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From This Side of the Fence

Markets Are Calm Awaiting GDP Figures And Fed Policy Statement

January 28, 2005

McLEAN, VA -- Freddie Mac (NYSE:FRE) released the results of its Primary Mortgage Market Survey in which the 30-year fixed-rate mortgage (FRM) averaged 5.66 percent, with an average 0.6 points, for the week ending January 27, 2005, down slightly from last week when it averaged 5.67 percent. Last year at this time, the 30-year FRM averaged 5.68 percent.

The average for the 15-year FRM this week is 5.14 percent, with an average 0.6 points, down from last week when it averaged 5.15 percent. A year ago, the 15-year FRM averaged 4.97 percent.

"Until the market gets a better read of how the economy performed at the end of last year and how the Fed interprets that information, interest rates will likely remain calm," said Frank Nothaft, Freddie Mac vice president and chief economist. "And it should get that read when fourth quarter Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is released tomorrow.

"Further, the Fed will release its policy statement next week, giving financial markets a better sense of what future actions the Fed may be contemplating. All of this will help determine where mortgage rates will be in the near future."

-Courtesy of Realty Times



Interesting Facts

A Holstein's spots are like a fingerprint or a snowflake. No two cows have exactly the same pattern of spots.

The average cow produces 90 glasses of milk a day.

A one year old female calf is called a heifer. She weighs between 450 and 500 pounds.



Note from Kathy: Thank MOO! I received the Russell & Jeffcoat President's Club Award last week from President Abb Jeffcoat and I'm set to be inducted into the Greater Columbia Association of Realtors' 2004 Circle of Excellence. Both awards are based on my sales performance during the year. Who knew helping others to make their dreams come true would win awards?

Ways to Spruce up Your Landscaping Before Selling

- If your back yard is nothing but weeds, rent a weed eater and cut them.
- If you want to take it a step further, rototill the soil, flatten it with a roller and buy \$50 worth of seed. Spread it out, cover with a thin layer of soil, and water the heck out of it. In two weeks you'll have the early stages of a lawn; it will fill in a few months. For little more than a hundred dollars, you've probably added a thousand or more to the value of your home (or at least kept it from being knocked down by that much).
- Plant low flowers and shrubs around your lot.
- Put in a deck or patio. A deck can add value to a home. However, don't expect a buyer to pay you for what it will cost you to add that deck. Paving stone or bricks are a cost-effective way for a fairly easy patio.
- Make sure your back yard looks neat, clean and livable.
- Plant trees that won't grow too large. A good choice for many back yards is fruit trees. Used sparingly, they provide an excellent way to inexpensively grow tall in your back yard.
- Remove unsightly trees -- those that are too tall or inappropriate. Be sure you check with your city or county government regarding tree removal laws.



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