

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

The number of cattle and calves on feed for market in the 13 major feeding States on October 1 was 3,551,000, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was 1 percent more than the number on feed on the same date a year ago and a ~~less~~ ^{net} increase of 5 percent from July 1. The number of cattle on feed by quarters during this year compared with a year earlier are as follows: January 1 down 1 percent, April 1 down 6 percent, and July 1 down 8 percent. The number of cattle and calves placed on feed during the July-September quarter was 13 percent more than during the corresponding period a year ago, while marketings of fed cattle were 3 percent smaller. The number on feed more than 3 months was 12 percent less than on October 1, 1955.

The number of cattle on feed in the 9 Corn Belt States on October 1 was estimated at 2,562,000 head--4 percent less than a year earlier and 3 percent less than July 1. Compared with a year earlier, Iowa and Minnesota showed increases in the number on feed, and Kansas no change. The 6 other States showed declines. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the 9 Corn Belt States during the July-September period were 59 percent above last year, while inshipments during the April-June quarter were down 7 percent from a year earlier. Inshipments during the 6-month period were up 32 percent. A large number of feeder cattle moved into the feeding areas during the past 6 months but many have not yet been placed in feed lots.

The number of cattle on feed in California on October 1 at 519,000 head was up 4 percent from the 498,000 head a year earlier and compares with 398,000 head on feed July 1 this year. Colorado feed lots reported 194,000 head on feed October 1, 17 percent above the 166,000 on feed a year earlier and 20 percent above the 162,000 head on July 1. Arizona had 150,000 on feed October 1 this year compared with 95,000 head a year ago. On July 1, Arizona had 117,000 head on feed. Texas showed 126,000 cattle on feed on October 1, compared with 86,000 head a year ago and 74,000 head on July 1 this year. The combined totals for California, Colorado, Texas and Arizona show cattle feeding on October 1 this year was 17 percent above a year ago and 32 percent above the number on July 1 this year.

Data for the 13 States reveal that the number of cattle on feed less than 3 months is 12 percent greater than a year ago, while those on feed more than 3 months is 12 percent smaller than last year. The number on feed less than 3 months accounted for 61 percent of the total number on feed October 1 this year, compared with 56 percent a year earlier. Cattle on feed 3-6 months represented 20 percent of the total, both this year and last year. Those on feed more than 6 months accounted for 19 percent on October 1 this year, compared with 24 percent a year earlier.

Estimates of cattle on feed by weight groups indicate that most of the increase occurred in the lighter weight cattle. The number of cattle weighing less than 900 pounds was 7 percent more than a year earlier, while the number weighing more than 900 pounds was 6 percent less than last October. Cattle on feed weighing under 600 pounds accounted for 11 percent of the October 1 total, compared with 9 percent a

year ago. The 600 - 900 pound group made up 49 percent of the total this year compared with 48 percent last year. The 900 - 1,100 pound group represents 33 percent of the present inventory; a year ago it was 35 percent. The number over 1,100 pounds represented 7 percent of the total this year compared with 8 percent last year.

Steers on feed October 1 represented 66 percent of all cattle on feed, compared with 69 percent last year. Heifers made up 27 percent of the October inventory compared with 25 a year earlier. Calves accounted for 6 percent this year and 5 percent last year. Cows and other cattle comprised 1 percent of the total each year.

Revisions of cattle on feed estimates by quarters for 1950-55 are being prepared and will be published later. This publication will show the estimates for selected States, by quarters and for the various age, kind, and weight classifications. The publication will be available on request to the Crop Reporting Board, Agricultural Marketing Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Cattle and calves on feed in 13 States ^{1/}

State	October 1, 1955	July 1, 1956	October 1, 1956	October 1, 1956
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	as percentage of October 1, 1955 Percent
Ohio.....	96	89	94	98
Indiana.....	170	162	160	94
Illinois.....	404	2/421	392	97
Minnesota.....	170	209	196	115
Iowa.....	827	1,025	844	102
Missouri.....	210	2/161	197	94
South Dakota...	150	2/104	96	64
Nebraska.....	407	2/367	358	88
Kansas.....	225	90	225	100
9 N.C. States	2,659	2,628	2,562	96
Texas.....	86	74	126	147
Colorado.....	166	2/162	194	117
Arizona.....	95	117	150	158
California.....	498	398	519	104
13 States....	3,504	3,379	3,551	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.

^{2/} Revised.

