# Tennessee Market Highlights

October 15, 2021

UTEXTENSION INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

## Number: 41

# Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

#### Slaughter Cows

\$2 to \$3 lower

Slaughter Bulls

\$2 to \$3 lower

Feeder Steers

unevenly steady

Feeder Heifers

unevenly steady

Feeder Cattle Index: 154.01

#### Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Thursday of \$123.85 was up \$0.89. The dressed price of \$195.73 was up \$0.33.

#### Corn

December closed at \$5.25 a bushel, down 5 cents since last Friday.

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

November closed at \$12.17 a bushel, down 26 cents since last Friday.

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

December closed at \$7.34 a bushel, unchanged since last Friday.

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

December closed at 107.33 cents per lb, down 3.27 cents since last Friday.



# Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew P. Griffith

**FED CATTLE:** Fed cattle traded \$1 higher compared to last week on a live basis. Prices on a live basis primarily ranged from \$123 to \$125 while dressed prices were mainly \$193 to \$196.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$123.85 live, up \$0.89 compared to last week and \$195.73 dressed, up \$0.33 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$107.61 live and \$168.40 dressed.

It is difficult for cattle feeders to be disappointed in slightly higher prices when the seasonal trend for fed cattle is lower prices. Though this may be the case, a higher price does not mean cattle feeders are happy or satisfied with the current market situation. Packers continue to rake in strong margins while cattle feeders continue to trudge through thin margins. It has been evident the past few months that cattle feeders are competing for feeder cattle to fill pens, but that optimism will only persist if deferred futures remain strong or the cash price escalates. It is difficult to be bearish the beef and cattle market as international and domestic demand remain strong. Thus, cattle feeders are likely betting on higher prices in the spring.

**BEEF CUTOUT:** At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was \$281.29 up \$0.97 from Thursday and down \$2.76 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$261.48 up \$0.80 from Thursday and down \$3.86 from last week. The Choice Select spread was \$18.81 compared to \$18.71 a week ago.

What is the likelihood the wholesale Choice boxed beef prices will ever fall below \$250? Answering "never" may be a stretch for that statement, but the market does not want to test that level of support at this time. Choice boxed beef had a major resistance point at \$200 until it broke through in May 2013. The market bounced on either side of that price point until October 2017. Since October 2017, Choice boxed beef prices have not been below \$200 based on the weekly average price. The beef market appeared to have resistance at the \$250 price point until coronavirus hit and sent shockwaves through the market. The weekly average price for Choice boxed beef has not been below \$250 since April, and prices have been supported through the end of summer and into early fall. Thus, is there a new floor price for Choice beef? The answer is probably "yes", but to say it is \$250 is a little tougher call. Choice beef prices will likely fall below the \$250 level at some point, but the likelihood of staying below that level long is small.

**OUTLOOK:** Based on Tennessee weekly auction market data, steer and heifer prices were unevenly steady compared to last week. Early week auctions tended to have steady to strong prices while later week auctions saw steady to lower prices. Slaughter cow and bull prices were \$2 to \$3 lower compared to the previous week. The cattle markets are similar to a hunting dog that struggles with keeping attention on the task at hand. Rabbitt. Squirrel. Leaping lizards. Cattle markets seem to be locked in a state of confusion as prices remain highly volatile. There is nothing for a cattle producer to worry about with volatility since they have no control over it. The only thing a cattle producer can do is take advantage of beneficial pricing opportunities. Market prices will most likely continue to be volatile just as the grain and oilseed markets appear to be. Two USDA reports over the past two weeks have resulted in soybean prices declining 80 cents and corn prices declining 20 cents. At the end of the day, most of this volatility stems from a broader uncertain-

# Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

(Continued from page 1)

ty in the U.S. economy and abroad as fertilizer prices continue to sky rocket and as energy prices do the same. This means cattle producers need to put an increased focus on managing input prices. Producers do not control the price of an input, but a producer does control how much of each input they utilize. High input prices will likely mean cattle producers will be forced to pick and choose the most important inputs for their operation and look for alternative solutions for the other inputs. The overall outlook for cattle prices remains positive moving into 2022, but profitability for 2022 may be lower than in 2021 due to the higher input prices. This situation alludes to the fact that marketing is not everything as it relates to profitability. Improving production efficiencies may have more impact on profitability than anything else the next several months.

**ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK:** What drives the research program in cattle production and marketing at the University of Tennessee? This question pops up now and again in different manners, and it came to light in a recent discussion. The research questions we attempt to address at the University generally stem directly from producer questions. Producers ask a question, and then I take that back to my research

counterparts. We then try to brainstorm the best way to answer those questions. Sometimes we can use existing data while other times we have to get grant money to perform additional research to obtain the necessary data to answer the question. All that aside, the main point is the topics we research come directly from cattle producers in the state. On occasion, producer questions lead us into other questions, which means we also work to answer those periphery questions. This is to let cattle producers know that we are trying to serve the producers in the industry, but we cannot do it all.

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 –October \$125.98 +0.23; December \$130.98 +0.68; February \$135.35 +0.70; Feeder cattle –October \$157.58 -0.85; November \$161.43 -0.73; January \$161.53 -0.83; March \$162.33 -0.83; December corn closed at \$5.26 up 9 cents from Thursday.

# Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

## <u>Overview</u>

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

This week the USDA released the WASDE and Crop Production reports. National average corn yield was increased 0.2 bu/acre to 176.5 bu/acre – the second highest yield ever, 0.1 bu/acre behind 2017. In Tennessee, corn yield was estimated at 170 bu/acre the same as last year and the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest yield on record, if realized. US corn production for 2021 is project-

		Previous	Current	Change
	USD Index	94.09	93.98	-0.11
_	Crude Oil	79.53	82.18	2.65
d	DЛA	34,821	35,286	465

ed over 15 billion bushels. Exports are projected at 2.5 billion or 16.6% of total production. Corn prices fell after the report was released before regaining most of the losses by the end of the week. Overall, the report was bearish for corn prices.

The USDA WASDE provided more bearish news for soybeans. 2021/22 ending stocks were increased 135 million bushels, compared to last month, to 320 million bushels. Beginning stocks were increased 81 million bushels based on the Grain Stocks report. National average yield was increased 0.9 bu/acre resulting in a production increase of 74 million bushels to 4.448 billion bushels. After the report was released November soybean futures dropped 15 cents, closing the day down 30 cents.

2021 national cotton yield was decreased 24 lb/acre to 871 lb/acre. US ending stocks for the 2021/22 marketing year were estimated at 3.2 million bales, 500,000 lower than the previous month. Foreign stocks were increased 950,000 bales but are still 3.22 million bales lower than last year. December cotton futures pulled back from the contract high of 116.48, however are still well over a dollar.

For wheat the influence of the Northern Plains drought continued to lower production estimates. Harvested acres were decreased 900,000 and national average yield was decreased 0.2 bu/acre to 44.3 bu/acre. Canada's production was decreased 73 million bushels to 772 million bushels.

# Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

#### Corn

Ethanol production for the week ending October 8 was 1.032 million barrels per day, up 54,000 from the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 19.847 million barrels, down 0.084 million compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for October 1-7, 2021, were down compared to last week with net sales of 40.9 million bushels for the 2021/22 marketing year and 0.1 million bushels for the 2022/23 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 6% from last week at 36.1 million bushels. Corn export sales and commitments were 43% of the USDA estimated total exports for the 2021/22 marketing year (September 1 to August 31) compared to the previous 5-year average of 34%. Nationally, this week's Crop Progress report estimated corn condition at 60% good-to-excellent and 15% poor-to-very poor; corn mature at 94% compared to 88% last week, 93% last year, and a 5-year average 86%; and corn harvested at 41% compared to 29% last week, 39% last year, and a 5-year average of 31%. In Tennessee, corn condition was estimated at 80% good-to-excellent and 3% poor-to-very poor; corn mature at 99% compared to 97% last week, 99% last year, and a 5-year average of 99%; and corn harvested at 67% compared to 57% last week, 74% last year, and a 5-year average of 86%. Across Tennessee, average corn basis (cash price-nearby futures price) weakened at Northwest and strengthened or remained unchanged at West, West-Central, North-Central, and Mississippi River elevators and barge points. Overall, basis for the week ranged from 2 under to 45 under, with an average of 22 under the December futures at elevators and barge points. December 2021 corn futures closed at \$5.25, down 5 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$5.30 December 2021 Put Option costing 17 cents establishing a \$5.13 futures floor. For the week, December 2021 corn futures traded between \$5.06 and \$5.34. In Tennessee, new crop cash corn prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$4.67 to \$5.48.



Dec/Mar and Dec/May future spreads were 9 and 13 cents. March 2022 corn futures closed at \$5.34, down 5 cents since last Friday. May 2022 corn futures closed at \$5.38, down 6 cents since last Friday.

#### **Soybeans**

Net sales reported by exporters were up compared to last week with net sales of 42.2 million bushels for the 2021/22 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 82% compared to last week at 63.0 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments were 46% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2021/22 marketing year (September 1 to August 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 51%. Nationally, this week's Crop Progress report estimated soybean condition at 59% good-to-excellent and 14% poor-to-very poor; soybeans dropping leaves at 91% compared to 86% last week, 92% last year, and a 5-year average of 89%; and soybeans harvested 49% compared to 34% last week, 58% last year, and a 5-year average 40%. In Tennessee, soybean condition was estimated at 75% good-to-excellent and 5% poor-to-very poor; soybeans dropping leaves at 77% compared to 62% last week, 79% last year, and a 5-year average of 86%; and soybeans harvested at 22% compared to 15% last week, 30% last year, and a 5-year average of 38%. Across Tennessee, average soybean basis strengthened or remained unchanged at West, Northwest, West-Central, and Mississippi River; and weakened at North-Central elevators and barge points. Basis ranged from 3 under to 47 under, with an average basis at the end of the week of 18 under the November futures contract. November 2021 soybean futures closed at \$12.17, down 26 cents since last Friday. For the week, November 2021 soybean futures traded between \$11.84 and \$12.51. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a \$12.20 November 2021 Put Option which would cost 11 cents and set a \$12.09 futures floor. Nov/Dec 2021 soybean-tocorn price ratio was 2.32 at the end of the week. In Tennessee, new crop cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$11.48 to \$12.14.

(Continued on page 4)

# Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Soybeans	Nov 21	Change	Jan 22	Change
Price	\$12.17	-\$0.26	\$12.26	-\$0.28
Support	\$11.88	-\$0.39	\$11.98	-\$0.40
Resistance	\$12.56	-\$0.03	\$12.70	\$0.00
20 Day MA	\$12.50	-\$0.20	\$12.60	-\$0.19
50 Day MA	\$12.87	-\$0.12	\$12.95	-\$0.12
100 Day MA	\$13.24	-\$0.08	\$13.30	-\$0.07
4-Week High	\$13.08	\$0.00	\$13.17	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$11.84	-\$0.47	\$11.95	-\$0.46
Technical Trend	Down	=	Down	=

Nov/Jan and Nov/Mar future spreads were 9 and 18 cents. January 2022 soybean futures closed at \$12.26, down 28 cents since last Friday. March 2022 soybean futures closed at \$12.35, down 28 cents since last Friday. March 2022 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.31 at the end of the week.

