

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
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CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED APRIL 1, 1956

The number of cattle and calves on feed for market in the 14 major feeding States on April 1 was estimated at 4,231,000 head, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was a decrease of 8 percent from the previous year and compares with a decrease of less than 1 percent in these 14 States on January 1. The April 1 number is 16 percent below the number on January 1, 1956. The number placed on feed in these States during the January-March period was 3 percent less than for the corresponding period last year, while marketings of fed cattle were 13 percent larger.

The number of cattle on feed in the 9 Corn Belt States on April 1 was estimated at 3,360,000 head -- 9 percent less than a year earlier, but 12 percent below the 3,825,000 on feed January 1. In the 11 Corn Belt States, including an allowance for Michigan and Wisconsin, the number on feed was 8 percent less than on April 1, 1955. Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Michigan, and Wisconsin were the only Corn Belt States showing an increase in cattle on feed from a year ago. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle and calves, during the period January-March, into the 9 Corn Belt States for which State inspection records are available were 7 percent smaller than for the same period a year ago.

In California, the number of cattle on feed April 1 totaled 297,000 head, compared with 489,000 on feed January 1 and 318,000 on feed April 1, 1955. The number on feed in Idaho was 118,000 compared with 150,000 on feed January 1 and 102,000 on feed April 1 a year ago. Colorado had 193,000 on feed April 1, compared with 235,000 on January 1 and 220,000 on April 1 last year. Arizona feed lots had 170,000 on feed, compared with 204,000 on January 1 and 155,000 on April 1 last year. Texas cattle feeders had 93,000 on feed April 1, 147,000 on January 1, and 84,000 on April 1 a year earlier.

Data for the 14 States reveal that the number on feed over 3 months is 11 percent below last year, while those on feed less than 3 months show a decrease of 2 percent. As a percent of total on feed, the number on feed less than 3 months was 38 percent, compared with 36 percent a year earlier. Cattle on feed 3-6 months represented 57 percent of the total, compared with 60 percent last year. About 5 percent of the total had been on feed more than 6 months compared with 4 percent last year.

Estimates by weight groups and kind of cattle on feed this year indicate less interest in feeding calves and light weight cattle than last year. The number of cattle weighing under 600 pounds was down 14 percent compared with last year; those weighing from 600-900 pounds were down 10 percent, while cattle weighing over 900 pounds were up slightly. Cattle weighing under 600 pounds comprised 22 percent of the total number on feed, compared with 23 percent a year earlier; those weighing 600-900 pounds were 46 percent of the total compared with 48 percent last year; while those weighing over 900 pounds were 32 percent against 29 percent last year.

Steers represented 62 percent of the total -- the same as last year; heifers, 20 percent this year, and 19 percent last year; calves, 17 percent and 18 percent; cows and other cattle, 1 percent both years. Cattle feeders intend to market fed cattle at a faster rate than intended a year ago, with 51 percent of the April 1 number to be marketed by July 1. A year earlier feeders intended to market 49 percent by July 1. About 19 percent are expected to be marketed in April this year, compared with 16 percent last year; 18 percent in May compared with 17 percent last year; and 14 percent in June and 16 percent last year.

Revisions of cattle on feed estimates as of April 1 are published in this report for the 1950-55 period. These revisions are 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. Prior to 1955, quantitative estimates of cattle on feed April 1 were made for only 5 States

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED APRIL 1, 1950-55 1/

State	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>	<u>head</u>
Illinois	418	405	458	540	545	605
Iowa	914	941	969	1,163	1,198	1,306
Nebraska	<u>395</u>	<u>400</u>	<u>408</u>	<u>551</u>	<u>534</u>	<u>588</u>
Total 3 States	<u>1,727</u>	<u>1,746</u>	<u>1,835</u>	<u>2,254</u>	<u>2,277</u>	<u>2,499</u>
Idaho	55	62	57	75	85	102
California	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>211</u>	<u>206</u>	<u>318</u>
Total 5 States	---	---	---	2,540	2,568	2,919

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.

2/ Not available.

Cattle and calves on feed in 14 States

State	April 1, 1955	January 1, 1956	April 1, 1956	April 1, 1956 as percentage of April 1, 1955
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent
Ohio.....	148	180	155	105
Indiana.....	231	321	254	110
Illinois.....	605	639	575	95
Minnesota.....	290	337	290	100
Iowa.....	1,306	1,225	1,254	96
Missouri.....	200	281	216	108
South Dakota...	190	210	150	79
Nebraska.....	588	450	376	64
Kansas.....	148	182	90	61
9 N.C. States..	3,706	3,825	3,360	91
Texas.....	84	<u>3/</u> 147	93	111
Idaho.....	102	150	118	116
Colorado.....	220	<u>3/</u> 235	193	88
Arizona.....	155	204	170	110
California.....	318	489	297	93
14 States	4,585	5,050	4,231	92
Michigan.....	<u>2/</u>	131	<u>2/</u>	113
Wisconsin.....	<u>2/</u>	112	<u>2/</u>	103

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.

2/ Data not available.

3/ Revised.

