
Cattle on Feed



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CATTLE ON FEED UP 8 PERCENT IN 13 QUARTERLY STATES

Cattle and calves on feed April 1, 1991, for slaughter market in the 13 quarterly States totaled 10.9 million head, up 8 percent from April 1, 1990, and 10 percent above 1989, according to the Agricultural Statistics Board. This is the largest April on feed number since 1973.

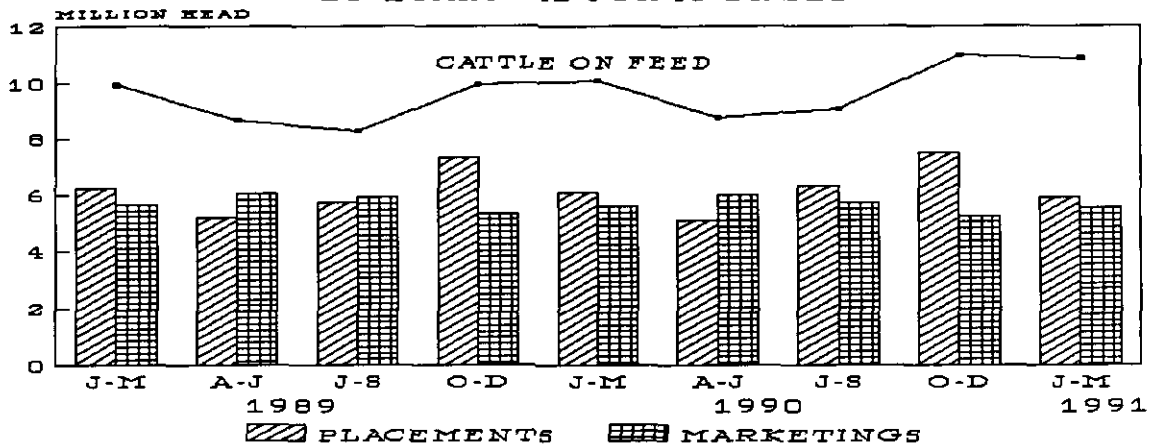
The cattle on feed inventory included 7.11 million steers and steer calves, 10 percent above last year and 12 percent above 1989. This group represented 65 percent of the total April number on feed, compared to 64 percent for both last year and 1989. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 3.70 million, 4 percent above last year and 5 percent above 1989.

PLACEMENTS of cattle and calves on feed during the January-March 1991 quarter totaled 5.89 million, down 3 percent from 1990 and 5 percent below 1989. **OTHER DISAPPEARANCE** of 462 thousand head leaves **NET PLACEMENTS** at 5.43 million.

MARKETINGS of fed cattle for slaughter during January-March totaled 5.54 million, 1 percent below 1990 and 2 percent below the same period in 1989.

* Additional information on survey procedures, data *
* comparability and data reliability appears on page 12.*

**CATTLE ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS
BY QUARTERS FOR 13 STATES**



EXPECTED MARKETINGS FOR APRIL-JUNE UP 6 PERCENT

Cattle feeders expect to market 6.38 million head during the April-June quarter of 1991. This would be up 6 percent from the second quarter marketings in both 1990 and 1989.

CATTLE ON FEED IN 7 MONTHLY STATES UP 7 PERCENT

Cattle on feed April 1, 1991, in the 7 monthly States totaled 9.06 million, 7 percent above the previous year and 10 percent above two years ago. Placements in feedlots during March totaled 1.77 million, 7 percent below 1990 and 10 percent below 1989. Marketings during March totaled 1.55 million, down 4 percent from a year ago and 2 percent below March 1989. This is the lowest 7 State March marketings since 1982. **OTHER DISAPPEARANCE** during March was 137 thousand head, 14 percent above last year and 83 percent above 1989.

The **JANUARY-MARCH QUARTERLY MARKETINGS** for the 7 States, at 4.74 million, were down fractionally from 1990 and 1 percent below 1989. Marketings for the 7 states during the January-March quarter accounted for 86 percent of the 13 state total. Expected 7 State **MARKETINGS** for the April-June 1991 quarter are estimated at 5.47 million, up 6 percent from last year and 7 percent above 1989.

