

# Tennessee Market Highlights

UTEXTENSION  
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

March 28, 2024

Number: 13

## Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

### Slaughter Cows

\$2 to \$6 higher

### Slaughter Bulls

\$4 to \$8 higher

### Feeder Steers

\$1 to \$5 higher

### Feeder Heifers

unevenly steady

Feeder Cattle Index: 248.99

### Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Wednesday of \$185.12 was down \$4.40 compared to last week and \$298.00 dressed, down \$3.99.

### Corn

May closed at \$4.42 a bushel, up 3 cents since last Friday.

### Soybeans

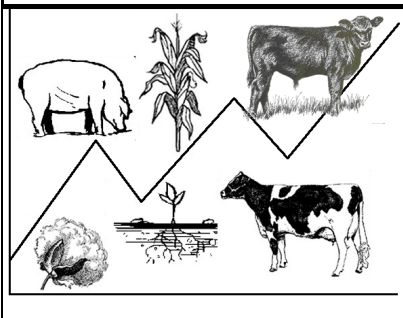
May closed at \$11.91 a bushel, down 1 cent since last Friday.

### Wheat

May closed at \$5.60 a bushel, up 6 cents since last Friday.

### Cotton

May closed at 91.38 cents per lb, down 0.15 cents since last Friday.



## Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew P. Griffith

**FED CATTLE:** Fed cattle traded \$2 lower compared to last week on a live basis. Prices were largely \$186 to \$187 on a live basis and \$299 to \$300 on a dressed basis.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Wednesday were \$185.12 live, down \$4.40 compared to last week and \$298.00 dressed, down \$3.99. A year ago, prices were no reported trade live and \$265.58 dressed.

Finished cattle trade for the week was just beginning to take place at the time of this writing. It is fairly certain prices are going to be softer compared to last week given the \$4 plus decline in April live cattle futures to start the week. Not to speak out of both sides of one's mouth, but April live cattle futures reversed course on Wednesday and Thursday and regained a small portion of the early week price decline. Good, bad, or indifferent, finished cattle prices will not look as good as last week, but the market could easily reverse course next week move to higher levels. Cattle feeders and packers will both be working hard to push or pull prices in an advantageous direction for each of their businesses.

**BEEF CUTOFF:** At midday Thursday, the Choice cutout was \$308.30 down \$0.28 from Wednesday and down \$3.25 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$301.11 up \$2.68 from Thursday and down \$3.61 from last week. The Choice Select spread was \$7.19 compared to \$6.83 a week ago.

Beef movement should improve following Easter and heading into the summer grilling season. Consumers often lean towards ham for the Easter holiday, and there are certainly some religious traditions that slow beef movement leading up to Easter. However, with baseball season kicking off, there will certainly be a seasonal increase in beef hotdog consumption. Similarly, middle meats will begin to experience

increased interest as temperatures increase. The focus used to be on grilling holidays such as Memorial Day or Independence Day, but consumers consider Saturdays a holiday in most instances. In fact, consumers simply make up reasons to throw something on the grill. Will consumers slow this pattern as beef prices increase? They very well could, but most of them will likely trade down to lower valued products compared to moving away from beef completely. Some will move to lower valued steak cuts while others shift to more ground product. This will be a developing theme moving forward.

**OUTLOOK:** Based on weekly auction market averages, steer prices were \$1 to \$5 higher compared to last week while heifer prices were unevenly steady compared to the previous week. Slaughter cow prices were \$2 to \$6 higher compared to the previous week's weighted average price while bull prices were \$4 to \$8 higher compared to the previous week. The focus of market participants and observers this week has been the quick decline in deferred feeder cattle futures contracts. For instance, the August feeder cattle futures contract price declined \$10.50 per hundredweight from Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup> to Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup>. Many people have a puzzled look on their face from this price action and maybe there should be some confusion given the fundamentals of the market. However, this appears to be the futures market doing what the futures market does, which is absolutely nothing. The market is dictated by those who are trading so the market in and of itself simply patterns human psychologic tendencies. In this case, one would have to think there was some profit taking that pushed the market lower, and the second thought is cattle futures expectations may have

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## Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

(Continued from page 1)

pushed prices too high. Another factor in this price action may have been the quantity of cattle placed on feed in February. Based on last week’s cattle on feed report, placements outpaced analysts’ expectations, which may have traders concerned about how many cattle are truly still in the country. The January 1 cattle inventory report stated a rather large reduction in the number of cows and calves, but the report can still have inaccuracies, which means there may have been a few more cattle still standing on all fours than the report indicated. Placements in February might insinuate this. One month of placements is not guaranteed accurate data either. This is not meant to cast stones at USDA reports or lay blame on anyone. The decline in futures is simply humans making trades based on the best current data. Price could turn on its heels in short order.

**ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK:** As easy as it is to identify bad people in a bad world, today is about showering praise on good people doing good business in an evil world. Believe it or not, there are still good people in this world, living life and doing business as their Maker intended. This is not an article to promote a business or an individual, but I have been fortun-

nate to do business with several individuals where integrity is still considered a priority. Some of these individuals own businesses or hold positions in businesses that are considered important. I am thankful for each of these folks as they have contributed positively to me. My one hope is that I think and act in the same manner to everyone I come in contact with, because the relationships we build are important. Thus, I challenge folks to do two things. First, I challenge each reader to be more cognizant of how they are doing business and work to do it even better. Second, I encourage each of us to help others who may not do all things with the standard of integrity that is desired. Lastly eat beef and ham for Easter.

Please send questions and comments to [agriff14@utk.edu](mailto: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 \$185.00 +1.40; June \$180.25 +1.58; August \$178.20 +1.53; Feeder cattle –April \$247.75 -0.30; May \$247.13 +0.25; August \$258.83 +0.93; September \$260.73 +1.00; May corn closed at \$4.42 up 15 cents from Thursday.

## Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

### Overview

Soybeans were down; cotton was mixed; corn and wheat were up for the week.

On Thursday March 28, 2024, the USDA released its annual Prospective Plantings Report. The report contains farmer-based survey estimates for plantings of principal row crops in the United States. The report builds a base line for acreage projections for the 2024 crop year. Planted acreage estimates will be modified throughout the planting window, primarily due to weather or market conditions.

Overall, the Report estimated 313.3 million acres would be planted to principal crops (19 crops total), down 6.3 million acres compared to 2023. Many states had reductions in projected planted acres the five largest year-over-year reductions were Kansas, Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and North Dakota with decreases of 1.3 million acres, 1.2 million acres, 0.7 million acres, 0.6 million acres, and 0.5 million acres compared to 2023.

U.S. corn acreage was projected at 90 million acres, down 4.6 million acres compared to last year and 1 million acres lower than the USDA’s February Outlook estimate. In Tennessee, corn planted acreage was estimated at 930,000 acres, down 10,000 compared to 2023.

U.S. soybean acreage was projected at 86.5 million acres, up 2.91 million acres compared to last year and 1 million acres lower than the USDA’s February Outlook estimate. In Tennessee, soybean planted acreage was estimated at 1.65 million acres, up 50,000 compared to 2023.

U.S. cotton acreage was projected at 10.7 million acres, up 0.443 million acres compared to last year and 1 million acres lower than the USDA’s February Outlook estimate. In Tennessee, cotton planted acreage was estimated at 300,000 acres, up 35,000

	Previous	Current	Change
USD Index	104.16	104.26	0.10
Crude Oil	80.81	83.14	2.33
DJIA	39,476	39,765	289

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compared to 2023.

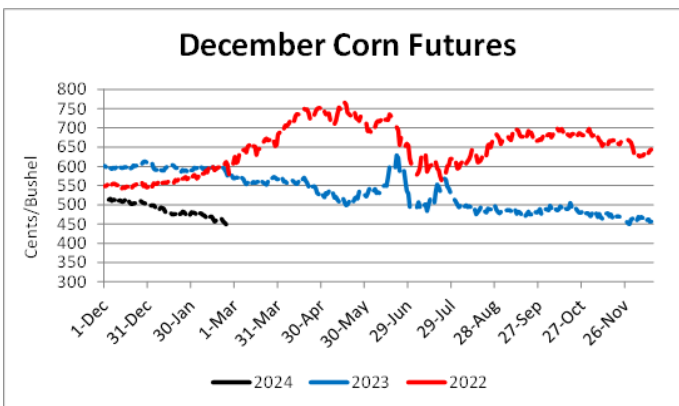
U.S. all wheat acreage was projected at 47.5 million acres, down 2.1 million acres compared to last year and 0.5 million acres lower than the USDA’s February Outlook estimate. In Tennessee, wheat planted acreage was estimated at 380,000 acres, down 90,000 compared to 2023.

