The number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in Colorado feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or larger was estimated at 970,000 head as of July 1, 2012. The latest inventory was down 5 percent from June 1, 2012, and down 3 percent from the 1,000,000 on feed on July 1, 2011. The inventory included 645,000 steers and steer calves, down 7 percent from the previous year. The number of heifers and heifer calves, at 320,000 head, was up 5 percent from the previous year. The number of cows and bulls totaled 5,000, and remained unchanged from last year. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 170,000 head of fed cattle during June 2012. This was unchanged from May 2012 marketings but down 3 percent from a year ago. An estimated 125,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during June, 31 percent below May 2012 placements but 19 percent above last year’s placements for the same time period. Of the number placed in June, 20 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 16 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 32 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 32 percent weighed 800 pounds or greater. Other disappearance during June 2012, at 5,000 head, was 15,000 head lower than last month and 5,000 head below last year.

**UNITED STATES**

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.7 million head on July 1, 2012. The inventory was 3 percent above July 1, 2011. The inventory included 6.74 million steers and steer calves, up 4 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 63 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.92 million head, up 1 percent from 2011. Placements in feedlots during June totaled 1.66 million, 2 percent below 2011. Net placements were 1.60 million head. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 460,000, 600-699 pounds were 320,000 pounds were 390,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 494,000. Marketings of fed cattle during June totaled 1.97 million, 6 percent below 2011. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of June since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 66,000 during June, 8 percent below 2011.

**U.S. ALL CATTLE**

Cattle on feed July 1, 2012, from all feedlots in the United States, totaled 12.3 million, up 1 percent from the 12.2 million on July 1, 2011. Cattle on feed in feedlots with 1,000 or more head accounted for 87 percent of the total cattle on feed on July 1, 2012, up from 86 percent last year.

**CATTLE INVENTORY JULY 1, 2012**

**UNITED STATES**

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2012, totaled 97.8 million head, 2 percent below the 100.0 million on July 1, 2011. This is the lowest all cattle and calves inventory for July 1 since the series began in 1973.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 39.7 million, were down 2 percent from July 1, 2011.

- Beef cows, at 30.5 million, were down 3 percent from July 1, 2011.
- Milk cows, at 9.2 million, unchanged from July 1, 2011.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2012 and the changes from July 1, 2011, are as follows:

- All heifers 500 pounds and over, 15.7 million, down 2 percent.
- Beef replacement heifers, 4.2 million, unchanged.
- Milk replacement heifers, 4.1 million, down 2 percent.
- Other heifers, 7.4 million, down 3 percent.
- Steers, weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.0 million, down 1 percent.
- Bulls, weighing 500 pounds and over, 1.9 million, down 5 percent.
- Calves under 500 pounds, 26.5 million, down 3 percent.
- All cattle and calves on feed for slaughter, 12.3 million, up 1 percent.

The 2012 calf crop is expected to be 34.5 million, down 2 percent from 2011. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 25.1 million, down 2 percent from 2011.