

East Texas Livestock, Inc

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March, 2026 Monthly Market Report

Slaughter Cows

Canners.....\$ 1.35 to \$ 1.66
Boning/Utility.....\$ 1.67 to \$ 1.75
Cutters..... \$ 1.76 to \$ 1.83

Slaughter Bulls.....\$1.88 to \$2.24

Bred Cows.....\$2400.00 to \$4,600.00 /head

Cow/Calf Pairs.....\$ 3500.00 to \$4,650.00

Feeder Calves

Feeder Steers/Bulls Large Frame #1	(avg prices)	Feeder Heifers Large Frame #1	(avg. prices)
200 to 300 lbs.....\$3.02 to \$7.82	\$ 6.22	\$2.25 to \$7.25	\$ 5.66
300 to 400 lbs..... \$2.82 to \$6.78	\$ 5.59	\$2.18 to \$5.99	\$ 4.99
400 to 500 lbs..... \$2.74 to \$5.81	\$ 4.88	\$2.12 to \$5.32	\$ 4.66
500 to 600 lbs..... \$2.67 to \$5.01	\$ 4.32	\$2.06 to \$4.77	\$ 4.02
600 to 800 lbs..... \$2.55 to \$4.37	\$ 3.92	\$1.85 to \$3.87	\$ 3.59

Month End Summary

March's continuation of cattle and beef prices being high and volatile remain driven by tight supplies, rising feed cost, energy prices increasing, geopolitical uncertainty (Iran conflict) and broader financial markets showing weakness. These higher prices started to pressure demand which has yet to show any measurable impact because of the consumer demand, but the alternative proteins such as chicken and pork continue to remain in the background poised to capture some of beef's lost market share. Beef imports continue to keep rising as the market is becoming more dependent on global supply.

Beef demand started its normal transition from a historically soft seasonal period (winter) to a much-improved beef demand in the spring months. Demand normally improves following the Easter Holidays, but the higher price of beef could stifle the some of the normal demand. Some analysts well think we could be close to the "tipping point" of these high prices pressuring the beef demand. Another fact worth noting is the consumer is the consumer because of weather conditions are eating at home more. Research has also noted most consumers (70%) are still buying their meat in stores as opposed to online purchasing.

March also witnessed hot conditions dominate the South driving widespread drought degradation. Temperatures continued to soar 5 to 20 degrees above normal across most of the region. Texas as of this report shows the entire state from moderate drought in East Texas to extreme drought in most of South, Central and West Texas. The panhandle pastures also have begun to suffer grazing due to lack of moisture. Both the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles and the southern plains continue to show progressing stress.

On March 16th about 3,800 workers walked off the JBS Packing plant in Greeley, Colorado making it the first major walkout at a beef slaughterhouse in four decades. This sent shock waves throughout the industry and cratered the futures board. The packers used this negative news to once again gain control of the markets, but lack of market ready cattle only distributed what was processed in Greeley to other slaughter plants. The fundamental facts remain solid, we don't have the beef cow inventory to create a major disruption in prices.

Wrapping it up, the market appears to remain on solid ground with prices firm. One thing to note is the possibility of consumer resistance due to the rising cost in living expenses could create a ripple in the current demand. The sale volumes are about normal for March compared to last year with prices about 25 to 30% higher. We are experiencing some dryness and we are beginning to see the "new crop" calves showing up to the markets.

