

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE  
WASHINGTON, D. C.

January 17, 1955

CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, JANUARY 1, 1955

The number of cattle and calves on feed in the United States on January 1, 1955 was 8 percent larger than a year ago, according to the Crop Reporting Board. The estimated number was 5,816,000 head compared with 5,394,000 head last year and the 1949-53 average of 4,893,000 head. The number on feed in the North Central States was up 4 percent above a year ago. In the 13 western States it was up 22 percent.

The Corn Belt total on January 1 was estimated at 4,205,000 head--the second highest on record. The peak number was 4,442,000 on January 1, 1953. Both the Eastern Corn Belt and the Western Corn Belt were each 4 percent above a year earlier. Iowa, the leading feeding State, showed a 6 percent increase, while Nebraska, the second ranking feeding State, was up 2 percent. Illinois was up 5 percent. All other North Central States showed the same or more cattle on feed than a year ago, except North Dakota, which was down 8 percent. Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle during December into the 9 Corn Belt States for which State inspection records are available were 24 percent larger than in December a year earlier. For the July-December period, inshipments were 20 percent larger than for the corresponding period a year earlier.

Outside the North Central States, the number of cattle on feed was considerably larger than a year earlier. California and Colorado, the important feeding States in the West, showed increases of 33 percent and 12 percent, respectively. All other areas of the West showed increases ranging from 7 to 69 percent, except Wyoming where numbers were down 14 percent. Pennsylvania and Texas were each down 2 percent.

Detailed estimates showing classes of cattle, their weight, expected marketings and length of time on feed are presented in this report for 14 States having 87 percent of the January 1, 1955 number of cattle and calves on feed. In 5 of these States--Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Idaho and California--similar data are available for 1954.

In the 5 States, a larger proportion of light weight cattle were on feed than a year earlier, with 76 percent weighing less than 900 pounds compared with 74 percent last year. Cattle weighing over 900 pounds accounted for 24 percent of the total this year compared with 26 percent a year earlier. The five States showed a considerable increase in the number of heifers on feed. This represented 17 percent of the total this year compared with 12 percent last year. Steers accounted for 56 percent of the total this year compared with 57 percent a year ago; calves 26 percent and 29 percent; cows and other, 1 percent and 2 percent. Shipments of calves into feeding areas during the fall of 1954 are indicated to have been much heavier than the previous fall. Apparently many of these calves were on pasture and roughage feed about January 1 and have not been started on grain rations. Practically all of the increase in the number of cattle on feed was in the number that have been on feed less than 3 months. For the five States with comparable data, 80 percent of the total were on feed less than 3 months compared with 78 percent last year. For these same States, 18 percent have been on feed from 3 to 6 months, with only 2 percent on feed more than 6 months. Cattle feeders intend to market fed cattle at a faster rate than intended a year ago, with 43 percent of the January 1 number to be marketed by April 1.

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TABLE 1: CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED 1/

BY STATES AS OF JANUARY 1, 1951-55

| State         | 5-year<br>Average<br>(1942-53) | 1951  | 1952  | 1953 <sup>2/</sup> | 1954 <sup>2/</sup> | 1955  | % <sup>2/</sup> |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-------|-------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|-----------------|
| Thousand head |                                |       |       |                    |                    |       |                 |
| Pa.           | 89                             | 90    | 90    | 90                 | 86                 | 94    | 98              |
| Ohio          | 129                            | 125   | 130   | 143                | 164                | 164   | 100             |
| Ind.          | 189                            | 176   | 180   | 225                | 250                | 272   | 105             |
| Ill.          | 511                            | 489   | 504   | 600                | 550                | 578   | 105             |
| Mich.         | 93                             | 86    | 99    | 109                | 114                | 114   | 100             |
| Misc.         | 91                             | 91    | 96    | 100                | 104                | 108   | 104             |
| E.N.C.        | 1,014                          | 967   | 1,009 | 1,177              | 1,191              | 1,236 | 104             |
| Miss.         | 309                            | 300   | 315   | 334                | 331                | 334   | 101             |
| Iowa          | 1,018                          | 955   | 1,003 | 1,274              | 1,108              | 1,174 | 106             |
| Mo.           | 309                            | 294   | 279   | 357                | 321                | 331   | 103             |
| N.Dak.        | 61                             | 54    | 65    | 72                 | 76                 | 70    | 92              |
| S.Dak.        | 191                            | 180   | 189   | 227                | 204                | 214   | 105             |
| Nebr.         | 515                            | 450   | 522   | 731                | 607                | 619   | 102             |
| Kans.         | 264                            | 252   | 265   | 270                | 216                | 227   | 105             |
| W.N.C.        | 2,665                          | 2,485 | 2,638 | 3,265              | 2,863              | 2,969 | 104             |
| N. Cent.      | 3,679                          | 3,452 | 3,647 | 4,442              | 4,054              | 4,205 | 104             |
| Okla.         | 62                             | 62    | 55    | 70                 | 70                 | 75    | 107             |
| Texas         | 172                            | 177   | 186   | 193                | 129                | 126   | 98              |
| Mont.         | 33                             | 26    | 32    | 45                 | 54                 | 62    | 115             |
| Idaho         | 86                             | 76    | 80    | 100                | 110                | 135   | 123             |
| Wyo.          | 21                             | 17    | 24    | 33                 | 35                 | 30    | 86              |
| Calo.         | 247                            | 229   | 300   | 296                | 245                | 275   | 112             |
| N.Mex.        | 25                             | 16    | 28    | 32                 | 18                 | 29    | 160             |
| Ariz.         | 74                             | 87    | 80    | 80                 | 100                | 169   | 169             |
| Utah          | 46                             | 46    | 50    | 51                 | 53                 | 57    | 108             |
| Nev.          | 21                             | 22    | 18    | 18                 | 26                 | 30    | 115             |
| Wash.         | 25                             | 24    | 25    | 31                 | 32                 | 36    | 112             |
| Oreg.         | 29                             | 26    | 26    | 30                 | 32                 | 36    | 113             |
| Calif.        | 282                            | 248   | 303   | 327                | 350                | 467   | 133             |
| Western       | 1,124                          | 1,056 | 1,287 | 1,306              | 1,254              | 1,527 | 122             |
| Total U.S.    | 4,893                          | 4,598 | 5,024 | 5,838              | 5,394              | 5,816 | 108             |

