

# Farm Market Report

## Cattle Market Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Oklahoma City-Des Moines-St. Joseph, Mo.-Moses Lake, Wash.

Cattle prices in dollars per hundredweight (cwt.) except some replacement animals per pair or head as indicated.

### NATIONAL FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE (Federal-State Market News)

St. Joseph, Mo.		
Dec. 31		
This week	Last week	Last year
NA	NA	47,500

Compared to Dec. 18: Most feeder cattle auctions were closed for the holidays as trading was very limited. This holiday break has provided a much needed breather from all the volatility and emotional strain that has dominated the markets throughout the fall season. The cattle markets are attempting to hit the reset button with higher expectations for 2016. Packers on Dec. 29 came out with aggressive bids to procure fed cattle supplies with live cattle prices mostly \$12 higher in the Southern Plains ranging from \$134-136, with dressed sales in Nebraska \$12 higher at \$212. A

few feeder cattle auctions this week traded with sharply higher gains on calves and yearlings (a very light test traded mostly \$15-25 higher than Dec. 18) as most auctions across the country took two weeks off.

Burwell, Neb., on Dec. 30 held their annual Holiday Cow Classic with over 3200 bred cows and heifers on offer. A large standing-room-only crowd was on hand to bid on a large offering of dispersals and consignments of reputation young bred cows and heifers. Many of the top quality bred heifers mostly black spring AI bred heifers sold from \$2000-2500 and the young spring bred cows trading from \$2200-2550. In Kearney, Neb., on Dec. 30 over 3600 head of feeder cattle sold at the Huss-Platte Valley Auction with over 300 head of 750-800 lb. steers averaging 773 lbs. sold for a weighted average price of \$171.28 and 350 head of their bigger brothers averaging 823 lbs. sold for a weighted average price of \$164.43.

When marketing fully resumes next week with

increased receipts, it should be met with good demand as cattle traders will be watching and keeping tabs on the feeder and fed cattle markets hoping this late cash cattle rally will hold well into January 2016. With live cattle prices pushing higher the cut-out value naturally has followed with values erupting this week and surging back over the \$200 level for Choice product. Since Dec. 21, Choice cut-out has gone from \$191.28 to close on Dec. 31 \$3.81 higher at \$212.59.

AUCTIONS		
This week	Last week	Last year
178,100	337,900	187,800
WASHINGTON 2,000. 43 pct 600 lbs. 42 pct heifers. Steers: Medium and Large 1-2 550-600 lbs. \$142.93; 650-700 lbs. \$134.82; 750-800 lbs. \$134.56. Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2 500-550 lbs. \$134.52.		
DIRECT		
This week	Last week	Last year
26,300	41,300	25,700

**SOUTHWEST** (Arizona-California-Nevada) 6,400. No cattle over 600 lbs. No heifers. Holsteins: Large 3 275 lbs. \$178 April Del; 300 lbs. \$160 April Del; 300 lbs. \$169 April-May FOB; 325 lbs. April-May \$155 FOB; 325 May \$152 FOB.

**NORTHWEST** (Washington-Oregon-Idaho) 3,300. 100 pct over 600 lbs. 29 pct heifers. Steers: Medium and Large 1-2 Current FOB Price 700-750 lbs. \$147-149 Washington-Oregon; 800-850 lbs. \$146-148 Washington-Oregon. Current Delivered Price: 650 lbs. \$164 calves Idaho; 700-800 lbs. \$148-156.50 Idaho; 800-900 lbs. \$142-151 Idaho. Medium and Large 1: 700-750 lbs. \$153.50-154 Idaho; 850 lbs. \$149.50-150 Idaho. Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2: Current FOB Price: 650 lbs. \$142-144 calves Washington-Oregon; 700-750 lbs. \$139-143 Washington-Oregon. Current Delivered Price: 650-700 lbs. \$149 calves Idaho; 700-800 lbs. \$142-143 Idaho; 850-900 lbs. \$137 Idaho.

## Potato Market Reports

Compiled by North American Potato Market News and USDA Agricultural Market Service

Prices are weekly averages of daily prices. All prices are in dollars per hundredweight (cwt.). FWA is a weighted average of shipping point prices or common packs in each area. Weights differ by area. GRI is the Grower Returns Index for each individual area.

### FRESH RUSSET POTATO MARKET REPORT (North American Potato Market News) (USDA Market News) Jan. 2

Market commentary: Idaho carton prices moved higher in year-end trading, as the market adjusted to lighter movement.

