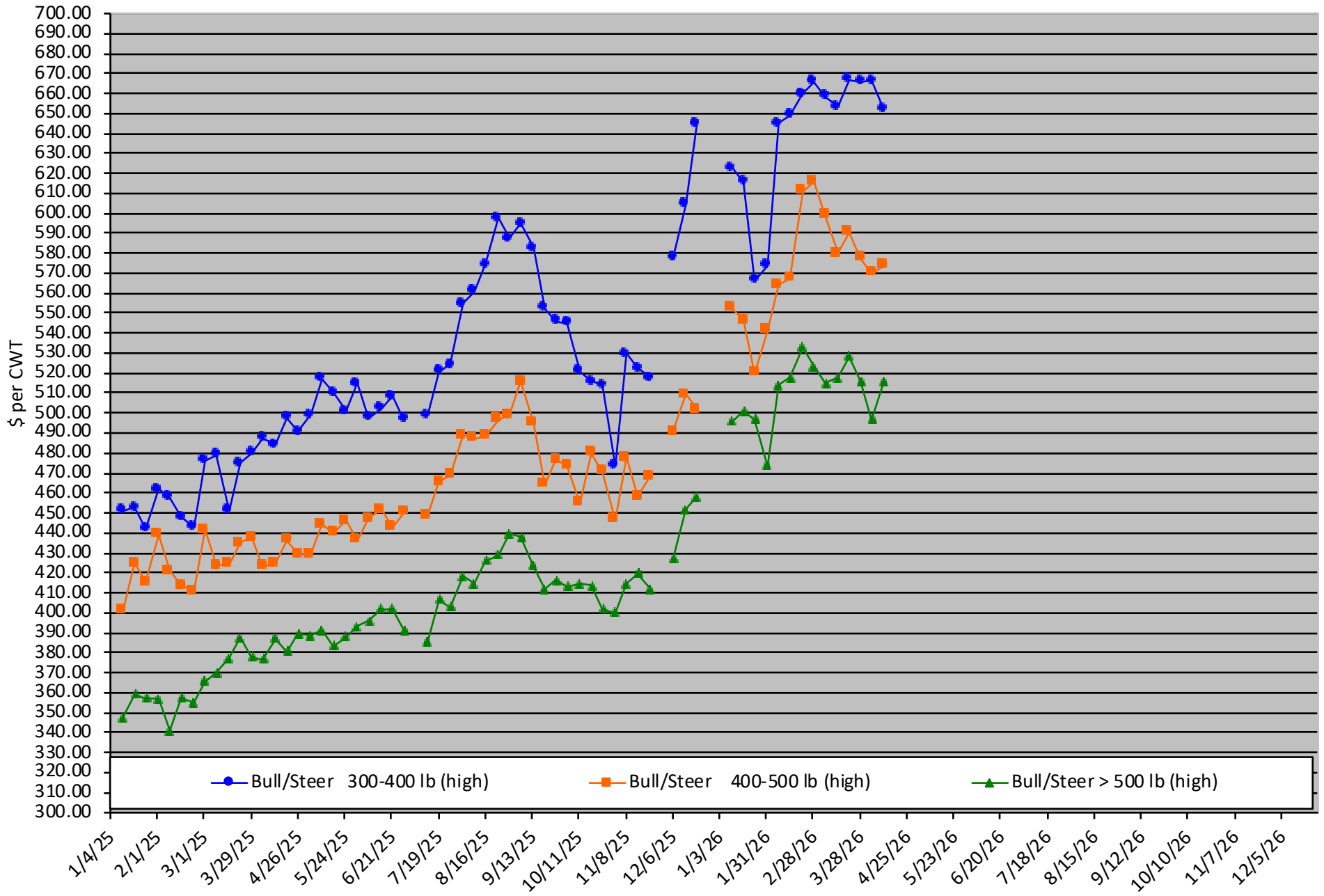


Calf Price Trends

Trend of the Highest Price Reported for Various Weight Calves, Average of 6 East & Central Texas Livestock Auctions

Chart created by Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

For a weekly email copy of this chart please email amsensing@ag.tamu.edu or contact a Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent

