

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
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CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, JULY 1, 1955

The number of cattle and calves on feed for market in 13 major feeding States on July 1 was estimated at 3,609,000 head, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was an increase of about 13 percent from the previous year, but the seasonal decline from April 1 was 19 percent. The July 1 increase was larger than for April 1, when it was 12 percent. On January 1, 1955 the increase was 8 percent above a year earlier. The number of cattle placed on feed during the last 3 months was substantially larger than last year. Marketings of fed cattle have also been above last year, with a sharp increase in fed heifers marketed.

The number of cattle on feed in the 9 Corn Belt States on July 1 was estimated at 2,803,000, 10 percent larger than a year earlier. However, the July 1 number was 24 percent below the 3,671,000 head on feed April 1. For the 11 Corn Belt States, including an allowance for Michigan and Wisconsin, the number on feed was also 10 percent larger than on July 1, 1954. All States showed an increase from a year ago. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt States during the April-June period were 24 percent larger than for the same period a year ago.

In California, the number of cattle on feed July 1 totaled 457,000 head compared with 318,000 on feed April 1 and 344,000 on feed July 1, 1954. The number on feed in Colorado was 180,000, compared with 220,000 on April 1. Arizona had 120,000 on July 1 and 155,000 on April 1, while Texas had 49,000 on July 1 and 81,000 April 1. This is the first year that July 1 cattle on feed averages were made for Texas, Colorado, and Arizona.

Detailed estimates showing classes of cattle, their weight, expected marketings and length of time on feed are presented in this report for 13 States for July 1, 1955. In four of these States--Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska and California--similar data are available for 1954.

Cattle feeders in the four States where comparable data for July 1, 1954 are available expect to market about 67 percent of the cattle that were on feed July 1 during the next three months, with 20 percent in July, 23 percent in August, and 24 percent in September. This is at a slower rate than reported a year ago when 72 percent was expected to be marketed during the July-September period. The number of cattle on feed under three months in these four States was 15 percent larger than a year ago, reflecting larger placements since April 1. The number on feed 3-6 months amounted to 725,000 head, 19 percent above the 609,000 head on hand a year earlier. The number that have been on feed over 6 months is estimated at 857,000 head, compared with 813,000 a year ago. The four States showed the biggest increase in the number of heifers on feed from a year earlier. Heifers represented 23 percent of the total this year compared with 22 percent last year. Steers accounted for 74 percent of the total this year compared with 75 percent a year ago; calves, 2 percent both years; cows and other, 1 percent both years. The proportion of light weight cattle in the four States was less than a year earlier. Cattle weighing under 900 pounds accounted for 62 percent of the total this year compared with 64 percent a year ago. Those weighing over 900 pounds were 38 percent of the total compared with 36 percent last year.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED 1/

State	1,000 head July 1, 1955	1,000 head April 1, 1955	1,000 head July 1, 1954	Percentage of Previous year <u>2/</u> Percent
Illinois	440	555	390	113
Iowa	1,031	1,256	946	109
Nebraska	408	588	396	103
Total 3 States	1,879	2,399	1,732	108
Ohio	90	148	76	118
Indiana	170	231	145	117
Minnesota	235	290	220	107
Missouri	199	265	191	104
South Dakota	150	190	128	117
Kansas	80	148	65	123
Total 9 N.C. States	2,803	3,671	2,557	110
Texas	49	81	<u>3/</u>	---
Colorado	180	220	<u>3/</u>	---
Arizona	120	155	<u>3/</u>	---
California	457	318	344	133
Total 4 Western States	806	774	---	---
Total 13 States	3,609	4,445	---	4/113
Michigan	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	115
Wisconsin	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	<u>3/</u>	101

1/Estimates include only cattle and calves 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 good or better.

2/July 1, 1955 as a percent of July 1, 1954.

3/Data not available.

4/Allowance made for Texas, Colorado, and Arizona in computing percentage change for 13 States.

INVENTORIES, MARKETINGS AND PLACEMENTS - 3 STATES
(Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska)

	April 1 - June 30 1955	1954	Percentage of previous year
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent
Cattle and Calves on Feed - April 1	2,399	2,197	109
Total Fed Cattle Marketings April 1 - June 30	918	830	111
Cattle and Calves Placed on Feed April 1 - June 30	398	365	109
Short-Fed Cattle Marketed April 1 - June 30 <u>1/</u>	23	13	177
Cattle and Calves on Feed July 1	1,879	1,732	108

INVENTORIES, MARKETINGS AND PLACEMENTS - 13 STATES

April 1 - June 30

	1955	1954 <u>2/</u>
	1,000 head	1,000 head
Cattle and Calves on Feed April 1	4,445	---
Total Fed Cattle Marketings April 1 - June 30	2,085	---
Cattle and Calves Placed on Feed April 1-June 30	1,249	---
Short-Fed Cattle Marketed April 1 - June 30 <u>1/</u>	106	---
Cattle and Calves on Feed July 1	3,609	---

1/Short-Fed Cattle are defined as those placed on feed after April 1 and marketed by June 30. 2/Data not available.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, BY WEIGHT GROUPS, JULY 1

