Tennessee Market Highlights

March 24, 2023

UTEXTENSION INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

Number: 12

Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

<u>Slaughter Cows</u> Steady <u>Slaughter Bulls</u> Steady to \$4 lower <u>Feeder Steers</u> Steady to \$2 higher <u>Feeder Heifers</u> \$2 to \$3 higher <u>Feeder Cattle Index:</u> 187.78

Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Thursday of \$164.39 was up \$0.28. The dressed price of \$265.07 up \$1.26.

<u>Corn</u>

May closed at \$6.43 a bushel, up 9 cents since last Friday.

<u>Soybeans</u>

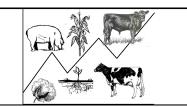
May closed at \$14.28 a bushel, down 48 cents since last Friday.

<u>Wheat</u>

May closed at \$6.88 a bushel, down 22 cents since last Friday.

<u>Cotton</u>

May closed at 76.54 cents per lb, down 1.29 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 mainly \$163 to \$166 while dressed prices were mainly \$264 to \$266.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$164.39 live, up \$0.28 compared to last week and \$265.07 dressed, up \$1.26 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$138.96 live and \$221.45 dressed.

It appears prices in the Northern part of cattle feeding country are pushing slightly higher while prices in the Southern part of cattle feeding country did well to stay steady with much of the Southern trade down \$1. There have certainly been challenges this winter in the North and the South with precipitation and some tough weather conditions. These challenges will disappear for the most part and provide cattle feeders the opportunity to push cattle weights higher with improving feeding conditions. There may be some concern with the direction of feed prices if China continues purchasing corn. This may result in cattle feeders desiring heavier placement weights, which will certainly mean heavier finished weights.

BEEF CUTOUT: At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was \$280.84 down \$1.94 from Thursday and down \$3.54 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$270.07 up \$1.18 from Thursday and down \$3.10 from last week. The Choice Select spread was \$10.77 compared to \$11.21 a week ago.

Protein prices and meat protein particularly remain elevated relative to historical prices. The all fresh retail beef price in February was nearly \$7.23 per pound, which is a slight increase from January but six cents lower than February of the previous year. This compares to a price of \$6.30 per pound in February 2021 and \$5.94 per pound in 2020. Thus, the all fresh retail beef price was 22 percent higher in February 2023 than it was in February 2020. The pork retail price increased 23 percent during this same three-year period while the broiler retail price increased 39 percent. A consumer favorite right now is eggs. The price of a dozen eggs was 191 percent higher than February 2020 while the price of a gallon of milk was 30 percent higher over the same time period. These prices demonstrate some of the pressure placed on consumers for staple proteins. How consumers shift expenditures of disposable income will determine demand for each of the items. The financial woes of a couple of banks may just be the tip of the iceberg.

OUTLOOK: Based on Tennessee weekly auction price averages, steer prices were steady this week compared to last week while heifer prices were steady to \$4 lower compared to the previous week. Slaughter cow prices were steady to \$2 higher than last week while slaughter bull prices were \$2 to \$3 higher compared to a week ago. Calf prices slowed their spring run this week, but it is not an indication of anything negative in the market. There are two factors to consider during the recent run in calf prices. The first is stronger feeder cattle futures in deferred contracts. For instance, the August feeder cattle contract is about \$12 per hundredweight higher than the start of the year. The contract is about \$5 per hundredweight off its high, but it continues to offer producers the opportunity to hedge a profit on lightweight calves purchased in today's cash market. This runs slightly counter to nearby feeder cattle futures. The March contract is only \$4 to \$5 per

Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

(Continued from page 1)

hundredweight higher than where it started the year. The March feeder contract and the CME feeder cattle index are attempting to converge, and the fact that futures had to decline in recent weeks demonstrates traders had more optimism for feeder cattle than feedlot operators were willing to pay. The second factor to consider with the increasing lightweight calf prices is the seasonal tendency for this weight class. Stocker producers have been looking for lightweight calves to place on grass this spring and summer, because the value of gain is fairly high for these cattle. The seasonal tendency of these lightweight calf prices would suggest calf prices will remain strong through April and maybe into early May. The ability of prices to move higher will likely hinge on deferred feeder cattle futures. The market remains fluid, and there will be plenty of opportunity to market. However, some optimism has disappeared the past couple of weeks.

ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK: A question was asked this week concerning beef supply and demand in 2023, which is an appropriate question given the reduced cattle inventory. It seems certain domestic supply of beef will decline in 2023 relative to 2022, because there should be fewer animals making their way through the fed cattle system and a reduction in non-fed slaughter. However, feedlots will likely attempt to support domestic supply by feeding cattle longer and harvesting cattle at heavier weights. It is unlikely heavier weights will make up for the reduced slaughter, which means the market is likely to see an increase in the quantity of beef imported. The demand side is a little less certain. Consumers have been resilient with beef demand through this period of inflation and higher interest rates. How much longer they can remain resilient may the biggest question for the industry to answer. With supplies expected to decline, there is a good chance beef prices will push higher, but it is unknown if it will be high enough to temper beef demand.

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 – April \$163.00 +0.85; June \$156.60 +0.80; August \$156.43 +0.73; Feeder cattle - March \$189.65 + 0.63; April \$194.80 - 0.20; May \$197.55 -1.05; August \$214.13 -0.50; May corn closed at \$6.43 up 12 cents from Thursday.

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Overview

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

May corn has gained 36 ¼ cents since the recent six month low of \$6.06 ¾ on March 10. The rally in old crop futures has pushed the old crop-new crop price spread to 83 cents. Strong export sales have facilitated the recent price rally. This week corn exports were a marketing year high of 121.9 million bushels. Export sales and shipments will need to remain

		Previous	Current	Change
N	USD Index	103.38	102.77	-0.61
vv	Crude Oil	66.52	69.2	2.68
	DЛA	31,812	32,238	427

strong to achieve USDA's marketing year projection of 1.85 billion bushels.

Since February 22, May soybeans have declined 121 ½ cents. Brazil soybean exports have replaced the US as the cheapest on the world market. Brazil is projected to export 3.4 billion bushels of its record 5.6-billion-bushel crop. Export pace out of South America will be watched closely over the next three months as Brazil can have labor and logistical issues when moving the crop to world markets. US old crop soybean prices are likely to find price support from domestic crushing rather than exports.

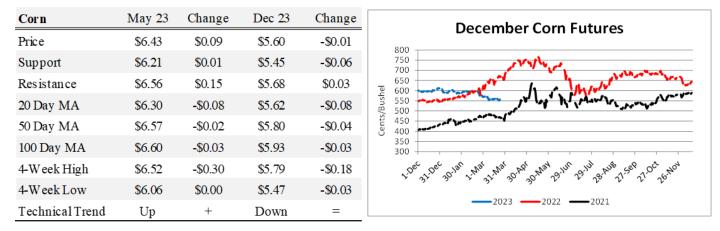
Cotton prices are unlikely to substantially improve unless the weather is uncooperative. The challenge for cotton prices remains very weak demand. There are limited buyers of US cotton even at current prices. As such, purchasers can take a wait and see approach to secure cotton later this year at potentially lower prices. A return to mid-80 cent prices seems very unlikely based on current information.

July wheat prices set a new low of \$6.65 on Wednesday before gaining 26 cents on Friday. Volatility remains a feature in wheat markets as news out of Russia-Ukraine and US weather continue to influence prices. Prices are likely to move mostly sideways until more is known about the Northern Hemisphere winter wheat crop.

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

<u>Corn</u>

Ethanol production for the week ending March 17 was 0.997 million barrels per day, down 17,000 from the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 26.188 million barrels, down 0.206 million compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for March 10-16 were 121.9 million bushels for the 2022/23 marketing year – a marketing year high – and 3.7 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 19% compared to last week at 54.4 million bushels – a marketing year high. Corn export sales and commitments were 74% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2022/23 marketing year (September 1 to August 31) compared to the previous 5-year average of 85%. Across Tennessee, average corn basis (cash price-nearby futures price) strengthened or remained unchanged at West, Northwest, West-Central, North-Central, and Mississippi River elevators and barge points. Overall, basis for the week ranged from 55 under to 41 over, with an average of 15 over the May futures at elevators and barge points. May 2023 corn futures closed at \$6.43, up 9 cents since last Friday. For the week, May 2023 corn futures traded between \$6.23 and \$6.45. July 2023 corn futures closed at \$6.23, up 6 cents since last Friday. May/Jul and May/Dec future spreads were -20 and -83 cents.

