



## **AuctionsPlus Market Comments: Week Ending 5/02/16**

**By: Anna Adams**

Cattle numbers recovered this week to total 8,036 head offered, up 1,500 on last week. Sales in QLD in particular were very strong, and as has been widely reported exporters are looking for cattle from outside of their usual geographic boundaries, and there was indeed live export buyer competition in today's sale. Heifers were keenly sought by restockers, with plenty of well grown, unjoined yearling heifers sparking interest as replacement breeders. Starting in the north, sale highlights included Brahman cross yearling steers at Clermont, QLD weighing 233 selling for 397c or \$925; 240kg Droughtmaster heifers at Eidsvold QLD making 337c or \$810; 284kg Droughtmaster cross steers at Glenmorgan, QLD selling for 370c or \$1052; Dulverton blood Angus heifers weighing 422kg at Glen Innes NSW selling for 362c or \$1530; crossbred steers at Armidale NSW weighing 381kg selling for 341c or \$1300; and 308kg Angus steers at Deniliquin, NSW selling for 397c or \$1225.

- Steers weighing under 250kg sold from 352c to 431c to average 389c, up 8c and
- heifers sold in a large range from 264c to 438c, averaging 336c, a rise of 10c
- Steers 250kg-300kg made 319c to 411c to average 367c, up 22c which is impressive
- given a larger proportion of yearling cattle over weaners. Heifers in this weight
- category were also predominantly yearlings and made 280c to 356c averaging 318c, up 5c
- 300kg-30kg steers were limited in number and made 323c to 397c to average 350c,
- a 10c rise on last week. Heifer numbers were also tight and made 315c to 329c
- Steers over 350kg were all yearlings and made 305c to 341c averaging 324c,
- steady on last week.

Heifers over 350kg were also all yearling cattle and were mostly black, selling from 273c to 362c to average 312c, an increase of 20c.

Strong numbers of PTIC females were available this week with yearling heifers selling at similar rates to last week, from \$1150 to the top price of \$1800 paid for Angus heifers out of Mortlake VIC in calf to Angus. Lines of second or third calvers made \$1370 to \$1710, while older cows up to eight years old made \$1215 to the top price of the day of \$1895 for five year old Angus cows in calf to Angus in Mortlake, VIC. Cows with calves at foot looked slightly better value this week, though many of the offerings had younger lighter calves than last week when a larger proportion were approaching weanable age. First calvers made \$1225 to \$1650, and young cows sold from \$1795 to a top of \$2050 for three year old Angus cows with Angus calves at Sale, VIC. Mixed age lines sold from \$1200 to \$2000, with the top price being for a notably large line of 160 Brahman cross females from Roma QLD, aged four to eight years with Charolais calves at foot and rejoined to the Charolais bull, for a total sale value of \$320,000.