

# Steers Set Record At \$88.25

**MILLIE BUNTING**  
Market Staff

NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Slaughter steer prices at the county auctions seemed well on their way this week to break the record Choice steer weekly average price of \$83.15 (per hundredweight) set in December 1990.

Monday, Dave Wert, market reporter with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA), covered the fed cattle sale at the Vintage Sales Stables and reported prices \$.75-1.00 higher compared to last Thursdays auction at New Holland. High Choice and Prime steers sold \$83.75-87.50, with a few to \$88.25, average price \$85.99; and Choice 2-3, \$80.00-84.75, average price \$82.65.

Tuesday, the main cattle sale at Vintage in the absence of Taylor Cox, was reported by Jim Anderson, who retired from the USDA Market News Service after 35 year of covering the county livestock auctions. Anderson was to quote the highest prices he ever witnessed on High Choice and Prime cattle. Steer prices were in the same range as those quoted Monday.

One Angus cow from a remote area in northern Alberta, Canada, halted the upward advance to the highest cattle prices in the history of the Pennsylvania cattle industry.

Late Tuesday, via e-mails and news reports, we learned that a cow slaughtered Jan. 31 at a Canadian packing plant had bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) — referred to as mad cow disease. Tests were done and redone in England. Since so much time has elapsed between the slaughter and the test results, it was enough to send shock waves through the cattle industry. How many more BSE cattle are out there? (Details of the BSE situation are printed in an article on page 1 this week.)

Cattle futures dropped the daily limit of 150 points Wednesday, direct feedlot trading was too little to trend, and cattle prices were reported \$1.00-2.00 lower at Sioux Falls, S. D., the terminal market that eastern cattle feeders follow for price trends.

After a devastating year in 2002, cattle feeders were (and still are) reveling in the highest fed cattle prices in 10 years. Also this terrific market was happening at a time when the most farmer/feeders could benefit. Those

who feed cattle over the winter months, usually market them from April to June.

The euphoria of the advancing cattle prices here in the county Monday and Tuesday dissipated Thursday as demand faltered and became very selective. Even though prices were fully \$1.00 lower, with some High Choice and Prime selling fully \$2.00 lower, it still was a good market.

Taylor Cox, the current USDA market reporter, who had returned from the market news conference in Oklahoma City conducted earlier in the week, said bidding was sporadic — at times it was relatively good for the high quality stock only to falter when the lower grade cattle came in the ring.

In regards to the BSE effects on the U.S. cattle and beef trade, Cox said that we will have to wait and see what develops. He said there are differences of opinion concerning the situation. Some local producers feel it will boost local demand as packers will be forced to buy U.S. cattle to keep their chains full, while others feel consumer confidence in the safety of the beef supply could be affected.

Even though the CME futures trade and the cattle markets faltered after the BSE announcement, prices in the wholesale beef trade continued to move higher. Demand for Memorial Day cookouts has been excellent. This holiday at the beginning of the grilling season is considered the largest beef eating time of the year.

In checking the supermarket beef prices Thursday, New York strip steaks ready for the grill were priced at \$8.99 per pound. Perhaps there will be more hamburgers than steaks on the grills. There is a wide choice on ground product at various prices based on the percentage of fat. Carcass cutout values based on the prices of boxed beef cuts are at record levels. Wednesday, the Choice lightweight carcass cutout value advanced 76 cents to \$143.70 per hundredweight and the heavyweight Choice value advanced \$1.29 to \$143.85. Feedlot prices in very limited sales were mostly at \$80.00 live and ranged \$125.00-129.00, mostly \$127.00-128.00 on a dressed basis.

## Tennessee Feeder Cattle Sales

Nashville, Tenn.  
May 21, 2003

iReport Supplied By USDA

Tennessee Weighted Average report for Tuesday, May 20, at Dickson, Huntingdon, and Cookeville. Receipts 2,065 calves and feeders (57 pct over 600 lbs). Trend: Feeder steers and heifers mostly steady. Most cattle noted as small lots. The part and load lots were sold at Dickson in the special preconditioned yearling sale. Average weights and average prices in parentheses.

**FEEDER STEERS:** Medium and Large 1-2: 26 head, 300-400 lb (351) 05.00-113.00 (105.32); 80 head, 400-500 lb (443) 85.00-104.00 (96.82); 64 head, part load, 500-600 lb (553) 88.00; 21 head, 600-700 lb (641) 75.00-83.00 (79.68); 31 head, part load, 600-700 lb (667) 80.50-85.25 (82.59); 7 head, 700-800 lb (756) 74.00-79.00 (76.78); 110 head, part load, 700-800 lb (754) 75.25-83.00 (80.84); 5 head, 800-900 lb (822) 72.00-75.50 (74.17); 83 head, part load, 800-900 lb (815) 74.50-78.75 (77.59); 380 head, load lot, 800-900 lb (850) 77.80-79.50 (78.46); 7 head, part load, 1000-1100 lb (1079) 63.00-67.00 (65.86). Med./Lge. 3: 20 head, 300-400 lb (350) 87.00-107.00 (97.77); 18 head, 400-500 lb (553) 70.00-83.50 (77.91); 14 head, 600-700 lb (655) 70.00-81.50 (76.36); 6 head, 700-800 lb (720) 73.00-79.00 (74.80).