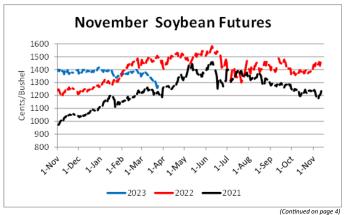


New crop cash prices ranged from \$4.72 to \$5.59 at elevators and barge points. December 2023 corn futures closed at \$5.60, down 1 cent since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing \$5.70 December 2023 Put Option costing 47 cents establishing a \$5.23 futures floor.

Soybeans

Across Tennessee, average soybean basis weakened or remained unchanged at West, Northwest, West-Central, North-Central, and Mississippi River elevators and barge points and strengthened at North-Central elevators and barge points. Basis ranged from 10 under to 45 over, with an average basis of 32 over the May futures contract. Soybean net weekly sales reported by exporters were 5.6 million bushels for the 2022/23 marketing year and 7.3 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 9% compared to last week at 25.9 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments were 90% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2022/23 marketing year (September 1 to August 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 91%. May 2023 soybean futures closed at \$14.28, down 48 cents since last Friday. For the week, May 2023 soybean futures traded between \$14.05 and \$14.97. May/Jul and May/Nov future spreads were -22 and -155 cents. July 2023 soybean futures closed at \$14.06, down 55 cents since last Friday.

Soybeans	May 23	Change	Nov 23	Change
Price	\$14.28	-\$0.48	\$12.73	-\$0.40
Support	\$13.94	-\$0.59	\$12.36	-\$0.60
Resistance	\$14.48	-\$0.61	\$12.95	-\$0.44
20 Day MA	\$14.89	-\$0.20	\$13.35	-\$0.27
50 Day MA	\$15.07	-\$0.04	\$13.57	-\$0.11
100 Day MA	\$14.90	\$0.02	\$13.73	-\$0.03
4-Week High	\$15.38	-\$0.11	\$13.86	-\$0.16
4-Week Low	\$14.05	-\$0.65	\$12.47	-\$0.62
Technical Trend	Down	=	Down	=



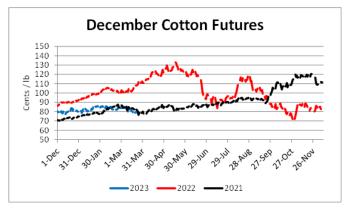
Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

November 2023 soybean futures closed at \$12.73, down 40 cents since last Friday. New crop cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$12.26 to \$13.28. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a \$12.80 November 2023 Put Option which would cost 82 cents and set a \$11.98 futures floor. Nov/Dec 2023 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.27 at the end of the week.

Cotton

Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for March 23 were 76.58 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 78.83 cents/lb (31-3-35). Adjusted world price (AWP) was down 2.25 cents at 66.33 cents. Cotton net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 310,200 bales for the 2022/23 marketing year and 21,300 bales for the 2023/24 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 1% compared to last week at 272,500 bales. Upland cotton export sales were 99% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2022/23 marketing year (August 1 to July 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 100%. May 2023 cotton futures closed at 76.54 cents, down 1.29 cents since last Friday. For the week, May 2023 cotton futures traded between 76.54 and 79.8 cents. July 2023 cotton futures closed at 77.17 cents, down 1.27 cents since last Friday. May/Jul and May/Dec cotton futures spreads were 0.63 cents and 1.86 cents.

Cotton	May 23	Change	Dec 23	Change
Price	76.54	-1.29	78.40	-1.11
Support	74.54	-1.00	76.57	-0.81
Resistance	78.86	-1.60	80.37	-1.47
20 Day MA	80.95	-1.22	81.92	-0.86
50 Day MA	83.38	-0.72	83.17	-0.28
100 Day MA	83.03	0.11	81.17	0.33
4-Week High	86.25	0.00	85.75	0.00
4-Week Low	75.70	-1.16	77.56	-0.99
Technical Trend	Down	=	Down	=

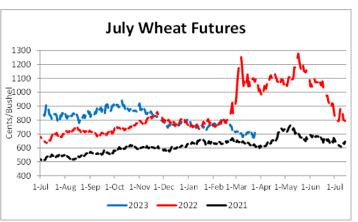


December 2023 cotton futures closed at 78.4 cents, down 1.11 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a 79 cent December 2023 Put Option costing 7 cents establishing a 72 cent futures floor.

