

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

The number of cattle and calves on feed for market in 13 major feeding States on July 1 was estimated at 3,296,000 head, according to Crop Reporting Board. This was 10 percent less than the number on feed on the same date last year and a seasonal decline from April 1 of 22 percent. On April 1 this year there was a decline of 6 percent from the same date in 1955, while the January 1 number on feed was 1 percent more than a year earlier. The number of cattle and calves placed on feed during the April-June quarter was 5 percent more than during the corresponding period a year ago. Marketings were also higher--up 8 percent from last year, with short fed cattle up 24 percent above a year earlier.

The number of cattle on feed in the 9 Corn Belt States on July 1 was estimated at 2,553,000 head, down 11 percent from the same date last year and down seasonally 26 percent from the 3,450,000 head on feed April 1 this year. Including an allowance for Michigan and Wisconsin, the number on feed in the 11 Corn Belt States was also down 11 percent from the July 1, 1955 number. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the 9 Corn Belt States during the April-June period were 7 percent below the same period last year. However, placement of local feeder cattle are apparently well above a year earlier.

The number of cattle on feed in California on July 1 was estimated at 398,000 head which was 13 percent below the 457,000 on feed a year ago, but 34 percent more than the 297,000 head on feed April 1 this year. The number on feed in Colorado totaled 154,000 head. This was 14 percent less than a year earlier and 20 percent less than the April 1 number. Arizona feed lots had 117,000 head on July 1, compared with 170,000 on April 1 and 120,000 head on July 1, 1955. Texas has shown a substantial increase over a year earlier for each quarter this year. January 1 was 8 percent above a year earlier; April, with 93,000 on feed, was up 11 percent; and July 1, with 74,000 on feed, was up 48 percent from a year ago.

Data for the 13 States reveal that the number on feed over 3 months is 18 percent less than a year ago, while those on feed less than 3 months is 4 percent greater than last year. As a percent of total on feed, the number on feed less than 3 months was 40 percent, compared with 35 percent a year earlier. Cattle on feed 3 - 6 months represented 32 percent of the total both years while those on feed more than 6 months accounted for 28 percent this year, compared with 33 percent last year.

Estimates of cattle on feed by weight groups indicate that most of the decrease occurred in the heavier cattle. The number of cattle weighing over 900 pounds on July 1 was 18 percent below a year ago. Those weighing under 600 pounds were down 11 percent, while those weighing from 600 - 900 pounds were down 5 percent.

Steers on feed July 1 represented 68 percent of the total compared with 70 percent a year ago. Heifers accounted for 28 percent, compared

with 25 the previous year. Calves comprised 4 percent of the total on feed July 1 in each of the past two years.

Revisions of cattle on feed estimates as of July 1 for 4 States are published in this report for 1950-54. 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 July 1 were made for only 4 States.

Cattle and calves on feed July 1, 1950-55 ^{1/}
(Revised estimates 1950-1955)

State	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
	<u>1,000</u> <u>head</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>head</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>head</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>head</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>head</u>	<u>1,000</u> <u>head</u>
Illinois	330	280	370	400	412	453
Iowa	778	739	850	926	991	1,090
Nebraska	280	265	307	381	396	432
Total 3 States	1,388	1,284	1,527	1,707	1,799	1,975
California	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	333	344	457
Total 4 States	-	-	-	2,040	2,143	2,432

^{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 13 States ^{1/}

State	July 1, 1955	April 1, 1956	July 1, 1956	July 1, 1956 as percentage of July 1955
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent
Ohio.....	90	155	89	99
Indiana.....	170	254	162	95
Illinois.....	453	575	412	91
Minnesota.....	235	290	209	89
Iowa.....	1,090	1,254	1,025	94
Missouri.....	155	216	146	94
South Dakota....	150	150	100	67
Nebraska.....	432	^{3/} 447	320	74
Kansas.....	92	^{3/} 109	90	98
9 N.C. States..	2,867	3,450	2,553	89
Texas.....	50	93	74	148
Colorado.....	180	193	154	86
Arizona.....	120	170	117	98
California.....	457	297	398	87
13 States.....	3,674	4,203	3,296	90
Michigan.....	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	104
Wisconsin.....	^{2/}	^{2/}	^{2/}	89

^{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
April 1 - June 30 ^{1/}

Item	1955	1956	Percentage of previous year
	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent
Cattle and calves on feed - April 1.....	4,483	4,203	94
Total fed cattle marketings April 1 - June 30...	2,193	2,367	108
Cattle and calves placed on feed Apr. 1-June 30.	1,384	1,460	105
Short fed cattle marketed Apr. 1 - June 30 ^{2/}	108	134	124
Cattle and calves on feed July 1	3,674	3,296	90

^{1/}States listed in above table except Michigan and Wisconsin.