**CATTLE ON FEED, PLACED AND MARKETED
BY QUARTERS, 13 STATES**

QUARTER	PLACED	MARKETED	CATTLE ON FEED		
			DATE	NUMBER	
	(000) HEAD			(000) HEAD	
1989					
JAN-MAR	6,232	5,658	APR 1,		9,918
APR-JUN	5,212	6,040	JUL 1,		8,680
JUL-SEP	5,719	5,896	OCT 1,		8,276
OCT-DEC	7,306	5,346	JAN 1, 1990		9,943
1990					
JAN-MAR	6,083	5,578	APR 1,		10,063
APR-JUN	5,086	5,988	JUL 1,		8,761
JUL-SEP	6,333	5,741	OCT 1,		9,092
OCT-DEC	7,486	5,254	JAN 1, 1991		10,977
1991					
JAN-MAR	5,892	5,538	APR 1,		10,869

**CATTLE ON FEED: NUMBER ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS AND OTHER DISAPPEARANCE
JAN 1 - APR 1, 1989, 1990 AND 1991
13 STATES**

ITEM	NUMBER			:1991 AS % OF	
	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990
		1000 HEAD		PERCENT	
ON FEED	JAN 1-----	9,688	9,943	4/10,977	113 110
PLACED ON FEED	JAN 1 - MAR 31 1/-	6,232	6,083	5,892	95 97
FED CATTLE MARKETED	JAN 1 - MAR 31 1/-	5,658	5,578	5,538	98 99
OTHER DISAPPEARANCE	JAN 1 - MAR 31 2/-	344	385	462	134 120
ON FEED	APR 1-----	9,918	10,063	10,869	110 108
KINDS ON FEED APR 1					
STEERS AND STEER CALVES-----		6,342	6,438	7,109	112 110
HEIFERS AND HEIFER CALVES-----		3,535	3,562	3,704	105 104
COWS AND OTHER-----		41	63	56	137 89
NUMBER ON FEED BY WEIGHT GROUPS APR 1					
STEERS AND STEER CALVES					
LESS THAN 500 POUNDS-----		152	171	177	116 104
500-699 POUNDS-----		753	770	793	105 103
700-899 POUNDS-----		2,516	2,511	2,716	108 108
900-1099 POUNDS-----		2,329	2,389	2,638	113 110
1100 POUNDS AND OVER-----		592	597	785	133 131
HEIFERS AND HEIFER CALVES					
LESS THAN 500 POUNDS-----		64	79	80	125 101
500-699 POUNDS-----		720	717	713	99 99
700-899 POUNDS-----		1,787	1,802	1,803	101 100
900-1099 POUNDS-----		875	885	987	113 112
1100 POUNDS AND OVER-----		89	79	121	136 153
MARKETINGS	APR - JUN 3/--	6,040	5,988	6,375	106 106

1/ INCLUDES CATTLE PLACED ON FEED AFTER BEGINNING OF QUARTER AND MARKETED BEFORE END OF QUARTER. 2/ INCLUDES DEATH LOSSES, MOVEMENT FROM FEEDLOTS TO PASTURES AND SHIPMENTS TO OTHER FEEDLOTS FOR FURTHER FEEDING. 3/ TOTAL MARKETINGS INCLUDING THOSE PLACED ON FEED AFTER APR 1 AND MARKETED BEFORE JUN 30 FOR PREVIOUS YRS.; EXPECTED TOTAL MARKETINGS INCLUDING AN ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE PLACED ON FEED AFTER APR 1 AND MARKETED BEFORE JUN 30 FOR CURRENT YEAR. 4/ REVISED BASED ON CORRECTED DATA.

CATTLE ON FEED: NUMBER ON FEED BY QUARTERS
APR 1, 1990, JAN 1, AND APR 1, 1991 1/

STATE	APR 1, 1991 1/			
	APR 1, 1990	JAN 1, 1991	NUMBER	AS % OF 1990
	1000 HEAD	1000 HEAD	1000 HEAD	PERCENT
AZ	213	232	201	94
CA	390	440	395	101
CO	900	1,005	950	106
ID	195	2/ 290	275	141
IL	300	370	350	117
IA	1,020	1,050	1,090	107
KS	1,700	1,760	1,770	104
MN	330	345	350	106
NE	2,150	2,320	2,420	113
OK	320	330	340	106
SD	270	320	320	119
TX	2,110	2,330	2,230	106
WA	165	185	178	108
13 STS	10,063	2/ 10,977	10,869	108

1/ CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED ARE ANIMALS FOR SLAUGHTER MARKET BEING FED A RATION OF GRAIN OR OTHER CONCENTRATES AND ARE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE A CARCASS THAT WILL GRADE SELECT OR BETTER.

