

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

April 19, 1950

CATTLE ON FEED - APRIL 1, 1950

The number of cattle on feed for market in the 11 Corn Belt States on April 1 showed an increase of 8 percent from a year earlier, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. The increase was probably equivalent to about 220,000 head.

The increase in feeding was not uniform over the Corn Belt. Of the 5 eastern Corn Belt States there were increases in Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin, while feeding in Illinois and Michigan was unchanged from a year earlier. In the 6 western Corn Belt States, Iowa, Missouri, and Nebraska showed increases in cattle on feed, while South Dakota showed no change and decreases were reported in Minnesota and Kansas.

In California, the number of cattle on feed on April 1 is estimated to be 42 percent larger than a year ago. Of the total on feed on April 1, about 85 percent were steers. Most of the cattle now on feed in California will probably be marketed during the next 60 days. Imports of stocker and feeder cattle during January and February were about double last year for the same months. The number of cattle on feed on April 1 in Idaho was 29 percent less than the number on feed on January 1 and farmers report they intend to market about 79 percent of the number before July 1. Reports from Colorado indicate there are about the same number of cattle on feed April 1 as a year earlier. The movement of replacement cattle into the Colorado feeding areas since January 1 has been much larger than last year. However, marketings of fed cattle since January 1 have been fairly heavy.

The increase of 8 percent on April 1 for the 11 Corn Belt States compares with an increase of 5 percent on January 1. During the period January-March the number of replacement cattle shipped into the Corn Belt States showed a marked increase of 33 percent over last year. Reports from cattle feeders show that cattle in all of the Corn Belt States were marketed more rapidly during the January-March period than was planned in January. The number of cattle still on feed on April 1 that were on feed January 1 was about 12 percent smaller than feeders in January expected to have on feed April 1.

Cattle feeders who reported the month in which they expect to market fed cattle said that a considerably larger percentage will be marketed after July 1 this year than was reported in April last year. The reported percentage to be marketed after July 1 this year is 58 percent compared with 51 percent last year, 50 percent two years ago, and the 1940-49 average of 50 percent. About 67 percent of the total cattle on feed April 1 were reported to have been on feed over 3 months, compared with 71 percent last April and 67 percent two years ago.

The proportion of steers on feed this year was smaller than last, being reported at 67 percent compared with 71 percent last year. Heifers comprised 11 percent of the total compared with 16 percent a year ago, while calves constituted 21 percent this year compared with 12 percent on April 1, 1949.

In 8 of the States where corn stocks were reported, the supply of corn on feeders' farms on April 1 was smaller than last year, but ample supplies are reported, except for a few local areas. For the most part, weather since January 1 has been favorable for feeding operations.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt States during the first 3 months of this year are sharply higher than last year's inshipments. For the 8 Corn Belt States for which complete records are available both for markets and for direct inshipments, the number of inshipments during the period January-March was 33 percent higher than last year and the second highest on record starting with 1940. Except for Ohio, all Corn Belt States show increased inshipments during the three-month period, as follows: Nebraska, up 88 percent; Illinois, up 53 percent; Minnesota, up 43 percent; Indiana, up 38 percent; Michigan, up 19 percent; Iowa, up 9 percent; and Wisconsin, up 1 percent. Inshipments into Ohio during January-March were 10 percent below the corresponding months a year ago.

January-March average cost of feeder and stocker cattle shipped from the 5 markets for which records are available was \$23.48 per hundred pounds, compared with \$22.46 last year.

The following table shows, by States, the estimated percentage of cattle on feed April 1 this year compared with April 1, 1949.

Ohio	106	Minnesota	97
Indiana	115	Iowa	114
Illinois	100	Missouri	108
Michigan	100	South Dakota	100
Wisconsin	120	Nebraska	113
		Kansas	98
Eastern Corn Belt	105	Western Corn Belt	109
Corn Belt 108			