

Central Stockyards Market Insights is a new feature containing insights from our team, featuring their perspectives on the fed cattle market based upon conversations with feedyards and national and regional packers. Please enjoy this free commentary!

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The volatility and supply chain ripple effects from the Ukrainian situation have stopped the recent upward trend for fed cattle prices. Wild swings in the prices of oil, metals and other raw materials have disrupted many markets. In the face of uncertainty, we expect fed cattle prices to be flat to lower in the coming weeks.

Chains speeds are still running at a fast pace which should help keep feedyards as current as possible.

With ongoing drought and wild grain prices, packers and cattle feeders are both adjusting their short- and long-term procurement strategies.

Feeders are quickly unloading forward contract cattle with high cost of gain but holding back some open cash cattle supply. Packers are relying on their forward contracts and committed supplies. With so much change, we may experience supply gaps in near future.

Drought continues its stranglehold on major cow/calf areas. Ranches are holding tightly to hay, land, and cattle as calving season comes into full swing. Video sale prices are also expected to be volatile as the general sentiment is to sit tight and see what the next two weeks brings.

Central Stockyards Team

Forrest Roberts	317.997.3486
Surcy Peoples	806.452.9315
Jesse Larios	760.356.0746
Jonalee Watkins	307.751.0848