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Farm Market Report

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Hay Market Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • St. Joseph, Mo.-Portland

Hay prices are dollars per ton or dollars per bale when sold to retail outlets. Basis is current delivery FOB barn or stack, or delivered customer as indicated. Grade guidelines used in this report have the following relationship to Relative Feed Value (RFV), Acid Detergent Fiber (ADF), TDN (Total Digestible Nutrients), or Crude Protein (CP) test numbers:

GRADE	RFV	ADF	TDN	CP
SUPREME	185+	<27	55.9+	22+
PREMIUM	170-185	27-29	54.5-55.9	20-22
GOOD	150-170	29-32	52.5-54.5	18-20
FAIR	130-150	32-35	50.5-52.5	16-18
UTILITY	<130	36+	<50.5	<16

WASHINGTON-OREGON HAY
(Columbia Basin)
(USDA Market News)
Feb. 2

This week FOB	*Last week*	*Last year*
2250	4800	8700 Tons

Compared to Jan. 26: Alfalfa firm in a light test. Trade slow this week with light to moderate demand. Demand remains good for feeder hay. Retail/Feedstore not tested this week. The Mid-Columbia Basin Hay Growers Meeting is scheduled for Feb. 15 at Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake, Wash.

		Tons	Price
Alfalfa	Mid Square		
	Premium Export	800	185.00
	Good Export	950	140.00
	Tarped	500	140.00

OREGON AREA HAY
(USDA Market News)
Feb. 2

Compared to Jan. 26: Prices trended generally steady in an extremely limited test. Retail/Stable type hay remains the most demanded hay. Most hay producers are sold out for the growing year.

This week FOB	*Last week*	*Last year*
419	4183	1089 Tons

CROOK, DESCHUTES, JEFFERSON, WASCO COUNTIES

		Tons	Price
Alfalfa	Small Square		
	Prem/Ret/Stab	5	230.00
Orchard Grass	Small Square		
	Prem/Ret/Stab	43	238.37
Meadow Grass	Small Square		
	Prem/Ret/Stab	25	210.00
KLAMATH BASIN:			
Alfalfa	Large Square		
	Supreme	25	230.00
	Small Square		
	Prem/Ret/Stab	32	176.09
Fescue Grass	Small Square		
	Good/Ret/Stab	23	140.00
LAKE COUNTY:			
Alfalfa	Large Square		
	Supreme	104	215.00
	Good	34	160.00
	Small Square		
	Premium	32	185.00
Alfalfa/Orchard Mix	Small Square		
	Premium	32	185.00
Triticale	Large Square		
	Good	64	120.00

EASTERN OREGON: No New Sales Confirmed.
HARNEY COUNTY: No New Sales Confirmed.

IDAHO HAY
(USDA Market News)
Feb. 2

This week FOB	*Last week*	*Last year*
1000	14,350	5300 Tons

Compared to Jan. 26: Alfalfa not tested this week, Oat and Wheat straw steady.

Trade slow with light demand. Retail/Feedstore not tested.

Prices are dollars per ton and FOB the farm or ranch unless otherwise stated.

		Tons	Price
Oat	Mid Square		
	Good	400	60.00
Wheat Straw	Mid Square		
	Good	600	65.00

Fri Feb 02, 2018 USDA - CO Dept of Ag Market News
CALIFORNIA HAY
(USDA Market News)
Feb. 2

Compared to last week: All classes traded steady with good demand. Retail hay is in high demand due to lack of hay in barns this year. Alfalfa fields were being replanted with new rains, and previously planted alfalfa was growing well.

This week FOB	*Last week*	*Last year*
2660	4160	6075 Tons

REGION 1: NORTHERN INTERMOUNTAIN

Includes the counties of Siskiyou, Modoc, Shasta, Lassen and Plumas: No New Sales Confirmed.

REGION 2: SACRAMENTO VALLEY

Includes the counties of Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Sutter, Yuba, Sierra, Nevada, Placer, Yolo, El Dorado, Solano and Sacramento.

