

Five-Area Weekly Average Direct Slaughter Cattle
 St. Joseph, Mo., March 18, 2002 – USDA Market News Service
 Sales in Texas/Oklahoma; Kansas; Nebraska;
 Colorado; and Iowa/Minnesota Feedlots for
Week Ending Sunday, March 17, 2002

CONFIRMED SALES: 164,090; Week Ago: 223,542

LIVE BASIS SALES:

SLAUGHTER STEERS:

	Head Count	Weight Range	Price Range	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
Over 80% Choice	2,566	1,025-1,630	72.00-76.50	1,362	74.56
65-80% Choice	5,122	787-1,550	73.00-76.00	1,266	74.69
35-65% Choice	40,237	850-1,550	72.00-76.00	1,231	74.15
1-35% Choice	3,106	980-1,515	73.50-74.75	1,246	74.19

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS:

Over 80% Choice	3,391	925-1,550	72.50-73.00	1,234	74.60
65-80% Choice	7,411	900-1,550	73.50-75.50	1,197	74.31
35-65% Choice	27,434	835-1,425	71.50-75.00	1,119	74.21
1-35% Choice	374	1,075-1,475	71.50-74.50	1,238	73.75

DRESSED BASIS SALES:

SLAUGHTER STEERS:

Over 80% Choice	3,374	602-1,459	118.00-120.00	857	119.71
65-80% Choice	15,745	524-1,064	106.00-121.00	848	119.88
35-65% Choice	16,226	522-1,057	115.00-120.00	823	118.81
1-35% Choice	322	655- 821	116.00-116.00	735	116.00

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS:

Over 80% Choice	2,609	472-1 048	117.00-120.00	764	119.35
65-80% Choice	11,903	462-1,006	116.00-121.00	775	119.17
35-65% Choice	10,778	482-1,015	116.00-120.00	750	118.35
1-35% Choice					

Weekly Accumulated Weighted Averages (Beef Breeds):

	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
Live Steer	51,031	1,2541.7	74.23
Live Heifer	38,610	1,145.5	74.26
Dressed Steer	35,667	836.8	119.35
Dressed Heifer	25,291	763.3	118.85

Week Ago Weighted Averages

Live Steer	70,249	1,253.5	73.02
Live Heife	48,556	1,155.2	73.12
Dressed Steer	37,345	836.6	116.45
Dressed Heifer	39,409	774.2	116.15

National Feeder Cattle Weekly Summary

St. Joseph, Mo.
 March 15, 2002

Report Supplied By USDA

NATIONAL FEEDER CATTLE SUMMARY
 for week ending Mar. 15. Receipts: This week 183,900; last week 157,800; year ago 200,700. This week's reported volume included 50 percent weighing over 600 lbs. Compared to last week, feeder steers and heifers sold 1.00-3.00 lower with the most pressure placed on cattle weighing over 800 lbs and expected to finish around July. The June and August CME Live Cattle Futures contracts are both trading near 67.50 and buyers are pulling in the reins on heavy feeders, as they know that the fat cattle market is historically sour during the dog days of summer. This past week's lower feeder cattle prices were fairly uniform across the nation, with the only bright spot being lighter weight stocker cattle in grass country. Demand was very good for the thin 5 and 6 weight cattle in any state that neighbors Oklahoma or Kansas and prices were steady to firm. Despite this summer grazing demand, most of the Plains region is seriously dry and the word drought is being mentioned more and more.

The cattle industry received a bruising cheap shot on Wednesday, when rumors of a Hoof and Mouth scare were brought to life by the media. Even though the incident turned out to be nothing more than a couple Kansas cows with blistered mouths from chewing on something besides hay; the Board turned sharply lower and feedlots were forced to settle for a 74.00 market, after setting their sights on 75.00 or maybe even 76.00. It's a shame that the spread of unconfirmed reports can blindsides the cattle market and shed unneeded negative publicity on the industry. Isn't it still against the law to yell "FIRE" in a crowded theater? And, when was the last time that the cattle market locked up-the-limit on rumors and innuendo? Nevertheless, this story was enough to send both the cattle and dressed beef markets into a tailspin.

Friday's bearish cattle-on-feed report dealt another blow to the feeder cattle market. Although on feed numbers were 1 percent below last year and marketings were 4 percent more than 2001, February's feedlot placements were 116 percent of last year's and far surpassed most analyst's expectations.....Maybe it'll rain next week.

Livestock Cooperative Auction Market Of North Jersey

Hackettstown, N.J.
 Report Supplied by Auction
 March 19, 2002

Hay—Straw—Grain

ALFALFA: 5 LOTS, 1.80-3.60 BALE.
 MIXED HAY: 32 LOTS, 1.00-3.40 BALE.
 TIMOTHY: 2 LOTS, 3.30 BALE.
 GRASS: 3 LOTS, 1.10-1.90 BALE.
 MULCH HAY: 3 LOTS, 1.20 BALE.
 RYE STRAW: 3 LOTS, 2.70-2.90 BALE.
 OATS: 1 LOT AT 2.90 BU.
 TIMOTHY SEED: 16.00.
 TOTAL LOTS: 50.

SLAUGHTER EWES: San Angelo: Good and Choice 2-4 26.00-37.50; Good 2-3 39.00-46.00; Utility and Good 1-3 42.00-51.00; Utility 1-2 31.00- 42.00; Cull and Utility 1-2 24.00-31.00. Midwest: Utility and Good 1-3 25.00-28.00; Cull 1-2 20.00-25.00. New Holland: no report. Billings: Good 2-3 no test; Utility 1-2 no test; Cull 1 no test.

FEEDER LAMBS: Medium and Large 1-2: San Angelo: new crop 60-90 lbs 70.00-75.00. Midwest: 60-80 lbs 70.00-80.00; 80-100 lbs 60.00-70.00. Virginia: no test. Billings: no test.

REPLACEMENT EWES: Medium and Large 1-2: San Angelo: no test. Billings: no test. End of file

National Sheep Summary

San Angelo, Texas
 March 19, 2002

Report Supplied By USDA

At midwest market centers all classes steady. At New Holland, PA report not available. At San Angelo, TX slaughter lambs 3.00-5.00 lower; slaughter ewes weak to 1.00 lower; feeder lambs 3.00-5.00 lower. 10,000 head estimated for today.

SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Choice and Prime 2-3 90-150 lbs: San Angelo: shorn and woolled 60.00-69.00; new crop 68.50-75.00; shorn 62.00-64.00; woolled 57.00-59.00. New Holland: no report. Virginia: no test.



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