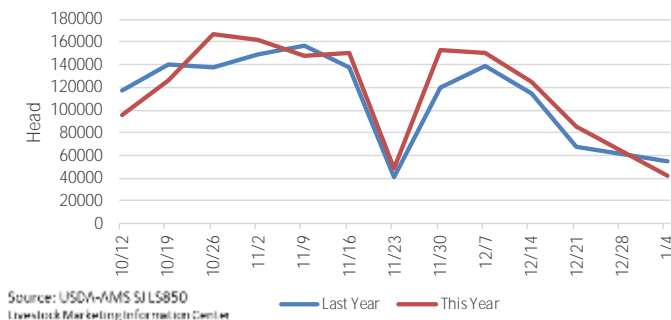


Weekly feeder cattle receipts, as reported by the USDA-Agriculture Marketing Service (AMS) in SJ\_LS850 ran above year earlier volumes in each week of December. Data for the holiday week ending December 28 was not reported due to the lack of trade activity. Trade in the just-completed week of January 4 slipped below a year earlier but the timing of the New Year's holiday on Tuesday kept trade that normally would take place early in the week delayed until following weeks.

Receipts are tabulated across three market channels; auctions, direct trade, and internet or video auctions. During the first three weeks of December, trade through all channels topped year earlier volume by 30,000-50,000 per week, or about 10-20%. Heifer trade volume accounted for about 10,000 of the increase during the first two weeks and accelerated to an 18,000 head increase in the week before Christmas. These increases imply that steer receipts were up as much, or more, than heifer receipts.

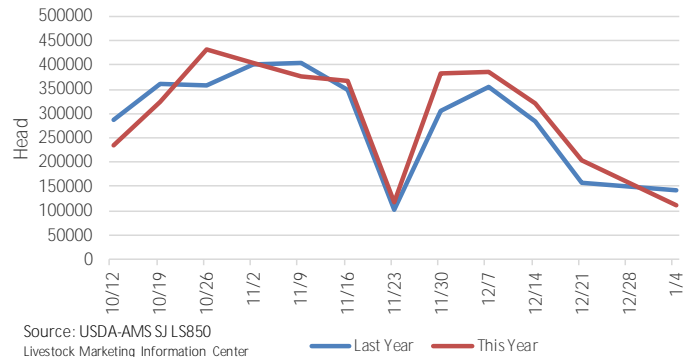
## FEEDER CATTLE RECEIPTS HEIFERS



Source: USDA-AMS SJ\_LS850 Livestock Marketing Information Center

Trade volumes through auction barns during December were not up in each week of December, as was the case for all feeder cattle market receipts. The first week was down 1% from a year earlier, followed by a 6% increase in the second week and a 37% increase in the last significant marketing week of the month. The jump in receipts was more due to a big dip in receipts in the third week of December in 2017 instead of a spike this year. It is not unusual for winter storms to play havoc with the flow of cattle through auction barns at this time of year. Also, mild

## FEEDER CATTLE RECEIPTS

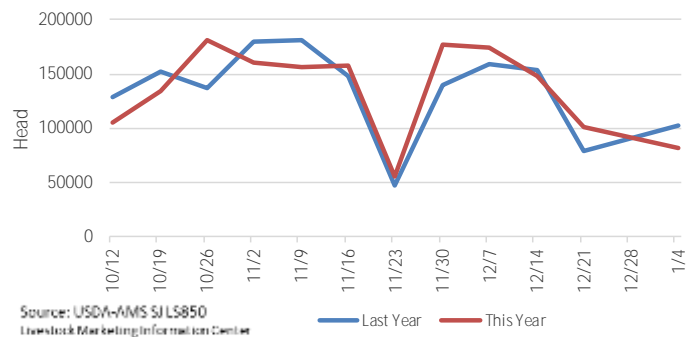


Source: USDA-AMS SJ\_LS850 Livestock Marketing Information Center

winter weather in the middle of last month could have encouraged accelerated marketings of feeder cattle before the late December holidays.

The break-out of feeder cattle receipts based on weights of cattle showed an interesting trend. Receipts of cattle weighing less than 600 pounds (e.g. calves) began to run above year earlier levels steadily, and by a significant amount, beginning with the week ending October 26. The only exception was the week of November 9. Trade receipts for lighter weight feeder cattle during the three weeks in December were up 8, 32, and 33 percent, respectively, from the same weeks in 2017. Trade receipts for feeder cattle weighing over 600 pounds (shown below) were up 8% from a year ago in December.

## FEEDER CATTLE RECEIPTS CATTLE WEIGHING > 600#



Source: USDA-AMS SJ\_LS850 Livestock Marketing Information Center

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