

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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CATTLE ON FEED - JULY 1, 1953

The number of cattle on feed for market in the eleven Corn Belt States on July 1 this year is estimated to be 8 percent larger than the number on feed on July 1, 1952, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. This is the largest number on feed on July 1 for the post-war years. While estimates of the number of cattle on feed have not been made for all States, indications point to an increase of nearly 190,000 head in the Corn Belt. Considering information available on several important States outside the Corn Belt, it appears that the number of cattle on feed July 1 for the country as a whole was up 4 to 5 percent from July 1 a year ago, compared with an increase of 16 percent on January 1 and a 12 to 14 percent increase on April 1.

In the eastern Corn Belt, the number on feed is 5 percent larger than last year, while the western Corn Belt shows an increase of 10 percent. All States show the same or more cattle on feed than last July. Feeding operations are up substantially from a year ago in Nebraska, which showed an increase of 24 percent, and in Ohio which showed an increase of 30 percent. Feeding was 17 percent above last year in South Dakota, while other increases in the Corn Belt are: Wisconsin, 15 percent; Missouri, 10 percent; Iowa, 6 percent; Michigan, 5 percent; Illinois and Minnesota each 4 percent. In Indiana and Kansas the numbers were unchanged.

In California, the quarterly survey which is being made for the first time in 1953, showed 533,000 cattle on feed on July 1. This compares with 327,000 head on feed on January 1 and 211,000 head on feed on April 1. Cattle feeding operations in Colorado on July 1 were from 25 to 30 percent below a year ago. The receipts of replacement cattle into Colorado feed lots since January 1 have been smaller than during the same period last year, while marketings since January 1 have been larger.

Reports from Corn Belt cattle feeders on the length of time cattle had been on feed showed a smaller percentage of the total on feed less than 3 months. They also showed a smaller percentage as being on feed over 6 months, while the percentage on feed from 3 to 6 months was up from last July. Comparing this July with a year ago, the percentages of the total on feed are as follows: less than 3 months, 26 percent this year and 27 percent last year; 3 to 6 months, 37 percent and 35 percent; over 6 months, 37 percent and 38 percent. California feeders reported 20 percent of their cattle as being on feed over 3 months.

About 76 percent of the July inventory is expected to be marketed before October 1 if July intentions are carried out. The percentage of the total cattle intended for market in July and August is larger than reported a year ago, whereas the percentage for September is below a year ago. California feeders intend to market 87 percent of the number on feed on July 1 by the end of September.

Strictly short term feeding is at the lowest level in several seasons. Only 2 percent of the fed cattle marketed between April 1 and July 1 had been placed on feed after April 1. Total marketings of fed cattle during this 3-month period were substantially higher than last year.

(OVER)

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt during April-June were greater than a year ago. Total shipments for the 3-month period from public stockyards and "directs" into the nine States for which such records are available were 3 percent above the same period last year. Inshipments since January were 5 percent smaller than the same period last year, with increases being registered in January, April and June, and decreases in February, March and May.

Records of shipments of stocker and feeder cattle from the eight leading markets since January 1 show that a larger portion of the 1953 shipments of steers were light weight steers (under 700 pounds). The total number of steers shipped from these markets was smaller than for the same period last year. However, the number weighing 700 pounds or less was slightly above a year ago. The number of feeder calves shipped from these markets during the period January to June was also greater than a year earlier. During June, the average cost of stocker and feeder steers shipped from the eight markets was \$12.65 per hundred pounds less than in June 1952.

Cattle on feed July 1, 1953 as a percentage of a year earlier are as follows:

Ohio	120	Minnesota	104
Indiana	100	Iowa	106
Illinois	104	Missouri	110
Michigan	105	South Dakota	117
Wisconsin	115	Nebraska	124
		Kansas	100
Eastern Corn Belt	105	Western Corn Belt	110

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