Tennessee Market Highlights

UTEXTENSION INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

> April 19, 2024 Number: 16

Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

Slaughter Cows

steady to \$2 lower

Slaughter Bulls

\$2 to \$3 lower

Feeder Steers

\$1 to \$6 higher

Feeder Heifers

steady to \$5 higher

Feeder Cattle Index: 242.35

Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Thursday of \$182.94 was down \$0.99 compared to last week and \$293.74 dressed, down \$0.10.

Corn

May closed at \$4.33 a bushel, down 2 cents since last Friday.

Soybeans

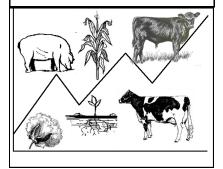
May closed at \$11.50 a bushel, down 24 cents since last Friday.

<u>Wheat</u>

May closed at \$5.50 a bushel, down 6 cents since last Friday.

<u>Cotton</u>

May closed at 78.69 cents per lb, down 3.93 cents since last Friday.



Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew P. Griffith

FED CATTLE: Fed cattle traded steady to \$1 lower compared to last week on a live basis. Prices were largely \$182 to \$183 on a live basis and \$292 to \$294 on a dressed basis.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$182.94 live, down \$0.99 compared to last week and \$293.74 dressed, up \$0.10 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$178.54 live and \$287.68 dressed.

The cattle feeder clearly did not want to give up any price ground this week as cattle feeders and packers struggled to come to an agreement on price. It only makes good business sense for the packer to bid lower and the cattle feeder to ask higher, but at some point, transaction costs become weighty when time is wasted on making a deal. The hassle of going back and forth is one reason many in the industry have shifted to formula pricing. It removes a large portion of the weekly transaction costs, and it makes things a little more certain from the buyer and seller standpoint. This is not to detract from cash trade as it is very much needed, but weeks like this week certainly push people away from the spot market.

BEEF CUTOUT: At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was \$295.93 up \$0.13 from Thursday and down \$4.51 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$291.07 up \$1.80 from Thursday and down \$5.21 from last week. The Choice Select spread was \$4.85 compared to \$4.16 a week ago.

Comments made last week were that consumer demand is where the concern is for the beef industry. Based on beef export data for February, international demand is not a concern. Beef exports in February were down one percent on a volume basis and up 10 percent on a value basis. When the quantity of product traded declines and the total value of that reduced quantity exceeds the previous quantities value then demand is improving. This type of action from the international standpoint would seem to translate to the international market wanting more U.S. beef products, but simply unable to purchase it due to supply issues. At the same time, it would be beneficial to know exactly what products are making their way to international destinations as many of these trading partners must be purchasing beef items they have not traditionally purchased to maintain such a strong volume. This will be an ever-evolving topic, but all indications are that international demand for U.S. beef remains strong. How domestic demand fairs may be another story.

OUTLOOK: Based on weekly auction market averages, steer prices were \$1 to \$6 higher compared to last week while heifer prices were steady to \$5 higher compared to the previous week. Slaughter cow prices were steady to \$2 lower compared to the previous week's weighted average price while bull prices were \$2 to \$3 lower compared to the previous week. This week's gains in calf prices offset the loss in calf prices from the previous week. This may not sound like much, but it was important to those who sold one week versus another. The people in this world tend to be fickle in at least one area of life. One of the common areas is when doing business. This is not meant to be a derogatory statement, but rather illuminating the fact that money or compensation does matter to folks. In this case, feeder cattle futures took a steep decline, which pushed the local cash price for calves and feeder cattle lower. The fickle part in this instance was not on the cattle producer but on the trader of the futures market. The futures trader is necessary to provide liquidity (i.e. enough trading) for hedgers to establish a position in the market. As

Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

(Continued from page 1)

cattle futures price increased, there were traders who decided they could make some money so they exited their position and took new positions in some instances. They may have made money coming and going or lost money in the same manner. Regardless, the decline in feeder cattle futures has temporarily dashed the hopes of many cattle producers who have failed to manage price risk. The generally results in cattle producers changing their minds on the route they planned, which brings the conversation back to being fickle. Again, it is not meant to be a negative statement as producers must change their plan of action if they failed to do any prior planning and price risk management. At the end of the day, the dollar is what has changed the mind of many producers. More opportunities will arise, but failure to act on those opportunities will likely result in further disappointment.

The April cattle on feed report for feedlots with a 1000 head or more capacity indicated cattle and calves on feed as of April 1, 2024 totaled 11.82 million head, up 1.5% compared to a year ago, with the pre-report estimate average expecting a 2.0% increase. March placements in feedlots totaled 1.75 million head, down 12.3% from a year ago with the prereport estimate average expecting placements down 7.9%. March marketing's totaled 1.71 million head down 13.7% from 2023 with pre-report estimates expecting marketings down 11.8%. Placements on feed by weight: under 700 pounds down 16.3%, 700 to 899 pounds down 12.4%, 900 pounds and over unchanged.

