



## Iowa Ag News – Cattle on Feed

Upper Midwest Regional Field Office · 210 Walnut St, Ste 833 · Des Moines, IA 50309 · (515) 776-3400 · (800) 772-0825

[www.nass.usda.gov/ia](http://www.nass.usda.gov/ia) Media Contact: Greg Thessen

Cooperating with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

*December 19, 2025 - For Immediate Release*

**Cattle and calves on feed** for the slaughter market in Iowa feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 700,000 head on December 1, 2025, according to the latest USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service -- *Cattle on Feed* report. This was unchanged from November but up 6 percent from December 1, 2024. Iowa feedlots with a capacity of less than 1,000 head had 510,000 head on feed, down 2 percent from last month and down 7 percent from last year. Cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in all Iowa feedlots totaled 1,210,000 head, down 1 percent from last month but unchanged from last year.

**Placements** of cattle and calves in Iowa feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head during November 2025 totaled 94,000 head, down 2 percent from October but up 3 percent from November 2024. Feedlots with a capacity of less than 1,000 head placed 84,000 head, down 33 percent from October and down 26 percent from November 2024. Placements for all feedlots in Iowa totaled 178,000 head, down 19 percent from October and down 13 percent from November 2024.

**Marketings** of fed cattle from Iowa feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 or more head during November 2025 totaled 92,000 head, up 8 percent from October but down 8 percent from November 2024. Feedlots with a capacity of less than 1,000 head marketed 92,000 head, up 3 percent from October and up 14 percent from November 2024. Marketings for all feedlots in Iowa were 184,000 head, up 6 percent from October and up 2 percent from November 2024. **Other disappearance** from all feedlots in Iowa totaled 4,000 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> , November 1, 2025 .....	700	520	1,220
November placements .....	94	84	178
November marketings .....	92	92	184
November other disappearance <sup>2</sup> .....	2	2	4
Cattle on feed, December 1, 2025 .....	700	510	1,210

<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.