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

Net sales reported by exporters were down compared to last week with net sales of 146,700 bales for the 2021/22 marketing year and 10,600 for the 2022/23 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 24% compared to last week at 95,200 bales – a marketing year low. Upland cotton export sales were 52% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2021/22 marketing year (August 1 to July 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 56%. Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for October 14 were 105.85 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 108.1 cents/lb (31-3-35). Adjusted world price increased 1.07 cents to 92.88 cents.



Nationally, this week's Crop Progress report estimated cotton condition at 64% good-to-excellent and 6% poor-to-very poor; cotton bolls opening at 78% compared to 70% last week, 89% last year, and a 5-year average of 82%; and cotton harvested at 20% compared to 13% last week, 25% last year, and a 5-year average of 26%. In Tennessee, cotton condition was estimated at 65% good-to-excellent and 15% poor-to-very poor; cotton bolls opening at 75% compared to 55% last week, 90% last year, and a 5-year average of 94%; and cotton harvested at 2% compared to 1% last week, 16% last year, and a 5-year average of 29%. December 2021 cotton futures closed at 107.33 cents, down 3.27 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a 108 cent December 2021 Put Option costing 5.03 cents establishing a 102.97 cent futures floor. For the week, December 2021 cotton futures traded between 103.5 and 112.89 cents. Dec/Mar and Dec/May cotton futures spreads were -2.33 cents and -3.36 cents. March 2022 cotton futures closed at 105 cents, down 2.91 cents since last Friday. May 2022 cotton futures closed at 103.97 cents, down 2.8 cents since last Friday.

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

Wheat net sales reported by exporters were up compared to last week with net sales of 20.9 million bushels for the 2021/22 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 16% from last week at 16.9 million bushels. Wheat export sales were

# Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

51% 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 57%. December 2021 wheat futures closed at \$7.34, unchanged since last Friday. December 2021 wheat futures traded between \$7.12 and \$7.43 this week. December wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.40. Dec/Mar and Dec/Jul future spreads were 12 and 4 cents. March 2022 wheat futures closed at \$7.47, down 1 cent since last Friday. March wheat-to-corn futures price ratio was 1.40.



Nationally, the Crop Progress report estimated winter wheat planted at 60% compared to 47% last week, 66% last year, and a 5-year average of 60%; and winter wheat emerged at 31% compared to 19% last week, 39% last year, and a 5-year average of 35%. In Tennessee, winter wheat planted was estimated at 22% compared to 16% last week, 22% last year, and a 5-year average of 23%; and winter wheat emerged at 13% compared to 7% last week, 8% last year, and a 5-year average of 6%. New crop wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$6.91 to \$7.16. July 2022 wheat futures closed at \$7.38, unchanged since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$7.40 July 2022 Put Option costing 58 cents establishing a \$6.82 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 - <u>https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics\_by\_State/Tennessee/Publications/</u> Crop\_Progress & Condition/

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>.

	Friday, October 8, 2021Thursday, October 14, 2021							
-	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday			
	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average			
No. 2 Yellow Soybeans								
Northwest	11.81		11.51	11.48	11.59			
North Central	12.33		11.88	11.80	11.86			
West Central	12.08		11.90	11.87	11.98			
West	12.38		11.95	11.92	12.03			
Mississippi River	12.27		11.85	11.82	11.95			
Yellow Corn								
Northwest	4.95		4.85	4.74	4.80			
North Central	4.86		4.78	4.67	4.72			
West Central	5.06		5.13	5.02	5.07			
West	5.12		5.20	5.10	5.14			
Mississippi River	5.11		5.06	4.96	5.01			
Wheat								
Northwest								
North Central								
West								
Mississippi River								
Cotton		\$/pound						
 Memphis	109.35-111.60	108.54-110.79	105.13-107.38	102.61-104.86	105.85-108.1			