**FEEDER HEIFERS:** Medium and Large 1-2: 35 head, 300-500 lb (360) 85.00-96.00 (91.06); 73 head, 400-500 lb (447) 77.50-93.50 (85.37); 49 head, 500-600 lb (546) 70.00-87.00 (78.22); 24 head, part load, 78.75-81.50 (79.88); 27 head, part load, 600-700 lb (649) 73.00-79.00 (76.38); 30 head, part load, 700-800 lb (765) 67.50-73.00 (72.38); 130 head, load lot, 700-800 lb (780) 75.70. Med./Lge. 3: 42 head, 300-400 lb (363) 75.00-96.00 (85.95); 42 head, 400-500 lb (445) 75.00-90.00 (79.11); 15 head, 500-600 lb (550) 64.50-77.50 (72.60); 13 head, 600-700 lb (632) 66.00-76.50 (71.16).

**FEEDER BULLS:** Medium and Large 1-2: 34 head, 400-500 lb (458) 85.00-97.00 (90.97); 32 head, 500-600 lb (541) 76.00-89.50 (83.73); 9 head, 600-700 lb (628) 72.00-82.00 (77.14).

## North Carolina Livestock Sales

Raleigh, N.C.  
May 21, 2003

Report Supplied By USDA

**MOUNT AIRY LIVESTOCK AUCTION:** CATTLE and CALVES: 879 head, last week 1157. Slaughter cows were 2.00 to 3.00 higher. Feeder cattle were 2.00 to 4.00 lower. Slaughter cows and bulls 26 percent. Replacement pairs and feeder cows 6 percent. Feeder steers and bulls under 600 lbs 31 percent, over 600 lbs 9 percent. Feeder heifers under 600 lbs 26 percent, over 600 lbs 2 percent. Prices per cwt., except where noted.

**SLAUGHTER COWS:** Breakers 75-80 percent lean 850-1500 lbs 42.00-46.00, high dressing 46.50-47.50; Boners 80-85 percent 850-1400 lbs 43.00-48.00, high dressing 48.00-51.00, low dressing 34.00-41.00; Lean 85-90 percent 850-1300 lbs 34.00-41.50.

**SLAUGHTER BULLS:** Yield Grade 1, 1000-1500 lbs 55.50-61.50, with one at 63.00; 1500 lbs and up 54.50-64.00, with one at 64.50.

**FEEDER STEERS:** Medium and Large 1 and 2: 250-300 lbs 107.00-115.00; 300-350 lbs 98.00-116.00; 350-400 lbs 95.00-103.00; 400-450 lbs 97.00; 450-500 lbs 88.00-97.00; 500-600 lbs 82.00-91.00; 600-700 lbs 75.00-84.00; 700-800 lbs 76.00-79.00. Holsteins: Large 250-300 lbs 72.00-75.00; 350-400 lbs 65.00-74.00; 400-450 lbs 67.00-70.00; 500-600 lbs 68.00-71.00; 600-700 lbs 66.00-71.00; 800 lbs and up 61.00-66.00.

**FEEDER HEIFERS:** Medium and Large 1 and 2: 250-300 lbs 85.00-90.00; 300-350 lbs 84.00-92.00; 350-400 lbs 83.00-86.00; 400-450 lbs 81.00-91.00; 450-500 lbs 78.00-86.00; 500-600 lbs 73.00-81.00; 600-700 lbs 76.00-80.00; 700-800 lbs 65.00-66.00.

**FEEDER BULLS:** Medium and Large 1 and 2: 400-450 lbs 85.00-96.00; 450-500 lbs 84.00-93.00; 500-600 lbs 79.00-85.00; 600-700 lbs 70.00-78.00. Holsteins: Large 400-450 lbs 64.00-71.00; 600-700 lbs 50.00-56.00.

**FEEDER COWS:** Medium and Large 1: 900-1100 lbs young to middle age cows 40.00-45.00.

**STOCK COWS:** Medium and Large 1: 900-1300 lbs young to middle age cows bred 3-8 months 54.00-64.00 per head.

**COWS**  
**ALF PAIRS:** Medium 1, 900-1200 lbs young to middle age cows with calves 100-200 lbs 580.00-830.00 per pair. Small 1, 600-850 lbs with calves 100-200 lbs 490.00-550.00 per pair.

**BABY CALVES,** per head: 85.00-127.00.

**GOATS,** per head: Slaughter and Replacement Classes: Kids: Selection 2: under 20 lbs 20.00, 20-40 lbs 20.00-35.00. Does/Nannies: Selection 1: 100-140 lbs 80.00-100.00; Selection 2: 70-100 lbs 42.00-57.00. Bucks/ Billies: Selection 1: 150-250 lbs 120.00; Selection 2: 100-150 lbs 57.00-60.00, 150-250 lbs 72.00-85.00.