Overall, the Report was slightly bullish for corn, cotton, and wheat and neutral for soybean prices. Futures markets reacted accordingly, with December corn up 15 ½ cents, December cotton up 0.65 cents, July wheat up 13 cents, and November soybeans up 2 ¾ cents for the day. Moving forward the total acreage planted will be dictated by weather and changes in prices. It is unlikely that the Prospective Plantings Report will dramatically alter 2024 price ranges for any of the four commodities.

**Corn**

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 60 under to 8 over, with an average of 16 under the May futures at elevators and barge points. Ethanol production for the week ending March 22 was 1.054 million barrels per day, up 8,000 from the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 26.092 million barrels, up 0.083 million barrels compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for March 15-21 were net sales of 47.5 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year and 5.0 million bushels for the 2024/24 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 19% compared to last week at 48.6 million bushels. Corn export sales and commitments were 80% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2023/24 marketing year (September 1 to August 31) compared to the previous 5-year average of 88%. May 2024 corn futures closed at \$4.42, up 3 cents since last Friday. For the week May 2024 corn futures traded between \$4.26 and \$4.48. May/Jul and May/Dec future spreads were 12 and 35 cents. July 2024 corn futures closed at \$4.54, up 2 cents since last Friday.

Corn	Mar 24	Change	Dec 24	Change
Price	\$3.99	-\$0.17	\$4.49	-\$0.09
Support	\$3.91	-\$0.21	\$4.41	-\$0.10
Resistance	\$4.13	-\$0.14	\$4.60	-\$0.06
20 Day MA	\$4.30	-\$0.08	\$4.68	-\$0.05
50 Day MA	\$4.50	-\$0.06	\$4.84	-\$0.04
100 Day MA	\$4.71	-\$0.04	\$4.99	-\$0.02
4-Week High	\$4.53	\$0.00	\$4.82	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$3.98	-\$0.18	\$4.47	-\$0.07
Technical Trend	Down	=	Down	=



New crop cash prices ranged from \$3.82 to \$4.56 at elevators and barge points. December 2024 corn futures closed at \$4.77, up 2 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$4.80 December 2024 Put Option costing 35 cents establishing a \$4.45 futures floor.

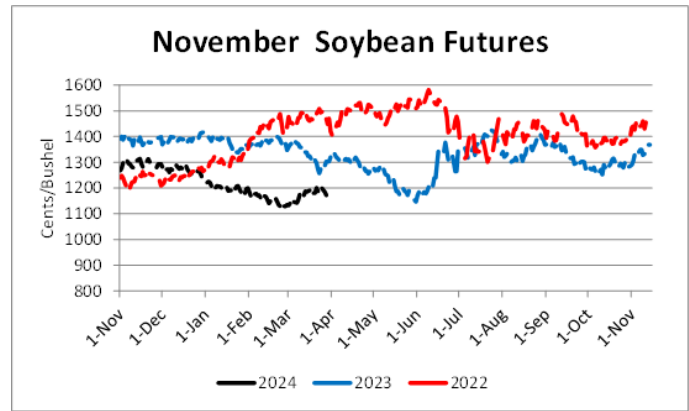
**Soybeans**

Across Tennessee the average soybean basis weakened or remained unchanged at West, Northwest, West-Central, North-Central, and Mississippi River elevators and barge points. Basis ranged from 33 under to 12 over the May futures contract, with an average basis at the end of the week of 6 under. Soybean net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 9.7 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year and 4.4 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 2% compared to last week at 28.9 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments were 86% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2023/24 marketing year (September 1 to August 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 93%. May 2024 soybean futures closed at \$11.91, down 1 cent since last Friday. For the week May 2024 soybean futures traded between \$11.77 and \$12.10. May 2024 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.69 at the end of the week. May/Jul and May/Nov future spreads were 14 and -5 cents. July 2024 soybean futures closed at \$12.05, unchanged since last Friday.

