

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

January 13, 1954

CATTLE ON FEED, JANUARY 1, 1954

The number of cattle on feed in the United States on January 1, 1954 was 9 percent smaller than a year ago, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The estimated number was 5,334,000 head, compared with 5,884,000 a year earlier and the 1948-52 average of 4,489,000 head. The number on feed in the North Central States was 10 percent below a year ago. In the 13 Western States, it was 8 percent smaller.

The Corn Belt total on January 1 was estimated at 4,052,000 head--the second highest on record. The peak number was 4,488,000 on January 1, 1953. The West Corn Belt States declined 12 percent, while feeding in the East Corn Belt was only 2 percent below last year. Iowa, the leading feeding State, showed a 16 percent decrease while Nebraska, the second ranking feeding State this year, showed a 17 percent decrease. Illinois was down 8 percent, but the other eastern Corn Belt States showed increases ranging from 4 to 5 percent.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle during December into the 9 Corn Belt States for which State inspection records are available were 9 percent larger than in December 1952. For the period July-December, inshipments were 18 percent below a year earlier.

Outside the North Central States, the number of cattle on feed was smaller than a year ago. In the 13 Western States, cattle feeding was 8 percent below a year ago. California, the leading western feeding State, showed an increase of 7 percent. Colorado showed a decrease of 17 percent, while Texas showed a decrease of 33 percent.

Reports from cattle feeders in the Corn Belt on the weight of cattle on feed on January 1 this year show a larger proportion of light weight cattle on feed than last year. Cattle weighing 600 pounds or less accounted for 34 percent this year compared with 28 percent last year. The number of cattle on feed weighing 600-900 pounds made up 41 percent of the total compared with 43 percent a year ago. Cattle weighing over 900 pounds accounted for 25 percent of the total, compared with 29 percent last year.

Corn Belt cattle feeders reported on January 1 that 74 percent of the cattle had been on feed less than 3 months, compared with 73 percent last year. Of the number on feed on January 1 this year, 22 percent had been on feed from 3-6 months and 4 percent on feed more than 6 months. Last year, 23 percent were on feed from 3-6 months and 4 percent more than 6 months. Corn Belt feeders intend to market fed cattle at a slower rate than intended last year, with 37 percent of the January 1 number to be marketed by April 1. Based on present information, the number of fed cattle received at Corn Belt markets during the next 3 months is expected to be lower than last year. A decrease in marketings of fed cattle from the January 1 inventories, as a result of the smaller number on feed, will also occur in the late spring and summer, according to cattle feeders' plans on January 1.

(Over)

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED 1/  
BY STATES AS OF JANUARY 1, 1947-54

State	5-year Average (1948-52)	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	% 2/
<u>Thousand head</u>										
Pa.	88	90	85	88	88	90	90	90	81	90
Ohio	122	120	110	120	125	125	130	143	150	107
Ind.	175	183	155	181	185	176	180	225	236	105
Ill.	476	500	425	475	489	489	504	600	550	92
Mich.	87	81	77	83	90	86	99	109	114	105
Wisc.	87	77	83	80	87	91	96	100	104	104
E.N.C.	948	961	850	939	976	967	1,009	1,177	1,154	98
Minn.	290	282	240	300	294	300	315	365	361	99
Iowa	917	970	770	901	955	955	1,003	1,274	1,070	84
Mo.	286	300	240	300	315	294	279	357	339	95
N.Dak.	58	64	58	58	57	54	65	72	74	100
S.Dak.	172	170	136	177	180	180	189	227	204	90
Nebr.	438	413	350	450	420	450	522	731	607	83
Kans.	250	257	200	280	252	252	265	285	243	88
W.N.C.	2,411	2,456	1,994	2,466	2,473	2,485	2,638	3,311	2,898	88
N.Cent.	3,359	3,417	2,844	3,405	3,449	3,452	3,647	4,488	4,052	90
Okla.	58	50	50	70	55	62	55	70	60	86
Texas	157	121	115	144	161	177	186	193	129	66
Mont.	31	48	35	38	25	26	32	45	50	110
Idaho	82	70	80	95	78	76	80	100	95	98
Wyo.	19	20	20	18	15	17	24	33	28	88
Colo.	223	161	180	202	206	229	300	296	245	82
N.Mex.	23	11	22	33	17	16	28	32	18	56
Ariz.	71	50	65	62	59	87	80	80	85	100
Utah	45	37	44	45	40	46	50	51	53	104
Nev.	22	22	24	26	22	22	18	18	22	122
Wash.	24	27	24	24	22	24	25	31	30	97
Oreg.	28	32	24	32	30	26	26	30	36	120
Calif.	259	166	209	258	196	248	383	327	350	107
Western	1,042	815	892	1,047	926	1,056	1,287	1,306	1,201	92
Total										
U.S.	4,489	4,322	3,821	4,540	4,463	4,598	5,024	5,884	5,334	91

1/Estimates include only cattle 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.

In addition there have been a number of cattle finished on distillery slop, mostly in Kentucky, and on by-product feeds in other States not shown as well as large numbers being winter fed in W. Virginia, Virginia, Kentucky and some other States to be marketed as grass fat in late summer.

2/1954 as a percent of 1953.