# Tennessee Market Highlights

UTEXTENSION INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE May 21, 2021

Number: 20

# Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

#### Slaughter Cows

steady to \$2 higher

Slaughter Bulls

\$3 higher

#### Feeder Steers

less than 600 pounds \$3 to \$8 lower; 600 pounds and heavier steady to \$1 higher

#### Feeder Heifers

unevenly steady

Feeder Cattle Index: 133.86

#### Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Thursday of \$119.71 was up \$0.01. The dressed price of \$190.56 was up \$0.08.

#### Corn

July closed at \$6.59 a bushel, up 16 cents since last Friday.

#### <u>Soybeans</u>

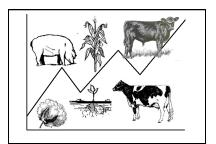
July closed at \$15.26 a bushel, down 60 cents since last Friday.

#### <u>Wheat</u>

July closed at \$6.74 a bushel, down 33 cents since last Friday.

#### <u>Cotton</u>

July closed at 82.82 cents per lb, up 0.39 cents since last Friday.



# Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew P. Griffith

**FED CATTLE:** Fed cattle traded steady compared to last week on a live basis. Prices on a live basis were primarily \$119 to \$120 while dressed prices were mostly \$189 to \$191.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$119.71 live, up \$0.01 compared to last week and \$190.56 dressed, up \$0.08 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$117.29 live and \$183.75 dressed. Yet another week of fed cattle trading in the same narrow price range. Given the time of year, it is probably a positive sign for cattle feeders in that prices have not started to seasonally decline. The futures market is pricing in a fairly strong summer price relative to spring prices with little to no seasonal price decline. The futures market offers no promises, but it does offer opportunities. Thus, it may be appropriate to evaluate what the market is offering or not offering in terms of profitability for summer marketing. It seems the major unknown for spring and summer placements is what it is going to cost to feed cattle. The corn market continues to bounce around like a opossum on a pogo stick, which will make decision making tough.

**BEEF CUTOUT:** At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was \$325.92 up \$1.74 from Thursday and up \$9.78 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$303.16 up \$1.55 from Thursday and up \$10.22 from last week. The Choice Select spread was \$22.76 compared to \$23.76 a week ago.

It may be an overstatement to say the boxed beef price run this year is more amazing than last year given the magnitude prices reached a year ago. However, prices realized a year ago were in the midst of slaughter facility closures and reduced beef production. Weekly beef production in 2021 has been well above the five-year average production and in line with expected weekly production the last six months of 2020. Thus, the strong wholesale beef price is being supported by demand. It is difficult to say a price over \$320 compares to a price peak of \$459 which was realized this same week one year ago. However, the price rally in 2020 was short lived. The current price run appears to have a solid backing from a demand perspective, and it is a much steadier price increase. How much more the price will increase is unknown, but the price decline is expected to be slow and steady. The summer grilling holidays are providing much of the current support and they will continue to do so, which is why prices are expected to slowly decline compared to last year's rapid decline.

**OUTLOOK:** Based on Tennessee weekly auction market data, steer prices were \$3 to \$8 lower for steers under 600 pounds and steady to \$1 higher for steers 600 pounds and heavier compared to last week while heifer prices were unevenly steady compared to a week ago. Slaughter cow prices were steady to \$2 higher while bull prices were \$3 higher compared to the previous week. The futures market has been the only segment of the feeder cattle market to provide optimism for feeder cattle prices as cash prices have been stagnant and unwilling to push higher. The failure of prices to push higher is understandable given fed cattle prices are not showing signs of strength and feed prices are generally high. The market that is well supported is the slaughter cow and bull market. This market is being supported by the demand for lean grinding beef and the reduction of lean grinding beef imports. The vast majority of beef and veal imports are lean grinding beef. When comparing the first quarter of 2021 with the first quarter of 2020, beef and veal imports are down 10.0 percent (77.6 million pounds). Typically, Australia is the primary source for lean grinding beef. However, imports from Australia are down 51.7 percent or 87.3 million pounds year-

# Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

(Continued from page 1)

over-year. This has resulted in importing more product from Brazil, Uruguay, and Argentina, but it is not enough to offset the Australian market. Thus, the demand for lean grinding beef is strong enough to offset the 8.7 percent increase in beef cow slaughter and 8.1 percent increase in bull slaughter year-over year. Support for the slaughter cow and bull market is expected to continue as imports of Australian beef will remain low. This may be the only positive market for producers facing serious drought who are having to cull their herds. This may be a good year to cull deep and hold on to a few more heifers that will not require as much feed resources.

