

## User's Guide to USDA LMR Cattle Price Reports

Livestock Mandatory Reporting (LMR) provides all market participants with the same open and transparent data for slaughter cattle, swine, sheep, boxed beef, lamb and wholesale pork. LMR market reports provide valuable information on price trends, supply and demand conditions, and the various purchase and sales methods used in the industry while protecting the confidentiality of proprietary transactions.

Federally inspected packing plants that annually process an average of 125,000 of cattle are required to report information to AMS. LMR cattle reports are based on two data sets provided by packers that meet reporting thresholds - purchase data and actual net slaughter price data.

Purchase data represents cattle purchased on a negotiated

basis or "spot market" during a specified time period. Data includes actual prices with all other data based on estimates.

Slaughter data represents cattle that have been harvested during a specified time period. Data includes net prices, actual weights, dressing percentages, percent Choice and price ranges. Weekly reports start Monday afternoon and end the next Monday morning.

Currently, 34 plants report cattle information under LMR, accounting for 92 percent of cattle purchases in the United States. Market Reporters review between 5,000-8,000 cattle data records on a daily basis. These data are used to publish 24 daily and 20 weekly cattle reports. A listing of the reports can be found below.

### AMS publishes 24 daily and 20 weekly cattle reports each week.

The reports cover time periods, regions and activities. The reports, which can be found at [www.ams.usda.gov/LPGMN](http://www.ams.usda.gov/LPGMN) and are linked below, are:

#### Morning reports represent cattle purchased between 1:30 PM yesterday and 9:30 AM today:

- [Direct Slaughter-Negotiated Purchases-AM\(LM\\_CT113\)](#)
- [Direct Slaughter-Committed & Delivered-AM\(LM\\_CT104\)](#)
- [Direct Slaughter-Formulated Purchases-AM\(LM\\_CT107\)](#)

#### Afternoon reports represent cattle purchased between 9:30 AM today and 1:30 PM today:

- [Direct Slaughter-Negotiated Purchases-PM\(LM\\_CT114\)](#)
- [Kansas Daily Direct Negotiated Purchases-PM\(LM\\_CT120\)](#)
- [Colorado Daily Direct Negotiated Purchases-PM\(LM\\_CT133\)](#)
- [Slaughter Cattle Review-PM](#)
- [TX/OK/NM Daily Direct Negotiated Purchases-PM\(LM\\_CT117\)](#)
- [Nebraska Daily Direct Negotiated Purchases-PM\(LM\\_CT123\)](#)
- [IA/MN Daily Direct Negotiated Purchases-PM\(LM\\_CT136\)](#)
- [Direct Slaughter-Committed & Delivered-PM\(LM\\_CT105\)](#)
- [Direct Slaughter-Formulated & Grid-PM\(LM\\_CT108\)](#)

#### Summary reports represent cattle purchased between 9:30 AM yesterday to 9:30 AM today:

- [5 Area Daily Wtd Avg Direct Slaughter Cattle\(LM\\_CT100\)](#)
- [Direct Slaughter-Committed & Delivered\(LM\\_CT106\)](#)
- [TX/OK/NM Daily Direct Negotiated Purchases\(LM\\_CT118\)](#)
- [Nebraska Daily Direct Negotiated Purchases\(LM\\_CT124\)](#)
- [IA/MN Daily Direct Negotiated Purchases\(LM\\_CT137\)](#)
- [Direct Slaughter-Formulated Purchases\(LM\\_CT109\)](#)
- [Direct Slaughter-Negotiated Purchases\(LM\\_CT115\)](#)
- [Kansas Daily Direct Negotiated Purchases\(LM\\_CT121\)](#)
- [Colorado Daily Direct Negotiated Purchases\(LM\\_CT134\)](#)
- [Slaughter Cattle Review-AM](#)

## Key LMR Definitions

An important aspect of any law or administrative rule is the definitions of various terms, outlined below.

### Prices

**Base price:** The price paid for livestock, delivered at the packing plant, before application of any premiums or discounts, expressed in dollars per hundred pounds of hot carcass weight.

**Net price:** The price paid for livestock after application of any premiums or discounts, expressed in dollars per hundred pounds.

**Discount:** The adjustment, expressed in dollars per one hundred pounds, subtracted from the base price due to weight, quality characteristics, yield characteristics, livestock class, dark cutting, breed, dressing percentage or other characteristic.

**Premium:** The adjustment, expressed in dollars per one hundred pounds, added to the base price due to weight, quality characteristics, yield characteristics, livestock class and breed.

