Tennessee Market Highlights



December 17, 2021 Number: 50

Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

Slaughter Cows

steady to \$2 higher

Slaughter Bulls

\$2 higher

Feeder Steers

steady to \$3 higher

Feeder Heifers

steady to \$5 higher

Feeder Cattle Index: 161.08

Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Thursday of \$137.18 was down \$2.57. The dressed price of \$218.42 was down \$1.28.

<u>Corn</u>

March closed at \$5.91 a bushel, up 1 cent since last Friday.

Soybeans

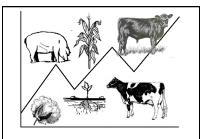
January closed at \$12.77 a bushel, up 10 cents since last Friday.

Wheat

March closed at \$7.70 a bushel, down 15 cents since last Friday.

Cotton

March closed at 109.68 cents per lb, up 3.45 cents since last Friday.



Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew P. Griffith

FED CATTLE: Fed cattle traded \$2 to \$3 lower compared to last week on a live basis. Prices on a live basis primarily ranged from \$136 to \$138 while dressed prices were mainly \$218 to \$220.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$137.18 live, down \$2.57 compared to last week and \$218.42 dressed, down \$1.28 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$106.06 live and \$165.13 dressed.

The December finished cattle market has proved to be softer the past two weeks, which is largely reflective of softening wholesale beef prices and the shift in product purchasing by retailers. Though prices have declined in two consecutive weeks, finished cattle prices remain relatively strong compared to where they were just a few months ago. The higher prices received leading up to the holiday season provided optimism moving through the winter and into the spring market. The opportunity being presented to cattle feeders right now may be in the hedging of feeder cattle purchases as feeder cattle futures have declined the past couple of weeks. There is always a correct side of the market to be on. Choosing the correct side is the difficult part.

BEEF CUTOUT: At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was \$263.45 up \$0.48 from Thursday and down \$2.52 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$248.58 up \$0.44 from Thursday and down \$5.66 from last week. The Choice Select spread was \$14.87 compared to \$11.73 a week ago.

The all fresh retail price of beef for November was \$7.52 per pound, which is a slight decline from the record all fresh retail beef price set in October. Retail beef prices are expected to slowly decline moving forward as wholesale prices continue

to moderate. However, consumers are not expected to see immediate relief as retail prices are always slow to respond to changes in the wholesale value whether prices are increasing or decreasing. Producers are sure to be asking why they are not seeing even higher prices for cattle than current levels given how high the retail price of beef is, but it is unlikely packers will pay their windfall gains forward in the full amount. Nor should they. Retailers can be expected to keep beef prices elevated from a historical perspective as beef demand appears to be robust, and consumers show few signs of turning away from this valued protein source. Consumers should not expect any huge retail price declines as wholesale beef prices will likely make a seasonal price run in the spring of 2022.

OUTLOOK: Based on Tennessee weekly auction price averages, steer prices were steady to \$3 higher compared to last week while heifer prices were steady to \$5 higher compared to a week ago. Slaughter cow prices compared to last week were steady to \$2 higher while bull prices were \$2 higher. The last few weeks have been good to producers selling calves and slaughter cows as December has been pure fire for cattle markets. Tennessee auction markets have experienced a strong run of cattle in December with demand for cattle being just as strong as the quantity supplied to the market. There was a slight decline this week compared to the previous couple of weeks, but producers were looking to market the last few head of the year before most auction markets take a two week break in observance of Christmas and the New Year holiday. The higher calf prices have undoubtedly been led by higher finished cattle prices and higher feeder cattle prices, and the trend is likely to continue in

(Continued on page 2)

Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

(Continued from page 1)

the first quarter of 2022. Moving through the next few weeks, producers will have to make the decision of how long to hold calves prior to marketing them in the new year. There are sure to be some producers who could benefit from marketing calves in early January while others may benefit from holding calves a little longer. From the feeder cattle perspective, producers purchasing calves this fall and winter should consider the hedging opportunities available for the spring and summer months. Feeder cattle futures have declined a few dollars off their contract highs this week, but the price levels being offered are profitable levels for most producers. This is a recommendation to begin evaluating acceptable price levels to hedge. The market certainly has the potential to move back to contract highs, but the market is likely to hit some turbulent times as has been common the past several years.

ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK: What should I get my spouse, sibling, parent, child, or friend for Christmas? This is a common question this time of year. This question arises because it is difficult to find a gift for people that already purchase everything they need and want. Thus, it takes considerable imagination to think of an appropriate gift for these people. However, there is one thing that all family members and

friends appreciate and that is the person they care for being physically and mentally present. I sometimes struggle with being physically and mentally present. However, being mentally present can be the toughest when other seemingly important things fill our minds. For example, as I receive stocker cattle, my mind always drifts back to taking care of those animals, because they are now my responsibility and represent a large investment. Despite this responsibility, my relationships with my family and friends are far more important. As Eleanor Rooselvelt said, "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. And today? Today is a gift. That is why we call it the present."

Please send questions and comments to agriff14@utk.edu 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 –December \$134.75 -0.53; February \$136.43 -0.63; April \$140.60 -0.35; Feeder cattle –January \$160.25 -2.33; March \$161.70 -2.63; April \$164.88 -2.40; May \$167.25 -2.10; March corn closed at \$5.93 up 2 cents from Thursday.

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Overview

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

Corn export sales this week were very strong helping to propel the March futures price to close on December 16^{th} at \$5.90 %. Corn weekly export sales were a marketing year high of 76.7 million bushels for the week. Given current export commitments, as a percent of USDA estimated mar-

	Previous	Current	Change
USD Index	96.10	95.94	-0.16
Crude Oil	71.8	72.01	0.21
DЛA	35,856	35,897	41

keting year total exports, of 61% compared to the five-year average of 53%, it is very likely that USDA will need to raise corn exports from the current estimate of 2.5 billion bushels. Last marketing year the US exported 2.753 billion bushels. Based on the current pace, the 2021/22 marketing year could be greater than the previous year. Should this marketing year's exports exceed last year's, the March contract could challenge the contract high of \$6.40 ½ set on May 7, 2021. For now, the first major hurdle is for corn to break above the \$6.00 level for the nearby futures contract.

Soybean futures have started to show the potential for an upward move. After setting an eight-month low of \$11.81 %, on November 9, prices have climbed to \$12.77 %. Dry weather in South America and strength in corn markets have helped to pull soybeans higher. However, there is still far more risk in soybeans than corn for the remainder of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022. Brazil has record planted soybean acres, so if weather cooperates the largest soybean producer and exporter will have record production. Additionally, with input price and availability there is a risk that over 90 million acres of soybeans could be planted this spring in the US. Although, it should be noted that from a profitability standpoint corn is projected to have greater net returns for many producers in Tennessee, even with high input prices.

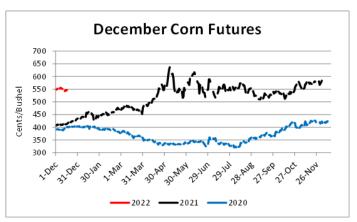
On December 16, March cotton futures hit the daily price limit for just over an hour before pulling back at the end of the trading session closing at 109.68. Futures prices are again looking toward an upward move, possibly back to \$1.15 in the short-term. On call sales continue to be a major source of bullish influence for cotton futures. The price spread between the December 2022 contract and the March 2022 contract is almost 20 cents.

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Corn

Ethanol production for the week ending December 10 was 1.087 million barrels per day, down 3,000 from the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 20.883 million barrels, up 0.419 million compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for December 3-9, 2021, were up compared to last week with net sales of 76.7 million bushels for the 2021/22 marketing year (a marketing year high) and 29.7 million bushels for the 2022/23 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 21% from last week at 43.0 million bushels. Corn export sales and commitments were 61% 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 53%. Across Tennessee, average corn basis (cash price-nearby futures price) weakened at West and Mississippi River elevators and barge points and strengthened or remained unchanged at Northwest, West-Central, and North-Central elevators and barge points. Overall, basis for the week ranged from 20 under to 24 over, with an average of 6 over the March futures at elevators and barge points. March 2022 corn futures closed at \$5.91, up 1 cent since last Friday. For the week, March 2022 corn futures traded between \$5.81 and \$5.96.

