

MARKET WATCH CATTLE

Dairy slaughter for the week ending July 19 was 53,100 head, down 200 head from the prior week and down 2,500 head from the same week last year. Through the first 29 weeks of 2014, 180,100 fewer head have been slaughtered than through the first 29 weeks of 2013. In the July 18 milk production report, the USDA put the U.S. dairy herd for June at 9.266 million head, up 11,000 head from May. Year to date, the U.S. herd has grown 56,000 head and is at the highest total since April of 2012.

The U.S. average price for dairy cows in July was a record \$113 per

hundredweight (cwt), up \$7 per cwt from a revised June price of \$106 per cwt. Every month this year has been a new record. For the year, the cull price is up \$29.60 per cwt since December 2013. The cull price continues to get support from high cash beef and futures prices that have been pushed higher by tight supplies.

On July 22, the USDA cold storage report showed June total beef stocks down 5.3 percent from May and down 25.7 percent from the year prior. On July 25, the USDA cattle on feed report put July 1 inventory down 2.4 percent from July 1, 2013, and

had June feedlot placements down 6.2 percent from June 2013. Cattle marketed in June totaled 1.85 million, down 1.8 percent from June 2013 and the lowest total for the month since tracking began in 1996.

Strong January and February placements put the year-to-date total just 27,000 head less than through June of 2013. However, March-through-June placements are down 399,000 head compared to the same time period last year. Although a top in the market can come at any time, declining inventories should continue to support prices for the next several months.

On July 28, live cattle futures put in another record high, with August-through-December contracts trading as high as \$160 per cwt. As of

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August 5, live cattle contracts through April 2015 were trading at \$156 per cwt or higher. Also trading in record territory, choice boxed beef cutouts values hit \$257.38 on July 25.

For some dairy farms, cull cattle continue to be a significant revenue stream. There is opportunity to protect these good prices out into spring of 2015, which as of this writing is more than can be said about Class III milk prices into spring of 2015. Cull cattle will continue to be an important product on dairy farms in the months to come. **PD**

