

Overproduction Problems May Be Aggravated
by Live Cattle Imports

In May 1968, the United States Department of Agriculture reported that, as of the end of the first quarter of 1968, 10.7 million cattle and calves were on feed in 32 of the major livestock producing states. This, according to the report, is 200,000 head more than a year earlier, indicating a 2% increase in cattle on feed.^{6/}

Major Problem of Overproduction Worsened
by Live Cattle Imports

The number of cattle on farms has risen sharply and current reported beef cattle inventory is also increasing.

The oversupply of fed beef may be expected to bring about a continued soft market unless those directly involved in U.S. production slow down their race to bring animals to feed. As has been stated, increased cattle population and sharply increased imports of live cattle will result in oversupply of such animals. Cattlemen concede that their major problem is one of overproduction

6/ Livestock and Meat Situation, United States Department of Agriculture, May, 1968.

7/ John H. Guthrie, President, American National Cattlemen's Association, June, 1967 issue of Feedlot magazine. See also the lead editorial on page 23 in the May 6, 1967 issue of the National Provisioner, one of many sources reporting a campaign launched on April 21, 1967 by the American National Cattlemen's Association (Market Development Committee) to establish an "industry-inspired guideline" aimed at cutting the national supply of beef by at least 5%. The editorial characterized the issue facing the cattlemen as "How the beef industry can get out from under the surfeiting abundance that threatens to bury it unless supply is brought into line with effective demand."