

# MARKET WATCH

## CATTLE

The holidays tend to alter normal business patterns, and dairy slaughter is no exception. Slaughter for the holiday-shortened week ending November 24 was 49,800 head, up 2,700 head from the same week last year. This seasonal drop in slaughter ended 10 weeks in a row of at least 62,500 head. The week prior, slaughter was 65,300 head, and only the week ending March 10 at 67,000 was higher than that. Year-to-date 2.7819 million head have been slaughtered compared to 2.6199 million head through

this week last year. That puts 2012 slaughter 6.18 percent higher than 2011 or an average of 3,447 head more per week.

The U.S. average price received for dairy cows in November was \$76.40 per hundredweight (cwt), down \$0.90 per cwt from an October price of \$77.30 per cwt. Due to the September price being revised lower, November becomes the sixth month in a row that cull prices have declined. The current average price is now \$11.30 per cwt lower than the May

high of \$87.70 per cwt. In spite of the continued high slaughter rate, the U.S. average cull price is still \$10.40 per cwt higher year-over-year.

Live Cattle futures remain high, continuing to project tight supplies in 2013. On December 11, the 2013 contracts averaged \$133.5 per cwt. The long-term trend is up and prices are pushing back towards the September high resistance. At their September peak, the 2013 contracts averaged \$134.6 per cwt.

High feed costs continue to support dairy and live cattle prices and the high dairy slaughter rate. In its December 11 supply and demand estimates report, the USDA held the

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line on U.S. ending corn stocks at 647 million bushels and tightened U.S. soybean ending stocks by -7.2 percent from the prior month to 130 million bushels. This puts the corn and soybean stocks-to-usage ratio at 5.8 percent and 4.3 percent, respectively. Going back to 1995-1996, this is the lowest ratio for beans on record. Only in 1995 was the ratio lower for corn at 5 percent. All eyes will be focused on South America crops in the months ahead. **PD**

