

Five-Area Weekly Average Direct Slaughter Cattle

St. Joseph, Mo., December 30, 2002 - USDA Market News Service

Sales in Texas/Oklahoma; Kansas, Nebraska;

Colorado; and Iowa/Minnesota Feedlots for

Week Ending Sunday, December 29, 2002

Confirmed Sales: 170,428; Week Ago: 115,536, Year Ago: 148,715

LIVE FOB BASIS SALES - Beef Breeds:**SLAUGHTER STEERS**

	#Head	Wt Range	Price Range	Av. Wt	Av. Price
Over 80% Choice	1,613	1335-1450	70.00-73.50	1,389	72.52
65-80% Choice	4,623	1150-1425	71.00-74.00	1,342	72.98
35-65% Choice	37,689	1124-1425	71.00-74.00	1,283	73.40
0-35% Choice	4,725	1150-1350	71.00-74.00	1,244	73.60
TOTAL all grades	48,650	1125-1450	70.00-74.00	1,289	73.35

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS

Over 80% Choice	2,718	1200-1350	70.50-73.00	1,280	72.61
65-80% Choice	5,169	1025-1335	72.00-74.00	1,250	73.16
35-65% Choice	29,062	1030-1400	71.00-74.00	1,151	73.50
0-35% Choice	1,230	1050-1200	71.00-74.00	1,142	73.37
TOTAL all grades	38,179	1025-1400	70.50-74.00	1,173	73.39

DRESSED DELIVERED BASIS - Beef Breeds:**SLAUGHTER STEERS**

Over 80% Choice	1,620	772-918	113.00-116.00	870	114.68
65-80% Choice	11,355	750-930	113.00-116.00	872	114.63
35-65% Choice	15,269	663-903	112.50-116.25	848	114.93
0-35% Choice	192	714-800	115.00-115.00	741	115.00
TOTAL all grades	28,436	663-930	112.50-116.25	858	114.79

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS

Over 80% Choice	2,929	719-868	113.00-116.00	808	115.25
65-80% Choice	9,951	693-866	113.00-116.00	789	115.27
35-65% Choice	11,633	660-880	112.00-116.25	756	115.38
0-35% Choice	192	714-800	114.00-116.25	815	115.06
TOTAL all grades	24,871	660-880	112.00-116.25	776	115.32

WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES:

	Head Count	Av Weight	Av Price
Live Steer	48,650	1,289	73.35
Live Heifer	38,179	1,173	73.39
Dressed Steer	28,436	858	114.79
Dressed Heifer	24,871	776	115.32

Week Ago Weighted Averages:

Live Steer	37,643	1,286	71.56
Live Heifer	29,552	1,167	71.69
Dressed Steer	15,909	847	112.24
Dressed Heifer	13,655	775	112.28

Year Ago Weighted Averages:

Live Steer	36,838	1,280	64.15
Live Heifer	28,760	1,167	64.39
Dressed Steer	29,185	843	103.95
Dressed Heifer	24,624	764	104.10

National Carlot Meat Report

Des Moines, IA

December 30, 2002

Report Supplied By USDA

USDA Market News USDA Carlot Meat 4:00 Summary: Compared to Previous Day, Prices in Dollars per hundred-weight, Equated to FOB Omaha Basis.

BOXED BEEF CUTS: Boxed beef uneven on moderate to fairly good demand and moderate to heavy offerings. Select and Choice chuck and round cuts steady to firm, while loin cuts weak and rib cuts lower. Beef trimmings generally steady on light to moderate demand and offerings.

Estimated composite cutout value of Choice 1-3, 600-750 lbs carcasses dn .85 at 120.63, 750-900 lbs dn .51 at 120.82; Select 1-3, 600-750 lbs up .14 at 117.42, 750-900 lbs dn .02 at 116.34; based on 166.14 loads of Choice cuts, 114.18 loads of Select cuts, 28.79 loads of trimmings, and 62.66 loads of coarse ground trimmings.

Estimated carcass price equivalent value of Choice 1-3, 600-750 lbs up .04 at 111.31, 750-900 lbs up .26 at 111.42; Select 1-3, 600-750 lbs up .61 at 105.84, 750-900 lbs up .49 at 105.11. Current index reflects the equivalent of 282,442 head of cattle.