The May cattle on feed report for feedlots with a 1000 head or more capacity indicated cattle and calves on feed as of May 1, 2021 totaled 11.73 million head, up 4.7% compared to a year ago, with the pre-report estimate average expecting an increase of 3.8%. April placements in feedlots totaled 1.82 million head, up 27.2% from a year ago with the pre-report estimate average expecting placements up 21.3%. April marketing's totaled 1.94 million head up 32.8% from 2020 with pre -report estimates expecting a 33.2% increase in marketings. Placements on feed by weight: under 700 pounds up 32.6%, 700 to 899 pounds up 27.4%, 900 pounds and over up 16.0%.

**ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK:** Can a bear eat a bull, and if he can, would he eat the bull while the bull is being pooped

on? Can the bull be resuscitated? This is a weak attempt at market humor, but it fits perfectly with many of the questions I have been receiving about cattle and grain markets. Six weeks ago, feeder cattle futures were as bullish as a seller could ever ask for with prices making a \$10 run in March and early April. The bull market was being supported by a steady trading corn market and bullish expectations for the live cattle market. However, it appeared the bear came and ate the bull as corn prices began to surge and live cattle prices spiraled lower, which is when the bull got pooped on. However, maybe the bear did not eat the bull, because the feeder cattle market had reclaimed about half of the prior price decline. This would indicate that the bear just slapped the bull around a little and placed the bull on a diet. It is highly unlikely the bull market can reach contract highs for summer and fall, but the bull may offer a pricing opportunity so producers do not get pooped on.

Please send questions and comments to <u>agriff14@utk.edu</u> or send a letter to Andrew P. Griffith, University of Tennessee, P.O. Box 160, 1000 Main Entrance Dr., Spring Hill, TN 37174.

FRIDAY'S FUTURES MARKET CLOSING PRICES: Friday's closing prices were as follows: Live/fed cattle –June \$117.68 +1.08; August \$120.93 +1.05; October \$125.05 +0.70; Feeder cattle – May \$137.23 +1.48; August \$153.70 +2.63; September \$154.90 +2.35; October \$155.70 +1.98; July corn closed at \$6.60 down 5 cents from Thursday.

# Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

#### **Overview**

Corn and cotton were up; soybeans and wheat were down for the week.

Export sales and weather continued to exert their influence on markets. Corn markets were buoyed by weekly export sales, with China purchasing 147 million bushels for the next marketing year. Export shipments and outstanding sales for corn and soybeans indicate that USDA will likely

		Previous	Current	Change
3	USD Index	90.33	89.98	-0.34
	Crude Oil	65.36	63.85	-1.51
	DJIA	34,416	34,207	-209

need to raise the marketing year total export amount for the 2020/21 marketing year. Cotton and wheat are near USDA totals and will only need existing sales to be shipped to meet the USDA marketing year export target.

Drought conditions were eased in parts of Texas (decrease from 28% in severe drought last week to 20% this week). However, areas in the northern plains and the Corn Belt saw drought intensify. The US Drought Monitor indicates that 85% of North Dakota is in an extreme drought and 37% of Iowa is in a moderate to severe drought.

