

February 10, 2023

Sale schedule for next week (all sales start at 10:00 AM Central):

- **Tuesday, February 14**
- **Wednesday, February 15**
- **Thursday, February 16**

The Fed Cattle Exchange listed 5,395 head for the week with three regular sales and an additional special sale on Friday. We may continue to add Friday sales as dictated by market conditions and customer feedback.

Bids on Tuesday began at \$158 - \$158.50 against reserve prices of \$166 - \$161.50. Reserve prices remained at \$160 - \$161 all week as bids increased to mostly \$158.50 - \$159.50 from Tuesday through Friday.

Live Cattle futures were up \$1 for the week and Feeder Cattle futures were steady though the Feeder Cattle Index was up \$1.50 for the week.

Fed cattle trade had not yet occurred in significant volume as of this writing late Friday afternoon. Limited volumes have sold in Nebraska at \$158 live and \$254 - \$255 dressed and limited volume at \$160 in Kansas and Texas.

Last week's limited country trade and standoff between packers and feedyards seems to have carried over into this week. While both sides feel they have reasons to hold their respective positions, the market feels like it is ready to trade significant volumes once a breakout occurs.

Pen conditions continue to prove challenging for many feedyards and cattle weights and conversions are suffering. With more wet weather and cold on the long-term weather outlook, these conditions may not improve anytime soon.

Stocker and feeder auctions have been very strong in recent weeks with some southern livestock markets posting prices of \$240+ for 5-weight steers and \$195+ for 7-weights. Many buyers are betting on a strong fall rally in Live Cattle based upon an overall shortage of market-ready cattle this fall. The current discount in Live Cattle futures is contrary to this thesis but based upon last week's USDA Cattle Inventory report, these purchases can be justified.

We invite all feedyards to list cattle with Central Stockyards. Whether your feedyard sells on a live basis, negotiated grid, or other marketing method, our Fed Cattle Exchange platform presents your cattle to major and regional packers. If you are interested in transparent, real-time price discovery, we invite you to list a few pens and see how we can help you. Contact us today for more information.

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