

East Texas Livestock, Inc

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January, 2025 Monthly Market Report

Slaughter Cows

Canners.....\$.97 to \$ 1.25
 Boning/Utility.....\$ 1.26 to \$ 1.33
 Cutters..... \$ 1.34 to \$ 1.42

Slaughter Bulls.....\$1.49 to \$1.90

Bred Cows.....\$1550.00 to \$2,900.00 /head

Cow/Calf Pairs.....\$ 1900.00 to \$3,500.00

Feeder Calves

Feeder Steers/Bulls Large Frame #1

(avg prices)

200 to 300 lbs.....\$2.55 to \$4.67
 300 to 400 lbs..... \$2.46 to \$4.47
 400 to 500 lbs..... \$2.35 to \$4.16
 500 to 600 lbs..... \$2.13 to \$4.14
 600 to 800 lbs..... \$1.98 to \$3.28

\$ 3.68
 \$ 3.36
 \$ 3.16
 \$ 2.80
 \$ 2.56

Feeder Heifers Large Frame #1

(avg. prices)

\$2.40 to \$4.29
 \$2.25 to \$4.24
 \$2.04 to \$3.87
 \$2.13 to \$3.31
 \$1.70 to \$3.07

\$ 3.38
 \$ 3.36
 \$ 3.16
 \$ 3.08
 \$ 2.56

Month End Summary

January started with the packers needing to purchase cattle following 3 weeks of very light purchases. The December meat movement was extremely good so little inventory was left for the retail chains. This demand created higher live prices witnessing \$2 /lb plus! This jump in prices has forced some operators to opt out of purchasing feeders for stocker programs. Rains across broad areas of the Plains were developing more available grazing potential which forced the feeder buyers to decide whether to "dive in" or go to the sidelines and watch. All fundamentals pointed towards a continuing bullish market, so they backed their ears and got aggressive buying cattle. The results are a market that yet to slow down and so far, producing stronger price figures every week. Also, the USDA halted all imports of Mexican feeder cattle into the US because of finding screwworms. This backed up an estimated 250 to 300,000 feeders which forced the stocker buyers to American feeders to fill their needs.

Even with this high market, there continues questions about this year. One is the heifer retention and when and what extent. As of now, the heifer placements into the feedlots ratio to steers remains the same as this is a barometer market analysts use to plot out that the retention and the herd buildup has once again started. We feel the producer will continue to market their heifers and only keep a minimum back. Never witnessing prices like we are experiencing has allowed purchasing new equipment, pasture improvements and such much neglected other enhancements the past several years. Another question is if President Trump will follow through with his installation of the 25% tariffs on all goods from Mexico and Canada. This could possibly carry prices to the point to where are forced to eat more chicken and pork. Another is the question of how President Trump will handle the migrant workers situation. The deportation of illegals could take a great affect who work for agriculture and slow down the supply of labor for such purposes inevitably affect cattle prices.

Not only did the beef cow herd shrink in 2024, it appears that it will continue to dwindled in 2025 which will force feeder cattle supplies to slowly contract with higher cattle prices until any herd rebuilding starts. Again, this conservatively could be another 2 to 4 years according to market analysts.

We are amazed at the prices the producer has been receiving in January. Prices are \$20 to \$30 cwt higher than the closing average figures in December 2024 So far we have yet to see a "black Swain" heading our direction. All phases of the industry appear to be on solid ground. Lets hope they remain as we head into February!