State	Over 1,300 pounds		1,100-1,300 pounds		900-1,100 pounds		600-900 pounds		Under 600 pounds	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Illinois	2	4	31	27	92	109	295	238	20	12
Iowa	5	10	155	104	274	246	577	558	20	28
Nebraska	4	2	41	16	94	111	245	243	24	24
Total 3 States	11	16	227	147	460	466	1,117	1,039	64	64
% of Total	---	---	12	9	25	27	60	60	3	4
California	2	---	32	21	151	107	233	189	39	27
Total 4 States	13	---	259	168	611	573	1,350	1,228	103	91
% of Total	1	---	11	8	26	28	58	60	4	4
Ohio <u>1/</u>	---	---	5	---	25	---	51	---	9	---
Indiana <u>1/</u>	---	---	12	---	37	---	107	---	14	---
Minnesota <u>1/</u>	2	---	26	---	56	---	139	---	12	---
Missouri <u>1/</u>	---	---	10	---	54	---	113	---	22	---
South Dakota <u>1/</u>	1	---	9	---	34	---	87	---	19	---
Kansas <u>1/</u>	---	---	1	---	26	---	48	---	5	---
Total 9 N.C. States	14	---	290	---	692	---	1,662	---	145	---
% of Total	1	---	10	---	25	---	59	---	5	---
Texas <u>1/</u>	---	---	2	---	10	---	21	---	16	---
Colorado <u>1/</u>	---	---	10	---	45	---	112	---	13	---
Arizona <u>1/</u>	1	---	1	---	18	---	83	---	17	---
Total 13 States	17	---	335	---	916	---	2,111	---	230	---
% of Total	1	---	9	---	25	---	59	---	6	---

1/Data for 1954 not available.

KINDS OF CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, JULY 1

State	Steers		Heifers		Calves		Cows and others	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
	head	head	head	head	head	head	head	head
Illinois	312	296	106	78	18	12	4	4
Iowa	782	734	227	189	21	19	1	4
Nebraska	261	273	131	107	12	12	4	4
Total 3 States	1,355	1,303	464	374	51	43	9	12
% of Total	72	75	25	22	3	2	—	1
California	365	258	82	76	5	7	5	3
Total 4 States	1,720	1,561	546	450	56	50	14	15
% of Total	74	75	23	22	2	2	1	1
Ohio 1/	72	—	13	—	4	—	1	—
Indiana 1/	116	—	44	—	10	—	—	—
Minnesota 1/	167	—	54	—	12	—	2	—
Missouri 1/	129	—	50	—	20	—	—	—
South Dakota 1/	92	—	40	—	16	—	2	—
Kansas 1/	45	—	30	—	5	—	—	—
Total 9 N.C. States 1975	1,275	—	695	—	118	—	14	—
% of Total	71	—	25	—	4	—	—	—
Texas 1/	30	—	12	—	6	—	1	—
Colorado 1/	70	—	100	—	10	—	—	—
Arizona 1/	92	—	19	—	8	—	1	—
Total 13 States	2,533	—	908	—	147	—	21	—
% of Total	70	—	25	—	4	—	1	—

1/ Data for 1954 not available.

LENGTH OF TIME ON FEED, JULY 1

State	Less than 3 mos.		3-6 months		More than 6 months	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Illinois	88	78	123	109	229	203
Iowa	165	151	320	284	546	511
Nebraska	122	123	204	174	82	99
Total 3 States	375	352	647	567	857	813
% of Total	20	20	34	33	46	47
California	379	302	178	142	—	—
Total 4 States	754	654	725	609	857	813
% of Total	32	32	31	29	37	39
Ohio 2/	14	—	18	—	58	—
Indiana 2/	36	—	39	—	95	—
Minnesota 2/	47	—	68	—	120	—
Missouri 2/	66	—	71	—	62	—
South Dakota 2/	40	—	40	—	70	—
Kansas 2/	33	—	32	—	15	—
Total 9 N.C. States	611	—	915	—	1,277	—
% of Total	22	—	33	—	45	—
Texas 2/	21	—	23	—	5	—
Colorado 2/	77	—	70	—	33	—
Arizona 2/	55	—	49	—	16	—
Total 13 States	1,143	—	1,125	—	1,331	—
% of Total	32	—	31	—	37	—

1/ Includes number on feed more than 6 months. California showed following numbers on feed this year and last year in thousands, respectively: less than 30 days 123, 137; 30 to 60 days, 146, 117; 60 to 90 days, 110, 48; 90 to 120 days, 60, 21; 120 days plus 18, 21.

2/ Data for 1954 not available.

EXPECTED MONTH OF MARKETING, 1955

State	July	August	September	Later
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Illinois	79	84	88	189
Iowa	175	206	268	382
Nebraska	102	106	90	110
Total 3 States	356	396	446	681
% of Total	19	21	24	36
California	119	128	119	91
Total 4 States	475	524	565	772
% of Total	20	23	24	33
Ohio	25	20	22	23
Indiana	27	48	44	51
Minnesota	42	56	45	92
Missouri	54	54	32	59
South Dakota	30	28	32	60
Kansas	25	22	15	18
Total 9 N.C. States	559	624	636	984
% of Total	20	22	23	35
Texas	18	15	7	9
Colorado	42	46	44	48
Arizona	35	36	29	20
Total 13 States	773	849	835	1,152
% of Total	21	24	23	32

(Comments continued)

For the 13 States for which estimates were made this year, cattle feeders intend to market 68 percent of their cattle during the next three months, with 21 percent in July, 24 percent in August, and 23 percent in September. The remaining 32 percent is expected to be marketed after Oct. 1. About 32 percent of the total had been on feed less than 3 months, 31 percent had been on feed 3 to 6 months, while 37 percent had been on feed more than 6 months. In these same States, steers represented 70 percent of total; heifers 25 percent; calves, 4 percent; and other cattle, 1 percent. Cattle on feed weighing under 600 pounds comprised 6 percent of the total number on feed. Cattle weighing 600-900 pounds were 59 percent of the total, while those weighing over 900 pounds were 35 percent.