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United States Cattle on Feed Up 2 Percent

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 12.0 million head on March 1, 2021. The inventory was 2 percent above March 1, 2020. This is the second highest March 1 inventory since the series began in 1996.

Placements in feedlots during February totaled 1.68 million head, 2 percent below 2020. Net placements were 1.63 million head. During February, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 335,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 295,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 465,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 409,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 125,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 55,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during February totaled 1.73 million head, 2 percent below 2020.

Other disappearance totaled 58,000 head during February, unchanged from 2020.

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: March 1, 2020 and 2021

Item	2020	2021	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed February 1	11,928	12,106	101
Placed on feed during February	1,716	1,684	98
Fed cattle marketed during February	1,775	1,732	98
Other disappearance during February	58	58	100
On feed March 1	11,811	12,000	102

Cattle on Feed Inventory, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – United States: February 1, 2020 and 2021

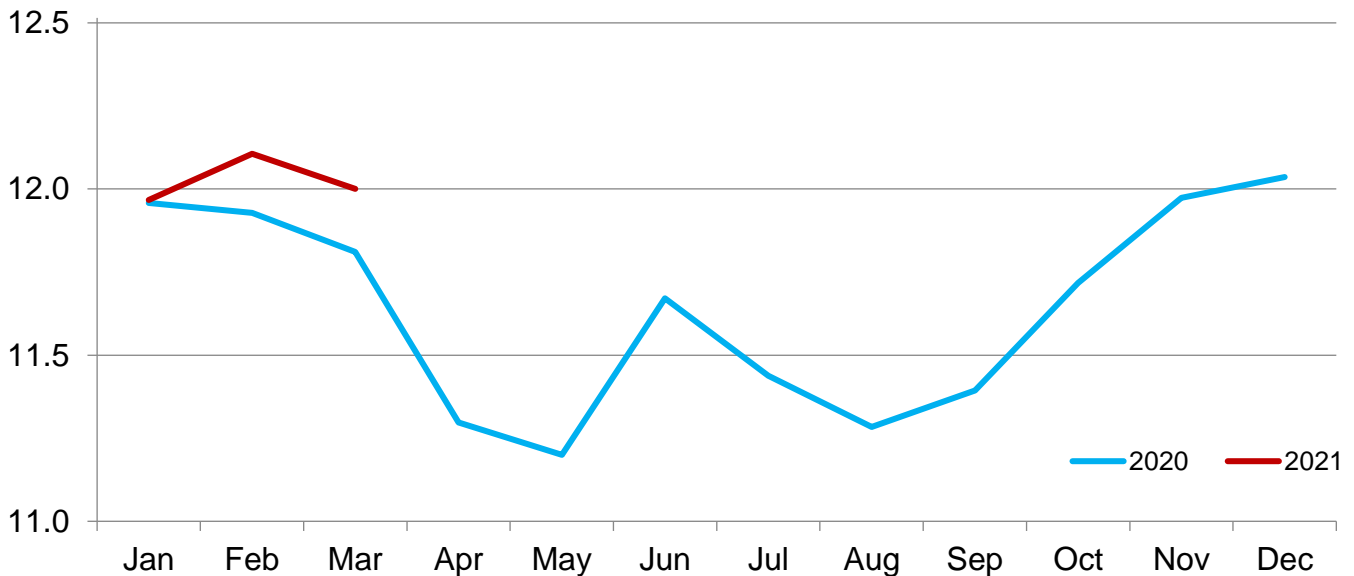
Item	2020	2021	Percent of previous year
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
On feed January 1	11,958	11,967	100
Placed on feed during January	1,955	2,023	103
Fed cattle marketed during January	1,931	1,828	95
Other disappearance during January	54	56	104
On feed February 1	11,928	12,106	101

Cattle on Feed Inventory on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2020 and 2021

