

Weekly Cattle Comments - 25.03.22

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By [AuctionsPlus](#)

It was all hands-on deck this week for AuctionsPlus commercial cattle sales, with the largest offering in almost two years, at 24,993 head. While overall market sentiment remains robust, this week's surge in supply and patchy clearance rates, especially through the joined lines, tells a far more interesting story than just the average final prices.

The "seasonal standoff" between vendors expectations and buyers' willingness appears to have spread from the lamb market to several of the cattle categories this week, assisted by the larger offerings, with clearance rates falling back. Given the recent run of warm March days and patchy rain, there has been some reports of seasonal concerns rising, with mutterings of "we could do with a good drop" being heard through some inland parts of the eastern states.

[**Table 1: AuctionsPlus National Weekly Cattle Prices**](#)

[**Table 2: AuctionsPlus Queensland Weekly Cattle Prices**](#)

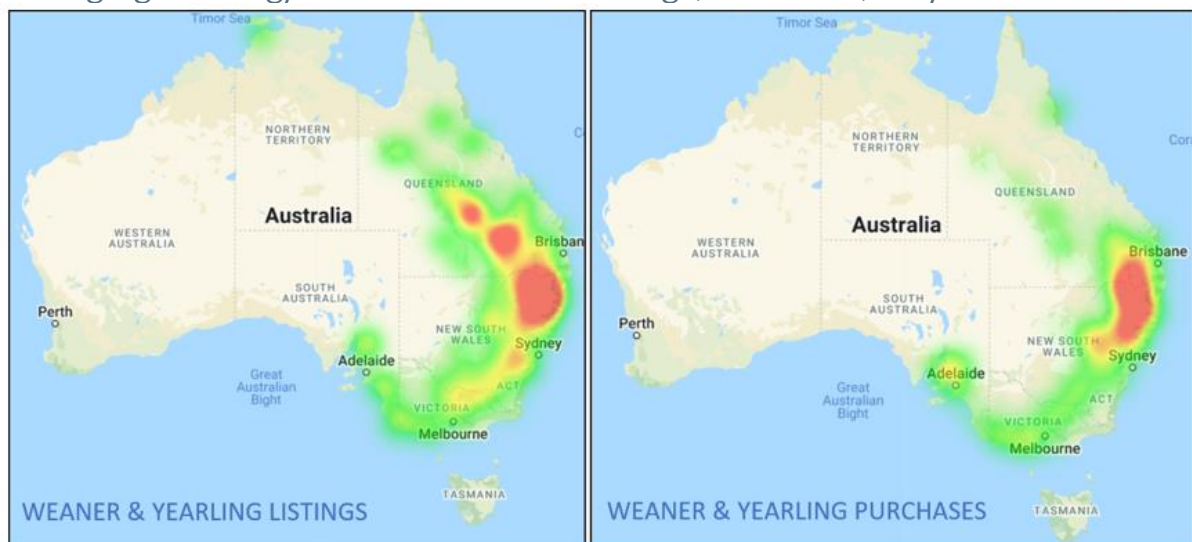
[**Table 3: AuctionsPlus Angus Weekly Cattle Prices**](#)

The star performer for the week through the steer categories were the "big-boys", with plenty of competition for feeder steers. 400kg+ steers finished the week \$97 higher on last week, at \$2,549/head, or 580c/kg lwt, with a very competitive 80% clearance rate for the 1,849 head offered. 39 Angus feeder steers from Taralga, NSW Southern Tablelands, averaging 446.1kg/head, sold to 582.8c/kg lwt – equating to \$2,600/head.