Corn	Mar 22	Change	Dec 22	Change
Price	\$5.91	\$0.01	\$5.47	-\$0.04
Support	\$5.81	-\$0.02	\$5.40	-\$0.06
Resistance	\$5.96	-\$0.01	\$5.50	-\$0.05
20 Day MA	\$5.84	\$0.02	\$5.52	-\$0.01
50 Day MA	\$5.68	\$0.03	\$5.43	\$0.01
100 Day MA	\$5.58	\$0.02	\$5.26	\$0.02
4-Week High	\$5.96	\$0.00	\$5.65	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$5.62	\$0.00	\$5.39	-\$0.02
Technical Trend	Up	=	Down	=

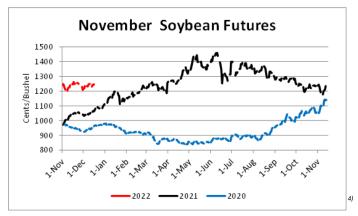


Mar/May and Mar/Dec future spreads were 1 and -44 cents. May 2022 corn futures closed at \$5.92, unchanged since last Friday. December 2022 corn futures closed at \$5.47, down 4 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$5.50 December 2022 Put Option costing 51 cents establishing a \$4.99 futures floor.

Soybeans

Net sales reported by exporters were down compared to last week with net sales of 48.1 million bushels for the 2021/22 marketing year and 5.1 million bushes for the 2022/23 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 21% compared to last week at 70.5 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments were 72% 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 71%. Across Tennessee, average soybean basis strengthened or remained unchanged at Northwest, West-Central, and North-Central elevators and barge points and weakened at West and Mississippi River elevators and barge points. Basis ranged from 13 under to 27 over, with an average basis of 7 over the January futures contract. January 2022 soybean futures closed at \$12.77, up 10 cents since last Friday. For the week, January 2022 soybean futures traded between \$12.37 and \$12.80. Jan/Mar and Jan/Nov future spreads were 1 and -31 cents. March 2022 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.16 at the end of the week. March 2022 soybean futures closed at \$12.78, up 4 cents since last Friday.

Soybeans	Jan 22	Change	Nov 22	Change
Price	\$12.77	\$0.10	\$12.46	-\$0.02
Support	\$12.50	\$0.00	\$12.29	-\$0.04
Resistance	\$12.94	\$0.09	\$12.61	-\$0.01
20 Day MA	\$12.57	\$0.01	\$12.38	-\$0.02
50 Day MA	\$12.44	\$0.01	\$12.34	-\$0.01
100 Day MA	\$12.78	- \$0.04	\$12.44	-\$0.01
4-Week High	\$12.89	\$0.00	\$12.68	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$12.14	\$0.02	\$12.04	\$0.00
Technical Trend	Up	+	Up	+



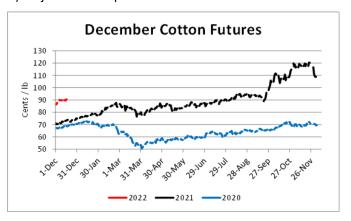
Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Nov/Dec 2022 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.28 at the end of the week. November 2022 soybean futures closed at \$12.46, down 2 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a \$12.60 November 2022 Put Option which would cost 90 cents and set an \$11.70 futures floor.

Cotton

Net sales reported by exporters were down compared to last week with net sales of 286,400 bales for the 2021/22 marketing year and 56,300 bales for the 2022/23 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 15% compared to last week at 131,500 bales. Upland cotton export sales were 68% 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 70%. Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for December 15 were 105.54 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 107.79 cents/lb (31-3-35). Adjusted world price increased 1.26 cents to 94.81 cents.

