

THE MIDWEST

Prices: This week at the Fed Cattle Exchange there was 967 head of cattle consigned to the sale, however none of those lots sold. As of early Friday morning, few cattle have traded this week; but, the cattle that have trade sold for \$1.22, and dressed cattle have been bought at \$1.90. And it wouldn't be unlikely to see more trade occur later into Friday or Saturday. To call this week a mixed bag is quite fair! Cash prices are up \$2 from last week, but futures still remain low.

Carcass weights are 16 pounds lighter compared to what they were at this time last year. Exports are down 2% for this week, but still remain 13% higher than last year's trade at this time. And the choice/select spread currently sits at \$20.43.

Trends: Given the fact that this week was expected to trade lower, with futures etching down, the positive momentum; though little it is fierce, was well received news. The weather has been ideal for feeding. Very little rain or snow has passed through the Midwest, and in fact a little moisture would be welcome there to help control the dust. Cattle continue to feed and perform well. As of the 22nd of November, 2.8 million head of cattle have been harvested this year, pushing us way past last year's number of total head harvested. But as one source said, "This year we have been given good prices, it gives feeders the incentive they need to sell!"

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Prices: It is bred cows season ladies and gentlemen!!! All in all, in the sale barns across the west bred cows have been met with more demand than expected. Bred heifers are selling anywhere from \$1,450-1,700. Some three-four-year olds sold for \$1,600-2,000. Bred cows between the ages of four and six sold for \$1,500-1,750. And broken mouth cows sold for \$950-1,100. This week Superior had their Fort Worth, Texas sale where over 30,00 head of calves, feeder cattle, and breeding stock were sold. From Region II (MT, WY, ND, SD, NE, UT, CO), steer calves weighing 575-590 pounds sold for \$1.65-1.80, steer calves weighing 750-775 pounds sold for \$1.6050-1.63. Heifers from Region II weighing 590 pounds sold for \$1.57, and heifers weighing 600-650 pounds sold for \$1.64. Sale barns didn't have many calves this week – as the big emphasis was on bred cows! Weigh up bulls were steady at .85/pound, and weigh up cows were a softer this week .60/pound.

Trends: Attitudes in the West continue to roll out strong as we get closer and closer to wrapping up the fourth quarter of this year. Despite the board being lower this week, the calf market has been more than steady, as a matter of fact one gentlemen said, "To be quite frank the heifer market is just kind of getting whippy!" Light heifers have been the ticket more a number of folks this year as corn continues to be cheap, and they board was willing to make them money. As the end of the year gets closer, that means...once again... that tax season is right around the corner. A lot of guys have bought a number feeding cows; not in hopes of really making money off of them, but rather to hide some cash. A lot of these cows are expected to come back to the market. Moisture and feed continue to be lingering topics as folks are somewhat happy that they haven't had to really feed yet, but as starting to worry about not getting enough moisture.