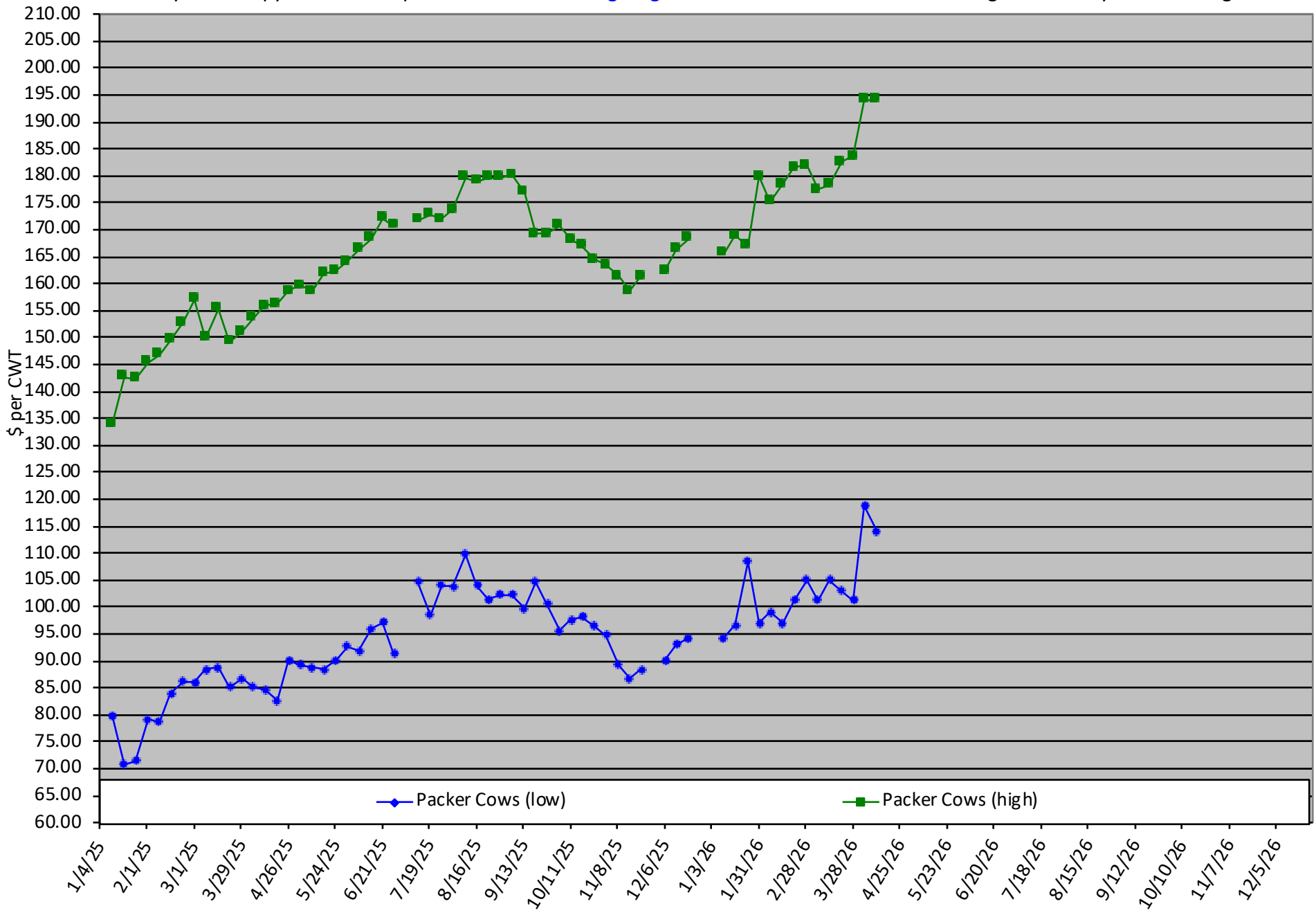


Packer Cow PriceTrends

Trend of High and Low Prices Reported for Packer Cows, Average of 6 East & Central Texas Livestock Auctions

Chart created by Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

For a weekly email copy of this chart please email amsensing@ag.tamu.edu or contact a Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent



AG IN THE EVENING

2026 virtual Zoom Educational Series programs brought to you by the Extension offices of Houston & Gregg Counties

ALL PROGRAMS START AT 6 PM

To register, click the TITLE of each program or scan QR Code

**April 14: Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson
Fertilizer \$\$\$ Now What??**



**May 12: Dr. Jason Banta
Grazing Strategies & Stocking Rate
Considerations**



**June 9: Dr. Vanessa Corriher-Olson
Drought Management**



**July 14: Dr. Jason Banta
Heifer Selection & Development**



**Previous recordings
available by clicking photo**



Educational programs of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service are open to all people without regard to race, color, sex, disability, religion, age, or national origin, genetic information or veteran status. The Texas A&M University System, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the County Commissioners Courts of Texas Cooperating. Anyone needing special assistance at an Extension Program should contact the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Office at 936.544.7502 at least one week prior to the program or event.



www.agproud.com/articles/61734-south-central-age-and-location-key-factors-for-weaning-success

South Central: Age and location: Key factors for weaning success

[Jason Banta \(/authors/684-jason-banta\)](/authors/684-jason-banta).

July 23, 2025

When it comes to weaning, it is important to consider the age of calves. Older calves handle weaning better than younger calves; however, all calves should be weaned at least 75 days prior to when the next calf is expected, to allow time for the cow to stop producing milk and start producing colostrum.

Traditionally in our region, calves are weaned at 7 to 8 months old, assuming cows are in a body condition score (BCS) of 4 or better. However, if cow BCS is at or slightly less than a 4, it may make sense to wean calves one or two months earlier than normal to save body condition or allow cows a little longer to gain body condition before winter arrives.

Early weaning calves when they are 45 to 60 days old can be used to help get thin cows re-bred so a yearly calving interval can be maintained. This practice should be saved for times of drought. If this practice needs to be used routinely on first-calf females, it is a good sign the heifer development program is inadequate and needs to be adjusted.

Location of where the weaning occurs is also important, as it is associated with immediate and future health risk and thus the price paid for calves when they are sold. If calves are to be weaned off the ranch, it is critical to minimize the time between when they are separated from their dams and when they arrive at the new owners' location.

Are the calves moved off the ranch and then commingled with other calves at a livestock market or other location? The industry would refer to these calves as “unweaned” calves, and they will almost always be discounted. This is considered the most stressful scenario for calves.

Are calves moved directly to another location but not commingled with cattle from other owners? This may occur when calves are sold in truckload lots and the owner does not want to wean them on the ranch.

When done well, weaning calves on the ranch where they were raised for a 45- to 60-day period is the ideal scenario. This results in the least stress on calves.

If possible, calmly and quietly separate calves from their dams on weaning day and hold off on vaccination or other management practices until another day.