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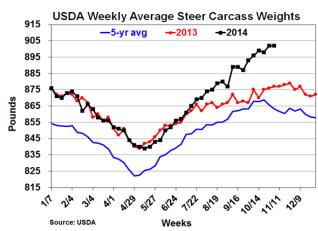
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Carcass Weights Supporting Beef Production

In a time when the beef industry is dealing with historically tight cattle numbers it has called for cattle feeders and packers alike to adjust as necessary to help shore up overall beef production. Total cattle slaughter which includes all classes of cattle; fed steers and heifers, as well as non-fed animals (cows and bulls) is 6.7 percent below 2013, year-to-date. However, overall beef production is only 5.5 percent below, year-to-date. This can be attributed to the year-over-year increase in carcass weights. Carcass weights across all classes of cattle, using a weighted average, are 10.1-pounds heavier than last year. Currently, steer carcass weights are 26-pounds heavier than last year at this time.



Typically carcass weights will seasonally peak at this time and flatten out or weaken for the remainder of the year, but CattleFax data suggests carcass weights will remain steady to heavier over this time period. So far the tight cattle numbers have given cattle feeder's incentive to increase weights, as they continue to be rewarded by a higher market. Cheaper corn and a severely negative swap have also fueled the

increase in carcass weights, as it makes more economical sense to feed the animal that is already in the yard to a heavier weight versus replacing them with one that is potentially projected to lose money. The packer is also adding to the cause as they have not shown much resistance to the heavier cattle/carcasses.

Steer carcass weights have increased 63-pounds since the summer low to the current average carcass weight of 902-pounds. The average live steer weighs 1,431-pounds, using a 63% yield. Steer carcass weights increased 38-pounds over the same period last year. The change in the slaughter mix with fewer cows and bulls relative to steers and heifers has also contributed to the 10-pound increase in all cattle carcass weights. As a result, the heavier carcass weights have accounted for an additional 255 million pounds or the equivalent of 321,000 additional head of cattle when compared to 2013 carcass weights.

Bottom Line: Look for carcass weights to follow the seasonal pattern, but at elevated levels as long as the cattle feeder is continued to be incentivized by a higher market and the demand for fed cattle remains strong. Cheaper costs of gain will support heavier carcass weights moving into the first half of 2015, increasing overall beef production. Ethan Oberst

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Market Highlights

The fed cattle market in the North and South was not established at press time but the market tone is steady to stronger compared to last week. Boxed beef prices were higher for the week and are expected to strengthen over the next few weeks as supplies will remain tight and holiday buying will increase. Feeder cattle were steady to \$4 higher this week. Calves were steady up to \$10 higher for calves that qualify for winter grazing programs. Slaughter cows were near steady for the week. Corn prices trended higher this week. Harvest is 4 percent behind the long-term average of 84 percent complete. The USDA's November grain production report came out this week, with the November corn yield estimate was 173.4 bu/ac, .08 bu/ac below the October report.

~ PLAN TO ATTEND ~

NCBA ANNUAL CONVENTION & TRADE SHOW

February 4th-7th 2015 San Antonio, TX

CattleFax Outlook

Thursday, February 5th from 7:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Currentness

Very current

Current

Caution

Uncurrent

Steer carcass weights are

steady at 902

and are 25 pounds above last year.

Fed-Cattle Outlook

Holidays Ahead

The year-end holidays are quickly approaching and with that, slaughter levels will be reduced three of the next seven weeks. The supply side of the market remains very positive with fed supplies presently at their tightest levels. But with reduced kills, negative packer margins, ample basis contracted cattle as well as packer owned cattle put back on feed, look for the cash trade to be very thin through year-end. On the demand side, the beef complex has been disappointing over the last few weeks resulting in the negative packer margins. Seasonally, the beef complex should stay firm over the next few weeks due to holiday rib buying, but increasing supplies of lower priced pork and poultry has kept a lid on values. Longer term, continued year over year declines in beef production are projected in 2015, mainly on the non-fed side, which will support fed prices at historically strong levels.

Next Week: Fed supplies will be near even. The beef complex will trade steady to firm. Fed cattle prices are expected to trade in the upper \$160's.

Late November-December: Fed cattle numbers will remain historically and seasonally tight, although increasing numbers are expected by late in this timeframe. The cash trade is expected to be limited, especially going into the shorter kills during the late year holidays. The rib market is expected to support the beef complex early, look for softness once the holiday buying is complete.

