

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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CATTLE ON FEED - JULY 1, 1951

The number of cattle on feed for market in the eleven Corn Belt States on July 1 this year is estimated to be 9 percent smaller than the relatively large number on July 1, 1950, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. While estimates of the number of cattle on feed have not been made for all States, indications point to a decrease of nearly 195,000 head.

In the East Corn Belt the number on feed is 17 percent smaller than last year, while the West Corn Belt showed a decrease of 6 percent. All States show fewer cattle on feed than last July except Wisconsin and South Dakota, where numbers are up 5 percent, and Michigan where numbers are unchanged. Feeding operations were down substantially from the high level last summer in Illinois, Indiana, and Kansas, which showed decreases of 21, 20 and 25 percent, respectively. Feeding was 5 percent below last year in Nebraska and Iowa, while other decreases were as follows: Ohio, 10 percent; Minnesota, 2 percent; and Missouri, 15 percent. In Colorado, numbers on feed on July 1 were about the same as a year earlier. Receipts of cattle into Colorado feed lots since April 1 have been smaller than the large receipts during the same period last year, while marketings have been larger.

Reports from Corn Belt cattle feeders on the length of time cattle had been on feed show a larger percentage of the total on feed over 3 months than was reported last year. The estimated percentage of the July 1 total on feed over 3 months this year was 79 percent, compared with 76 percent last year.

About 68 percent of the July inventory is expected to be marketed before October 1 if July intentions are carried out. The percentage of the total marketings intended for market in July is greater than a year ago, while the percentage for August is relatively light and September is also smaller than last year.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt during April-June were lower than a year ago. Total shipments for the 3-month period from public stockyards and "directs" into the eight States for which such records are available were 8 percent below the same period last year. In shipments since January were 2 percent larger than last year with increases being registered in January, February and April and decreases in March, May and June.

Strictly short term feeding is at the lowest level in several seasons. Only 4 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 larger than last year. Producers marketed their fed cattle at a slightly faster rate than they intended last April.

Records of shipments of stocker and feeder cattle from the five leading markets since January 1 show that a larger portion of the 1951 shipments were heavier-weight steers (over 800 pounds) than was the case last year. The number of steers weighing 700 pounds and less shipped from these markets was smaller than for the similar period last year. However, the number weighing over 700 pounds was greater. During June, the average cost of stocker and feeder steers

shipped from the five markets was \$6.03 per hundred pounds higher than in June 1950.

Cattle on feed July 1, 1951, as a percentage of a year earlier are as follows:

Ohio	90	Minnesota	98
Indiana	80	Iowa	95
Illinois	79	Missouri	85
Michigan	100	South Dakota	105
Wisconsin	105	Nebraska	95
		Kansas	75
Eastern Corn Belt	83	Western Corn Belt	94
		Corn Belt	91