CATTLE: Receipts: 6,401; Last Week: 7,080; Last Year: 11,952. Compared to last week: All feeder steers sold mostly 3.00-8.00 higher. Feeder heifers 450-699 lbs sold mostly firm to 3.00 higher, heavier weight heifers were too lightly tested to develop an accurate market trend, however higher undertones were noticed. Calf quality this week was average to very attractive. Demand for calves was mostly moderate to good, with good to very good demand seen for load lots. Warmer weather was seen this week and pen conditions are muddy both in the yards and in the country. Many calves were showing mud this week. Flesh conditions were very light to moderate for calves weighing less than 600 lbs, while heavier weight backgrounded calves were moderate to moderate plus. Packer buyers and major feedlot buyers were very active this week as they pushed each other to own cattle. This created a very active market. CME positions from last Friday through yesterdays close showed the January contract down 0.10, the March down 1.675 and the April down 1.35 to settle at 147.85, 143.925, and 144.725 respectively.

Weigh up cows sold on mostly good to very good demand for light to 700 lb. Feeder Steer Price showed the January contract down 0.10, the March down 1.675 and the April down 1.35 to settle at 147.85, 143.925, and 144.725 respectively. Feeding Steers Medium and Large 1 900 lbs. sold mostly good to very good demand for load lots. Warmer weather was seen this week and pen conditions are muddy both in the yards and in the country. Many calves were showing mud this week. Flesh conditions were very light to moderate for calves weighing less than 600 lbs, while heavier weight backgrounded calves were moderate to moderate plus. Packer buyers and major feedlot buyers were very active this week as they pushed each other to own cattle. This created a very active market. CME positions from last Friday through yesterdays close showed the January contract down 0.10, the March down 1.675 and the April down 1.35 to settle at 147.85, 143.925, and 144.725 respectively. Weigh up cows sold on mostly good to very good demand for light to 700 lb. Feeder Steer Price showed the January contract down 0.10, the March down 1.675 and the April down 1.35 to settle at 147.85, 143.925, and 144.725 respectively.

Feeding Bulls: 1465-2110 lbs 72.00-87.00, full 64.00. Feeding Cows and Cows Returning to the Country: Coming 3 yrs old: 870-1243 lbs 65.00-112.00, heifers 760-1385 65.00-129.00. Coming 4 yrs old 920-1470 lbs 61.50-90.00. Young age 910-1718 lbs 57.50-68.00. Middle age 1275-1583 lbs 58.00-65.50, full 53.00-59.50, thin 1000-1105 55.00-56.50. Aged 1059-1375 lbs 56.00-65.00, thin fleshed 960-1275 lbs 50.00-57.50, exposed 61.50-66.00. Bred Heifers: Medium and large 1 calving before May 15th 1013-1104 lbs 1,360.00-1,550.00. Bred cows: Middle aged (Solid mouth) Medium and large 1 calving before May 15th 1518 lbs 1,100.00. Aged (Broken mouth) Medium and large 1 calving before May 15th 1230-1451 lbs 900.00-985.00, thin fleshed 1289-1374 875.00-900.00. Medium and large 1-2 calving before May 15th 1230 lbs 825.00.
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 optimistic. 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: 01/26/18 Compared to last week: Hay prices mostly steady to weak. Producers continue to be willing to sell hay at lower money as long as they can move volume. Demand mostly moderate on moderate to heavy sales volume. Hay supplies in central Montana remain in good shape for buyers as hay is still readily available. Hay in Eastern Montana has tightened slightly however delivered prices have kept hay prices from moving higher. Cold weather continues to be seen in many parts of the state, this is keeping usage high. Demand for straw is very good and supplies are tight. Limited sales were seen, however firm 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, 150.00. Good: Large squares, 110.00-150.00; Large rounds, 130.00-155.00; Small squares, 130.00-140.00. Fair: Large squares, 110.00-130.00; Large rounds, 105.00-140.00; Small Squares, 130.00. Utility Large rounds, 100.00-105.00. Timothy Grass: Premium: Small squares, 130.00-140.00. Fair: Large rounds, 100.00-120.00. Utility: Large rounds, 90.00.

GRAIN: 01/26/18 Compared to 01/19/18, Winter Wheat closed .16 cents per bushel higher; Spring Wheat closed .06 to .11 cents per bushel higher; Feed barley closed steady.