# Tennessee Market Highlights

UTEXTENSION INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE July 28, 2023

Number: 30

# Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

Slaughter Cows

steady to \$1 higher

<u>Slaughter Bulls</u>

steady

Feeder Steers

\$2 to \$5 higher

Feeder Heifers

steady to \$4 higher

Feeder Cattle Index: 242.29

## Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Thursday of \$186.57 was down \$0.17. The dressed price of \$292.05 down \$1.93.

## Corn

September closed at \$5.21 a bushel, down 6 cents since last Friday.

## <u>Soybeans</u>

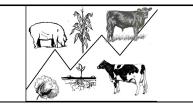
September closed at \$14.86 a bushel, down 15 cents since last Friday.

## <u>Wheat</u>

September closed at \$7.04 a bushel, up 7 cents since last Friday.

## <u>Cotton</u>

December closed at 84.26 cents per lb, down 0.22 cents since last Friday.



# Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew P. Griffith

**FED CATTLE:** Fed cattle trade was not established at the time of this writing. Asking prices in the South were \$180 to \$182, which is \$2 to \$4 higher than last week.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$186.57 live, down \$0.17 compared to last week and \$292.05 dressed, down \$1.93 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$139.07 live and \$225.42 dressed.

Cattle feeders and packers played a game of "stalemate" this week with cattle feeders asking higher prices and packers unwilling to agree to such terms early this week. If they do not get some deals done then they both may be playing the game of "left holding the bag." The simple truth of cattle and beef production is that cattle are a perishable product, they cannot be fed indefinitely, and packers have to slaughter animals to cover sales agreements and fixed costs. Who will blink first in this staring contest? Will it be the entity with the glass eye or will it be the entity with no eyes? Someone will eventually make a move, and that move will be what determines if prices increase, decrease, or stay the same compared to last week.

**BEEF CUTOUT:** At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was \$302.62 down \$0.24 from Thursday and up \$0.08 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$276.67 down \$3.09 from Thursday and up \$0.08 from last week. The Choice Select spread was \$25.95 compared to \$25.95 a week ago.

Domestic beef production year to date pushed over 15 billion pounds this week, which is more than 700 million pounds less than the same period last year or a decrease of nearly five percent. Most of the decline in beef production compared to a year ago stems from reduced beef cow slaughter, steer slaughter, and lighter slaughter weights. Beef cow slaughter is down more than 12 percent while steer slaughter has declined close to five percent. Alternatively, dairy cow slaughter has increased nearly six percent compared to a year ago due to declining milk prices. Heifer slaughter is not even one percent lower than a year ago, and it simply reaffirms what was presumed in that heifer retention did not begin the first half of this year. All of these points should support beef prices remaining elevated in the near term and in the longer term. It will be interesting to see how imports are adjusting to meet the demand for lean grinding beef given the production decline domestically. Export data will also help solidify the beef availability picture.

**OUTLOOK:** Based on Tennessee weekly auction price averages, steers prices were \$2 to \$5 higher compared to last week while heifer prices were steady to \$4 higher compared to a week ago. Slaughter cow prices were steady to \$1 higher than last week's weighted average price while bull prices were steady compared to the previous week. Since we are in the midst of the county fair season, this is the perfect time to compare cattle markets to the county fair. There are certainly several similarities and the main one that comes to mind is how well those rides are put together. The county fair ride is not like a roller coaster at a theme park in that it is put together one time. Instead it is taken apart moved and put back together several times per year. The folks who do this are probably really good at what they do, but taking something apart and putting it back together many times increases the probability of a mistake. Commodity markets appear to be constructed and destructed every couple of weeks as traders decide to run futures to extremely high levels and then spend the next week tearing it apart. There is a season for everything including constructing, repairing and destruction.

# Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

(Continued from page 1)

However, as cattle market participants continue to build higher prices, the question is if the foundation is strong enough to carry the load. Sometimes slower growth provides time for the foundation to be reinforced and repaired if there is a crack. The fundamentals in the cattle market certainly support strong cattle prices, but market participants have built prices higher at such a rapid pace that there is a good chance the foundation did not have enough time to cure and settle prior to building. There is no doubt a collapse will come in cattle markets. The key will be when will it happen and how abruptly will it occur. Managed growth is a good thing. Just ask weeds after they are sprayed with 2-4D resulting in uncontrolled growth. This idea may be premature, but know it was said here first!

**ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK:** Here is the shameless plug for the Tri-State Beef Conference at the Ron Ramsey Agricultural Center in Blountville, Tennessee on August 3<sup>rd</sup>. We have a good line up of speakers, a tradeshow, and a steak lunch. On-site registration begins at 8:00 am and the program begins a few minutes after 9:00 am. The conference will conclude by 3:00 pm. We hope you can join us as we put a lot of effort into this conference to serve producers and industry professionals. I know it is a long way from many folks in Tennessee, but I am driving nearly 350 miles to be there so come join us on Thursday. Now that I have plugged our three-state effort, it is now time to take care of life's more pressing matters such as straightening trees, climbing windmills, and making water wet. Sometimes, it seems like these are the things we do on the farm as there is always something to do. Despite the rat race that many of us stumble into, it is important to prioritize the chores to be completed, and it is equally important to complete the chores.

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 \$178.15 +0.10; October \$179.60 +0.10; December \$183.60 +0.20; Feeder cattle –August \$245.60 +0.95; September \$248.98 +0.70; October \$251.00 +0.65; November \$251.88 +0.80; September corn closed at \$5.21 down 12 cents from Thursday.

## Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

#### **Overview**

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

Drought remains at the forefront of US corn and soybean markets. As of July 25, 59% of the US corn crop was estimated to be in drought (1% exceptional drought, 7% extreme drought, 14% severe drought, and 36%

moderate drought) and 53% of the soybean crop was in drought (1% exceptional drought, 7% extreme drought, 13% severe drought, and 33% moderate drought). With limited precipitation (less than 1 inch in most locations) in the seven-day NOAA forecast and high temperatures, further crop stress is likely to occur. The weather uncertainty and sporadic rainfall has contributed to price volatility. Over, the past ten trading days, December corn has closed the day: -7 ¾, +28 ½, +18 ½, -6 ¾, -10, +32, - 3, -17, -6, and -12 cents. The net move over the ten-day period was +11 cents but the daily price volatility has the perception of a larger overall move.

Since the start of July, the December cotton futures contract increased 9.88 cents, from 78.51 cents to a high of 88.39 cents on Thursday, July 27. The December contract declined 3.67 cents at the end of Thursday and Friday settling back into the 7-month trading range of 77 to 87 cents. Weak export sales were a contributor to the decline. Currently, only 20% of cotton areas are in drought with 19% in the moderate or severe category. Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, and Oklahoma comprise the most drought-stricken area in the Cotton Belt. High temperatures could change the drought picture over the next few weeks, particularly in Texas. Based on recent market moves and weather uncertainty, August is setting up for a potential breakout in cotton markets.

#### Corn

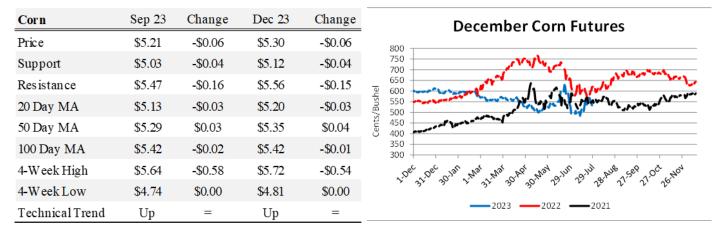
Ethanol production for the week ending July 21 was 1.094 million barrels per day, up 24,000 barrels from the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 23.228 million barrels, up 0.062 million compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for July 14-20 were net sales of 12.4 million bushels for the 2022/23 marketing year and 13.2 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 7% compared to last week at 16.2 million bushels. Corn export sales and com-

(Continued on page 3)

	Previous	Current	Change
USD Index	100.79	101.40	0.61
Crude Oil	77.13	80.38	3.25
DЛA	35,304	35,472	168

## Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

mitments were 96% 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 102%. Across Tennessee, average corn basis (cash price-nearby futures price) was unchanged at West, Northwest, West-Central, North-Central, and Mississippi River elevators and barge points. Overall, basis for the week ranged from 20 under to 10 over, with an average of 7 under the September futures at elevators and barge points.



