

March 24, 2023

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

- **Tuesday, March 28**
- **Wednesday, March 29**
- **Thursday, March 30**
- **Friday, March 31 depending upon market conditions and buyer/seller feedback**

The Fed Cattle Exchange listed 2,956 head for the week. Bids on Tuesday began at \$162 against reserve prices of \$164 - 165. Bids on Wednesday were \$162 – 163 with sales at \$163. Thursday saw bids from \$162 – 164 with more listings selling at \$164.

Cash trade in the North was mostly \$164 – 166 live and \$264 - 266 dressed, \$1 higher than last week. The Southern trade was \$163 - 164, steady to \$1 lower than last week. For the second week, trade occurred over multiple days with higher bids coming from buyers later in the week.

Live Cattle and Feeder Cattle futures were steady for the week. The Feeder Cattle Index was also steady for the week.

Questions about the stability of the banking system were again in focus this week as several banks filed for bankruptcy and/or merged. The Federal Reserve raised interest rates by 25 basis points signaling that inflation was not yet under control.

The market appears to be at an inflection point where the consumer's financial strength is competing with a supply chain with limited market-ready volume. Can packers continue to sell beef at premium prices? And, can those premiums work their way upstream to feedyards and ranchers who are fighting their own inflation battles? Margin compression throughout the supply chain will impact decision-making in the short term. JBS reported net income was down 64% from Q4 2021 to 2022. How will this impact their posture for cattle pricing in the near term?

We welcome your feedback and suggestions on how to continue improving the Fed Cattle Exchange and its role in providing price discovery to the cattle industry.

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.

Central Stockyards Team

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