



# Iowa Ag News – Cattle on Feed

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Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

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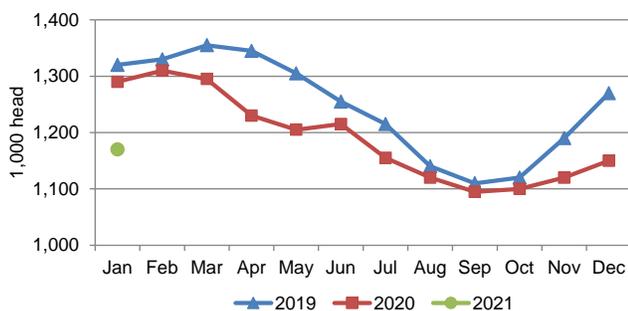
**Cattle and calves on feed** for the slaughter market in Iowa feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 610,000 head on January 1, 2020, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service – *Cattle on Feed* report. This was unchanged from December 1, 2020, but down 9% from January 1, 2020. Iowa feedlots with a capacity of less than 1,000 head had 560,000 head on feed, up 4% from December 1, 2020, but down 10% from January 1, 2020. Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in all Iowa feedlots totaled 1,170,000 head, up 2% from December 1, 2020, but down 9% from January 1, 2020.

**Placements** of cattle and calves in Iowa feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head during December 2020 totaled 93,000 head, up 13% from November 2020 and up 29% from December 2019. Feedlots with a capacity of less than 1,000 head placed 69,000 head, down 25% from November 2020 and down 32% from December 2019. Placements for all feedlots in Iowa totaled 162,000 head, down 7% from November 2020 and down 6% from December 2019.

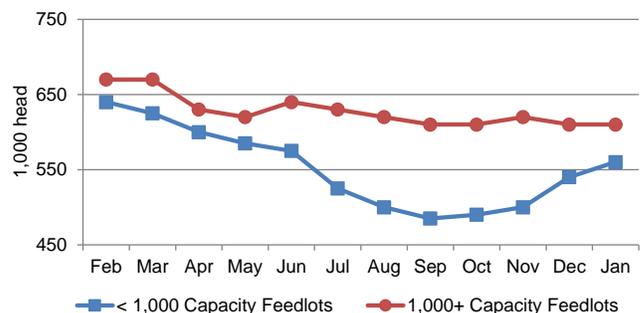
**Marketings** of fed cattle from Iowa feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head during December 2020 totaled 91,000 head, up 1% from November 2020 and December 2019. Feedlots with a capacity of less than 1,000 head marketed 45,000 head, down 10% from November 2020 and down 21% from December 2019. Marketings for all feedlots in Iowa were 136,000 head, down 3% from November 2020 and down 7% from December 2019. **Other disappearance** from all feedlots in Iowa totaled 6,000 head.

**Note:** This report is a combination of estimates from the USDA *Cattle on Feed* survey for Iowa feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship-funded *Cattle on Feed* survey for Iowa feedlots with a capacity of less than 1,000 head.

**Cattle on Feed, Inventory in all Feedlots  
Iowa: 2019-2021**



**Cattle on Feed, Inventory by Feedlot Capacity  
Iowa: Past 12 Months**



## All Cattle on Feed – Iowa

Item	Feedlots 1,000+ capacity	Feedlots less than 1,000 capacity	All feedlots
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Cattle on feed <sup>1</sup> , December 1, 2020 .....	610	540	1,150
December placements .....	93	69	162
December marketings .....	91	45	136
December other disappearance <sup>2</sup> .....	2	4	6
Cattle on feed, January 1, 2021 .....	610	560	1,170

<sup>1</sup> Cattle and calves 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.

<sup>2</sup> Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

**Cattle on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance by Month, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots – Selected States and United States: 2019-2021**

State	Cattle on feed <sup>1</sup> January 1			Placements during December			Marketings during December			Other disappearance <sup>2</sup> during December		
	2020	2021	'21 as % of '20	2019	2020	'20 as % of '19	2019	2020	'20 as % of '19	2019	2020	'20 as % of '19
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(percent)
Arizona .....	253	260	103	25	30	120	27	25	93	1	1	100
California .....	540	555	103	64	65	102	70	61	87	4	4	100
Colorado .....	1,090	1,110	102	140	155	111	145	170	117	5	5	100
Idaho .....	300	285	95	36	41	114	35	45	129	1	1	100
<b>Iowa .....</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>610</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100</b>
Kansas .....	2,420	2,500	103	435	440	101	430	425	99	15	15	100
Minnesota .....	135	115	85	10	9	90	14	18	129	1	1	100
Nebraska .....	2,460	2,550	104	465	480	103	470	450	96	15	10	67
Oklahoma .....	330	325	98	59	43	73	52	42	81	2	1	50
South Dakota .....	245	245	100	40	40	100	43	43	100	2	2	100
Texas .....	2,960	2,870	97	410	380	93	365	395	108	15	15	100
Washington .....	235	235	100	32	25	78	36	44	122	1	1	100
Other States ....	320	305	95	40	41	103	57	44	77	3	2	67
United States ...	11,958	11,965	100	1,828	1,842	101	1,834	1,853	101	67	60	90

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Includes death loss, movement from feedlots to pasture, and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.

**Cattle on Feed, Number on Feed by Class, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots by Quarter – Selected States and United States: 2020-2021**

State	Steers & Steer Calves			Heifers & Heifer Calves		
	January 1, 2020	October 1, 2020	January 1, 2021	January 1, 2020	October 1, 2020	January 1, 2021
	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)	(1,000 head)
Arizona .....	248	252	255	5	5	5
California .....	465	465	470	75	80	85
Colorado .....	585	645	630	505	465	480
Idaho .....	185	150	150	115	120	135
<b>Iowa .....</b>	<b>490</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>165</b>
Kansas .....	1,300	1,380	1,340	1,120	1,160	1,160
Minnesota .....	115	90	95	20	15	20
Nebraska .....	1,490	1,500	1,590	970	910	960
Oklahoma .....	185	175	190	145	140	135
South Dakota .....	140	115	140	105	75	105
Texas .....	1,830	1,780	1,770	1,130	1,090	1,100
Washington .....	135	120	130	100	100	105
Other States ....	205	180	195	115	95	110
United States ....	7,373	7,312	7,400	4,585	4,405	4,565

**UNITED STATES CATTLE ON FEED**

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 January 1, 2021. The inventory was slightly above January 1, 2020. The inventory included 7.40 million steers and steer calves, up slightly from the previous year. This group accounted for 62% of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.57 million head, down slightly from 2020.

Placements in feedlots during December totaled 1.84 million head, 1% above December 2019. Net placements were 1.78 million head. During December, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 460,000 head, 600-699 pounds were 435,000 head, 700-799 pounds were 425,000 head, 800-899 pounds were 317,000 head, 900-999 pounds were 110,000 head, and 1,000 pounds and greater were 95,000 head.

Marketings of fed cattle during December totaled 1.85 million head, 1% above December 2019.

Other disappearance totaled 60,000 head during December, 10% below December 2019.