

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

April 14, 1955

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED APRIL 1, 1955

The number of cattle and calves on feed for market in the 14 major feeding States on April 1 was estimated at 4,547,000 head, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was an increase of about 12 percent from the previous year and compares with an increase of 8 percent in these 14 States on January 1. The April 1 number on feed is 11 percent below the previous January 1 level. In the 3 Corn Belt States -- Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska -- where comparable data for 1954 are available, the number of cattle placed on feed during the January-March period was 10 percent higher than for the corresponding period a year earlier, while marketings of fed cattle were 2 percent lower.

The number of cattle on feed in 9 Corn Belt States on April 1 was estimated at 3,671,000 head, 8 percent larger than a year earlier. For the 11 Corn Belt States, including an allowance for Michigan and Wisconsin, the number on feed was 8 percent larger than on April 1, 1954. The April 1 number in 9 States was 6 percent below the 3,913,000 on feed January 1. Missouri was the only State showing a decline from a year ago. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt States during the January-March period were 11 percent larger than for the same period a year ago.

In California, the number of cattle on feed April 1 totaled 318,000 head compared with 467,000 on feed January 1 and 206,000 head on feed April 1, 1954. The number on feed in Idaho was 102,000 compared with 135,000 on feed January 1 and 85,000 on feed a year ago. Colorado had 220,000 on feed April 1 compared with 275,000 on January 1 and 183,000 on April 1 last year. Arizona had 155,000 on feed, compared with 169,000 on January 1, while Texas had 81,000 on feed April 1 and 126,000 on January 1. No estimates have been made for Arizona and Texas of the number on feed April 1, 1954.

Detailed estimates showing classes of cattle, their weight, expected marketings and length of time on feed are presented in this report for 14 States for April 1, 1955. In five of these States -- Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Idaho and California -- similar data are available for 1954.

Cattle feeders in the five States where comparable data for April 1, 1954 are available expected to market about 45 percent of the cattle that were on feed April 1 during the next 3 months, with 14 percent in April, 16 percent in May, and 15 percent in June. This is at a faster rate than reported a year ago, when 43 percent was expected to be marketed during the April-June period. The number of cattle on feed under 3 months was 19 percent larger than a year ago, reflecting the larger placements since January 1. The number on feed 3 - 6 months amounted to 1,629,000 head, 13 percent above the 1,443,000 head on hand a year earlier. The number of cattle that have been on feed over 6 months is estimated at only 78,000 head, compared with 107,000 a year ago. The five States showed a considerable increase in the number of heifers on feed, but the proportion of heifers on April 1 was somewhat less than on January 1, reflecting heavier marketings of fed heifers in the first 3 months of this year compared with last year. Heifers represented 16 percent of the total this year compared with 15 percent last year. Steers accounted for 65 percent of the total this year compared with 66 percent a year ago; calves, 18 percent and 18 percent; cows and other, 1 percent and 1 percent,

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TABLE 1: CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED ^{1/}

State	April 1, 1955	January 1, 1955	April 1, 1954	Percent ^{2/}
<u>Thousand head</u>				
Illinois	555	578	500	111
Iowa	1,256	1,174	1,163	108
Nebraska	588	619	534	110
Total 3 States	2,399	2,371	2,197	109
Ohio	148	164	132	112
Indiana	231	272	201	115
Minnesota	290	334	282	103
Missouri	265	331	298	89
South Dakota	190	214	164	116
Kansas	148	227	123	120
Total 9 N.C. States	3,671	3,913	3,397	108
Texas	81	126	^{1/}	---
Idaho	102	135	⁸⁵	120
Colorado	220	275	183	120
Arizona	155	169	^{1/}	---
California	318	467	²⁰⁶	154
Total 5 Western States	876	1,172	---	---
Total 14 States	4,547	5,085	---	37112
Michigan	^{4/}	114	^{4/}	107
Wisconsin	^{4/}	108	^{4/}	112

^{1/}Estimates include only cattle and calves being fattened for market as a more or less distinct agricultural enterprise, and excludes small operations incidental to dairy and general farming. Cattle thus fed are presumed to produce carcasses that will grade good or better.

