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**NDA DIRECTOR IBACH HIGHLIGHTS NEBRASKA
AS FIRST IN NATION IN CATTLE ON FEED**

(LINCOLN) – Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) Director Greg Ibach today called attention to a newly released United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) report showing Nebraska once again leads the nation in cattle on feed.

USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) released the Cattle Inventory by Class report late last week. It compares cattle on feed figures from January 1, 2014, to January 1, 2015. The report includes information from surveys conducted to count the total number of cattle across the nation and is categorized by several different classes and highlighted by state.

According to the report, Nebraska claimed the No. 1 spot in the nation for total number of cattle on feed with 2.55 million head, followed by Texas with 2.51 million head and Kansas with 2.18 million head.

“Nebraska is known across the nation as the prime destination for finishing cattle. I strongly believe that is because of the synergy that has been created by our cattle, corn and ethanol sectors,” said Ibach. “I also believe Nebraska has become the ‘go to’ state for cattle finishing because folks recognize the professionalism of our producers.”

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NDA works with industry groups and feedlot operators to promote the sector through a variety of means, including attending trade shows across the nation, Ibach said. One of the tools NDA staff members use during their promotions is the Cattle Feeders Directory. The online directory features information about Nebraska's feedlot operations including contact information, capacity, where they source their cattle from, financing and feed options, as well as marketing and value added programs in which the feedlot participates. The directory can be found on the Department's website at www.nda.nebraska.gov under Ag Promotion and Development or at: <http://tinyurl.com/NEcattlefeeders>.

"The Cattle Feeder Directory has been very popular with those interested in finishing their animals in Nebraska. It provides producers with information that will help them choose which feedlot operation works best into their overall production goals," he said.

"Nebraska has a strong reputation of producing high-quality beef products. Our feedlot operations are a critical part of that process," said Ibach. "I am pleased to see continued growth in our beef sector."

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