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

3/1955 as a percent of 1954.

TABLE 2. NUMBER OF CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED

| State      | January 1, 1955 | October 1, 1954 | January 1, 1954 |
|------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Illinois   | 578,000         | 326,000         | 550,000         |
| Iowa       | 1,174,000       | 638,000         | 1,108,000       |
| Nebraska   | 619,000         | 341,000         | 607,000         |
| 3 States   | 2,371,000       | 1,305,000       | 2,265,000       |
| Idaho      | 135,000         | ---             | 110,000         |
| California | 467,000         | 433,000         | 350,000         |

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

October 1 - January 1

|  | 1954      | 1953      | Percent Change |
|--|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Cattle and calves on Feed - October 1                    | 1,305,000 | 1,341,000 | 97             |
| Total Fed Cattle Marketings October 1 - Dec. 31          | 906,000   | 892,000   | 102            |
| Cattle and calves Placed on Feed Oct. 1 - Dec. 31        | 1,972,000 | 1,816,000 | 109            |
| Short-Fed Cattle Marketed Oct. 1 - Dec. 31 <sup>1/</sup> | 34,000    | 49,000    | 69             |

|                                     | 1955      | 1954      | Percent Change |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------------|
| Cattle and Calves on Feed January 1 | 2,371,000 | 2,265,000 | 105            |

<sup>1/</sup>Short-fed cattle are defined as those placed on feed after Oct. 1 and marketed by Dec. 31.

TABLE 4. CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, BY WEIGHT GROUPS, JANUARY 1 (000)

| 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 |
| Illinois                   | --                | 6    | 11                 | 17   | 110              | 104  | 237            | 209   | 220              | 214  |
| Iowa                       | 5                 | 2    | 35                 | 55   | 183              | 165  | 528            | 465   | 423              | 421  |
| Nebraska                   | 6                 | 6    | 25                 | 30   | 111              | 121  | 316            | 286   | 161              | 164  |
| Total 3 States             | 11                | 14   | 71                 | 102  | 404              | 390  | 1,081          | 960   | 804              | 799  |
| % of Total                 | 1                 | 1    | 3                  | 5    | 17               | 17   | 45             | 42    | 34               | 35   |
| Idaho                      | 1                 | 1    | 7                  | 7    | 39               | 34   | 61             | 42    | 27               | 26   |
| California                 | 1                 | 3    | 33                 | 28   | 135              | 123  | 210            | 147   | 88               | 49   |
| Total 5 States             | 13                | 18   | 111                | 137  | 578              | 547  | 1,352          | 1,149 | 919              | 874  |
| % of Total                 | 1                 | 1    | 4                  | 5    | 19               | 20   | 45             | 42    | 31               | 32   |
| Ohio <sup>1/</sup>         | --                | --   | 2                  | --   | 20               | --   | 90             | --    | 52               | --   |
| Indiana <sup>1/</sup>      | --                | --   | 5                  | --   | 41               | --   | 123            | --    | 103              | --   |
| Minnesota <sup>1/</sup>    | 3                 | --   | 10                 | --   | 50               | --   | 151            | --    | 120              | --   |
| Missouri <sup>1/</sup>     | --                | --   | 3                  | --   | 37               | --   | 119            | --    | 172              | --   |
| South Dakota <sup>1/</sup> | 2                 | --   | 6                  | --   | 45               | --   | 90             | --    | 71               | --   |
| Kansas <sup>1/</sup>       | --                | --   | 11                 | --   | 62               | --   | 102            | --    | 52               | --   |
| Total 9                    | --                | --   | 37                 | --   | 255              | --   | 565            | --    | 425              | --   |
| N.C. States                | 16                | --   | 108                | --   | 659              | --   | 1,756          | --    | 1,374            | --   |
| % of Total                 | --                | --   | 3                  | --   | 17               | --   | 45             | --    | 35               | --   |
| Texas <sup>1/</sup>        | --                | --   | 4                  | --   | 11               | --   | 53             | --    | 58               | --   |
| Colorado <sup>1/</sup>     | 1                 | --   | 14                 | --   | 107              | --   | 115            | --    | 38               | --   |
| Arizona <sup>1/</sup>      | --                | --   | 1                  | --   | 17               | --   | 82             | --    | 69               | --   |
| Total 14 States            | 19                | --   | 167                | --   | 968              | --   | 2,277          | --    | 1,654            | --   |
| % of Total                 | --                | --   | 3                  | --   | 19               | --   | 45             | --    | 33               | --   |