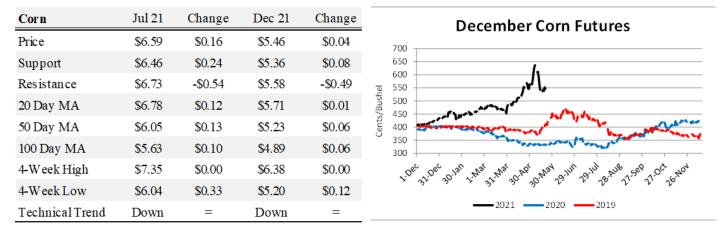
New crop soybean futures prices have pulled back \$1 from recent highs, however remain above \$13.50/bu. December corn futures prices have also decreased almost a \$1 and are trading near \$5.50. The long term outlook is supportive for prices with tight endings stocks given the current USDA acreage projections and trend line yield estimates. Prices may not be able to get back to recent highs, but a collapse in the market seems unlikely.

December cotton futures increased 2 cents this week and may see a return to 86-88 cents in the near future. Weather remains an issue in several locations and acreage will likely need to be lowered in the Mid-South and Southeast when USDA releases its June Acreage report.

#### Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

#### <u>Corn</u>

Ethanol production for the week ending May 14 was 1.032 million barrels per day, up 53,000 from the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 19.433 million barrels, down 0.04 million barrels compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for May 7-13, 2021 were up compared to last week with net sales of 10.9 million bushels for the 2020/21 marketing year and 159.9 million bushels for the 2021/22 marketing year. Exports for the same time period were up 45% from last week at 88.2 million bushels – a marketing year high. Corn export sales and commitments were 109% of the USDA estimated total exports for the 2020/21 marketing year (September 1 to August 31) compared to the previous 5-year average of 92%. Across Tennessee, average corn basis (cash price-nearby futures price) weakened or remained unchanged at West, North-Central, West-Central, Mississippi River, and Northwest elevators and barge points. Overall, basis for the week ranged from 24 over to 55 over, with an average of 39 over the July futures at elevators and barge points. July 2021 corn futures closed at \$6.59, up 16 cents since last Friday. For the week, July 2021 corn futures traded between \$6.33 and \$6.71. Jul/Sep and Jul/Dec future spreads were -86 and -113 cents. September 2021 corn futures closed at \$5.73, up 10 cents since last Friday.



Nationally, this week's Crop Progress report estimated corn planted at 80% compared to 67% last week, 78% last year, and a 5year average of 68%; and corn emerged at 41% compared to 20% last week, 40% last year, and a 5-year average of 35%. In Tennessee, corn planted was estimated at 86% compared to 75% last week, 77% last year, and a 5-year average of 87%; and corn emerged at 66% compared to 52% last week, 58% last year, and a 5-year average of 70%. In Tennessee, new crop cash corn prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.32 to \$5.81. December 2021 corn futures closed at \$5.46, up 4 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$5.50 December 2021 Put Option costing 58 cents establishing a \$4.92 futures floor.

#### **Soybeans**

Net sales reported by exporters were down compared to last week with net sales of 3.1 million bushels for the 2020/21 marketing year and 3.5 million bushels for the 2021/22 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 18% compared to last week at 12.3 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments were 109% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2020/21 marketing year (September 1 to August 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 96%. Across Tennessee, average soybean basis weakened or remained unchanged at Northwest, West, West-Central, North-Central, and Mississippi River elevators and barge points. Basis ranged from even to 55 over the July futures contract. Average basis at the end of the week was 24 over the July futures contract. July 2021 soybean futures closed at \$15.26, down 60 cents since last Friday. For the week, July 2021 soybean futures traded between \$15.12 and \$16.04. Jul/Aug and Jul/Nov future spreads were -54 and -166 cents. July 2021 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.32 at the end of the week. August 2021 soybean futures closed at \$14.72, down 55 cents since last Friday.

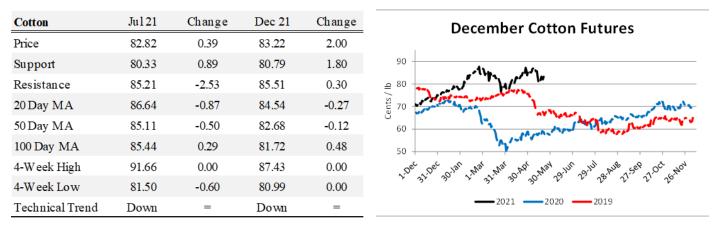
# Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Soybeans	Jul 21	Change	Nov 21	Change
Price	\$15.26	-\$0.60	\$13.60	-\$0.40
Support	\$14.97	-\$0.59	\$13.41	\$0.18
Resistance	\$15.54	-\$0.73	\$13.79	-\$1.00
20 Day MA	\$15.57	\$0.18	\$13.80	\$0.16
50 Day MA	\$14.71	\$0.14	\$13.04	\$0.13
100 Day MA	\$14.18	\$0.16	\$12.42	\$0.15
4-Week High	\$16.67	\$0.00	\$14.61	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$14.80	\$0.80	\$13.10	\$0.49
Technical Trend	Down	-	Down	-