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Overview

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

Since the end of February, nearby corn futures have consistently traded between \$4.21 ¾ and \$4.48. During this time the largest daily move was +15 ¼ cents when the USDA released the Prospective Plantings report. Prices are likely to remain in this trading range until more is known

about the Brazilian second corn crop and the US corn crop. Weather will guide price direction through the production year as no major changes are anticipated for short-term demand. New crop futures currently have a 40-cent premium compared to nearby. This premium will shrink as the weather risk is removed through the production year.

This week May soybeans challenged the contract low of \$11.28 ½, set back on February 29th, before closing the week at \$11.50 ½ on Friday. Holding above \$11.40 next week will be key, or prices could drop to \$11.00. There has been mostly bearish news for the past three months (South American production, increased planted acreage, strengthening USD, weak export demand, and large projected global ending stocks), but we are likely approaching a bottom in the old crop market. New crop prices will continue to be predominantly influenced by US planting progress and weather forecasts.

April has been a disastrous month for cotton prices. The nearby cotton contract fell from over 92 cents in April to 81 cents this week. Significant price support is available near 76-78 cents. Demand will continue to be the primary driver of prices and currently US cotton exports are struggling. Tight US ending stocks give some glimmer of hope for a rally led by the July contract, but this will need to be demand driven. New crop futures shed 7 cents in April, driven primarily by increased production outlook for the Southern Plains. December price support is solid near 76 cents, but producers looking for a return to mid-80 cent pricing opportunities may have to wait for a weather event or post-harvest if it does occur at all.

ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK: At a meeting this week, there were questions and conversations covering cattle hide color, why prices declined on the futures so quickly, land and labor availability, and the best weight to sell calves in Tennessee. I think the land and labor availability question is the most intriguing and hardest to answer. I do not have all of the answers to the question, but I will share some thoughts. There are several different situations. There are people who would like to farm that cannot put together the land, which means they are a labor source. There are people who have land, but they are not capable of managing it all do to many different circumstances. Some address their labor issues by hiring immigrant labor and that may be appropriate for some. However, there are many missed opportunities for aging farmers to transition their farms to younger farmers trying to get started in the business. The idea is not to just throw everything on someone else's plate, but rather to use the labor and teach them for a few years and then rent or sell them the land.

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.

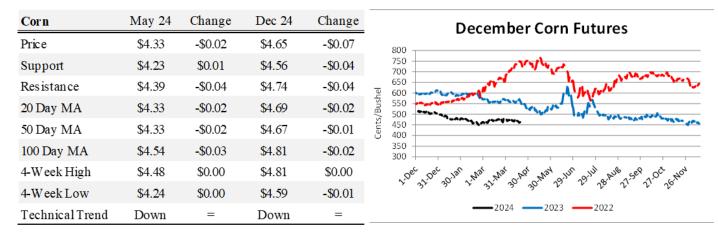
FRIDAY'S FUTURES MARKET CLOSING PRICES: Friday's closing prices were as follows: Live/fed cattle –April \$181.48 +0.30; June \$175.68 +0.30; August \$173.55 +0.03; Feeder cattle – April \$241.33 -0.28; May \$242.00 -0.55; August \$253.50 -0.80; September \$254.43 -0.88; May corn closed at \$4.34 up 7 cents from Thursday.

		Previous	Current	Change
b	USD Index	105.82	105.96	0.14
S	Crude Oil	85.47	83.55	-1.92
	DЛA	37,931	37,953	22

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

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 11 over, with an average of 14 under the May futures at elevators and barge points. Ethanol production for the week ending April 12 was 0.983 million barrels per day, down 73,000 from the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 26.08 million barrels, down 0.128 million barrels compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for April 5-11 were net sales of 19.7 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year and 2.6 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 1% compared to last week at 60.9 million bushels. Corn export sales and commitments were 84% 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 corn futures closed at \$4.33, down 2 cents since last Friday. For the week May 2024 corn futures traded between \$4.26 and \$4.35. May/Jul and May/Dec future spreads were 9 and 32 cents. July 2024 corn futures closed at \$4.42, down 5 cents since last Friday.



