# Tennessee Market Highlights

UTEXTENSION INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

> April 5, 2024 Number: 14

# Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

## Slaughter Cows

steady to \$2 higher

<u>Slaughter Bulls</u>

\$2 higher

Feeder Steers

\$1 to \$5 lower

Feeder Heifers

steady to \$4 lower

Feeder Cattle Index: 249.90

## Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Thursday of \$187.04 was down \$1.06 compared to last week and \$296.88 dressed, down \$2.70.

#### Corn

May closed at \$4.34 a bushel, down 8 cents since last Friday.

## <u>Soybeans</u>

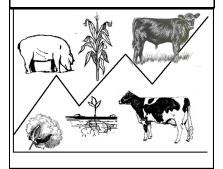
May closed at \$11.85 a bushel, down 6 cents since last Friday.

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

May closed at \$5.67 a bushel, up 7 cents since last Friday.

## <u>Cotton</u>

May closed at 86.25 cents per lb, down 5.13 cents since last Friday.



# Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew P. Griffith

**FED CATTLE:** Fed cattle traded \$1 lower compared to last week on a live basis. Prices were largely \$186 to \$187 on a live basis and \$297 to \$298 on a dressed basis.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$187.04 live, down \$1.06 compared to last week and \$296.88 dressed, down \$2.70. A year ago, prices were \$173.08 live and \$278.62 dressed.

Cattle feeders and packers were a little more proactive this week than last week when it came to trading cattle. Despite this fact, finished cattle prices softened, which put a bit of a damper on cattle feeders. April live cattle futures have declined about \$9 per hundredweight the past three weeks, which makes it tough for cattle feeders to hold their line and much easier for packers to demand a lower price. Nothing that has sent cattle prices tumbling changes supply fundamentals. The quantity of cattle in the feedlot will decline and competition between packers will increase. Where this leaves cattle prices is anybody's guess, but there will clearly be price support at what is still a strong price level.

**BEEF CUTOUT:** At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was \$297.16 up \$0.01 from Thursday and down \$11.14 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$295.11 down \$0.94 from Thursday and down \$6.00 from last week. The Choice Select spread was \$2.05 compared to \$7.19 a week ago.

Good news, bad news, or indifferent, all can send cattle and beef prices in any direction. The decline in wholesale beef prices this week is likely associated with the cases of highly pathogenic avian influenza in dairy herds across the United States. The professionals claim the beef supply is safe, but consumers largely question such statements when it has to do with their health. In this instance, it is easier for the consumer to reduce beef consumption as a precautionary method and let things play out before reverting back to beef consumption. It is similar to COVID in that government professionals and others said wearing a mask and social distancing (i.e. standing six feet apart) would reduce the spread of coronavirus. A large percentage of Americans tried these practices as a precautionary method and it was discovered they did not contribute all that much to a reduction in the spread of the virus. Thus, if this decline is solely bird flu related then prices will bounce back. If the price decline is associated with broader fundamentals, then that will be revealed in time.

OUTLOOK: Based on weekly auction market averages, steer prices were \$1 to \$5 lower 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 compared to the previous week's weighted average price while bull prices were \$2 higher compared to the previous week. Cash feeder cattle prices responded to lower feeder cattle futures this week. Some will say the feeder cattle futures price decline is due to the highly pathogenic avian influenza cases found in several dairy herds across the nation while others may say it is the typical trading patterns or any other number of things. What caused the price decline is not as important as cattle producers managing price risk in some form or fashion. There is a good chance the futures market will trade higher and lower than it is today before each of the contracts expires, but what a producer does to capture an acceptable price is the key aspect. Most producers are concerned about the specific time of year in which they market cattle. For instance, many who marketed cattle at local auctions this week were likely disappointed prices de-

# Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

(Continued from page 1)

clined compared to last week for feeder cattle. The cash price decline should come as no surprise, because the April feeder cattle futures price has declined about \$15 per hundredweight over the past three weeks. What will prices do next week, next month, or next year? No one knows the exact price for any future date, but producers can do something to secure a price for these calves and feeder cattle. On the opposite end of the spectrum, slaughter cow and bull prices continue to be strong. As cow slaughter slows due to calving season and a reduced number of available animals to come to harvest, the price of lean grinding beef is driving slaughter cow prices higher. Many producers should consider the advantages and disadvantages of moving some cows of the farm and into the slaughter facility with such strong salvage values for these animals.

**ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK:** How do I get started in the cattle business? It seems as if I have answered this question a time or two, and I am not sure if my answer has been consistent. In actuality, the answer to getting started in the cattle business is similar to starting any agricultural enterprise or

business. First, it is important to study and gather information related to the type business one wants to start. As it relates to cattle, it may be studying cow-calf, stocker, or feedlot businesses. Second, get some experience working with other cattle producers who will provide further education. These people will become lifelong mentors, and it their mentorship will stretch beyond the cattle business. It sounds like education is important, but a person cannot wait until they know it all before they start. Thus, some of the education will be learning by doing. Do not be afraid to ask to rent a piece of ground. No one knows what a person wants to achieve unless there is communication. Lastly, be willing to take calculated risks.

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 –April \$178.25 -3.23; June \$172.05 -3.80; August \$169.98 -3.35; Feeder cattle –April \$237.70 -5.00; May \$238.18 -5.70; August \$248.63 -5.85; September \$250.53 -5.28; May corn closed at \$4.34 down 1 cent from Thursday.

# Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

## **Overview**

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

The early season U.S. drought picture continues to evolve, with needed moisture helping but not breaking the drought completely in the Northwest Corn Belt. As of April 2<sup>nd</sup>, the USDA Agriculture in Drought report

	Previous	Current	Change
USD Index	104.26	104.07	-0.19
Crude Oil	83.14	86.91	3.77
DЛA	39,765	38,904	-861

estimated 24% of corn, 22% of soybeans, 8% of cotton, and 18% of winter wheat to be in drought. All four commodities are up 1-2% compared to the previous week.

Drought severity was reduced for corn with 15% in moderate drought, 7% in severe drought, and 2% in extreme drought and soybeans with 16% in moderate drought, 5% in severe drought, and 2% in extreme drought. Iowa remains the epicenter of the drought for corn and soybeans. Nebraska, Wisconsin, Missouri, and Minnesota also have extensive drought coverage, however with lower levels of severity. Drought covering cotton production is down 38% compared to last year (8% compared to 46%). 7% of cotton is in moderate drought leaving only 1% in severe, extreme, or exceptional drought – most of which is in New Mexico. Almost all of the 18% of winter wheat production in drought is in moderate drought covering Oklahoma, Kansas, and Idaho.

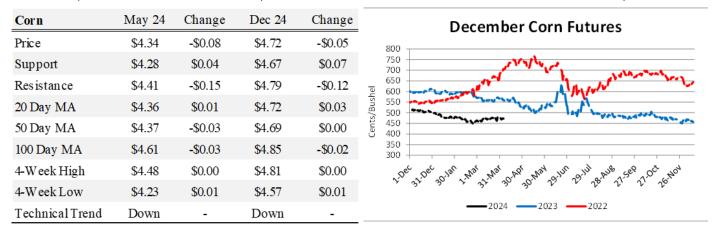
Bottomline, the early season 2024 drought coverage has had a limited negative impact on production potential so far this year. As a result, 2024 harvest prices have trended mostly sideways to lower. Weather will play an important role as spring planting continues and crops mature through the summer. The current NOAA 30 day forecast for April is for above average temperatures and above average precipitation for a large portion of the corn, soybean, wheat, and cotton growing areas.

## <u>Corn</u>

Across Tennessee, average corn basis (cash price-nearby futures price) 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. Overall, basis for the week ranged from 55 under to 9 over, with an average of 15 under the May futures at elevators

# Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

and barge points. Ethanol production for the week ending March 29 was 1.073 million barrels per day, up 19,000 from the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 26.416 million barrels, up 0.324 million barrels compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for March 22-28 were net sales of 37.3 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year and 0.4 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 33% compared to last week at 64.6 million bushels – a marketing year high. Corn export sales and commitments were 82% 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 90%. May 2024 corn futures closed at \$4.34, down 8 cents since last Friday. For the week May 2024 corn futures traded between \$4.24 and \$4.42. May/Jul and May/ Dec future spreads were 12 and 38 cents. July 2024 corn futures closed at \$4.46, down 8 cents since last Friday.