Alfalfa	Good/Del	1000	235.00
Oat	Good	100	95.00

REGION 3: NORTHERN SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Includes the counties of San Joaquin, Calaveras, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Mono, Merced and Mariposa: No New Sales Confirmed.

REGION 4: CENTRAL SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY

Includes the counties of Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Inyo.

Alfalfa	Supr/Del	250	300.00
	Prem/Del	50	290.00
	Good/Prem/Del	300	275.00

REGION 5: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Includes the counties of Kern, Northeast Los Angeles and Western San Bernardino.

No New Sales Confirmed.

REGION 6: SOUTHEAST CALIFORNIA

Includes the counties of Eastern San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial.

Alfalfa	Supr/Export	160	210.00
	Premium	575	210.00
	Retail/Stable	175	227.14
	Good	25	165.00
	Fair/Good	25	160.00

Grain Market Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Portland

Grains are stated in dollars per bushel or hundredweight (cwt.) except feed grains traded in dollars per ton. National grain report bids are for rail delivery unless truck indicated.

PORTLAND GRAIN
(USDA Market News)
Portland
Feb. 1

Pacific Northwest Market Summary: Cash wheat bids for February delivery ended the reporting week on Thursday, Feb. 1, were mixed compared to week ago noon bids for February delivery.

March wheat futures ended the reporting week on Thursday, Feb. 1, mixed as follows compared to week ago closes: Chicago wheat futures were 16.50 cents higher at 4.51, Kansas City wheat futures were 32 cents higher at 4.67 and Minneapolis wheat futures trended 1.50 cent higher at 6.1175.

Chicago March corn futures trended 6.50 cents higher at 3.6175 and March soybean futures closed 7.25 cents lower at 9.85.

Bids for US 1 Soft White Wheat delivered to Portland in unit trains or barges during February for ordinary protein trended steady to 8.50 cents per bushel higher compared to week ago prices for the same delivery period from 5.30-5.44. Some exporters were not issuing bids for nearby delivery.

White club wheat premiums were zero to five cents per bushel over soft white wheat bids this week and last week.

One year ago bids for US 1 Soft White Wheat any protein for February delivery by unit trains and barges to Portland were 4.64-4.7375 and bids for White Club Wheat were 4.84-4.9875.

Forward month bids for soft white wheat ordinary protein were as follows: March 5.30-5.44, April 5.42-5.47, May 5.42-5.50 and August New Crop 5.10-5.30.

One year ago, forward month bids for soft white wheat for any protein were as follows: March 4.64-4.7375, April and May 4.56-4.66 and August New Crop 4.66-4.74.

Bids for US 1 Soft White Wheat guaranteed maximum 10.5 percent protein during February trended steady to 4.50 cents per bushel higher than week ago prices for the same delivery period from 5.25-5.40.

Some exporters were not issuing bids for nearby delivery.

White club wheat premiums for guaranteed maximum 10.5 percent protein soft white wheat this week were zero to five cents per bushel over soft white wheat bids this week and last week.

One year ago bids for US 1 Soft White Wheat guaranteed maximum 10.5 percent protein for February delivery by unit trains and barges to Portland were 4.7875 and bids for White Club Wheat were 4.7875-5.0375.

Forward month bids for soft white wheat guaranteed 10.5 percent proteins were as follows: March 5.30-5.40, April 5.42-5.4225 and May 5.42-5.4425.

One year ago, forward month bids for soft white wheat for any protein were as follows: March 4.60-4.7875, April and May 4.60-4.61.

Bids for 11.5 percent protein US 1 Hard Red Winter Wheat for February delivery trended 27 to 32 cents per bushel higher than week ago bids for the same delivery period.

Some exporters were not issuing bids for nearby delivery.

This week, bids were as follows: February, March 6.12-6.32, April and May 6.2675-6.3675.

Bids for non-guaranteed 14.0 percent protein US 1 Dark Northern Spring Wheat for Portland delivery during February trended 1.50 cents per bushel higher than week ago bids for the same delivery period.

Some exporters were not issuing bids for nearby delivery.

