

MARKET WATCH CATTLE

Dairy slaughter for the week ending Jan. 18 was 68,900 head, up 9,500 head from the prior week and up 100 head from the same week last year. Through the first three weeks of 2014, 12,900 fewer head have been slaughtered than through the first three weeks of 2013. This continues the trend of generally lower slaughter since May of last year, resulting in some stability of the U.S. dairy herd. From September through December, the U.S. herd head count only varied

by 4,000 head, and the month of December saw the first head-count increase since reporting was restarted following the government shutdown. The current U.S. dairy herd stands at 9.206 million head.

The U.S. average price for dairy cows in January was \$87.30 per hundredweight (cwt), up \$3.90 per cwt from a revised December price of \$83.40 per cwt. The revision to the December price makes December the high price for 2013. Cull price

continues to get support from high-cash beef and futures prices that have been pushed higher by tight supplies.

On Jan. 22, the USDA cold storage report showed December total beef stocks down 3 percent from November and down 6 percent from the year prior. On Jan. 24, the USDA cattle on feed report put January inventory down 5 percent from January 2013 but had December placements up 1 percent from December 2012.

The reaction of live cattle futures since the January reports indicates the data was already baked into the cake and the overbought market was due for a pullback. On Jan. 22, before the cold storage report was issued,

Warren Wagner
Market360 Dairy Adviser
Stewart-Peterson Inc.
wwagner@stewart-peterson.com



February live cattle hit \$144.55 per cwt but failed to make a post-report high. At the time of this writing, the contract is trading back near \$140. If the futures market can find support here, perhaps another push higher is in the cards. We won't know for sure until the high is in our rearview mirror. What we can be sure of is that with low feed costs and high producer prices, supplies won't be tight indefinitely. **PD**