^{2/}April 1, 1955 as a percent of April 1, 1954.

^{3/}Allowances made for Texas and Arizona in computing percentage change for 14 States.

^{4/}Data not available.

TABLE 2. INVENTORIES, MARKETINGS AND PLACEMENTS - 3 STATES
(Illinois, Iowa and Nebraska)

January 1 - March 31

	1955	1954	Percent Change
Cattle and Calves on Feed - January 1	2,371,000	2,265,000	105
Total Fed Cattle Marketings January 1-Mar. 31	890,000	904,000	98
Cattle and Calves Placed on Feed Jan. 1-Mar. 31	918,000	836,000	110
Short-Fed Cattle Marketed Jan. 1 - Mar. 31 1/	37,000	41,000	90
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Cattle and Calves on Feed April 1	2,399,000	2,197,000	109

TABLE 3. INVENTORIES, MARKETINGS AND PLACEMENTS - 14 STATES
January 1 - March 31

	1955	1954 2/
Cattle and Calves on Feed-January 1	5,085,000	---
Total Fed Cattle Marketings January - Mar. 31	2,294,000	---
Cattle and Calves Placed on Feed Jan. 1 - Mar. 31	1,756,000	---
Short Fed Cattle Marketed Jan. 1 - Mar. 31 1/	117,000	---
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Cattle and Calves on Feed April 1	4,547,000	---

1/Short fed Cattle are defined as those placed on feed after January 1 and marketed by March 31. 2/Not available.

TABLE 4. CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, BY WEIGHT GROUPS, APRIL 1 (000)

State	Over 1,300 Pounds		1,100-1,300 Pounds		900-1,100 Pounds		600-900 Pounds		Under 600 Pounds	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
	Illinois	--	5	22	20	122	110	289	240	122
Iowa	1	1	63	70	326	279	552	558	314	255
Nebraska	4	2	18	27	147	147	284	214	135	144
Total 3 States	5	8	103	117	595	536	1,125	1,012	571	524
% of Total	--	--	4	5	25	25	47	46	24	24
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Idaho	--	--	8	3	35	29	37	35	22	18
California	3	--	16	8	102	70	143	95	54	33
Total 5 States	8	8	127	128	732	635	1,305	1,142	647	575
% of Total	--	--	5	5	26	26	46	46	23	23
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Ohio 1/	--	--	1	--	33	--	93	--	21	--
Indiana 1/	--	--	5	--	44	--	129	--	53	--
Minnesota 1/	--	--	12	--	81	--	122	--	75	--
Missouri 1/	--	--	3	--	40	--	140	--	82	--
South Dakota 1/	2	--	9	--	46	--	78	--	55	--
Kansas 1/	2	--	9	--	37	--	81	--	19	--
Total 9	--	--	42	--	273	--	543	--	235	--
N.C. States	9	--	142	--	876	--	1,768	--	876	--
% of Total	--	--	4	--	24	--	48	--	24	--
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Texas 1/	--	--	1	--	13	--	44	--	23	--
Colorado 1/	--	--	18	--	81	--	97	--	24	--
Arizona 1/	--	--	4	--	30	--	75	--	46	--
Total 14 States	12	--	189	--	1,137	--	2,164	--	1,045	--
% of Total	--	--	4	--	25	--	48	--	23	--

1/Data for 1954 not available.

TABLE 5. KINDS OF CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, APRIL 1, (000)

STATE	Steers		Heifers		Calves		Cows and others	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
Illinois	366	325	67	65	122	105	---	5
Iowa	816	791	186	160	251	209	3	3
Nebraska	341	326	129	85	112	118	6	5
Total 3 States	1,523	1,442	382	310	485	432	9	13
% of Total	64	66	16	14	20	20	---	---
Idaho	72	54	23	16	6	14	1	1
California	236	155	54	35	25	12	3	4
Total 5 States	1,831	1,651	459	361	516	458	13	18
% of Total	65	66	16	15	18	18	1	1
Ohio 1/	109	---	20	---	18	---	1	---
Indiana 1/	139	---	55	---	35	---	2	---
Minnesota 1/	191	---	44	---	52	---	3	---
Missouri 1/	125	---	61	---	74	---	5	---
South Dakota 1/	106	---	30	---	50	---	4	---
Kansas 1/	89	---	46	---	12	---	1	---
Total 9 N.C. States	2,282	---	638	---	726	---	25	---
% of Total	62	---	17	---	20	---	1	---
Texas 1/	43	---	22	---	14	---	2	---
Colorado 1/	103	---	95	---	22	---	---	---
Arizona 1/	89	---	26	---	37	---	3	---
Total 14 States	2,825	---	858	---	830	---	34	---
% of Total	62	---	19	---	18	---	1	---

