Cattle Livestock Market Report

20 March 2020



Queensland

Roma Cattle

The supply of stock increased by a massive 5,222 head to 8,035 at the Roma store sale. Cattle were drawn from a wide area of the state, and also included in the lineup was a large consignment from northern New South Wales. All the usual restocker and feeder buyers were present and operating, along with the regular export processors. The much larger supply of yearling steers to restockers and feeder operators could not maintain the high levels of the previous week, with losses of 17c to 22c/kg, and more on secondary lines. The light weight yearling heifers experienced similar losses. However medium weight yearling heifers to feed for the domestic market went against this trend to average 9c/kg better, while heavy weights experienced very little change in price. The relatively large selection of cows sold to a cheaper trend with losses of 17c to 32c/kg.

Steer calves returned to the paddock at an average of 465c with sales to 488.2c, and heifer calves averaged 406c/kg. Light weight yearling steers returning to the paddock averaged 17c less at 434c with sales to 468.2c/kg. Yearling steers in the 280-330kg range to feed made to 439c to average 22c cheaper at 411c, and medium weights to feed were well supplied and made to 420.2c, to reduce by 18c, and averaged 396. Heavy weight yearling steers to feed made to 424.2 with a fair sample at 395c/kg. Light weight yearling heifers to restockers averaged 386c and made to 408c/kg. A large supply of medium weight yearling heifers to feed made to 398.2c to average 380c/kg. Heavy weight yearling heifers to feed sold to a top of 400c to average 380c/kg.

Medium weight grown steers to feed made to 378c to average 369c/kg. Grown heifers to processors made to 331c to average 279c/kg. Medium weight poor condition cows averaged 195c, and the better 2 scores averaged 235c, and sold to 248c/kg. Medium weight 3 scores averaged 252c and made to 263c/kg. Heavy weight 3 scores averaged 260c and made to 271c, and a few good heavy cows made to 288.2c/kg. Heavy bulls made to 320c/kg.

New South Wales

Tamworth Cattle

There was an increase in supply with young cattle and cows making up the bulk of the offering. All other categories represented. Overall the quality of the penning was mostly good and there were quite a few well finished cattle penned. There was reduced processor and restocker competition.

The reduced competition from restockers and a more subdued approach from feedlotters resulted in most classes of young cattle selling to cheaper trends. Vealer steers to restockers saw a trend of 10c to 60c/kg less, with some of the large falls being related to a drop in quality. Conversely the heifer vealers to restockers remained firm with an isolated dearer sale in the light weights. Yearling steers to restockers sold to cheaper trends with some significant reductions. The medium and heavy weight feeders were 4c to 22c/kg cheaper with the heavy weights least affected. Light weight yearling heifers were as much as 25c/kg cheaper. The medium weight feeders were cheaper by 7c to 12c/kg. Cheaper trends on an increased supply of well finished trade heifers.

Heavy grown steers sold on a firm to cheaper market trend with some age related price change. There was a reduction of quality in the medium weight cows to restockers. Reduced competition from both restockers and processors saw trends cheaper, 2c to 10c/kg on those to process and more on those selling to restockers.

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Gunnedah Cattle

The numbers bounced back from last weeks near record low. There was a good supply of young cattle and cows. The quality of the offering was mixed, mostly good, with some fairly plain quality cows and yearlings. There was reduced competition from all sectors.

Despite the reduced gallery of buyers, demand remained high for the most part. The increased supply impacted both average quality and price change. Varying trends through the young cattle with light and medium weight vealer steers to restockers selling to a significantly dearer trend. The heifer portion saw a cheaper trend. There were firm to dearer trends through all classes of yearling steers to restock and feed. Yearling heifers to restock and feed saw a firm to cheaper market trend, numbers and quality a factor in price changes. Heavy trade heifers met keen demand to sell firm to dearer with some breed specific increases.

Despite the reduced processor competition demand was high and there was some improvement in quality through the plainer condition cows. Market trends were firm to dearer on those plainer condition cows. The well finished heavy weights experienced little but a quality related price change.

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