State	March 1, 2020	February 1, 2021	March 1, 2021		
			Inventory	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	256	266	270	105	102
California	545	560	565	104	101
Colorado	1,050	1,120	1,100	105	98
Idaho	295	290	290	98	100
Iowa	670	620	630	94	102
Kansas	2,380	2,520	2,470	104	98
Minnesota	135	115	115	85	100
Nebraska	2,500	2,610	2,610	104	100
Oklahoma	320	320	315	98	98
South Dakota	240	245	245	102	100
Texas	2,880	2,910	2,870	100	99
Washington	235	230	225	96	98
Other States	305	300	295	97	98
United States	11,811	12,106	12,000	102	99

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

Million head

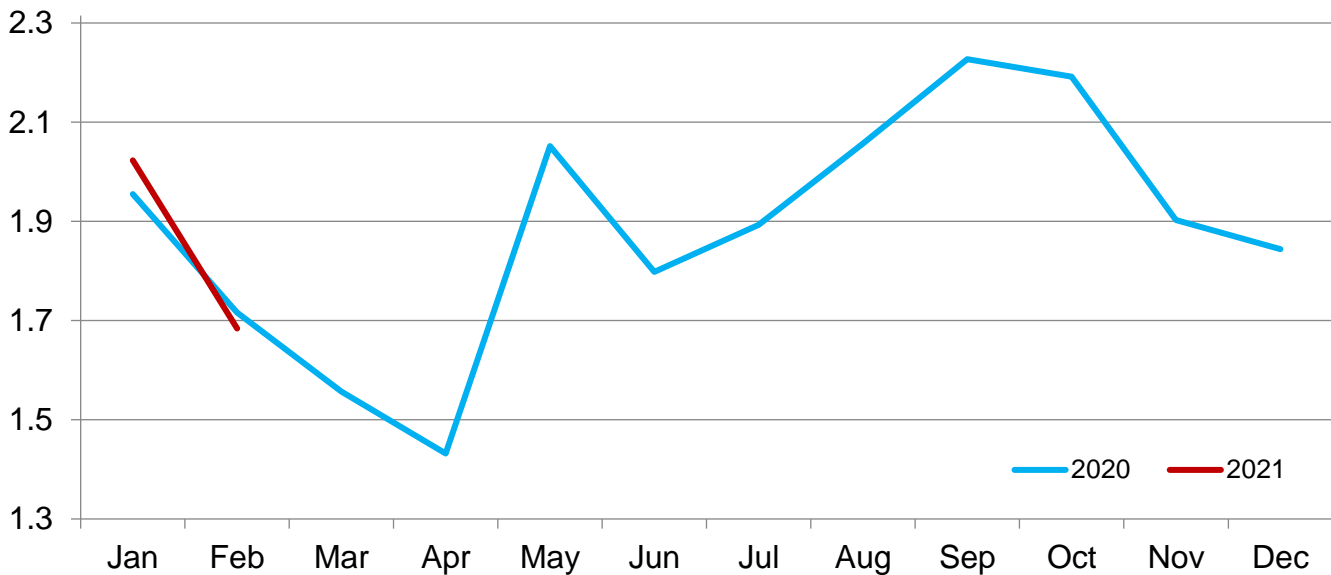


Cattle Placed on Feed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2020 and 2021

State	During February 2020 (1,000 head)	During January 2021 (1,000 head)	During February 2021		
			Placements (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	26	28	29	112	104
California	64	66	66	103	100
Colorado	160	195	165	103	85
Idaho	32	38	36	113	95
Iowa	108	110	110	102	100
Kansas	390	480	375	96	78
Minnesota	13	15	13	100	87
Nebraska	455	535	440	97	82
Oklahoma	36	40	34	94	85
South Dakota	36	40	39	108	98
Texas	320	405	310	97	77
Washington	35	25	25	71	100
Other States	41	46	42	102	91
United States	1,716	2,023	1,684	98	83

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

Million head



Cattle Placed on Feed by Weight Group on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots and Month – States and United States: 2020 and 2021