Cotton	Mar 22	Change	Dec 22	Change
Price	109.68	3.45	90.59	0.84
Support	104.54	0.33	89.32	1.81
Resistance	112.36	4.17	91.34	0.33
20 Day MA	109.09	-1.67	89.75	-0.38
50 Day MA	109.75	0.19	90.31	0.27
100 Day MA	101.66	0.71	86.69	0.37
4-Week High	118.50	0.00	92.50	0.00
4-Week Low	102.50	0.00	85.05	0.00
Technical Trend	Up	+	Up	+

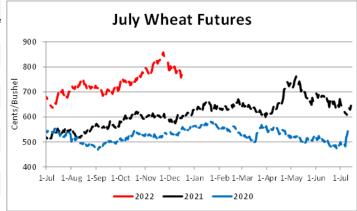


March 2022 cotton futures closed at 109.68 cents, up 3.45 cents since last Friday. For the week, March 2022 cotton futures traded between 105.45 and 109.79 cents. Mar/May and Mar/Dec cotton futures spreads were -1.75 cents and -19.09 cents. May 2022 cotton futures closed at 107.93 cents, up 3 cents since last Friday. December 2022 cotton futures closed at 90.59 cents, up 0.84 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a 91 cent December 2022 Put Option costing 8.39 cents establishing a 82.61 cent futures floor.

Wheat

Wheat net sales reported by exporters were up compared to last week with net sales of 23.9 million bushels for the 2021/22 marketing year – a marketing year high. Exports for the same period were up 29% from last week at 10.1 million bushels. Wheat export sales were 67% 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 75%. March 2022 wheat futures closed at \$7.70, down 15 cents since last Friday. March 2022 wheat futures traded between \$7.51 and \$7.94 this week. March wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.30. Mar/May and Mar/Jul future spreads were 5 and -2 cents. May 2022 wheat futures closed at \$7.75, down 15 cents since last Friday. May wheat-to-corn futures price ratio was 1.31.

Wheat	Mar 22	Change	Jul 22	Change
Price	\$7.70	-\$0.15	\$7.68	-\$0.15
Support	\$7.43	-\$0.17	\$7.45	-\$0.13
Resistance	\$7.86	-\$0.14	\$7.82	-\$0.15
20 Day MA	\$8.08	-\$0.11	\$8.03	-\$0.09
50 Day MA	\$7.90	\$0.01	\$7.83	\$0.02
100 Day MA	\$7.63	\$0.03	\$7.50	\$0.04
4-Week High	\$8.74	\$0.00	\$8.63	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$7.51	-\$0.17	\$7.52	-\$0.13
Technical Trend	Down	=	Down	=



Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

New crop wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$7.25 to \$7.92. July 2022 wheat futures closed at \$7.68, down 15 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$7.70 July 2022 Put Option costing 56 cents establishing a \$7.14 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 – https://apps.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/esrpi.aspx

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/

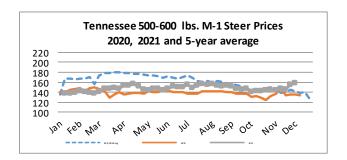
U.S. Crop Progress - http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1048

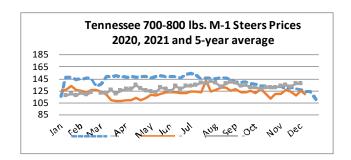
USDA AMS: Market News - https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/search-market-news

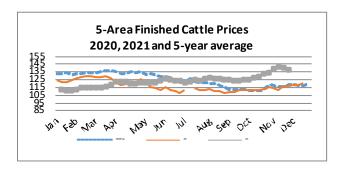
If you would like further information or clarification on topics discussed in the gran comments section or would like to be add

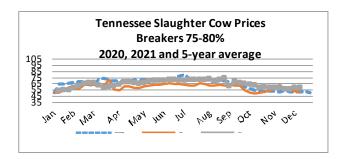
If you would like further information or clarification on topics discussed in the crop comments section or would like to be added to our free email list please contact me at aaron.smith@utk.edu.

