

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 16, 1956

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, JANUARY 1, 1956

The number of cattle and calves on feed for market in the United States on January 1, 1956 was 1 percent larger than a year ago, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The estimated number was 5,823,000 head, compared with 5,786,000 head last year and the 1950-54 average of 5,001,000 head. The number on feed in the North Central States was about the same as a year ago. In the 13 Western States, it was up 3 percent.

The Corn Belt total on January 1 was estimated at 4,178,000 head. The western Corn Belt States declined 4 percent, while feeding in the eastern Corn Belt was up 9 percent from a year earlier. Iowa, the leading feeding State, was the same as a year ago. Decreases in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas more than offset increases in all other western Corn Belt States. Illinois, the second ranking feeding State this year showed a 5 percent increase. Feeding in each of the other eastern Corn Belt States was also larger than a year earlier.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle, during the period October to December, into the 9 Corn Belt States for which State inspection records are available were less than 1 percent below the same period a year ago. For the July-December period, inshipments were 2 percent smaller than for the corresponding period a year earlier.

Outside the North Central States, the number of cattle on feed was 3 percent larger than a year ago. California, the leading State in the West, showed an increase of 5 percent, while Colorado, the second leading western State, was 18 percent below a year earlier. In Montana, Idaho, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, and Oregon, the number of cattle on feed was greater than a year ago, while other areas of the West were down. Pennsylvania was down 2 percent, while Texas was up 8 percent.

For the 13 States in which quarterly estimates of cattle on feed are made, the number on feed on January 1, 1956 was down 1 percent from a year earlier. On October 1, 1955, the number was 19 percent larger than a year earlier. The lower level of feeding on January 1 relative to October 1 resulted from heavy marketings of fed cattle and fewer replacements during the past quarter as compared with the corresponding period in 1954. In 11 States where quarterly estimates for both October and January are available, marketings during the period October-December 1955 were 15 percent greater than the same period in 1954. Placements during this same period were down 10 percent.

Detailed estimates showing classes of cattle, their weight, expected marketings and length of time on feed are presented in this report for 14 States.

The data for the 14 States reveal that the number on feed over 3 months is 31 percent above last year, but those on feed less than 3 months show a decrease of 9 percent. As a percent of the total on feed, the number on feed less than 3 months was 72 percent compared with 79 percent a year earlier. Cattle on feed 3-6 months were 24 percent of the total, compared with 19 percent last year. About 4 percent of the total had been on feed more than 6 months, compared with 2 percent a year ago.

Estimates by weight groups and kinds of cattle on feed this year indicate less interest in feeding calves and lightweight cattle than last year. Cattle weighing under 600 pounds comprised 29 percent of the total number on feed, compared with 33 percent a year earlier; those weighing 600-900 pounds were 44 percent of the total compared with 45 percent last year; and those weighing over 900 pounds were 27 percent and 22 percent last year. Steers represented 57 percent of the total compared with 53 percent last year; heifers 21 percent and 19 percent; calves 21 percent and 26 percent; cows and other cattle 1 percent and 2 percent. Cattle feeders in these

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED JANUARY 1, 1950-56 1/
(Revised Estimates 1950-55)

