

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
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CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, OCTOBER 1, 1955

The number of cattle and calves on feed for market in the 13 major feeding States on October 1 was estimated at 3,458,000 head, according to the Crop Reporting Board. This was an increase of 19 percent from the previous year, but the seasonal decline from July 1 was 4 percent. On July 1 this year, the increase was 13 percent from a year earlier, while on April 1 the increase was 12 percent from the previous year. The number of cattle placed on feed during the past three months was substantially larger than last year. Marketings of fed cattle during the July-September period have been smaller than last year.

The number of cattle on feed in the 9 Corn Belt States on October 1 was estimated at 2,615,000 head, 25 percent larger than a year earlier. However, the October 1 estimate was 7 percent below the 2,803,000 head on feed July 1. All Corn Belt States showed an increase from a year ago. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt States during the July-September period were about 6 percent less than a year ago. However, in shipments for the April-June period this year were 24 percent larger than for the corresponding period a year earlier. The movement from pastures to feed lots was especially large in Kansas and Missouri where pastures were hard hit by drought. In the Eastern Corn Belt, locally produced cattle were moving into feed lots somewhat earlier than in 1954.

In California, the number of cattle on feed October 1, 1955 totaled 498,000 head compared with 433,000 a year earlier and 457,000 on feed July 1 this year. The number on feed in Colorado was 166,000, compared with 180,000 on July 1. Arizona had 95,000 on feed October 1 and 120,000 on July 1, while Texas had 84,000 on October 1 and 49,000 on July 1. This is the first year that October 1 cattle on feed estimates are made for Texas, Arizona and Colorado.

Detailed estimates showing classes of cattle, their weight, expected marketings, and length of time on feed are presented in this report for the 13 States for October 1, 1955. Similar data are available for 1954 for 9 Corn Belt States and California.

The 9 Corn Belt States with comparable data show 70 percent of the cattle on feed consisting of steers compared with 69 percent October 1, 1954. Heifers made up 24 percent, compared with 23 percent a year ago, while calves were 5 percent compared with 7 percent. Other classes consisted of only 1 percent both years. In these 9 States, the proportion of light weight cattle was less than a year earlier. Cattle weighing under 900 pounds accounted for 55 percent of the total this year compared with 59 percent a year earlier. Those weighing over 900 pounds were 45 percent of the total compared with 41 percent last year.

The number of cattle on feed under 3 months in these 9 States was 20 percent larger than a year earlier, reflecting the larger placements since July 1. The number on feed 3-6 months amounted to 436,000 head, 12 percent above the 390,000 head on hand a year earlier. The number that have been on feed over 6 months is estimated at 895,000 head, compared with 632,000 head a year ago.

Cattle feeders in the 13 States where estimates were made this year indicate that they expect to market about 73 percent of the cattle on feed during the next three months, with 28 percent in October, 22 percent in November, and 23 percent in December. The remaining 27 percent is expected to be marketed after January 1.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED

State	Oct. 1, 1955	July 1, 1955	Oct. 1, 1954	Percentage of Previous year 2/
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	Percent
Illinois	390	440	326	120
Iowa	798	1,031	638	125
Nebraska	348	408	341	102
Total 3 States	1,535	1,879	1,305	118
Ohio	96	90	75	128
Indiana	170	170	135	126
Minnesota	170	235	126	135
Missouri	268	199	206	130
South Dakota	150	150	85	176
Kansas	225	80	163	138
Total 9 N.C. States	2,615	2,803	2,095	125
Texas	84	49	3/	---
Colorado	166	180	3/	---
Arizona	95	120	3/	---
California	498	457	433	115
Total 4 Western States	843	806	---	---
Total 13 States	3,458	3,609	---	4/119

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/ October 1, 1955 as a percent of October 1, 1954.

3/ Data not available.

4/ Allowance made for Texas, Colorado and Arizona in computing percentage change in 13 States.

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

	July 1 - September 30		Percentage of previous year Percent
	1955 1,000 head	1954 1,000 head	
Cattle and Calves on Feed - July 1	1,879	1,732	108
Total Fed Cattle Marketings July 1 - Sept. 30	964	1,039	93
Cattle and Calves Placed on Feed July 1 - Sept. 30	621	612	101
Short-Fed Cattle Marketed July 1 - Sept. 30 <u>1/</u>	24	34	71
Cattle and Calves on Feed - October 1	1,536	1,305	118

INVENTORIES, MARKETINGS AND PLACEMENTS - 13 STATES
July 1 - September 30

	1955	1954 <u>2/</u>
	1,000 head	1,000 head
Cattle and Calves on Feed July 1	3,609	---
Total Fed Cattle Marketings July 1 - Sept. 30	2,144	---
Cattle and Calves Placed on Feed July 1 - Sept. 30	1,993	---
Short-Fed Cattle Marketed July 1 - Sept. 30 <u>1/</u>	146	---
Cattle and Calves on Feed October 1.	3,458	---

1/ Short-Fed Cattle are defined as those placed on feed after July 1 and Marketed by September 30. 2/ Data not available.