This week, bids for non-guaranteed 14 percent protein were as follows: February and March 7.2675-7.5175, April and May 7.4250-7.6250.

Coarse feeding grains: Bids for US 2 Yellow Corn delivered full coast Pacific Northwest - BN shuttle trains for February delivery trended 3.50 to 6.50 cents per bushel higher than week ago bids for the same delivery period from 4.4875-4.5675.

Some exporters were not issuing bids for nearby delivery. Forward month corn bids were as follows: March 4.4675-4.5675, April 4.50-4.55, May 4.46-4.50 and June 4.4475-4.4975.

Bids for US 1 Yellow Soybeans delivered full coast Pacific Northwest - BN shuttle trains for February delivery trended 7.25 to 12.25 cents lower than week ago bids for the same delivery period from 10.6510.70.

Some exporters were not issuing bids for nearby delivery.

Forward month soybean bids were as follows: March 10.63-10.65. Bids for US 2 Heavy White Oats for November delivery trended steady at 3.0475 per bushel.

Pacific Northwest Export News: There were 15 grain vessels in Columbia River ports on Thursday, Feb. 1, with six docked compared to 21 last week with eight docked. There were no new confirmed export sales this week from the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) of the USDA.

CALIFORNIA WEEKLY
GRAIN REPORT
Feb. 1

Paid by feed manufacturers and other users, delivered plant or receiving station. All prices are offers for prompt shipment unless otherwise stated.

BARLEY US No 2 (46-lbs. per bushel)
CORN US No 2 Yellow

FOB	Turlock/Tulare	dn .01
Rail	Single Car	
	Units via BNSF	
	Los Angeles-	
	Chino Valley .	01-.02
Truck	Stockton-Modesto-	
	Oakdale-Turlock	dn .01
	8.70 Del	
	Kings-Tulare-	
	Fresno Counties	dn .01

SORGHUM US No 2 Yellow (Milo)

Rail	Los Angeles-	
	Chino Valley via BNSF	unch

Dairy Report

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Madison, Wis.

FLUID MILK AND CREAM
REVIEW – WEST
(USDA Market News)
Feb. 1

California milk output continues its seasonal increase. Milk supplies are bountiful, and processors are managing accordingly any excess loads.

Reports suggest that milk yield has increased above forecasted volumes. Several manufacturers continue to move some loads of condensed skim out-of-state as a way to deal with maintenance/repair downtimes.

However, they have a difficult time finding the required transportation needed for milk hauling. In addition, a number of plants that would normally take condensed skim are full.

Various dairy farmers also say that they are having a hard time finding the labor they need. Arizona milk output is up this week. Milk loads available for processing are also on the rise.

As so, manufacturing plants are working at full capacity, but seem to not have enough processing capacity to clear all the farm milk. Some of them are anxious about how they will manage the milk during the flush season which is getting close.

Class I intakes are steady, but Class IV production is increasing.

New Mexico milk production is well balanced. Class I, II and III intakes are trending higher. Due to minor repair/maintenance projects, milk is moving accordingly between facilities as needed.

Pacific Northwest milk is meeting expectations. After a dismal winter in parts of the region last year, industry contacts say milk production per cow is stronger this season. So far, this winter has been mild and conducive to cow comfort. Intakes are starting to climb slightly.

Manufacturers report milk supplies are in balance with processing needs. Bottling demand is steady.

In the mountain states of Colorado, Utah and Idaho, milk production is steady.

Industry contacts report that added capacity in the southern part of the region and a little stronger draw from some Class II manufacturers has helped balance supplies with demand, at least for the near term.

There are some concerns, however, that as milk production increases through the spring and early summer, the deluge of milk may likely place added pressure on farms and processors, especially in the northern parts of the region.

The western condensed skim market is lackluster. In order to reduce the milk at some facilities, loads of condensed skim are moving at discounted prices.

Condensed skim is also being actively dried. Cream sales in the West are steady to lower.

Butter production has increased because some manufacturers are clearing more cream to the churns.

A couple of producers report having to turn down helping other plants process their cream due to the lack of processing capacities.