<u>Wheat</u>

Wheat net weekly sales reported by exporters were 4.6 million bushels for the 2022/23 marketing year and 0.5 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 44% compared to last week at 13.3 million bushels. Wheat export sales were 85% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2022/23 marketing year (June 1 to May 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 99%. Wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$6.34 to \$6.96. May 2023 wheat futures closed at \$6.88, down 22 cents since last Friday. May 2023 wheat futures traded between \$6.54 and \$7.08 this week. May wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.07. May/Jul and May/Sep future spreads were 12 and 23 cents.

Wheat	May 23	Change	Jul 23	Change
Price	\$6.88	-\$0.22	\$7.00	-\$0.19
Support	\$6.37	-\$0.54	\$6.50	-\$0.52
Resistance	\$7.26	\$0.04	\$7.36	\$0.06
20 Day MA	\$6.93	-\$0.18	\$7.02	-\$0.17
50 Day MA	\$7.34	-\$0.07	\$7.40	-\$0.06
100 Day MA	\$7.67	-\$0.09	\$7.72	-\$0.09
4-Week High	\$7.24	-\$0.60	\$7.31	-\$0.58
4-Week Low	\$6.54	-\$0.07	\$6.65	-\$0.07
Technical Trend	Down	=	Down	=



Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

New crop wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$6.34 to \$7.04 July 2023 wheat futures closed at \$7.00, down 19 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$7.20 July 2023 Put Option costing 42 cents establishing a \$6.78 futures floor. September 2023 wheat futures closed at \$7.11, down 17 cents since last Friday.

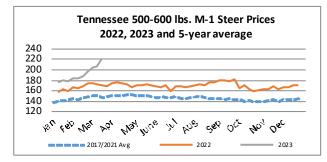
Additional Information:

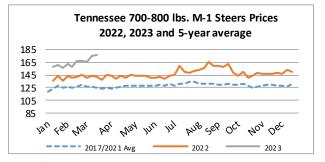
Links for data presented: U.S. Export Sales - <u>https://apps.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html</u> USDA FAS: Weekly Export Performance Indicator – <u>https://apps.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/esrpi.aspx</u> EIA: Weekly ethanol Plant Production - <u>https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pnp_wprode_s1_w.htm</u> 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> Crop_Progress & Condition/ U.S. Crop Progress - <u>http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1048</u>

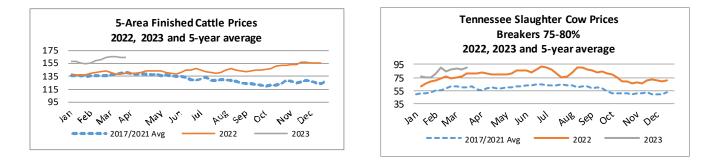
USDA AMS: Market News - https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/search-market-news

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>.

	F alders	Prices Paid to Farme				
	Friday, Friday	Monday	rsday, March 23, 2023 Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	
	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average	
No. 2 Yellow Soybeans	\$/bushel\$					
Northwest	14.67	14.76	14.57			
North Central	15.02	15.11	14.92	14.74	14.45	
West Central	15.05	15.14	14.95	14.77	14.48	
West	15.21	15.31	15.12	14.93	14.64	
Mississippi River	15.14	15.23	15.02	14.83	14.50	
Yellow Corn						
Northwest	6.52	6.51	6.48	6.51	6.49	
North Central	5.79	5.78	5.75	5.79	4.77	
West Central	6.71	6.70	6.67	6.71	6.69	
West	6.75	6.74	6.71	6.75	6.73	
Vississippi River	6.67	6.66	6.63	6.66	6.64	
Wheat						
Northwest	6.8	6.69	6.53	6.35	6.34	
North Central	7.06	6.96	6.78	6.59	6.57	
West						
Vississippi River	7.06	6.96	6.79	6.60	6.60	
Cotton			\$/pound			
Memphis	76.83-79.08	76.22-78.47	76.85-79.10	77.28-79.53	76.58-78.83	







