

April 15, 2022

Live cattle were higher this week with the trade at \$139 in the south and \$142 – 144 in the north, \$224 – 228 dressed.

The overall market pace seemed rushed this week as trade occurred early and many plants prepared for a slow holiday weekend.

The Senate Agriculture Committee is scheduled to hold a hearing on April 26 to review S. 4030, The Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act of 2022, and S.3870, The Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act of 2022.

The House Agriculture Committee will hold a hearing the following day, April 27, to discuss cattle markets and price increases for consumers. The Chief Executive Officers of Cargill, Tyson Foods, JBS, and National Beef Packing are scheduled to participate in the hearing.

The White House has responded to increasing gasoline prices by making regulatory changes which will increase the use of biofuels, specifically making E15 gasoline – gasoline that uses a 15% ethanol blend – to be sold this summer. The Environmental Protection Administration (EPA) will offer this emergency waiver which would be in effect from June 1 through September 15, 2022.

While this change may help consumers pay less at the gas pump, feedyards and other protein producers will see increased demand for corn as supplies are allocated to ethanol plants. According to Agrivisor, the White House's policy on E15 is expected to increase U.S. corn demand by 25 million to 45 million bushels.

This week's late winter storm in the northern plains has impacted ranchers in Montana, Wyoming, and the Dakotas. The timing of the storms could not have been worse with most ranchers in the middle of calving and the ground still frozen from winter. It is too early to tell what the impact may be on summer video sales and other forward contracting for fall placements into feedyards.

This week's Fed Cattle Exchange saw another week of strong bidding with nearly 7,000 consigned and 665 head sold to major and regional packers. Thursday's sale saw 480 head from Nebraska sell for a weighted average of \$144.13/cwt FOB the feedyard, setting the regional market for the week.

The Fed Cattle Exchange platform experienced increased engagement for the week with nearly 200 sale viewers and nearly 2,000 overall platform views and 5,500 platform actions.

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