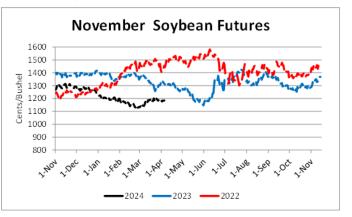


The Crop Progress report estimated corn planted at 2% compared to 2% last year and a 5-year average of 1%. In Tennessee, corn planting was estimated at 2% compared to 1% last year and a 5-year average of 0%. New crop cash prices ranged from \$3.88 to \$4.56 at elevators and barge points. December 2024 corn futures closed at \$4.72, down 5 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$4.80 December 2024 Put Option costing 38 cents establishing a \$4.42 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 10 over the May futures contract, with an average basis at the end of the week of 9 under. Soybean net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 7.1 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 30% compared to last week at 20.2 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments were 87% 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 94%. May 2024 soybean futures closed at \$11.85, down 6 cents since last Friday. For the week May 2024 soybean futures traded between \$11.68 and \$12.01. May 2024 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.73 at the end of the week. May/Jul and May/Nov future spreads were 11 and -1 cent. July 2024 soybean futures closed at \$11.96, down 9 cents since last Friday.

Soybeans	May 24	Change	Nov 24	Change
Price	\$11.85	-\$0.06	\$11.84	-\$0.02
Support	\$11.65	-\$0.19	\$11.70	-\$0.07
Resistance	\$12.00	-\$0.01	\$11.96	\$0.04
20 Day MA	\$11.91	\$0.07	\$11.86	\$0.10
50 Day MA	\$11.85	-\$0.05	\$11.70	-\$0.01
100 Day MA	\$12.53	-\$0.10	\$12.13	-\$0.05
4-Week High	\$12.26	\$0.00	\$12.16	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$11.40	\$0.12	\$11.37	\$0.12
Technical Trend	Down	-	Down	-

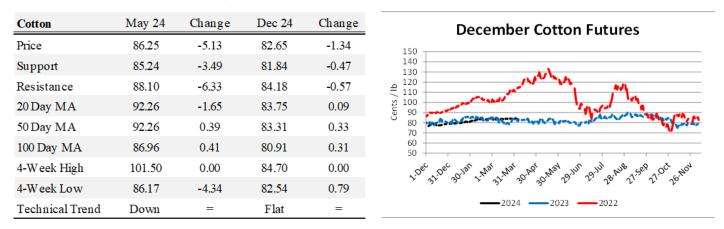


# Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

In Tennessee, soybean planting was estimated at 0% compared to 0% last year and a 5-year average of 0%. New crop cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$11.45 to \$11.65. November 2024 soybean futures closed at \$11.84, down 2 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a \$12.00 November 2024 Put Option which would cost 69 cents and set an \$11.31 futures floor. Nov/Dec soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.51 at the end of the week.

# <u>Cotton</u>

North Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for April 5 were 82.75 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 84.75 cents/lb (31-3-35). Adjusted World Price (AWP) decreased 1.4 cents to 69.48 cents. Cotton net weekly sales reported by exporters were 84,900 bales for the 2023/24 marketing year and 22,900 bales for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 2% compared to last week at 367,600 bales. Upland cotton export sales were 94% 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 102%. May 2024 cotton futures closed at 86.25 cents, down 5.13 cents since last Friday. For the week, May 2024 cotton futures traded between 86.17 and 92.9 cents. May/Jul and May/Dec cotton futures spreads were 1.57 cents and -3.6 cents. July 2024 cotton futures closed at 87.82 cents, down 4.15 cents since last Friday.



The Crop Progress report estimated cotton planted at 3% compared to 3% last year and a 5-year average of 4%. In Tennessee, cotton planting was estimated at 0% compared to 0% last year and a 5-year average of 0%. December 2024 cotton futures closed at 82.65 cents, down 1.34 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing an 83 cent December 2024 Put Option costing 4.9 cents establishing a 78.1 cent futures floor.

# <u>Wheat</u>

Wheat net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 0.6 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year and net sales of 9.6 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 27% compared to last week at 19.0 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 101%. Wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.15 to \$5.47. May 2024 wheat futures closed at \$5.67, up 7 cents since last Friday. May 2024 wheat futures traded between \$5.40 and \$5.74 this week. May wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.31. May/Jul and May/Sep future spreads were 14 and 31 cents.

# Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Wheat	May 24	Change	Jul 24	Change	July Wheat Futures
Price	\$5.67	\$0.07	\$5.81	\$0.06	
Support	\$5.45	\$0.11	\$5.61	\$0.10	1200
Resistance	\$5.85	\$0.19	\$5.98	-\$0.12	
20 Day MA	\$5.48	\$0.03	\$5.63	\$0.05	₹1000 59 900 59 800 50 700 50 700
50 Day MA	\$5.70	-\$0.05	\$5.78	-\$0.04	
100 Day MA	\$5.93	-\$0.03	\$6.01	-\$0.04	600
4-Week High	\$5.74	-\$0.07	\$5.88	\$0.03	500
4-Week Low	\$5.23	\$0.00	\$5.37	\$0.00	1-Jul 1-Aug 1-Sep 1-Oct 1-Nov 1-Dec 1-Jan 1-Feb 1-Mar 1-Apr 1-May 1-Jun 1-Jul
Technical Trend	Up	=	Up	=	202420232022

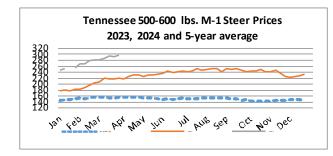
The Crop Progress report indicated winter wheat condition at 56% good-to-excellent and 11% poor-to-very poor; and winter wheat headed at 4% compared to 5% last year and a 5-year average of 2%. In Tennessee, winter wheat condition was estimated at 72% good-to-excellent and 5% poor-to-very poor; winter wheat jointing at 38%; and winter wheat headed at 1%. July 2024 wheat futures closed at \$5.81, up 6 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$5.85 July 2024 Put Option costing 36 cents establishing a \$5.49 futures floor. New crop wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.31 to \$5.51. September 2024 wheat futures closed at \$5.98, up 7 cents since last Friday.

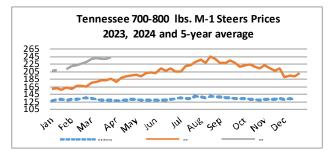
#### Additional Information:

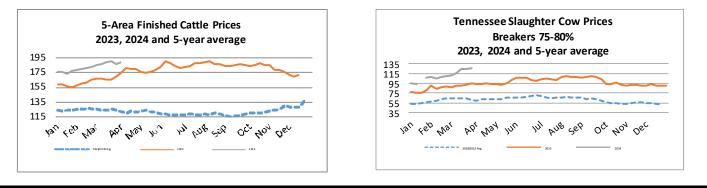
Links for data presented: U.S. Export Sales - https://apps.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html USDA FAS: Weekly Export Performance Indicator - https://apps.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/esrpi.aspx EIA: Weekly ethanol Plant Production - https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet\_pnp\_wprode\_s1\_w.htm EIA: Weekly Supply 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 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 Farm	-	4			
	Friday, March 29, 2024Thursday, April 4, 2024 Friday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursda						
	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average		
No. 2 Yellow Soybeans			\$/bushel				
Northwest		11.53	11.42	11.50	11.48		
North Central		11.76	11.64	11.72	11.70		
West Central							
West		11.94	11.82	11.92	11.88		
Mississippi River		11.90	11.78	11.88	11.80		
Yellow Corn							
Northwest		4.18	4.09	4.14	4.18		
North Central		3.81	3.72	3.77	3.80		
West Central							
West		4.45	4.36	4.38	4.43		
Mississippi River		4.43	4.34	4.39	4.41		
Wheat							
Northwest							
North Central		5.27	5.15	5.26	5.26		
West							
Mississippi River		5.47	5.35	5.46	5.46		
Cotton		\$/pound\$					
Memphis		89.76-91.76	87.31-89.31	85.48-87.47	83.64-85.64		