State	During February 2020							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs ¹	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	Total
	(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	35	45	20	(D)	(D)	160
Kansas	45	70	125	110	40	(D)	(D)	390
Nebraska	30	80	140	130	75	(D)	(D)	455
Texas	130	70	70	40	10	(D)	(D)	320
Other States ...	105	70	95	86	35	(D)	(D)	391
United States ..	340	320	465	411	(X)	120	60	1,716
State	During January 2021							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs ¹	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	Total
	(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	35	45	55	40	20	(D)	(D)	195
Kansas	50	100	175	110	45	(D)	(D)	480
Nebraska	40	115	165	150	65	(D)	(D)	535
Texas	155	95	85	55	15	(D)	(D)	405
Other States ...	130	85	95	68	30	(D)	(D)	408
United States ..	410	440	575	423	(X)	105	70	2,023
State	During February 2021							
	Under 600 lbs	600-699 lbs	700-799 lbs	800-899 lbs	900+ lbs ¹	900-999 lbs	1,000+ lbs	Total
	(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	40	45	20	(D)	(D)	165
Kansas	40	65	125	105	40	(D)	(D)	375
Nebraska	30	65	135	135	75	(D)	(D)	440
Texas	125	65	70	40	10	(D)	(D)	310
Other States ...	110	70	95	84	35	(D)	(D)	394
United States ..	335	295	465	409	(X)	125	55	1,684

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual operations.

(X) Not applicable.

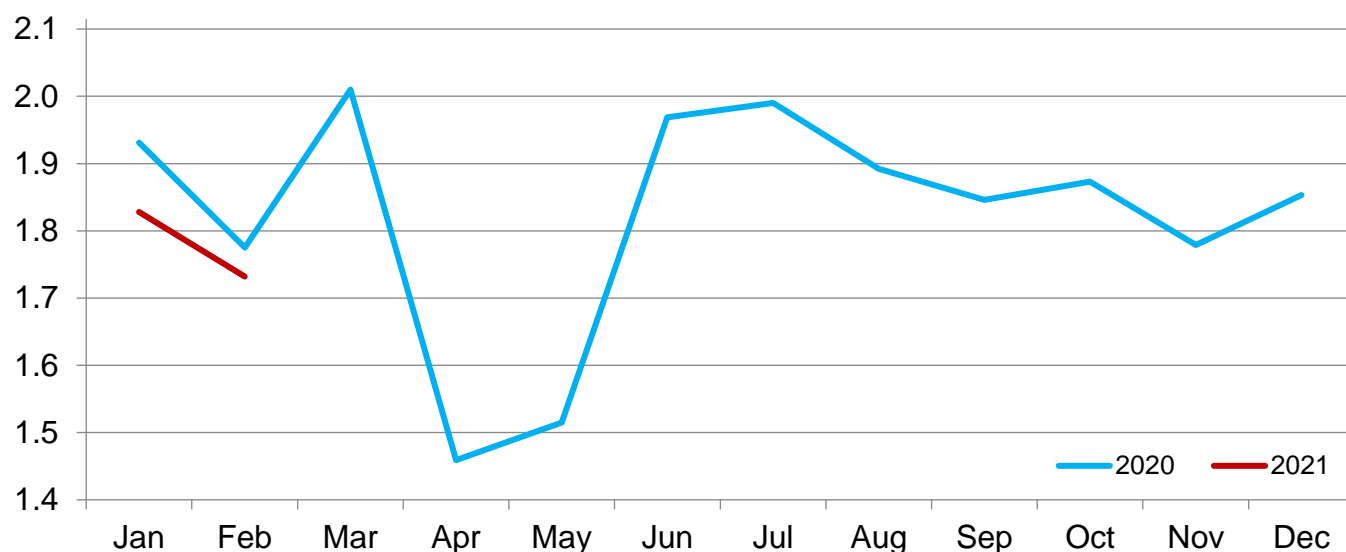
¹ The 900 pounds and greater weight group is the sum of 900-999 pounds and 1,000 pounds and greater weight groups.

