



JAN. 29 - FEB. 4, 2001

ST. BRIGID, FEBRUARY 1

TWO WINTERS?

"If Candlemas Day (February 2) is bright and clear, there will be two winters in the year," goes the old weather lore. Sound like Groundhog Day? That's because our modern Groundhog Day traditions have their roots in the old Candlemas rites. "If Candlemas Day be fair and bright, winter will have another flight. But if it be dark with clouds and rain, winter is gone and will not come again." The candlelighting extends back to Roman times, when candles were part of purification rituals at this time of year. "Februa" was the month for cleansing, when Yule greens were removed from homes and churches, and old brush and debris were burned to prepare the fields for the next sowing.

On Candlemas Day, have half your wood and half your hay.

TIP OF THE WEEK

Clean wax from candleholders by putting them into the freezer first. Once frozen, the wax will chip off easily.

PESTO RACK OF LAMB

- 8 ribs rack of lamb (up to 2 pounds)
- salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup prepared pesto sauce
- 1 cup freshly made bread crumbs
- fresh parsley or chopped basil, to garnish

in the pesto sauce. Dredge this in the bread crumbs. Cover bone ends with aluminum foil, place rack of lamb onto a baking sheet, and bake for 15 minutes. Remove foil and bake for another 20 minutes, or until chops are done. Slice into and serve, garnished with fresh herb of your choice.

Makes 4 servings.

Preheat oven to 375°F. Scrape the bone ends of the lamb clean, just up to where the chop begins. Season the chops with salt and pepper, then coat them

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THE OLD FARMER'S WEATHER PROVERBS



When the wind is in the east on Candlemas Day, there it will stick until the second of May.

If Candlemas Day be fine and clear, Corn and fruits will then be dear.

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Okla. National Stockyards

Oklahoma City, OK
January 24, 2001

Report Supplied By USDA

Compared to last week: Feeder cattle 1.00-2.00 lower. Stockers and calves steady. Demand moderate for feeder cattle as pen space becoming a limiting factor. However, lower levels due mainly to heavily discounted summer CME contracts. Demand good for stockers with heifer activity improving due to wide steer-heifer gap.

Quality plain through attractive. Feeder cattle in medium to fleshy conditions; stockers and calves in thin to fleshy conditions.

Weigh-ups gaunt to average, few full. Slaughter cows 2.00-3.00 higher. Slaughter bulls 1.00-2.00 higher. Packer demand very good. Total of 500 cows and bulls sold with 30 percent to packers. Receipts this week 9686; last week 12,599; last year 11,879.

Supply consisted of 56 percent yearlings over 600 lbs; 39 percent calves and light yearlings under 600 lbs; 5 percent cows and bulls.

Heifers comprised 42 percent of feeder and calf supply.

Prices follow with weighted average

weight and price in parenthesis.

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1
few 300-350 lbs (333 lbs) 130.00- 133.50 (131.11); 350-400 lbs (380 lbs) 120.00-131.50 (123.16); 400- 500 lbs (450 lbs) 107.00-117.00 (114.12); 500-550 lbs (532 lbs) 99.50- 108.50 (103.73); 550-600 lbs (573 lbs) 94.00-102.00 (96.74); 600-700 lbs (650 lbs) 89.00-95.00 (92.70); 700-750 lbs (726 lb) 87.00-92.50 (89.31); 750-800 lbs (771 lbs) 84.00-88.00 (85.76); 800-900 lbs (850 lbs) 81.50- 84.50, few fleshy 78.00-79.75 (82.78).

Holsteins: Large 3 425 lbs 86.00; 500 lbs 82.00; 600 lbs 76.75- 77.50; 785 lbs 71.50; 930 lbs 67.00.

Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1
300-400 lbs (350 lbs) 109.00- 115.50 (113.33); 400-450 lbs (424 lbs) 100.00-107.50 (102.30); 450- 500 lbs (480 lbs) 92.00-99.00 (94.93); 500-550 lbs (530 lbs) 88.00-94.50 (92.39); 550-600 lbs (575 lbs) 86.00-93.50 (89.89); 600-700 lb (650 lbs) 83.00-86.50 (85.18); 700-800 lbs (750 lbs) 80.00-84.75, few fleshy 78.00-79.50 (81.58); few 800-825 lbs (812 lbs) 79.75-81.25 (80.50); few 900-950 lbs (934 lbs) 73.00-74.00 (73.75).

Slaughter Cows: Head %Lean Weight
Average Dress High Dress Low Dress Breaker 16 75-80% 1000-1600 43.50-46.50 44.50-47.75 38.25-39.00 Boner 28

80-85% 950-1500 41.50-44.00 44.00-47.00 40.00-42.00 Lean 48 85-90% 875-1500 40.00-42.25 42.50-46.50 35.00-39.00 Light 10 85-92% 700-800 36.50-38.50 31.00-34.50

Slaughter Bulls: Head Weight Average Dress High Dress Low Dress Yield Grade 1-2 27 1300-2200 53.00-56.50 55.50-60.00 45.00-51.00

Estimated dressed cost at Oklahoma National Stockyards: Lean 88.00, light carcasses 81.50; Boners 86.75; Breakers 83.80. Bulls 96.45.

Replacement Cows: Pretested for bangs, pregnancy, and age Medium and Large 1 Age Weight Months Bred Quality Price Heifers 850-950 6-7 months High, blacks 780.00, Heifers 700-800 4-7 months Avg, blacks 590.00-600.00; 3-6 yr old 925-1300 5-8 months High, blacks 810.00-890.00, 3-6 yr old 975-1375 6-8 months Avg quality 690.00-750.00; 7-8 yr old 1050-1250 5-7 months Avg quality 595.00-665.00; 9-10 yr old 1100-1200 5-8 months Avg quality 550.00-595.00.



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