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Meat complex trade had front month hogs up and the rest actively lower. The cattle complex enjoyed a nice break from the heavy early week selling and managed $2+ higher closes in most feeder contracts and $1+ to the upside in most of the fats. A mild amount of negotiated cash cattle traded in the $134 range, which would be $2 lower than last week in the Southern Plains. There weren't enough numbers by late afternoon to call it a trend though.

You know, we go through brief periods in cattle where fundamentals and futures market direction begin to make logical sense. Unfortunately, then the volatility picks up and the futures develop a mind of their own, making cash sometimes follow instead of lead. Last week's blizzard through part of the High Plains, all of Nebraska and into the Corn Belt should have been an easy rally generator in both futures and cash as performance and logistics ground to a screeching halt. Instead, the futures tanked on Friday and carried through into the early part of this week.

Part of the influence at times has been equity market spillover related and today that is a driver again at times and that's not good news.

Cattle slg.___ 105,000 +12k wa +7k ya

Choice Cutout__218.19 +.16

Select Cutout___213.62 +.02

Feeder Index:___159.49 -.27

Lean Index.__ 65.29 +.40

Pork cutout___77.05 -.12

IA-S.MN direct avg__63.12 +.07

Hog slg.___437,000 +35k wa   +6k ya

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Tuesday morning we got a monthly Supply and Demand report that had a little bearish flair in the numbers. Expectations going into that report were for ending stocks of corn, beans and wheat to increase slightly from the January numbers and all the numbers came in slightly above the average guesses even. There was basically zero reaction immediately following and into that day's close. No hangover from it yesterday either, just back to more dull, winter-time trade.   Corn and soybeans settled fractionally lower, wheat was mixed to higher. We have seen new contract lows forged again in wheat this week. Corn and soybeans have had more lower days than higher as well, although neither are testing new low territory.

Weekly export sales that came out at 7:30 this morning didn't have any new market driving news for the bulls. It had plenty of ammunition for the bears though with poor performances in the big three commodities of corn, beans and wheat. Corn sales were 15.9 mln old crop including 2.3 mln bushels of cancellations on new crop sales. Soybean sales were 24.5 mln old crop and 2.4 mln in cancellations for new crop. Wheat sales were 9.7 mln bushels. USDA cut wheat exports for the marketing year in Tuesday's report by 25 mln compared to last month and they now stand projected at 79 mln below last year at 775 mln total. Commitments to date are sitting at 626 mln versus 762 at the same time a year ago. I think we have risk in USDA trimming their projection even more. The one bright spot in the sales report this morning was milo that showed 7.4 mln in total sales.

Other news is scarce this morning, other than the pressure in the equities. 6-10 day forecasts last night were showing normal temps for the Central Plains on west and above normal from Missouri and Iowa to the east. Precip was above normal in the far north and Eastern Corn Belt and below normal for the Western Belt, Central and Southern Plains.

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