CATTLE: Receipts: 5,070; Last Week: 6,401; Last Year: 3,439. Compared to last week: Feeder steers weighing less than 550 lbs mostly steady to 5.00 lower, feeder steers weighing more than 600 lbs steady to weak. Feeder heifers 400-749 lbs mostly steady to firm. Calf quality was average to attractive. Demand for calves was mostly moderate. Flesh conditions were very light to moderate for calves weighing less than 600 lbs, while heavier weight, backgrounded calves were moderate to moderate plus, with a few fleshy lots seen as well. CME positions from last Thursday through this Thursday showed the March contract up 5.625, the April up 5.40 and the May up 5.65 to settle at 149.55, 150.125, and 150.225 respectfully. Weigh up cows sold on mostly good to very good demand for light to moderate offerings. Feeding cows were too lightly tested and bulls and cows returning to the country, balance bred cows, heifers, and pairs.

Offerings this week consisted of 77 percent feeder cattle, 10 percent slaughter cows, had been started on feed, however demand from other feeding buyers was near nil. Feeding cows were too lightly tested and 15 percent slaughter bulls, 11 percent feeding cows and bulls and cows returning to the country, balance bred cows, heifers, and pairs. Feeding buyers were almost inactive this week. Packers sent a few cow fill. Cow quality this week was average to attractive. Feeding buyers were very active this week. Packers showed very good demand for cows to send directly to harvest. Feeding demand was near nil and packers bid aggressively against each other to fill orders. Cow supplies remain tight. With good demand seen for cow meat and trimmings, packers were forced to pay higher prices in order to secure offerings. The cutter cow cutout was quoted this morning at 172.09, 0.18 higher than yesterday's close. Slaughter cows mostly 2.00-4.00 higher. Cows continue to be full this week as changing weather patterns as well as a large portion of cows coming out of feedlots have cows pushing. Feeding buyers were almost inactice this week. Packers sent a few cows to feed which had been started on feed, however demand from other feeding buyers was near nil. Feeding cows were too lightly tested to develop any trend. Slaughter bulls sold mostly 2.00-5.00 higher as packer buyers competed with both feeding buyers as well as other packer buyers over offerings. Offerings this week consisted of 77 percent feeder cattle, 10 percent slaughter cows, near 1 percent slaughter bulls, most of feeding cows and bulls and cows returning to the country, balance bred cows, heifers, and pairs.

http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/bl_ls754.txt
Receipts: 3,200; Last sale (Dec 18): 3,561; Year Ago: 2,221.

Compared to Dec 18: Feeder lambs weighing less than 110 lbs sharply higher with most sales 25.00-35.00 higher, with instances of 35.00-40.00 higher seen at times. Lambs weighing over 110 lbs steady to firm. Buyers looking to feed lambs to market for Easter, Passover and other ethnic holidays in the spring were very optimist. Buyers showed very good demand for offerings to feed for this marketing period. Ethnic buyers were also present this sale. This helped created very good demand for lightweight lambs weighing less than 80 lbs. Quality mostly attractive with many very high quality reputation lambs in the offering. Market activity was active. Slaughter ewes sold on good to very good demand as ethnic buyers were very active in procuring offerings. Slaughter ewes too lightly tested to develop an accurate market trend, however higher undertones were noticed. Slaughter kids sold on mostly good demand for moderate offerings. Ethnic demand spilled over into the goat market as higher lamb and ewe prices left buyers looking for goats to finish filling trucks. Slaughter goats mostly 10.00-20.00 higher. Goat quality mostly average to attractive and slightly better than last month’s sale. Sheep receipts 10 percent slaughter ewes and bucks, 4 percent slaughter lambs, 85 percent feeder lambs, balance ewes returning to the country and breeding stock. Goat receipts 43 percent slaughter kids, 9 percent nannies, 40 percent feeder kids, balance billies and weathers and replacement goats. Sheep comprised 84 percent of all receipts, goats 16 percent. All sheep and goats sold on a per cwt basis, all breeding stock sold on a per head basis unless otherwise noted. Next sale will be Feb 12th 2018.

HAY: 02/02/18. Compared to last week: Hay prices mostly steady to firm. A week of snowy weather is in the forecast and demand saw drastic improvements this week. Hay movement increased as many producers continue to sell through supplies. Demand for hay was moderate to good on moderate to heavy sales volume. Hay supplies in Eastern Montana continue to tighten. Demand for straw is very good and supplies are very tight. Limited sales were seen this week, however higher undertones were noticed. All prices are dollars per ton and FOB unless otherwise noted.

Alfalfa: Supreme: Small squares, 200.00-250.00; Large squares, 150.00-155.00. Premium: Large squares, 140.00-155.00; Large rounds, 140.00-120.00; Small squares, 180.00. Good: Large squares, 110.00-150.00; Large rounds, 130.00-155.00; Small squares, 130.00-140.00. Fair: Large squares, 105.00-130.00; Large rounds, 115.00-140.00; Small Squares, 130.00. Utility Large rounds, 100.00-105.00. Grass/Alfalfa: Good: Small squares, 130.00-140.00. Fair: Large rounds, 100.00-120.00. Utility: Large rounds, 90.00. Grass: Large rounds, 90.00-115.00. Timothy Grass: Premium: Small squares, 210.00-240.00. Barley straw: Large squares, 50.00-60.00. Wheat straw: South central MT Large squares, 45.00-50.00 Northern MT Large squares, 50.00. Wheat hay: Large rounds, 120.00. Corn stalk: Large rounds, 45.00-75.00.

GRAIN: 02/02/18. Compared to 01/26/18, Winter Wheat closed .10 to .23 cents per bushel higher; Spring Wheat closed .06 to .13 cents per bushel lower; Feed barley closed steady.