Cattle Marketed on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2020 and 2021

State	During February 2020	During January 2021	During February 2021		
			Marketings	Percent of previous year	Percent of previous month
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(percent)
Arizona	22	23	24	109	104
California	58	56	55	95	98
Colorado	205	180	180	88	100
Idaho	36	32	35	97	109
Iowa	106	98	98	92	100
Kansas	400	450	415	104	92
Minnesota	12	14	12	100	86
Nebraska	425	465	430	101	92
Oklahoma	40	44	38	95	86
South Dakota	33	38	36	109	95
Texas	365	350	335	92	96
Washington	29	29	29	100	100
Other States	44	49	45	102	92
United States	1,775	1,828	1,732	98	95

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

Million head



Cattle Other Disappearance on 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Month – States and United States: 2020 and 2021

State	During February 2020 (1,000 head)	During January 2021 (1,000 head)	During February 2021		
			Other disappearance (1,000 head)	Percent of previous year (percent)	Percent of previous month (percent)
Arizona	1	1	1	100	100
California	6	5	6	100	120
Colorado	5	5	5	100	100
Idaho	1	1	1	100	100
Iowa	2	2	2	100	100
Kansas	10	10	10	100	100
Minnesota	1	1	1	100	100
Nebraska	10	10	10	100	100
Oklahoma	1	1	1	100	100
South Dakota	3	2	3	100	150
Texas	15	15	15	100	100
Washington	1	1	1	100	100
Other States	2	2	2	100	100
United States	58	56	58	100	104

Terms and Definitions of Cattle on Feed Estimates

Cattle on feed are steers and heifers 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 steers and heifers 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 steers and heifers 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.

Statistical Methodology

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 12 of the 16 States. Data collected from the remaining 4 States are used to establish the "Other States" estimates. These 4 States include Illinois, 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 Regional Field Offices. 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 12.0 million head by more than 0.1 percent. Chances are 9 out of 10 that the difference will not exceed 0.1 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 3,000 head, ranging from 0 to 15,000 head. During this period the initial estimate has been above the latest estimate 6 times and has been below the latest estimate 3 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)
On feed	0.1	0.1	3	0	15	3	6
Placements	0.2	0.4	3	0	15	7	3
Marketings	0.2	0.4	1	0	15	2	2

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@usda.gov.

Travis Averill, Chief, Livestock Branch	(202) 692-0069
Scott Hollis, Head, Livestock Section	(202) 690-2424
Sherry Bertramsen – Livestock Slaughter	(202) 690-8632
Ryan Cowen – Cattle, Cattle on Feed	(202) 720-3040
Logan Hartley – Sheep and Goats	(202) 690-3236
Mike Miller – Milk Production and Milk Cows	(202) 720-3278
Suzanne Richards – Dairy Products	(202) 720-4448
Seth Riggins – Hogs and Pigs	(202) 720-3106

