

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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CATTLE ON FEED, JANUARY 1, 1953

The number of cattle on feed in the United States on January 1, 1953 was 16 per cent larger than a year ago and the largest number on record, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. The estimated number was 5,836,000 head, compared with 5,024,000 a year earlier and the 1947-51 average of 4,349,000 head. The number on feed in the North Central States was 23 percent larger than last year; in the 13 Western States, it was 2 percent smaller.

The total number on feed in the North Central States, which includes the Corn Belt, was estimated at 4,480,000 head--the highest on record--compared with 3,647,000 head last year. All of the North Central States showed increases except Kansas which was down 5 percent. Iowa, the leading feeding State, showed a 27 percent increase, while Nebraska, the second ranking feeding State this year, showed a 40 percent increase.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle during December into the 9 Corn Belt States for which State inspection records are available were sharply higher than in December 1951. The December inshipments were about a fourth larger than December 1951. For the period July-December, inshipments were 18 percent larger than a year earlier.

Outside the North Central States, the number of cattle on feed was slightly smaller than last year. Pennsylvania numbers were up 5 percent, Colorado and California, the most important feeding States in the West, showed decreases of 1 percent and 15 percent, respectively. Elsewhere in the West, decreases have taken place in Utah, Washington and Oregon, while Arizona and Nevada showed no change. All other Western States had more cattle on feed. The number of cattle in Texas and Oklahoma being finished for market was larger than a year ago. There were comparatively few cattle on wheat pastures in the Plains States.

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. Reflecting a substantial increase in the number of calves on feed, the number weighing 600 pounds or less accounted for 28 percent this year compared with 25 percent last year. The number on feed weighing 600-900 pounds made up 43 percent of the total this year, compared with 44 percent a year ago. Cattle weighing over 900 pounds accounted for only 29 percent of the total, compared with 31 percent last year.

Practically all of the increase in the number of cattle on feed in the Corn Belt was in the number that had been on feed less than 6 months. The largest relative increase was in the numbers that had been on feed 3 to 6 months. The number of long fed cattle was not much different from a year ago. Corn Belt cattle feeders reported on January 1 that 73 percent of the cattle had been on feed less than 3 months, compared with 76 percent last year. Of the number on feed on January 1 this year, 23 percent had been on feed from 3 to 6 months and 4 percent on feed more than 6 months. This compares with 19 percent on feed from 3 to 6 months and 5 percent on feed over 6 months last year. Corn Belt feeders intend to market at a faster rate than last year, with 41 percent of the January 1 number to be marketed by April 1. This is a 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 substantially higher than last year. However, marketings of the better grade cattle in the next few months may be up only slightly.

The accompanying table shows the estimated number of cattle on feed by States on January 1 for the years 1946-53. (Over)

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED ^{1/}
BY STATES AS OF JANUARY 1, 1946-53

State	5-year Average (1947-51)	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	% ^{2/}
<u>Thousand head</u>										
Pa.	88	82	90	85	88	88	90	90	94	105
Ohio	120	107	120	110	120	125	125	130	143	110
Ind.	176	165	183	155	181	185	176	180	225	125
Ill.	476	454	500	425	475	489	489	504	630	125
Mich.	83	85	81	77	83	90	86	99	109	110
Wis.	84	77	77	83	80	87	91	96	110	115
E.N.C.	939	888	961	850	939	976	967	1,009	1,217	121
Minn.	283	261	282	240	300	294	300	315	350	111
Iowa	910	950	970	770	901	955	955	1,003	1,274	127
Mo.	290	289	300	240	300	315	294	279	357	128
N.Dak.	58	64	64	58	58	57	54	65	72	110
S.Dak.	169	178	170	136	177	180	180	189	227	120
Nebr.	417	435	413	350	450	420	450	522	731	140
Kans.	248	271	257	200	280	252	252	285	252	95
W.N.C.	2,374	2,448	2,456	1,994	2,466	2,473	2,485	2,638	3,263	124
N.Cent.	3,313	3,336	3,417	2,844	3,405	3,449	3,452	3,647	4,480	123
Okla.	57	51	50	50	70	55	62	55	70	127
Texas	144	115	121	115	144	161	177	186	193	104
Mont.	34	50	48	35	38	25	26	32	34	106
Idaho	80	55	70	80	95	78	76	80	88	110
Wyo.	18	21	20	20	18	15	17	24	30	125
Colo.	196	176	161	180	202	206	229	300	296	99
N.Mex.	20	6	11	22	33	17	16	28	32	114
Ariz.	65	50	50	65	62	59	87	80	80	100
Utah	42	38	37	44	45	40	46	50	45	90
Nev.	23	28	22	24	26	22	22	18	18	100
Wash.	24	25	27	24	24	22	24	25	24	96
Oreg.	29	29	32	24	32	30	26	26	25	96
Calif.	215	149	166	209	258	196	248	383	327	85
Western	947	793	815	892	1,047	926	1,056	1,287	1,262	98
Total										
U. S.	4,349	4,211	4,322	3,821	4,540	4,463	4,598	5,024	5,836	116

^{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/}1953 as a percent of 1952.