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**Fall Cattle Prices**

County fairs are just around the corner and it is important to know the market. That always adds credibility to your disagreements with the judge of the steer show. There have been a few video sales and some cattle have been contracted for fall delivery. You may have heard about the 5-weight calves that sold for \$110/cwt or the 8-weights that sold for \$95/cwt. Nobody probably mentioned the 5-weights that only brought \$95/cwt or the 8-weights that are contracted for \$78/cwt.

As I have tried to scan the forward sales, it appears that good quality steer calves, weighing 500-525 pounds have generally traded a couple dollars either side of \$100/cwt for October/November delivery. Looking at the board, and considering the price of corn, a backgrounder could probably afford to feed that calf until mid January. A feedlot that could get that calf killed in April, could probably still make a few dollars. However, if that calf will be on feed on into June, there will likely be red ink spilled in addition to red blood.

Forward sales of yearlings for August/September delivery have generally ranged a few dollars either side of \$85/cwt for 850 pound steers. I think feedlots can still make money on those steers at those price levels. If a few more heifers are retained for replacements this fall, then I would expect to see prices for yearlings to get a little stronger early this fall. That optimism is based on present conditions in the fed market. If that market drops for some unforeseen event, then I retract my optimism.

**The Markets**

Slaughter cattle prices were lower in the southern plains, with the bulk of the trade occurring at \$74. Prices were steady in the north with slaughter cattle prices at \$119-120 dressed. Choice boxed beef prices were firmer for the week and the Choice - Select spread decreased. Feeder cattle trade was very light in Kansas and Nebraska. Prices were generally higher on the few feeder cattle that did trade.

	<b>Last Week</b>	<b>Previous Week</b>	<b>Last Year</b>
Kansas Fed Steer Price, live weight (35-65% Choice)	\$73.97	\$74.86	\$62.83
Neb. Fed Steer Price, dressed weight (35-65% Choice)	\$119.75	\$119.52	\$97.20
700-800 lb. Feeder Steer Price, Kansas 4 market average	90.75	\$88.91	\$80.54
500-600 lb. Feeder Steer Price, Kansas 4 market average	102.70	NA	\$86.08
700-800 lb. Feeder Steer Price, Neb. 7 market average	93.68	NA	\$79.50
500-600 lb. Feeder Steer Price, Neb. 7 market average	NA	NA	\$91.00
Choice Boxed Beef Price, 600-750 lb. carcass	\$129.95	\$129.49	\$108.75
Choice-Select Spread, 600-750 lb. carcass	\$6.58	\$7.24	\$4.09