The Crop Progress report estimated corn condition at 57% good-to-excellent and 13% poor-to-very poor; corn silking at 68% compared to 47% last week, 58% last year, and a 5-year average of 65%; and corn dough at 16% compared to 7% last week, 12% last year, and a 5-year average of 14%. In Tennessee, corn condition was 71% good-to-excellent and 8% poor-to-very poor; corn silking was 91% compared to 84% last week, 91% last year, and a 5-year average of 89%; and corn dough at 52% compared to 34% last week, 46% last year, and a 5-year average of 50%. New crop cash prices ranged from \$4.95 to \$5.53 at elevators and barge points. September 2023 corn futures closed at \$5.21, down 6 cents since last Friday. For the week, September 2023 corn futures traded between \$5.16 and \$5.64. Sep/Dec and Sep/Mar future spreads were 9 and 20 cents. December 2023 corn futures closed at \$5.30, down 6 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$5.40 December 2023 Put Option costing 50 cents establishing a \$4.90 futures floor. March 2024 corn futures closed at \$5.41, down 6 cents since last Friday.

## <u>Soybeans</u>

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 25 under to 15 over, with an average basis of 25 under the August futures contract. Soybean net weekly sales reported by exporters were 7.3 million bushels for the 2022/23 marketing year and 20 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 58% compared to last week at 13.9 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments were 98% 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 103%. August 2023 soybean futures closed at \$14.86, down 15 cents since last Friday. For the week, August 2023 soybean futures traded between \$14.83 and \$15.80. Aug/Sep and Aug/Nov future spreads were -53 and -104 cents. September 2023 soybean futures closed at \$14.33, up 4 cents since last Friday. September soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.75 at the end of the week.

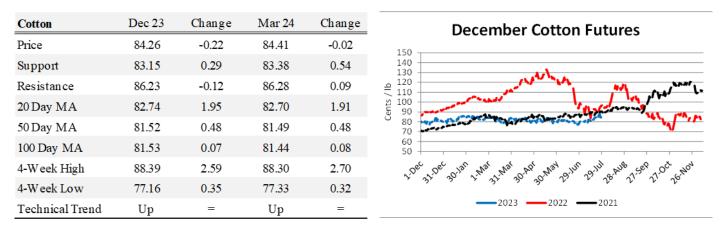
## **Crop Comments** by Dr. Aaron Smith

	,			
Soybeans	Aug 23	Change	Nov 23	Change
Price	\$14.86	-\$0.15	\$13.82	-\$0.19
Support	\$14.52	-\$0.19	\$13.65	-\$0.10
Resistance	\$15.48	\$0.35	\$14.10	-\$0.12
20 Day MA	\$14.82	\$0.32	\$13.75	\$0.29
50 Day MA	\$13.80	\$0.20	\$12.88	\$0.18
100 Day MA	\$13.88	\$0.03	\$12.91	\$0.02
4-Week High	\$15.80	\$0.62	\$14.35	\$0.07
4-Week Low	\$13.56	\$0.05	\$12.60	\$0.04
Technical Trend	Up	=	Up	=

The Crop Progress report estimated soybean condition at 54% good-to-excellent and 14% poor-to-very poor; soybeans blooming at 70% compared to 56% last week, 62% last year, and a 5-year average of 66%; and soybeans setting pods at 35% compared to 20% last week, 24% last year, and a 5-year average of 31%. In Tennessee, the Crop Progress report estimated soybean condition at 70% good-to-excellent and 7% poor-to-very poor; soybeans blooming at 73%, compared to 64% last week, 67% last year, and a 5-year average of 63%; and soybeans setting pods at 43% compared to 30% last week, 35% last year, and a 5year average of 33%. November 2023 soybean futures closed at \$13.82, down 19 cents since last Friday. New crop cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$13.51 to \$14.11. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a \$13.90 November 2023 Put Option which would cost 56 cents and set a \$13.34 futures floor. Nov/Dec 2023 soybeanto-corn price ratio was 2.61 at the end of the week.