CATTLE ON FEED: NUMBER PLACED ON FEED, BY QUARTERS, 1990-1991 1/

STATE	JAN - MAR 1991			
	JAN- MAR 1990	OCT- DEC 1990	NUMBER	AS % OF 1990
	1000 HEAD	1000 HEAD	1000 HEAD	PERCENT
AZ	66	116	64	97
CA	200	260	220	110
CO	650	720	585	90
ID	151	2/ 226	155	103
IL	120	220	110	92
IA	450	775	415	92
KS	1,210	1,160	1,115	92
MN	135	235	115	85
NE	1,430	1,760	1,440	101
OK	210	200	225	107
SD	165	245	160	97
TX	1,190	1,445	1,190	100
WA	106	124	98	92
13 STS	6,083	2/ 7,486	5,892	97

1/ INCLUDES CATTLE PLACED ON FEED AFTER BEGINNING OF QUARTER AND MARKETED BEFORE END OF QUARTER.

2/ REVISED BASED ON CORRECTED DATA.

CATTLE ON FEED: FED CATTLE MARKETED, OTHER DISAPPEARANCE, BY QUARTERS, 1990-91

STATE	FED CATTLE MARKETED 1/				OTHER DISAPPEARANCE 2/			
	JAN- MAR 1990	OCT- DEC 1990	JAN-MAR 1991 NUMBER OF 1990	AS % OF 1990	JAN- MAR 1990	OCT- DEC 1990	JAN-MAR 1991 NUMBER OF 90	AS % OF 90
	1000 HEAD		PERCENT		1000 HEAD		PERCENT	
AZ	82	51	87	106	24	13	8	33
CA	220	220	200	91	80	50	65	81
CO	625	475	605	97	25	35	35	140
ID	150	154	148	99	6	4	22	367
IL	120	120	120	100	10	10	10	100
IA	385	470	340	88	25	30	35	140
KS	1,080	935	1,070	99	25	35	35	140
MN	95	110	100	105	10	10	10	100
NE	1,240	1,150	1,200	97	100	70	140	140
OK	210	185	205	98	5	5	10	200
SD	135	110	130	96	20	10	30	150
TX	1,130	1,165	1,240	110	50	70	50	100
WA	106	109	93	88	5	5	12	240
13 STS	5,578	5,254	5,538	99	385	347	462	120

1/ INCLUDES CATTLE PLACED ON FEED AFTER BEGINNING OF QUARTER AND MARKETED BEFORE END OF QUARTER. 2/ INCLUDES DEATH LOSSES, MOVEMENT FROM FEEDLOTS TO PASTURES, AND SHIPMENTS TO OTHER FEEDLOTS FOR FURTHER FEEDING.

CATTLE ON FEED: EXPECTED TOTAL MARKETINGS APR 1 - JUN 30, 1991 WITH COMPARISONS

STATE	TOTAL MARKETINGS APR-JUN, 1990 1/		EXPECTED TOTAL MARKETINGS APR-JUN, 1991 2/	
	NUMBER		NUMBER	AS % OF 1990
	1,000 HEAD		1,000 HEAD	PERCENT
AZ	104		100	96
CA	195		190	97
CO	515		530	103
ID	147		160	109
IL	140		150	107
IA	515		540	105
KS	1,145		1,160	101
MN	130		150	115
NE	1,400		1,600	114
OK	205		205	100
SD	115		130	113
TX	1,275		1,350	106
WA	102		110	108
13 STS	5,988		6,375	106

1/ TOTAL MARKETINGS OF CATTLE INCLUDING THOSE PLACED ON FEED AFTER APR 1 AND MARKETED BEFORE JUN 30. 2/ EXPECTED TOTAL MARKETINGS INCLUDING AN ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE PLACED ON FEED AFTER APR 1 AND MARKETED BEFORE JUN 30.

