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Big week last week for the cattle market and specifically the negotiated cash feedlot trade. Not so much on the futures end. Futures prices dropped in the vicinity of \$2.00 in the June and August live contracts, but cash trade gained bullish momentum from when the first trade happened on Thursday into the more active trade on Friday. Thursday's action had \$157-\$158 trade in the Southern Plains, but it was mostly quiet to the north. Friday the Kansas action moved \$2.00 higher up to \$160, which was also \$2.00 higher than the previous week. Nebraska posted prices on the hoof of \$160 up to \$163 with the bulk at that higher level, which is \$4.00 higher than the previous week's action. The dressed trade in the north ranged from \$255-\$256.

Ok, so the overview of last week was higher cash and lower futures. Keep in mind the basis between cash and June futures had narrowed some just prior to the expiration of the April futures last Thursday, but at Friday's finish was back out to right on the border of \$11 positive for the Kansas trade and \$14 for western Nebraska. That means the futures market is right back to having a major disconnect with cash, especially when viewing trade like Friday where cash was up \$2 or better and futures closed down \$.52 on the June. There is no explanation for that other than a broken market, or at least certainly one where the participants trading futures have a lot less faith in cattle than the cash trade is eluding to...

In the feeder cattle and calf market action, the national summary listed early week calf market trade steady to \$5 lower and steady to \$5 higher late in the week. Yearling feeders sold steady to \$8 higher on average across the country.

Cattle slg. ___109k Friday wtd 566,000 +22k wa -44k ya

Choice Cutout ___254.64 -2.26 Select Cutout ___243.22 -.83

Feeder Index: ___218.00 +.63

Lean Index. ___69.49 +1.33

Pork cutout ___73.86 +.58

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IA-S.MN direct avg__74.94 +.04

Hog slg.___420k Friday wtd 2.164 mln -20k wa +149k ya

Weekly closes in the meat complex had June Live Cattle down 2.02, August fats down 1.90, May Feeder Cattle down 45 cents, August feeders down 60 and May Lean Hogs up 4.05.

Grain market trade settle lower in the fall crop markets on Friday, but higher in the wheat complex. Weekly closes were lower pretty much across the board. New crop corn and soybeans were hit with a wide open window for planting progress across a major amount of the Corn Belt last week. Rain in the extended forecasts last week that's still showing up in the short runs for this week over the Central and Southern Plains helped pressure the wheat.

Weekly closes in the grains had May corn down 4 ¾, December corn down 8, May beans down 1 ¼, November soybeans down 11 ¾, July Chicago wheat down 14 ½, and Kansas City new crop July wheat down 7 cents.

6-10 day forecasts released last night showed below normal temps over HRW wheat country and above normal precip. Corn Belt weather was normal temps in the central belt, below west and north and above in the far east. Precip was normal to above for all. I would view that forecast as having a negative bias for wheat from the rain chances in the Plains and also a negative bias for corn and beans from a moisture standpoint, but not necessarily from the temps in the west and north being below. That in itself is somewhat supportive.

Expectations for the crop progress and condition numbers this afternoon are looking for corn planting progress around 50-55% complete compared to 42% on average for this date. Soybeans are expected at 10-15% done compared to 11% on average. Wheat condition ratings are a mixed bag with some looking for better and some worse. With the wheat tour starting this week, there could be some influence on the trade from those findings as well and of course this is one of those years where there will be a LOT of interest in the Kansas wheat potential (or lack thereof) from the tour.

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