# **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 1	Prices on Tennessee Reported Livestock Auctions for the week ending Monday, April 1, 2024							
	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	312.50	390.00	350.86	347.05	243.49			
400-500 lbs	280.00	367.50	323.34	322.06	233.61			
500-600 lbs	260.00	322.50	294.95	289.48	218.62			
600-700 lbs	236.00	290.00	270.63	264.01	201.64			
700-800 lbs	220.00	255.00	241.85	237.71	185.87			
Steers: Small Frame #	1-2							
300-400 lbs	260.00	335.00	297.86	285.22	208.16			
400-500 lbs				278.75	195.21			
500-600 lbs				229.50				
600-700 lbs								
Steers: Medium/Large	e Frame #3							
300-400 lbs	242.00	365.00	300.03	326.66	221.24			
400-500 lbs	260.00	330.00	288.35	294.87	210.46			
500-600 lbs	225.00	296.00	270.02	261.97	195.81			
600-700 lbs	190.00	260.00	243.61	230.05	177.42			
700-800 lbs				215.79	164.00			
Holstein Steers								
300-400 lbs	245.00	247.50	206.00					
500-600 lbs								
700-800 lbs								
Slaughter Cows & Bull	s							
Breakers 75-80%	115.00	139.00	126.68	124.08	92.83			
Boners 80-85%	112.00	133.00	124.87	121.03	91.58			
Lean 85-90%	95.00	122.00	112.54	105.92	80.21			
Bulls YG 1	127.00	162.00	143.88	143.58	119.37			
Heifers: Medium/Large Frame #1-2								
300-400 lbs	270.00	352.50	313.62	309.80	213.66			
400-500 lbs	250.00	315.00	281.96	282.93	204.25			
500-600 lbs	226.50	297.50	254.42	257.25	187.19			
600-700 lbs	215.00	270.00	234.20	228.71	173.54			
Heifers: Small Frame #	<b>#1-2</b>							
300-400 lbs	251.00	295.00	278.07	250.90	189.72			
400-500 lbs	200.00	250.00	232.27	261.65	173.51			
500-600 lbs					144.14			
600-700 lbs								
Heifers: Medium/Large Frame #2-3								
300-400 lbs	37.50	320.00	290.75	288.03	189.22			
400-500 lbs	200.00	287.00	259.10	258.90	184.25			
500-600 lbs	210.00	270.00	238.07	240.39	169.58			
600-700 lbs	170.00	247.00	218.08	214.68	158.79			
			210.00	21.000				

Cattle Receipts

This week:6,971

Week ago:9,834

Year ago:9,727

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

# East Tennessee Livestock Center Video Sale - Sweetwater, TN

3/27/24 1 load out of 65 Holstein steers from BQA certified producer; Est weight 900 lbs; 95% #1s and 5% #2s; medium flesh; \$193.00

Warren Co. Livestock Video Auction - McMinnville, TN 4/1/24 Total Receipts: 414 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams\_3665.pdf

# Browning Livestock Market Video/Internet Auction -Lafayette, TN 4/3/24

Total Receipts: 1,053 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams\_3467.pdf

#### Warren Co. Livestock Graded Sale - McMinnville, TN 4/3/24

Total Receipts: 1,495 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams\_2079.pdf

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

#### Hodge Livestock Network-April 4, 2024

1 load of heifers; est. wt. 775 lbs. Range 700-850 lbs.; All Black & BWF; 80% #1s, 20% #1 ½; 70% Medium and 30% Large; Medium flesh; \$220.50

1 load of heifers; est. wt. 700 lbs. Range 675-800 lbs.; All Black & BWF; 80% #1s, 20% #1 ½; 70% Medium and 30% Large; Medium flesh; \$219.00

1 load of heifers; est. wt. 750 lbs. Range 700-850 lbs.; All Black & BWF; 80% #1s, 20% #1 ½; 70% Medium and 30% Large; Medium flesh; \$229.50

1 load of steers; est. wt. 850 lbs. Range 750-950 lbs.; Approx. 70% Black & BWF, 20% Char-X, 10% Reds; 70% #1s, 20% #1 ½ and 10% good #2s; 80% Medium and 20% Large; Light Medium to Medium; \$228.50

1 load of heifers; est. wt. 750 lbs. Range 600-800 lbs.; Approx. 70% Black & BWF, 20% Char-X, 10% Reds; 70% #1s, 20% #1 ½ and 10% good #2s; 80% Medium and 20% Large; Light Medium to Medium; \$216.00

1 load of steers; est. wt. 820 lbs. Range 725-900 lbs.; Approx. 70% Black & BWF, 20% Char-X, 10% Reds; 80% #1s, 20% #1 ½; 70% Medium and 30% Large; Medium flesh; \$229.50

Lower Middle Tennessee Cattlemen's Association -Video Board Sale-Columbia, TN Weighted Average Report for 4/5/24 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams\_3340.pdf

## Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

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