



Cattle on Feed

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United States Cattle on Feed Up 3 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.7 million head on March 1, 2012. The inventory was 3 percent above March 1, 2011.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.71 million, 3 percent above 2011. Net placements were 1.62 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 400,000, 600-699 pounds were 335,000, 700-799 pounds were 469,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 510,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.76 million, 2 percent below 2011.

Other disappearance totaled 93,000 during February, 52 percent above 2011.

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2011 and 2012

Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2011	2012	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1	11,571	11,811	102
Placed on feed during February	1,667	1,714	103
Fed cattle marketed during February	1,791	1,755	98
Other disappearance during February	61	93	152
On feed March 1	11,386	11,677	103

Number of Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: February 1, 2011 and 2012

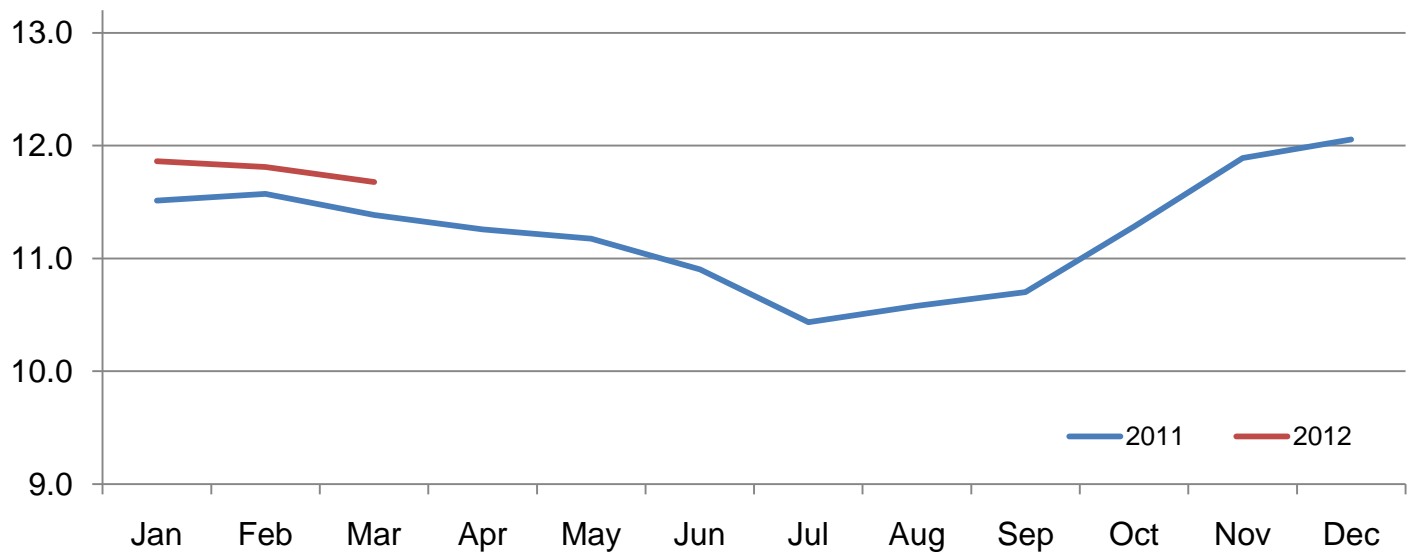
Item	Number		Percent of previous year
	2011	2012	
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1	11,513	11,861	103
Placed on feed during January	1,889	1,847	98
Fed cattle marketed during January	1,774	1,816	102
Other disappearance during January	57	81	142
On feed February 1	11,571	11,811	102

**Number of Cattle on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States:
2011 and 2012**

State	March 1, 2011	February 1, 2012	March 1, 2012		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	269	276	279	104	101
California	460	505	500	109	99
Colorado	1,070	1,140	1,090	102	96
Idaho	220	235	230	105	98
Iowa	650	650	670	103	103
Kansas	2,220	2,230	2,200	99	99
Nebraska	2,430	2,570	2,570	106	100
Oklahoma	360	355	340	94	96
South Dakota	265	260	260	98	100
Texas	2,830	2,900	2,840	100	98
Washington	205	227	233	114	103
Other States	407	463	465	114	100
United States	11,386	11,811	11,677	103	99

