	During February 2013 (1,000 head)	During January 2014 (1,000 head)	During February 2014		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	23	31	28	122	90
California	50	70	38	76	54
Colorado	155	190	135	87	71
Idaho	34	41	37	109	90
Iowa	61	114	86	141	75
Kansas	285	435	335	118	77
Minnesota	12	18	11	92	61
Nebraska	340	545	430	126	79
Oklahoma	37	47	43	116	91
South Dakota	45	54	39	87	72
Texas	335	405	410	122	101
Washington	35	42	30	86	71
Other States	26	37	28	108	76
United States	1,438	2,029	1,650	115	81

Number of Cattle Placed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States



Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 and 2014

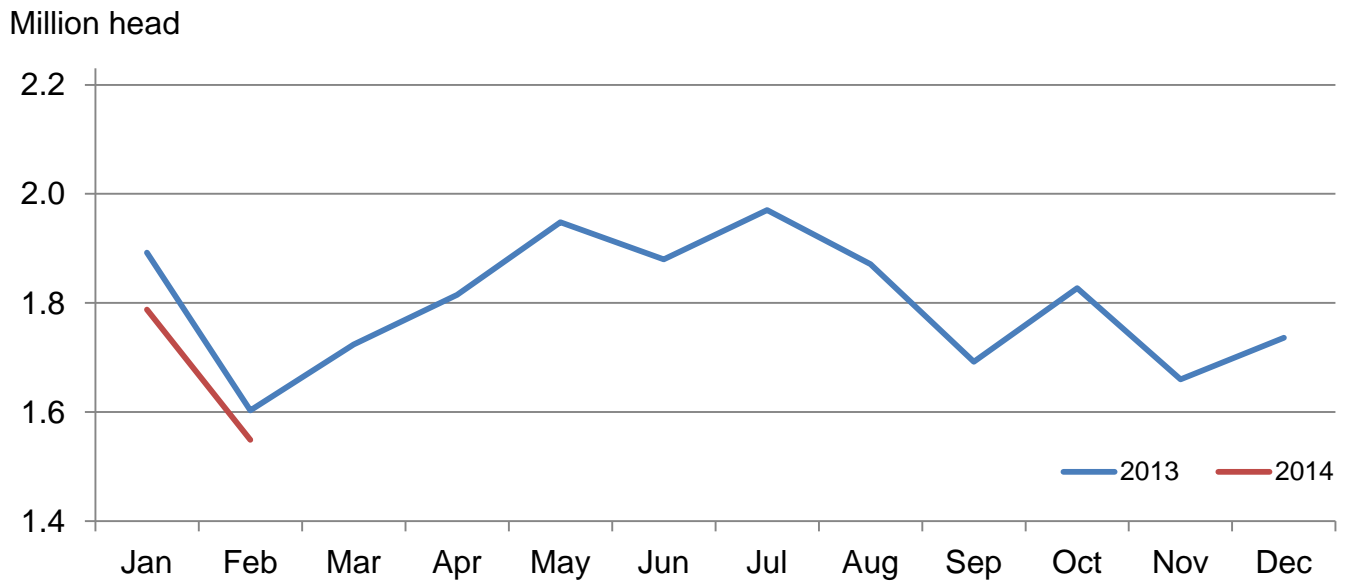
State	During February									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	30	30	25	25	50	35	50	45	155	135
Kansas	60	60	45	60	85	90	95	125	285	335
Nebraska	60	65	55	90	100	105	125	170	340	430
Texas	110	155	70	90	100	100	55	65	335	410
Other States	85	80	60	65	63	85	115	110	323	340
United States	345	390	255	330	398	415	440	515	1,438	1,650

State	During January									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014	2013	2014
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(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	45	45	45	60	50	55	50	190	190
Kansas	70	65	95	90	145	145	115	135	425	435
Nebraska	60	75	95	115	155	165	155	190	465	545
Texas	175	160	75	80	75	95	60	70	385	405
Other States	115	125	80	110	95	105	114	114	404	454
United States	450	470	390	440	530	560	499	559	1,869	2,029

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 and 2014

State	During February 2013	During January 2014	During February 2014		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	27	32	27	100	84
California	43	58	55	128	95
Colorado	165	170	155	94	91
Idaho	33	45	41	124	91
Iowa	68	71	74	109	104
Kansas	335	385	315	94	82
Minnesota	15	10	12	80	120
Nebraska	370	470	375	101	80
Oklahoma	55	40	36	65	90
South Dakota	39	41	36	92	88
Texas	390	385	360	92	94
Washington	34	35	36	106	103
Other States	29	46	27	93	59
United States	1,603	1,788	1,549	97	87

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States



Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2013 and 2014

State	During February 2013 (1,000 head)	During January 2014 (1,000 head)	During February 2014		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	2	2	3	150	150
Colorado	10	10	10	100	100
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	3	3	2	67	67
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	10	15	15	150	100
Oklahoma	2	2	2	100	100
South Dakota	1	3	3	300	100
Texas	15	20	20	133	100
Washington	2	2	2	100	100
Other States	2	1	1	50	100
United States	60	71	71	118	100

Terms and Definitions of Cattle on Feed Estimates

Cattle on feed are animals 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 cattle 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 cattle 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.

Reliability of Cattle on Feed Estimates

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 each State office. 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 10.8 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.2 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 9,000 head, ranging from 0 to 34,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 9 times and has been below the latest estimate 6 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	0.2	9	0	34	6	9
Placements	1.6	2.7	16	0	88	3	13
Marketings	1.3	2.3	14	0	67	1	12

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@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@nass.usda.gov.

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