		Prices Paid to Farmers	by Elevators				
	Friday, December 10, 2021Thursday, December 16, 2021						
	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		
	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average		
No. 2 Yellow Soybeans			\$/bushel				
Northwest	12.54	12.31	12.46	12.49	12.64		
North Central	12.78	12.54	12.70	12.73	12.87		
West Central	12.61	12.37	12.53	12.56	12.70		
West	12.93	12.71	12.86	12.87	13.02		
Mississippi River	12.88	12.67	12.81	12.82	12.98		
Yellow Corn							
Northwest	5.89	5.84	5.89	5.89	5.94		
North Central	5.70	5.65	5.70	5.66	5.71		
West Central	6.05	6.00	6.05	6.01	6.06		
West	6.13	6.09	6.12	6.07	6.08		
Mississippi River	6.08	6.03	6.05	5.97	6.02		
Wheat							
Northwest							
North Central							
West							
Mississippi River							
Cotton	\$/pound						
Memphis	105.98-108.23	106.56-108.81	105.65-107.90	105.54-107.79	109.43-111.68		









Futures Settlement Prices: Crops & Livestock

Corn: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/grain-and-oilseed/corn.html

 $\textbf{Soybeans:} \ \underline{\textbf{https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/grain-and-oilseed/soybean.html} \\$

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/feeder-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	ge Frame #1-2				
300-400 lbs.	160.00	212.50	181.77	179.91	161.47
400-500 lbs.	148.00	187.50	167.41	164.65	153.35
500-600 lbs.	136.00	175.00	157.30	154.69	135.24
600-700 lbs.	128.00	161.00	146.55	142.60	129.15
700-800 lbs.	125.00	150.00	136.31	136.86	125.26
Steers: Small Frame	#1-2				
300-400 lbs.	150.00	160.00	153.78	152.50	146.01
400-500 lbs.	133.00	160.00	143.23	131.64	125.95
500-600 lbs.				127.50	117.42
600-700 lbs.				120.32	117.59
Steers: Medium/Larg	ge Frame #3				
300-400 lbs.	130.00	187.50	162.66	161.19	147.34
400-500 lbs.	122.00	170.00	153.95	145.51	138.60
500-600 lbs.	110.00	155.00	141.71	135.53	124.42
600-700 lbs.	113.00	142.00	128.31	123.77	117.84
700-800 lbs.	110.00	130.00	121.52	122.56	
Holstein Steers					
300-400 lbs.					
500-600 lbs.					
700-800 lbs.					
Slaughter Cows & Bu	ılls				
Breakers 75-80%	49.50	68.00	57.89	57.54	52.51
Boners 80-85%	48.00	70.00	56.01	56.00	50.27
Lean 85-90%	37.00	61.00	48.10	48.12	42.16
Bulls YG 1	74.00	93.00	83.66	82.96	76.64
Heifers: Medium/Lai	rge Frame #1-2				
300-400 lbs.	123.00	162.00	144.90	143.15	
400-500 lbs.	120.00	156.00	139.03	136.13	
500-600 lbs.	119.00	144.00	130.22	129.16	
600-700 lbs.	107.00	143.00	123.97	125.93	
Heifers: Small Frame	e #1-2				
300-400 lbs.	120.00	130.00	124.36	137.50	131.55
400-500 lbs.	110.00	131.00	123.81	125.20	124.24
500-600 lbs.	84.00	120.00	111.67	116.27	117.21
600-700 lbs.	100.00	114.00	106.63		112.57
Heifers: Medium/Lai	rge Frame #2-3				
300-400 lbs.	110.00	147.50	134.06	129.68	120.89
400-500 lbs.	120.00	141.00	131.70	129.51	118.25
500-600 lbs.	110.00	131.00	119.92	119.71	110.97
600-700 lbs.	100.00	124.00	115.52	109.22	107.71

Cattle Receipts

This week:7,171 Week ago:9,693 Year ago:8,158

Link to report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams 2063.pdf

Graded Sales, Video Board Sales, Video Sales & Loads

East Tennessee Livestock Center Video Sale-Sweetwater, TN 12/15/21

2 loads out of 150 steers from BQA certified producer; Est. weight 865 lbs.; 95% L&M-1s and 5% L&M-2s; medium flesh; 100% Black/BWF; \$157.50

East Tennessee Cattle Alliance Preconditioned Graded Feeder Sale-Greeneville, TN

Weighted Average Report for 12/16/2021 For complete report:

https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams 2075.pdf

Graded Goat & Sheep Sales

Columbia Graded Sheep and Goat Sale-Columbia, TN Weighted Average Report for 12/13/21

Total Receipts:

For complete report:

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

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USDA / Tennessee Department of Agriculture Market News Service https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/farms/news.html

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