

Weekly receipts for the month of August fell overall, driven by declines in auctions (down 20,100 head), and direct sales (down 31,600 head). Video and auction sales rose 4,100 head more than a year ago. Total receipts were just over 1.4 million head, which was very close to the five year average for the month of August.

Other interesting trends were that the percent of heifers in receipt totals increased in total percentage across all three marketing channels. Heifers in auctions were 41% of receipts compared to 40% a year ago. In direct sales 43% were heifers compared to 38% last year and in video auctions it was 38% compare to 36%. The other piece of information released is the percent of animals that are moving through auctions that are over 600 pounds. Nationally, over 600 pounds cattle increased through auctions. In August 2021 57% of receipts were over 600 pounds versus 55% in 2020. For direct sales there was a small decline 86% versus 87% last year. Video auctions saw a large decline, only 55% weighed over 600 pounds this year compared to 65% last year.

Lower weight classifications and increases in the heifer category both are typical signposts of the drought environment. Compared to previous drought years, August percent of heifers in the mix outpaced August percentages seen in 2010, 2011, and 2012 in video auctions, and direct sales. In auctions, the percent of heifers was higher in August 2012 and similar to the levels seen in 2010 and 2011. This could indicate that heifers being held for replacement started to move as pastures continue to be exhausted and hay prices soar. Last week both direct sales channels saw a noticeable bump in the percent of heifers, 55% and 45% of receipts in those respective channels. Earlier in the month both marketing channels saw percentages in the thirties.

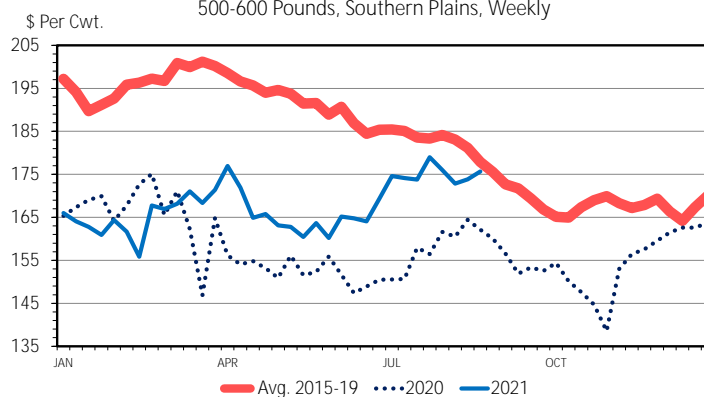
Similarly, under 600 pound animals moving through receipt channels was larger than drought year of 2010-2013 for auctions, and direct sales. In 2010-2013 under 600 pound volumes were a larger percentage for video auctions than they were this August.

The larger percentage of under 600 pound animals could be indicative of early weaning. Those drought practices were common in the last significant drought. Calf prices still have not shown significant pressure. Southern Plains 500 to 600 pound steers held \$175 per cwt for most of August. Lighter calves weighing 400 to 500 pounds, were still higher than June in August

and priced above \$180 in the Southern Plains.

Last year, September receipts totaled 1.2 million head, about 200,000 above the five year average. In 2010-2013, September receipts averaged 1.3 million head. The first year, 2010 had the largest September volume at 1.7 million head, which moved 1.2 million head through auctions.

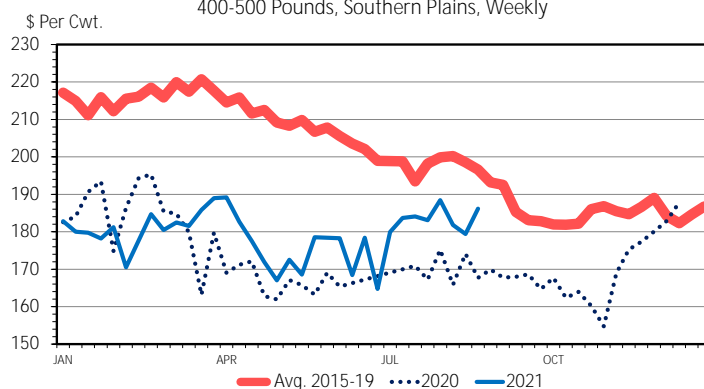
**MED. & LRG. #1 STEER CALF PRICES**  
500-600 Pounds, Southern Plains, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-AMS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

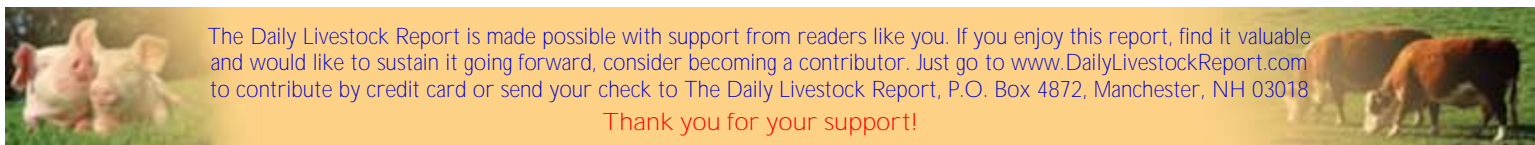
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**MED. & LRG. #1 STEER CALF PRICES**  
400-500 Pounds, Southern Plains, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-AMS  
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-P-49A  
08/30/21



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