Branding Iron



Corby Ward,
Chief Brand Inspector
Bismarck

It sure has been a nice fall. The weather was great through October. In fact, there were a few days that were almost too warm. I know I was at Bowman Livestock Marketing once in mid-October and it was 85 degrees. It wouldn't hurt my feelings if it stayed nice for a couple more months.

I've spent quite a bit of time in the sale barns the last month or so. Things have certainly picked up with cattle moving at the barns. As busy as they have been, I looked up the numbers from September 2025 vs. September 2026. I was surprised to see that, last year, we had inspected about 3,400 more head than this year. I would bet that October's numbers will reflect the same downward trend.

With cow numbers being down, the lower numbers aren't surprising. With the drought this last summer, we could see more cows come to town this year than normal as well. Hopefully, next year is a good moisture year and people can retain and rebuild the numbers in their cow herds.

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