

December 01, 2023

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

- ***Wednesday, December 6th***
- ***Thursday, December 7th***
- ***Friday, December 8th (Depending upon market conditions and buyer/seller feedback)***

The Fed Cattle Exchange listed 9,862 head from TX, CA, KS and NE across three sales from Wednesday through Friday. Reserve prices for the week ranged from \$175 – \$180/cwt for high performing commodity cattle and high grading beef-on-dairy cattle. Reserve prices remained steady to lower with the weaker move in the live and feeder cattle futures. Bids for the week ranged from \$173 – \$175.25/cwt for high performing commodity cattle and high grading beef-on-dairy cattle.

In general, packer bids across the industry were mostly \$175/cwt and as of this writing, were slightly lower by the end of the week, primarily due to what has become a consistent, volatile trading activity in both Live Cattle and Feeder Cattle futures contracts. Fed cattle prices again declined week-over-week to mostly \$175/cwt live weight and \$275/cwt dressed weight in the North region. Cattle traded at mostly \$174-\$175/cwt in the Southern region. The North-South basis for this week was zero, following a consistent theme for the past few weeks.

This week, the Fed Cattle Exchange on Wednesday sold high performing commodity cattle in KS for \$174.50 and \$175.00/cwt via live weight marketing method. The Fed Cattle Exchange also sold high performing commodity cattle in TX for \$175.00/cwt via live weight marketing method.

The Fed Cattle Exchange welcomed a total of 14 packer buyers during this week. Active bids were received from both major and regional packer buyers. Cattle purchased on the Fed Cattle Exchange during this week was driven primarily by a major buyer participant.

Many seller customers continue to search for answers given the recent softening of the cash fed cattle market. That said, one topic of conversation by industry participants this week was that of the impact of a growing trend in beef-on-dairy placements in feedyards. Perspectives on this trend ranged from the extended days on feed operational implications versus conventional native feeder cattle while others offered suggestions that this growing trend could absorb some portion of the need to rebuild the beef cow herd given outcomes derived from recent cattle-on-feed reports. Some believe the seasonal, widening Choice-Select spread could fuel interest from cattle feeders to evaluate options with beef-on-dairy in near-term and long-term placement decisions.

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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