Nationally, this week's Crop Progress report estimated soybeans planted at 61% compared to 42% last week, 51% last year, and a 5-year average of 37%; and soybeans emerged at 20% compared to 10% last week, 16% last year, and a 5-year average of 12%. In Tennessee, soybeans planted were estimated at 38% compared to 25% last week, 28% last year, and a 5-year average of 30%; and soybeans emerged at 18% compared to 8% last week, 13% last year, and a 5-year average of 10%. In Tennessee, new crop cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$13.50 to \$14.30. November 2021 soybean futures closed at \$13.60, down 40 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a \$13.80 November 2021 Put Option which would cost 84 cents and set a \$12.96 futures floor. Nov/Dec 2021 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.49 at the end of the week.

#### <u>Cotton</u>

Net sales reported by exporters were up compared to last week with net sales of 108,000 bales for the 2020/21 marketing year and 21,800 bales for the 2021/22 marketing year. Exports for the same time period were up 25% compared to last week at 345,400 bales. Upland cotton export sales were 102% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2020/21 marketing year (August 1 to July 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 107%. Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for May 21 were 80.57 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 82.82 cents/lb (31-3-35). Adjusted world price decreased 5 cents to 67.91 cents. July 2021 cotton futures closed at 82.82, up 0.39 cents since last Friday. For the week, July 2021 cotton futures traded between 81.5 and 84.3 cents. Jul/Dec and Jul/Mar cotton futures spreads were 0.40 cents and 0.15 cents.



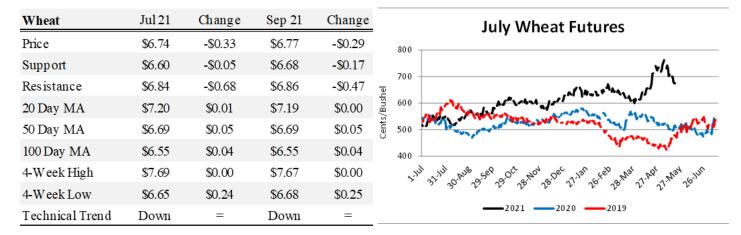
Nationally, this week's Crop Progress report estimated cotton planted at 38% compared to 25% last week, 42% last year, and a 5-year average of 40%. In Tennessee, cotton planted was estimated at 24% compared to 3% last week, 21% last year, and a 5-year average of 44%. December 2021 cotton futures closed at 83.22 cents, up 2 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing an 84 cent December 2021 Put Option costing 6.91 cents establishing a 77.09 cent futures floor. March 2022 cotton futures closed at 82.97 cents, up 2.07 cents since last Friday.

#### Wheat

Wheat net sales reported by exporters were up compared to last week with net sales of 4.4 million bushels for the 2020/21 marketing year and 11.7 million bushels for the 2021/22 marketing year. Exports for the same time period were up 9% from last

## Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

week at 20.9 million bushels. Wheat export sales were 106% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2020/21 marketing year (June 1 to May 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 106%. In Tennessee, spot wheat prices ranged from \$7.04 to \$7.30.



