

AuctionsPlus weekly cattle summary - w/e April 9, 2021

A disrupted and short-selling week failed to dampen the surge in cattle offered exclusively through AuctionsPlus this week, with total numbers hitting 19,631 head – up 167% on the previous week. Drying paddocks, changing seasons and high prices contributed to the additional numbers, along with the significant backlog of cattle that were unable to be marketed in the previous weeks.

With the surge in numbers, prices declined for 7 out of 10 young cattle categories this week, while there were some excellent breeding lines offered. While prices for light steers less than 200kg fell back nationally, an indicative line of 119 Droughtmaster cross weaned steers from Quilpie, QLD, ranging from 90kg to 277kg, averaging 172.6kg/head, sold to \$1,220/head – equating to an average of 1,344c/kg dressed.

For the larger populated medium and heavyweight lines, steers 280-330kg averaged \$42 higher this week, at \$1,650/head. In contrast, both the 200-280kg and 330-400kg categories declined, back \$146 and \$35 on last week, at \$1,402/head and \$1,681/head, respectively. 46 Angus steers, from Mangoplah, NSW, sold to \$1,890/head - the 11–13-month-old steers averaged 361.9kg/head liveweight, equating to 972.7c/kg dressed.

The largest category of young heifers, 280-330kg, averaged \$98 cheaper this week, at \$1,492/head, with a somewhat subdued clearance rate of 67% for the 2,748 head offered. From Naracoorte, SA, 50 Angus weaned heifers, 8-9 months old, averaging 311.4kg/head liveweight, sold to \$1,660/head – or 1,055c/kg dressed.

There were some considerable supply fluctuations within the proven breeding categories this week, with some very small numbers, but excellent quality, for most listed categories. However, for both SM heifers and PTIC heifers there was a considerable offering, with 3,116 head and 2,933 head, respectively. PTIC heifers averaged this week \$42/head higher, at \$2,443/head, with a 60% clearance rate, while the SM heifers averaged \$1,488/head, at a 54% clearance rate.

Indicative from the north, 216 composite/Brahman SM heifers out of Julia Creek sold to \$1,090/head – averaging 241kg liveweight and 16-21 months old. In geographical contrast, from King Island, TAS, 48 NSM Angus heifers, averaging 413.8kg/head, sold to \$2,020/head.

40 SM Cows with CAF out Blackville, NW Slopes and Plains of NSW sold to \$2,660/head. The Droughtmaster cross line averaged 469kg/head liveweight, ranged from 2-11 years old, with fat score 2. Comparatively, 23 NSM heifers and calves out of Gilgandra, NSW averaged \$2500/head – with the Santa cross heifers averaging 436kg/head liveweight, at 20-26 months of age.

Note: Prices as at 2pm, Friday 9th April 2021.

Classification	Offered	\$/head				Clearance	actual €/kg lwt			
		Low	High	Average	Change		Low	High	Average	Change
Steers										
less than 200kg	202	725	1,370	1008	-312	90%	372	715	580	-85
200.1-280kg	1,437	660	1,695	1402	-146	86%	293	724	568	-58
280.1-330kg	1,929	1,495	1,825	1650	42	80%	467	611	542	20
330.1-400kg	1,602	965	1,990	1681	-35	55%	281	557	471	5
400.1+kg	439	1,700	2,150	1923	199	67%	407	483	446	37
Heifers										
less than 200kg	285	730	1,240	1045	-210	94%	449	707	608	-32
201-280kg	1,440	1,095	1,775	1385	-6	67%	410	680	554	-31
281-330kg	2,748	1,200	1,800	1,492	-98	67%	388	579	494	-36
330-400kg	621	1,360	2,280	1622	-29	70%	369	589	450	-14
400.1+kg	1,051	1,675	2,080	1923	94	94%	363	488	431	-8
Breeding Stock										
NSM Cows CAF	313	1,252	1,970	1615	-	96%	263	380	319	-
sm Heifers	3,116	1,090	2,220	1488	-	54%	401	562	463	-
PTIC Heifers	2,933	1,760	3,010	2,443	42	60%	365	632	542	7
SM Cows CAF	12	1,900	1,900	1,900	-	100%	310	310	310	-
PTIC Cows	616	1,500	3,310	2,375	475	93%	309	592	398	7
NSM Cows and Calves	362	2,000	4,000	3,194	-	77%	-	-	-	-
PTIC Cows and Calves	14	3,130	3,130	3,130	-	100%	-	-	-	-
SM Cows and Calves	511	2,000	3,800	2,610	-182	83%	-	-	-	-

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