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Cattle on feed down 21%, Heinold marketings just off slightly

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How could that be? Last summer cattle marketings were substantially reduced because some carrie feeders postponed sales of cattle until after the price ceilings were removed in September. Another point more cattle may be put on feed after July 1 and sold before October 1 than a year ago.

The USDA survey and report covered 23 leading cattle - feeding states. Information was obtained from most of the large feedlets and from a representative sample of the smaller ones

To review a bit, the number of cattle on feed last April 1 was estimated at 12,310,000

Family reunion

The Qualls reunion was held Sunday at Pleasant Hill picnic grounds with 48 people in attendance

Present were Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Qualls and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Qualis and son of Carlinville; Mr. and Mrs. Dale West and their granddaughter, Wendy West, Mr. and Mrs. Larry Eades and Chadand Jerry West, all of Hettick; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cagle of Huffalo:

Mr. and Mrs. Stan Qualls

- Spercent fewer than a year earlier. The number of fed cattle marketed during the April-luce quarter was figured at 6.291,000 practically the same as in 1973 But the number of cattle placed on feed was 4.028.000 - 29 percent fewer than last year

More heavies, fewer lights

The number of cattle on feed July 1 was estimated at 10,047,000, compared to 12.729,000 in feedlots a year ago. Steers were listed at 7.305,000 - off 19 percent. while heifers were posted at 2.693.000 - down 27 percent. The larger reduction for heifers reflects increased holding for breeding

The numbers of heavy cattle in feedlots continued to exceed year-before levels. The greatest reductions were in the lightest weight groups. For these comparisons, we combine each weight group of steers with heifers weighing 200 pounds less - because they will be marketed at about the same time.

The number of steers weighing over 1,100 pounds plus the heifers weighing over 900 pounds was estimated at 1,866,000 - 10 percent more than last year. Steers at 900 to 1,100 pounds and heifers 200 pounds lighter totaled 3.754,000 -Il percent fewer than a year before. Steers at 700 to 900 pounds plus heifers 200 pounds lighter numbered 428.000 — down 29 percent. Steers 500 to 700 pounds and heifers under 500 pounds were estimated at 1,543,000 - off 28 percent. And steer calves under 500 pounds were figured at 207,000 - down 61 percent from last year.

Price prospects uncertain Price prospects for retail

beef - and especially for cattle - are very uncertain. There are doubts about consumer demand and marketing costs as well as about the number of cattle to

be marketed.

contrary to some reports. consumers have been providing good support for the beef market. example, during the second quarter of this year they bought 10 to 12 percent more beef than one year before, and paid about the same price per DUMPRICE

Marketing costs from the feedlet to the checkout counter increased rapidly. Since consumers would not pay higher prices for beef, the added marketing costs were taken off the prices paid for live cattle.

It may be that increased competition among packers and retailers will reduce the spread between feedlot and retail counter during the next few months. If so, prices of cattle could increase substantially with little rise in retail prices. A dime a pound added to the price of beef, or subtracted from the marketing spread. raise the value of cattle by more than \$4 a hundred pounds

Livestock prod advised Saturday forward contract cattle that will be market late this

Harold Heinele of Heinold Hog M cattle division, action "coul producers from adverse cash this year and e Heinold urged t of 83 Heinold b seven states producers to ta during the ar meeting of Valparaiso, Ir

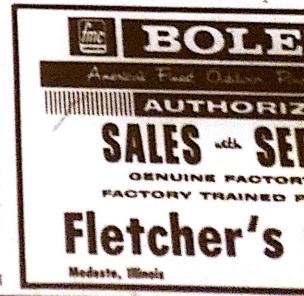
> Among thos meeting was manager of market.

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by L. H. Simerl Extension Economist Agricultural Marketing

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