NATIONAL CARLOT BEEF: The Cutter cow carcass gross cutout value was estimated at 83.36, unchanged.

By-Product Drop Value: Hide and offal from a typical slaughter steer was estimated at 7.81, unchanged.

NATIONAL CARLOT PORK: Sales reported on 52.50 loads of pork cuts and 24.0 loads of trim/process pork.

~In the absence of Negotiated Base Price (NBP) trades and industry partici-

pation, NBP price quotations will be removed from the National Carlot Pork Report, January 6, 2003. This will result in the Negotiated Base Price, the FOB Negotiated, and the Total on FOB Basis price being replaced by one line with the item description followed by the price quotes which represents negotiated prices on a FOB basis. However, NBP's will remain for Fresh, Seedless Pork Bellies, Skin-on 12-18 lbs until March 28, 2003 at which time they will be permanently removed.~

Compared to Friday's close: Fresh ¼" lions 7.00 lower than last test; boston butts 1.00-3.00 higher; sknd. hams 20-23 lbs generally steady, 23-27 lbs. steady to 1.00 lower; lean trimmings generally steady. Trading slow to moderate, light to moderate demand and offerings.

Calculations for a 185 lb Pork Carcass 51-52 percent lean 0.80" -0.99" back fat at last rib — 52.05 dn .20. Loins bone in fresh ¼ inch trim 21 lb/down-light 85.00-98.00. Hams bone in trimmed, 20-23 lbs trim spec 1 41.00.

CARLOT LAMB CARCASS: 0 head reported.

East Fluid Milk And Cream Review

Madison, Wis.

December 31, 2002

Report Supplied by USDA

Spot prices of class II cream, dollars per lb. butterfat: F.O.B. producing plants: Northeast: 1.3680-1.4820. Delivered Equivalent: Atlanta: 1.3794-1.5276 mostly 1.3908-1.4136.

PRICES OF CONDENSED SKIM, dollars per lb. wet solids, F.O.B. producing plants: Northeast: Class II, includes monthly formula prices: .9850-1.0300; Class III - spot prices - .6800-.8700.

SPOT SHIPMENTS OF GRADE A MILK: FLORIDA: This week: In 0, Out

27; last week: In 0, Out 100; last year: In 11, Out 0. **SOUTHEAST STATES:** This week: In 0, Out 0; last week: In 0, Out 0; last year: In 0, Out 0.

Milk supplies

remain heavy throughout the region. The second week of the two-week holiday period continues to give manufacturers heavy volumes of surplus milk. Northeast plants are at or near capacity. However, a few cheese operations are running only four days this week. In the Southeast, manufacturers are also nearly full. Last week, quite a bit of Southwest milk was shipped into the Southeast for processing. This milk was all intra-company transactions. Bottled milk sales are poor, but bottlers are already preparing for the refilling of school lunch pipelines. Most will be in full swing on Thursday and continue heavy bottling through the weekend. It is somewhat unusual that the holidays fall at midweek and schools go back in session at the same time. Other years often see school re-openings a little more staggered so that bottlers can "spread out" their schedules.

Milk production is about steady in all areas of the East. Some increases are being reported in the Southeast, but gains have been spotty. During this time of year, most contacts are busy moving and/or processing the surplus milk and have only cursory information on the milk flow this week.

The condensed skim market is little changed, but some contacts expect Class II wet solids to reflect lower prices in the near future. Offerings of condensed skim are long and spot buyers are looking for the best price.

The fluid cream market remains weak. Offerings are heavy and demand is fair at best. Volumes clearing to local and Mid-west churning facilities remain heavy. In fact, one butter maker had tankers waiting to unload for several days due to lack of silo-space and processing capacity. Spot demand for Class II is light and prices steady to higher. Despite the long supply and slower demand for both cream and butter, the CME butter price increased last week and the weekly average jumped 2.33 cents. Eggnog production is essentially complete. Some producers do make small amounts year round, but the holiday orders have been filled. Ice cream output is slow to fair as some plants remain closed. Sour cream, bottled cream, and dip production has slowed, but should be fairly decent through January. Cream cheese output is about steady, but some producers are taking advantage of the relatively low priced cream and making some spot purchases.

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