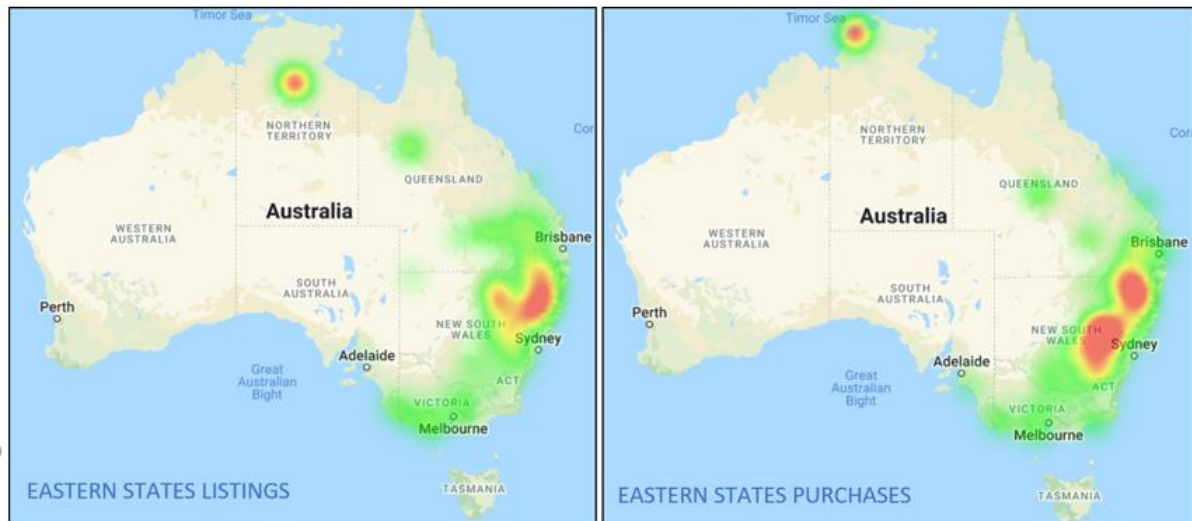
For the lighter steer categories, prices were largely up, albeit with some mixed clearance rates as offerings increased. A very large increase in 330-400kg steers, at 3,240 head, sold to only a 43% clearance rate, with plenty of post-

auction negotiations expected. Even with the lower clearance rate, the average price increased \$21 on last week, to \$2,211/head. In contrast, 280-330kg steers finished the week \$4 lower, at \$2,108/head, with an 83% clearance rate for the 2,765 head offered.

Light, young cattle continue to be very hard to wrest from cow-calf producers grip, with the large offering of 2,572 head registering a 58% clearance rate at the immediate end of the auction. Given the “high-bar” being set by vendors for suitable lines, 200-280kg steers finished the week \$137 dearer, at \$1,845/head. 76 weaned Angus steers from Penola, lower Southeast SA, averaging 255.2kg/head at 7-8 months of age, sold to \$2,080/head.



The young and light heifer market matched the lower clearance rates and higher prices of the steer categories, with 200-280kg heifers finishing the week up \$106, at \$1,846/head – with a 50% clearance rate for the 2,138 head offered. 330-400kg lines slipped back for the week, averaging \$61 lower for the week, at \$2,112/head.



While there was no shortage of catalogue views, enquiries and bids through the proven joined categories this week, final clearance rates were subdued, with the 2,998 PTIC heifers only registering a 45% clearance rate at the immediate end of the sale. Given the trend in the past week, post-auctions negotiations will lift this rate considerably. PTIC heifers finished the week averaging \$284 lower, at \$2,919/head. Out of Yeppoon, Queensland, 44 Brahman/Santa Gertrudis PTIC heifers, averaging 406.1kg/head, sold to \$2,220/head.

PTIC cow prices finished above PTIC heifer prices for the first time in many weeks, averaging \$3,003/head – down \$83 on last week, with a 58% clearance rate for the 1,651 head offered.

From Ashford, Northeast NSW, 50 NSM heifers, with 50 CAF sold to \$3,920/unit. The Angus heifers, aged two years, averaged 395.9kg/head liveweight, with the CAF from Hazeldean bulls ranged from 2-12 weeks of age. Out of Ironpot, Queensland, 35 SM cows with 35 CAF sold to \$3,000 head – with the Santa/Composite cows averaging 519.1kg/head and ranging from 8-14 years of age.