^{2/}Short-fed cattle are defined as those placed on feed after April 1 and marketed by June 30.

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

State	Under 600 pounds		600-900 pounds		900-1100 pounds		1100-1300 pounds		Over 1300 pounds	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	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	1,000 head	1,000 head
Ohio.....	9	7	51	52	25	28	5	2	---	---
Indiana.....	14	10	107	99	37	44	12	6	---	3
Illinois.....	23	20	303	272	95	91	32	29	---	---
Minnesota....	12	16	139	134	56	42	26	17	2	---
Iowa.....	22	31	609	630	292	236	162	123	5	5
Missouri.....	17	13	88	69	42	54	8	10	---	---
South Dakota..	19	8	87	62	34	19	9	7	1	4
Nebraska.....	26	16	259	205	100	80	43	16	4	3
Kansas.....	6	9	55	66	30	10	1	5	---	---
9 N.C. States	148	130	1,698	1,589	711	604	298	215	12	15
Texas.....	17	25	21	36	10	7	2	6	---	---
Colorado.....	13	5	112	97	45	41	10	11	---	---
Arizona.....	17	25	83	73	18	17	1	2	1	---
California...	39	24	233	235	151	115	32	22	2	2
13 States...	234	209	2,147	2,030	935	784	343	256	15	17

Percentage distribution of total

	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 N.C. States	5	5	59	62	25	24	10	8	1	1
13 States...	6	6	59	62	25	24	9	8	1	---

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

State	Steers		Heifers		Calves		Cows and other	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	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.....	72	75	13	11	4	3	1	---
Indiana.....	116	105	44	49	10	8	---	---
Illinois.....	322	297	109	99	18	16	4	---
Minnesota....	167	132	54	60	12	15	2	2
Iowa.....	828	736	240	260	22	27	---	2
Missouri.....	101	108	39	26	15	12	---	---
South Dakota..	92	62	40	28	16	10	2	---
Nebraska.....	277	192	138	119	13	6	4	3
Kansas.....	52	42	34	40	6	8	---	---
9 N.C. States	2,027	1,749	711	692	116	105	13	7
Texas.....	30	44	13	20	6	10	1	---
Colorado.....	70	52	100	97	10	5	---	---
Arizona.....	92	89	19	20	8	7	1	1
California.....	365	314	82	80	5	2	5	2
13 States.....	2,584	2,248	925	909	145	129	20	10

Percentage distribution of total

	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 N.C. States.....	71	68	25	27	4	5	---	---	
13 States.....	70	68	25	28	4	4	1	---	

Cattle and calves: Length of time on feed, July 1, 1955 and 1956

State	Less than 3 months		3 to 6 months		More than 6 months	
	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Ohio.....	14	17	18	19	58	53
Indiana.....	36	32	39	36	95	94
Illinois.....	113	124	177	169	163	119
Minnesota.....	59	50	63	59	113	100
Iowa.....	207	246	371	369	512	410
Missouri.....	48	64	50	45	57	37
South Dakota.....	45	30	40	30	65	40
Nebraska.....	156	170	190	118	86	32
Kansas.....	45	63	30	25	17	2
9 N. C. States....	723	796	278	870	1,166	887
Texas.....	22	51	23	17	5	6
Colorado.....	97	91	58	47	25	16
Arizona.....	55	66	49	33	16	18
California.....	379	322	1/78	1/76	-	-
13 States.....	1,276	1,326	1,186	1,043	1,212	927
Percentage distribution of total						
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 N. C. States....	25	31	34	34	41	35
13 States.....	35	40	32	32	33	28

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 123, 135; 30 to 60 days 146, 123; 60 to 90 days 110, 64; 90 to 120 days 60, 44; 120 days plus 18, 32.

Cattle: Expected months of marketing, 1956

State	July	August	September	Later
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Ohio.....	23	20	20	26
Indiana.....	37	27	49	49
Illinois.....	78	78	95	161
Minnesota.....	46	44	44	75
Iowa.....	195	205	246	379
Missouri.....	29	28	54	35
South Dakota.....	23	21	24	32
Nebraska.....	64	86	87	83
Kansas.....	28	28	20	14
9 N. C. States....	523	537	639	851
Texas.....	20	18	16	20
Colorado.....	43	42	44	25
Arizona.....	32	43	24	18
California.....	103	111	100	84
13 States.....	721	751	823	1,001
Percentage distribution of total				
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 States.....	20	21	25	34
13 States.....	22	23	25	30