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There was a lot of green across the quote screen in Thursday's trade. What may have paved the way to some extent for some of the grains and certainly for the livestock was the fact the equity markets hit a sharp rebound to the upside after getting hammered hard lower the previous day. Live and feeder cattle futures had multiple contract months close limit up. The strength carried into the hog market as well with triple digit gains there too.

Cattle on Feed and Cold Storage report numbers should stir things up this afternoon with their release just after the market close at 2:00. Average guesses for the On Feed total on January 1 are 99% of a year ago. December placements are pegged at 94.5%, which would be the 6th consecutive month of lighter placement activity compared to the previous year. It also has a chance to be record light in-movement for the month of December, since the new data series began in 1996. The marketing total for December is anticipated at 2% higher.

There will also be quite a bit of attention given to Cold Storage data when it's released. The trend over the last several months has been larger year over year totals of frozen beef, pork and poultry. Considering the price of beef, that might have been expected, although tighter live supplies could temper those thoughts as well. Pork and poultry that are both significantly more attractive from a price standpoint have been alarming with the higher supplies. To me that one hasn't made a lot of sense, other than thoughts this frozen meat supply problem could be a macro economy driven issue.

Cattle slg. ___ 111,000 unch wa +11k ya

Choice Cutout ___ 227.67 -2.28

Select Cutout ___ 223.08 -1.06

Feeder Index: ___ 157.96 -1.44

Lean Index. ___ 57.20 +.43

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Pork cutout___74.03 -.32

IA-S.MN direct avg__56.28 +.56

Hog slg.___441,000 +3k wa +7k ya

It was another day of the winter doldrums in the grain and oilseed market closes. Wednesday it was higher corn and lower wheat and beans. Yesterday was lower corn and higher wheat and beans. Based on the settlements, nothing is moving anywhere fast, although there was some mild excitement at times with double digit gains during the day, they just didn't hold.

China export rumors were running rampant yesterday afternoon and overnight. 8:00 am export reporting didn't show any new sales, but the rumors were that China bought 1-2 cargos of US beans, along with several from Brazil. There was also talk that 1-2 cargos of US corn were sold to China off the PNW.

Weekly export sales numbers were really bearish wheat once again. The corn number was larger than in recent weeks, but still not enough to be considered bullish. Soybeans were marginal. The wheat sales total today was 13.3 mln old crop and 2.8 mln bushels new crop. Soybeans were 36.2 mln old and 1 mln new. Corn was 45.6 mln old and 7.4 new. Milo sales were 8.3 mln and that number was bullish. From week to week, the soybean sales total was down 13%, corn was up 73% and wheat up 32%. While that may sound bullish, we're still well behind the pace needed for the marketing year to hit USDA projections. That's where the bearishness for exports comes into the equation.

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