

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

The number of cattle on feed in the United States on January 1, 1952 was 11 percent larger than a year ago and the largest on record, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. The estimated number on feed on January 1 was 5,094,000 head, 496,000 head more than on January 1, 1951. The increase is general, except in Missouri, Oregon, Utah and Nevada. The number on feed in 13 Western States is 24 percent larger than last year.

The number on feed in the North Central States, which include the Corn Belt, was 6 percent larger than a year ago. The total number on feed in the North Central States was estimated at 3,676,000 head--the highest on record--compared with 3,452,000 head last year. All of the North Central States showed increases except Missouri which was down 5 percent. Iowa, the leading feeding State, showed a 5 percent increase resulting in the third highest on record. Nebraska, the second ranking feeding State this year, showed a 16 percent increase which is a record high.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle during December into the 8 Corn Belt States for which records are available, both from public markets and direct, were 21 percent below last year. However, for the period July-December in shipments reached 2,535,000 head, 8 percent larger than last year and the second highest on record. Including shipments from markets for the other three Corn Belt States, total in shipments for July-December for the 11 Corn Belt States were 2,940,000 head, 7 percent larger than last year.

Outside the North Central States the number of cattle on feed was much larger than last year. In the West, cattle feeding is substantially higher than a year ago, reaching a record high for January 1. California, the leading western feeding State, showed an increase of 60 percent. Elsewhere in the West, marked increases have taken place in some States with Colorado up 31 percent and New Mexico up 75 percent, Idaho showed only a modest increase, while Oregon, Utah and Nevada showed fewer cattle on feed. Pennsylvania also had more cattle on feed, being up 15 percent.

Reports from cattle feeders in the Corn Belt on the weight of cattle on feed on January 1 this year show a smaller proportion of lightweight cattle on feed than last year. Cattle weighing 600 pounds or less accounted for 25 percent this year compared with 33 percent last year. The number of cattle on feed weighing 600-900 pounds made up 44 percent of the total this year compared with 41 percent a year ago. Cattle weighing over 900 pounds accounted for 31 percent of the total, compared with 26 percent last year.

Corn Belt cattle feeders reported on January 1 that 76 percent of the cattle had been on feed less than three months. This proportion compares with 79 percent last year, but slightly higher than in most previous years. Corn Belt feeders intend to market 36 percent of the January 1 number by April 1. This is a slightly higher proportion than feeders reported last year would be marketed by April 1. Based on present information, the number of fed cattle received at Corn Belt markets during the next three months is expected to be somewhat higher than last year. The number of better grade fed cattle for slaughter is also expected to be higher.

The accompanying table shows the estimated number of cattle on feed by States on January 1 for the years 1945-52.

(OVER)

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED ^{1/}
BY STATES AS OF JANUARY 1, 1945-52

State	5-year Average (1946-50)	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	% ^{3/}
Thousand head										
Pa.	87	70	82	90	85	88	88	90	104	115
Ohio	116	102	107	120	110	120	125	125	138	110
Ind.	174	156	165	183	155	181	185	176	188	107
Ill.	469	478	454	500	425	475	489	489	504	103
Mich.	83	94	85	81	77	83	90	86	99	115
Wis.	81	77	77	77	83	80	87	91	100	110
E.N.C.	923	907	888	961	850	939	976	967	1,029	106
Minn.	275	261	261	282	240	300	294	300	315	105
Iowa	909	1,056	950	970	770	901	955	955	1,003	105
Mo.	289	325	289	300	240	300	315	294	279	95
N. Dak.	60	76	64	64	58	58	57	54	65	120
S. Dak.	168	200	178	170	136	177	180	180	198	110
Nebr.	414	422	435	413	350	450	420	450	522	116
Kans.	252	322	271	257	300	280	252	252	265	105
W.N.C.	2,367	2,662	2,448	2,456	1,994	2,466	2,473	2,485	2,647	107
N. Cent.	3,290	3,569	3,336	3,417	2,844	3,405	3,449	3,452	3,676	106
Okla.	55	60	51	50	50	70	55	62	65	105
Tex.	131	150	115	121	115	144	161	177	186	105
Mont.	39	44	50	48	35	38	25	26	28	108
Idaho	76	55	55	70	80	95	78	76	80	105
Wyo.	19	16	21	20	20	18	15	17	20	118
Colo.	185	160	176	161	180	202	206	229	300	131
N. Mex.	18	9	6	11	22	33	17	16	28	175
Ariz.	57	42	50	50	65	62	59	87	100	115
Utah	41	33	38	37	44	45	40	46	42	91
Nev.	24	22	28	22	24	26	22	22	18	82
Wash.	24	28	25	27	24	24	22	24	27	112
Oreg.	29	28	29	32	24	32	30	26	22	85
Calif.	196	125	149	166	209	258	196	248	398	160
Western	895	772	793	815	892	1,047	926	1,056	1,314	124
Total										
U. S.	4,271	4,411	4,211	4,322	3,821	4,540	4,463	4,598	5,094	111

^{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/} Revised estimates.

^{3/} 1952 as a percent of 1951.