

Weekly Cattle Comments - 30.07.21

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By AuctionsPlus

Cattle numbers offered exclusively through AuctionsPlus this week declined 16%, to 15,617 head. Reports of buyers baulking at the higher prices required to secure quality lines impacted clearance rates for the week for younger cattle, with quality the main determining factor for lower average prices for confirmed breeding stock.

For the young steer lines, all but the heaviest category increased for the week, with 400kg+ steers easing \$37 on last week, to average \$2,179/head.

Interestingly, the 330-400kg category had the largest offering for the week, at 1,706 head – a mantle usually held by the two lighter categories. For the 1,706 head offered, prices increased \$13 on the previous week, to \$1,979/head, while the clearance rate came in at 67%. An Indicative line of 77 Santa Gertrudis yearling steers, out of Hillston, NSW, ranging from 10-12 months of age, averaging 358.3kg sold to \$1,950/head – equating to 1,082.7c/kg cwt.

200-280kg steers averaged \$22 higher, at \$1,580/head, while the 1,290 head offered for the 280-330kg category averaged \$1,803/head. The focus from buyers on lower weights had the two lightest steer categories register 88% and 91% clearance rates, while the heavier lines were back at 68% and 67%, respectively.

Young heifer prices were largely cheaper compared to last week, with the largest fall for 330-400kg lines, back \$101, averaging \$1,760/head – with a 90% clearance rate for the 802 head offered. After a surge in numbers in the previous two weeks, light heifer numbers were back at normal winter levels, with just under 3,200 head offered between the 200-280kg and 280-330kg

lines – with clearance rates well down on recent weeks at 76% and 52%, respectively.

With 1,599 head offered, the average PTIC heifer price declined \$54 on last week, to \$2,415/head – with a very subdued clearance rate of 58%. A combination of quality, buyer hesitancy and higher reserves all contributed to the lower clearance rate, which was also reflected in the PTIC cow section of the market.

An excellent line of 93 heavy Brahman PTIC heifers out of Ogmoo, Central Queensland, sold to \$2,500/head - averaging 454.7kg/head and between 20-30 months of age. Similarly, 39 Angus PTIC heifers from Tooraweenah, NSW, sold to \$2,150/head – averaging 359.7kg liveweight and 15-16 months of age.

NOTE: Prices as at 2pm Friday 30th July, 2021.

Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average	Change
		\$/head					actual c/kg lwt			
Steers										
less than 200kg	492	500	1,250	1,059	39	88%	444	755	596	-20
200.1-280kg	1,295	850	1,880	1,580	22	91%	359	824	659	22
280.1-330kg	1,290	1,340	2,000	1,803	58	68%	467	664	579	9
330.1-400kg	1,706	1,250	2,700	1,979	13	67%	341	700	546	7
400.1+kg	846	1,470	2,424	2,179	-37	78%	351	570	502	0
Heifers										
less than 200kg	518	690	1,350	1,105	-100	77%	538	873	627	-99
200.1-280kg	1,583	1,105	2,520	1,463	8	76%	469	940	599	5
280.1-330kg	1,595	1,355	2,100	1,674	-41	52%	431	715	553	-10
330.1-400kg	802	1,330	2,595	1,760	-101	90%	382	719	499	-19
400.1+kg	393	1,740	2,605	2,228	122	76%	418	630	527	19
Breeding Stock										
NSM Cows	153	2,660	2,760	2,713	-	52%	378	392	385	385
SM Heifers	542	1,040	2,610	1,309	-1	100%	494	533	504	73
PTIC Heifers	1,599	1,110	3,390	2,415	-54	58%	381	649	555	8
PTIC Cows	1,027	1,550	3,310	2,447	-464	62%	341	612	470	-52
NSM Cows & Calves	629	1,850	3,775	2,745	-651	67%	-	-	-	-
SM Cows & Calves	732	1,840	3,930	2,938	-317	81%	-	-	-	-
PTIC Cows & Calves	15	2,370	3,525	3,140	-	100%	-	-	-	-

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