

Cull cow values in the Southern Plains popped last week, during the time of year that usually sees declining values. This move was not unique to the Southern Plains as several other markets saw similar moves. Livestock Marketing Information Center (LMIC) tracks 10 beef cow slaughter and replacement auctions from USDA AMS data.

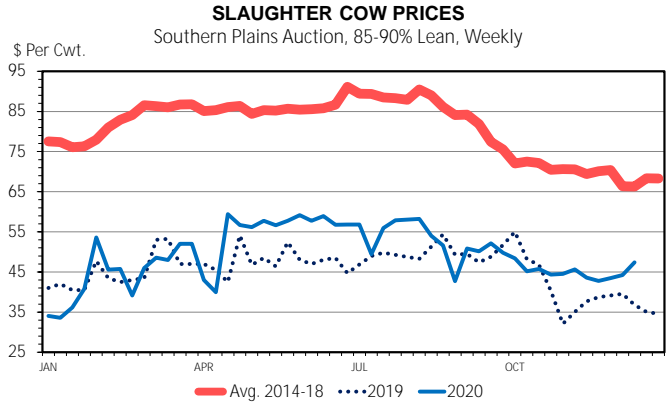
Western auctions such as Colorado, Wyoming, and New Mexico had mixed results compared to prior week for slaughter cows dressing 85-90% lean. New Mexico lean slaughter cows brought 31 cents per cwt higher than the prior week but most of the gains were in higher fat/lean ratios. For example, breaking cows (75-80% lean) jumped \$2.29 per cwt last week, and boning cows (80-85% lean) increased \$1.56 per cwt. Colorado cows were similar to the previous week, breaking cows brought another \$1.33 per cwt compared to a 63 cent increase in lean cows. Wyoming auctions did not report for the week of 12/05/20 average dressing cows in any category, but compared to two weeks prior lean cows increased \$3.53 per cwt. In Wyoming higher lean to fat ratio cows declined relative to two weeks ago losing several dollars for breaking cows (-\$4.98 per cwt).

Georgia slaughter cows were relatively unchanged compared to western auctions. Lean cows lost 87 cents, and breaking cows declined 17 cents from the prior week. Boning cows (80-85% lean) increased 32 cents per cwt.

San Angelo, TX, shown in the graph to the right increased lean cow values \$1.65 per cwt and increased boning cows by \$2.11. Breaking cows were unchanged from the previous week. Oklahoma City saw similar increases in lean cows, up \$1.54 per cwt, but other grades declined from the prior week.

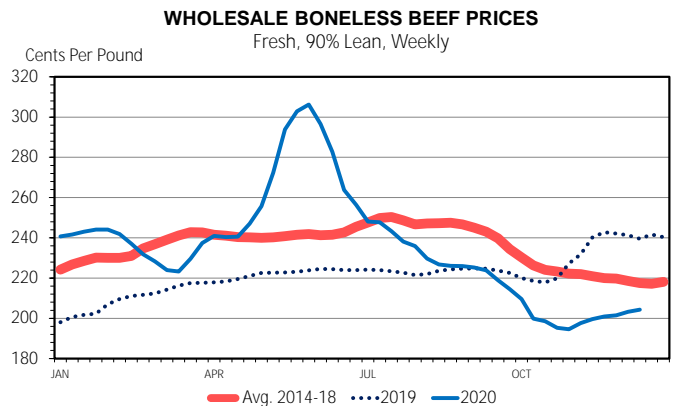
LMIC tracks three Missouri auctions: West Plains, St. Joseph, and Joplin. St. Joseph's had the strongest week. Lean cows were down almost a dollar, but breaking and boning cows sold more than \$2 per cwt higher from the prior week. West Plains had increases in all three cow grades, the highest increase was in boning cows, up \$1.27 per cwt. Joplin slaughter cows lost ground in lean and breaking categories, but declined less than a dollar per cwt. Boning cows were up slightly, 35 cents per cwt.

Trends in cow beef showed an increase in the Fresh 92% lean trimmings price up \$1.85, and the Fresh 90% lean price was up about \$1 per cwt. The weekly national for cutter cows cow cutout value saw minor improvements across other cuts. The largest gains for cutter cows in price were in edible kidneys (+\$2.58 per cwt) and flank steak (+\$15.42 per cwt) but these make up a rather small percentage of the cutout value. Tenderloin categories have been seeing strong gains week over week across all cow (breaker/boner/cutter/canner) categories. The tenderloin weighted average price for 5lbs and higher (IMPS 190) surged \$100.57 per cwt from a light Thanksgiving week,



Data Source: USDA-AMS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-P-35  
12/14/20

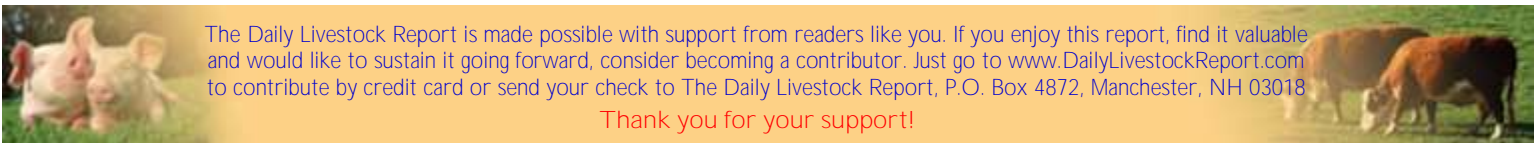


Data Source: USDA-AMS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

M-P-24  
12/11/20

which brought it closer to the value seen two weeks prior. Cull cow tenderloins weighted average prices were also up from last week. The smallest gain was 4-5lb tenderloins, up \$1.36, while the 3-4lbs was up \$10.44 per cwt. For full details on cow cutout and cut breakdowns the USDA AMS report is available [here](#).

At least last week, it appears slaughter cows values are being driven by prices outside the trimmings market. The cull cow beef market is also facing some supply pressure. Although beef cow slaughter has been above a year ago in recent weeks. Dairy cow slaughter has logged very low volumes. The week of Thanksgiving further amplified this decline, posting a figure down 8% from Thanksgiving week last year.



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