



# BROADCASTER AG GUIDE 2013

## Changes to the Cattle Feeding Industry

The February Cattle on Feed report released by the USDA Feb. 22 shows a continuation of the trend towards fewer, but larger, feedyards, says Darrell R. Mark, Adjunct Professor of Economics at South Dakota State University.

"In fact, there were 2,000 or 2.7 percent fewer feedyards with less than 1,000 head capacities on January 1, 2013 compared to a year ago," Mark said.

Mark says the report showed there were 30 fewer feedyards with 1,000-1,999

head capacities at the beginning of this year and there was an increase of 10 feedyards over the last year with capacities ranging from 2,000 to 3,999 head. The number of feedyards with 4,000 to 15,999 head capacities remained constant over the last year, at 515. The number of feedyards with 16,000-23,999 head capacities and 24,000-31,999 head capacities increased by 2 and 3, respectively, which are 2.3 percent and 5.8 percent increases. The number of

32,000-49,000 head capacity feedyards declined by 5 while the number of 50,000-plus head capacity feedyards stayed constant at 66.

In 2012, the feedyards with less than 1,000 head

capacities marketed 2.854 million head.

"That's only 11 percent of total fed cattle marketings for the year, despite the large number of these small feedyards - totaling 73,000," he said.



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