The Crop Progress report estimated corn planted at 6% compared to 3% last week, 7% last year, and a 5-year average of 5%. In Tennessee, corn planting was estimated at 13% compared to 7% last week, 18% last year, and a 5-year average of 14%. New crop cash prices ranged from \$3.80 to \$4.49 at elevators and barge points. December 2024 corn futures closed at \$4.65, down 7 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$4.70 December 2024 Put Option costing 37 cents establishing a \$4.33 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 17.9 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year and 9.7 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 4% compared to last week at 17.7 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments were 89% 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 95%. May 2024 soybean futures closed at \$11.50, down 24 cents since last Friday. For the week May 2024 soybean futures traded between \$11.31 and \$11.76. May 2024 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.66 at the end of the week. May/ Jul and May/Nov future spreads were 15 and 11 cents. July 2024 soybean futures closed at \$11.65, down 21 cents since last Friday.

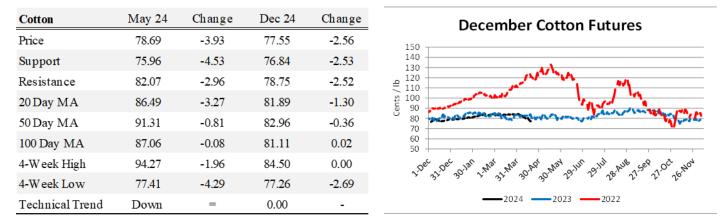
Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

	,			
Soybeans	May 24	Change	Nov 24	Change
Price	\$11.50	-\$0.24	\$11.61	-\$0.15
Support	\$11.22	-\$0.21	\$11.40	-\$0.10
Resistance	\$11.55	-\$0.40	\$11.70	-\$0.24
20 Day MA	\$11.74	-\$0.13	\$11.76	-\$0.08
50 Day MA	\$11.74	-\$0.05	\$11.66	-\$0.02
100 Day MA	\$12.30	-\$0.12	\$12.00	-\$0.07
4-Week High	\$12.26	\$0.00	\$12.16	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$11.31	-\$0.20	\$11.46	-\$0.10
Technical Trend	Down	=	Down	=

The Crop Progress report estimated soybeans planted at 3% compared to 3% last year and a 5-year average of 1%. In Tennessee, soybean planting was estimated at 8% compared to 4% last week, 5% last year, and a 5-year average of 1%. New crop cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$11.16 to \$11.56. November 2024 soybean futures closed at \$11.61, down 15 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing an \$11.80 November 2024 Put Option which would cost 70 cents and set an \$11.10 futures floor. Nov/Dec soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.50 at the end of the week.

<u>Cotton</u>

North Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for April 18 were 76.36 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 78.36 cents/lb (31-3-35). Adjusted World Price (AWP) decreased 3.25 cents to 62.18 cents. Cotton net weekly sales reported by exporters were 146,100 bales for the 2023/24 marketing year and 80,100 bales for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 3% compared to last week at 266,700 bales. Upland cotton export sales were 96% 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 104%. May 2024 cotton futures closed at 78.69 cents, down 3.93 cents since last Friday. For the week May 2024 cotton futures traded between 77.41 and 84.27 cents. May/Jul and May/Dec cotton futures spreads were 2.33 cents and -1.14 cents. July 2024 cotton futures closed at 81.02 cents, down 3.57 cents since last Friday.

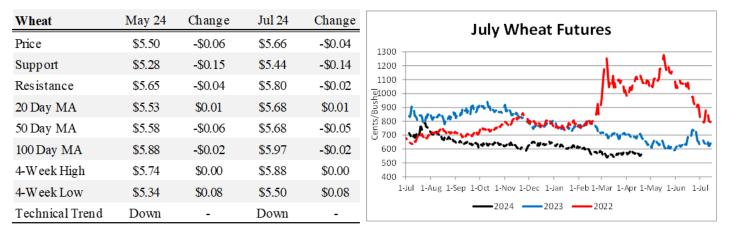


The Crop Progress report estimated cotton planted at 8% compared to 5% last week, 7% last year, and a 5-year average of 8%. In Tennessee, cotton planting was estimated at 0% compared to 1% last year and a 5-year average of 0%. December 2024 cotton futures closed at 77.55 cents, down 2.56 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a 78 cent December 2024 Put Option costing 4.9 cents establishing a 73.1 cent futures floor.

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

<u>Wheat</u>

Wheat net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales cancelations of 3.4 million bushels for the 2023/24 marketing year and net sales of 9.7 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 22% compared to last week at 17.9 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 103%. Wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.06 to \$5.42. May 2024 wheat futures closed at \$5.50, down 6 cents since last Friday. May 2024 wheat futures traded between \$5.34 and \$5.58 this week. May wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.27. May/Jul and May/Sep future spreads were 16 and 34 cents.



