



## 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 680,000 head on May 1, 2025, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service -- *Cattle on Feed* report. This was unchanged from April but up 3 percent from May 1, 2024. Iowa feedlots with a capacity of less than 1,000 head had 540,000 head on feed, down 1 percent from last month and down 2 percent from last year. Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in all Iowa feedlots totaled 1,220,000 head, down slightly from last month but up 1 percent from last year.

**Placements** of cattle and calves in Iowa feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head during April 2025 totaled 87,000 head, down 16 percent from March and down 2 percent from April 2024. Feedlots with a capacity of less than 1,000 head placed 44,000 head, down 19 percent from March and down 34 percent from April 2024. Placements for all feedlots in Iowa totaled 131,000 head, down 17 percent from March and down 16 percent from April 2024.

**Marketings** of fed cattle from Iowa feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head during April 2025 totaled 86,000 head, down 8 percent from March and down 1 percent from April 2024. Feedlots with a capacity of less than 1,000 head marketed 44,000 head, down 27 percent from March and down 27 percent from April 2024. Marketings for all feedlots in Iowa were 130,000 head, down 15 percent from March and down 12 percent from April 2024. **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.

### 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> , April 1, 2025 .....	680	545	1,225
April placements .....	87	44	131
April marketings .....	86	44	130
April other disappearance <sup>2</sup> .....	1	5	6
Cattle on feed, May 1, 2025 .....	680	540	1,220

<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.