NEWS RELEASE
United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CATTLE ON FEED
COLORADO

The number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in Colorado feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or larger was estimated at 1,060,000 head as of April 1, 2021. The latest inventory was 10 percent above the April 1, 2020 inventory but 4 percent below the previous month’s inventory. The inventory included 610,000 steer and steer calves, 16 percent above the previous year. The number of heifer and heifer calves, at 450,000 head, are up 3 percent from a year ago. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 215,000 head of fed cattle during March 2021. This was 19 percent above the previous month’s marketings but 2 percent below marketings one year earlier. An estimated 180,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during March 2021, 9 percent above the previous month’s placements and up 33 percent from March 2020 placements. Of the number placed in March, 19 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 17 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 25 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, 25 percent weighed 800-899 pounds, and 14 percent weighed 900 pounds or greater. Other disappearance for March 2021, at 5,000 head, was the same as last month and last year.

UNITED STATES

Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.9 million head on April 1, 2021. The inventory was 5 percent above April 1, 2020. This is the second highest April 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. The inventory included 7.41 million steers and steer calves, up 5 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 62 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.49 million head, up 7 percent from 2020. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 2.00 million head, 28 percent above 2020. Net placements were 1.94 million head. During March, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 405,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 325,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 510,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 522,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 175,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 60,000 head. Marketings of fed cattle during March totaled 2.04 million head, 1 percent above 2020. Marketings were the second highest for March since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 60,000 head during March, 2 percent below 2020.

For a full copy of the April 2021 Cattle on Feed report, please visit www.nass.usda.gov.