

## THE MIDWEST

Prices: On Wednesday, at the Fed Cattle Exchange, there was 653 head of cattle consigned to the sale, and of that, no trades occurred. Futures were rough this week. The fat cattle board gave up \$10-12, and cash only traded at \$117 for the most part. However, by Friday there were a couple of bids for \$118, all in all, cash traded \$2 lower than the week before.

The choice/select spread sits at \$19.62. Exports remained steady this week compared to last years trade. And thankfully, carcass weights still remain low.

Trends: To say that this week was a 'quiet' week would be an understatement! The lower futures' board has folks torn in which way the market is going to go. Most sources believe that this correction was actually necessary and that hopefully this will establish the lows for the year and build vigor going into 2018. On the bright side, we are sitting current in the market, corn is extremely cheap, carcass weights continue to be low, and feeder calves are hot!

## THE WEST

Prices: Considering the dive the board took, prices remained strong in much of the West. Steer calves weighing 730 pounds sold for \$1.73-1.76, steer calves weighing 640 pounds sold for \$1.76. and a five-weight steer calf was right at \$1,000. Replacement heifers weighing 550 pounds sold for \$1.75, and replacement heifers weighing 480 pounds sold for \$1.68. Weigh up cows brought .55-.60/pound, and weigh up bulls brought .80-.90/pound.

Trends: January will be the answer to all of the questions. Most sources claim that this dip in the futures board is OK! The first of the year is right around the corner with only three weeks until we break into 2018. Packers are taking advantage of every minute and rolling through their harvest schedules to keep up with the heavy demand.