Fewer cattle placed on feed in June than expected

By Rita Jane Gabbett on 7/28/2014

Cattle and calves placed in feedlots during June totaled 1.46 million, 6 percent below 2013. On average, market analysts were expecting placements to fall just 3.8 percent, according to a Bloomberg survey. Net placements were 1.38 million head, according to USDA’s latest Cattle on Feed report.

Analysts wrote in the *Daily Livestock Report*, published by Steve Meyer and Len Steiner Inc., the day before USDA issued its report, that increased feeder cattle coming from Mexico were expected to bolster suppliers in the South.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.1 million head on July 1, 2014. The inventory was 2 percent below July 1, 2013 and in line with market expectations.

The inventory included 6.46 million steers and steer calves, down 1 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 64 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.60 million head, down 5 percent from 2013.

During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 400,000. Placements at 600 to 699 pounds were 245,000. Placements at 700 to 799 pounds were 320,000, and at 800 pounds and greater were 490,000.

Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 1.85 million, 2 percent below 2013. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of June since the series began in 1996, but was also in line with market expectations.

Other disappearance totaled 75,000 during June, 19 percent above 2013.