CATTLE ON FEED: NUMBER ON FEED BY CLASSES, BY QUARTERS
APR 1, 1990, JAN 1, AND APR 1, 1991

	: STEERS; STEER CALVES			: HEIFERS; HEIFER CALVES:			COWS AND OTHERS		
STATE	APR 1, 1990	JAN 1, 1991	APR 1, 1991	APR 1, 1990	JAN 1, 1991	APR 1, 1991	APR 1, 1990	JAN 1, 1991	APR 1, 1991
	1000 HEAD			1000 HEAD			1000 HEAD		
AZ	202	225	193	11	6	8	0	1	0
CA	280	344	308	90	89	80	20	7	7
CO	544	590	605	355	410	340	1	5	5
ID	126	195	189	60	84	81	9	11	5
IL	160	210	190	140	160	160	0	0	0
IA	655	675	730	360	365	350	5	10	10
KS	1,156	1,144	1,186	544	616	584	0	0	0
MN	220	240	242	109	102	107	1	3	1
NE	1,270	1,400	1,450	860	900	950	20	20	20
OK	215	214	216	105	116	120	0	0	4
SD	161	189	199	104	122	119	5	9	2
TX	1,350	1,560	1,490	758	768	738	2	2	2
WA	99	111	111	66	73	67	0	1	0
13 STS	6,438	7,097	7,109	3,562	3,811	3,704	63	69	56

**CATTLE ON FEED: STEERS AND STEER CALVES ON FEED BY WEIGHT GROUPS, BY QUARTERS,
APR 1, 1990, JAN 1, AND APR 1, 1991**

STATE	UNDER 500 POUNDS			500-699 POUNDS			700-899 POUNDS		
	APR 1, 1990	JAN 1, 1991	APR 1, 1991	APR 1, 1990	JAN 1, 1991	APR 1, 1991	APR 1, 1990	JAN 1, 1991	APR 1, 1991
	1000 HEAD			1000 HEAD			1000 HEAD		
AZ	37	35	32	45	68	36	66	76	59
CA	50	46	43	45	110	55	70	62	123
CO	4	13	6	46	108	60	254	136	248
ID	1	10	3	12	50	31	40	69	63
IL	2	18	8	18	54	30	59	57	69
IA	12	45	15	88	220	85	259	180	300
KS	12	22	12	69	172	107	439	332	486
MN	10	19	15	32	76	38	80	63	84
NE	10	20	10	150	260	90	460	470	490
OK	6	5	2	24	37	21	84	75	98
SD	0	5	1	18	59	27	65	57	75
TX	27	31	30	216	203	209	594	515	581
WA	0	0	0	7	14	4	41	27	40
13 STS	171	269	177	770	1,431	793	2,511	2,119	2,716

STATE	900-1099 POUNDS			1100 POUNDS AND OVER		
	APR 1, 1990	JAN 1, 1991	APR 1, 1991	APR 1, 1990	JAN 1, 1991	APR 1, 1991
	1000 HEAD			1000 HEAD		
AZ	52	42	56	2	4	10
CA	75	71	50	40	55	37
CO	207	197	225	33	136	66
ID	54	44	48	19	22	44
IL	61	58	57	20	23	26
IA	235	145	245	61	85	85
KS	520	378	474	116	240	107
MN	72	48	73	26	34	32
NE	520	380	670	130	270	190
OK	80	74	83	21	23	12
SD	60	40	74	18	28	22
TX	419	593	536	94	218	134
WA	34	42	47	17	28	20
13 STS	2,389	2,112	2,638	597	1,166	785

CATTLE ON FEED: HEIFERS AND HEIFER CALVES ON FEED BY WEIGHT GROUPS BY QUARTERS
 APR 1, 1990, JAN 1, AND APR 1, 1991

STATE	UNDER 500 POUNDS			500-699 POUNDS			700-899 POUNDS		
	APR 1, 1990	JAN 1, 1991	APR 1, 1991	APR 1, 1990	JAN 1, 1991	APR 1, 1991	APR 1, 1990	JAN 1, 1991	APR 1, 1991
	1000 HEAD			1000 HEAD			1000 HEAD		
AZ	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	1	1
CA	15	10	10	15	22	19	20	18	32
CO	2	7	4	79	97	50	204	122	203
ID	0	5	1	5	24	19	25	34	35
IL	2	19	5	24	45	39	69	53	66
IA	5	30	10	83	160	80	164	90	165
KS	5	13	12	98	129	111	278	222	303
MN	2	7	2	23	51	23	53	23	51
NE	20	20	10	150	230	130	450	330	450
OK	2	3	1	22	31	32	56	50	57
SD	0	5	1	23	41	27	52	36	60
TX	23	31	22	182	161	177	394	323	347
WA	0	0	0	10	11	3	34	23	33
13 STS	79	152	80	717	1,004	713	1,802	1,325	1,803

