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COWNTY CATTLE & DROUGHT REPORT · WEEK ENDING OCT 8, 2026

Calf prices mixed across Panhandle barns; drought eases in 30 counties

Steer calves weighing 500–599 lb averaged $388.59 to $420.94 per hundredweight across seven USDA-reported area sales held Oct 6–8, a spread of $32.35; the top average was at Beaver. Compared with each barn's previous sale, the 5-weight steer average was higher at 5 barns and lower at 2. The seven sales reported 15,161 head in total.

USDA's market reporter at Dalhart noted: "There were few comparable sales due to last weeks short run. A lower undertone was noted though, following with a weaker board."

On the U.S. Drought Monitor map dated Oct 6, 38 of the region's 49 counties had some severe drought (D2) or worse, and 21 had it across most of the county. Severe-or-worse coverage shrank by at least 5 points in 30 counties, including Dallam (TX), Sherman (TX), Hansford (TX), Lipscomb (TX) and 26 more, and grew that much in none.

All 49 region counties are on FSA's 2026 Livestock Forage Disaster Program list. Applications for 2026 losses are due March 1, 2027; FSA decides each operation's eligibility.

The nearest active New World screwworm zone in Texas (TAHC) is roughly 296 miles from Amarillo in a straight line. Animals leaving an infested zone need TAHC inspection and treatment.

STEERS 500–599 LB · LATEST SALE · $/CWT



Barns in a fixed order (west to east), not ranked. Bars start at $300 so differences show. Head-weighted USDA averages.

DROUGHT BY AREA · MAP OF OCT 6

AREA	COUNTIES	ANY D2+	MOST D2+	ON 2026 LFP LIST
Texas Panhandle	26	24	14	26
Oklahoma Panhandle	3	3	0	3
Western Oklahoma	5	5	4	5
Southwest Kansas	10	3	0	10
Northeast New Mexico	2	2	2	2
Eastern New Mexico	3	1	1	3

BARN BY BARN · HEAD-WEIGHTED AVERAGES OF USDA-REPORTED LOTS, $/CWT

BARN	SALE	STEERS 500–599	VS LAST SALE	STEERS 700–799	HEIFERS 500–599	RECEIPTS
Wildorado	Oct 6	$413.22	+$18.93	$335.78	$346.98	1,006
Dalhart	Oct 8	$398.92	+$36.42	$339.23	$357.21	2,200
Tulia	Oct 8	$418.47	–$8.80	—	$341.35	1,091
Woodward	Oct 8	$388.59	+$10.14	$344.13	$350.22	1,695
Beaver	Oct 6	$420.94	–$1.99	$361.30	$357.44	3,370
Clovis	Oct 7	$418.86	+$13.68	$317.89	$337.03	2,436
Dodge City	Oct 7	$406.91	+$1.07	$357.58	$371.43	3,363
OKC benchmark	Oct 5	$376.67	–$4.34	$341.10	$353.86	4,242
Joplin benchmark	Oct 5	$392.58	–$2.44	$341.20	$359.38	6,701

COWNTY 5-WT INDEX (INDEX_V1)

$410.44/cwt –$5.21 vs last week · 7 barns, 1,026 head

60-SECOND RADIO SCRIPT · 134 WORDS

"This is your Panhandle cattle and drought report from Cownty. Prices are past sales, not a quote. Five-weight steer calves brought about 389 to 421 dollars a hundred this week, topping out at Beaver, higher than the last sale at 5 of seven area barns. The Cownty five-weight index, all seven barns averaged by head, came in at 410 dollars a hundred, down 5 dollars from last week. On the drought map, severe drought eased in 30 of our 49 counties and grew in none. All 49 of our counties are on this year's Livestock Forage Disaster Program list, and applications are due March first at your county FSA office. Texas's nearest New World screwworm zone is about 296 miles from Amarillo. Barn-by-barn prices and county drought maps are free at cownty dot com."

Source: Cownty (cownty.com), from USDA AMS Market News and the U.S. Drought Monitor. Prices are head-weighted averages of USDA-reported lots ($/cwt), past sales, not quotes. Information only; FSA decides eligibility. Not affiliated with USDA. Barns: Wildorado, Dalhart, Tulia, Woodward, Beaver, Clovis, Dodge City, OKC, Joplin (USDA AMS report ids on each barn page). Drought: U.S. Drought Monitor. LFP: FSA eligible-county file dated Oct 8, 2026. Screwworm zones: TAHC.