Cream multiples for all usages are lower at 1.00 - 1.10.

According to the DMN National Retail Report-Dairy for the week of Jan. 26-Feb. 1, the national weighted average advertised price for one gallon of milk is $2.82, up $0.43 from last week, and up $0.27 from a year ago.

The weighted average regional price in the Southwest is $2.96, with a price range of $1.89-$3.99.

No advertised prices were reported in the Northwest this week.

Livestock Auctions

Oregon

LEBANON
(Lebanon Auction Yard)
Feb. 1

Total receipts: 269

Butcher Cows: Conventional: Top Cow $73.00; Top 10 Cows $68.44; Top 50 Cows $66.10; Avg. All Cows $56.42

Organic: Top Cow, $80.00; Avg. All Organic: $58.58

Bulls: Conventional: Top Bull, $83.00; Avg. All Bulls: $73.48

Goats: $135.00-$210.00 HD

Lambs: $152.50 per cwt.

WOODBURN
(Woodburn Livestock Exchange)

Receipts: 843, 250 cattle

Top 10 Slaughter Cows A/P: 66.98 cwt

50 Top Slaughter Cows A/P: 63.27 cwt

100 Top Slaughter Cows A/P: 59.43 cwt

Top Certified Organic Cattle: 50.00-70.00 cwt

All Slaughter Bulls: 50.00-74.00 cwt

Top Beef Steers: 300-400 lbs NT cwt; 400-500 lbs 140.00-150.00 cwt; 500-600 lbs 140.00-155.00 cwt; 600-700 lbs 135.00-136.00 cwt

Top Beef Heifers: 300-400 lbs NT cwt; 400-500 lbs 130.00-140.00 cwt; 500-600 lbs 130.00-140.00 cwt; 600-700 lbs 115.00-125.00 cwt

Day Old Beef Cross Calves: 170.00-265.00 HD

Day Old Dairy Calves: 5.00-52.50 HD

Goats: 10-39 lbs 18.00-50.00 HD; 40-69 lbs 42.50-165.00 HD; 70-79 lbs 82.50-165.00 HD; 80-89 lbs 87.50-210.00 HD; 90-99 lbs 100.00-210.00 HD; 100-199 lbs 110.00-210.00 HD; 200-300 lbs 177.50-180.00 HD

EUGENE
(Eugene Livestock Auction)
Feb. 3

Receipts: 244

Compared to last week: Cows and bulls $5 stronger. Light feeders up $3-5. Yearlings steady.

High Dressers 66.00-76.50

Top 10 Cows: 65.10

Low Dressers: 55.00-65.75

Bulls: Top Bulls High Dressers: 75.00-90.00

Feeder Bulls: 300-500 lbs 87.00-158.00; 500-700 lbs 117.00-149.00; 700-900 lbs 87.00-125.00

Choice Steers Medium To Large Frame No. 1&2s:

Feeder Steers: 300 to 400 lbs NT; 400 to 500 lbs 168.00-171.00; 500 to 600 lbs 140.00-168.50; 600 to 700 lbs 150.00-167.75; 700 to 800 lbs 120.00; 800 to 900 lbs 124.00-126.00

Choice Heifers Medium To Large Frame No. 1&2s:

Feeder Heifers: 300 to 400 lbs 120.00-150.00; 400 to 500 lbs 130.00-152.00; 500 to 600 lbs 130.00-154.00; 600 to 700 lbs 130.00-144.00; 700 to 800 lbs 120.00-141.00; 800 and up 109.00

Bred Cows: 735-1160 HD

Pairs: 1195-1250 PR

Head Calves (up to 250 lbs)

Beef: 200.00-305.00 HD

Dairy: NT

Feeder lambs: 50-90 lbs 150.00-200.00; 90-130 lbs 110.00-160.00

Washington

TOPPENISH
Feb. 1

Receipts: 1215

Compared to Jan. 25 at the same market: Stocker cattle and feeder cattle steady to firm in a light test. The CME Feeder and Live Cattle futures closed sharply higher with some months trading up the limit. Trade active with good demand for all classes. Slaughter cows and bulls 5.00-11.00 higher. Trade very active with very good demand due in part to less beef type cows are coming to market. Slaughter cows 54 percent, slaughter bulls 5 percent, and feeders 41 percent of the supply. The feeder supply included 61 percent steers and 39 percent heifers. Near 74 percent of the run weighed over 600 lbs.