Cattle and calves: Inventories, marketings, and placements
in 13 States, January 1 - March 31 1/

Item	1955	1956	Percentage of previous year
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent
Cattle and calves on feed - January 1.....	4,934	4,900	99
Total fed cattle marketings Jan. 1 - Mar. 31...	2,176	2,461	113
Cattle and calves placed on feed Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	1,725	1,674	97
Short fed cattle marketed Jan. 1 - Mar. 31 <u>2/</u>	119	108	91
Cattle and calves on feed April 1	4,483	4,113	92

1/ States listed in above table except Michigan, Wisconsin and Idaho.

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

Cattle and calves on feed, by weight groups, April 1, 1955 and 1956

State	Under		600-900		900-1100		1100-1300		Over	
	600 pounds		pounds		pounds		pounds		1300 pounds	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
	head	head	head	head	head	head	head	head	head	head
Ohio	33	34	81	88	33	30	1	3	--	--
Indiana	53	68	129	135	44	43	5	8	--	--
Illinois	133	115	315	293	133	138	24	23	--	--
Minnesota	75	81	122	113	81	87	12	9	--	--
Iowa	326	301	574	552	340	326	65	63	1	12
Missouri	62	39	106	127	30	39	2	11	--	--
South Dakota ...	55	52	78	48	46	34	9	14	2	2
Nebraska	135	60	284	192	147	94	18	26	4	4
Kansas	19	13	81	54	37	19	9	4	2	--
9 N.C.States...	891	763	1,770	1,602	891	810	145	161	9	2
Texas	23	27	46	43	14	21	1	2	--	--
Idaho	22	20	37	35	35	50	8	12	--	1
Colorado	24	15	97	72	81	73	18	26	--	7
Arizona	46	53	75	70	30	45	4	2	--	--
California	54	30	143	139	102	107	16	18	3	3
14 States	1,060	908	2,168	1,961	1,153	1,106	192	221	12	3

Percentage distribution of total

	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 N.C.States ...	24	23	48	47	24	24	4	5	--	1
14 States	23	22	48	46	25	26	4	5	--	1

Cattle and calves on feed, by classes, April 1, 1955 and 1956

State	Steers		Heifers		Calves		Cows and other	
	1955		1956		1955		1956	
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Ohio	111	110	20	23	16	21	1	1
Indiana	139	142	55	68	35	41	2	3
Illinois	405	362	73	104	127	109	--	--
Minnesota	191	171	44	64	52	52	3	3
Iowa	849	815	196	188	261	248	--	3
Missouri	94	127	46	37	56	50	4	2
South Dakota ...	106	80	30	22	50	46	4	2
Nebraska	341	237	129	86	112	49	6	4
Kansas	89	48	46	30	12	11	1	1
9 N.C.States...	2,325	2,092	639	622	721	627	21	19
Texas	44	53	23	18	15	20	2	2
Idaho	72	76	23	26	6	14	1	2
Colorado	103	99	95	81	22	13	--	--
Arizona	89	88	26	43	37	38	3	1
California	236	220	54	62	25	12	3	3
14 States	2,869	2,628	860	852	826	724	30	27

Percentage distribution of total

	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 N.C. States...	63	62	17	18	19	19	1	1
14 States	62	62	19	20	18	17	1	1

Cattle and calves: Length of time on feed, April 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	31	42	102	94	15	19
Indiana	48	43	169	188	14	23
Illinois	218	218	357	328	30	29
Minnesota	75	64	195	206	20	20
Iowa	457	502	810	702	39	50
Missouri	56	73	136	134	8	9
South Dakota	50	42	127	93	13	15
Nebraska	253	195	323	162	12	19
Kansas	49	40	95	43	4	7
9 N.C. States	1,237	1,219	2,314	1,950	155	191
Texas	32	36	46	50	6	7
Idaho	28	40	68	71	6	7
Colorado	70	82	141	98	9	13
Arizona	64	51	85	108	6	11
California.....	203	178	115 1/	119 1/	--	--
14 States.....	1,634	1,606	2,769	2,396	182	229

Percentage distribution of total

	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 N.C. States...	33	36	63	58	4	6
14 States.....	36	38	60	57	4	5

1/Includes number on feed more than 6 months. California showed following numbers on feed last year and this year in thousands, respectively: Less 30 days 73, 74; 30 to 60 days 70, 42; 60 to 90 days 60, 62; 90 to 120 days 51, 68; 120 days plus 64, 51.

Cattle: Expected months of marketing, 1956

State	April	May	June	Later
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Ohio	23	30	28	74
Indiana	41	33	38	142
Illinois	69	103	58	345
Minnesota	41	49	46	154
Iowa	163	163	138	790
Missouri	50	28	34	104
South Dakota	33	27	20	70
Nebraska.....	71	83	68	154
Kansas.....	30	19	16	25
9 N.C. States...	521	535	446	1,858
Texas	36	24	16	17
Idaho	31	31	22	34
Colorado	59	50	42	42
Arizona	49	38	29	54
California	101	71	62	63
14 States	797	749	617	2,068

Percentage distribution of total

	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 States	16	16	13	55
14 States	19	18	14	49