

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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CATTLE ON FEED, AUGUST 1, 1949

The number of cattle on feed for market in the 11 Corn Belt States on August 1 this year is estimated to be 24 percent larger than the relatively small number on August 1, 1948, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. While estimates of actual numbers of cattle on feed have not been made for the August 1 date, indications are that the increase represents approximately 255,000 head.

In the east Corn Belt the number on feed is 13 percent larger than last year, while the west Corn Belt shows an increase of 28 percent. All States show more cattle on feed than last August except Indiana and Kansas, where numbers are down 5 percent, and Missouri where numbers are unchanged. Last August, both Indiana and Kansas showed increases when most other States experienced moderate to substantial declines. Feeding operations were up substantially from the low level last summer in Iowa and Nebraska, which show increases of 35 and 31 percent, respectively. The August 1 number in South Dakota was 60 percent above a year earlier, while Minnesota was up 25 percent. Feeding was 18 percent above last year in Illinois, while other increases in the east Corn Belt were: Ohio 8 percent, Michigan 30 percent and Wisconsin 15 percent. In Colorado, numbers on feed August 1 also were larger than a year earlier. Receipts since January have been larger than last year. More trucked-in cattle and cattle wintered on pastures and field feeds have been put in Colorado feed lots this spring and summer than last.

Reports from Corn Belt cattle feeders on the length of time cattle had been on feed show a larger percentage of the total on feed over 4 months than was reported last year. The estimated percentage of the August 1 total on feed over 4 months this year was 57 percent compared with 47 percent last year. Cattle feeders intend to market a larger percentage of the total before October 1 than was reported last year.

A smaller proportion of the marketings during the period April 1 - August 1 was on strictly short term feeding than last year when this practice was more prevalent than usual. The percentage of total marketings of fed cattle that were placed on feed after April 1 and marketed before August 1 was 8 percent. Last year, it was reported at 13 percent of the total. Total marketings of fed cattle during the four-month period have been substantially larger than last year.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt during the first 7 months of 1949 were larger than in the corresponding months of 1948. Total shipments for the period, both from public markets and direct, into 8 States for which such records are available were about 15 percent above last year and above the average shipments for the period. The increase was not consistent by months with January and May showing smaller shipments than in the previous year, but increases were registered in the other five months. June shipments were the second largest on record for the month and July, the third largest.

Records of shipments of stocker and feeder cattle from 4 markets for the first 7 months show a larger proportion of the 1949 shipments were heavier-weight steers (over 800 pounds) than was the case last year. The number of steers in all weight classes showed substantial increases for the period, but the number of calves was down 6 percent. During July this year, the average cost of stocker and feeder steers shipped from the 4 markets was \$6.87 per hundred pounds less than in July 1948.

The estimated number of cattle on feed August 1, 1949, as a percentage of a year earlier in the different States is as follows:

Ohio	108	Minnesota	125
Indiana	95	Iowa <u>1/</u>	135
Illinois <u>1/</u>	118	Missouri	100
Michigan	130	South Dakota	160
Wisconsin	115	Nebraska <u>1/</u>	131
		Kansas	95

Corn Belt (weighted) 124

1/ Estimated percentage in Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska based on special July 1 surveys.