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

North Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for July 27 were 83.62 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 85.87 cents/lb (31-3-35). Adjusted world price (AWP) was up 3.56 cents at 69.74 cents. Cotton net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales cancellations of 18,700 bales for the 2022/23 marketing year and net sales of 80,600 bales for the 2023/24 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 15% compared to last week at 197,800 bales. Upland cotton export sales were 115% 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 115%.



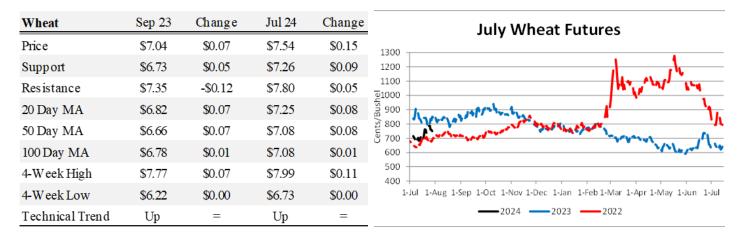
The Crop Progress report estimated cotton condition at 46% good-to-excellent and 24% poor-to-very poor; cotton squaring at 78% compared to 64% last week, 79% last year, and a 5-year average of 79%; and cotton setting bolls at 37% compared to 25% last week, 46% last year, and a 5-year average of 39%. In Tennessee, the Crop Progress report estimated cotton condition at 64% good-to-excellent and 12% poor-to-very poor; cotton squaring at 89% compared to 83% last week, 84% last year, and a 5-year average of 84%; and cotton setting bolls at 43% compared to 30% last week, 49% last year, and a 5-year average of 40%. December 2023 cotton futures closed at 84.26 cents, down 0.22 cents since last Friday. For the week, December 2023 cotton futures traded between 84.01 and 88.39 cents. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing an 85 cent December 2023 Put Option costing 4.4 cents establishing an 80.6 cent futures floor. March 2024 cotton futures closed at 84.41 cents,

## Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

down 0.02 cents since last Friday. May 2023 cotton futures closed at 84.45 cents, down 0.03 cents since last Friday. Dec/Mar and Dec/May cotton futures spreads were 0.15 cents and 0.19 cents.

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

Wheat net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 8.6 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 67% compared to last week at 14.5 million bushels. Wheat export sales were 28% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2023/24 marketing year (June 1 to May 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 37%. Wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$6.32 to \$7.13.



The Crop Progress report estimated winter wheat harvested at 68% compared to 56% last week, 76% last year, and a 5-year average of 77%; spring wheat condition at 49% good-to-excellent and 16% poor-to-very poor; and spring wheat headed at 94% compared to 86% last week, 83% last year, and a 5-year average of 93%. September 2023 wheat futures closed at \$7.04, up 7 cents since last Friday. September 2023 wheat futures traded between \$6.89 and \$7.77 this week. September wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.35. Sep/Dec and Sep/Jul future spreads were 24 and 50 cents. December 2023 wheat futures closed at \$7.28, up 11 cents since last Friday. July 2024 wheat futures closed at \$7.54, up 15 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$7.60 July 2024 Put Option costing 81 cents establishing a \$6.79 futures floor.

#### Additional Information:

Links for data presented:

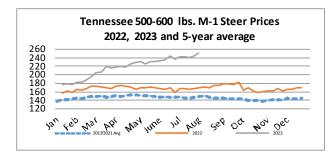
U.S. Export Sales - https://apps.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html

