

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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CATTLE ON FEED - APRIL 1, 1951

The number of cattle on feed for market in the 11 Corn Belt States on April 1 showed an increase of 4 percent from a year earlier, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. The increase was probably equivalent to about 110,000 head. Increases occurred in all of the Corn Belt States except Illinois and Indiana.

The increase of 4 percent in the number of cattle on feed on April 1 for the 11 Corn Belt States compares with an increase of 5 percent on January 1, 1951 over the preceding January. During the period January-March the number of replacement cattle shipped into the Corn Belt showed an increase of 12 percent over last year.

Cattle feeders who reported the month in which they expect to market fed cattle indicate that only a slightly larger percentage will be marketed before July 1 this year than was reported in April last year. The reported percentage to be marketed before July 1 this year is 44 percent, compared with 42 percent last year, 49 percent in 1949, and the 1941-50 average of 50 percent. About 65 percent of the total cattle on feed April 1 were reported to have been on feed over 3 months, compared with 67 percent last April and 71 percent two years ago.

In California, the number of cattle on feed on April 1 is estimated to be about 80 percent larger than a year ago. The normal movement of native stock to California feed lots, which usually starts about April 1, may be accentuated by poor range feed conditions. Imports of stocker and feeder cattle into California during January and February were about 45 percent greater than for the same months a year earlier. The number of cattle on feed on April 1 in Idaho was 13 percent more than the number on feed on April 1, 1950. Idaho feeders report they intend to market about 71 percent of the number before July 1, compared with 79 percent a year ago. Reports from Colorado indicate there are more cattle on feed on April 1 than a year earlier. The movement of replacement cattle into the Colorado feeding areas since January 1 has been larger than a year ago. Marketings of fed cattle since January 1 have been about the same as a year ago.

The proportion of steers on feed this year in the 11 Corn Belt States was the same as a year ago, being reported at 67 percent for both years. Heifers comprised 12 percent of the total, compared with 11 percent a year ago, while calves constituted 20 percent this year compared with 21 percent on April 1, 1950.

For 8 Corn Belt States reporting on corn stocks, the supply of corn on feeders' farms on April 1 was smaller than last year. In general, weather during the latter part of February and all of March was favorable for feeding operations. Precipitation over much of the Corn Belt was above normal during February and March, with the result that feed lots have not had a chance to dry out.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt States during the first 3 months of this year are higher than last year's inshipments. For the 8 Corn Belt States for which complete records are available both for markets and for direct inshipments, the number of inshipments during the period January-March was 12 percent higher than last year. Shipments into Nebraska were up 34 percent and into Illinois 20 percent. Iowa showed a 7 percent increase, while Wisconsin was up

(over)

8 percent. The remaining Corn Belt States all showed decreases during the 3-month period as follows: Ohio, down 31 percent; Indiana, down 26 percent; Minnesota, down 21 percent; and Michigan, down 6 percent.

January-March average cost of feeder and stocker cattle shipped from the 5 markets for which records are available was \$32.74 per hundred pounds, compared with \$23.48 last year.

The following table shows, by States, the estimated percentage of cattle on feed April 1 this year compared with April 1, 1950: 1/

Ohio	105	Minnesota	106
Indiana	93	Iowa	105
Illinois	97	Missouri	110
Michigan	106	South Dakota	112
Wisconsin	105	Nebraska	101
		Kansas	110

Eastern Corn Belt 99      Western Corn Belt 106  
Corn Belt 104

1/ Percentages apply only to cattle on grain feed and do not include cattle which are range-fed or grass-fed. Data are based directly on reports from cattle feeders.