Projected Fed-Cattle Marketings (000 Head) 14-Nov-2014														
NOV DEC JAN FEB MAR APR	Placed Agains 685 627 693 711 690 703	l Pr t Car	Pre Mo Carryover Hove 1149 527 1153 406 1098 398 1109 431 1121 394 1098		in 9 3 8 9	Mo Shipments 657 805 755 734 783 784		Carry- Over % 45 34 35 37 34 32	No Wee 3. 4. 4. 4. 4.	Net Weeks 3.8 4.4 4.2 4.0 4.4 4.4		kly I	% o Yr Ag 93 90 91 96 94	go
	CattleFax Shipments													
	Jan	Feb	Mar			/ Jun		ıl Aug		Oct	Nov		I	Dec
						ıly Tota	•		,					
2013	652	538	568	541	614	1 598	70:	5 641	592	597				586
2014	605	534	553	589	586	626	59	7 596	539	560	253	2013	,	596
				We	ekly	Avera	ges	(000 h	d)					
2013	148	128	135	123	139	150	16	146	148	130	129	2012		146
2014	137	133	132	134	139	149	130	3 142	128	122	126	2013	,	142
14%13	93	104	98	109	100	99	8	5 97	86	94	98	13%	12	97
14%5Yr	101	96	103	105	99	101	8	96	89	95	98	13%	5Yr	100
	CattleFax Placements													
	Jan	Feb	Mar			/ Jun		ıl Aug		Oct	Nov		ı	Dec
				M	ontl	nly Tota	als (C	00 hd)					
2013	575	504	614	532	688	523	599	9 576	576	702	576	2012		580
2014	605	529	635	542	643	3 494	49	5 551	613	679	296	2013	,	541
	Weekly Averages (000 hd)													

131

118

90

97

136

113

83 100 101

131 146

89

131 144 153 144 2012

148

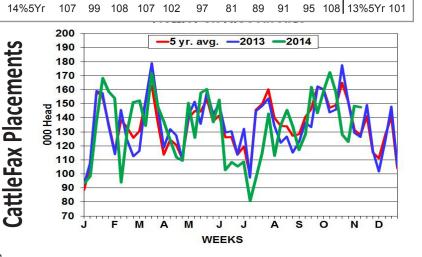
97

148 2013

103 13%12

145

129



Supply and demand fundamentals suggest the fed market will trade in upper \$160's early, near \$160 late.

January-February: Placed against supplies against this timeframe compared to last year are near even, but if the carryover moving through year-end does not improve increasing supplies will be noted. In addition, carcass weights are expected to remain historically large. This combination could result in a decrease in leverage/bargaining position. Seasonally beef demand and usage softens after the year-end holidays as consumers pay off holiday bills as well as seasonally larger heating bills. The price relationship between beef and competitive meats will need to be watched closely. Look for the cash market to soften into January, although as always winter weather could be a price altering factor. Kevin Good

Contract and Formula Cattle 14-Nov-2014

	Scheduled in November	Shipped in November	Scheduled in December	Scheduled in January
Kansas	210,000	102,000	210,000	200,000
Texas	275,000	132,000	255,000	260,000
Colorado	80,000	38,500	80,000	75,000
Nebraska	210,000	101,000	210,000	200,000
Totals	775,000	373,500	755,000	735,000
Basis Bids	January	Febru	uary	March
Steers	even to \$2 o	ver even to S	\$2 over even	to \$1.50 over
Heifers	even to \$2 of	ver ever to \$	2 over even	to \$1.50 over

Supplies to Increase

Prices for the Choice boxed beef cutout closed the week \$.83 higher, while Selects closed \$2.68 firmer for over the same period. Asking prices started the week higher and short bought buyers needed to step in on the higher ask to secure product, especially holiday ribs.



Beef

The next three weeks should be our tightest supplies for the winter; slaughters will begin to increase past that time, excluding holiday weeks. As buyers finish their holiday purchases in late November and early December, supplies will become more available, pressuring prices. Until that occurs though, the cutout should find support from the tighter supplies.

Next Week: Asking prices will stay firm and holiday purchasing should move into full swing, supporting the cutout. Choice boxes are anticipated to trade from \$251 to \$255, Selects between \$239 and \$242.

