

April 21, 2023

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

- **Tuesday, April 25**
- **Wednesday, April 26**
- **Thursday, April 27**
- **Friday, April 28 depending upon market conditions and buyer/seller feedback.**

The Fed Cattle Exchange listed 3,041 head for the week. Bids Tuesday began at \$173 and increased to \$174.50 in Thursday's sale. Reserve prices began at \$176 and rose to \$177 Wednesday before retreating to \$175 in Thursday's sale, reflecting the slide in Live Cattle futures.

Cash trade in the North was mostly \$180 – 183 live and \$286 - 288 dressed while Southern trade was \$173 – 175, slightly lower than last week.

April Live Cattle and Feeder Cattle futures both fell \$2 for the week. The Feeder Cattle Index decreased slightly for the week.

Live and Feeder Cattle Futures have some unusually high spreads right now, distorted by the magnitude of the recent rally. The April to June Live Cattle discount is \$10 while the May to September Feeder Cattle premium is more than \$20. These spreads are expected to normalize over the coming weeks as the trading range gaps are filled.

Country cattle prices at livestock markets continued to increase early in the week before slowing slightly on Friday. Year to date beef export volume is down 13%, not a surprise given the dollar's strength against foreign currencies.

Friday's Cattle On Feed report showed total cattle on feed as of April 1 were 4% below 2022, placements 1% below 2022, and marketings 1% below 2022. The overall report was neutral to bearish. Given the market fundamentals and rally over the past month, the USDA report almost seems irrelevant.

The big question is: has the current market rally put in a short-term high or did the market just need a breather after such a big rally? Bears and bulls each have their case to make about the market trajectory over the coming weeks.

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

Forrest Roberts	317-997-3486
Jesse Larios	760-356-0746
Rey Armendariz	620-874-5200
Jonalee Watkins	307-751-0848