<sup>1/</sup>Data for 1954 not available.

TABLE 5: KINDS OF CATTLE AND CALVES ON FEED, JANUARY 1, (000)

| STATE               | Steers |       | Heifers |      | Calves |      | Cows and others |      |
|---------------------|--------|-------|---------|------|--------|------|-----------------|------|
|                     | 1955   | 1954  | 1955    | 1954 | 1955   | 1954 | 1955            | 1954 |
| Illinois            | 300    | 275   | 52      | 55   | 220    | 214  | 6               | 6    |
| Iowa                | 646    | 609   | 152     | 100  | 364    | 388  | 12              | 12   |
| Nebraska            | 322    | 358   | 155     | 97   | 130    | 134  | 12              | 16   |
| Total 3 States      | 1,268  | 1,242 | 359     | 252  | 714    | 736  | 30              | 34   |
| % of Total          | 54     | 55    | 15      | 11   | 30     | 32   | 1               | 2    |
| Idaho               | 76     | 62    | 32      | 20   | 16     | 19   | 11              | 11   |
| California          | 313    | 242   | 103     | 56   | 37     | 38   | 14              | 14   |
| Total 5 States      | 1,657  | 1,546 | 494     | 328  | 767    | 793  | 55              | 58   |
| % of Total          | 56     | 57    | 17      | 12   | 26     | 29   | 1               | 2    |
| Ohio 1/             | 96     | ---   | 20      | ---  | 46     | ---  | 2               | ---  |
| Indiana 1/          | 133    | ---   | 54      | ---  | 82     | ---  | 3               | ---  |
| Minnesota 1/        | 184    | ---   | 57      | ---  | 86     | ---  | 7               | ---  |
| Missouri 1/         | 122    | ---   | 50      | ---  | 152    | ---  | 7               | ---  |
| South Dakota 1/     | 105    | ---   | 38      | ---  | 60     | ---  | 11              | ---  |
| Kansas 1/           | 134    | ---   | 55      | ---  | 36     | ---  | 2               | ---  |
| Total 9 N.C. States | 2,042  | ---   | 633     | ---  | 1,176  | ---  | 62              | ---  |
| % of Total          | 52     | ---   | 16      | ---  | 30     | ---  | 2               | ---  |
| Texas 1/            | 53     | ---   | 22      | ---  | 49     | ---  | 2               | ---  |
| Colorado 1/         | 113    | ---   | 123     | ---  | 33     | ---  | 6               | ---  |
| Arizona 1/          | 80     | ---   | 26      | ---  | 56     | ---  | 7               | ---  |
| Total 14 States     | 2,677  | ---   | 939     | ---  | 1,367  | ---  | 102             | ---  |
| % of Total          | 53     | ---   | 18      | ---  | 27     | ---  | 2               | ---  |

1/Data for 1954 not available.