MARKET WATCH January 20, 2014	Top Springer	Top Average	Medium Holstein Springer	Shortbreds	Open Heifers Light	Open Heifers Heavy	Heifer Calves	Bull Calves	Breeding Bulls
Empire Livestock - Burton Market Vernon, NY (800) 257-1819 (sale 1/16/14)	\$1,400 \$100 ▼	\$1,285 \$15 ▼	\$1,175 \$25 ▼	\$850 \$200 ▼	\$350 NC	\$775 \$75 ▲	\$120 \$20 ▲	\$190 \$115 ▲	\$975 \$125 ▲
Mammoth Cave Dairy Auction, Inc. Smiths Grove, KY (800) 563-2131 (sale 1/14/14)	\$1,635 \$60 ▲	\$1,485 \$15 ▼	\$1,310 \$10 ▲	\$1,135	\$300 \$50 ▲	\$700 \$50 ▲	\$155 \$25 ▲	\$150 \$5 ▲	N/T
New Holland Sales Stables New Holland, PA (717) 354-4341 (sale 1/15/14)	\$1,700 \$25 ▼	\$1,550 \$50 ▼	\$1,300 \$75 ▼	\$1,075 \$375 ▼	\$575 \$50 ▲	\$900 NC	N/T	N/T	\$1,200 \$300 ▼
Mid-Georgia Livestock Auction Jackson, GA (770) 775-7314 (sale 1/14/14)	\$1,900 \$200 ▲	\$1,625 \$75 ▲	\$1,150 NC	N/T	\$420 \$45 ▲	\$520 \$405 ▼	\$210 \$60 ▲	\$90 \$45 ▼	N/T
Central Livestock Association Albany, MN (800) 733-6828 (sale 1/14/14)	\$1,585 \$90 ▼	\$1,400 \$50 ▼	\$1,350 \$50 ▲	N/T	\$88/cwt \$8/cwt ▲	\$114/cwt \$21/cwt ▲	N/T	N/T	N/T
Equity Co-op Livestock Stratford, WI (715) 687-4101 Rocky Olsen (608) 434-4037 (sale 1/14/14)	\$1,750 \$165 ▲	\$1,500 \$125 ▲	\$1,250 \$75 ▲	\$1,050 \$100 ▲	\$550 NC	\$950 \$50 ▲	\$185 \$10 ▲	\$245 NC	\$1,275 \$25 ▼
Lake Odessa Livestock Lake Odessa, MI (616) 374-8213 (sale 1/14/14)	\$1,650 NC	\$900 \$300 ▼	\$850 \$100 ▼	N/T	\$400 \$200 ▼	\$750 NC	\$200 NC	N/T	\$1,300 NC
Norwood Dairy Cattle Auction Norwood, MO (417) 746-4242 (sale 12/13/13)	\$1,450 NC	\$1,300 NC	\$975 \$25 ▼	\$1,310 \$70 ▲	\$280 \$90 ▼	\$610 \$225 ▼	\$190 \$10 ▼	\$175 NC	N/T
Pipstone Livestock Auction Market Pipstone, MN (507) 825-3306 (sale 1/16/14)	\$1,975 \$150 ▲	\$1,930 \$261 ▲	\$1,764 \$155 ▲	N/T	\$123/cwt \$6/cwt ▲	\$108/cwt \$10/cwt ▼	N/T	N/T	N/T
Springfield Livestock Marketing Center Springfield, MO (417) 869-9500 Doug Thomas (417) 840-9316 (sale 12/18/13)	\$1,350 \$150 ▼	\$1,300 NC	\$1,125 \$75 ▲	\$1,095 \$95 ▲	\$510 \$110 ▲	\$800 \$140 ▲	\$125 \$45 ▼	\$210 \$40 ▲	N/T
Topeka Livestock Auction Topeka, IN (206) 593-2522 (sale 12/31/13)	\$1,700 \$40 ▲	\$1,345 \$27 ▼	N/T	N/T	\$1,211 \$71 ▼	\$1,550 \$75 ▼	\$155 \$10 ▼	N/T	\$800 \$550 ▼
Tri-State Livestock Sioux Center, IA (712) 722-0681 Mike Koedam (712) 470-0198 (sale 1/15/14)	\$2,300 \$525 ▲	\$2,095 \$409 ▲	\$1,895 \$315 ▲	N/T	\$138/cwt \$5/cwt ▲	\$127/cwt \$10/cwt ▲	N/T	N/T	N/T
United Producers, Inc. Marion, MI (517) 294-3484 (sale 12/20/13)	\$2,275 \$25 ▼	\$1,800 \$75 ▼	\$1,400 NC	\$1,075 \$25 ▼	\$625	\$875 \$25 ▲	N/T	N/T	\$1,250 \$150 ▲
Brush Livestock of Colorado Brush, CO (970) 842-2801 (sale 1/9/14)	\$2,300 \$375 ▲	\$2,250 \$340 ▲	\$2,000 \$225 ▲	N/T	\$132/cwt \$20/cwt ▲	\$116/cwt \$3/cwt ▲	N/T	N/T	N/T
Chehalis Livestock Market Chehalis, WA (360) 748-3191 (sale 1/10/14)	\$1,470 \$30 ▼	\$1,399 \$37 ▲	\$1,100 NC	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
Producers Livestock Jerome, ID (208) 324-4345 (sale 1/8/14)	\$1,950 \$70 ▲	\$1,890 \$50 ▲	\$1,670 \$60 ▼	N/T	\$116/cwt \$4/cwt ▲	\$112/cwt \$9/cwt ▲	N/T	N/T	N/T
Smithfield Livestock Auction Smithfield, UT (435) 563-3259 (sale 1/16/14)	\$1,860 \$380 ▲	\$1,813 \$488 ▲	\$1,787 \$512 ▲	\$1,550 \$620 ▲	\$90/cwt \$10/cwt ▼	\$109/cwt \$4/cwt ▼	N/T	N/T	N/T
Toppenish Dairy Replacement Sales Toppenish, WA (509) 865-2820 (sale 1/10/14)	\$1,425 NC	\$1,250 NC	\$1,100 NC	\$1,350 NC	\$120/cwt \$35/cwt ▲	\$105/cwt \$25/cwt ▲	\$100 NC	\$120 NC	N/T
Sulphur Springs Livestock & Dairy Auction Sulphur Springs, TX (903) 885-7739 (sale 1/2/14)	\$1,575 NC	\$1,250 \$250 ▲	\$1,250 \$150 ▲	N/T	\$700 NC	\$900 NC	\$140 \$150 ▼	\$105 \$155 ▼	N/T
Farmers Livestock Market Oakdale, CA (209) 847-1033 (sale 1/16/14)	\$2,000 \$275 ▲	\$1,800 \$150 ▲	\$1,450 \$50 ▲	\$1,375 \$25 ▲	\$140/cwt NC	\$127/cwt \$12/cwt ▲	\$175 \$25 ▲	\$150 \$25 ▼	\$1,100 \$50 ▼

Contact Judy about being included in *Progressive Dairyman's* Market Watch! judy@progressivedairy.com • (208) 324-7513 NC = No change N/T = No test Decrease in price ▼ Increase in price ▲

Log on to www.progressivedairy.com/marketwatch to get auction reports from more locations!