MARKETWATCH December 12, 2012	Top Springer	Top Average	Medium Holstein Springer	Shortbreds	Open Heifers Light	Open Heifers Heavy	Heifer Calves	Bull Calves	Breeding Bulls
<b>Empire Livestock - Burton Market</b> Vernon, NY (800) 257-1819 (sale 12/10/12)	\$1,400 NC	\$1,200 \$50 ▼	\$1,050 \$50 ▼	\$1,000 \$100 ▲	\$300 NC	\$700 NC	\$85 NC	\$80 \$5 ▲	\$750 NC
<b>Mammoth Cave Dairy Auction, Inc.</b> Smiths Grove, KY (800) 563-2131 (sale 12/11/12)	\$1,590 \$120 ▼	\$1,440 \$20 ▼	\$1,300 NC	\$990	\$440 \$85 ▲	\$525 \$285 ▼	\$150 \$45 ▲	\$130 \$50 ▲	N/T
<b>New Holland Sales Stables</b> New Holland, PA (717) 354-4341 (sale 12/12/12)	\$1,850 \$100 ▲	\$1,500 \$25 ▼	\$1,325 \$25 ▲	\$1,400 \$400 ▲	\$550 \$75 ▲	\$900 \$40 ▲	N/T	N/T	\$1,475 NC
<b>Mid-Georgia Livestock Auction</b> Jackson, GA (770) 775-7314 (sale 12/11/12)	\$1,800 \$125 ▲	\$1,475 \$100 ▼	\$1,200 \$25 ▼	N/T	\$400 \$70 ▲	\$650 \$650 ▼	\$130 \$70 ▼	\$85 \$25 ▼	N/T
<b>Central Livestock Association</b> Albany, MN (800) 733-6828 (sale 12/11/12)	\$1,425 \$15 ▲	\$1,300 \$50 ▲	\$1,275 \$40 ▲	\$1,250 \$265 ▲	\$86/cwt \$2/cwt ▼	\$86/cwt \$29/cwt ▼	N/T	N/T	\$1,060 \$90 ▼
<b>Equity Co-op Livestock</b> Stratford, WI (715) 687-4101 Rocky Olsen (608) 434-4037 (sale 12/11/12)	\$1,525 \$40 ▼	\$1,375 NC	\$1,200 \$50 ▲	\$950 \$100 ▲	\$500 \$50 ▲	\$850 \$100 ▲	\$225 \$50 ▲	\$120 \$15 ▼	\$1,250 \$50 ▲
<b>Lake Odessa Livestock</b> Lake Odessa, MI (616) 374-8213 (sale 12/11/12)	\$1,600 NC	\$1,200 NC	\$950 NC	N/T	\$500 NC	\$750 \$150 ▲	\$300 \$100 ▲	N/T	\$1,300 NC
<b>Norwood Dairy Cattle Auction</b> Norwood, MO (417) 746-4242 (sale 11/9/12)	\$1,475 \$75 ▼	\$1,275 \$175 ▲	\$1,035 \$135 ▲	\$1,110 \$60 ▼	\$350 \$20 ▼	\$820 \$200 ▲	\$165	\$250 \$90 ▲	N/T
<b>Pipetstone Livestock Auction Market</b> Pipetstone, MN (507) 825-3306 (sale 11/15/12)	\$1,600 \$125 ▲	\$1,444 \$69 ▲	\$1,386 \$51 ▲	N/T	\$125/cwt \$17/cwt ▲	\$105/cwt \$7/cwt ▼	N/T	N/T	\$925 \$200 ▼
<b>Springfield Livestock Marketing Center</b> Springfield, MO (417) 869-9500 Doug Thomas (417) 840-9316 (sale 11/28/12)	\$1,475 \$75 ▼	\$1,250 \$125 ▼	\$1,050 \$85 ▼	\$1,410 \$65 ▼	\$460 \$60 ▲	\$820 \$70 ▲	\$120 \$100 ▼	\$150 \$40 ▼	N/T
<b>Topeka Livestock Auction</b> Topeka, IN (206) 593-2522 (sale 12/11/12)	\$1,625 \$40 ▲	\$1,000 NC	N/T	N/T	\$1,304 \$404 ▲	\$1,800 \$400 ▲	\$140 \$20 ▲	N/T	\$1,125 \$25 ▲
<b>Tri-State Livestock</b> Sioux Center, IA (712) 722-0681 Mike Koedam (712) 470-0198 (sale 11/14/12)	\$1,475 \$110 ▼	\$1,420 \$41 ▼	\$1,323 \$87 ▼	N/T	\$107/cwt \$16/cwt ▲	\$87/cwt \$11/cwt ▼	N/T	N/T	N/T
<b>United Producers, Inc.</b> Marion, MI (517) 294-3484 (sale 11/9/12)	\$1,700 \$25 ▲	\$1,400 \$100 ▼	\$1,025 \$175 ▼	\$1,175 \$25 ▲	\$600 \$100 ▲	\$900 \$50 ▲	\$150 \$50 ▲	N/T	N/T
<b>Brush Livestock of Colorado</b> Brush, CO (970) 842-2801 (sale 12/6/12)	\$1,750 \$50 ▲	\$1,760 \$110 ▲	\$1,515 \$40 ▲	\$1,125 \$100 ▼	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	\$1,125 \$65 ▼
<b>Chehalis Livestock Market</b> Chehalis, WA (360) 748-3191 (sale 12/7/12)	\$1,325 \$125 ▲	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	\$40	N/T
<b>Producers Livestock</b> Jerome, ID (208) 324-4345 (sale 12/1/12)	\$1,410 \$150 ▼	\$1,370 \$110 ▼	\$1,300 \$90 ▼	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
<b>Smithfield Livestock Auction</b> Smithfield, UT (435) 563-3259 (sale 12/6/12)	\$1,325 \$175 ▼	\$1,250 \$75 ▼	\$1,095 \$305 ▼	\$900	\$95/cwt \$5/cwt ▼	\$95/cwt \$10/cwt ▼	N/T	\$85	N/T
<b>Toppenish Dairy Replacement Sales</b> Toppenish, WA (509) 865-2820 (sale 11/2/12)	\$1,300 \$150 ▼	\$1,200 \$100 ▼	\$1,150 \$50 ▼	\$1,150 \$190 ▲	\$110/cwt \$19/cwt ▼	\$105/cwt \$16/cwt ▲	\$100	\$120	N/T
<b>A &amp; M Livestock Auction, Inc.</b> Hanford, CA (559) 582-0358 (sale 12/5/12)	\$1,230 \$195 ▼	\$1,070 \$160 ▼	\$1,010 \$130 ▼	\$850 \$240 ▼	\$380 \$30 ▲	\$930 \$10 ▲	N/T	N/T	\$660
<b>Sulphur Springs Livestock &amp; Dairy Auction</b> Sulphur Springs, TX (903) 885-7739 (sale 12/6/12)	\$1,500 \$125 ▲	\$1,050 \$75 ▼	\$1,050 \$75 ▼	N/T	\$625 \$25 ▼	\$890 \$10 ▼	\$210 \$20 ▼	\$200 \$10 ▼	\$890 \$285 ▼
<b>Escalon Livestock Market, Inc.</b> Escalon, CA (209) 838-7011 (sale 12/5/12)	\$1,500 NC	\$1,100 NC	\$1,075 \$75 ▲	N/T	\$90/cwt NC	\$175/cwt NC	N/T	N/T	\$900 NC

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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