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

Million head

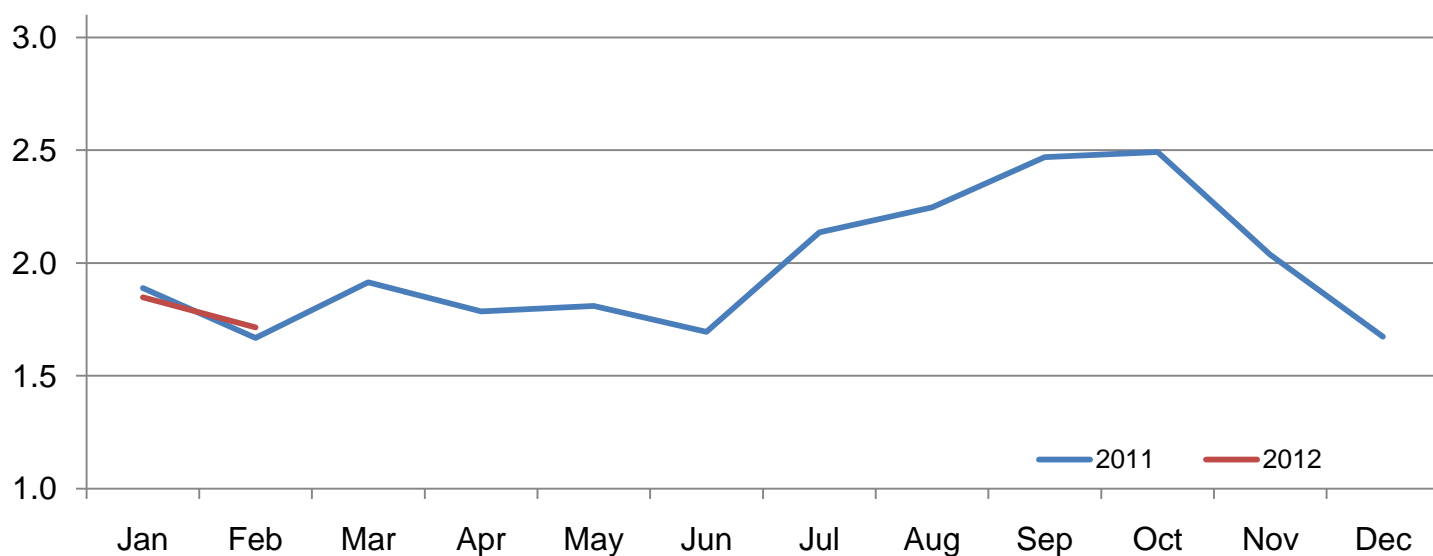


Number of Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2011 and 2012

State	During February 2011	During January 2012	During February 2012		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	29	28	25	86	89
California	43	55	50	116	91
Colorado	215	190	165	77	87
Idaho	31	47	37	119	79
Iowa	71	103	85	120	83
Kansas	365	410	370	101	90
Nebraska	350	430	410	117	95
Oklahoma	60	50	48	80	96
South Dakota	45	45	47	104	104
Texas	380	400	380	100	95
Washington	31	35	41	132	117
Other States	47	54	56	119	104
United States	1,667	1,847	1,714	103	93

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

Million head



Number of Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2011 and 2012

State	During February									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(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	45	30	65	40	75	65	215	165
Kansas	55	70	80	75	150	130	80	95	365	370
Nebraska	60	60	85	70	100	110	105	170	350	410
Texas	160	145	85	85	85	95	50	55	380	380
Other States	95	95	70	75	92	94	100	125	357	389
United States	400	400	365	335	492	469	410	510	1,667	1,714

