

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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CATTLE ON FEED, JANUARY 1, 1951

The number of cattle on feed in the United States on January 1, 1951 was 5 percent larger than a year ago and the largest on record, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. The estimated number on January 1 was 4,656,000 head, 208,000 head more than on feed January 1, 1950. The increase is general, except in the East Corn Belt States where a slight reduction occurred. The number on feed in the Western States is 15 percent larger than last year.

The number on feed in the North Central States, which include the Corn Belt, was 2 percent larger than a year ago. The West Corn Belt States are up 4 percent, while the feeding in the East Corn Belt is 1 percent below last year. The Corn Belt total on January 1 was estimated at 3,528,000 head, the third highest on record, compared with 3,449,000 head last year. Only three North Central States show fewer cattle on feed this year than last, with Indiana and Michigan each down 5 percent and North Dakota down 2 percent. Kansas showed the largest increase, being up 10 percent, while Nebraska was up 7 percent. Iowa, the leading feeding State, shows a 2 percent increase.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle during December into the 8 Corn Belt States for which records are available were sharply higher than in December 1949. The December inshipments were 27 percent above December 1949, and the second highest on record for the month. Including shipments from markets for the other three States, total inshipments for July-December for the 11 Corn Belt States were 2,754,000 head, the second high. These July-December inshipments were exceeded only in 1949 when slightly more than 3 million head were recorded.

In the West, cattle feeding is substantially higher than a year ago, reaching a record high for January 1. Colorado, one of the leading Western feeding States, had a record high number on feed on January 1. Elsewhere in the West, marked increases have taken place in some States with California up 27 percent. Only Idaho and New Mexico show fewer cattle on feed this January. Pennsylvania also has fewer cattle on feed this year, being down 5 percent.

Reports from cattle feeders in the Corn Belt show a continuing tendency toward lightweight feeder cattle. On January 1 the proportion on feed that weighed less than 600 pounds was 33 percent, compared with 31 percent last year and 23 percent two years ago. The number of cattle on feed weighing over 900 pounds made up 26 percent of the total this year, compared with 27 percent last year and 34 percent two years ago.

In the Corn Belt, cattle feeders reported that 79 percent of the cattle had been on feed less than 3 months on January 1. This proportion is the same as last year, but substantially higher than in most previous years. Corn Belt feeders intend to market 32 percent of the January 1 number by April 1. This is about the same proportion as feeders reported last year would be marketed in the first 3 months of the year. Based on present information, the number of fed cattle received at Corn Belt markets during the next 3 months is expected to be somewhat higher than last year. The number of better grade fed cattle for slaughter is also expected to be higher. An increase in marketings of fed cattle from the Corn Belt, as a result of the larger number on feed, will also occur in the late spring and summer according to cattle feeders' plans on January 1.

The accompanying table shows the estimated number of cattle on feed by States on January 1 for the years 1944-1951.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED 1/
BY STATES AS OF JANUARY 1, 1944-51

State	5-year Average (1945-49)	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	% 3/
Thousand head										
Pa.	83	75	70	82	90	85	88	88	84	95
Ohio	112	119	102	107	120	110	120	125	125	100
Ind.	168	171	156	165	183	155	181	185	176	95
Ill.	466	455	478	454	500	425	475	489	489	100
Mich.	84	90	94	85	81	77	83	90	86	95
Wis.	<u>79</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>77</u>	<u>83</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>87</u>	<u>91</u>	<u>105</u>
E.N.C.	909	905	907	888	961	850	939	976	967	99
Minn.	269	251	261	261	282	240	300	294	300	102
Iowa	929	987	1,056	950	970	770	901	955	974	102
Mo.	291	279	325	289	300	240	300	315	324	103
N.Dak.	64	62	76	64	64	58	58	57	56	98
S.Dak.	172	120	200	178	170	136	177	180	180	100
Nebr.	414	340	422	435	413	350	450	420	450	107
Kans.	<u>266</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>322</u>	<u>271</u>	<u>257</u>	<u>200</u>	<u>280</u>	<u>252</u>	<u>277</u>	<u>110</u>
W.N.C.	2,405	2,319	2,662	2,448	2,456	1,994	2,466	2,475	2,561	104
N.Cent.	<u>3,314</u>	<u>3,224</u>	<u>3,569</u>	<u>3,336</u>	<u>3,417</u>	<u>2,844</u>	<u>3,405</u>	<u>3,449</u>	<u>3,528</u>	<u>102</u>
Okla.	56	42	60	51	50	50	70	55	78	105
Texas	129	130	150	115	121	115	144	161	177	110
Mont.	43	35	44	50	48	35	38	35	29	116
Idaho	71	45	55	55	70	80	95	78	76	97
Wyo.	19	14	16	21	20	20	18	15	17	112
Colo.	171	158	160	176	146	180	192	191	211	110
N.Mex.	16	12	9	6	11	22	33	17	16	94
Ariz.	54	38	42	50	50	65	62	59	87	147
Utah	40	35	33	38	37	44	45	40	46	115
Nev.	24	17	22	28	22	24	26	22	22	100
Wash.	26	28	28	25	27	24	24	22	24	109
Oreg.	29	28	28	29	32	24	32	30	33	110
Calif.	<u>181</u>	<u>134</u>	<u>125</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>166</u>	<u>209</u>	<u>258</u>	<u>196</u>	<u>248</u>	<u>127</u>
Western	859	716	772	793	800	892	1,037	911	1,044	115
Total										
U. S.	<u>4,256</u>	<u>4,015</u>	<u>4,411</u>	<u>4,211</u>	<u>4,307</u>	<u>3,821</u>	<u>4,530</u>	<u>4,448</u>	<u>4,656</u>	<u>105</u>

1/ Estimates include only cattle being fattened for market as a more or less distinct agricultural enterprise, and excludes small operations incidental to dairy and general farming. Cattle thus fed are presumed to produce carcasses that will grade commercial or better.

In addition there have been a number of cattle finished on distillery slop, mostly in Kentucky, and on by-product feeds in other States not shown as well as large numbers being winter fed in W. Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and some other States to be marketed as grass fat in late summer.

2/ Revised estimates.

3/ 1951 as a percent of 1950.