## Eastern Cornbelt Direct Sheep Weekly Summary

Springfield, Ill.  
May 16, 2003

Report Supplied By USDA

Eastern Cornbelt Direct Sheep Weekly Report (includes lambs sold in IL., IN., OH., MI.) — Compared to last week, slaughter lambs over 90 lbs were 10.00-20.00 higher. Lambs under 90 lbs traded 5.00-11.00 higher. Ewes were 3.00-5.00 higher. Goat prices were mostly steady. Trading was moderate to active with moderate to good demand. Tight supplies of finished lambs pushed the market higher. Carlot lamb carcass prices were higher with carcasses under 45 lbs 10.00-11.00 higher and heavier weights 2.00-6.00 higher. Confirmed sales this week about 69% slaughter lambs, 31% ewes and an additional 816 head of goats. Total sheep and lambs sales 1100, last week 1280 and year ago 1000.

**SLAUGHTER LAMBS:** Choice 2-3 90-120 lbs 110.00-113.00; 120-140 lbs 95.00-103.00; 55-70 lbs 104.00-109.00.

**SLAUGHTER EWES:** Utility to Good 1-3: 30.00-34.00; Cull to Utility: 25.00-30.00.

**SLAUGHTER GOATS (cwt.):** Kids: Selection 2: 20-40 lbs 100.00-105.00; 40-60 lbs 90.00-97.50. Selection 3: 20-60 lbs 50.00-65.00. Yearlings: Selection 2: 70-90 lbs 55.00-70.00. Does/Nannies and Bucks/Billies: 50.00-60.00.

This report covers sheep and lambs sold direct off the farm through local country stations.

Note: receipts do not cover total movement in the area.

## National Weekly Lamb Report

Des Moines, Iowa  
May 20, 2003

Report Supplied By USDA

**NATIONAL WEEKLY LAMB REPORT** for week ending Monday, May 19: **SLAUGHTERED LAMB PRIOR WEEK:** From Forward Contracts: Domestic 0; Imported 0. From Formula Arrangements: Domestic 15,528 head; Imported: 1,005.

**SLAUGHTERED PACKER OWNED SHEEP: DOMESTIC:** 2,098 head; 71-86 lbs (avg. 82 lbs); dressing 50.0-50.0% (avg. 50.0%); Choice or better 95.1%. IMPORTED: None.

**FORWARD CONTRACT PURCHASES:** No trade reported.

**FORMULA PURCHASES: DOMESTIC:** 1,379 head, 39-65 lbs, avg. 61.9 lbs; 185.07-209.00, wtd. avg. price 191.81; 5,088 head, 65-75 lbs, avg. 70.6 lbs; 181.05-200.00, wtd. avg. price 190.06. 3,523 head; 75-82 lbs, avg. 77.4 lbs; 184.00-200.00, wtd. avg. price 187.02; 6,553 head, 85-90 lbs, avg. 85.5 lbs; 186.14-191.06; wtd. avg. price 186.56. IMPORTED: None reported.

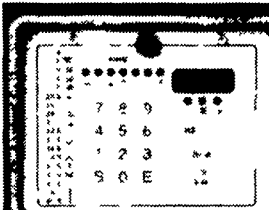
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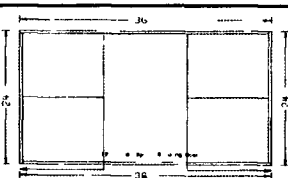
245 Fetterville Rd.

East Earl, PA 17519

### The Charleston: 4 Stall Barn 24'x36'x10'

1-12'x10' Split Slider Door  
1-3' Steel Entrance Door  
12" Overhang on both 36' sides  
4-8' Skylights in the roof  
All Painted Steel Roof & Sides  
(Stall Pkg. 4-12'x12' add \$7,200)

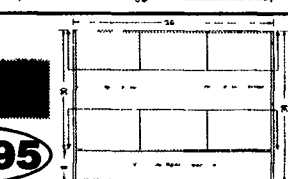
\$8295



### The Saratoga: 6 Stall Barn 30'x36'x10'

2-10'x10' Split Slider Doors  
1-3' Steel Entrance Door  
12" Overhang all 4 sides  
8'x36' Open Lean To  
All Painted Steel Roof & Sides  
(Stall Pkg. 6-10'x12' add \$10,200)

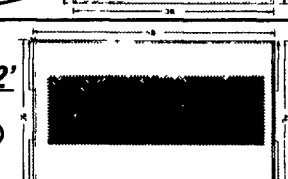
\$11,995



### The Belmont: 8 Stall Barn

2-12'x12' Split Slider Doors  
1-3' Steel Entrance Door  
12" Overhang all 4 sides  
6/12 Attic Truss with Loft  
All Painted Steel Roof & Sides  
(Stall Pkg. 8-12'x12' add \$12,800)

\$21,900



### The Aqueduct: 70'x120'x14'

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