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U.S. cattle on feed down 5 percent

By [Rita Jane Gabbett](#) on 11/19/2012

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Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.3 million head on Nov. 1, down 5 percent from a year ago.

On average, analysts expected cattle on feed to be down 5.4 percent, according to a poll by *Dow Jones*.

Placements in feedlots during October totaled 2.18 million, 13 percent below 2011. This was the lowest for the month of October since the series began in 1996 and compared to analysts' expectations of a 12.7 percent drop.

During October, cattle placed weighing less than 600 pounds totaled 680,000. Those 600-699 pounds totaled 505,000. Those 700-799 pounds totaled 435,000, and those 800 pounds and greater totaled 560,000.

Fed cattle marketing during October totaled 1.84 million, 3 percent above 2011. Analysts were expecting a 2.6 percent increase. Other disappearance totaled 78,000 during October, down 20 percent from a year ago.