# Tennessee Market Highlights

INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

> July 2, 2021 Number: 26

# Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

## Slaughter Cows

steady to \$1 higher

Slaughter Bulls

steady to \$2 higher

Feeder Steers

steady to \$2 higher

Feeder Heifers

mostly steady

Feeder Cattle Index: 146.31

## Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Thursday of \$123.82 was down \$1.72. The dressed price of \$198.14 was up \$0.28.

## Corn

September closed at \$5.92 a bushel, up 62 cents since last Friday.

# <u>Soybeans</u>

August closed at \$14.33 a bushel, up 131 cents since last Friday.

# Wheat

September closed at \$6.52 a bushel, up 12 cents since last Friday.

## <u>Cotton</u>

December closed at 86.97 cents per lb, down 0.21 cents since last Friday.



# Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew P. Griffith

**FED CATTLE:** Fed cattle traded \$2 lower compared to last week on a live basis. Prices on a live basis were primarily \$123 to \$124 while dressed prices were mostly \$198.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$123.82 live, down \$1.72 compared to last week and \$198.14 dressed, up \$0.28 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$94.91 live and \$153.83 dressed.

The price of cattle in the South softened a little this week while Northern cattle prices remained fairly steady. Live cattle futures are pricing in a contra-seasonal market for the summer and really strong prices in the fourth quarter of 2021 and the first guarter of 2022. The futures market is currently pricing in a \$10 to \$11 price increase between August and December and an additional \$3 to \$4 by February. On top of that, the April 2022 live cattle contract is trading just under \$140 which is a price that cattle feeders have not seen since May 2017. This is not an unrealistic price to achieve, but the market has a long way to go to achieve those prices and demand for beef will have to remain strong.

**BEEF CUTOUT:** At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was \$285.78 down \$1.87 from Thursday and down \$22.62 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$265.66 down \$1.27 from Thursday and down \$8.33 from last week. The Choice Select spread was \$20.12 compared to \$31.07 a week ago.

Choice boxed beef prices have witnessed some of their strongest prices in history the past several months. Beginning in the middle of March, Choice beef prices started an 11-week journey from a price of \$227 to \$338 per hundredweight, which resulted in an average weekly price gain of \$10. During the month of June, Choice boxed beef prices declined about \$50, which means gravity is assisting in the price decline. This is a quicker price decline than expected, but reduced production over the holiday shortened week may provide price support while restocking the meat counter may also keep prices from plunging as quickly next week. Ultimately, how quickly prices decline is of little consequence, but packers would like to hold prices as high as they can for as long as they can. As leverage slowly shifts to the cattle feeder, packers will be competing for cattle. The competition should support prices given that packers are fairly flush with cash given the past several months of strong margins. To say the least, the beef business has been good.

**OUTLOOK:** Based on Tennessee weekly auction market data, steer prices were steady to \$3 higher compared to a week ago while heifer prices were mostly steady compared to last week. Slaughter cow prices were steady to \$1 higher while slaughter bull prices were steady to \$2 higher compared to the previous week. Knowing that most cattle producers manage spring calving herds or at least a large percentage of the calves are born in the spring, July is a good time to begin looking at the expected sales price of this year's calf crop. Assuming most producers will market calves at seven to eight months of age and approximately 525 pounds, this puts the primary marketing window in October and November. The price of a 525 pound steer in Tennessee this week would have been about \$157 per hundredweight bringing his total value to about \$824. The seasonal price tendency for this weight class of animal is a 6 percent price decline from June into November, which would result in a price expectation of \$148 and place the expected value of a 525 pound steer near \$775 in October and November. In October and November 2020, the same weight class of animal traded between \$127 and \$140, which means this

# Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

(Continued from page 1)

year's weanling calves are expected to garner at least \$40 per head more than last year. However, some of the factors that are playing into this year's market may support prices more than they would in a typical year, which could mean higher prices in the fourth quarter than expected. Thus, profitability appears more promising than the past couple of years if production woes did not severely influence an operation. Heifer values were not discussed here, but it is important to consider their value in relation to steer value if trying to determine an average revenue per cow. Cattle markets are neither great or terrible, but they are showing some signs of promise in the not too distant future.

**ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK:** A phone call was received this week concerning early weaning and marketing calves prior to prices deteriorating in the fall of the year. I really like the fact this producer is thinking about alternatives to production and marketing. If this producer's solitary goal was to maximize profit then making this choice would not likely be the correct choice in most years, because revenue is based on both price and weight of animal sold. However, there could be years where it is the profit maximizing decision. There are several questions to answer when evaluating this specific decision. What is the difference in expected revenue from marketing calves early compared to marketing them at a more traditional time period? What is the cost of holding those animals over that time period? What indirect benefits would accrue to the operation from marketing calves earlier such as reduced hay feeding to the cow herd during the fall and winter? This is not an exhaustive list, but these are the types of questions that must be answered to make an informed decision.

