



AuctionsPlus Weekly Cattle summary – w/e Sunday 7th, February 2021

The Australian cattle market continues to show amazing resilience, with prices continuing to hover at, or around, all time highs this week, as further good rainfall totals were registered through several regions. The first full week of auctions in February 2021 registered a 4,035 head increase in cattle offered through AuctionsPlus, with 19,803 head exclusively offered online.

While in many years the disrupted and unpredictable offerings through January and the holiday period can often give a somewhat distorted view of the true market sentiments, the trend in 2021 has been very clear as consistency returns in February. Light steers and heifers continue to be extremely hard to source, and even harder to afford, while breeding intentions remain dominant.

Further falls through key cattle producing regions over the past week helped to maintain the market sentiment for anything, male or female, being offered online below 330kg/head. For steers this week, 200-280kg steers jumped \$57/head on the previous week, to average \$1,414/head, or 566c/kg lwt, while the 280-330kg steer offerings averaged \$83/head higher at \$1,643/head. Auction clearance rates of 92% and 84%, respectively, across the two categories continued to show buyers almost frantic intentions to secure unfinished cattle as the excellent season continues.

Prices were largely steady to slightly lower into the heavier steer categories, at 330-400kg and 400kg plus, with the heaviest steers averaging \$1,868/head for the week. In contrast, the heaviest heifer category jumped \$36/head for the week, to average \$1,856/head - with the breeding optionality pushing the clearance rate to 85% and the average price only \$12/head shy of the corresponding steer average.

Joined females registered a mixed week for prices, as the much lower clearance rates across the four main categories continued to signal that buyers are baulking at the overall cost, while the sellers sit firm with ample feed and water supplies. One feature of the AuctionsPlus system is that transactions may be completed well after the closure of the listed auction – in some instances for several days, as both buyers and sellers revise their expectations to finalise transactions.

As un-joined heavy heifers (400kg+) averaged \$1,856 this week, assessed and certified joined heifers averaged \$2,366/head – an increase of \$173/head on the previous week, at a clearance rate of 59%. On the surface it could be speculated that the \$510/head difference between the two heifer lines is what some producers are willing to pay for near term calving, in contrast to the potential longer time horizon for empty heifers.

PTIC cows with CAF averaged \$106/head lower this week, at \$2,742/head, with the 62% clearance rate again revealing a persistent bid-offer spread in the days following the online sale.

Note – all prices reported below are as at the close of reporting of 5pm, Thursday 4th February.

For more categories, please go to:
[Store Report - Cattle – National AuctionsPlus Store Cattle Report](#)
[Cattle Averages 05/02/2021](#)

Classification	Offered	Low	High	Average \$/head	Change	Clearance	Low	High	Average actual c/kg lwt	Change
Steers										
less than 200kg	242	705	1280	961	182	89%	530	815	659	182
200.1-280kg	1,591	750	2155	1414	57	92%	339	882	566	3
280.1-330kg	1,243	1320	2550	1643	83	84%	414	831	538	28
330.1-400kg	1,888	1175	1925	1694	-27	76%	338	548	471	-2
400+kg	699	1350	2160	1868	-2	78%	296	470	429	7
Heifers										
less than 200kg	432	700	1310	960	60	51%	439	915	631	138
201-280kg	1,822	985	1690	1228	-84	75%	363	622	514	7
281-330kg	1,271	1100	1740	1473	-7	82%	361	586	487	-3
330-400kg	1,468	1292	1790	1614	-91	82%	360	499	440	-41
400+kg	698	1590	2110	1856	36	85%	348	446	418	-3
Joined Females										
PTIC heifers	4,463	1210	3060	2366	173	59%	382	660	495	7
PTIC Cows	1,285	1400	3150	2172	13	66%	295	517	371	-19
Cows CAF	463	2010	3520	2760	20	43%	-	-	-	-
Cows PTIC CAF	1,617	1510	3820	2742	-106	62%	-	-	-	-

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