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

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

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

Prices Paid to Farmers by Elevators							
	Friday, July 21, 2023Thursday, July 27, 2023 Friday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursda						
	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average		
No. 2 Yellow Soybeans							
Northwest	14.76	14.98	14.91	15.21	15.07		
North Central	15.11	15.33	15.26	15.56	15.08		
West Central							
West	15.16	15.38	15.31	15.51			
Mississippi River							
Yellow Corn							
Northwest	5.17	5.51	5.48	5.30	5.23		
North Central	5.37	5.71	5.68	5.50	5.43		
West Central							
West	5.07	5.41	5.38	5.20	5.13		
Mississippi River							
Wheat							
Northwest	6.38	6.83	6.85	6.45	6.33		
North Central	6.43	7.03	7.05	6.65	6.58		
West	6.53	7.13	6.90	6.50	6.43		
Mississippi River	6.45	6.93	6.95	6.55	6.48		
Cotton	\$/pound\$						
Memphis	82.08-84.33	82.58-84.83	85.55-87.80	86.98-89.23	83.62-85.87		



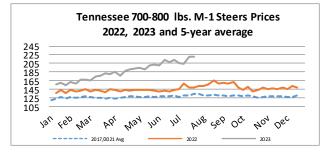
195

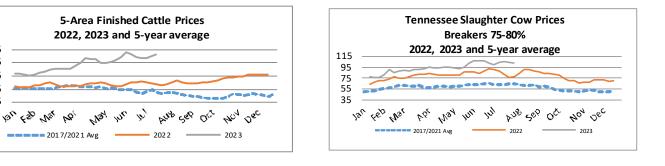
175

155

135

115





# **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

Prices on Tennessee Reported Livestock Auctions for the week ending Monday, July 24, 2023							
	This Week			Last Week's	Year Ago		
	Low	High	Weighted Average	Weighted Average	Weighted Average		
			\$/cwt				
Steers: Medium/Large	e Frame #1-2						
300-400 lbs	230.00	290.00	277.92	263.09	179.61		
400-500 lbs	216.00	280.00	261.23	253.73	179.01		
500-600 lbs	193.00	265.00	250.32	242.72	168.57		
600-700 lbs	191.00	260.00	239.89	234.85	157.63		
700-800 lbs	171.00	240.00	220.58	219.84	148.75		
Steers: Small Frame #	1-2						
300-400 lbs							
400-500 lbs				226.76			
500-600 lbs					126.75		
600-700 lbs					122.84		
Steers: Medium/Large	e Frame #3						
300-400 lbs	220.00	270.00	256.92	232.01	167.22		
400-500 lbs	202.50	260.00	241.68	223.96	166.77		
500-600 lbs	218.00	241.00	227.56	220.35	149.72		
600-700 lbs	190.00	238.00	222.96	212.20	142.87		
700-800 lbs	180.00	220.00	211.84	210.99	134.42		
Holstein Steers							
300-400 lbs							
500-600 lbs							
700-800 lbs							
Slaughter Cows & Bul	s						
Breakers 75-80%	85.00	108.00	102.09	103.70	74.88		
Boners 80-85%	72.00	107.00	100.59	98.76	70.92		
Lean 85-90%	66.50	100.00	90.79	88.57	62.72		
Bulls YG 1	115.50	130.00	123.82	125.95	102.60		
Heifers: Medium/Larg	e Frame #1-2						
300-400 lbs	172.00	260.00	241.73	227.81	153.17		
400-500 lbs	165.00	250.00	229.52	221.93	152.65		
500-600 lbs	176.00	234.00	215.18	213.61	145.64		
600-700 lbs	164.00	220.00	206.63	196.91	139.60		
Heifers: Small Frame	<b>#1-2</b>						
300-400 lbs					140.38		
400-500 lbs				199.85	138.67		
500-600 lbs				191.20	136.87		
600-700 lbs							
Heifers: Medium/Larg	e Frame #2-3						
300-400 lbs	184.00	245.00	218.64	212.10	142.17		
400-500 lbs	169.00	235.00	210.73	207.18	140.17		
500-600 lbs	171.00	217.00	203.47	199.58	135.87		
600-700 lbs	152.00	205.00	190.69	188.99	128.08		

Cattle Receipts

This week:1,664

Week ago:8,524

Year ago:8,345

## Graded Goat & Sheep Sales

Columbia Graded Sheep and Goat Sale-Columbia, TN Weighted Average Report for 7/24/23 Total Receipts: 1,128 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.

