Compared to last week, steers and heifers sold 3.00 to 7.00 higher. Demand was reported as good as buyers wanted to try and buy cattle cheaper but were not willing to let their neighbor outbid them for the kind they like; thin and green. Missouri and Oklahoma’s receipts would be considered moderate to heavy this week as they accounted for nearly 45 percent of the national total on this report. Some auctions have taken time between this week and/or next to get some maintenance work done and not had sales due to the Independence Day holiday. Drought had been playing a factor in the Southern Plains for quite a while now, but the effects of the drought have now moved into the southern half of Missouri, and they are now starting to see an influx of slaughter cows and lighter pee-wee calves coming off cows. Some market watchers are wondering if prices will be seen comparable to the last drought back in 2012-2013 as feeder calves weighing in the 5’s moved up to nearly 300.00 per cwt and 8-weights being around the 225.00 mark. However, corn was around the 3.25 level at the time and corn prices would be halved to get to that level again. With input prices being very high in relation, grain farmers have hopefully hedged some of their crop to take advantage of record or near record highs. Last week, new crop corn was down 60 to 70 cents as weather conditions helped mature the crop along even more; letting the plants catch up from a sluggish spring planting. Negotiated cash fed cattle trade in the Nebraska continues to be at the forefront of the market with the bulk of live sales trading at 145.00 to 151.00, while the dressed sales there were steady at 234.00. Live sales in the Southern Plains were reported steady to 1.00 higher at 138.00. Boxed-beef prices leveled off somewhat this week. Choice boxed beef closed the week 1.16 lower at 263.82, while Select was 4.55 lower at 240.47 for the same period. Weekly Cattle Slaughter under federal inspection estimated at 636K for the week, 30K less than last week and 8K more than a year ago. Auction volume this week included 53 percent weighing over 600 lbs and 43 percent heifers.