

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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CATTLE ON FEED, APRIL 1, 1952

The number of cattle on feed for market in the 11 Corn Belt States on April 1 was 3 percent more than a year earlier, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. The increase was probably equivalent to about 80,000 head. Increases occurred in all of the Corn Belt States except Ohio, Missouri and Kansas.

The increase of 3 percent in the number of cattle on feed on April 1 for the 11 Corn Belt States compares with an increase of 6 percent on January 1. The eastern Corn Belt States showed 9 percent more cattle on feed on April 1 than a year ago, with increases of 15 percent in Indiana and Michigan and 10 percent in Illinois and Wisconsin. The western Corn Belt States show about as many cattle on feed for market as a year earlier. Increases of 3 percent in Iowa and South Dakota, and 2 percent in Nebraska and Minnesota were offset by declines of 8 percent in Kansas and 10 percent in Missouri.

In California, the number of cattle on feed on April 1 is 20 percent larger than a year ago. This compares with an increase of 60 percent on January 1, 1952 over the preceding January. Imports of stocker and feeder cattle into California during January and February were about 10 percent smaller than for the same months a year earlier. The number of cattle on feed on April 1 in Idaho was 51,000 head, 18 percent below the 62,000 head on feed April 1, 1951. Idaho feeders report they intend to market about 80 percent of the number before July 1, compared with 71 percent a year ago. Reports from Colorado indicate there are about 10 percent more cattle on feed on April 1 than a year ago. This compares with an increase of 31 percent on January 1, 1952 over January 1, 1951. Marketings of fed cattle since January 1 have been larger than for the first three months of 1951. The movement of replacement cattle into the Colorado feeding areas since January 1 has been much smaller than the record replacements for the same period last year.

Corn Belt cattle feeders who reported the month in which they expect to market fed cattle indicate that a slightly smaller percentage will be marketed before July 1 this year than was reported in April last year. The reported percentage to be marketed before July 1 this year is 42 percent, compared with 44 percent reported last April. However, producers marketed their fed cattle during April-June 1951 at a slightly faster rate than intended last April 1. About 70 percent of the total cattle on feed April 1 were reported to have been on feed over 3 months, compared with 65 percent last April and 67 percent two years ago.

The proportion of steers on feed this year in the 11 Corn Belt States was 69 percent compared with 67 percent a year earlier. Heifers accounted for 13 percent of the total, compared with 12 percent a year ago, while calves comprised 17 percent compared with 20 percent on April 1 last year.

In 8 States where corn stocks were reported, the supply of corn on feeders' farms on April 1 was less than last year. In general, weather conditions since January 1 have been favorable for feeding operations. The main exceptions are parts of Nebraska and South Dakota where cold weather and snow have held down gains.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into 9 Corn Belt States during the first 3 months of the year were 461,000 head, about 1 percent lower than last year's shipments. Shipments into Indiana were up 80 percent and into Minnesota up 50 percent.

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Michigan showed a 49 percent increase, while Wisconsin was up 22 percent; Ohio, up 17 percent; and Iowa, up 10 percent. The remaining States showed decreases as follows: Illinois, down 2 percent; South Dakota, 11 percent; and Nebraska, 27 percent.

The January-March average cost of feeder and stocker cattle shipped from 5 markets for which records are available was \$30.89 per hundred pounds, compared with \$32.74 a year earlier.

The following table shows by States, the estimated percentage of cattle on feed April 1 this year compared with April 1, 1951.

Ohio	95	Minnesota	102
Indiana	115	Iowa	103
Illinois	110	Missouri	90
Michigan	115	South Dakota	103
Wisconsin	110	Nebraska	102
		Kansas	92
Eastern Corn Belt	109	Western Corn Belt	100
	Corn Belt		103