

CATTLE ON FEED



April 14, 1954

APRIL-1, 1954

The number of cattle on feed for market in the 11 Corn Belt States on April 1 was 1 percent less than a year earlier, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The decrease was probably equivalent to about 30,000 head. 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 down 2-3 percent from April 1 a year ago compared with a decrease of 9 percent on January 1. The number of cattle placed on feed during the January-March period was sharply higher, while marketings of fed cattle were only slightly higher.

The decrease of 1 percent in the number of cattle on feed on April 1 for the 11 Corn Belt States compares with a decrease of 10 percent for this area on January 1. The eastern Corn Belt States showed 1 percent more cattle on feed on April 1 than a year ago. Wisconsin and Illinois reported decreases of 10 and 3 percent, respectively, while other States reported increases as follows: Ohio, 15 percent; Indiana, 5 percent; and Michigan, 8 percent. The western Corn Belt States showed a 1 percent decrease in cattle on feed for market. Missouri and Kansas reported increases of 2 and 6 percent respectively. Minnesota reported the same as a year ago, while Iowa showed a decrease of 2 percent, Nebraska down 3 percent and South Dakota down 7 percent.

In California, the number of cattle on feed on April 1 totaled 206,000 head, compared with 350,000 head on feed on January 1 and 211,000 head on feed on April 1, 1953. The number of cattle on feed on April 1 in Idaho was 74,000 head, compared with 95,000 head on January 1 this year and 67,000 on feed a year ago. Although no survey was made in Colorado, information on marketings and replacements indicate about 10 percent fewer cattle on feed on April 1 than a year ago. This compares with a decrease of 17 percent on January 1, 1954 from January 1, 1953. Marketings of fed cattle since January 1 have been slightly smaller than for the first three months of 1953, and the movement of replacement cattle into Colorado feeding areas since January 1 has been much larger.

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, the same as reported a year earlier. Feeders intend to market 14 percent of the April 1 number on feed during April, 16 percent during May, and 16 percent in June. This compares with 15 percent of the April 1, 1953 number intended to be marketed in April, 16 percent in May, and 15 percent in June.

All of the decrease in the number of cattle on feed April 1 was in the number on feed over 3 months which is indicated to be down 14 percent. The number on feed less than 3 months was up about 40 percent. In the 11 Corn Belt States about 66 percent of the total cattle on feed April 1 was reported to have been on feed over 3 months, compared with 76 percent last April and 70 percent two years ago. The proportion of steers on feed this year in the 11 Corn Belt States was 69 percent compared with 68 percent a year earlier. Heifers accounted for 17

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
CROP REPORTING BOARD

Agriculture - Washington

percent of the total compared with 15 percent a year ago, while calves comprised 14 percent this year compared with 17 percent a year earlier.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into 9 Corn Belt States during the first three months of the year were 51 percent larger than last year's shipments. Shipments were up in all States except Wisconsin which showed a decrease of 5 percent. Increases in the other 8 States were as follows: Nebraska, 100 percent, Minnesota, 63 percent; Iowa and Michigan each 59 percent; South Dakota, 21 percent; Illinois, 18 percent; Indiana, 9 percent; and Ohio, 7 percent.

The January-March average cost of feeder and stocker cattle shipped from 8 markets for which records are available was \$19.19 per hundred pounds compared with \$20.80 a year earlier. The average cost of feeders for the period July-December 1953 at these markets was \$16.23 per hundred pounds compared with \$23.81 a year earlier. The January-March 1954 average price of choice beef steers sold for slaughter at three mid-western markets was \$23.54 per hundred pounds compared with \$23.86 a year earlier.

The following table shows, by States, the estimated percentages of cattle on feed April 1 this year compared with April 1, 1953.

Ohio	115	Minnesota	100
Indiana	105	Iowa	98
Illinois	97	Missouri	102
Michigan	108	South Dakota	93
Wisconsin	90	Nebraska	97
Eastern Corn Belt	101	Kansas	106
		Western Corn Belt	99
	Corn Belt		99