

Cattle on Feed

Information Sheet

Operations in the Cattle on Feed sample have a feedlot capacity of 1,000 head or greater.

Inventory can be below 1000 head of cattle. This is fine. Every operation has a different pattern of buying and selling.

Cattle are *usually* over 500 lbs before being placed in a feedlot.

Verify that cattle on feed will go directly from the operation to slaughter market.

To be counted as “cattle on feed” these animals must be receiving a ration of grain, silage, hay and/or protein supplement preparing them for slaughter.

Be sure to exclude:

- Any cattle that will eventually be shipped to another feedlot
- Cattle that are being backgrounded/warmed up, if they will be shipped to another feedlot before slaughter
- Any cattle that will be returned to pasture prior to slaughter
- Cows and Bulls on feed since those animals will not produce a grade a carcass for slaughter
- Any of this operation’s cattle being custom fed in feedlots operated by others

Death loss should be minimal, so leave notes as to what happened if very many deaths are reported.

For the questions asking about hay purchased from other farmers:

Only report dry, baled hay (exclude any haylage, baleage, or green chop)

Only report hay purchased from other farmers and nothing bought through an auction or dealer

Hay prices can vary widely depending on local demand, local supply, and quality of hay

Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures normally range between \$125 to \$275 dollars per ton

Other hay normally range between \$50 to \$200 dollars per ton

In some states we also ask if any of the alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures purchased were premium or supreme grade. If so, we ask how many tons were purchased and the amount paid

OUT OF BUSINESS: Watch out for the operations that say they are “out of business”. These should be fairly large operations since NASS has control data showing they have had a 1,000 head or greater capacity feedlot in the past.