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 We	ek	Last Week's	Year Ago	
-	Low	High		Weighted Average		
_ 		-	\$/cwt			
Steers: Medium/Large			<i>+,</i> - · · ·			
300-400 lbs	212.50	285.00	245.30	245.25	186.30	
400-500 lbs	210.00	255.00	234.90	232.16	179.45	
500-600 lbs	188.00	240.00	215.85	219.42	167.43	
600-700 lbs	175.00	225.00	200.92	192.34	152.86	
700-800 lbs	165.00	199.00	181.89	176.91	137.49	
Steers: Small Frame #						
300-400 lbs	205.00	220.00	212.61	211.84		
400-500 lbs	185.00	210.00	190.92	194.29		
500-600 lbs	185.00	205.00	195.24			
600-700 lbs	130.00		133.33			
Steers: Medium/Large			200.00			
300-400 lbs	172.50	250.00	230.84	211.54	164.36	
400-500 lbs	175.00	226.00	203.96	213.11	168.26	
500-600 lbs	170.00	210.00	189.51	192.27	154.32	
600-700 lbs	166.00	197.50	177.06	173.87	131.82	
700-800 lbs	162.50	180.00	171.86		123.01	
Iolstein Steers			27 2.00			
300-400 lbs						
500-600 lbs						
700-800 lbs						
laughter Cows & Bul	s					
Breakers 75-80%	82.00	104.00	92.53	91.73	81.54	
Boners 80-85%	83.00	100.00	90.16	89.88	81.22	
Lean 85-90%	65.00	87.00	79.45	78.43	67.69	
Bulls YG 1	100.00	132.00	115.62	116.69	108.59	
leifers: Medium/Larg						
300-400 lbs	184.00	255.00	214.88	214.66	159.16	
400-500 lbs	179.00	235.00	204.76	203.45	154.93	
500-600 lbs	160.00	215.00	188.00	184.12	146.55	
600-700 lbs	156.50	197.00	168.61	165.66	132.78	
leifers: Small Frame						
300-400 lbs				160.15	136.93	
400-500 lbs	150.00	186.00	171.34	155.00	136.38	
500-600 lbs						
600-700 lbs	133.00	186.00	152.63			
leifers: Medium/Larg						
300-400 lbs	165.00	220.00	191.81	190.70	146.97	
400-500 lbs	165.00	208.00	187.45	186.02	141.78	
500-600 lbs	132.50	192.50	169.65	167.09	133.31	
600-700 lbs	130.00	167.50	151.36	146.38	121.74	

Cattle Receipts

This week:7,610

Week ago:6,225

Year ago:6,428

Graded Sales, Video Board Sales, Video Sales & Loads

Browning Livestock Market Video/Internet Auction -Lafayette, TN 3/15/2023 Total Receipts: 347 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3467.pdf

East Tennessee Livestock Center Video Sale -

Sweetwater, TN 3/15/2023 1 load out of 72 steers from BQA certified producer; Est weight 860 lbs; 95% L&M-1s & 5% L&M-2s; medium flesh; 100% BLK/BWF; \$184.25

East Tennessee Livestock Center Graded Holstein Steer Sale

- Sweetwater, TN 3/17/2023 Total Receipts: 511 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_2072.pdf

Dickson Regional Livestock Center - Dickson, TN

3/20/2023 84 Steers, 588 lbs, M&L1&2, 57-Black/BWF 13-ChX 14-Red/ RWF, 4-5 Flesh, \$221.00 58 Steers, 900 lbs, M&L 1, 100% Black/BWF, 5 Flesh, \$175.00 87 Heifers, 592 lbs, M&L 1&2, Mixed Colors, 4-5 Flesh, 178.00

East Tennessee Livestock Center Video Sale -Sweetwater, TN

3/22/2023

1 load out of 85 steers from BQA certified producer; Est weight 880 lbs; 95% L&M-1s & 5% L&M-2s; medium flesh; 100% BLK/BWF; \$183.50

1 load out of 58 steers from BQA certified producer; Est weight 885 lbs; 95% L&M-1s & 5% L&M-2s; medium flesh; 100% BLK/BWF; \$182.50

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

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