Nationally, the Crop Progress report estimated winter wheat condition at 48% good-to-excellent and 19% poor-to-very poor; winter wheat headed at 53% compared to 38% last week, 54% last year, and a 5-year average of 58%; spring wheat planted at 85% compared to 70% last week, 57% last year, and a 5-year average of 71%; and spring wheat emerged at 47% compared to 29% last week, 28% last year, and a 5-year average of 36%. In Tennessee, winter wheat condition was estimated at 80% good-to -excellent and 4% poor to very poor; winter wheat headed at 92% compared to 80% last week, 98% last year, and a 5-year average of 96%; and winter wheat coloring at 2%. July 2021 wheat futures closed at \$6.74, down 33 cents since last Friday. July 2021 wheat futures traded between \$6.65 and \$7.18 this week. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$6.75 July 2021 Put Option costing 29 cents establishing a \$6.46 futures floor. July wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.02. Jul/Sep and Jul/ Jul future spreads were 3 and -14 cents. In Tennessee, new crop wheat cash contracts ranged from \$6.56 to \$7.22. September wheat-to-corn futures price ratio was 1.18. September 2021 wheat futures closed at \$6.77, down 29 cents since last Friday. July 2022 wheat futures closed at \$6.60, down 13 cents since last Friday.

#### Additional Information:

Links for data presented:

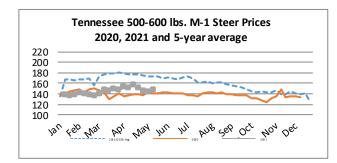
U.S. Export Sales - <u>https://apps.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html</u>

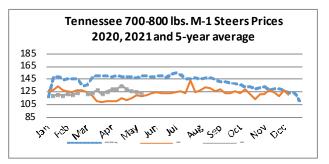
USDA FAS: Weekly Export Performance Indicator – <u>https://apps.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/esrpi.aspx</u> EIA: Weekly ethanol Plant Production - <u>https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet\_pnp\_wprode\_s1\_w.htm</u> EIA: Weekly Supply Estimates - <u>https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet\_sum\_sndw\_a\_EPOOXE\_sae\_mbbl\_w.htm</u> Upland Cotton Reports - <u>https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/epasReports?area=home&subject=ecpa&topic=fta-uc</u> Tennessee Crop Progress - <u>https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\_by\_State/Tennessee/Publications/</u> <u>Crop\_Progress & Condition/</u>

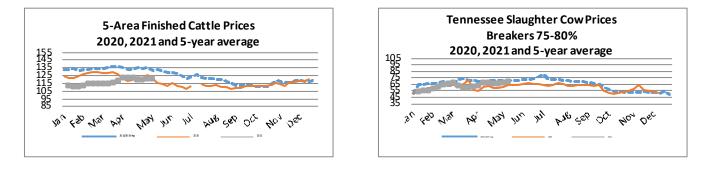
U.S. Crop Progress - <u>http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1048</u> USDA AMS: Market News - <u>https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/search-market-news</u>

If you would like further information or clarification on topics discussed in the crop comments section or would like to be added to our free email list please contact me at <u>aaron.smith@utk.edu</u>.

		Prices Paid to Farn	ners by Elevators				
	Friday, May 14, 2021Thursday, May 20, 2021						
	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		
	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average		
No. 2 Yellow Soybeans			\$/bushel		-		
Northwest	16.12	15.94	15.81	15.45	15.40		
North Central	16.21	16.18	15.94	15.58	15.53		
West Central	16.21	16.23	15.74	15.38	15.33		
West	16.41	16.43	16.29	15.93	15.88		
Mississippi River	16.30	16.31	16.15	15.78	15.73		
Yellow Corn							
Northwest	6.68	6.77	6.83	6.83	6.89		
North Central	6.84	6.93	6.98	6.98	7.05		
West Central	6.79	6.88	6.83	6.83	6.90		
West	6.99	7.08	7.13	7.13	7.20		
Mississippi River	6.95	7.03	7.08	7.08	7.15		
Wheat							
Northwest							
North Central	7.37	7.30	7.28	7.09	7.05		
West							
Mississippi River							
Cotton	\$/pound\$						
Memphis	80.18-82.43	80.07-82.32	81.76-84.01	80.67-82.92	79.28-81.53		