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, BY WEIGHT GROUPS, OCTOBER 1

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
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Illinois	4	3	16	10	187	137	160	153	23	23
Iowa	16	1	112	76	343	281	295	255	32	25
Nebraska	4	2	17	13	115	102	188	197	24	27
Total 3 States	24	6	145	99	645	520	643	605	79	75
% of Total	2	--	9	8	42	40	42	46	5	6
California	5	4	35	35	169	130	254	203	35	61
Total 4 States	29	10	180	134	814	650	897	808	114	136
% of Total	1	1	9	8	40	37	44	46	6	8
Ohio	--	--	1	1	19	12	52	46	24	16
Indiana	--	3	5	4	61	36	89	68	15	24
Minnesota	5	1	12	5	64	33	75	71	14	16
Missouri	--	--	3	12	67	47	153	95	45	52
South Dakota	2	1	6	3	45	23	82	49	15	9
Kansas	2	--	18	10	65	34	120	98	20	21
Total 9 N.C. States	33	11	190	134	966	705	1,214	1,032	212	213
% of Total	1	1	7	6	37	34	47	49	8	10
Texas <u>1/</u>	1	--	2	--	11	--	39	--	31	--
Colorado <u>1/</u>	--	--	6	--	57	--	98	--	5	--
Arizona <u>1/</u>	--	--	--	--	16	--	57	--	22	--
Total 13 States	39	--	233	--	1,219	--	1,662	--	305	--
% of Total	1	--	7	--	35	--	48	--	9	--

1/ Data for 1954 not available.

KINDS OF CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, OCTOBER 1

State	: Steers		: Heifers		: Calves		: Cows and others	
	: 1955	: 1954	: 1955	: 1954	: 1955	: 1954	: 1955	: 1954
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	head	head	head	head	head	head	head	head
Illinois	289	231	74	68	23	20	4	7
Iowa	598	504	183	114	16	19	1	1
Nebraska	223	215	108	109	14	14	3	3
Total 3 States	1,110	950	365	291	53	53	8	11
% of Total	72	73	24	22	3	4	1	1
California	378	329	105	87	10	8	5	9
Total 4 States	1,488	1,279	470	378	63	61	13	20
% of Total	73	74	23	22	3	3	1	1
Ohio	72	57	11	7	12	10	1	1
Indiana	112	82	46	34	10	18	2	1
Minnesota	121	88	39	27	8	10	2	1
Missouri	177	130	53	41	35	33	3	2
South Dakota	93	53	45	26	9	4	3	2
Kansas	153	93	54	49	16	19	2	2
Total 9 N.C. States	1,838	1,453	613	475	143	147	21	20
% of Total	70	69	24	23	5	7	1	1
Texas 1/	37	---	27	---	19	---	1	---
Colorado 1/	66	---	99	---	1	---	---	---
Arizona 1/	65	---	14	---	15	---	1	---
Total 13 States	2,384	---	858	---	188	---	28	---
% of Total	69	---	25	---	5	---	1	---

1/ Data for 1954 not available.

LENGTH OF TIME ON FEED, OCTOBER 1

State	: Less than 3 mos.		: 3-6 months		: More than 6 months	
	: 1955	: 1954	: 1955	: 1954	: 1955	: 1954
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	head	head	head	head	head	head
Illinois	152	156	62	72	176	98
Iowa	271	217	112	89	415	332
Nebraska	174	205	104	82	70	54
Total 3 States	597	578	278	243	661	484
% of Total	39	44	18	19	43	37
California	338	324	171	160	---	---
Total 4 States	935	902	438	352	661	484
% of Total	46	52	22	20	32	28
Ohio	65	51	10	10	21	14
Indiana	100	77	31	28	39	30
Minnesota	44	38	31	29	95	59
Missouri	204	144	40	47	24	15
South Dakota	74	43	30	18	46	24
Kansas	200	142	16	15	9	6
Total 9 N.C. States	1,284	1,073	436	390	895	632
% of Total	49	51	17	19	34	30
Texas 2/	69	---	11	---	4	---
Colorado 2/	105	---	49	---	12	---
Arizona 2/	51	---	34	---	10	---
Total 13 States	1,847	---	690	---	921	---
% of Total	53	---	20	---	27	---

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 119, 121; 30 to 60 days 114, 108; 60 to 90 days 105, 95; 90 to 120 days 115, 83; 120 days plus 45, 26.

2/ Data for 1954 not available.

EXPECTED MONTH OF MARKETING, 1955

State	October	November	December	Later
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
Illinois	113	86	66	125
Iowa	279	176	183	160
Nebraska	87	73	73	115
Total 3 States	479	335	322	400
% of Total	31	22	21	26
California	169	124	105	100
Total 4 States	648	459	427	500
% of Total	32	22	21	25
Ohio	14	14	23	45
Indiana	41	39	36	54
Minnesota	44	31	36	59
Missouri	56	56	75	81
South Dakota	27	33	32	58
Kansas	58	68	54	45
Total 9 M.C. States	719	576	578	742
% of Total	28	22	22	28
Texas	15	19	23	27
Colorado	33	35	56	42
Arizona	28	24	20	23
Total 13 States	964	778	782	934
% of Total	28	22	23	27

(Comments continued)

For the 13 States, about 53 percent of the total had been on feed less than 3 months, 20 percent had been on feed 3-6 months, while 27 percent had been on feed more than 6 months. In these same States, steers represented 69 percent of total; heifers, 25 percent; calves, 5 percent; and other cattle, 1 percent. Cattle on feed weighing under 600 pounds represented 9 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 43 percent.