**FOB:** Free on board, regardless of the mode of transportation, at the point of direct shipment by the seller to the buyer or from a common basis point to the buyer.

**Priced:** The time when the final price is determined either through buyer-seller interaction and agreement or as a result of some other price determining method.

**Prices for cattle:** Includes the price per hundredweight; the purchase type; the quantity on a live and a dressed weight basis; the estimated

live weight range; the average live weight; the estimated percentage of cattle of a USDA quality grade Choice or better; beef carcass classification; any premiums or discounts associated with weight, quality grade, yield grade or type of purchase; cattle State of origin; estimated cattle dressing percentage; and price basis as F.O.B. feedlot or delivered at the plant.

### Purchase Type

**Negotiated** purchase, also known as a spot market purchase, is where the price is determined through buyer and seller interaction and the cattle are scheduled to be delivered to the plant within 30 days of the agreement. The packer reports these purchases as scheduled for delivery in either 0-14 days or 15-30 days.

**Forward contract** purchase is an agreement for the purchase of cattle, executed in advance of slaughter, where the base price is established by reference to prices quoted on the CME.

**Negotiated grid** purchase is where the base price is negotiated between buyer and seller and is known at the time the agreement is made, and delivery is usually expected within 14 days. However, the final net price is determined by applying a series of premiums and discounts based on carcass performance after slaughter. The base price is submitted when established. The net price is submitted after slaughter and carcass grading has occurred.

**Formula** purchase is the advance commitment of cattle for slaughter by any means other than negotiated, negotiated grid or forward contract. Formulas use a pricing mechanism

where the price is often not known until a future date.

**Packer-owned** information represents cattle that a packer has owned for at least 14 days immediately before slaughter.

### Entities/Sellers

**Producer:** Any person engaged in the business of selling livestock to a packer for slaughter.

**Packer:** Any person engaged in the business of buying cattle in commerce for purposes of slaughter, of manufacturing or preparing meats or meat food from cattle for sale or shipment in commerce, or of marketing meats or meat food products from cattle in an unmanufactured form acting as a wholesale broker, dealer or distributor in commerce. For any calendar year, the term "packer" includes only a federally inspected cattle processing plant that slaughtered an average of 125,000 head of cattle per year during the immediately preceding 5 calendar years. Additionally, in the case of a cattle processing plant that did not slaughter cattle during the immediately preceding 5 calendar years, it shall be considered a packer if the Secretary determines the processing plant should be considered a packer under this subpart after considering its capacity.

### Others

**Current slaughter week:** The period beginning Monday, and ending Sunday, of the week in which a reporting day occurs.

**Prior slaughter week:** The Monday through Sunday prior to a reporting day.



**Exported:** Livestock or livestock products that are physically shipped to locations outside of the 50 States.

**Imported:** Livestock that are raised to slaughter weight outside of the 50 States or livestock products produced outside of the 50 States.

**Lot:** A group of one or more livestock that is identified for the purpose of a single transaction between a buyer and a seller.

**Origin:** The State where the livestock were fed to slaughter weight.

**Carcass characteristics:** The range and average carcass weight in pounds, the quality grade and yield grade (if applicable), and the average cattle dressing percentage.

**Cattle committed:** Cattle that are scheduled to be delivered to a packer within the 7-day period beginning on the date of an agreement to sell the cattle.

**Reporting times:** The corporate officers or officially designated representatives of each steer and heifer

packer processing plant shall report to the Secretary at least two times each reporting day not later than 10 a.m. Central Time and not later than 2 p.m. Central Time the required information, inclusive since the last reporting, categorized to clearly delineate domestic from imported market purchases.

**Continue to page 4 for an example of the 5 Area Weekly Weighted Average Direct Slaughter Cattle report.**

## Below is an example of the 5-Area Weekly Weighted Average Direct Slaughter Cattle report, along with explanations of key sections of the report at left.

**Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico; Kansas; Nebraska; Colorado; Iowa/Minnesota feedlots:** Regions included in the 5-Area reporting region.

**(Includes all transactions regardless of delivery day):** Negotiated purchases for delivery in 0 to 30 days.

**Week Ending Sunday, 8/23/2020:** The live cattle reporting week for begins Monday at 2:00 p.m. Central and ends the following Monday at 10:00 a.m.

**Confirmed:114,888:** Confirmed Negotiated purchases for Steers, Heifers, Mixed Steer/Heifers, Dairybreds and Mixed Steer/Heifer/Cow class codes.