Duane Leny

Fed Cattle Prices 14-Nov-2014

	Live Steers	Hot-Wgt Prices	Live Heifers	Hot-Wgt Prices	Trade Volume	Contract Formula
PANH	N.T	N.T.	N.T	N.T.	65,500	100%
KS	N.T	N.T.	N.T	N.T.	45,000	100%
NE	N.T	N.T.	N.T	N.T.	55,000	100%
CO*	N.T	N.T.	N.T	N.T.	19,000	100%
CB	170	264-265	170	264-265	5,000	0%
PNW*	N.T	N.T.	N.T	N.T.	0	0%
SW	N.T	N.T.	N.T	N.T.	0	0%

Price ranges reflect the last best test for average choice to high quality cattle *Includes all reported Canadian Imports

2013

2014

14%13

131 120

99

138 132

105 110 146

151

103

121 156

153

102

98

123

102

Feeder Cattle Range-Bound

The feeder cattle market will go through a transition the next 45 days of moving from buying an animal that would be placed against the April live cattle market, to being placed against the June live cattle market. This is not a new process and it happens every year. What is a little more unique about this year, is that current feeder cattle values needed that extra weight as fed cattle to get them to roll back far enough to have a slight chance of

					
Feed	der Cattle	and Ca	lves: Representati	ve Direct	Sales
Area	a # Hd.	Wt.	Breed Type	Price	Del.
CENT	RAL		STEERS		
TX	600	800	CH Eng X -DEL	222.00	FEB
TX	150	825	CH Eng X -DEL	220.00	MAR
TX	500	800	CH Eng X -DEL	224.50	APR
TX	1,500	825	CH Eng X -DEL	220.50	APR
TX	500	775	CH Eng X -DEL	224.40	MAY
TX	1500	825	CH Eng X -DEL	220.40	MAY
CO	700	859	CH Eng X -DEL	231.02	IMM
MT	200	815	Choice English X	230.00	IMM
NM	400	800	Choice English X	230.00	IMM
WY	400	500	CH Eng X -DEL	295.00	IMM
CENT	RAL		HEIFERS		
TX	600	725	CH Eng X -DEL	216.50	FEB
TX	1,000	725	CH Eng X -DEL	216.50	MAR
TX	1,000	725	CH Eng X -DEL	216.50	APR
TX	1,500	725	CH Eng X -DEL	217.00	MAY
CO	450	760	CH Eng X -DEL	228.97	IMM
WY	650	904	Choice English X	211.27	IMM
SOUT			STEERS		
GA	100	625	Choice English X	258.00	IMM
GA	200	675	Choice English X	239.50	IMM
AL	200	825	Choice English X	223.90	IMM
SOUT			HEIFERS		
GA	100	550	Choice English X	247.50	IMM
GA	100	585	Choice English X	235.00	IMM
GA	100	665	Choice English X	226.00	IMM
GA	150	775	Choice English X	220.00	IMM
AL	150	725	Choice English X	221.25	IMM
	Live Co	attle Imp	orts, Year-to-Do	ite Total:	S

14-YTD

357,549

615,414

14-YTD

824,635

13-YTD

242,465

604,530

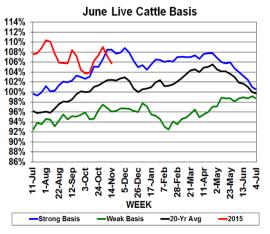
13-YTD

725,776

Feeder Cattle Outlook

having a breakeven close to the deferred live cattle futures. And going into the winter that extra weight is likely going to be driven by adding days on feed.

This transition means that the feeder cattle market is as good as the June live cattle futures. The feeder cattle index recently has been trading between \$240 and \$245/cwt, and June live cattle have recently been in



a range of \$155 to \$160/cwt. Clearly with a spread of roughly \$80/cwt there is no margin to be captured on the feeder cattle being bought and placed on feed, nor should any margin be expected. As it has been stated many times in the Feeder Cattle Outlook, if the cattle feeding industry is making money, the net result is cattle feeders will be willing to "bet on the come" for feeder cattle. And this in fact has been going on for several months.

Looking forward into the end of the year, feeder cattle values will be reflective of the June live cattle, and the expectation is that the spread between the two will not exceed \$80/cwt, at least not for any sustainable period of time – especially as we get toward the end of the year. June live cattle are expected to be well supported in the range of \$155 to \$160/cwt. The current basis would suggest if the cash falters the basis will weaken, meaning June Live Cattle would decline at a lesser rate than cash. Example: Cash fed market at \$166/June live cattle \$158=105%, basis a little weaker. If cash strengthens, the June live cattle are likely still at the high end of the range - cash at \$173/June live cattle \$160=108%. The strong basis years would indicate a basis between 8% and 5% between now and the end of the year.