# **Futures Settlement Prices: Crops & Livestock**

Corn: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/grain-and-oilseed/corn.html Soybeans: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/grain-and-oilseed/soybean.html Wheat: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/grain-and-oilseed/wheat.html Soybean Meal: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/grain-and-oilseed/soybean-meal.html Cotton: https://www.theice.com/products/254/Cotton-No-2-Futures/data?marketId=5352193 Live Cattle: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/livestock/live-cattle.html Feeder Cattle: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/livestock/live-cattle.html Lean Hogs: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/livestock/lean-hogs.html Class III Milk: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/dairy/class-iii-milk.html

	This Week		ck Auctions for the we	Last Week's	Year Ago
-	Low	High	Weighted Average	-	
			\$/cwt		
Steers: Medium/Large					
300-400 lbs	155.00	180.00	168.54	163.83	164.48
400-500 lbs	145.00	167.00	156.23	156.58	152.62
500-600 lbs	130.00	160.00	147.08	143.57	142.41
600-700 lbs	124.00	143.00	134.14	131.93	129.34
700-800 lbs	110.00	130.00	122.38	123.66	118.31
Steers: Small Frame #	1-2				
300-400 lbs				138.52	156.25
400-500 lbs				139.18	130.09
500-600 lbs					
600-700 lbs					
Steers: Medium/Large	e Frame #3				
300-400 lbs	139.00	165.00	148.31	153.81	146.86
400-500 lbs	130.00	153.00	141.86	141.94	136.12
500-600 lbs	125.00	145.00	134.01	133.00	124.18
600-700 lbs	123.00	129.00	125.98	124.68	114.40
700-800 lbs					108.99
Holstein Steers					
300-400 lbs					
500-600 lbs				109.53	
700-800 lbs					
Slaughter Cows & Bul	s				
Breakers 75-80%	59.00	74.00	67.65	65.93	59.99
Boners 80-85%	57.50	75.00	67.15	66.17	59.63
Lean 85-90%	45.00	67.00	59.25	56.57	51.61
Bulls YG 1	82.00	102.00	92.31	90.06	88.72
Heifers: Medium/Larg	e Frame #1-2				
300-400 lbs	126.00	151.00	137.88	137.24	136.04
400-500 lbs	119.00	144.00	133.23	131.17	129.22
500-600 lbs	115.00	140.00	126.42	125.71	120.32
600-700 lbs	110.00	128.00	116.62	116.58	111.85
Heifers: Small Frame	<b>#1-2</b>				
300-400 lbs				125.63	
400-500 lbs				117.75	113.46
500-600 lbs				119.37	
600-700 lbs					
Heifers: Medium/Larg	e Frame #3				
300-400 lbs	121.00	135.00	128.29	130.89	123.89
400-500 lbs	115.00	135.00	127.02	125.80	119.49
500-600 lbs	104.00	127.00	118.30	118.37	113.68
600-700 lbs	87.00	115.00	103.12	110.87	97.41

Cattle Receipts

This week:4,341

Week ago:5,078

Year ago:6,673

# Graded Sales, Video Board Sales, Video Sales & Loads

# Graded Sheep & Goat Sale

East Tennessee Livestock Center Graded Holstein Steer Sale-Sweetwater, TN Weighted Average Report for 05/14/2021 Total Receipts: 479 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams\_2072.pdf

# Browning Livestock Market-Lafayette, TN

5/19/2021 1 load of steers, avg 850 lbs., Medium-Large 1-2, \$128.00

# Hardin County Stockyard-Savannah, TN

5/19/2021 1 load of steers, avg 927 lbs., M&L 1&2, Black/BWWF Red/ RWF ChX, 5-6 Flesh, \$122.00 1 load of steers, avg 953 lbs., M&L 1&2, Black/BWWF Red/ RWF ChX, 5-6 Flesh, \$123.75

# East Tennessee Livestock Center Video Sales-Sweetwater, TN 5/19/2021

1 load of steers, avg 850 lbs., 95% L&M-1s & 5% L&M-2s, 100% Black/BWF, Medium Flesh, \$132.00 1 load of steers, avg 865 lbs., 95% L&M-1s & 5% L&M-2s, 90 % Black/BWF and 10% ChaX, Medium Flesh, \$132.25

# Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

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