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## Kansas Cattle On Feed

The number of **cattle on feed** on April 1, 2004 in Kansas feedlots with 1,000 head or more capacity totaled 2.36 million head, up 2 percent from a year ago but 1 percent below the number on hand March 1, 2004. **Placements** during March totaled 460,000 head, 10 percent lower than a year ago but 18 percent above February 2004 placements of 390,000 head. **Marketings** during March totaled 470,000 head, 15 percent above March 2003 and 16 percent above February 2004.

**Other disappearance** was 20,000 head, unchanged from March 2003 but 33 percent above February 2004. The percent of March placements by weight was: under 600 pounds, 12 percent; 600-699 pounds, 21 percent; 700-799 pounds, 42 percent; and 800 pounds or heavier, 25 percent. Of the total number of cattle on feed, 52 percent were steers and steer calves, 47 percent heifers and heifer calves, and the remainder were cows and bulls.

**Cattle On Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Head Capacity Feedlots, Selected States and United States, March - April 2003-2004**

State	Number on Feed 1/				March Placements		March Marketings		Other Disappearance During Mar. 2/	
	Mar. 1 2004	April 1			2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
		2003	2004	% of 2003						
	-----1,000 Head-----				-----1,000 Head-----					
				(%)						
AZ	295	278	293	105	31	33	29	32	3	3
CA	500	475	495	104	62	70	58	71	4	4
CO	1,020	970	970	100	160	150	175	190	5	10
ID	265	280	255	91	58	39	57	46	1	3
IA	405	375	415	111	56	69	60	56	1	3
<b>KS</b>	<b>2,390</b>	<b>2,320</b>	<b>2,360</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>
NE	2,270	2,190	2,210	101	320	295	310	350	10	5
NM	112	105	105	100	16	16	22	21	1	2
OK	335	340	330	97	94	74	71	77	3	2
SD	210	210	205	98	39	33	43	36	1	2
TX	2,690	2,670	2,640	99	600	490	480	530	10	10
WA	175	180	170	94	31	29	30	33	1	1
Other States	310	320	300	94	55	46	58	54	2	2
U.S.	10,977	10,713	10,748	100	2,032	1,804	1,803	1,966	62	67

1/ Being fattened for slaughter market on grain or other concentrates to grade select or better. 2/ Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots.

## U.S. Cattle On Feed

**Cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter market in the United States in feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.75 million head on April 1, 2004. The inventory was slightly above April 1, 2003 and 7 percent below April 1, 2002. The inventory included 6.62 million steers and steer calves, down 2 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.06 million head, up 4 percent from 2003. **Placements** in feedlots during March totaled

1.80 million, 11 percent below 2003 and 8 percent below 2002. Net placements were 1.74 million. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 347,000, 600-699 pounds were 346,000, 700-799 pounds were 641,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 470,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during March totaled 1.97 million, 9 percent above 2003 and 8 percent above 2002. **Other disappearance** totaled 67,000 during March, 8 percent above 2003 but 3 percent below 2002.

1.80 million, 11 percent below 2003 and 8 percent below

**Cattle On Feed: Number Placed On Feed by Weight Group, 1,000+ Head Capacity Feedlots, Selected States and United States, March 2003-2004**

State	Placed in March									
	Under 600		600-699		700-799		800 Plus		Total	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	-----1,000 Head-----									
CO	15	15	26	30	61	60	58	45	160	150
<b>KS</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>200</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>510</b>	<b>460</b>
NE	22	32	55	47	113	106	130	110	320	295
TX	78	120	128	120	248	180	146	70	600	490
Other States	110	125	75	54	120	100	137	130	442	409
US	270	347	389	346	742	641	631	470	2,032	1,804



Fact Finders  
For Agriculture  
Kansas Department of Agriculture  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
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Topeka, Kansas 66601-3534

**Cattle On Feed: Number On Feed by Class  
1,000+ Head Capacity Feedlots, by Quarter, State, and United States, 2003-2004**