Bottom Line: Look for feeder cattle to trade in the recent range of \$240 to \$245/cwt, basis the CME Feeder Index, from now until the end of the year. Michael Murphy

Feeder Cattle Prices Sponsored by:

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18,236 eder Cattle Price 1/1_Nov_201/

01-Nov-14

15,181

19,040

08-Nov-14

Canada

Feeders

Slaughter

Mexico

rtti	eeuer Gattie Price 14-nov-2014												
	West & Northwest		Central						Southeast				
	WA/OR CO MT/WY CA NV/UT AZ/NM //D		TX KS/MO	ND/SD	NE	ок	IA		AL AR	FL	GA	LA/MS	KY/TN
				110,00		Oit					OA.	LAMO	KIII
wts	STEER	wts	STEER					wts	STEER				
9-10	209-214 209-215 206-211 205-211 201-210 204-212	9-10	213-217 218-230					9-10	211-215 212-2				
8-9	219-224 219-225 222-227 220-226 211-226 218-226	8-9	228-232 229-241					8-9	222-226 226-2				
7-8	222-228 222-229 235-241 233-240 214-240 231-240	7-8	235-240 235-246					7-8	231-236 235-2	40 227-232	231-236	231-236	227-232
6-7	249-258 249-259 252-261 251-260 241-259 249-261	6-7	248-255 248-268	255-264	249-258	258-265	247-256	6-7	243-250 243-2	50 237-244	240-247	240-247	237-244
5-6	276-287 276-288 273-284 272-288 268-282 275-289	5-6	276-286 275-298	274-285	274-285	288-298	272-283	5-6	263-273 275-2	35 256-266	258-268	265-275	252-262
4-5	317-329 317-330 317-329 314-328 309-327 311-327	4-5	316-328 303-340	318-330	323-335	326-338	321-333	4-5	298-310 300-3	12 301-313	303-315	293-305	273-285
	HEIFER		HEIFER						HEIFER				
8-9	214-219 214-220 209-214 207-213 206-213 205-213	8-9	208-212 209-221	212-217	223-228	210-214	221-226	8-9	206-210 208-2	12 202-206	206-210	206-210	196-200
7-8	218-224 218-225 220-226 218-225 210-225 216-225	7-8	220-225 219-237	221-227	229-235	230-235	227-233	7-8	215-220 216-2	21 211-216	215-220	214-219	210-215
6-7	235-244 235-245 232-241 231-240 227-239 229-241	6-7	228-235 231-244	235-244	235-244	236-243	233-242	6-7	222-229 225-2	32 220-227	223-230	222-229	220-227
5-6	248-259 248-260 251-262 249-261 240-260 247-261	5-6	245-255 235-275	252-263	249-260	264-274	247-258	5-6	230-240 246-2	56 228-238	230-240	230-240	230-240
4-5	292-304 292-305 287-299 286-299 284-297 285-300	4-5	278-290 261-305	288-300	283-295	293-305	281-293	4-5	260-272 266-2	78 253-265	255-267	263-275	240-252
	cows		COWS						cows				
util	115-125 115-127 108-116 107-117 106-123 105-116	util	108-115 105-120	114-124	114-124	112-119	111-121	util	107-114 100-1	10 107-115	108-117	103-113	103-109
cn/cut	100-110 101-116 99-107 99-107 97-108 95-108	cn/cut	102-112 95-115	100-110	104-114	103-110	100-110	cn/cut	99-104 97-10	7 103-110	104-111	88-98	97-103
bulls	128-138 129-142 117-130 117-132 115-136 118-134	bulls	130-138 127-141	134-144	133-143	130-138	131-141	bulls	125-130 122-1	32 132-137	133-138	125-135	122-129
	West — Feeder cattle prices were mostly \$2 to \$3 higher. Calf prices were mostly \$3 to \$4 higher. Slaughter cow values were steady to \$2 higher. — Chad Spearman		Central — Feet to \$4 higher co were steady to on wheat eligit steady to \$1 h	mpare o \$4 hig ble trad	d to las gher, up es. Mai	tweek. to \$10 ketcow	Calves higher vswere		Southeast - mainly sted compared uneven wit flyweights. steady. — T	dy with i to last w h instand Market	nstance reek. Coes of \$ cows	es of \$2 Calves to 310 high	lower raded ier on



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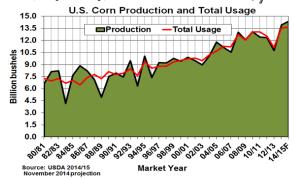
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Corn Crop Slips Lower

This week the USDA released the monthly WASDE (World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates) and Crop Production reports. U.S. corn production was revised slightly lower and some minor changes were made to the usage side of the balance sheet.

