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AuctionsPlus Market Comments: Week Ending Friday 8th January 2016

By: Anna Adams

Cattle numbers sat at 2,241 head for the week, with 259 bidders accessing today's Eastern States sale resulting in frantic bidding activity. The young cattle market started strongly, with heifers outpricing steers at the heavier end of the weight categories, as we so often see with rain and a sudden shift to a focus on replenishing breeder numbers.

Young, light calves in southern NSW saw the steer portion sell for 478c and the heifers make 444c, with both lines under 150kg. 8-16 month old, 213kg Brahman steers out of central QLD sold for 363c or \$775, while the heifer portion at 192kg made 348c or \$670. 270kg Angus and Black Baldy steers in central NSW sold for 380c or \$1025, and 250kg-300kg heifers made 311c to 369c to average 340c. 300kg-350kg steers sold for 314c to 346c to average 330c, and heifers made 294c to 353c averaging 331c. Steers over 350kg made 309c to 327c averaging 317c, and heifers made 304c-334c to average 319c. Notable sales included Brahman & Charbray cross weaner heifers in southern QLD weighing 311kg selling for 323c or \$1005, and 341kg yearling Angus steers in southern NSW making 346c. Southern weaners offered to a national online audience received good prices with 377kg Hereford steers at Seymour selling for 327c or \$1230, the lighter draft at 331kg making 333c, and the 320kg heifers selling for 294c; and Charolais/Angus heifers weighing 294kg sold for 311c or \$915.

A few offerings of dairy-breed steers appeared today, with 269kg steers in southern QLD selling for 278c, and in Victoria 311kg to 411 kg lines of steers made 211c to 239c. Top money was about for breeders with mixed age lines of cows and calves selling from \$1410 to a \$2150 averaging \$1800, and a top price of the day of \$2410 for five and six year old Angus and Angus/Hereford cows with Angus calves out of southern QLD. A single line of yearling PTIC heifers made \$1370.