

THE MIDWEST

It was another surprising week, to say the least! Sources explained, "Really, it is kind of a shock!" Live cattle traded \$4-6 better this week. One source summed it up best by saying, "Normally, it's that time of year where the market keeps getting lower and lower; however, this year it is different."

PRICES: The market this week was an incredible \$4-6 higher on the live averaging between \$136 to \$137. In the North, cattle were bringing \$215 in the meat. The Fed Cattle Exchange started this week's trade at \$132 and things skyrocketed from there. The futures have supported this rally and have moved aggressively as well.

TRENDS: Another week has passed, and the same question remains....WHY? With the bearish Cattle on Feed Report and larger show lists this week - how and why did prices jump? One source explained, "The only thing that makes sense is that demand is strong. Retail business should be booming with Memorial Day Weekend just wrapping up, and Father's Day and the Fourth of July right around the corner. The packers are also making tons of money right now, which is a double-edged sword. Packers have now gone to Saturday kills as well to keep up with the strong demand, and to capitalize on their large profit gains. And to top everything off, carcass weights are down 40-pounds from a year ago, and exports are 15% higher than a year ago."

THE WEST

Our sources were extra busy this week trying to capitalize on market gains - no commentary this week, but be sure to check back for next week's market recap! In the meantime, the below numbers represent this week's sale.

PRICES: Slaughter bulls sold steady to \$2 lower, averaging \$0.81 to \$0.95 cent/head, and slaughter cows were \$0.75 to \$0.80 cents/head. Steers at 630-weight brought \$1.71 to \$1.77, and heifers weighing the same brought \$1.30 to \$1.54

THE SOUTH

The South has been blessed with plenty of moisture and a large run of sales lately. With the holiday weekend, folks were able to get their extra cattle to town. The Southern markets have been in high gear since January of this year.

PRICES: Bred cows made a good showing this week, averaging anywhere from \$1,200 to \$1,400, and come fancy cross-bred heifers brought \$1,700 to \$1,800. Slaughter cows brought \$0.65 to \$0.70 cents/head, and bulls brought \$0.93 cents. Five-weight steers sold for \$1.45 to \$1.55. Six-weight steers sold for \$1.50, and heifers went for \$1.35 to \$1.45.