

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 14, 1953

CATTLE ON FEED, APRIL 1, 1953

The number of cattle on feed for market in the 11 Corn Belt States on April 1 was 19 percent more than a year earlier, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. The increase was probably equivalent to about 570,000 head. Increases occurred in all of the Corn Belt States except Kansas. Considering information available on several important States outside the Corn Belt, it appears that the number of cattle on feed April 1 for the country as a whole was up 12-14 percent from April 1 a year ago, compared with an increase of 16 percent on January 1.

The increase of 19 percent in the number of cattle on feed on April 1 for the 11 Corn Belt States compares with an increase of 23 percent for this area on January 1. The eastern Corn Belt States showed 14 percent more cattle on feed on April 1 than a year ago, with increases ranging from 10 percent in Wisconsin to 20 percent in Indiana. Ohio and Michigan each reported increases of 15 percent, while Illinois showed an increase of 12 percent. The western Corn Belt States showed a 20 percent increase in cattle on feed for market. Kansas showed a decrease of 4 percent, while other States in this region reported increases as follows: Nebraska, 35 percent; South Dakota, 22 percent; Iowa and Missouri, 20 percent each; and Minnesota, 11 percent.

In California, the quarterly survey which is being made for the first time in 1953, revealed the number of cattle on feed on April 1 to be 211,000 head, compared with 327,000 head on January 1. The January 1 inventory was 15 percent below January 1, 1952. The number of cattle on feed on April 1 in Idaho was 67,000 head, compared with 88,000 head on January 1 this year and 51,000 on feed a year ago. Although no survey was made in Colorado, information on marketings and replacements indicate about 10 to 15 percent fewer cattle on feed on April 1 than a year ago. This compares with a decrease of 1 percent on January 1, 1953 from January 1, 1952. Marketings of fed cattle since January 1 have been larger than for the first three months of 1952, but the movement of replacement cattle into Colorado feeding areas since January 1 has been much smaller.

Corn Belt cattle feeders who reported the month in which they expect to market fed cattle indicate that 46 percent will be marketed before July 1 this year compared with 42 percent reported last April. Idaho feeders report they intend to market 68 percent of their April 1 inventories before July 1, compared with 80 percent reported last April. California feeders intend to market 75 percent of the number on feed April 1 by the end of June.

In the 11 Corn Belt States about 76 percent of the total cattle on feed April 1 were reported to have been on feed over 3 months, compared with 70 percent last April and 65 percent two years ago. California feeders reported 43 percent of their cattle as being on feed over 3 months, while Idaho reported 65 percent as being on feed over 3 months.

The proportion of steers on feed this year in the 11 Corn Belt States was 68 percent compared with 69 percent a year earlier. Heifers accounted for 15 percent of the total compared with 13 percent a year ago, while calves comprised 17 percent the same as a year earlier. In Idaho the classification of the cattle on feed was as follows: steers, 60 percent; heifers, 26 percent; calves, 11 percent; and cows and other cattle, 3 percent. California feeders reported 77 percent as steers; 15 percent, heifers; 6 percent, calves and 2 percent, cows and other cattle.

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In 8 States where corn stocks were reported, the supply of corn on feeders' farms on April 1 was larger than last year. In general, weather during the period January through March was favorable for feeding operations.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into 9 Corn Belt States during the first 3 months of the year were 403,000 head, about 13 percent lower than last year's shipments. Shipments into Ohio were up 48 percent and into Minnesota, up 7 percent. The remaining 7 States showed decreases as follows: Illinois and Indiana each down 3 percent; Wisconsin, 15 percent; Michigan, 16 percent; Iowa, 19 percent; Nebraska, 20 percent and South Dakota, 24 percent.

The January-March average cost of feeder and stocker cattle shipped from 8 markets for which records are available was \$20.80 per hundred pounds compared with \$30.82 a year earlier. The average cost of feeders for the period July-December 1952 at these markets was \$23.81 per hundred pounds compared with \$32.53 a year earlier. The January-March 1953 average price of choice beef steers sold for slaughter at three mid-western markets was \$23.86 per hundred pounds compared with \$34.07 a year earlier.

The following table shows by States, the estimated percentages of cattle on feed April 1 this year compared with April 1, 1952.

Ohio	115	Minnesota	111
Indiana	120	Iowa	120
Illinois	112	Missouri	120
Michigan	115	South Dakota	122
Wisconsin	110	Nebraska	135
		Kansas	96
Eastern Corn Belt	114	Western Corn Belt	120

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