State	Steers & Steer Calves			Heifers & Heifer Calves			Cows and Bulls		
	Apr. 1, 2003	Jan. 1, 2004	Apr. 1, 2004	Apr. 1, 2003	Jan. 1, 2004	Apr. 1, 2004	Apr. 1, 2003	Jan. 1, 2004	Apr. 1, 2004
-----1,000 Head-----									
CO	590	625	575	375	410	390	5	5	5
<b>KS</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>1,270</b>	<b>1,230</b>	<b>1,030</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>1,110</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>
NE	1,305	1,310	1,300	860	940	890	25	30	20
TX	1,710	1,720	1,670	955	1,107	967	5	3	3
Other States <sup>1/</sup>	1,847	1,920	1,845	701	723	704	15	30	19
U.S. <sup>1/</sup>	6,722	6,845	6,620	3,921	4,330	4,061	70	78	67

<sup>1/</sup> January 1, 2004 Steers & Steer Calves revised.

**Kansas And U.S. Milk Production Up**

The January-March 2004 **milk production in Kansas** totaled 543 million pounds, up slightly from production during the same quarter in 2003. The number of milk cows was estimated at 111,000 cows, down slightly from the same quarter a year ago. The quarterly production per cow averaged 4,895 pounds, a 75 pound increase from the January-March period last year.

The quarterly **production of milk for the U.S.** was 42.7 billion pounds, down 0.9 percent from the January-March period last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 8.99 million head, 153,000 head less than the same period a year earlier. U.S. milk production per cow during the second quarter averaged 4,748 pounds, up 38 pounds from the comparable 2003 average.

**MARKET IMPLICATION -Provided by Jim Mintert, Extension Ag Economist at KSU - Research & Extension Service**

Slaughter cattle prices rose again this week. According to USDA, slaughter cattle prices in the five area region averaged about \$87.50/cwt. during the week ending April 16<sup>th</sup>, up from \$86/cwt. the previous week. The price increase pushed cash prices about 10% above a year ago. This compares with the first quarter of 2004 when slaughter cattle prices averaged \$81.39/cwt., 3% higher than during 2003.

Wholesale beef price strength led the way for the improvement in slaughter steer and heifer prices. USDA's light Choice cutout value averaged \$162/cwt. this past week, 20% higher than a year ago and about \$11/cwt. higher than the previous week's average. Weekly average light Choice boxed beef prices have increased \$23/cwt. over the last two weeks.

Surprisingly tight supplies of slaughter cattle have supported boxed beef and slaughter cattle prices in recent weeks. Cattle slaughter the week ending April 17<sup>th</sup> was 11% smaller than last year and marked the third week in a row that slaughter declined more than 10% compared to the same week during 2003. Over the last four weeks, cattle slaughter averaged 9% below 2003's.

Average dressed weights finally moved above a year ago the last two weeks, although that was primarily because weights this time last year were still declining. Steer weights in early April were still below a year ago, suggesting the slaughter slowdown was not leading to the development of a fed cattle marketing backlog.

Today's *Cattle On Feed* report provided additional support to the notion that cattle supplies are tighter than previously thought. The April 1<sup>st</sup> on feed inventory was virtually unchanged from last year and 3% smaller than the five-year average. This compares to a 4% year over year increase on March 1<sup>st</sup>. And net placements of cattle on feed fell 12% below a year ago during March and were 8.4% smaller than the five-year average. Both estimates were somewhat smaller than industry estimates that circulated before the report's release.

On feed estimates suggest the recent sharp year-to-year declines in slaughter will moderate as spring progresses. But this winter's placement pattern (down 11% during January-March) indicates that supplies this summer will be less burdensome (in the absence of trade with Japan) than forecast previously. Prices this summer will be still be dependent on whether or not exports to Japan resume, but the picture certainly looks brighter now than it did earlier in the year.

For a more detailed narrative visit [www.agmanager.info/livestock/marketing](http://www.agmanager.info/livestock/marketing)