**Wtd Avg Price:** Weighted average price based on the volume and price of each reported transaction.

**STEERS: LIVE FOB:** "Live" signals purchase made on a live weight basis. "Free on board" means freight costs are paid by the purchaser.

**STEERS: LIVE DELIVERED:** Delivered basis means freight costs are paid by the seller.



### 5 Area Weekly Weighted Average Direct Slaughter

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Email us with accessibility issues regarding this report.

Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico; Kansas; Nebraska; Colorado; Iowa/Minnesota feedlots  
(Includes all transactions regardless of delivery day)

For: Week Ending Sunday, 8/23/2020

Confirmed:114,888      Week Ago: 109,200      Year ago: 55,768

#### Negotiated Purchases

|                               | Head Count | Weight Range  | Price Range     | Avg Weight | Wtd Avg Price |
|-------------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>STEERS: LIVE FOB</b>       |            |               |                 |            |               |
| <b>Over 80% Choice</b>        | 26,852     | 1,320 - 1,585 | 103.00 - 110.00 | 1,486      | 106.82        |
| <b>65 - 80% Choice</b>        | 11,005     | 1,200 - 1,625 | 104.00 - 108.00 | 1,444      | 106.16        |
| <b>35 - 65% Choice</b>        | 2,924      | 1,200 - 1,450 | 106.00 - 106.50 | 1,356      | 106.09        |
| <b>0 - 35% Choice</b>         | 142        | 1,425 - 1,450 | 108.00 - 109.00 | 1,437      | 108.75        |
| <b>Total all grades</b>       | 40,923     | 1,200 - 1,625 | 103.00 - 110.00 | 1,465      | 106.59        |
| <b>STEERS: LIVE DELIVERED</b> |            |               |                 |            |               |
| <b>Over 80% Choice</b>        | 2,743      | 1,325 - 1,550 | 106.00 - 110.00 | 1,499      | 108.24        |
| <b>65 - 80% Choice</b>        | 2,095      | 1,375 - 1,450 | 106.00 - 107.50 | 1,447      | 107.42        |
| <b>35 - 65% Choice</b>        |            |               |                 |            |               |
| <b>0 - 35% Choice</b>         |            |               |                 |            |               |

**Weight Range:** Low to high weight.

**Price Range:** Low to high price.

**Avg Weight:** Weighted average weight.

**Total all grades:** Head count total and weighted average calculation for the preceding 4 grade categories.

**STEERS: DRESSED DELIVERED:** Purchase made on a dressed weight basis (hot carcass weight captured prior to chilling).

**65 - 80% Choice:** Cattle purchase estimated to grade between 65-85% USDA Choice by the packer at time of purchase.

## EXPLANATIONS FOR REPORT CATEGORIES NOT SHOWN

**MIXED STEER/HEIFERS: LIVE FOB:** Represents steers and heifers fed in a co-mingled pen.

**ALL BEEF TYPE STEERS AND HEIFERS:** Includes Steers, Heifers & Mixed Steer/Heifers class codes.

|                                  | Head Count | Weight Range  | Price Range     | Avg Weight | Wtd Avg Price |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------------|-----------------|------------|---------------|
| <b>Total all grades</b>          | 4,838      | 1,325 - 1,550 | 106.00 - 110.00 | 1,476      | 107.89        |
| <b>STEERS: DRESSED DELIVERED</b> |            |               |                 |            |               |
| <b>Over 80% Choice</b>           | 15,356     | 842 - 1,014   | 167.00 - 173.00 | 955        | 169.34        |
| <b>65 - 80% Choice</b>           | 3,836      | 794 - 992     | 169.00 - 172.00 | 912        | 169.70        |
| <b>35 - 65% Choice</b>           |            |               |                 |            |               |
| <b>0 - 35% Choice</b>            |            |               |                 |            |               |
| <b>Total all grades</b>          | 19,192     | 794 - 1,014   | 167.00 - 173.00 | 946        | 169.41        |
| <b>STEERS: DRESSED FOB</b>       |            |               |                 |            |               |
| <b>Over 80% Choice</b>           | 1,627      | 841 - 968     | 167.00 - 170.00 | 928        | 169.72        |
| <b>65 - 80% Choice</b>           |            |               |                 |            |               |
| <b>35 - 65% Choice</b>           |            |               |                 |            |               |
| <b>0 - 35% Choice</b>            | 36         | 896 - 896     | 168.00 - 168.00 | 896        | 168.00        |
| <b>Total all grades</b>          | 1,663      | 841 - 968     | 167.00 - 170.00 | 927        | 169.68        |
| <b>HEIFERS: LIVE FOB</b>         |            |               |                 |            |               |
| <b>Over 80% Choice</b>           | 14,617     | 1,200 - 1,450 | 104.00 - 109.00 | 1,329      | 106.43        |
| <b>65 - 80% Choice</b>           | 5,455      | 1,108 - 1,400 | 106.00 - 106.75 | 1,281      | 106.05        |
| <b>35 - 65% Choice</b>           | 1,570      | 1,175 - 1,300 | 105.00 - 106.00 | 1,238      | 105.91        |
| <b>0 - 35% Choice</b>            |            |               |                 |            |               |
| <b>Total all grades</b>          | 21,642     | 1,108 - 1,450 | 104.00 - 109.00 | 1,310      | 106.29        |
| <b>HEIFERS: LIVE DELIVERED</b>   |            |               |                 |            |               |
| <b>Over 80% Choice</b>           | 1,490      | 1,200 - 1,350 | 107.00 - 110.00 | 1,289      | 108.09        |

**WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES:** Weekly weighted averages for steers and heifers for Live FOB and Dressed Delivered shipment basis. Encompassing the reporting week from the previous Monday to the current Monday.

**SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK:** Represents the previous reporting week.

**SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR:** Represents the same reporting week a year ago.

**WEEKLY PRICE DISTRIBUTION:** Price/volume distribution in 50¢ increments for each shipment and delivery basis.

Contact Us: If you need additional assistance, please call our Market News team at (816) 676-7000 or email us at [websupport.lpgmn@usda.gov](mailto:websupport.lpgmn@usda.gov).

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| <b>WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES</b> | <b>Head Count</b> | <b>Avg Weight</b> | <b>Avg Price</b> |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Live FOB Steer                  | 40,923            | 1,465             | 106.59           |
| Live FOB Heifer                 | 21,642            | 1,310             | 106.29           |
| Dressed Del Steer               | 19,192            | 946               | 169.41           |
| Dressed Del Heifer              | 8,861             | 839               | 169.40           |

| <b>SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK</b> |        |       |        |
|------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Live FOB Steer               | 37,376 | 1,449 | 105.06 |
| Live FOB Heifer              | 21,674 | 1,302 | 104.48 |
| Dressed Del Steer            | 17,185 | 941   | 168.04 |
| Dressed Del Heifer           | 6,233  | 840   | 168.37 |

| <b>SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR</b> |        |       |        |
|------------------------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Live FOB Steer               | 12,190 | 1,393 | 107.12 |
| Live FOB Heifer              | 8,009  | 1,267 | 106.92 |
| Dressed Del Steer            | 15,010 | 898   | 175.34 |
| Dressed Del Heifer           | 7,312  | 810   | 175.82 |

| <b>WEEKLY PRICE DISTRIBUTION</b> |               |                          |               |
|----------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Live FOB</b>                  |               | <b>Dressed Delivered</b> |               |
| <b>Head</b>                      | <b>Price</b>  | <b>Head</b>              | <b>Price</b>  |
| 62                               | 103.00-103.49 | 512                      | 167.00-167.49 |
| 0                                | 103.50-103.99 | 0                        | 167.50-167.99 |
| 833                              | 104.00-104.49 | 4,090                    | 168.00-168.49 |
| 132                              | 104.50-104.99 | 0                        | 168.50-168.99 |
| 756                              | 105.00-105.49 | 21,610                   | 169.00-169.49 |
| 110                              | 105.50-105.99 | 0                        | 169.50-169.99 |
| 42,158                           | 106.00-106.49 | 443                      | 170.00-170.49 |
| 8,985                            | 106.50-106.99 | 0                        | 170.50-170.99 |
| 10,786                           | 107.00-107.49 | 1,189                    | 171.00-171.49 |
| 207                              | 107.50-107.99 | 0                        | 171.50-171.99 |
| 5,123                            | 108.00-108.49 | 3,540                    | 172.00-172.49 |
| 376                              | 108.50-108.99 | 0                        | 172.50-172.99 |
| 3,111                            | 109.00-109.49 | 600                      | 173.00-173.49 |
| 0                                | 109.50-109.99 | 0                        | 173.50-173.99 |
| 160                              | 110.00-110.49 | 150                      | 174.00-174.49 |