State	5-year average (1950-54)	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956	1956 as Percentage of 1955
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent
Pa.	89	88	90	90	90	86	84	82	98
Ohio. . . .	137	125	125	130	143	164	164	180	110
Ind.	205	185	176	180	225	259	272	321	118
Ill.	532	489	489	504	600	580	609	639	105
Mich. . . .	100	90	86	99	109	114	114	131	115
Wisc. . . .	96	87	91	96	100	104	108	112	104
E.N.C. . . .	1,070	976	967	1,009	1,177	1,221	1,267	1,383	109
Minn. . . .	306	294	300	300	318	318	321	337	105
Iowa	1,064	955	955	1,003	1,274	1,134	1,225	1,225	100
Mo.	231	242	230	207	253	223	234	281	120
N.Dak. . . .	66	57	54	65	72	80	76	110	145
S.Dak. . . .	196	180	180	189	227	204	214	210	98
Nebr. . . .	546	420	450	522	731	607	625	450	72
Kans. . . .	251	252	252	265	270	216	227	182	80
W.N.C. . . .	2,660	2,400	2,421	2,551	3,145	2,782	2,922	2,795	96
N.C.	3,730	3,376	3,388	3,560	4,322	4,003	4,189	4,178	100
Okla. . . .	62	55	62	55	70	70	68	61	90
Texas. . . .	169	161	177	186	193	129	132	143	108
Mont. . . .	36	25	26	32	45	54	45	58	129
Idaho	92	78	76	85	110	110	135	150	111
Wyo.	25	15	17	24	33	35	30	25	84
Colo. . . .	255	206	229	300	296	245	275	225	82
N.Mex. . . .	22	17	16	28	32	18	29	37	128
Ariz. . . .	93	59	87	97	102	120	169	204	121
Utah	48	40	46	50	51	53	57	59	104
Nev.	22	22	22	20	22	26	30	29	97
Wash. . . .	27	22	24	25	31	33	40	38	95
Oreg. . . .	29	30	26	26	30	32	36	45	124
Calif. . . .	301	196	248	383	327	350	467	489	105
Western . .	1,182	926	1,056	1,311	1,342	1,275	1,513	1,563	103
U.S.	5,001	4,390	4,534	4,961	5,754	5,364	5,786	5,823	101

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 good 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 West Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky, and some other States to be marketed as grass fat in late summer.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED IN 13 STATES

State	January 1955	October 1955	January 1956
	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>
Ohio	164	96	180
Indiana	272	170	321
Illinois	609	404	639
Minnesota	321	170	337
Iowa	1,225	827	1,225
Missouri	234	210	281
South Dakota	214	150	210
Nebraska	625	400	450
Kansas	227	225	182
9 N.C. States	3,891	2,652	3,825
Texas	132	86	143
Colorado	275	166	225
Arizona	169	95	204
California	467	498	489
13 States	4,934	3,497	4,886

CATTLE AND CALVES: INVENTORIES, MARKETINGS, AND PLACEMENTS
IN 11 STATES, OCTOBER 1 - JANUARY 1 1/

Item	1954	1955	Percentage of Previous Year
	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>1,000 head</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Cattle and Calves on Feed - October 1	2,720	3,316	122
Total Fed Cattle Marketings Oct. 1 - Dec. 31.	1,926	2,222	115
Cattle and Calves Placed on Feed Oct. 1 - Dec. 31.	3,839	3,445	90
Short Fed Cattle Marketed Oct. 1 - Dec. 31 <u>2/</u>	165	161	98
	<u>1955</u>	<u>1956</u>	
Cattle and Calves on Feed January 1	4,633	4,539	98

1/ 13 States listed in above table except Texas and Arizona.

2/ Short-fed cattle are defined as those placed on feed after October 1 and marketed by December 31.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, BY WEIGHT GROUPS, JANUARY 1, 1955 and 1956

State	Under 600		600 - 900		900 - 1100		1100 - 1300		Over 1300	
	pounds		pounds		pounds		pounds		pounds	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000	1000
	head	head	head	head	head	head	head	head	head	head
Ohio.....	64	72	78	79	20	27	2	2	--	--
Ind.....	103	125	123	135	41	48	5	10	--	3
Ill.....	231	243	250	256	116	96	12	38	--	6
Minn.....	116	101	144	169	48	51	10	13	3	2
Iowa.....	439	368	549	514	195	245	37	86	5	12
Mo.....	122	124	84	101	26	50	2	6	--	--
S.Dak.....	71	65	90	82	45	48	6	13	2	2
Nebr.....	163	90	319	198	112	131	25	22	6	9
Kans.....	52	22	102	74	62	64	11	22	--	--
9 N.C.States	1,361	1,210	1,739	1,608	665	760	110	212	--	35
Texas.....	61	46	55	70	11	22	5	5	--	--
Idaho.....	27	27	61	73	39	39	7	9	1	2
Colo.....	38	12	115	126	107	67	14	19	1	1
Ariz.....	69	72	82	109	17	21	1	2	--	--
Calif.....	88	73	210	225	135	157	33	29	1	5
14 States...	1,644	1,440	2,262	2,211	974	1,066	170	276	19	43

