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AuctionsPlus Market Comments: Week Ending 12/2/16

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Cattle numbers retracted slightly this week to total 7,488 head consigned, down 548 head from last week. Once again, heifers were in large supply, making up nearly 50% of the sales, with demand by restockers matching this supply as interest grows for replacements breeders. Stock were on the move this week with Angus steers from Rutherglen, VIC making the 1,300km journey up to Wandoan, QLD and more Angus steers travelling an even greater distance of 1,800km from Glenthompson, VIC to Roma, QLD.

Starting in the North, sale highlights included a large line of Charolais cross steers from Winton, QLD, weighing 184kg which sold for 440c or \$810 a head. Heavy 489kg Angus yearling steers out of Goondiwindi, QLD sold for an impressive 323c/kg or \$1580. Simmental cross heifers from St George QLD, weighing 280kg sold to 342c or \$960.

Moving down into NSW, Hereford Steers from Narrabri, NSW weighing 470kg sold for 305c/kg or \$1435 a head. Angus weaner steers from south west Victoria, weighing 215kg made 415c/kg or \$895. Heavy 404kg Angus heifers from Tenterfield, NSW made 320c/kg or \$1295 and a small line of Speckle Park and Angus cross feeder heifers sold to 389c/kg or \$1110 a head.

Over in the West saw Alcoa Farmlands' annual draft of weaner steers with the Angus portion selling to a Live Exporter with the top priced steers from Wagerup, WA weighing 300kg and making 344c or \$1037 a head. In Wagyu sales, 408kg F2-F4 Wagyu feeder steers from Wandoan, QLD, sold for a massive 600c/kg or \$2452 a head while Wagyu/Angus heifers from the Riverina, weighing 259kg made 556c or \$1440 a head. Their brothers, weighing 272kg made 564c/kg or \$1535 a head.

Breakdown by Weight:

Steers weighing:

- Under 250kg made 358c/kg live to 440c/kg, averaging 404c, up 28c on last week
- 250kg to 300kg sold from 335c/kg to 380c/kg to average 354c, down 13c on last week
- 300kg to 350kg ranged from 324c to 361c, averaging 342c, which was a slight decrease of 8c from last week
- Over 350kg were high in numbers, making 300c to 346c to average 324c which was steady on last week.

Heifers weighing:

- Under 250kg sold from 306c/kg live to 362c/kg, averaging 341c, a slight rise of 5c from last week
- 250kg to 300kg sold from 320c/kg to 389c/kg to average 339c, up 21c
- 300kg to 350kg ranged from 314c to 336c, to average 325c, which was steady from last week
- Over 350kg and sold in a large range from 271c to 346c to average 314c, down 6c from last week.

Although there were fewer numbers of PTIC females this week, prices remained strong. First calf heifers averaged \$1327 with Angus heifers from Mudgee, NSW, preg-tested to Coffin Creek Angus bulls making \$2110. Young cows ranged from \$1000 to \$1525 to average \$1291 while a line of 3 to 6 year old Angus breeders PTIC to Angus sires made \$2000.

In cow and calf sales, first calvers averaged \$2018 with Angus Cows from Kingstown, NSW with Nairn Park and Bald Blair Angus calves at foot selling for the top price of \$2280. 3 to 4 year old Angus Cows from Exeter NSW had strong buyer demand and took out the top price for the sale, selling for a noteworthy \$2680. These cows had Kenny's Creek Angus calves at foot and were station mated back to the same bull. Mixed aged breeders with calves sold from \$1110 to \$1780 to average \$1480.

This week AuctionsPlus interfaced the Woonallee Simmentals 9th Annual Elite Production Bull Sale. A National record was achieved for Black Simmentals with a 17th month old bull selling for \$27,500. An online bidder purchased the second top priced bull for \$18,000 which is now heading to QLD.