

Dairy slaughter for the week ending July 15 was 57,400 head, which is a 13,300-head increase from the previous week's total and 4,400 head more than the same week last year. Year-to-date, dairy cow slaughter at the time of this writing is 1.6 million head compared to 1.554 million head slaughtered last year. In the July 20 Milk Production report, the USDA reported U.S. dairy herd size for June 2017 at 9.404 million head, which is 4,000 head more than May. Year-to-date, the U.S. herd size in 2017 has increased by 50,000 head.

The U.S. average price for dairy cows in June was \$76.50 per

hundredweight, up \$3.20 from May and down \$4.40 from June 2016. The seasonal pattern calls for prices to hold steady into summer and then decline in fall.

In the July 24 USDA Cold Storage report, June total beef stocks were up 1 percent from May but were down 10 percent from last year. On July 21, the USDA Cattle on Feed report put July 1 inventory at 10.821 million head. This was 4 percent higher than the same month last year. The report also put June feedlot placements at 1.77 million head, which is 16 percent more than June 2016. Finally, cattle marketed in June

totalled 1.989 million head, which is a 4 percent increase from last year.

The cattle markets have been trading sideways for the past few months, following the strong uptrend that took place at the beginning of the year. Despite not making new highs for the move since early June, the market is going through some consolidation at these higher levels. Contracts were taken a bit lower following the release of the July 21 Cattle on Feed report. In the report, the USDA showed that feedlot placements in June increased by 16 percent from June 2016. This was much higher than market



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expectations before the report. This follows a 12 percent year-over-year increase during the month of May.

The surge in cattle prices at the beginning of the year has created an opportunity to protect higher beef prices not seen for almost a year. Producers should have a plan in place to protect these price levels should market sentiment take a turn.

