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Market News Service Distributes Local, National Cattle Prices

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Need to know how much a bushel of wheat is selling for in Richmond or what slaughter cattle are bringing in St. Louis? Whether the question pertains to the price of lambs, hogs, grain or livestock in local markets or throughout the country, the Market News Service, a division of the Virginia Department of Agriculture, has the answer.

At 232 West Shirley Ave. in Warrenton, the brick building which houses the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services is the office of only a handful of people in the division of markets, but the information these few produce is vital to beef producers and grain dealers throughout Fauquier County and the area.

Laurie Kincaid, information technician at the local office, receives data from a teletype machine concerning cattle sales in Omaha, St. Louis and Juliette and hog sales in Indianapolis, Peoria and St. Louis.

High and low prices paid for the livestock in various markets are transmitted first to Richmond and then sent to the Warrenton office and six similar stations in Northern Virginia.

Persons interested in buying cattle at one of the



—Democrat Staff Photo/Cathy Dyson

ANSWERING SERVICE—RECORDING MACHINE. At the market news service, a division of the Virginia Department of Agriculture in Warrenton, information technician Laurie Kincaid records updated prices of local and national livestock sales on the code-a-phone. The machine records information and transmits the latest prices to farmers who can call the 347-1326 number collect and hear the prices select cattle are bringing in throughout the United States.

five local markets of Marshall, Winchester, Front Royal, Madison or Orange may call the Warrenton office to discover what

similar cattle are bringing in other parts of the country and adjust the price they will pay for the animals accordingly.

Mrs. Kincaid says the prices paid for livestock across the country fluctuate daily, sometimes even from the morning to the afternoon sales. And results of these sales are very important to local producers, for area markets follow the trends set by national ones.

Division of Markets employees say not a day goes by that a cattleman does not hear at least one broadcast of market reports, for these statistics are transmitted through newspaper and radio media. Because the market is such a fluctuating one, it is essential for farmers to become familiar with the

and the Agri-Net and WINA networks in Earlysville and Richmond, and reports on the five local sales are sent to more than 125 stations in the state.

And if a farmer missed any one of the numerous broadcasts that are aired, he or she may call the Warrenton Market News Service at 347-1326 any hour of the day and hear up-to-date reports on area and national livestock sales.

The office is equipped with a special code-a-phone that performs the dual duty of enabling Mrs. Kincaid to record up-to-date information on the machine, which she does three times daily, and of accepting collect phone calls from cattlemen throughout the state, giving them information on the sale in which they are interested.

Market Reports

Virginia Market News Service

MARSHALL, Jan. 4: Barrows & gilts US 1-3, 55-56. Veal ch, 63-66. Cows ut and comm, 37-43, state graded, 43-45, can and cut, 31-36. Bulls 1-2, 46-54. Steers med fr no. 1, 300-500 lbs., 56-60, 500-700 lbs., 56-64.50. Heifers med fr no. 1, 300-500 lbs., 46-50.75, 500-700 lbs., 48-54.50.

Special USDA Graded Slaughter Cattle Sale: Steers ch, 57.25-59.30, gd, 55-57.30. Heifers ch, 54.50-56, gd., 52-54.

FRONT ROYAL, Jan. 6: Veal ch, 65-75. Cows ut and comm, 36.50-39.50, can and cut, 30-35. Bulls 1-2, 45.75-47.50. Steers med fr no. 1, 300-500 lbs., 55-61, 500-700 lbs., 56.50-59.50. Heifers med fr no. 1, 300-500 lbs., 48-53.25, 500-600 lbs., 47.50-49.

WINCHESTER, Jan. 3: Lambs high ch and pr, 54. Barrows & gilts US 1-3, 53.70-54.20. Veal ch and pr, 80-86. Cows ut and comm, 37-40, can and cut, 30-35. Bulls 1-2, 46-55. Steers med fr no. 1, 300-500 lbs., 57.50-63.50, 500-700 lbs., 55-63. Heifers med fr no. 1, 300-500 lbs., 48-53.50, 500-700 lbs., 46.50-52.

MADISON, Jan. 1: Barrows & gilts US 1-3, 55. Veal gd, 59-61. Cows ut and comm, 40-45, can and cut, 30-36. Bulls 1-2, 49-51.75. Steers med fr no. 1, 300-500 lbs., 58-61. Heifers med fr no. 1, 300-500 lbs., 45.75-51, 500-700 lbs., 48.75-50.

ORANGE, Jan. 5: Lambs high ch and pr, 53.35. Barrows & gilts US 1-3, 55.60. Veal ch, 60-66. Cows ut and comm, 37.50-41, can and cut, 30-36. Bulls 1-2, 47.51.25. Steers med fr no. 1, 400-500 lbs., 58.50-62.50, 500-700 lbs., 57-59.50. Heifers med fr no. 1, 300-500 lbs., 46.50.75, 500-700 lbs., 46.50.50.

its agriculture marketing agent Ed Huff to sales at the Fauquier Livestock Exchange in Marshall, where he records the prices paid for all classes of cattle and sends that information straight to Richmond.

The information from the five sales is compiled and sent to the seven field offices throughout Northern Virginia including Warrenton, via the teletype machine. Mrs. Kincaid then calls area radio stations, including WKCW in Warrenton, WJMA in Orange, WCVA in Culpeper