U.S. corn production was revised 68 million bushels lower (-0.5%) to 14.407 billion bushels due to a 0.8 bu/ac downward revision in corn production. Average yield is now projected at 173.4 bu/ac, down from 174.2 bu/ac last month. The next revision to crop production will not occur until the Annual Crop Production report is released on January 12th. Beginning stocks and imports for the 2014/15 market year were left unchanged, so projected total supply was also revised 68 million bushels lower to 15.668 billion. On the usage side of the balance sheet only minor changes were noted. Corn used for ethanol was revised 25 million bushels higher to 5.150 billion bushels and food/seed/industrial usage was revised 20 million bushels lower. The net change took projected usage only 5 million bushels lower to 13.660 billion, compared to last year's total of 13.546 billion.

Bottom Line: Projected U.S. corn stocks to use declined from 15.2% to 14.7%. Expectations of 14-16% remain for the 2014/15 market year into the spring, supporting spot futures in the nearby range of \$3.60-\$3.65/bu range and major support in the \$3.25-\$3.35/bu range. Major resistance is the \$4.00 to \$4.20/bu range, basis the December 2014 and March/May 2015 contracts. Daily chart gaps exist near \$4.15/bu, \$4.26/bu and \$4.34/bu, respectively, from last summer. *Chad Spearman*



F.I. Slaughter Mix (000 head)

		Week	Ending		Year To Date					
T	01-Nov-2014		02-Nov-		2014	2013	Pct Chg			
Total Sltr	_	554 623			25319	27123	DN 6.7			
04	Pct	No	Pct	No 004	40400	40500	DNIOO			
Steers	50.2	278	48.8	304	13189	13593	DN 3.0			
Heifers	28.2	156	29.1	181	7120	7770	DN 8.4			
Cows	19.7	109	20.2	126	4544	5286	DN 14.0			
Bulls	2.0	11	2.1	13	467	473	DN 1.3			

Summary of Activity Sponsored by:





Summary of Activity	This Week	Last Week 7-Nov-14	Year Ago 15-Nov-13					
CattleFax Data								
	147 500	140 246	106 175					
Placements	147,590	148,316	126,475					
Shipments	130,572	122,051	118,269					
Avg In-Weights	723		715					
USDA Str Wgts	1,362		1,344					
USDA Str Carc Wgt*	902		877					
Days on Feed	N/A		144					
Carryover Pct	39		38					
Weekly Supply	387,700		459,000					
Percent Grade Choice & H		68.05	68.72					
Prime Grade Pct	5.02	4.38	4.50					
Choice Grade Pct	63.87	63.67	64.22					
Select Grade Pct	25.37	26.01	27.23					
Live Prices (\$/cwt)								
Slaughter Steers	N/A		131.58					
Steer Calf (450#)	318.86		205.74					
Steer Calf (550#)	279.12	276.40	182.47					
Yearling Steer (650#)	252.76	252.38	169.74					
Yearling Steer (750#)	235.06	235.20	164.19					
Yearling Steer (850#)	227.55	225.03	158.70					
Utility and Commercial Cov			79.74					
Canner and Cutter Cows	105.06		73.63					
Lean Hogs	86.59		81.63					
Omaha Čorn (\$/bu)	3.55	3.34	4.14					
12-City Broiler	104.42	104.42	94.80					
Dollar Index	87.90	87.60	80.91					
Meat Prices (\$/cwt)								
Certified Angus Beef Cutou	ut (UB) 260.68	259.74	210.62					
Choice Cutout	251.35		202.56					
Select Cutout	238.93	237.25	188.52					
Choice/Select Price Spread	d 12.42	13.27	14.04					
Cow Cutout	233.93	233.70	155.28					
Hide and Offal	16.28	16.41	14.66					
Pork Cutout	96.24	95.30	93.97					
Slaughter (000 hd) and A		n (Mil Ibs)						
Cattle	560.0	564.0	600.0					
Hogs	2,219.0		2,346.0					
Total Red Meat Production			976.4					
Beef Production	462.2		480.3					
Pork Production	475.4		491.3					
Poultry Production	N/A		783.5					
	CME AVG	6 STATE FED	KS-TX-OK					
	FDR PRICE	STR PRICE**	FED STR**					
Thu 11/13		167.06	166.89					
Wed 11/12	N/A 240.38 240.86	167.09	166.89					
Tue 11/11	240.86	167.09	166.89					
Mon 11/10	241.21	167.00	166.89					
Fri 11/10	241.69	167.00	166.89					
			100.03					
* USDA steer carcass weights are actual from two weeks ago. ** 5-Day weighted average fed steer price (CO,IA,KS,NE,TX,OK), (KS,TX,OK)								