

## THE MIDWEST

What a week... what a week... After nine consecutive days of up, on Thursday at noon the tables turned and February Live Cattle touched limit down. Most experts agree that the market was due for a correction, but the confusion lies in the fact that the correction was SO violent. However, on the bright side of things the market has already recovered 50% of the move in a short order of time. Most experts believe that this means the market is in good shape, and that feeders should be able to sell their way through this.

Though cash trades have been sparse so far this week, come Friday afternoon cash jumped to \$126-127, and dressed cattle were bought at \$200. At the Fed Cattle Exchange this week there was 494 head of cattle consigned to the sale, however no trading occurred. Today's COF Report came out showing that the cattle on feed inventory is up 8% from a year ago, and replacements are 1% higher than those of 2016's figure. Exports are up 35% from what they were at this time a year ago. Carcass weights are down four pounds this week, and the choice/select spread sits at \$5.00.

### THE WEST

. Prices: Sale barns across the west have had a remarkable calf market this week, on everything except light heifers. Steer calves coming in as five weights sold for \$1.90+. Steer calves weighing 620 pounds sold for \$1.7775. And steer calves weighing 770 pounds sold for \$1.51-1.53. And on average heifers were .10 cents back. Weigh up cows were bringing anywhere from .60-.62 cents/pound, and weigh up bulls were bringing .75-.79 cents/pound.

Trends: Folks in the North have been blessed with good weather, but as folks soak up some sun before weather changes and calves start hitting the ground, the big topic of moisture keeps circulating around. If the Northern region of the US doesn't get some moisture by this spring, some tough decisions are going to have to be made. Personally, my favorite part about talking to industry experts is getting to hear the advice that they are so kindly willing to share, while talking about the market and where things are headed one source said, "if you can find the cows that are bred right, bred tight, and one ironed, you will probably be just fine. Remember to use debt as a tool, and don't let it use you. And heck, if I was going to give advice to the younger generation I'd like to remind them that though heifers are flashy and easy to fall in love with, if you can find short term cows in the right quality and kind, you'll have a lot less labor into them, and pay a fraction of the price."