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 –August \$122.00 -1.58; October \$128.08 -1.18; December \$132.78 -0.43; Feeder cattle –August \$157.05 +0.73; September \$159.43 +0.35; October \$161.48 +0.40; November \$162.85 +0.60; July corn closed at \$6.97 down 23 cents from Thursday.

# Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

## **Overview**

Corn, soybeans, and wheat were up; cotton was mixed for the week.

On Wednesday June 30, the USDA released the Acreage and Grain Stocks reports. Markets reacted immediately with December Corn increasing 40 cents, November soybeans increasing 86 ½ cents, September wheat increasing 33 ¼ cents, and December cotton decreasing 2.68 cents for the day. Many analysts were expecting greater acreage for corn and soybeans.

	Previous	Current	Change
USD Index	91.75	92.18	0.44
Crude Oil	73.99	75.31	1.32
DЛA	34,434	34,775	341

Pre-report estimates were predicting nearly 185 million acres between the two commodities. The report total was just over 180 million acres.

The Acreage report indicated national (Tennessee) planted acres at: 92.692 (1.05) million acres of corn, 87.555 (1.65) million acres of soybeans; 46.743 (0.4) million acres of wheat; and 11.719 (0.31) million acres of cotton. Compared to the March 31 Prospective Plantings report, corn, soybeans, wheat, and cotton were up 1.548 (up 50,000) million acres; down 45,000 (down 50,000) acres; up 0.385 (unchanged) million acres; and down 0.317 (up 20,000) million acres.

Total principal crops (19 crops) area planted was increased from the March 31 estimate by 1.051 million acres to 317.215 million acres, however the additional acreage that many analysts were expecting did not materialize in the report. The next clue to the acreage puzzle may be revealed when prevented panting estimates are released in August. Given high crop prices the expectation was that all available acres would be planted.

The Grain Stocks report indicated crops held in storage as at June 1<sup>st</sup> were: 4.1 billion bushels of corn, 843 million bushels of wheat, and 767 million bushels of soybeans. All three were down substantially compared to last year.

The lower planted acres and projected tight ending stocks provides support for a bullish price outlook for the summer. However, it remains very likely that volatility will remain in futures markets as weather and export demand will continue to strongly influence prices.

# Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

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

Ethanol production for the week ending June 25 was 1.058 million barrels per day, up 10,000 from the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 21.572 million barrels, up 0.452 million barrels compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for June 18-24, 2021 were down compared to last week with net sales of 0.6 million bushels for the 2020/21 marketing year and 2.7 million bushels for the 2021/22 marketing year. Exports for the same time period were down 33% from last week at 44.7 million bushels. Corn export sales and commitments were 96% 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 100%. 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 19 under to 50 over, with an average of 11 over the July futures at elevators and barge points. July 2021 corn futures closed at \$6.97, up 61 cents since last Friday. September 2021 corn futures closed at \$5.92, up 62 cents since last Friday. For the week, September 2021 corn futures traded between \$5.28 and \$6.26. Sep/Dec and Sep/Mar future spreads were -13 and -6 cents.



Nationally, this week's Crop Progress report estimated corn condition at 64% good-to-excellent and 8% poor-to-very poor; and corn silking at 4% compared to 4% last year and a 5-year average of 6%. In Tennessee, corn condition was 80% good-to-excellent and 3% poor-to-very poor; and corn silking was 24% compared to 9% last week, 15% last year, and a 5-year average of 35%. In Tennessee, new crop cash corn prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.37 to \$6.12. December 2021 corn futures closed at \$5.79, up 60 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$5.80 December 2021 Put Option costing 60 cents establishing a \$5.20 futures floor. March 2022 corn futures closed at \$5.86, up 60 cents since last Friday.

## **Soybeans**

Net sales reported by exporters were up compared to last week with net sales of 3.4 million bushels for the 2020/21 marketing year and 61.4 million bushels for the 2021/22 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 39% compared to last week at 5.5 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments were 100% 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 101%. Across Tennessee, average soybean basis weakened or remained unchanged at West, Northwest, West-Central, North-Central, and Mississippi River elevators and barge points. Basis ranged from 8 under to 60 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 \$14.51, up 122 cents since last Friday. August 2021 soybean futures closed at \$14.33, up 131 cents since last Friday. For the week, July 2021 soybean futures traded between \$12.99 and \$14.59. Aug/ Sep and Aug/Nov future spreads were -25 and -34 cents. September 2021 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.38 at the end of the week.

# Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Soybeans	Aug 21	Change	Nov 21	Change
Price	\$14.33	\$1.31	\$13.99	\$1.30
Support	\$13.82	\$1.13	\$13.51	\$1.18
Resistance	\$14.83	\$1.20	\$14.45	\$1.23
20 Day MA	\$14.08	-\$0.29	\$13.61	-\$0.10
50 Day MA	\$14.61	-\$0.02	\$13.72	\$0.06
100 Day MA	\$14.10	\$0.04	\$13.04	\$0.10
4-Week High	\$15.77	\$0.00	\$14.80	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$12.89	\$0.00	\$12.40	\$0.00
Technical Trend	Up	+	Up	+



Nationally, this week's Crop Progress report estimated soybean condition at 60% good-to-excellent and 9% poor-to-very poor; soybeans emerged at 96% compared to 91% last week, 94% last year, and a 5-year average of 92%; and soybeans blooming at 14% compared to 5% last week, 13% last year, and a 5-year average of 11%. In Tennessee, soybean condition was 75% good-toexcellent and 5% poor-to-very poor; soybeans planted were estimated at 92% compared to 86% last week, 91% last year, and a 5year average of 91%; soybeans emerged at 83% compared to 75% last week, 80% last year, and a 5-year average of 82%; and soybeans blooming at 7% compared to 2% last week, 7% last year, and a 5-year average of 11%. In Tennessee, new crop cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$12.98 to \$14.29. November 2021 soybean futures closed at \$13.99, up 130 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a \$14.00 November 2021 Put Option which would cost 85 cents and set a \$13.15 futures floor. Nov/Dec 2021 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.45 at the end of the week.

## <u>Cotton</u>

Net sales reported by exporters were down compared to last week with net sales of 42,600 bales for the 2020/21 marketing year and 133,900 bales for the 2021/22 marketing year. Exports for the same time period were up 33% compared to last week at 274,000 bales. Upland cotton export sales were 106% 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 111%. Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for July 1 were 84.24 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 86.49 cents/lb (31-3-35). Adjusted world price increased 1.3 cents to 74.7 cents.



Nationally, this week's Crop Progress report estimated cotton condition at 52% good-to-excellent and 7% poor-to-very poor; cotton squaring at 32% compared to 21% last week, 34% last year, and a 5-year average of 34%; and cotton setting bolls at 7% compared to 4% last week, 9% last year, and a 5-year average of 8%. In Tennessee, cotton condition was 59% good-to-excellent and 14% poor -to-very poor; cotton planted was estimated at 99% compared to 97% last week, 99% last year, and a 5-year average of 100%; cotton squaring at 31% compared to 26% last week, 27% last year, and a 5-year average of 43%; and cotton setting bolls at 1% compared to 3% last year and a 5-year average of 3%. December 2021 cotton futures closed at 86.97 cents, down 0.21 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing an 87 cent December 2021 Put Option costing 7.72 cents establishing a 79.28 cent futures floor. For the week, December 2021 cotton futures traded between 84.68 and 87.94 cents. Dec/Mar

# Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

and Dec/May cotton futures spreads were -0.21 cents and -0.68 cents. March 2022 cotton futures closed at 86.76 cents, up 0.05 cents since last Friday.

## <u>Wheat</u>

Wheat net sales reported by exporters were down compared to last week with net sales of 8.3 million bushels for the 2021/22 marketing year. Exports for the same time period were down 77% from last week at 5.0 million bushels. Wheat export sales were 26% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2021/22 marketing year (June 1 to May 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 29%. Nationally, the Crop Progress report estimated winter wheat condition at 48% good-to-excellent and 21% poor-to-very poor; winter wheat harvested at 33% compared to 17% last week, 39% last year, and a 5-year average of 40%; spring wheat condition was estimated at 20% good-to-excellent and 39% poor-to-very poor; and spring wheat headed at 48% compared to 27% last week, 33% last year, and a 5-year average of 39%. In Tennessee, winter wheat mature was 97% compared to 91% last week and 97% last year; and winter wheat harvested was 82% compared to 53% last week; 84% last year, and a 5-year average of 87%. In Tennessee, spot wheat prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$6.13 to \$6.80. September 2021 wheat futures closed at \$6.52, up 12 cents since last Friday. September 2021 wheat futures traded between \$6.32 and \$6.94 this week. September wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.10. Sep/Dec and Sep/Jul future spreads were 9 and 20 cents. December wheat-to-corn futures price ratio was 1.14. December 2021 wheat futures closed at \$6.61, up 13 cents since last Friday.



July 2022 wheat futures closed at \$6.72, up 20 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$6.80 July 2022 Put Option costing 69 cents establishing a \$6.11 futures floor.