1/ Data for 1954 not available.

TABLE 6. LENGTH OF TIME ON FEED, APRIL 1 (000)

STATE	Less than 3 mos.		3-6 months		More than 6 months	
	1955	1954	1955	1954	1955	1954
Illinois	161	165	366	305	28	30
Iowa	414	395	804	721	38	47
Nebraska	306	235	276	272	6	27
Total 3 States	881	795	1,446	1,298	72	104
% of Total	37	36	60	59	3	5
Idaho	28	23	68	59	6	3
California	203	120	1/115	1/86	---	---
Total 5 States	1,112	938	1,629	1,443	78	107
% of Total	39	38	58	58	3	4
Ohio 2/	31	---	102	---	15	---
Indiana 2/	48	---	169	---	14	---
Minnesota 2/	78	---	192	---	20	---
Missouri 2/	82	---	175	---	8	---
South Dakota 2/	57	---	122	---	11	---
Kansas 2/	49	---	95	---	4	---
Total 9 N.C. States	1,226	---	2,301	---	144	---
% of Total	33	---	63	---	4	---
Texas 2/	31	---	44	---	6	---
Colorado 2/	81	---	130	---	9	---
Arizona 2/	64	---	85	---	6	---
Total 14 States	1,633	---	2,743	---	171	---
% of Total	36	---	60	---	4	---

1/ Includes number on feed more than 6 months. California showed following numbers on feed this year and last year in thousands, respectively: Less than 30 days 73, 39; 30 to 60 days, 70, 31, 60 to 90 days 60, 50; 90 to 120 days 51, 45; 120 days plus 64, 41. 2/ Data for 1954 not available.

TABLE 7. EXPECTED MONTH OF MARKETING, 1955 (000)

State	April	May	June	Later
Illinois	67	77	67	344
Iowa	126	163	188	779
Nebraska	100	129	94	265
Total 3 States	293	369	349	1,388
% of Total	12	15	15	58
Idaho	19	20	22	41
California	86	67	63	102
Total 5 States	398	456	434	1,531
% of Total	14	16	15	55
Ohio	21	34	23	70
Indiana	33	46	32	120
Minnesota	35	29	38	188
Missouri	48	45	40	132
South Dakota	30	30	29	101
Kansas	46	41	28	33
Total 9 N.C. States	506	594	539	2,032
% of Total	14	16	15	55
Texas	25	21	17	18
Colorado	53	52	42	73
Arizona	40	38	32	45
Total 14 States	729	792	715	2,311
% of Total	16	17	16	51

(Comments continued)

The proportion of light weight cattle on feed in the five States was the same as a year earlier, with 23 percent weighing less than 600 pounds. Cattle weighing 600-900 pounds accounted for 46 percent of the total this year, the same as a year earlier, while those weighing over 900 pounds were 31 percent of the total in both years.

For the 14 States for which estimates are made this year, cattle feeders intend to market 49 percent of their cattle during the next 3 months, with 16 percent in April, 17 percent in May, and 16 percent in June. The remaining 51 percent is expected to be marketed after July 1. About 36 percent of the total had been on feed less than 3 months, 60 percent had been on feed 3 to 6 months, while only 4 percent were on feed more than 6 months. In these same States, steers represented 62 percent of total; heifers, 19 percent; calves, 18 percent; and other cattle, 1 percent. Cattle on feed weighing under 600 pounds comprised 23 percent of the total number on feed. Cattle weighing 600-900 pounds were 48 percent of the total, while those weighing over 900 pounds were 29 percent.