Cattle and calves: Inventories, marketings and placements in 13 States
July 1 - September 30 ^{1/}

Item	1955	1956	Percentage of
	1,000 head	1,000 head	previous year Percent
Cattle and calves on feed - July 1.....	3,674	3,379	92
Total fed cattle marketed July 1 - Sept. 30.....	2,269	2,195	97
Cattle and calves placed on feed July 1 - Sept. 30	2,099	2,367	113
Short-fed cattle marketed July 1 - Sept. 30 ^{2/}	150	187	125
Cattle and calves on feed Oct. 1.....	3,504	3,551	101

^{1/} States listed in above table.

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

Cattle and calves on feed, by weight groups, October 1, 1955 and 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.....	24	22	52	47	19	24	1	1	---	---
Indiana.....	15	19	89	90	61	48	5	3	---	---
Illinois.....	24	31	166	173	194	157	16	27	4	4
Minnesota.....	14	21	75	108	64	53	12	14	5	---
Iowa.....	33	34	306	338	356	371	116	93	16	---
Missouri.....	36	30	120	104	52	47	2	16	---	---
South Dakota...	15	9	82	60	45	24	6	3	2	---
Nebraska.....	29	18	220	179	134	129	20	29	4	3
Kansas.....	20	18	120	117	65	72	18	18	2	---
9 N.C. States..	210	202	1,230	1,216	990	925	196	204	33	15
Texas.....	32	45	40	68	11	11	2	2	1	---
Colorado.....	5	7	98	122	57	55	6	10	---	---
Arizona.....	22	55	57	83	16	11	---	1	---	---
California.....	35	67	254	254	169	171	35	25	5	2
13 States.....	304	376	1,679	1,743	1,243	1,173	239	242	39	17
Percentage distribution of total										
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 N.C. States..	8	8	46	47	37	36	8	8	1	1
13 States.....	9	11	48	49	35	33	7	7	1	---

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

State	Steers		Heifers		Calves		Cows and others	
	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	73	11	10	12	10	1	1
Indiana.....	112	106	46	38	10	14	2	2
Illinois.....	303	275	77	90	20	27	4	---
Minnesota.....	121	131	39	53	8	10	2	2
Iowa.....	619	591	190	236	17	17	1	---
Missouri.....	139	140	42	30	27	25	2	2
South Dakota...	93	49	45	38	9	8	3	1
Nebraska.....	261	244	126	107	16	7	4	---
Kansas.....	153	146	54	63	16	16	2	---
9 N.C. States..	1,873	1,755	630	665	135	134	21	8
Texas.....	38	64	28	33	19	26	1	3
Colorado.....	66	68	99	122	1	4	---	---
Arizona.....	65	86	14	32	15	31	1	1
California.....	378	384	105	109	10	16	5	10
13 States.....	2,420	2,357	876	961	180	211	28	22
Percentage distribution of total								
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 N.C. States..	70	69	24	26	5	5	1	---
13 States.....	69	66	25	27	5	6	1	1

Cattle and calves: Length of time on feed, October 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.....	65	69	10	9	21	16
Indiana.....	100	104	31	26	39	30
Illinois.....	194	216	81	67	129	109
Minnesota.....	44	98	31	35	95	63
Iowa.....	281	329	132	177	414	338
Missouri.....	157	144	34	26	19	27
South Dakota.....	74	58	30	17	46	21
Nebraska.....	265	240	89	79	53	39
Kansas.....	200	198	16	20	9	7
9 N. C. States.....	1,380	1,456	454	456	825	650
Texas.....	70	97	12	26	4	3
Colorado.....	110	136	50	50	6	8
Arizona.....	51	102	34	41	10	7
California.....	338	389	1/160	1/130	--	--
13 States.....	1,949	2,180	710	703	845	668

Percentage distribution of total

	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 N. C. States.....	52	57	17	18	31	25
13 States.....	56	61	20	20	24	19

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 119, 145; 30 to 60 days 114, 125; 60 to 90 days 105, 119; 90 to 120 days 115, 99; 120 days plus 45, 31.

Cattle: Expected months of marketings, 1956

State	October	November	December	Later
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Ohio.....	15	18	22	39
Indiana.....	34	32	38	56
Illinois.....	106	71	82	133
Minnesota.....	51	35	31	79
Iowa.....	253	245	186	160
Missouri.....	51	55	47	44
South Dakota.....	26	15	20	35
Nebraska.....	82	93	79	104
Kansas.....	65	70	56	34
9 N. C. States.....	683	634	561	684
Texas.....	25	30	31	40
Colorado.....	40	44	50	60
Arizona.....	30	34	33	53
California.....	150	130	109	130
13 States.....	928	872	784	967

Percentage distribution of total

	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
9 N. C. States.....	26	25	22	27
13 States.....	26	25	22	27