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## Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Soybeans	May 24	Change	Nov 24	Change
Price	\$11.91	-\$0.01	\$11.86	-\$0.01
Support	\$11.84	\$0.09	\$11.77	\$0.05
Resistance	\$12.01	-\$0.18	\$11.92	-\$0.18
20 Day MA	\$11.84	\$0.11	\$11.76	\$0.11
50 Day MA	\$11.90	-\$0.03	\$11.71	-\$0.01
100 Day MA	\$12.63	-\$0.06	\$12.18	-\$0.04
4-Week High	\$12.26	\$0.00	\$12.16	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$11.28	\$0.00	\$11.25	\$0.03
Technical Trend	Up	=	Up	=

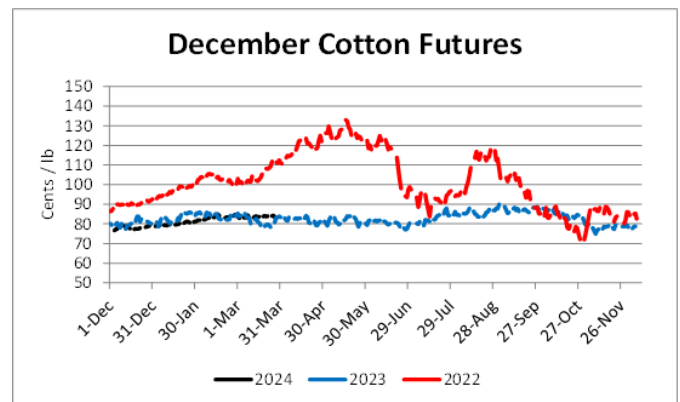


New crop cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$11.51 to \$11.79. November 2024 soybean futures closed at \$11.86, down 1 cent since last Friday. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a \$12.00 November 2024 Put Option which would cost 68 cents and set a \$11.32 futures floor. Nov/Dec soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.49 at the end of the week.

### Cotton

North Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for March 27 were 87.77 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 89.77 cents/lb (31-3-35). Cotton net weekly sales reported by exporters were 98,200 bales for the 2023/24 marketing year and 72,200 bales for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 9% compared to last week at 360,700 bales. Upland cotton export sales were 93% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2023/24 marketing year (August 1 to July 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 101%. May 2024 cotton futures closed at 91.38 cents, down 0.15 cents since last Friday. For the week, May 2024 cotton futures traded between 90.52 and 92.31 cents. May/Jul and May/Dec cotton futures spreads were 0.59 cents and -7.39 cents. July 2024 cotton futures closed at 91.97 cents, up 0.12 cents since last Friday.

Cotton	May 24	Change	Dec 24	Change
Price	91.38	-0.15	83.99	0.04
Support	88.73	-1.77	82.31	-0.85
Resistance	94.43	1.07	84.75	0.27
20 Day MA	93.91	-1.34	83.66	-0.06
50 Day MA	91.87	0.76	82.98	0.34
100 Day MA	86.55	0.31	80.60	0.17
4-Week High	101.50	-2.30	84.70	-0.55
4-Week Low	90.51	-0.91	81.75	0.00
Technical Trend	Down	=	Flat	=



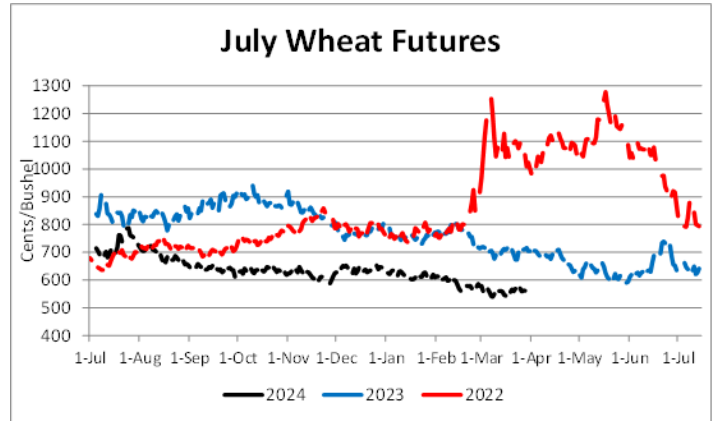
December 2024 cotton futures closed at 83.99 cents, up 0.04 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing an 84 cent December 2024 Put Option costing 5.06 cents establishing a 7.94 cent futures floor.