Feeder Steers: Medium and Large 1-2: 300-400 lbs 217.50; 400-500 lbs 205.00; 500-600 lbs 168.00-176.00; 600-700 lbs 160.50-163.00; 700-800 lbs 155.00-158.00; 800-900 lbs 138.00-144.00.

Large 1: 700-800 lbs 149.00; 900-1000 lbs 134.50; 1400-1500 lbs 108.00.

Large 2-3: 900-1000 lbs 123.00.

Small and Medium 1-2: 500-600 lbs 174.00. Small and Medium 2-3: 200-300 lbs 197.50.

Feeder Heifers: Medium and Large 1: 600-700 lbs 157.00-166.50, Thin Fleshed.

Medium and Large 1-2: 300-400 lbs 180.00-181.50; 500-600 lbs 172.00-174.00; 600-700 lbs 144.50-149.00; 700-800 lbs 143.00.

Medium and Large 2-3: 800-900 lbs 123.00. Medium and Large 4: 700-800 lbs 64.00; 800-900 lbs 64.00. Large 1: 900-1000 lbs 123.00. Large 2-3: 1100-1200 lbs 90.50; 1200-1300 lbs 86.50.

Slaughter Cows:

Boners: 80-85 Pct. Lean; 1300-2100 lbs; Avg Dressing 70.00-76.00; High Dressing 77.50-80.00; Low Dressing 65.00-70.00

Lean: 85-90 Pct. Lean 1200-1700 lbs; Avg Dressing 69.00-75.00; High Dressing 75.75-79.00; Low Dressing 64.00-69.00

Lean: 90 Pct. Lean; 900-1450 lbs; Avg Dressing 60.00-64.00; Low Dressing 55.00-60.00

Slaughter Bulls:

Yield Grade 1-2: 1500-2200 lbs; Avg Dressing 86.00-93.00; High Dressing 99.50; Low Dressing 74.00-86.00

Note: The USDA LPGMN price report is reflective of the majority of classes and grades of livestock offered for sale. There may be instances where some sales do not fit within reporting guidelines and therefore will not be included in the report.

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)
Feb. 3

SHIPPING AREA							
FWA	*Chg*	*GRI*	*Chg*	*70 ct*	*Chg*	*10# Film*	*Chg*
IDAHO BURBANKS							
$16.48	-$0.68	$7.56	-$0.41	$24.00	-$0.50	$11.00	-$0.50
IDAHO NORKOTAHS							
$15.55	-$1.03	$7.63	-$0.77	$22.00	-$1.00	$11.00	-$1.00
SAN LUIS VALLEY							
$19.06	$0.22	$11.73	$0.19	$26.50	$0.50	$16.00	$0.00
COLUMBIA BASIN							
$16.64	-$0.08	$7.76	-$0.05	$21.00	$0.00	$12.00	$0.00
WISCONSIN							
$18.45	-$0.18	$10.74	-$0.14	$28.00	-$1.00	$15.50	$0.00

Sheep/Wool Market Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Greeley, Colo.-San Angelo, Texas

Wool prices in cents per pound and foreign currency per kilogram, sheep prices in dollars per hundredweight (cwt.) except some replacement animals on per head basis as indicated.

NATIONAL WOOL REVIEW
(USDA Market News)
Feb. 2

Domestic wool trading on a clean basis was at a standstill this week. There were no confirmed trades reported. Domestic wool trading on a greasy basis was at a standstill this week. There were no confirmed trades reported.

NATIONAL SHEEP SUMMARY
(USDA Market News)
San Angelo, Texas
Feb. 2

Compared to Jan. 26: Slaughter lambs mostly steady to 20.00 lower. However, the difference was the weight range that saw the decline. At New Holland, Pa., it was the lambs over 80 lbs, while at San Angelo, Texas, it was the lambs under 80 lbs. Slaughter ewes steady to 5.00 lower. Feeder lambs not well tested. At San Angelo, 4141 head sold.

