

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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CATTLE ON FEED - JULY 1, 1952

The number of cattle on feed for market in the eleven Corn Belt States on July 1 this year is estimated to be 13 percent larger than the number on July 1, 1951, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. While estimates of the absolute number of cattle on feed have not been made for all States, indications point to an increase of nearly 245,000 head. Numbers on feed a year ago were down substantially from July 1, 1950. The 1952 summer inventory is about 50,000 head more than in 1950 and is the largest number on feed for the post war years.

In the east Corn Belt, the number on feed is 18 percent larger than last year, while the west Corn Belt shows an increase of 11 percent. All States show more cattle on feed than last July except Missouri where numbers are down 8 percent and South Dakota, which is down 12 percent. Feeding operations are up substantially from a year ago in Indiana, which showed an increase of 30 percent. The July 1 number in Kansas is 20 percent above a year earlier, while Illinois and Nebraska are up 19 percent and 16 percent, respectively. Feeding was 15 percent above last year in Iowa, while other increases in the Corn Belt are: Ohio and Michigan, each 10 percent; Minnesota, 8 percent; and Wisconsin, 5 percent. Cattle feeding operations in Colorado on July 1 are about the same as a year ago. The receipts of replacement cattle into Colorado feed lots since January 1 have been smaller than the large receipts during the same period last year, while marketings since January 1 have been larger. In California, numbers on feed on July 1 are slightly less than a year ago.

Reports from Corn Belt cattle feeders on the length of time cattle had been on feed showed a larger percentage of the total on feed less than 3 months. They also showed a larger percentage as being on feed over 6 months, while the percentage on feed from 3 to 6 months was down from last July. Comparing this July with a year ago, the percentages of the total on feed are as follows: less than 3 months, 24 percent this year and 21 percent last year; 3 to 6 months, 40 percent and 48 percent; over 6 months, 36 percent and 31 percent.

About 73 percent of the July inventory is expected to be marketed before October 1 if July intentions are carried out. The percentage of the total cattle intended for market in July is smaller than reported a year ago, while the percentages for August and September are above last year.

Strictly short term feeding is again at a low level, but somewhat higher than last year. Less than 5 percent of the fed cattle marketed between April 1 and July 1 had been placed on feed after April 1. Total marketings of fed cattle during this 3-month period have been slightly smaller than last year.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt during April - June were greater than a year ago. Total shipments for the 3-month period from public stockyards and "directs" into the nine States for which such records are available were 15 percent above the same period last year. In shipments since January were 7 percent larger than last year, with increases being registered in February, March, May and June, and decreases in January and April.

(Over)

Records of shipments of stocker and feeder cattle from the five leading markets since January 1 show that a larger portion of the 1952 shipments of steers were light weight steers (under 700 pounds). The total number of steers shipped from these markets was smaller than for the same period last year. However, the number weighing 700 pounds or less was above a year ago. The number of feeder calves shipped from these markets during the period January to June was also greater than a year earlier. During June, the average cost of stocker and feeder steers shipped from the five markets was \$4.75 per hundred pounds less than in June 1951.

Cattle on feed July 1, 1952 as a percentage of a year earlier are as follows:

Ohio	110	Minnesota	108
Indiana	130	Iowa	115
Illinois	119	Missouri	92
Michigan	110	South Dakota	88
Wisconsin	105	Nebraska	116
		Kansas	120
Eastern Corn Belt 118		Western Corn Belt 111	
Corn Belt 113			