

Cattle Livestock Market Report

19 November 2020



Queensland

Warwick Cattle

There was a small increase to 1,103 head at Warwick, All export processors were present however not all were operating fully. The regular panel of feeder and restocker buyers were present and very active. Light weight yearling steers were keenly sought after by restockers reaching a new high level for Warwick sale yards. Light weight yearling heifers also received strong competition from restockers. Feeder steers and heifers for the domestic market sold to a dearer trend. Heavy grown steers sold to a very solid market. Cows struggled to maintain the improved prices of the previous week.

Light weight yearling steers sold to restockers at an outstanding price of 659.2c to average 546c/kg. Yearling steers in the 280-330kg range sold to 494c to average 466c/kg. Medium weight feeder steers sold to 465c to average 442c/kg. Heavy weight yearling steers to feed made to 437c to average 424c/kg. Light weight yearling heifers sold to a top of 588c, and a large sample sold between 432c to 504c/kg. Heavy weight feeder heifers made to 418c, and sold to wholesalers at 395c/kg.

Heavy weight grown steers sold to processors at a top 393c to average 386c/kg. Heavy weight grown heifers sold to processors for an average of 347c and sold to a top of 360c/kg. Medium weight cows went to restockers at 328c, and to processors at an average of 285c/kg. A large sample of heavy weight cows sold to 324c to average 316c/kg. Heavy bulls sold to 348c/kg.

New South Wales

Tamworth Cattle

Numbers increased with an influx of plain and secondary western cattle penned. Overall the quality of the offering showed greater variation than recent times. The majority of the local cattle were well bred with all buyers catered for from a quality and condition perspective. All the regular orders were in place along with some extra feedlot competition.

It was a strong market for young cattle to restock and feed. Market trends were firm to dearer. The better quality light weight steers to restockers showed a slight improvement. Medium weight feeder steers sold on a firm to slightly dearer market trend, however a variation in quality had a negative effect on average prices. Heavy feeder steers were as much as 9c/kg dearer with an improvement in quality. There was little but quality related change in the market for medium and heavy weight yearling heifers to feed. Well finished trade yearlings sold on a firm to cheaper market trend with competition not as strong. Feedlotters were active on grown steers with a market trend firm to slightly dearer. There were a number of pens of heavy weights that went to feed. Heavy grown steers to process also saw a trend that was a little cheaper. There were quite a few plain quality and condition grown heifers penned, selling mostly to processors.

Another strong cow market that saw little change in the market trend.

Forbes Cattle

Numbers eased and the quality remained good. Yearlings made up the bulk and medium weights were best supplied. Grown steers and heifers were limited and around 50 cows were offered. The market sold to a dearer trend with the heavy cows remaining firm.

Weaner steers sold from 512c to 552c/kg. The best of the vealers 425c to 440c/kg. Medium weight feeder steers lifted 12c and made from 414c to 458c/kg. Heavy feeders gained 2c selling from 380c to 450c/kg. Medium weight feeder heifers gained 10c on limited numbers reaching 450c/kg. Trade steers jumped 7c to 10c making from 380c to 442c/kg. Medium weight trade heifers lifted 8c and sold from 396c to 445c/kg. Grown steers and

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bullocks were 15c to 20c dearer making from 380c to 405c/kg. Heavy grown heifers sold from 345c to 388c/kg.

Well conditioned cows remained firm whilst the leaner cows were up to 7c stronger. Medium weights sold from 300c to 308c/kg and heavy 3 and 4 scores made from 301c to 314c/kg.

Carcoar Cattle

It was a very good quality yarding with good numbers of young cattle to suit the processors and feeders along with good numbers of grown steers and cows. Grown heifers were in limited supply. All the regular buyers were in attendance and operating.