No sales in Equity Electronic Auction. In direct trading slaughter ewes and feeder lambs were not tested. 4900 head of negotiated sales of slaughter lambs were steady. 2,108 lamb carcasses sold with all weights no trend due to confidentiality. All sheep sold per hundred weight (cwt) unless otherwise specified.

Slaughter Lambs: Choice and Prime 2-3 90-160 lbs:

San Angelo: shorn and wooled 100-170 lbs 126.00-136.00.

Ft. Collins, Colo.: wooled 110-130 lbs 140.00-170.00; 130-140 lbs 145.00-155.00; 150-195 lbs 115.00-150.00.

Billings, Mont.: no test.

Slaughter Lambs: Choice and Prime 1-2:

San Angelo: 40-60 lbs 247.00-254.00; 60-70 lbs 224.00-246.00, few 250.00-254.00; 70-80 lbs 200.00-218.00, few 228.00; 80-90 lbs 196.00-206.00, few 219.00; 90-110 lbs 170.00-194.00.

Ft. Collins: 58 lbs 240.00; 70-85 lbs 215.00-220.00; 90-105 lbs 202.50-212.50.

Billings: no test

Direct Trading: (lambs fob with 3-4 percent shrink or equivalent)

4900: Slaughter Lambs shorn and wooled 142-190 lbs 120.00- 141.21 (wtd avg 131.14).

Slaughter Ewes:

San Angelo: Good 3-4 (very fleshy) 66.00-67.00; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 70.00-76.00; Utility and Good 1-3 (medium flesh) 76.00-83.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) 68.00-76.00; Cull and Utility 1-2 (very thin) 55.00-66.00; Cull 1 (extremely thin) 45.00-50.00.

Ft. Collins: Good 3-5 (very fleshy) 75.00-85.00; Good 2-3 (fleshy) 75.00-88.00; Utility 1-2 (thin) no test; Cull 1 (extremely thin) no test.

Billings: Good 3-4 (very fleshy) no test; Good 2-3 (fleshy) no test; Utility 1-2 (thin) no test; Cull 1 no test.

Feeder Lambs: Medium and Large 1-2:

San Angelo: no test.

Virginia: no test.

Ft. Collins: no test.

Replacement Ewes: Medium and Large 1-2:

San Angelo: hair ewes and lambs 82.00-122.00 per head; mixed age hair ewes 80-130 lbs 90.00-126.00 cwt.

Ft. Collins: no test.

Billings: no test.

Sheep and lamb slaughter under federal inspection for the week to date totaled 39,000 compared with 40,000 last week and 36,000 last year.

California Egg Reports

Compiled by USDA Market News Service • Des Moines

Shell egg marketer's benchmark price for negotiated egg sales of USDA Grade A and Grade AA in cartons, cents per dozen. This price does not reflect discounts or other contract terms.

DAILY CALIFORNIA SHELL EGGS
(USDA Market News)
Feb. 5

Benchmark prices are 16 cents higher for all sizes. Trade sentiment is steady to lower. Demand is light to mostly moderate. Offerings are light to moderate. Supplies are light. Market activity is slow to moderate. Small benchmark price $1.77.

Size	*Range*	*Size*	*Range*
Jumbo	228	**Extra large**	240
Large	236	**Medium**	197

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Prices to retailers, sales to volume buyers, USDA Grade AA and Grade AA, white eggs in cartons, delivered to store door.

Size	*Range*	*Size*	*Range*
Jumbo	186-198	**Extra large**	176-183
Large	170-177	**Medium**	154-161

Cattle Market Reports

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

NATIONAL FEEDER AND STOCKER CATTLE
(Federal-State Market News)
St. Joseph, Mo.
Feb. 2

This week	*Last week*	*2017*
326,900	387,400	349,800

Compared to last week: Steers and heifers sold steady to 4.00 higher. Buyers bid readily from start to finish nationwide for the heavy supply of mostly weaned calves and feeder cattle on offer this week.