STATE	900-1099 POUNDS			1100 POUNDS AND OVER		
	APR 1, 1990	JAN 1, 1991	APR 1, 1991	APR 1, 1990	JAN 1, 1991	APR 1, 1991
	1000 HEAD			1000 HEAD		
AZ	2	1	2	0	0	0
CA	30	25	17	10	14	2
CO	63	156	75	7	28	8
ID	25	15	22	5	6	4
IL	43	39	45	2	4	5
IA	103	75	85	5	10	10
KS	152	197	146	11	55	12
MN	24	16	25	7	5	6
NE	220	250	320	20	70	40
OK	23	24	27	2	8	3
SD	23	28	25	6	12	6
TX	157	238	170	2	15	22
WA	20	35	28	2	4	3
13 STS	885	1,099	987	79	231	121

CATTLE ON FEED:NUMBER ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS AND OTHER DISAPPEARANCE,
JAN 1 - APR 1, 1989, 1990 AND 1991
7 STATES

ITEM	NUMBER			:1991 AS % OF	
	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990
	1000 HEAD			PERCENT	
ON FEED	JAN 1-----	8,045	8,378	9,137	114 109
PLACED ON FEED	JAN 1 - MAR 31 1/--	5,291	5,196	5,029	95 97
FED CATTLE MARKETED	JAN 1 - MAR 31 1/--	4,790	4,762	4,742	99 100
OTHER DISAPPEARANCE	JAN 1 - MAR 31 2/--	294	329	368	125 112
ON FEED	APR 1-----	8,252	8,483	9,056	110 107
KINDS ON FEED APR 1					
STEERS AND STEER CALVES-----		5,339	5,457	5,962	112 109
HEIFERS AND HEIFER CALVES-----		2,886	2,978	3,050	106 102
COWS AND OTHER-----		27	48	44	163 92
NUMBER ON FEED BY WEIGHT GROUPS APR 1					
STEERS AND STEER CALVES					
LESS THAN 500 POUNDS-----		140	152	148	106 97
500-699 POUNDS-----		653	659	642	98 97
700-899 POUNDS-----		2,134	2,142	2,287	107 107
900-1099 POUNDS-----		1,930	2,028	2,256	117 111
1100 POUNDS AND OVER-----		482	476	629	130 132
HEIFERS AND HEIFER CALVES					
LESS THAN 500 POUNDS-----		57	73	70	123 96
500-699 POUNDS-----		596	610	570	96 93
700-899 POUNDS-----		1,479	1,513	1,501	101 99
900-1099 POUNDS-----		690	727	815	118 112
1100 POUNDS AND OVER-----		64	55	94	147 171
MARKETINGS	APR - JUN 3/--	5,123	5,149	5,470	107 106

- 1/ INCLUDES CATTLE PLACED ON FEED AFTER BEGINNING OF QUARTER AND MARKETED BEFORE END OF QUARTER.
- 2/ INCLUDES DEATH LOSSES, MOVEMENT FROM FEEDLOTS TO PASTURES AND SHIPMENTS TO OTHER FEEDLOTS FOR FURTHER FEEDING.
- 3/ TOTAL MARKETINGS INCLUDING THOSE PLACED ON FEED AFTER APR 1 AND MARKETED BEFORE JUN 30 FOR PREVIOUS YRS.; EXPECTED TOTAL MARKETINGS INCLUDING AN ALLOWANCE FOR THOSE PLACED ON FEED AFTER APR 1 AND MARKETED BEFORE JUN 30 FOR CURRENT YEAR.

