



*For Immediate Release*

**Allendale, Inc. Releases Cattle on Feed and Cold Storage Estimates**

CHICAGO, IL. (April 17, 2018) – The following are our estimates for the coming Cattle on Feed and Cold Storage reports:

March Placements are expected 12.2% lower than last year at 1.859 million head. This would be the smallest March placement in 3 years. This stops 12 months in a row of higher than last year placements. Cattle feeding margins is the main reason for the decline. Finished cattle in March were seeing a \$122 breakeven, still profitable. The concern comes with the April, May, and June finishing where breakevens increase to the \$126 - \$129 region due to those heavy fall feeder purchases. Of note, we expect a few months of below last year placements ahead. We will be compared against last year’s March – June period that saw 11% - 16% higher placements than last year. March placements supply the July through October slaughter period.

Allendale anticipates a Marketing total in March at 5.0% under last year for a total of 1.818 million. A 3.6% correction lower was made due to the calendar comparison.

Total Cattle on Feed as of April 1 comes to 7.1% over last year at 11.699 million. This is the largest April 1 total in twelve years.

**USDA CATTLE ON FEED REPORT**

	Allendale Estimate
<b>ON FEED APRIL 1</b>	107.1
<b>PLACEMENTS</b>	87.8
<b>MARKETINGS</b>	95.0

Cattle on Feed is estimated as a percentage compared to last year.

Allendale projects a 591 million lb. total pork stock level for the end of March. The five-year average is 611 million lbs. Our estimate represents a decrease of 24 million lb. from the previous month. The five-year average month to month change for March is a 23 million lb. decrease. Beef stocks, at 426 million lbs., are under the five-year average of 469. This month’s estimate represents a decrease of 34 million lbs. from the previous month. The five-year average shows an 11 million lb. decrease for this month.

**USDA COLD STORAGE**

	Last Year	Last Month	Allendale Estimate
<b>PORK STOCKS MAR 31</b>	545.463	614.918	590.556
<b>BEEF STOCKS</b>	464.001	460.276	426.018

Cold Storage is reported in million lbs.

For questions and comments, please contact Rich Nelson, Chief Strategist at 800-262-7538 or [rnelson@allendale-inc.com](mailto:rnelson@allendale-inc.com).

More information on Allendale can be found at [www.allendale-inc.com/media](http://www.allendale-inc.com/media).