

## THE MIDWEST

**PRICES:** This week at the Fed Cattle Exchange, 1,067 head of fat cattle were offered; however, again, nothing sold. Bidding in the country-side wasn't much more exciting. This week, fat cattle traded early for \$108, and then later around \$107 to even \$106; a solid \$2 lower than last week. Dressed cattle were bought at \$173, and carcass weights were up another two pounds.

**Trends:** Packers weren't overly aggressive this week. Since purchasing large loads of cattle the past couple of weeks, packers have more or less stepped out of the market.. Next week, sources expect that they will be more active in the market. This week's Cattle on Feed Report came out 4% higher than a year ago. Listen to what Cassie Fish, author of The Beef Read, had to say about the report: "This afternoon's USDA Cattle-on-Feed report is only adding to the uncertainty and drama as last month's report sent futures tumbling. Average guesses are COF 105, Marketed 105 and Placements 106, though some analysts think it will be higher. Lots of talk that regardless of July placements, August placements will be down and could be down big." One of our sources said, "You can't place more cattle each and every month, so this report comes as no surprise. This could end up helping the future's board out, but things are so bearish who really knows."

### THE WEST

**PRICES:** Markets were active this week in the West. This week, Superior Livestock Auction hosted their Big Horn Classic Sale in Sheridan, Wyoming where they offered 123,000 head cattle. For region two (MT, WY, ND, SD, CO, NE, UT) some steer calves weighing 600-640 sold for \$1.4450-\$1.82, and heifers of the same class went for \$1.32-1.63. Steers weighing 650-690 sold for \$1.3650-1.6450, and heifers of the same class sold for \$1.2750-1.54. Needless to say, good prices were also hit at the sale barns this week. Spayed heifers weighing 930 pounds sold for \$1.40-1.4050. Open heifers weighing 1,000 pounds sold for \$1.25. Weigh up cows were \$1-2 lower, and weigh up bulls were \$4-5 lower.

**TRENDS:** The fat cattle market may have been sluggish, but things were positive in the West! Folks have had a "doom-and-gloom" attitude lately, but one source was positive and noted, "It looks as if though the feeder calf board has found somewhat of a bottom! I get asked almost every day, "What is the market going to do," and I truly believe that things are going to turn around. If you look back to last year, in the second week of October the market started to climb all the way up to December. I believe that if a person has the ability to put pounds on their calves until April, and have them fat by then, good money can be made!" Talk of needing rain has popped up again in parts of Montana and South Dakota.

### THE SOUTH

**PRICES:** This week, prices were better than a year ago! Good stocker cows, of a smaller frame sold for \$1,350-1,450. Younger pairs sold for \$1,225-1,450. Steer calves weighing 300-350 went for \$1.55-1.75, and heifers went \$1.38-1.45. Steers weighing 500-550 pounds sold for \$1.30-1.40, and heifers of the same class sold for \$1.20-1.34. And bigger steers weighing 700-750 pounds sold for \$1.24-1.28, and heifers weighing the same brought \$1.00-1.06. Yearling heifers were weaker, and yearling steers were \$1-9.