CATTLE ON FEED:NUMBER ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS AND OTHER DISAPPEARANCE,
BY STATES, OCT 1 TO APR 1

STATE	NUMBER ON FEED			PLACED			MARKETED			OTHER DISAPPEAR.		
	1989:	1990:	90/89:	1989:	1990:	90/89:	1989:	1990:	90/89:	1989:	1990:	90/89:
	1000	HEAD	PCT	1000	HEAD	PCT	1000	HEAD	PCT	1000	HEAD	PCT
	OCT 1			DURING OCT			DURING OCT			DURING OCT		
AZ	193	180	93	62	46	74	18	20	111	1	2	200
CA	495	450	91	100	95	95	80	70	88	20	15	75
CO	750	795	106	345	360	104	190	180	95	5	10	200
IA	720	775	108	240	260	108	185	190	103	5	5	100
KS	1,410	1,570	111	485	530	109	325	310	95	10	10	100
NE	1,670	1,780	107	670	760	113	380	370	97	10	20	200
TX	1,720	2,120	123	750	700	93	450	465	103	20	25	125
7 STS:	6,958	7,670	110	2,652	2,751	104	1,628	1,605	99	71	87	123
	NOV 1			DURING NOV			DURING NOV			DURING NOV		
AZ	236	204	86	41	42	102	25	17	68	1	5	500
CA	495	460	93	110	95	86	90	70	78	25	15	60
CO	900	965	107	220	225	102	150	150	100	10	15	150
IA	770	840	109	260	295	113	155	170	110	5	5	100
KS	1,560	1,780	114	370	340	92	310	305	98	20	15	75
NE	1,950	2,150	110	600	600	100	440	410	93	10	20	200
TX	2,000	2,330	117	400	410	103	320	390	122	20	20	100
7 STS:	7,911	8,729	110	2,001	2,007	100	1,490	1,512	101	91	95	104
	DEC 1			DURING DEC			DURING DEC			DURING DEC		
AZ	251	224	89	27	28	104	23	14	61	2	6	300
CA	490	470	96	95	70	74	80	80	100	15	20	133
CO	960	1,025	107	110	135	123	160	145	91	10	10	100
IA	870	960	110	240	220	92	120	110	92	10	20	200
KS	1,600	1,800	113	345	290	84	335	320	96	15	10	67
NE	2,100	2,320	110	370	400	108	390	370	95	20	30	150
TX	2,060	2,330	113	350	335	96	295	310	105	15	25	167
7 STS:	8,331	9,129	110	1,537	1,478	96	1,403	1,349	96	87	121	139

CATTLE ON FEED:NUMBER ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS AND OTHER DISAPPEARANCE,
BY STATES, OCT 1 TO APR 1

	1990:			1991:91/90:			1990:			1991:91/90		
	JAN 1			DURING JAN			DURING JAN			DURING JAN		
AZ	253	232	92	26	26	100	24	27	113	9	3	33
CA	490	440	90	80	85	106	75	70	93	30	15	50
CO	900	1,005	112	220	180	82	230	235	102	10	10	100
IA	980	1,050	107	185	165	89	125	125	100	10	15	150
KS	1,595	1,760	110	440	420	95	410	410	100	10	10	100
NE	2,060	2,320	113	530	530	100	440	450	102	30	50	167
TX	2,100	2,330	111	425	385	91	340	390	115	15	15	100
7 STS:	8,378	9,137	109	1,906	1,791	94	1,644	1,707	104	114	118	104
	FEB 1			DURING FEB			DURING FEB			DURING FEB		
AZ	246	228	93	18	20	111	25	26	104	5	3	60
CA	465	440	95	60	75	125	75	65	87	20	15	75
CO	880	940	107	160	170	106	200	180	90	10	10	100
IA	1,030	1,075	104	115	115	100	130	110	85	5	10	200
KS	1,615	1,760	109	345	325	94	335	335	100	10	10	100
NE	2,120	2,350	111	400	440	110	390	370	95	30	50	167
TX	2,170	2,310	106	290	320	110	345	395	114	15	15	100
7 STS:	8,526	9,103	107	1,388	1,465	106	1,500	1,481	99	95	113	119
	MAR 1			DURING MAR			DURING MAR			DURING MAR		
AZ	234	219	94	22	18	82	33	34	103	10	2	20
CA	430	435	101	60	60	100	70	65	93	30	35	117
CO	830	920	111	270	235	87	195	190	97	5	15	300
IA	1,010	1,070	106	150	135	90	130	105	81	10	10	100
KS	1,615	1,740	108	425	370	87	335	325	97	5	15	300
NE	2,100	2,370	113	500	470	94	410	380	93	40	40	100
TX	2,100	2,220	106	475	485	102	445	455	102	20	20	100
7 STS:	8,319	8,974	108	1,902	1,773	93	1,618	1,554	96	120	137	114
	APR 1											
AZ	213	201	94									
CA	390	395	101									
CO	900	950	106									
IA	1,020	1,090	107									
KS	1,700	1,770	104									
NE	2,150	2,420	113									
TX	2,110	2,230	106									
7 STS:	8,483	9,056	107									