TABLE 6: LENGTH OF TIME ON FEED, JANUARY 1, (000)

| STATE               | Less than 3 mos. |       | 3 - 6 months |       | More than 6 months |      |
|---------------------|------------------|-------|--------------|-------|--------------------|------|
|                     | 1955             | 1954  | 1955         | 1954  | 1955               | 1954 |
| Illinois            | 451              | 412   | 110          | 110   | 17                 | 28   |
| Iowa                | 998              | 887   | 153          | 177   | 23                 | 44   |
| Nebraska            | 489              | 468   | 118          | 127   | 12                 | 12   |
| Total 3 States      | 1,938            | 1,767 | 381          | 414   | 52                 | 84   |
| % of Total          | 82               | 78    | 16           | 18    | 2                  | 4    |
| Idaho               | 97               | 81    | 34           | 28    | 4                  | 1    |
| California          | 341              | 276   | 126 1/       | 74 1/ | ---                | ---  |
| Total 5 States      | 2,376            | 2,124 | 541          | 516   | 56                 | 85   |
| % of Total          | 80               | 78    | 18           | 19    | 2                  | 3    |
| Ohio 2/             | 125              | ---   | 36           | ---   | 3                  | ---  |
| Indiana 2/          | 210              | ---   | 54           | ---   | 8                  | ---  |
| Minnesota 2/        | 271              | ---   | 40           | ---   | 23                 | ---  |
| Missouri 2/         | 258              | ---   | 70           | ---   | 3                  | ---  |
| South Dakota 2/     | 167              | ---   | 36           | ---   | 11                 | ---  |
| Kansas 2/           | 159              | ---   | 66           | ---   | 2                  | ---  |
| Total 9 N.C. States | 3,128            | ---   | 683          | ---   | 102                | ---  |
| % of Total          | 80               | ---   | 17           | ---   | 3                  | ---  |
| Texas 2/            | 90               | ---   | 33           | ---   | 3                  | ---  |
| Colorado 2/         | 195              | ---   | 77           | ---   | 3                  | ---  |
| Arizona 2/          | 119              | ---   | 48           | ---   | 2                  | ---  |
| Total 14 States     | 3,970            | ---   | 1,001        | ---   | 114                | ---  |
| % of Total          | 78               | ---   | 20           | ---   | 2                  | ---  |

1/Includes number on feed more than 6 months. California showed following numbers on feed the year and last year in thousands, respectively: Less than 30 days 47, 66; 30 to 60 days 120, 105; 60 to 90 days 168, 105; 90 to 120 days 89, 60; 120 days plus 37, 14. 2/Data for 1954 not available.

TABLE 7. EXPECTED MONTH OF MARKETING, 1955 (000)

| State               | January | February | March | Later |
|---------------------|---------|----------|-------|-------|
| Illinois            | 63      | 64       | 64    | 387   |
| Iowa                | 129     | 106      | 117   | 822   |
| Nebraska            | 111     | 105      | 93    | 310   |
| Total 3 States      | 303     | 275      | 274   | 1,519 |
| 1/3 of Total        | 101     | 92       | 91    | 506   |
| Idaho               | 30      | 28       | 23    | 54    |
| California          | 135     | 126      | 94    | 112   |
| Total 5 States      | 468     | 429      | 391   | 1,685 |
| 1/5 of Total        | 94      | 86       | 78    | 337   |
| Ohio 1/             | 18      | 18       | 23    | 105   |
| Indiana 1/          | 24      | 38       | 33    | 177   |
| Minnesota 1/        | 30      | 37       | 30    | 237   |
| Missouri 1/         | 43      | 37       | 36    | 215   |
| South Dakota 1/     | 21      | 30       | 26    | 137   |
| Kansas 1/           | 64      | 52       | 34    | 77    |
| Total 9 N.C. States | 503     | 487      | 456   | 2,467 |
| 1/9 of Total        | 56      | 54       | 51    | 273   |
| Texas 1/            | 30      | 26       | 30    | 40    |
| Colorado 1/         | 60      | 53       | 55    | 107   |
| Arizona 1/          | 31      | 38       | 28    | 72    |
| Total 14 States     | 789     | 758      | 686   | 2,852 |
| 1/14 of Total       | 56      | 54       | 49    | 204   |

1/Data for 1954 not available.

(Comments continued)

For the 14 States, cattle on feed weighing under 600 pounds comprised 33 percent of the total number of cattle on feed. Cattle weighing 600-900 pounds were 45 percent of the total, while those weighing over 900 pounds were 22 percent. Steers represented 53 percent of total; heifers 18 percent; calves, 27 percent; and other cattle, 2 percent. About 78 percent of the total had been on feed less than 3 months, 20 percent had been on feed 3 to 6 months, while only 2 percent were on feed more than 6 months. Feeders intend to market 44 percent of their cattle during the next 3 months with 16 percent in January, 15 percent in February, 13 percent in March. The remaining 56 percent is expected to be marketed after April 1.

Funds have been provided for extending the quarterly cattle on feed report to 6 additional Corn Belt States -- Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, South Dakota and Kansas -- and Texas, Colorado and Arizona. Beginning with the January 1955 report, detailed estimates relating to cattle and calves on feed by classes, weight groups, length of time on feed, and expected marketings are shown for 14 States. Similar reports relating to April 1, July 1 and October 1 are scheduled for release during the year.