### Wheat

Wheat net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 12.5 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year and net sales of 7.8 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 3% compared to last week at 15.0 million bushels. Wheat export sales were 97% 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 100%. Wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.13 to \$5.25. May 2024 wheat futures closed at \$5.60, up 6 cents since last Friday. May 2024 wheat futures traded between \$5.38 and \$5.68 this week. May wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.27. May/Jul and May/Sep future spreads were 15 and 31 cents.

## Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Wheat	May 24	Change	Jul 24	Change
Price	\$5.60	\$0.06	\$5.75	\$0.06
Support	\$5.34	\$0.03	\$5.51	\$0.05
Resistance	\$5.66	-\$0.04	\$6.10	\$0.26
20 Day MA	\$5.45	-\$0.06	\$5.58	-\$0.03
50 Day MA	\$5.75	-\$0.04	\$5.82	-\$0.03
100 Day MA	\$5.96	-\$0.02	\$6.05	-\$0.02
4-Week High	\$5.81	-\$0.08	\$5.85	-\$0.06
4-Week Low	\$5.23	\$0.00	\$5.37	\$0.00
Technical Trend	Up	+	Up	+



July 2024 wheat futures closed at \$5.75, up 6 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$5.80 July 2024 Put Option costing 36 cents establishing a \$5.44 futures floor. New crop wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.27 to \$5.50. September 2024 wheat futures closed at \$5.91, up 6 cents since last Friday.

### 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](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\\_mbb1\\_w.htm](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_sum_sndw_a_EPOOXE_sae_mbb1_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/](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>

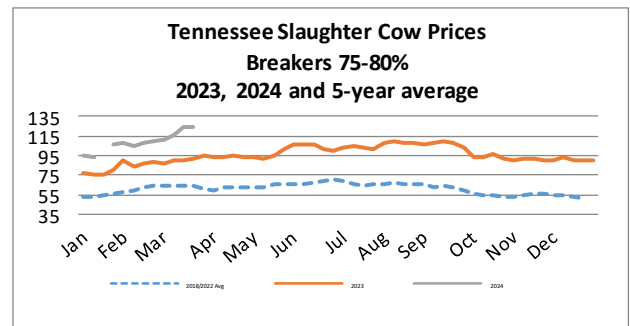
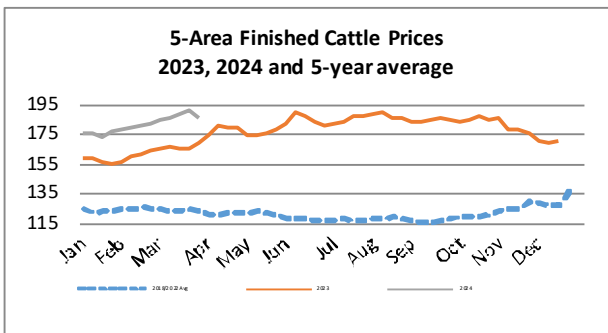
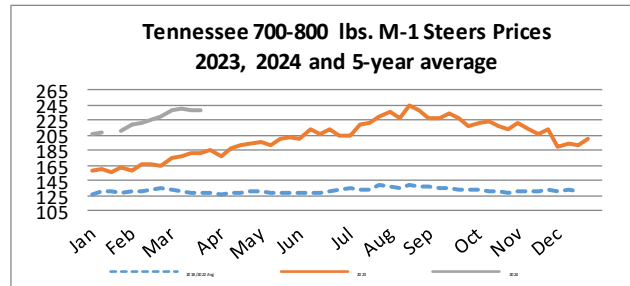
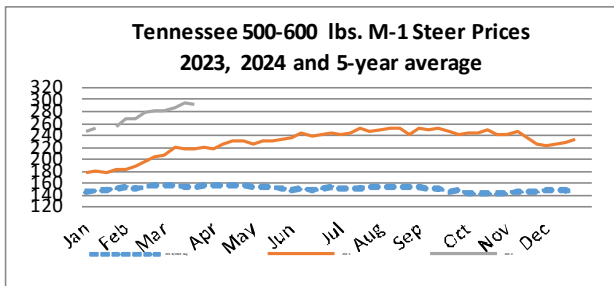
USDA AMS: Market News - <https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/search-market-news>