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL

	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 N.C.States.	35	32	45	42	17	20	3	5	--	1
14 States....	33	29	45	44	19	21	3	5	--	1

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, BY CLASSES, JANUARY 1, 1955 and 1956

State	Steers		Heifers		Calves		Cows and Other	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	head	head	head	head	head	head	head	head
Ohio.....	102	110	21	23	39	45	2	2
Ind.....	133	170	54	71	82	77	3	3
Ill.....	323	326	55	102	225	205	6	6
Minn.....	177	189	55	74	83	71	6	3
Iowa.....	674	711	159	208	380	294	12	12
Mo.....	86	135	35	42	108	101	5	3
S.Dak.....	105	103	38	42	60	61	11	4
Nebr.....	325	279	156	94	131	72	13	5
Kans.....	134	122	55	42	36	16	2	2
9 N.C.States	2,059	2,145	628	698	1,144	942	60	40
Texas.....	55	68	22	40	53	31	2	4
Idaho.....	76	88	32	41	16	15	11	6
Colo.....	113	108	123	103	33	13	6	1
Ariz.....	80	100	26	46	56	53	7	5
Calif.....	313	347	103	117	37	20	14	5
14 States...	2,696	2,856	934	1,045	1,339	1,074	100	61

PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF TOTAL

	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 N.C.States.	53	56	16	18	29	25	2	1
14 States....	53	57	19	21	26	21	2	1

CATTLE AND CALVES: LENGTH OF TIME ON FEED, JANUARY 1, 1955 AND 1956

State	Less than 3 months		3 to 6 months		More than 6 months	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
	head	head	head	head	head	head
Ohio	125	126	36	45	3	9
Ind.	210	241	54	67	8	13
Ill.	487	492	104	128	18	19
Minn.	260	273	35	40	26	24
Iowa	1,041	956	159	196	25	73
Mo.	183	191	49	82	2	8
S. Dak.	167	134	36	63	11	13
Nebr.	506	315	106	108	13	27
Kans.	159	102	66	78	2	2
9 N. C. States . . .	3,138	2,830	645	807	108	188
Texas	94	92	35	48	3	3
Idaho	97	94	34	53	4	3
Colo.	195	136	77	84	3	5
Ariz.	119	156	48	38	2	10
Calif.	341	318	1/ 126	1/ 171	--	--
14 States	3,984	3,626	965	1,201	120	209
Percentage Distribution of Total						
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 N. C. States . . .	81	74	16	21	3	5
14 States	79	72	19	24	2	4

1/ Includes number on feed more than 6 months. California showed following numbers on feed last year and this year in thousands, respectively: Less than 30 days 47, 68; 30 to 60 days 126, 103; 60 to 90 days 168, 147; 90 to 120 days 89, 127; 120 days plus 37, 44.

CATTLE: EXPECTED MONTHS OF MARKETING, 1956

State	January	February	March	Later
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Ohio	23	20	18	119
Ind.	42	45	35	199
Ill.	103	70	70	396
Minn.	44	37	37	219
Iowa	196	135	147	747
Mo.	59	31	39	152
S. Dak.	44	34	34	98
Nebr.	99	99	72	180
Kans.	64	57	25	36
9 N. C. States . . .	674	528	477	2,146
Texas	32	38	36	37
Idaho	30	28	24	68
Colo.	54	48	50	73
Ariz.	34	51	49	70
Calif.	147	142	107	93
14 States	971	835	743	2,487
Percentage Distribution of Total				
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 States	18	14	12	56
14 States	19	17	15	49

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

14 States intend to market fed cattle at a faster rate than intended a year ago, with 51 percent of the January 1 number to be marketed by April 1.

Revisions of cattle on feed estimates are published in this report for the 1950-55 period. These revisions were based on a review of current data obtained from cattle feeders along with data relating to movements of feeder cattle and marketings of fed cattle which were not available at the time current estimates were made.

* * * *