Access to NASS Reports

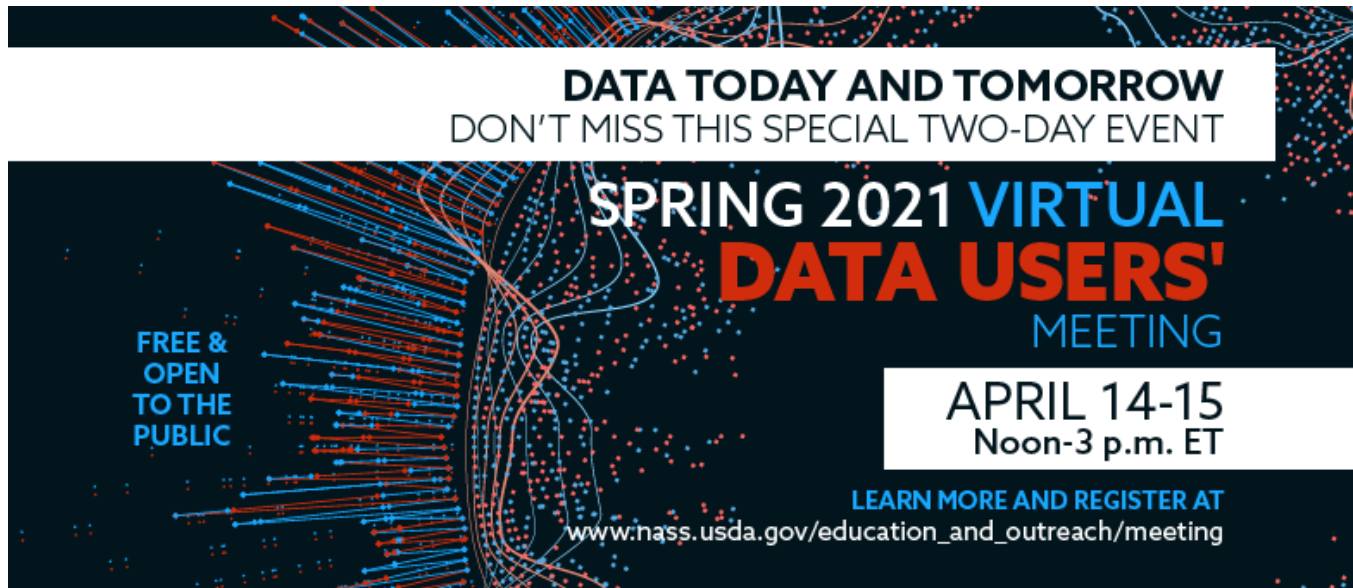
For your convenience, you may access NASS reports and products the following ways:

- All reports are available electronically, at no cost, on the NASS web site: www.nass.usda.gov
- Both national and state specific reports are available via a free e-mail subscription. To set-up this free subscription, visit www.nass.usda.gov and click on “National” or “State” in upper right corner above “search” box to create an account and select the reports you would like to receive.
- Cornell’s Mann Library has launched a new website housing NASS’s and other agencies archived reports. The new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. All email subscriptions containing reports will be sent from the new website, <https://usda.library.cornell.edu>. To continue receiving the reports via e-mail, you will have to go to the new website, create a new account and re-subscribe to the reports. If you need instructions to set up an account or subscribe, they are located at: <https://usda.library.cornell.edu/help>. You should whitelist notifications@usda-esmis.library.cornell.edu in your email client to avoid the emails going into spam/junk folders.

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@usda.gov.

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USDA NASS Data Users' Meeting

Virtual Meeting
April 14 and 15, 2021
12:00 – 3:00 pm ET

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will hold a virtual meeting for users of U.S. domestic and international agriculture data. Along with NASS, the 2021 Spring Data Users' Meeting will headline the Agricultural Marketing Service, Economic Research Service, Farm Service Agency, Foreign Agricultural Service, World Agricultural Outlook Board – and the Census Bureau's Foreign Trade Division. Representatives will provide agency updates, answer questions, and listen to concerns from data users.

Abbreviated Agenda

Day 1 – April 14

Agency Updates– *All agencies*

AMS Market News - *Agricultural Marketing Service*

World Board Meteorology - *World Agricultural Outlook Board*

NASS Grain Stocks Program - *National Agricultural Statistics Service*

Foreign Production, Trade, and Import/Export Data - *World Agricultural Outlook Board, Foreign Agricultural Service, and U.S. Census Bureau*

Day 2 – April 15

Open Forum – *All agencies*

NASS Modernization - *National Agricultural Statistics Service*

ERS Research - *Economic Research Service*

For registration details or additional information about the Data Users' Meeting, see the meeting page on the NASS website (https://www.nass.usda.gov/Education_and_Outreach/Meeting/index.php).