NOTE: Prices as at 2pm, Friday 25th March 2022

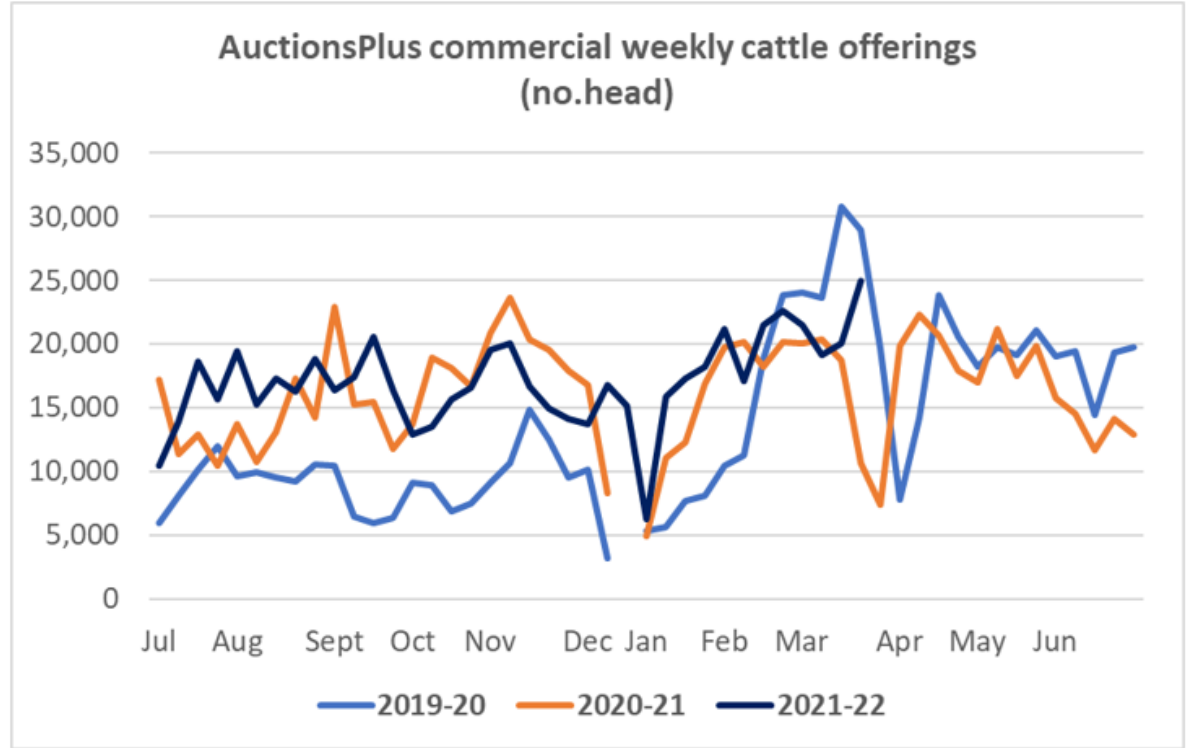
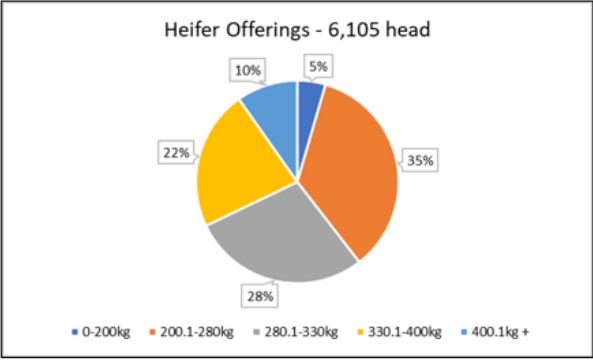
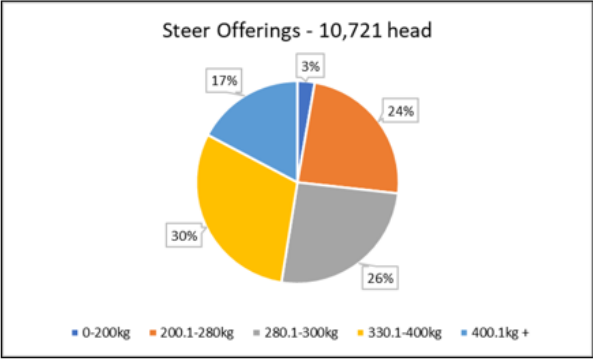


