

AuctionsPlus Cattle Market Comments: Week Ending 22nd July 2016

By: Anna Adams

Another wet week, another jump in prices, heightened by a drop in numbers, with numbers almost halving to 6,318 including 1,285 in the Targeted Feeder sale on Tuesday. Clearance in the Eastern States sales sat at 85%, with further sales expected to be negotiated.

Price rises were evident across all weight categories of young cattle in the Eastern States sale, most prominent in the lighter categories. Lightweight organic Droughtmaster cross steers from Cunnamulla weighing 144kg sold for 554c or \$800, while the 142kg heifer portion made 521c or \$740, coincidentally both going to the Blackall region to different homes. In central NSW Limousin/Angus steers weighing 299kg sold for 391c or \$1170 at Mudgee, and from Orange 316kg Hereford steers made 402c or \$1270. In the south from Hawkesdale, Victoria 341kg Angus steers sold for 425c or \$1450 and the heavier draft at 375kg made 402c or \$1510, with both lines on their way to a southern feedlot. In heifer sales, 277kg Senepol/Angus heifers from Cooma, NSW sold for 383c or \$1060, Brahman Heifers at Charters Towers weighing 311kg met competition from both feedlot and live export buyers to make 310c or \$966, and 328kg Angus heifers from Young sold for 399c or \$1310.

The Wagyu job maintained strength today with a single offering each of F1 steers and heifers. The 342kg steers from central NSW sold to strong feedlot and backgrounder competition for 661c or \$2260, and heifers from Glen Innes weighing 269kg sold for 619c or \$1662 to a backgrounding operation.

Breakdown by weight:

Steers weighing:

Under 250kg sold from 398c to 554c to average 435c/kg, leaping 28c from last week

250kg-300kg sold from 376c to 406c averaging 389c, up 14c

300kg to 350kg made 335c to 425c to average 372c, again up 14c

Over 350kg sold from 360c to 402c to average 382c up 18c

Heifers weighing:

Under 250kg sold from 339c to 521c to average 407c, jumping 35c

250kg to 300kg sold from 328c to 384c to average 367c, up 12c

300kg to 350kg sold from 300c to 399c to average 346c, again up 12c

Tuesday's Targeted Feeder sale provided some valuable forward pricing indicators, with nearly 1,000 Angus steers offered on a forward contract basis with a delivery specification of 380kg-500kg between late August and late October, with prices up to 365c/kg.

Breeder prices were a little back on last week, though clearance rates remained high. Rising two year old heifers PTIC made from \$1320 to \$1530 to average \$1385, with the top price being paid for Angus heifers from Uralla, NSW. Young cows up to five years of age made from \$1590 to a top of \$1720 for two and three year old cows from southern NSW. These second

calvers were Kennys Creek and Bongongo blood, and in calf back to Angus. Mixed age lines sold from \$1000 to a thrice-achieved top of \$1480, with both Angus and Shorthorn cows featuring at this price.

Cows with calves at foot were fewer in number, selling from \$1435 to \$2500, to average \$2103. The top price was paid for Angus heifers with their first calf at foot from Holbrook NSW, featuring Kennys Creek, Hazeldean and Landfall bloodlines, with calves averaging 182kg at foot and back in calf to Angus.

AuctionsPlus Lamb sales will kick off in two weeks, with the first sale of the season on 5th August with 5,000 lambs already booked, predominantly in prime condition to sell on both a spot and forward basis. Offering maximum exposure and competition with flexible selling options, lamb sales will continue regularly through the Spring.