

MARKET WATCH CATTLE

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Dairy slaughter for the week ending April 18 was 54,300 head, down 1,900 head from the prior week and up 300 head from the same week last year. Year-to-date, dairy slaughter is 909,800 head, 32,200 head greater than through the same time period last year. In the April 21 Milk Production report, the USDA put the U.S. dairy herd for March at 9.301 million head, down 5,000 head from February and up 2,000 head year-to-date.

The U.S. average price for dairy cows in March was \$114 per hundredweight (cwt), up \$4 per cwt

from February and up \$12 per cwt from March 2014. Typically, prices will peak March through May and decline until fall. Last year's peak price, however, was in August at \$122 per cwt.

On April 22, the USDA Cold Storage report showed March total beef stocks down 2.4 percent from February but up 18.2 percent from the prior year. On April 24, the USDA Cattle on Feed report put April 1 inventory at 10.797 million head.

This is up 1 percent from March 1, 2015, and near unchanged from April 1, 2014. March feedlot placements

totaled 1.809 million head. This is up 16.6 percent from February and near unchanged from March 2014. Cattle marketed in March totaled 1.631 million head, up 7.6 percent from February and down 1.7 percent from March 2014. This is also the lowest total for March since tracking began in 1996.

Feeder cattle futures have rallied \$10 to \$13 per cwt the last 12 trading sessions and are back near the March highs around \$220 per cwt. Live cattle futures have strengthened as well, with the June contract trading at \$152 per

cwt at the time of this writing. Firmer cash prices have been supportive and should remain so as we head toward Memorial Day.

The impact of reduced marketings since the start of the year is seen at this time with slaughter numbers increasing sharply and carcass weights at record levels for this time of year. Supplies should therefore be adequate through the holidays and may limit the upside to the prior highs seen in March. Producers should consider protection at the current price levels. **PD**

MARKETWATCH May 6, 2015	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 4/30/15)	\$2,000 \$200 ▼	\$1,600 \$100 ▼	\$1,400 \$100 ▼	\$1,300 NC	\$700 NC	\$1,000 \$100 ▲	\$200 NC	\$285 \$30 ▲	\$1,100 \$100 ▲
Mammoth Cave Dairy Auction, Inc. Smiths Grove, KY (800) 563-2131 (sale 5/5/15)	\$2,050 \$250 ▼	\$1,950 \$50 ▲	\$1,500 NC	\$1,550 NC	\$585 \$85 ▲	\$1,100 \$150 ▼	\$400 NC	\$410 \$10 ▲	N/T
New Holland Sales Stables New Holland, PA (717) 354-4341 (sale 5/6/15)	\$2,000 \$150 ▼	\$1,925 \$50 ▲	\$1,375 \$175 ▼	\$1,675 \$25 ▲	\$875 \$250 ▼	\$1,375 \$200 ▼	N/T	N/T	\$1,650 \$25 ▼
Mid-Georgia Livestock Auction Jackson, GA (770) 775-7314 (sale 4/238/15)	N/T	N/T	\$1,675 \$25 ▲	\$2,100 \$600 ▲	\$580 \$40 ▲	\$710 \$110 ▲	\$200 \$150 ▼	\$240	N/T
Central Livestock Association Zumbrota, MN (877) 732-7305 (sale 4/28/15)	\$2,050 NC	\$1,975 \$275 ▲	\$1,400 \$300 ▼	\$975 \$525 ▼	\$775 \$315 ▼	\$1,100 \$150 ▼	N/T	N/T	N/T
Equity Co-op Livestock Stratford, WI (715) 687-4101 Rocky Olsen (608) 434-4037 (sale 4/28/15)	\$2,500 \$100 ▲	\$2,300 \$100 ▲	\$1,9050 \$50 ▼	\$1,575 \$75 ▼	\$900 \$50 ▼	\$1,400 \$75 ▼	\$475 \$125 ▼	\$600 \$25 ▼	\$2,100 \$100 ▼
Lake Odessa Livestock/Ravenna Auction LLC Lake Odessa, MI (616) 374-8213 (sale 5/5/15)	\$2,200 \$50 ▲	\$1,900 NC	\$1,800 \$200 ▲	\$1,600 \$100 ▲	\$1,100 \$200 ▲	\$1,400 \$200 ▲	\$400 \$50 ▼	\$500 \$75 ▲	\$1,800 NC
Springfield Livestock Marketing Center Springfield, MO (417) 869-9500 Doug Thomas (417) 840-9316 (sale 4/29/15)	\$2,150 \$50 ▼	\$1,725 \$50 ▼	\$1,450 NC	\$1,710 NC	\$700 \$20 ▲	\$1,230 \$210 ▲	\$460 \$110 ▲	\$470 \$40 ▲	N/T
Topeka Livestock Auction Topeka, IN (206) 593-2522 (sale 4/28/15)	\$2,275 \$150 ▲	\$1,870 \$30 ▼	N/T	N/T	\$225/cwt \$45/cwt ▲	\$190/cwt \$50/cwt ▲	\$450 \$40 ▲	N/T	\$1,775 \$175 ▲
United Producers, Inc. Marion, MI (517) 294-3484 (sale 4/24/15)	\$2,550 \$25 ▼	\$2,200 \$175 ▼	\$1,800 \$875 ▼	N/T	\$850 \$300 ▲	\$1,300 \$250 ▲	\$350 \$20 ▼	N/T	\$1,400 \$200 ▼
Brush Livestock of Colorado Brush, CO (970) 842-2801 (sale 4/2/15)	\$2,425 \$50 ▼	\$2,400 \$25 ▼	\$2,400 NC	\$2,175 \$250 ▲	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
Chehalis Livestock Market Chehalis, WA (360) 748-3191 (sale 5/1/15)	\$2,025 \$25 ▼	\$1,935 \$65 ▼	\$1,6400 \$200 ▲	N/T	N/T	N/T	\$300 \$20 ▼	N/T	N/T
Producers Livestock Jerome, ID (208) 324-4345 (sale 4/29/15)	\$2,475 \$150 ▲	\$2,370 \$120 ▲	\$2,220 \$120 ▲	\$1,600	\$605 \$380 ▲	\$810 \$314 ▲	N/T	N/T	N/T
Smithfield Livestock Auction Smithfield, UT (435) 563-3259 (sale 4/16/15)	\$2,250 \$75 ▼	\$2,145 \$155 ▼	\$2,054 \$104 ▲	\$2,000	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
Toppenish Dairy Replacement Sales Toppenish, WA (509) 865-2820 (sale 5/1/15)	\$2,400 \$140 ▲	\$2,150 \$70 ▲	\$1,900 \$50 ▲	\$1,900 NC	\$240/cwt \$2/cwt ▲	\$200/cwt \$4/cwt ▲	N/T	N/T	N/T
Sulphur Springs Livestock & Dairy Auction Sulphur Springs, TX (903) 885-7739 (sale 4/16/15)	\$2,675 \$675 ▲	\$1,750 \$50 ▲	\$1,725 \$325 ▲	N/T	\$1,000 \$200 ▲	\$1,400 \$150 ▲	\$500 \$110 ▲	\$500 \$75 ▲	N/T
Farmers Livestock Market Oakdale, CA (209) 847-1033 (sale 4/30/15)	\$2,450 NC	\$2,100 NC	\$1,700 NC	\$1,900 \$50 ▲	\$310/cwt NC	\$210/cwt \$15/cwt ▲	\$300 \$50 ▲	\$510 \$110 ▲	\$1,500

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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