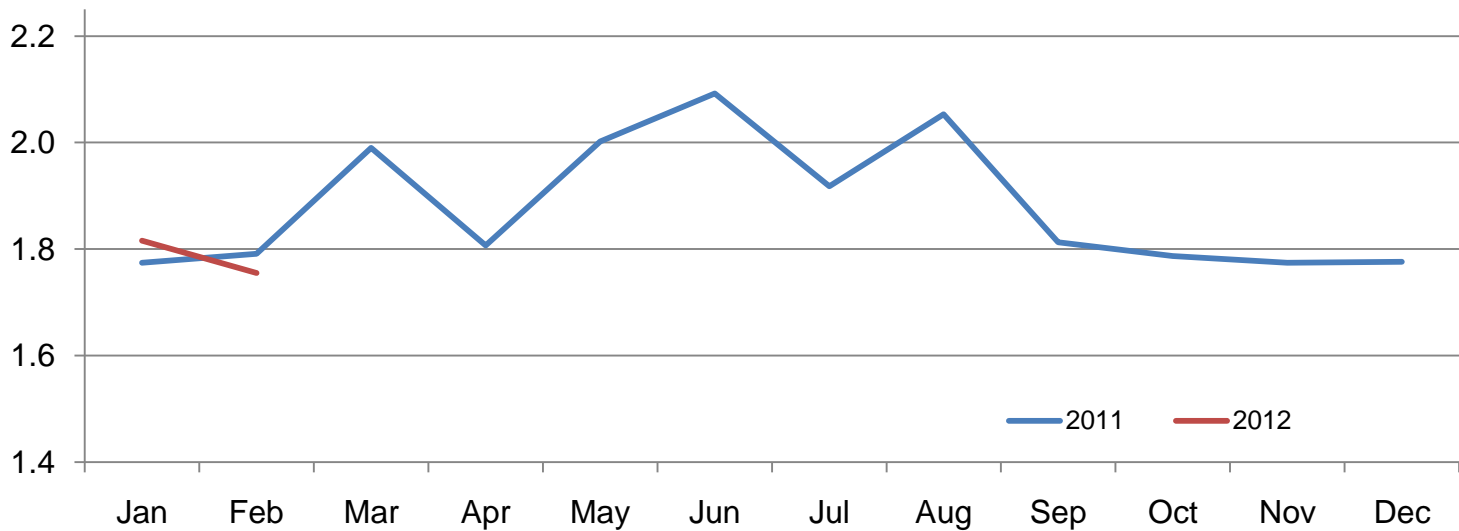
State	During January									
	Under 600 lbs		600-699 lbs		700-799 lbs		800+ lbs		Total	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Colorado	25	30	50	50	65	60	45	50	185	190
Kansas	55	70	120	100	165	155	95	85	435	410
Nebraska	70	60	105	110	130	120	125	140	430	430
Texas	160	150	115	85	100	105	55	60	430	400
Other States	150	135	85	85	84	85	90	112	409	417
United States	460	445	475	430	544	525	410	447	1,889	1,847

Number of Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2011 and 2012

State	During February 2011	During January 2012	During February 2012		
			Number	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	25	30	21	84	70
California	50	57	53	106	93
Colorado	210	190	200	95	105
Idaho	40	41	41	103	100
Iowa	79	70	62	78	89
Kansas	405	415	385	95	93
Nebraska	365	395	390	107	99
Oklahoma	73	68	61	84	90
South Dakota	48	44	45	94	102
Texas	405	415	415	102	100
Washington	30	39	32	107	82
Other States	61	52	50	82	96
United States	1,791	1,816	1,755	98	97

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

Million head



Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2011 and 2012

State	During February 2011 (1,000 head)	During January 2012 (1,000 head)	During February 2012		
			Number (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	3	3	2	67	67
Colorado	5	10	15	300	150
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	2	3	3	150	100
Kansas	10	15	15	150	100
Nebraska	15	15	20	133	133
Oklahoma	2	2	2	100	100
South Dakota	2	1	2	100	200
Texas	15	25	25	167	100
Washington	3	1	3	100	300
Other States	2	4	4	200	100
United States	61	81	93	152	115

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 0.2 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the final estimate will not be above or below the current estimate of 11.7 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.3 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 16,000 head, ranging from 0 to 47,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 15 times and has been below the latest estimate 7 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	0.2	0.3	16	0	47	7	15
Placements	0.3	0.6	4	0	18	10	9
Marketings	0.3	0.5	3	0	20	8	7

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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