SHIPPING AREA		GRI		70 ct		10 lb. Film		
FWA	Chg		Chg		Chg		Chg	
IDAHO BURBANKS	\$14.19	\$0.26	\$6.34	\$0.16	\$19.50	\$0.50	\$10.50	\$0
IDAHO NORKOTAHIS	\$13.23	\$0.66	\$6.09	\$0.49	\$16	\$2	\$10.50	\$0
COLUMBIA BASIN	\$13.11	-\$0.20	\$5.73	-\$0.12	\$17	\$0	\$9.50	\$0
KLAMATH BASIN	\$14.91	\$0	\$6.40	\$0	\$20	\$0	\$10.50	\$0

# University of Missouri's ag group goes all-female

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — An agriculture leadership group at the University of Missouri is made up of all female students for the first time, reflecting a slow but steady shift in the industry.

Thirteen students were selected in December as the first all-female group of Dickinson Scholars, the Columbia Missourian reported. The university's College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources pairs the students with Kansas City agribusinesses to give them an immersive experience.

Thomas Payne, the col-

lege's vice chancellor and dean, said he has noticed the demographics change since coming to the university in 1999.

"When I began my academic career, colleges of agriculture were predominantly men, as students and faculty," Payne said. "Now our student body is close to 50-50 women and men, and there are many more women faculty."

In the fall, the College of Agriculture, Food and Natural Resources had 57.5 percent female students in its undergraduate programs. The University of Missouri's under-

graduate student body is 52 percent female, according to the school's Division of Enrollment.

Women are in the minority in agriculture nationally, according to the Census of Agriculture conducted in 2012 by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Just 14 percent of the country's farms had a female principal operator.

The Dickinson Scholars program has been in existence since the mid-1990s, said Stephanie Chipman, the agriculture college's career services director. Students are chosen based on academic

excellence, career aspirations and demonstrated leadership.

Payne said the all of the college's academic programs are available to men and women, including Dickinson Scholars. The demographics of this year's group are encouraging, Chipman said.

Lindsey Robinson, a Dickinson Scholar this year, hopes to work for a livestock magazine after graduation. She said women have major roles on farms and in agricultural businesses and that people are recognizing their roles now.

"We are more than just farm moms," Robinson said.

# Quarantine limits citrus fruit donations

By TERRY TANG Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Donations to metropolitan Phoenix food banks will likely bear a lot less fruit this year because of a disease that has devastated citrus industries in other states.

The abundance of citrus trees in the Phoenix area typically leads to a surge in donations to food banks in the winter months as the fruit ripens and people donate boxes full of extra oranges, grapefruits and lemons that they can't use.

But St. Mary's Food Bank Alliance and Mesa-based United Food Bank — the main citrus donation charities in the Phoenix area — haven't been accepting drop-off donations of citrus because of a quarantine issued last month by the state Department of Agriculture. State officials are trying to stop the spread of the Asian citrus psyllid, a tiny bug that can transmit citrus greening disease, which can kill citrus trees. Also known as Huanglongbing, the bacterial disease does not hurt humans or animals.

Arizona agriculture officials have asked the public not to take or send citrus fruit,

leaves or plants across county or state lines.

St. Mary's Food Bank typically receives about 3 million pounds of citrus fruit each year. It's not unusual for people to show up with oranges or grapefruit by the truckload, according to St. Mary's spokesman Jerry Brown. But this current pest will likely cause a 30 to 35 percent drop, he said.

To be sure fruit doesn't come from a quarantined area, food banks have only one way to squeeze out more donated fruit — fetch it themselves.

At both St. Mary's and United Food Bank, interested donors can apply online to be added to a list of places where volunteer crews will come pick the citrus. It will cost the donor \$10-\$20 per tree for the service. Food banks, as a result, are in urgent need of more volunteers than usual.

"We have to establish a chain of custody," Brown said.

An army of volunteers will probably not be able to make up for all the missed drop-off opportunities. Between January and March, St. Mary's typically holds "Super Citrus Saturdays" where people drop off fruit at four different loca-

tions. One Saturday event can net up to 100,000 pounds.

"No matter how many volunteers we have, we're not going to be able to pick as much as fruit as the people who bring it to us," Brown said.

Sergio Paris, United Food Bank spokesman, said fruits are distributed to smaller food pantries or organizations such as the Boys & Girls Clubs. Some fruit is also squeezed for juice which is frozen and labeled for doling out later.

While following the quarantine is imperative, Paris said it isn't easy to think about all the fruit that will be left to rot on people's trees.

"The hard part is that in order to prevent this, we're essentially taking fruit away from people who need it," Paris said. "A 7-year-old boy won't be getting a piece of fruit and to supplement that, we will have to purchase fruit. But at the end of the day, if we don't stop this, it's something that could wipe out the entire citrus industry in the state."

Citrus greening disease makes fruit on an infected tree misshapen and bitter. The tree then dies within a few years. Arizona agriculture officials

say the disease has already crippled the citrus industry in Florida and Texas, costing thousands of jobs and \$1 billion.

The areas under quarantine include parts of Maricopa, Pima, Santa Cruz, Mohave, La Paz, Yavapai and Yuma counties.

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