


How to read a cattle market report



Detailed saleyard report - Cattle
 Market information provided by MLA's National Livestock Reporting Service (NLRS)

report date 09 Feb 2010
 comparison date 02 Feb 2010

Saleyard
 Yarding 3540
 Change 1244

A combination of a return to fine weather and recent improvement to prices resulted in a larger yarding. Overall quality was good with large numbers of feeder classes also included in the line-up. Fierce competition between restockers and feeder buyers saw prices improve a further 2c to 7c/kg. Average prices for heavy feeder grades eased as the market opened. Feeder categories continued to meet very strong demand. Heavy steers and bullocks generally experienced the previous sale, while cows lifted a further 2c/kg. Buyer representation was good.

Light and medium weights 189c, while heavy classes mostly sold around 187c/kg. Despite the increase in supply, yearling heifers penned feeder buyers were able to absorb the increase in supply plus lift the price to 187c with a large number of sales over 180c with some to 186.2c/kg. A small selection of heavy steers averaged in the high 160c/kg range.

Good heavy steers made to 188.2 to average 182c and good heavy bullocks also made to 188.2c to average 177c/kg. Heavy cows made to 151.2c with a good sample of 144c/kg. Heavy bulls made to 148c/kg.

Category	Sale Prefix	Muscle Score	Fat Score	Head	Live Weight c/kg				Estimated Carcase			Estimated \$/Head		
					Low	High	Avg	Change	Low	High	Avg	Low	High	Avg
Yearling Steer														
0-330	RS	B	2	40	220.2	220.2	220.2	N/Q				562	562	562
	FD	C	2	243	176.2	196.2	191.8	2				483	641	597
	RS	C	2	377	178.2	209.2	195.9	5				459	631	545
	FD	C	3	23	179.2	195.0	192.9	9				582	585	585
330-400	RS	D	2	36	153.2	173.2	168.0	5				351	520	473
	FD	C	2	329	172.2	195.2	189.4	1				621	771	714
	FD	C	3	103	177.2	196.2	189.6	1				647	755	723
400+	FD	D	3	12	162.2	162.2	162.2	N/C				624	624	624
	FD	C	2	48	178.0	188.2	180.7	N/C				757	819	
	FD	C	3	140	172.2	192.2	186.6	5	322	346	337	777	913	846
	FD	C	3	105	177.2	190.2	185.3	2	322	346	337	351	923	647
Summary														
				1456	153.2	220.2	186.3							
Grown Steer														
400-500	FD	C	3	128	163.2	187.2	179.8	10				694	898	829
	FD	D	3	10	151.2	151.2	151.2	N/Q				643	643	643
500-600	C	3	10	162.0	170.0	168.4	N/Q	295	309	306	867	995	969	
	C	4	110	170.0	188.2	182.4	2	304	336	326	951	1110	1030	
600-750	D	3	4	151.2	151.2	151.2	N/Q	275	275	275	854	854	854	
	C	3	5	167.2	167.2	167.2	N/Q	304	304	304	1045	1045	1045	
750+	C	4	162	175.0	188.2	181.9	-4	313	336	324	1274	1374	1184	
	C	4	2	182.2	182.2	182.2	N/Q	325	325	325	1405	1405	1405	
Summary														
				431	151.2	188.2	170.5		275	336	310	643	1403	
Cows														
400-520	D	3	34	124.2	137.2	131.3	N/C	254	280	268	595	638	621	
	D	4	78	135.0	135.0	135.0	-3	265	265	265	668	668	668	
520+	DA	D	8	112.2	112.2	112.2	N/Q	267	267	267	611	611	611	
	D		118	130.0	138.2	134.0	2	265	282	273	696	781	728	
Summary	D	4	263	135.0	150.2	144.0	2	265	295	282	729	941	863	
				501	70.0	150.2	122.2					941	593	

Abbreviations: CATTLE: C: Certified Grained; DA: Dairy; PC: Pastoral; Cattle; SH: Shorthorn; 1X: 1st Cross; FD: Feeder

The precursor to the grade score is used to distinguish between:

- GF – Certified grainfed cattle
- RS – Cattle purchased by restocker and are either finished or kept for future breeding
- FD – Cattle purchased by lotfeeders
- DA – Dairy bred cows, bulls and manufacturing steers
- LE – Stock purchased by live exporters
- PC – Pastoral cattle

These comments give a description of the yarding, a summary of the market trends and detail any factors contributing to price changes. These include the quality of stock, buyer attendance and seasonal conditions.

Refers to the stock category and weight range.

Refers to the muscle score. There are 5 muscle scores that range from A (extreme muscling) to E (very light muscling).

Refers to the fat score. There are 6 fat scores ranging from 1 (limited coverage) to 6 (extreme coverage).

Refers to the actual number of head within this category.

Refers to the actual liveweight price range and includes the low and high price, and the weighted average.

Represents the estimated dollar per head price. Calculations are based on the liveweight price multiplied by the liveweight.

Provides the estimated carcase weight price. Calculations are based on the liveweight price divided by the estimated dressing percentage.

Provides the price variation from the previous week's sale. The variation only shows the value changes in monetary terms and does not make allowances for the impact of quality on the market.

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