## Additional Information:

Links for data presented:

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

USDA FAS: Weekly Export Performance Indicator – <u>https://apps.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/esrpi.aspx</u>

EIA: Weekly ethanol Plant Production - https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet\_pnp\_wprode\_s1\_w.htm

EIA: Weekly Supply Estimates - https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet\_sum\_sndw\_a\_EPOOXE\_sae\_mbbl\_w.htm

Upland Cotton Reports - https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/epasReports?area=home&subject=ecpa&topic=fta-uc

Tennessee Crop Progress - https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\_by\_State/Tennessee/Publications/

Crop Progress & Condition/

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

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 Farme	ers by Elevators			
	Friday, June 25, 2021Thursday, July 1, 2021					
	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
_	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average	
No. 2 Yellow Soybeans			\$/bushel			
Northwest	13.26	13.54	13.53	14.43	14.39	
North Central	13.40	13.67	13.70	14.50	14.50	
West Central						
West	13.90	14.17	14.20	15.10	15.07	
Mississippi River	13.70	13.97	14.00	14.90	14.87	
Yellow Corn						
Northwest	6.56	6.71	7.11	7.36	7.00	
North Central	6.47	6.86	6.84	7.14	7.07	
West Central						
West	6.87	7.26	7.45	7.70	7.70	
Mississippi River	6.62	7.01	7.20	7.45	7.45	
Wheat						
Northwest	6.15	6.20	6.14	6.42	6.28	
North Central	6.17	6.26	6.36	6.55	6.41	
West	6.41	6.52	6.46	6.80	6.66	
Mississippi River	6.37	6.44	6.36	6.66	6.50	
Cotton	\$/pound\$					
Memphis	85.79-88.04	86.02-88.27	85.89-88.14	83.26-85.51	84.24-86.49	







# **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			Last Week's	Year Ago
	Low	High	Weighted Average	Weighted Average	Weighted Average
			\$/cwt		
Steers: Medium/Larg			.,		
300-400 lbs	150.00	180.00	168.01	164.77	159.53
400-500 lbs	146.00	174.00	162.11	159.09	149.14
500-600 lbs	136.50	161.00	150.47	149.34	140.59
600-700 lbs	123.00	147.00	139.59	139.32	130.01
700-800 lbs	121.00	140.00	132.83	127.89	121.10
Steers: Small Frame #	<b>‡1-2</b>				
300-400 lbs	140.00	150.00	143.72	148.98	134.83
400-500 lbs	130.00	132.50	131.25	145.69	133.64
500-600 lbs					
600-700 lbs				102.50	
Steers: Medium/Larg	e Frame #3				
300-400 lbs	142.50	160.00	152.37	150.27	142.50
400-500 lbs	120.00	160.00	144.67	142.86	134.65
500-600 lbs	130.00	146.00	137.52	137.91	129.01
600-700 lbs	121.00	135.00	128.41	123.29	121.01
700-800 lbs	120.00	120.00	120.00	121.53	114.56
Holstein Steers					
300-400 lbs					
500-600 lbs					
700-800 lbs					
Slaughter Cows & Bu	lls				
Breakers 75-80%	63.00	75.00	69.24	70.86	64.52
Boners 80-85%	60.00	77.00	69.05	71.06	64.42
Lean 85-90%	53.00	70.50	60.13	64.57	56.60
Bulls YG 1	86.00	103.50	94.84	97.19	95.01
Heifers: Medium/Lar	ge Frame #1-2				
300-400 lbs	124.00	157.00	141.64	140.14	135.16
400-500 lbs	124.00	153.00	136.53	138.08	130.71
500-600 lbs	119.00	143.00	131.47	130.97	121.09
600-700 lbs	109.00	134.00	126.45	121.53	113.64
Heifers: Small Frame	#1-2				
300-400 lbs					
400-500 lbs					104.57
500-600 lbs					108.36
600-700 lbs					105.46
Heifers: Medium/Lar	ge Frame #3				
300-400 lbs	112.50	138.00	130.61	133.15	126.99
400-500 lbs	115.00	135.00	126.56	127.48	122.96
500-600 lbs	108.00	130.00	123.28	118.66	114.61
600-700 lbs	96.00	122.50	112.55	116.59	109.07

Cattle Receipts This week: 4,838

Week ago: 6,306

Year ago: 7,498

East Tennessee Cattle Alliance Preconditioned Graded Feeder Sale-Greeneville, TN Weighted Average Report for 06/27/2021 Total Receipts: 482 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams\_2075.pdf

## East Tennessee Livestock Center Video Sales-Sweetwater, TN Report for 6/30/2021

1 load of steers, est. wt. 860 lbs; 95% L&M-1s and 5% L&M-2s; Medium flesh; 100% Black/BWF; \$142.50

Lower Middle Tennessee Cattlemen's Association-Video Board Sale-Columbia, TN Weighted Average Report for 07/02/2021 For complete report: <u>https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/</u> ams 3340.pdf

# Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

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