MARKETWATCH August 5, 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 8/7/14)	\$1,700 \$200 ▼	\$1,575 \$75 ▲	\$1,400 \$200 ▲	\$1,100 \$500 ▼	N/T	\$975 \$75 ▲	\$150 NC	\$210 \$110 ▲	\$1,300 \$400 ▲
Mammoth Cave Dairy Auction, Inc. Smiths Grove, KY (800) 563-2131 (sale 8/5/14)	\$2,350 \$425 ▲	\$1,750 \$50 ▲	\$1,375 \$50 ▼	\$1,675 \$50 ▲	\$535 \$40 ▼	\$1,075 \$100 ▼	\$200 NC	\$160 \$30 ▼	N/T
New Holland Sales Stables New Holland, PA (717) 354-4341 (sale 8/6/14)	\$2,400 \$50 ▲	\$2,000 \$175 ▼	\$1,650 \$100 ▼	\$2,100 \$325 ▲	\$700 \$25 ▲	\$1,385 \$540 ▼	N/T	N/T	\$1,375 NC
Mid-Georgia Livestock Auction Jackson, GA (770) 775-7314 (sale 7/15/14)	\$1,900 \$25 ▲	\$1,775 \$225 ▼	\$1,425 \$75 ▲	\$1,775 \$950 ▲	\$460	\$1,200	\$310 \$70 ▲	\$230 \$30 ▲	\$540
Central Livestock Association Albany, MN (800) 733-6828 (sale 7/22/14)	\$3,600 \$1,590 ▲	\$1,900 \$50 ▼	\$1,850 \$90 ▲	\$1,775 \$275 ▲	\$185/cwt \$30/cwt ▲	\$270/cwt \$112/cwt ▲	N/T	N/T	\$1,160
Equity Co-op Livestock Stratford, WI (715) 687-4101 Rocky Olsen (608) 434-4037 (sale 7/29/14)	\$2,500 NC	\$2,300 \$100 ▲	\$1,900 \$25 ▲	\$1,850 \$250 ▲	\$950 \$50 ▲	\$1,525 \$75 ▲	\$275 \$1650 ▼	\$385 NC	\$1,750 \$175 ▲
Lake Odessa Livestock/Ravenna Auction LLC Lake Odessa, MI (616) 374-8213 (sale 8/6/14)	\$2,500 \$100 ▲	\$2,000 \$200 ▼	\$2,000 \$100 ▲	\$1,600 NC	\$1,200 \$100 ▲	\$1,3200 \$100 ▲	\$400 NC	\$350 \$50 ▲	\$1,800 \$400 ▲
Norwood Dairy Cattle Auction Norwood, MO (417) 746-4242 (sale 7/10/14)	\$2,100 \$110 ▲	\$1,800 \$25 ▲	\$1,350 \$50 ▼	\$1,810 \$90 ▼	\$600 \$70 ▼	\$1,000 \$200 ▼	\$340 \$50 ▲	\$380 \$70 ▲	N/T
Pipestone Livestock Auction Market Pipestone, MN (507) 825-3306 (sale 7/17/14)	\$2,450 \$175 ▲	\$2,302 \$165 ▲	\$2,148 \$42 ▲	N/T	\$227/cwt \$74/cwt ▲	\$141/cwt \$5/cwt ▼	N/T	N/T	\$1,400 \$35 ▼
Springfield Livestock Marketing Center Springfield, MO (417) 869-9500 Doug Thomas (417) 840-9316 (sale 7/23/14)	\$2,275 \$125 ▼	\$2,000 \$35 ▼	\$1,625 \$10 ▼	\$1,800 \$100 ▼	\$800 \$40 ▼	\$1,480 \$155 ▲	\$320 \$100 ▼	\$370 \$80 ▲	N/T
Topeka Livestock Auction Topeka, IN (206) 593-2522 (sale 8/5/14)	\$2,425 \$175 ▲	\$1,960 \$250 ▲	N/T	N/T	\$1,596 \$436 ▲	\$2,350 \$675 ▲	\$290 \$35 ▼	N/T	\$1,250 \$350 ▲
Tri-State Livestock Sioux Center, IA (712) 722-0681 Mike Koedam (712) 470-0198 (sale 7/16/14)	\$2,525 \$215 ▲	\$2,260 \$52 ▲	\$2,166 \$8 ▲	N/T	\$285/cwt	\$171/cwt	N/T	N/T	N/T
United Producers, Inc. Marion, MI (517) 294-3484 (sale 7/18/14)	\$2,775 \$600 ▲	\$2,400 \$300 ▲	\$2,075 \$275 ▲	\$2,175 \$400 ▲	\$650 \$200 ▲	\$1,250 \$350 ▲	\$290 \$105 ▲	N/T	\$1,600 \$75 ▼
Brush Livestock of Colorado Brush, CO (970) 842-2801 (sale 7/8/14)	\$2,900 NC	\$2,750 \$25 ▼	\$2,430 \$95 ▲	\$2,250 \$75 ▲	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
Chehalis Livestock Market Chehalis, WA (360) 748-3191 (sale 8/1/14)	\$2,150 \$200 ▲	\$1,900 \$120 ▲	\$1,450 \$100 ▲	N/T	\$160/cwt NC	N/T	N/T	\$200 \$60 ▼	\$1,125 \$175 ▼
Producers Livestock Jerome, ID (208) 324-4345 (sale 8/6/14)	\$2,540 \$140 ▲	\$2,470 \$130 ▲	\$2,110 \$50 ▼	N/T	\$165/cwt	\$168/cwt \$12/cwt ▲	N/T	N/T	N/T
Smithfield Livestock Auction Smithfield, UT (435) 563-3259 (sale 7/17/14)	\$2,300 \$10 ▼	\$2,257 NC	\$2,068 \$127 ▼	N/T	\$183/cwt	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
Toppenish Dairy Replacement Sales Toppenish, WA (509) 865-2820 (sale 8/8/14)	\$2,350 \$25 ▲	\$2,280 NC	\$1,900 \$100 ▼	\$1,700 \$300 ▼	\$260/cwt \$23/cwt ▲	\$210/cwt \$10/cwt ▲	\$500 \$15 ▲	\$400	N/T
Sulphur Springs Livestock & Dairy Auction Sulphur Springs, TX (903) 885-7739 (sale 7/17/14)	\$1,975 \$450 ▼	\$1,500 \$250 ▼	\$1,475 \$250 ▼	N/T	\$875 \$75 ▲	\$1,100 \$250 ▼	\$390 \$50 ▼	\$400 \$25 ▼	\$1,325 \$415 ▲
Farmers Livestock Market Oakdale, CA (209) 847-1033 (sale 7/24/14)	\$3,200 \$500 ▲	\$2,850 \$450 ▲	\$2,500 \$500 ▲	\$2,300 \$315 ▲	\$215/cwt \$15/cwt ▲	\$190/cwt \$5/cwt ▲	\$250 \$50 ▼	\$400 \$25 ▲	\$1,300

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 ▲

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