Table 1: AuctionsPlus National Cattle Prices

Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average	Change
		\$/head					actual c/kg lwt			
Steers										
<i>less than 200kg</i>	295	820	1,330	1,054	-57	44%	420	933	636	-16
<i>200.1-280kg</i>	2,572	990	2,270	1,845	137	58%	388	876	734	28
<i>280.1-330kg</i>	2,765	1,370	3,020	2,108	-4	83%	418	1,074	689	-9
<i>330.1-400kg</i>	3,240	1,500	2,575	2,211	21	43%	406	757	617	9
<i>400.1+kg</i>	1,849	1,770	3,044	2,549	97	80%	374	665	580	34
Heifers										
<i>less than 200kg</i>	275	1,200	1,400	1,300	233	17%	705	767	736	2
<i>200.1-280kg</i>	2,138	1,340	2,610	1,846	106	50%	571	1,266	737	23
<i>280.1-330kg</i>	1,731	1,710	2,510	2,051	-27	67%	556	795	663	-27
<i>330.1-400kg</i>	1,364	1,532	2,640	2,112	-61	74%	456	729	573	-28
<i>400.1+kg</i>	597	1,980	3,200	2,383	116	68%	411	700	543	23
Breeding Stock										
<i>NSM Cows</i>	320	1,920	2,500	2,234	-151	91%	427	531	486	49
<i>SM Heifers</i>	451	1,350	1,350	1,350	-279	44%	534	534	534	31
<i>PTIC Heifers</i>	2,998	1,800	4,210	2,919	-284	45%	386	862	505	-227
<i>PTIC Cows</i>	1,651	2,350	4,350	3,003	-83	58%	706	1,016	915	386
<i>NSM Heifers & Calves</i>	300	3,600	4,680	4,175	128	63%	-	-	-	-
<i>NSM Cows & Calves</i>	296	3,020	3,100	3,067	-629	82%	-	-	-	-
<i>SM Heifers & Calves</i>	121	2,800	3,800	3,135	-667	51%	-	-	-	-
<i>SM Cows & Calves</i>	821	2,080	3,940	3,176	-369	35%	-	-	-	-
<i>PTIC Heifers & Calves</i>	53	3,700	4,560	4,263	-	94%	-	-	-	-
<i>PTIC Cows & Calves</i>	15	3,800	4,000	3,900	-490	33%	-	-	-	-

Table 2: AuctionsPlus Queensland Cattle Prices

Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average	Change
		\$/head					actual c/kg lwt			
Steers										
<i>200.1-280kg</i>	1,072	1,510	2,000	1,808	-4	18%	664	777	730	6
<i>280.1-330kg</i>	611	1,650	2,090	1,959	-63	71%	547	688	626	-51
<i>330.1-400kg</i>	1,658	1,910	2,270	2,160	0	23%	505	624	584	-1
<i>400kg +</i>	445	2,100	2,351	2,244	14	66%	475	567	536	9
Heifers										
<i>less than 200kg</i>	110	1,400	1,400	1,400	-110	27%	705	705	705	-171
<i>200.1-280kg</i>	691	1,340	1,830	1,610	-316	31%	606	736	667	-119
<i>280.1-330kg</i>	760	1,710	2,038	1,910	-28	59%	556	664	624	-27
<i>330.1-400kg</i>	627	1,532	2,540	1,942	-26	91%	456	655	545	-2
Breeding Stock										
<i>PTIC Heifers</i>	567	1,920	2,610	2,268	-792	48%	505	648	557	-32
<i>PTIC Cows</i>	432	2,350	3,250	2,673	-92	18%	386	573	448	-222
<i>SM Heifers & Calves</i>	34	2,880	2,880	2,880	-	71%	-	-	-	-
<i>SM Cows & Calves</i>	647	2,820	3,520	3,218	-425	38%	-	-	-	-

Table 3: AuctionsPlus Angus Cattle Prices

Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average	Change
		\$/head					actual c/kg lwt			
Steers										
200.1-280kg	1,010	1,700	2,270	2,040	0	92%	649	854	792	-41
280.1-330kg	1,200	1,890	2,390	2,212	6	91%	659	828	730	4
330.1-400kg	788	2,030	2,575	2,341	16	84%	592	757	657	17
400.1+kg	1,079	2,220	3,044	2,670	1	90%	537	665	607	-11
Heifers										
200.1-280kg	528	1,710	2,210	1,926	-68	86%	701	852	777	26
280.1-330kg	390	1,920	2,510	2,173	47	92%	614	795	704	4
330.1-400kg	469	2,100	2,480	2,225	-178	67%	557	687	602	-62
400.1+kg	306	2,270	3,200	2,528	243	96%	411	700	565	53
Breeding Stock										
NSM Cows	221	1,920	2,500	2,238	-272	100%	427	531	500	37
PTIC Heifers	1,654	2,330	3,880	3,063	-343	50%	539	801	667	-112
PTIC Cows	578	2,350	4,350	3,114	-127	80%	386	862	535	-18
NSM Heifers & Calves	162	3,600	4,250	3,943	-67	88%	-	-	-	-
SM Cows & Calves	57	2,820	3,400	3,110	-1210	44%	-	-	-	-
PTIC Heifers & Calves	41	4,530	4,560	4,545	-	93%	-	-	-	-
PTIC Cows & Calves	10	4,000	4,000	4,000	-240	30%	-	-	-	-