At a few auctions in the Northern Plains, demand was noticeable on top quality replacement heifers slated to go back to the breeding pen.

At the Sioux Falls Regional Livestock Auction on Monday, a part load of 709 lb heifers sold at 156.00.

On Wednesday at Huss-Platte Valley Livestock Auction in Kearney, NE a package 612 lb heifers sold at 200.00 and a short load of 812 lb heifers sold at 156.00.

Good feeding steers were also in high demand in Valentine, Neb., on Thursday as a load of red white faced steers weighing 731 lbs sold at 171.75.

Cattle herd expansion continued in 2017, according to USDA-National Agricultural Statistics Service's 2018 Cattle Inventory Report, although at a much slower pace than 2016.

The 2018 cattle herd of 94.4 million head is the largest reported total in nine years. The report shows inventories of beef cows and heifers calved were up 2 percent at 31.7 million head as of Jan. 1, 2018.

Replacement beef heifer inventories as of Jan. 1 were down 4 percent at 6.13 million head, suggesting producers are scaling back intentions to continue growing the herd into 2018.

The 2017 calf crop in the U.S. was estimated at 35.8 million head, up 2 percent from last year's calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2017 were estimated at 26.0 million head, up 2 percent from the first half of 2016.

Calves born during the second half of 2017 were estimated at 9.81 million head, 27 percent of the total 2017 calf crop.

With the recent drought conditions in the Southern Plains, cattle have been moving off wheat and winter pastures at a pretty good clip; enough so, that the 1.5 million head listed as grazing on small grain pasture is the lowest total since January 2013, when the severe drought in fall of 2012 was realized. The Jan. 1 Cattle On Feed Report has now been reported over 11 million head for three consecutive months, inferring that cattle numbers are getting back to 2012 levels.

Compared to last Friday, CME cattle complex saw the Live Cattle Contracts 1.25 to 2.30 higher while the Feeder Cattle contracts were 3.45 to 4.60 higher. Solid footing in the futures have boded well for the cattle industry with cash fed cattle trading 1.00 lower at mostly 126.00 live and steady at 200.00 dressed this week.

The Restaurant Performance Index released this week posted a solid gain in December as stronger same store sales and customer traffic levels drove the RPI to 102.9 for the month of December. Auction volume this week included 62 percent weighing over 600 lbs and 40 percent heifers.

NATIONAL SLAUGHTER
CATTLE SUMMARY
Feb. 2

Slaughter cattle traded mostly steady for live and dressed offerings.

Boxed Beef prices as of Friday afternoon averaged 206.78 up 2.45 from last Friday. The Choice/Select spread is 5.65. Slaughter cattle on a national basis for negotiated cash trades through Friday afternoon totaled 104,000 head. Last week's total head count was 25,000.

Midwest Direct Markets:

Live Basis: Steers and Heifers:127.00; Dressed Basis: Steers and Heifers: 200.00

South Plains Direct Markets:

Live Basis: Steers and Heifers 126.00-127.00

Slaughter Cows and Bulls (Average Yielding Prices): Slaughter cows and bulls sold steady to 2.00 higher. Packer demand good as cow numbers were lighter at most sales again this week.

Cutter Cow Carcass Cut-Out Value Friday was 172.08 up 0.15 from last Friday.

NORTHWEST WEIGHTED
DIRECT FEEDER CATTLE
Feb. 2

This week	*Last week*	*2017*
180	4,773	2550

Compared to last week: Feeder steers not established. Feeder heifers not well tested. Demand moderate. The feeder supply included 100 percent over 600 lbs and 100 percent heifers. Unless otherwise stated prices are FOB weighting points with 2-3 percent shrink or equivalent and a 5-10 cent slide on calves and a 4-12 cent slide on yearlings from base weights. Current sales are up to 14 days delivery.

Feeder Steers Medium and Large 1: Not established.

Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 1:

180 HD; Avg Wt 675 lbs; Avg. Price $148.00; Current Del