**CATTLE ON FEED: NUMBER ON FEED, PLACEMENTS, MARKETINGS AND OTHER DISAPPEARANCE,
7 STATES, MAR 1 TO APR 1**

ITEM	NUMBER			: 1991 AS % OF	
	1989	1990	1991	1989	1990
	1000 HEAD			PERCENT	
ON FEED MAR 1 1/	7,931	8,319	8,974	113	108
PLACED ON FEED DURING MAR	1,975	1,902	1,773	90	93
FED CATTLE MARKETED DURING MAR	1,579	1,618	1,554	98	96
OTHER DISAPPEARANCE DURING MAR 2/	75	120	137	183	114
ON FEED APR 1 1/	8,252	8,483	9,056	110	107

- 1/ CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED ARE ANIMALS FOR SLAUGHTER MARKET BEING FED A RATION OF GRAIN OR OTHER CONCENTRATES AND ARE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE A CARCASS THAT WILL GRADE SELECT OR BETTER.
- 2/ INCLUDES DEATH LOSSES, MOVEMENT FROM FEEDLOTS TO PASTURES AND SHIPMENTS TO OTHER FEEDLOTS FOR FURTHER FEEDING.

CATTLE ON FEED ESTIMATES - METHODOLOGY AND RELIABILITY

SURVEY PROCEDURES: Primary data used to determine these estimates were obtained from feedlot operations across the 13 States included in this report. A complete enumeration is attempted for feedlots exceeding a specified head capacity which varies by State. A sample of smaller lots is included in the survey. Data were obtained from 5,400 operations that accounted for 75 percent of the total cattle on feed inventory. Not all feedlots are able to provide information on steer and heifer weight breakdowns; 62 percent of the tabulated cattle on feed inventory was reported by weight group.

Great care was exercised to ensure all feedlots had a chance to be included in the survey and that none were duplicated. Care is also taken to ensure cattle being custom fed are only reported once, and cattle being backgrounded for later placement in another feedlot are excluded.

DATA COMPARABILITY: There is considerable attention to detail to ensure survey results are consistent from month to month and quarter to quarter. Feedlots exhibiting marketing and placement activities different from usual are recontacted to verify the reported data.

As feeding practices and basic animal genetics change, it is occasionally necessary to evaluate the survey procedures to ensure they correctly measure the current situation. It has become increasingly difficult to determine when animals were to be counted as being "on feed." During 1990, a modification was made in the on feed definition. Considerable effort went into interviewing individual feedlots to evaluate alternatives to the definition used at that time. As a result of this effort, the following modification was made in 1990.

Previous Definition: All cattle and calves being fattened on full feed for slaughter market.

Current Definition: All cattle and calves being fed a ration of grain, silage, hay, and/or a protein supplement to be marketed from your feedlot(s) for slaughter.

The new definition was tested and evaluated in 6 of the 13 States. The conclusion was that data could be reported more consistently and accurately over time. The new definition was implemented in Nebraska in February 1990, in Arizona, Colorado, and Kansas in June 1990, in California, Idaho, Iowa, Minnesota, South Dakota, and Texas in July 1990. By October 1990, all 13 States were using the new definition.

RELIABILITY: Sound statistical methodology is employed to derive the published estimates from the reported data. A required assumption is that the feedlots not reporting exhibit marketing and placement patterns similar to those reporting. Weight group estimates are subject to the same assumption. Since not all feedlots reporting cattle on feed inventories report the weight group breakdowns, those data are not as reliable as the cattle on feed inventory estimates.

The relationship of expected marketings to actual marketings and marketings to slaughter are also carefully monitored over time. When current estimates show departures from historic relationships, additional analysis is conducted to determine why. Several factors such as lighter placement weights, longer finishing times, and heavier marketing weights can all make it more difficult to interpret the survey results. The wider distribution of cattle on feed across the weight groups and difficulties obtaining weight group breakdowns will affect the reliability of those estimates.

Questions about the content of this report or about the methodology used may be directed to:

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