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COWNTY CATTLE & DROUGHT REPORT · WEEK ENDING OCT 15, 2026

Calf prices mixed across Panhandle barns; drought eases in 11 counties

Steer calves weighing 500–599 lb averaged $380.12 to $430.24 per hundredweight across seven USDA-reported area sales held Oct 13–15, a spread of $50.12; the top average was at Dalhart. Compared with each barn's previous sale, the 5-weight steer average was higher at 3 barns and lower at 4. The seven sales reported 19,284 head in total.

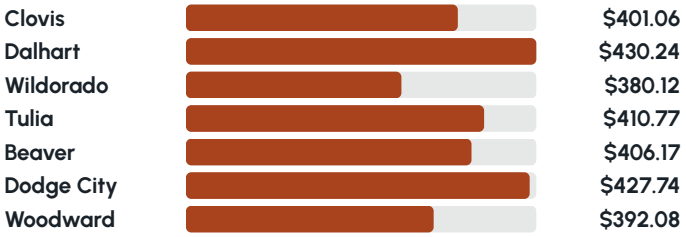
USDA's market reporter at Dalhart noted: "What a difference late rains and unseasonably warm temperatures can do to an outlook. Wheat is starting to pop around the area bringing wheat calves to the forefront."

On the U.S. Drought Monitor map dated Oct 13, 32 of the region's 49 counties had some severe drought (D2) or worse, and 20 had it across most of the county. Severe-or-worse coverage shrank by at least 5 points in 11 counties, including Dallam (TX), Hartley (TX), Moore (TX), Hutchinson (TX) and 7 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 13

AREA	COUNTIES	ANY D2+	MOST D2+	ON 2026 LFP LIST
Texas Panhandle	26	19	13	26
Oklahoma Panhandle	3	2	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 13	$380.12	–$33.10	$335.85	$352.49	1,274
Dalhart	Oct 15	$430.24	+$31.32	$353.07	$360.97	2,586
Tulia	Oct 15	$410.77	–$7.70	$340.55	$321.71	719
Woodward	Oct 15	$392.08	+$3.49	$348.07	$349.15	1,453
Beaver	Oct 13	$406.17	–$14.77	$345.13	$364.78	6,543
Clovis	Oct 14	$401.06	–$17.80	$320.19	$351.72	3,711
Dodge City	Oct 14	$427.74	+$20.83	$347.41	$384.30	2,998
OKC benchmark	Oct 12	$392.62	+$15.95	$356.36	$357.98	5,496
Joplin benchmark	Oct 12	$393.09	+$0.51	$347.14	$349.69	8,287

COWNTY 5-WT INDEX (INDEX_V1)

$406.76/cwt –$3.68 vs last week · 7 barns, 1,035 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 380 to 430 dollars a hundred this week, topping out at Dalhart, higher than the last sale at 3 of seven area barns. The Cownty five-weight index, all seven barns averaged by head, came in at 407 dollars a hundred, down 4 dollars from last week. On the drought map, severe drought eased in 11 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.