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

**Prices Paid to Farmers by Elevators**

**Friday, March 22, 2024---Thursday, March 28, 2024**

	Friday Average	Monday Average	Tuesday Average	Wednesday Average	Thursday Average
<b>No. 2 Yellow Soybeans</b>	-----\$/bushel-----				
Northwest	11.60	11.77	11.67	11.60	
North Central	11.83	11.99	11.89	11.83	
West Central					
West	12.08	12.21	12.11	12.05	
Mississippi River	12.02	12.17	12.07	12.01	
<b>Yellow Corn</b>					
Northwest	4.22	4.20	4.15	4.09	
North Central	3.79	3.78	3.73	3.67	
West Central					
West	4.48	4.47	4.41	4.36	
Mississippi River	4.43	4.45	4.40	4.34	
<b>Wheat</b>					
Northwest					
North Central	5.25	5.25	5.14	5.18	
West					
Mississippi River					
<b>Cotton</b>	-----\$/pound-----				
Memphis	88.53-90.53	89.02-91.02	90.41-92.41	87.77-89.77	88.38-90.38



**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/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>

**Prices on Tennessee Reported Livestock Auctions for the week ending Monday, March 25, 2024**

	This Week			Last Week's	Year Ago
	Low	High	Weighted Average	Weighted Average	Weighted Average
-----\$/cwt-----					
<b>Steers: Medium/Large Frame #1-2</b>					
300-400 lbs	315.00	390.00	347.05	340.77	242.87
400-500 lbs	288.00	360.00	322.06	321.17	234.63
500-600 lbs	260.00	320.00	289.48	292.18	216.45
600-700 lbs	235.00	277.50	264.01	260.33	197.77
700-800 lbs	214.00	255.00	237.71	238.15	180.44
<b>Steers: Small Frame #1-2</b>					
300-400 lbs	245.00	312.50	285.22	314.66	---
400-500 lbs	252.00	303.00	278.75	308.71	193.75
500-600 lbs	215.00	244.00	229.50	218.40	139.91
600-700 lbs	---	---	---	---	---
<b>Steers: Medium/Large Frame #3</b>					
300-400 lbs	245.00	355.00	326.66	319.53	225.75
400-500 lbs	220.00	335.00	294.87	294.17	211.73
500-600 lbs	197.50	290.00	261.97	266.70	192.87
600-700 lbs	210.00	250.00	230.05	231.08	183.59
700-800 lbs	185.00	238.00	215.79	211.46	---
<b>Holstein Steers</b>					
300-400 lbs	---	---	---	---	---
500-600 lbs	---	---	---	---	---
700-800 lbs	---	---	---	---	---
<b>Slaughter Cows &amp; Bulls</b>					
Breakers 75-80%	106.50	136.00	124.08	123.58	94.46
Boners 80-85%	104.00	136.00	121.03	118.69	92.24
Lean 85-90%	93.50	120.00	105.92	105.89	79.10
Bulls YG 1	130.00	163.00	143.58	135.47	120.10
<b>Heifers: Medium/Large Frame #1-2</b>					
300-400 lbs	255.00	345.00	309.80	308.74	216.03
400-500 lbs	245.00	325.00	282.93	282.65	213.79
500-600 lbs	230.00	295.00	257.25	250.58	184.40
600-700 lbs	177.00	245.00	228.71	227.77	171.37
<b>Heifers: Small Frame #1-2</b>					
300-400 lbs	200.00	300.00	250.90	285.00	177.02
400-500 lbs	260.00	275.00	261.65	210.00	---
500-600 lbs	---	---	---	197.50	---
600-700 lbs	---	---	---	---	---
<b>Heifers: Medium/Large Frame #2-3</b>					
300-400 lbs	235.00	340.00	288.03	284.63	191.89
400-500 lbs	200.00	295.00	258.90	263.53	183.57
500-600 lbs	215.00	270.00	240.39	230.85	159.03
600-700 lbs	191.00	230.00	214.68	210.86	155.13

Cattle Receipts

This week:9,834

Week ago:6,740

Year ago:6,288

Link to report: [https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams\\_2063.pdf](https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_2063.pdf)

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

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

3/21/24

Total Receipts: 408

For complete report:

[https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams\\_2075.pdf](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 3/25/24

Total Receipts: 1,069

For complete report:

[https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams\\_2081.pdf](https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_2081.pdf)

## Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

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

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