

East Texas Livestock, Inc

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February, 2026 Monthly Market Report

Slaughter Cows

Canners.....\$ 1.35 to \$ 1.63
Boning/Utility.....\$ 1.64 to \$ 1.71
Cutters..... \$ 1.72 to \$ 1.78

Slaughter Bulls.....\$1.87 to \$2.25

Bred Cows.....\$2350.00 to \$4,150.00 /head

Cow/Calf Pairs.....\$ 3000.00 to \$4,600.00

Feeder Calves

Feeder Steers/Bulls Large Frame #1

(avg prices)

200 to 300 lbs.....\$2.99 to \$7.78
300 to 400 lbs..... \$2.83 to \$6.78
400 to 500 lbs..... \$2.75 to \$6.11
500 to 600 lbs..... \$2.70 to \$5.20
600 to 800 lbs..... \$2.50 to \$4.39

\$ 6.17
\$ 5.80
\$ 5.04
\$ 4.49
\$ 3.77

Feeder Heifers Large Frame #1

(avg. prices)

\$2.25 to \$7.18
\$2.18 to \$6.24
\$2.12 to \$5.65
\$2.06 to \$4.86
\$1.85 to \$4.10

\$ 5.66
\$ 4.85
\$ 4.56
\$ 4.07
\$ 3.62

Month End Summary

February's market prices continued to show very firm due to the tight supplies and strong demand. The industry continues to remain in a supply-driven bullish phase. The limited supply of market ready cattle pitted against a strong consumer demand has kept feeder prices at historical high levels. A recent USDA inventory showed the US beef cow herd is the lowest since 1951 with no signs of any herd buildup. Current heifer prices make it all but impossible to retain heifers and cow culling is also still high due to the high market slaughter prices. Analysts feel it could well be a slow buildup and take several years to accomplish a larger national herd. Drought is also becoming a major factor as recent drought report shows. As of February 17th, approximately 73% is under drought conditions and 25% classified as abnormally dry.

As of the end of the month, the US cow herd remains historically tight which in turn supports a longer-term price strength. The border closings with Mexico due to the screw worm concerns also continues to support a lack of available feeder calves helping keep the market demand and figures high. One unanswered question is if there will be any movement this year or will the borders remain closed due the persisting screwworm problem or from recent internal problems in Mexico.

Packers remain bidding from \$2.38 to \$2.41. Both the packers and feedlots continue to post sustained losses which is currently producing a unstable market structure. Prices continue to be supported by scarcity and not profitability. Despite the heavier carcass weights, the volatility remains facing the packers. Beef demand however remains resilient despite the record high prices, but analysts feel the consumer resistance risk is rising. The USDA Cattle on feed report was classified as bullish due to the smaller placements. Beef imports from Argentina could possibly quadruple which is potentially bearish for domestic prices.

The outlook looks bullish short term and possible unstable median term if either there is consumer demand break or a packer pullback could well trigger a sharp correction. Neither of these has yet to be seen.

Closer to home we have witnessed the highest price figures ever. It seems like every weekly market report we compare the previous week's averages only to see higher figures. Our market comparison showed February's averages ended \$5 to \$8 higher over January. The marketing volume continues to be comparable with this time last year, but the price difference is substantial. Spring weather is right around the corner, but any form of moisture would be greatly welcomed.

