

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS,
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CATTLE ON FEED—JULY 1, 1950

There were 34 percent more cattle on feed for market in the eleven Corn Belt States on July 1 this year than a year ago, 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 an increase of nearly one-half million head. The 1950 summer inventory is substantially above the low level of the last few years and is the largest since 1943.

The increases for both the east and west Corn Belt States were practically the same. In every State except Missouri, more cattle were on feed than last July. Feeding operations in Nebraska were up 65 percent from last July. Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa and Kansas were 25 percent or more above the July 1949 number, while South Dakota, Michigan and Minnesota were up from 13 to 15 percent. Missouri had approximately the same number of cattle on feed as a year earlier. Cattle feeding operations in Colorado on July 1 were above a year ago, with most of the increase in northern Colorado. The receipt of replacement cattle since January 1 has been unusually heavy. Also, the number of fed cattle marketed in Colorado during the past six months has been larger than for the same period last year.

Reports from cattle feeders show 24 percent of the cattle had been on feed less than three months, 42 percent three to six months, and 34 percent over six months. Direct comparisons with July 1, 1949 are not available for all States. However, July 1 surveys in the three leading States, Iowa, Illinois and Nebraska, showed a somewhat larger percentage of the total this year on feed from three to six months and on feed over six months than was the case a year earlier.

About 74 percent of the July 1 inventory is expected to be marketed before October 1 if July intentions are carried out. The number intended for market in July is relatively light, being reported at 18 percent of the total, while August is 27 percent and September 28 percent. While the percent to be marketed before October 1 is less than last year, the number marketed should be larger because of the larger inventories.

Strictly short term feeding is at the lowest level in several seasons. Only 6 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 substantially less than last year, although producers marketed fed cattle at a slightly faster rate than they intended last April.

Shipments of stocker and feeder cattle into the Corn Belt during the first six months of 1950 were larger than in the corresponding months of 1949. Total shipments for the period from public markets and direct into the 8 States for which such records are available, were 29 percent above last year and were the largest on record. Each month showed a substantial increase over the same month in the previous year.

Records of shipments of stocker and feeder cattle from 5 markets since January 1 show that about the same proportion as last year were heavier weight steers (over 800 pounds). However, the number of steers in all weight classes was larger than in the same period last year. The number of calves going to the country was 19 percent higher than in 1949. During June, the average cost of stocker and feeder steers shipped from the 5 markets was \$4.51 per hundred pounds higher than in June 1949.

(over)

Cattle on feed July 1, 1950 1/, as a percentage of a year earlier are as follows:

Ohio	125	Minnesota	115
Indiana	130	Iowa	137
Illinois	136	Missouri	100
Michigan	115	South Dakota	113
Wisconsin	139	Nebraska	165
		Kansas	125
Eastern Corn Belt	134	Western Corn Belt	135
Corn Belt		134	

1/ This is the first report on summer feeding as of July 1 for all eleven Corn Belt States. Because of continuous changes in inventories of cattle on feed, due to marketings and placements, data obtained for July 1 are not strictly comparable with the August 1 series. This is most marked in the case of classification as to length of time on feed and expected marketings. The estimated yearly percentage change as of July 1 for most previous years should not be much different than the yearly changes estimated for August 1. The main exception would be in 1946 and 1945 when August 1 estimates of percentage change were affected greatly by the removal of price controls. July 1 numbers for those years would have differed materially from those of August 1. For direct comparisons of classification and other items for 1950 and 1949 on a July 1 basis, see the Special Report of Cattle Feed--Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska--July 1, 1950. These three States held about 56 percent of the January 1, 1950 inventory of cattle on feed in the 11 States.