AUCTION PRICES August 7, 2017	Top Springer	Top Average	Medium Holstein Springer	Short- breds	Open Heifers Light	Open Heifers Heavy	Heifer Calves	Bull Calves	Breeding Bulls
Empire Livestock – Burton Market Vernon, NY (800) 257-1819 (sale 8/3/17)	\$1,500	\$1,300	\$1,200	\$1,100 NC	\$600 \$50 ▼	\$900 NC	\$85 \$10 ▲	\$70 \$5 ▲	\$900 NC
Mammoth Cave Dairy Auction, Inc. Smiths Grove, KY (800) 563-2131 (sale 8/2/17)	N/T	N/T	\$1,250 \$25 ▼	\$1,100 \$100 ▲	\$300 \$15 ▲	\$450 \$225 ▼	\$190 \$20 ▲	\$130 \$10 ▼	N/T
New Holland Sales Stables New Holland, PA (717) 354-4341 (sale 8/2/17)	\$1,475 \$300 ▼	\$1,175 \$400 ▼	\$1,100 \$125 ▼	\$1,150 \$125 ▼	\$425 \$25 ▲	\$950 \$50 ▲	N/T	N/T	\$1,100 \$125 ▼
Maplehurst Livestock Market Hinsdale, NY (716) 557-2266 (sale 8/7/17)	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	\$310 \$90 ▼	\$800 \$325 ▲	N/T	N/T	\$1,075 \$325 ▲
Central Livestock Association Zumbrota, MN (877) 732-7305 (sale 8/8/17)	\$1,635 \$150 ▲	\$1,475 \$175 ▲	\$1,385 \$100 ▲	\$1,335 \$150 ▼	N/T	\$900 \$300 ▲	N/T	N/T	N/T
Equity Co-op Livestock Stratford, WI (715) 687-4101 Perry Wolff (715) 966-4850 (sale 7/11/17)	\$1,675 \$75 ▲	\$1,500 \$300 ▲	\$1,300 \$100 ▲	\$1,300 \$100 ▲	\$740	\$1,250	\$275 \$35 ▲	\$185 \$50 ▼	N/T
Lake Odessa Livestock /Ravenna Auction LLC Lake Odessa, MI (616) 374-8213 (sale 8/1/17)	\$1,650 \$50 ▼	\$1,300 NC	\$900 NC	\$1,000 \$100 ▼	\$550 NC	\$750 \$250 ▼	\$350 NC	N/T	\$900 \$500 ▼
Norwood Dairy Cattle Auction Norwood, MO (417) 746-4242 (sale 6/9/17)	\$1,100 \$210 ▼	N/T	N/T	\$1,090 \$65 ▲	\$500 \$50 ▼	\$775 \$35 ▼	\$140 \$140 ▼	\$150 \$30 ▲	N/T
Pipestone Livestock Auction Market Pipestone, MN (507) 825-3306 (sale 7/20/17)	\$2,000 \$150 ▲	\$1,781 \$18 ▼	\$1,659 \$89 ▲	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
Springfield Livestock Marketing Center Springfield, MO (417) 869-9500 Doug Thomas (417) 840-9316 (sale 6/27/17)	\$1,500 \$110 ▲	\$1,300 \$90 ▲	\$1,100 \$25 ▼	N/T	\$600 \$30 ▲	\$1,000 \$30 ▼	\$400 \$140 ▲	\$250 \$60 ▲	N/T
Topeka Livestock Auction Topeka, IN (206) 593-2522 (sale 8/1/17)	\$1,550 \$35 ▼	N/T	N/T	N/T	\$300	\$775	\$200 \$50 ▲	N/T	\$1,235 \$510 ▲
Tri-State Livestock Sioux Center, IA (712) 722-0681 Mike Koedam (712) 470-0198 (sale 7/19/17)	\$1,725 \$200 ▼	\$1,595 \$130 ▼	\$1,470 \$180 ▼	N/T	\$126/cwt NC	\$124/cwt NC	N/T	N/T	N/T
United Producers, Inc. Marion, MI (517) 294-3484 (sale 7/21/17)	\$1,775 \$75 ▼	\$1,500 \$50 ▼	\$1,200 NC	\$1,200 \$100 ▲	\$625 \$25 ▲	\$950 \$50 ▼	\$220 \$5 ▼	N/T	\$1,125 \$125 ▲
Brush Livestock of Colorado Brush, CO (970) 842-2801 (sale 8/3/17)	\$1,800 \$100 ▼	\$1,600 \$275 ▼	\$1,585 \$245 ▼	\$1,475 \$35 ▼	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
Chehalis Livestock Market Chehalis, WA (360) 748-3191 (sale 8/4/17)	\$1,400 \$50 ▼	N/T	\$1,100 NC	N/T	N/T	N/T	\$60 \$20 ▲	N/T	N/T
Producers Livestock Jerome, ID (208) 324-4345 (sale 7/26/17)	\$1,871 \$21 ▲	\$1,720 \$40 ▼	\$1,490 \$110 ▼	N/T	\$175/cwt	N/T	N/T	N/T	N/T
Toppenish Dairy Replacement Sales Toppenish, WA (509) 865-2820 (sale 8/4/17)	\$1,700 \$25 ▼	\$1,500 \$150 ▼	\$1,350 \$50 ▼	\$1,450 NC	\$155/cwt \$5/cwt ▲	\$140/cwt NC	\$100 \$25 ▼	\$85 \$15 ▼	N/T
Escalon Livestock Market Escalon, CA (209) 838-7011 (sale 8/2/17)	\$1,800 NC	\$1,600 NC	\$1,275 NC	\$1,300 NC	\$180/cwt NC	\$140/cwt NC	\$60 NC	N/T	N/T
Sulphur Springs Livestock & Dairy Auction Sulphur Springs, TX (903) 885-7739 (sale 8/3/17)	\$1,375 \$25 ▼	\$1,100 NC	\$1,075 NC	\$925 \$40 ▲	\$610 \$140 ▼	\$750 \$150 ▼	\$195 \$25 ▲	\$215 \$90 ▲	\$575
Farmers Livestock Market Oakdale, CA (209) 847-1033 (sale 8/3/17)	\$1,800 \$150 ▲	\$1,450 \$50 ▲	\$1,275 \$25 ▲	N/T	\$160/cwt \$10/cwt ▼	\$130/cwt NC	\$260 \$20 ▲	\$105 \$25 ▼	\$1,200

N/T = No test NC = No change Decrease (since last sale) ▼ Increase (since last sale) ▲

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