

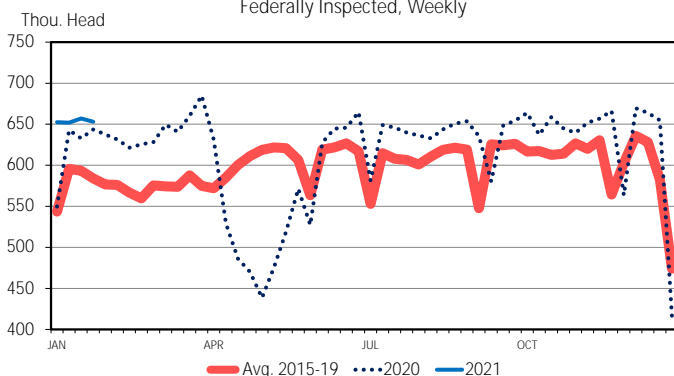
Cattle dressed weights have started the year with the unusual move of coming in larger than the end of the previous year. Over the last four weeks the aggregate cattle dressed weight has been 12-21 pounds higher. This is largely inline with where December dressed weights were, and have yet to see the normal seasonal erosion.

Anecdotally, feedlots are still reporting efficient gains per day from fed cattle. The two weeks of actual slaughter data that break out steer and heifer data, showed heifer dressed weights in early 2021 have surpassed even the highest points of 2020. Steer dressed weights are under 2020 peaks but were still 21 pounds over last year in the latest week of data. Even if steer and heifer dressed weights continue to move seasonally lower, the amplified weight at which the year started would imply beef production in the first quarter will likely be higher than anticipated.

Large slaughter numbers were already suggested in the first quarter due to the large placements over the summer. The very early weekly data has supported that concept so far. Daily average cattle slaughter has been estimated to be higher over the last 12 days, averaging over 109,000 head, and several days expecting slaughter to hit 120,000 head. January 1st through the 16th only had one day with slaughter levels hitting 120,000 head. Preliminary daily cattle slaughter suggests 4 days reaching those levels between January 17th and the end of the month. Actual slaughter data will be released at a two week lag.

The slaughter mix also has influence over cattle dressed

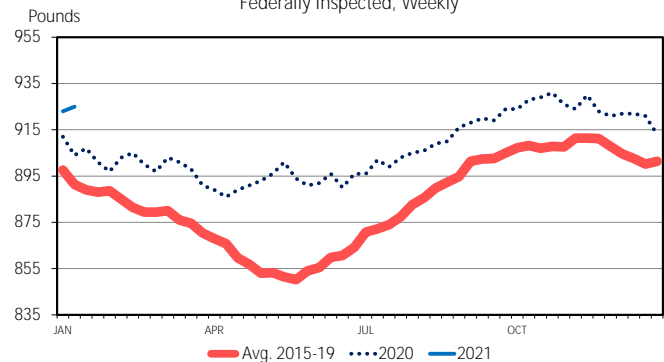
CATTLE SLAUGHTER Federally Inspected, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-AMS & USDA-NASS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-S-08
01/29/21

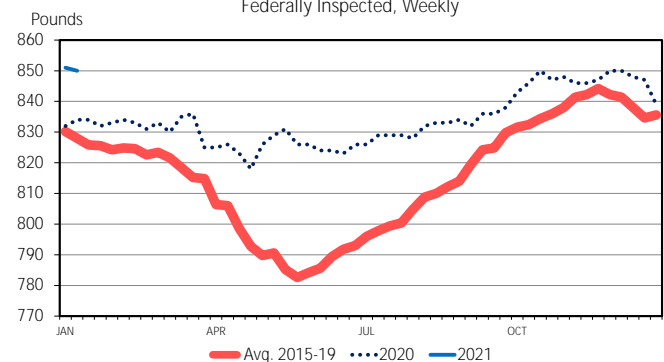
STEER DRESSED WEIGHT Federally Inspected, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-AMS & USDA-NASS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-S-18
01/29/21

HEIFER DRESSED WEIGHT Federally Inspected, Weekly

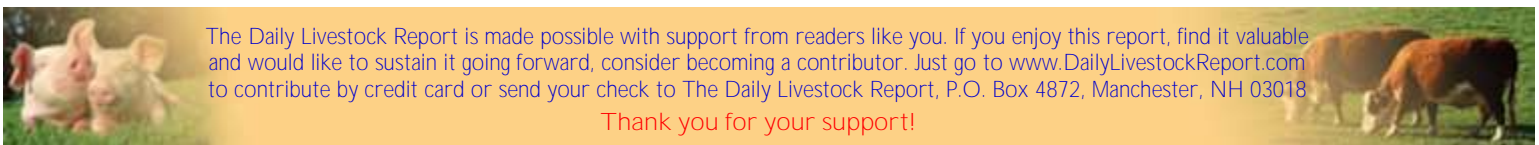


Data Source: USDA-AMS & USDA-NASS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-S-18B
01/29/21

weights and cattle slaughter. Cow slaughter has been mixed in the first two weeks of 2021, posting a week above a year ago as well as below. Comparatively, steer and heifer slaughter were above a year ago both weeks. [Yesterday's DLR](#) comments indicated cow slaughter will likely be higher in 2021.

Larger cow slaughter is unlikely to mute larger dressed weights in the fed cattle supply in the winter quarter. However, it serves as a good reminder, the aggregations of cattle dressed weights, and cattle slaughter are influenced by all classes of cattle in the slaughter mix.



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