

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will be releasing the monthly Cattle on Feed report Friday, August 20, 2021. Prior to the release of the report industry analysts were surveyed on their pre-report estimates for cattle on feed as of August 1, cattle placed in July, and cattle marketed in July. Pre-report estimates are the percentage of a year earlier.

The average estimate for cattle on feed as of August 1 was 11.081 million head, down 1.8% (about 203,000 head) from a year ago. The range of estimates was narrow with analysts expecting cattle on feed down 1.2%-2.3% which would be a range of 11.02 to 11.15 million head or a spread of about 124,000 head. The average cattle on feed estimate would be the lowest July level in four years, but it would be about 689,000 head above the five-year average (2015-2019) July level of about 10.6 million head. The August estimate would follow the typical seasonal pattern where cattle on feed dip in August and September before rising through the fourth quarter of the year.

Cattle placements for July are expected to be 1.760 million head on average, down 7.0% (about 132,000 head) from last year. The estimate would be counter-seasonally higher than the previous month. The range of pre-report estimates still expect placements to be down by as much as 4.5% to 9.3% which would range from 1.717 to 1.808 million head. The average estimate of placements being down 7.0% in July may seem large but last year's placements

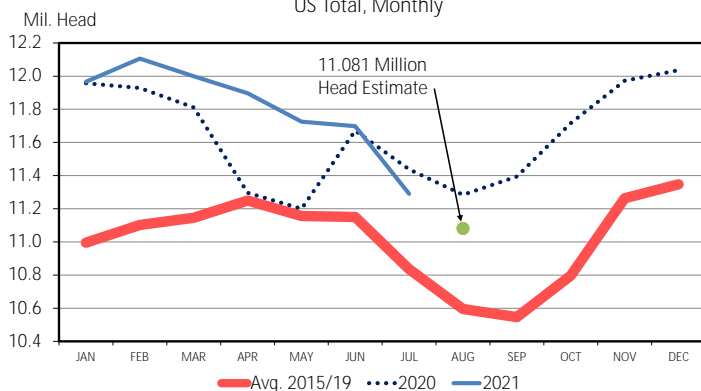
Cattle on Feed Industry Pre-Report Estimates		
	Pre-Report Average	Pre-Report Range
On-Feed August 1	98.2	97.7 - 98.8
Placed in July	93.0	90.7 - 95.5
Marketed in July	96.4	95.2 - 97.0

Pre-Report Source: Urner Barry (used with permission)

of 1.893 million head were the highest July placements since 2011 which was 2.070 million head. Also, just a year ago the cattle feeding industry was working to recover from pandemic induced placement issues in March and April of that year. Comparing the pre-report estimate to the five-year average (2015-2019) of 1.636 million head does indicate that analysts are likely factoring in the effects of the ongoing drought in the Western U.S. The drought situation has likely led to limited available feed supplies and could be forcing cattle into feedlots sooner than expected. If so, movement of lighter weight feeder cattle out of drought areas will likely find their way to feedlots.

Average analysts pre-report estimates for July cattle marketings are expected to be down 3.6% (about 72,000 head) to 1.918 million head. The July marketings pre-report estimates had a fairly narrow range which are expected to be down 3.0% to 4.8%. The pre-report estimate would be the lowest in three years but would be above the five-year average (2015-2019) of 1.819 million head.

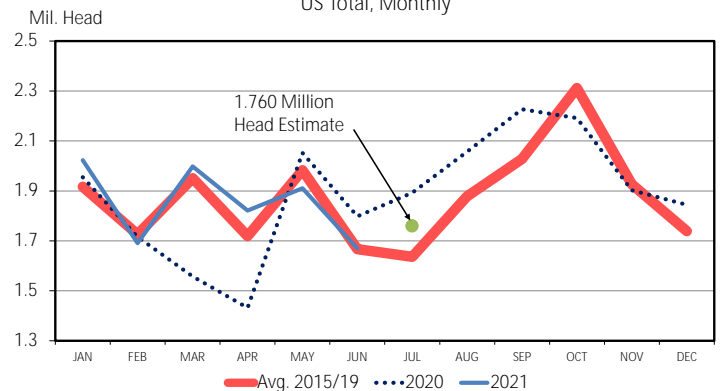
**CATTLE ON FEED**  
US Total, Monthly



Data Source: USDA-NASS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

CN-10  
07/23/21

**FEEDLOT PLACEMENTS**  
US Total, Monthly



Data Source: USDA-NASS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

CN-08  
07/23/21

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