Young cattle to the trade were up to 12c dearer with prime vealers selling to 460c/kg. Prime steer yearlings sold from 375c to 432c while the prime heifer yearlings sold from 380c to 440c/kg. Feeder cattle were 6c to 10c dearer with the feeder steers selling from 385c to 446c while the feeder heifers sold from 420c to 437c/kg. Young cattle to the restockers remain strong with the young steers selling from 442c to 640c and the young heifers sold from 465c to 578c/kg. Steer yearlings to the restockers sold from 439c to 485c while the heifer yearlings going back to the paddock made from 434c to 460c/kg. Grown steers and heifers were up to 12c cheaper compared to the previous sales stronger market. The prime grown steers sold from 330c to 385c while the grown heifers made from 350c to 392c/kg.

Cows were firm with the few secondary cows selling from 285c to 310c/kg. The prime heavy weight cows sold from 300c to 323c to average 314c/kg. Heavy bulls were dearer selling to 360c/kg.

Victoria

Wodonga Cattle

Numbers declined marginally. All the usual buyers were present however not all operated fully. Quality was excellent with a lot of weight in the offering. Demand was solid for all categories.

The better finished beef cows sold to slightly weaker demand making from 306c to 327c/kg. Competition was steady for the D2 and D3 medium weights. Prices ranged from 240c to 309c/kg. A good quality selection of bulls sold to a smaller group of processors. The better shapes selling from 330c to 357c/kg.

Shepparton Cattle

There were over 1000 exports and 600 trade cattle, with around half the exports being cows. There was plenty of weight and condition in the beef cow run with most well over 600kgs liveweight and prices were equal to 5c/kg cheaper to last sale. The dairy portion however was very plain with only a few dried off types. A full field of buyers were at the rails. Competition softened on the heavy bullocks to be 4 to 8c/kg cheaper. Feedlotters were dominant in the 400 to 500kg range. The best of the dairy cows sold at dearer rates but the bulk of the plain D1 cows were 3c to 9c/kg cheaper.

The trade cattle were of fair to good quality, yearling steers were scarce. Vealer numbers are more prominent within the trade section. Vealers and yearling steers sold at slightly cheaper rates although restockers are keeping a hold on any major price falls. The yearling heifers bucked the trend to hold firm and even lift in some places. The light weight calves going back to the paddock made to 516c/kg. Heavy vealers to processors ranged from 425c to 455c/kg. The yearling steers to the trade made from 402c to 445c/kg. The yearling heifers ranged from 373c to 430c/kg.

The 400 to 500kg steers going to feedlotters ranged from 360c to 428c/kg. The 500 to 600kg steers made from 360 to 381c/kg and the 600kg plus steers made from 362c to 386c/kg. The best of the Friesian bullocks reached 329c/kg. The heavy beef cows made from 303c to 328c/kg with some making close to \$2500 per head as cull cows. The heavy dairy cows ranged from 252c to 314c/kg to average 264c/kg for the D1's.

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Western Australia

Muchea Cattle

Quality had a big bearing on results, particularly on the pastoral light weight weaners that fell 30c and local weaner heifers which eased 10c to 20c/kg. Local yearling cattle gained from 10c to 20c whilst pastoral yearling steers remained firm and the heifer portion fell 20c/kg. Grown heifers were 15c/kg dearer whilst grown steers remained firm. In the manufacturing section prime bulls and cows eased 10c to 15c/kg mainly due to the absence of one major processor.

Local weaner steers sold from 360c to 472c to remain firm. The corresponding pastoral steers made from 318c to 332c down 30c/kg. The local weaner heifers sold from 282c to 438c. The pastoral types sold from 236c to 294c down 30c/kg. Local yearling steers sold from 300c to 402c up 20c/kg. The pastorals sold from 246c to 348c to remain firm. Local yearling heifers sold from 362c to 394c up by 10c whilst the corresponding pastoral line sold from 220c to 334c, down 20c/kg. Grown heifers sold from 270c to 340c whilst grown steers sold from 320 to 340c/kg.

Reduced competition on the prime cows and bulls resulted in diminished values. Prime cows sold from 230c to 260c and were 10c to 15c/kg easier. Prime bulls also eased by 10c to 15c and sold from 250c to 270c/kg.