## **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		•
		-	\$/cwt		
Steers: Medium/Larg			.,		
300-400 lbs	136.00	176.00	154.07	162.51	147.40
400-500 lbs	135.00	169.00	148.65	153.34	139.09
500-600 lbs	124.00	157.50	142.43	140.18	130.85
600-700 lbs	124.00	148.00	135.19	132.47	126.18
700-800 lbs	110.00	142.50	127.00	130.10	120.64
Steers: Small Frame	#1-2				
300-400 lbs	124.00	150.00	133.63	124.58	133.98
400-500 lbs	110.00	130.00	119.69	133.75	
500-600 lbs				107.50	
600-700 lbs	102.50		102.50	104.62	
Steers: Medium/Larg				-	
300-400 lbs	, 122.50	159.00	138.91	138.77	134.47
400-500 lbs	125.00	140.00	133.52	139.13	126.64
500-600 lbs	105.00	155.00	122.32	126.64	120.51
600-700 lbs	107.50	126.00	117.93	119.88	114.97
700-800 lbs	100.00	120.00	114.06	110.47	106.50
Holstein Steers					
300-400 lbs					
500-600 lbs	70.00	71.00	70.50	95.00	87.17
700-800 lbs				84.33	
Slaughter Cows & Bu	lls				
Breakers 75-80%	55.00	68.50	61.32	62.38	50.00
Boners 80-85%	55.00	69.00	61.49	61.81	51.45
Lean 85-90%	43.00	60.50	52.14	54.57	44.13
Bulls YG 1	74.00	97.50	88.51	88.19	77.56
Heifers: Medium/Lar					
300-400 lbs	-	150.00	133.01	133.65	124.71
400-500 lbs	115.00	142.00	131.69	129.98	121.60
500-600 lbs	112.00	140.00	127.55	125.85	117.60
600-700 lbs	107.00	133.00	119.22	120.70	113.06
Heifers: Small Frame					
300-400 lbs	111.00	116.00	113.50	110.00	
400-500 lbs	110.00	120.00	115.73	107.44	105.91
500-600 lbs	80.00	120.00	103.59	111.33	112.07
600-700 lbs	100.00	105.00	102.50		
Heifers: Medium/Lar					
300-400 lbs	104.00	130.00	120.96	125.34	122.03
400-500 lbs	102.50	136.00	118.96	120.84	111.50
500-600 lbs	100.00	122.50	113.88	114.17	107.22
600-700 lbs	95.00	120.00	108.11	109.30	100.01

Cattle Receipts

This week: 6,064

Week ago: 7,537

Year ago: 9,846

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

# East Tennessee Livestock Center Graded Feeder Cattle Sale-Sweetwater, TN Weighted Average Report for 10/8/21 Total Receipts: 255 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams\_2073.pdf

#### Hardin County Stockyard-Savannah, TN

10/13/21 64 Steers, 735 lbs., M&L 1 &2, 50-Black/BWF 1-Red 13-ChX, 4 -5 Flesh, \$153.50 73 Steers, 779 lbs., M&L 1 & 2, 61-Black/BWF 12-ChX, 5-6 Flesh, \$148.50 66 Heifers 737 lbs., M&L 1 & 2, 64-Black/BWF 2-Red/RWF, 5 Flesh, \$142.25 60 Heifers, 800 lbs., M&L 1, 56-Black/BWF 4-ChX, 5-6 Flesh, \$138.50

#### Video Load

2 loads Steers, 675 lbs., M&L 1 & 2, 100% Black/BWF, 4 Flesh, \$.08 Slide, 2% Shrink, Current Delivery, \$157.00

## **Graded Goat & Sheep Sales**

**Columbia Graded Sheep and Goat Sale-Columbia, TN** Weighted Average Report for 10/11/21 Total Receipts: 1,402

#### For complete report:

https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams 2081.pdf

#### Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

314 Morgan Hall • 2621 Morgan Circle • <u>arec.tennessee.edu</u> USDA / Tennessee Department of Agriculture Market News Service <u>https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/farms/news.html</u>

1-800-342-8206

Real. Life. Solutions.