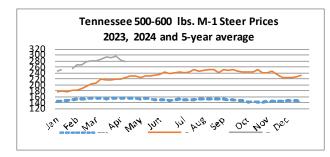
The Crop Progress report indicated winter wheat condition at 55% good-to-excellent and 13% poor-to-very poor; winter wheat headed at 11% compared to 6% last week, 9% last year, and a 5-year average of 7%; and spring wheat planted at 7% compared to 3% last week, 2% last year, and a 5-year average of 6%. In Tennessee, winter wheat condition was estimated at 75% good-to-excellent and 9% poor-to-very poor; winter wheat jointing at 71% compared to 59% last week, 73% last year, and a 5-year average of 73%; and winter wheat headed at 11% compared to 2% last week, 2% last year, and a 5-year average of 6%. July 2024 wheat futures closed at \$5.66, down 4 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$5.70 July 2024 Put Option costing 37 cents establishing a \$5.33 futures floor. New crop wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.22 to \$5.53. September 2024 wheat futures closed at \$5.84, down 2 cents since last Friday.

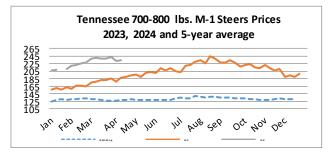
Additional Information:

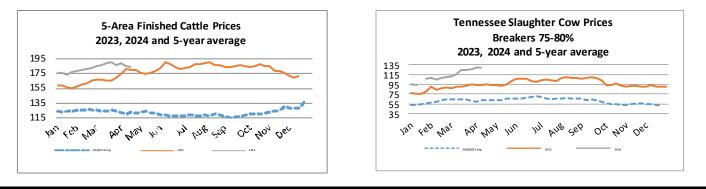
Links for data presented: U.S. Export Sales - https://apps.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html USDA FAS: Weekly Export Performance Indicator – https://apps.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/esrpi.aspx EIA: Weekly ethanol Plant Production - https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pnp_wprode_s1_w.htm EIA: Weekly Supply 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	-				
	Friday, April 12, 2024Thursday, April 18, 2024						
	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		
	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average		
No. 2 Yellow Soybeans	\$/bushel\$/bushel						
Northwest	11.42	11.26	11.13	11.17	11.02		
North Central	11.64	11.48	11.35	11.40	11.24		
West Central							
West	11.84	11.68	11.55	11.60	11.41		
Mississippi River	11.74	11.58	11.45	11.50	11.34		
Yellow Corn							
Northwest	4.18	4.14	4.14	4.13	4.09		
North Central	3.76	3.72	3.71	3.70	3.67		
West Central							
West	4.42	4.38	4.38	4.37	4.37		
Mississippi River	4.42	4.38	4.38	4.37	4.38		
Wheat							
Northwest							
North Central	5.26	5.22	5.20	5.07	5.07		
West							
Mississippi River	5.46	5.42	5.40	5.27	5.27		
Cotton			\$/pound		-		
Memphis	79.12-81.12	79.43-81.43	77.79-79.79	77.08-79.08	76.36-78.36		







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, April 15, 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	300.00	375.00	327.20	338.43	252.18			
400-500 lbs	274.00	330.00	305.65	307.94	238.72			
500-600 lbs	245.00	300.00	276.74	282.10	224.78			
600-700 lbs	243.00	280.00	260.03	256.41	209.64			
700-800 lbs	215.00	251.50	233.88	232.20	187.58			
Steers: Small Frame #	1-2							
300-400 lbs	240.00	285.00	265.00	222.50	216.01			
400-500 lbs	220.00	280.00	256.19	224.26				
500-600 lbs								
600-700 lbs								
Steers: Medium/Large	e Frame #3							
300-400 lbs	265.00	355.00	299.10	300.38	219.34			
400-500 lbs	252.00	307.00	285.16	273.57	215.34			
500-600 lbs	230.00	272.50	252.13	260.33	205.17			
600-700 lbs	220.00	265.00	241.61	235.01	189.74			
700-800 lbs	207.00	237.00	223.50	207.37	180.84			
Holstein Steers								
300-400 lbs								
500-600 lbs								
700-800 lbs								
Slaughter Cows & Bul	ls							
Breakers 75-80%	116.00	140.00	129.51	129.52	94.47			
Boners 80-85%	114.00	140.00	127.11	123.45	92.99			
Lean 85-90%	90.00	118.00	110.87	109.62	83.30			
Bulls YG 1	125.00	168.00	149.82	150.51	120.41			
Heifers: Medium/Larg	ge Frame #1-2							
300-400 lbs	235.00	350.00	293.46	296.08	212.60			
400-500 lbs	222.50	305.00	264.11	272.75	206.00			
500-600 lbs	220.00	267.50	245.96	250.46	196.75			
600-700 lbs	195.00	257.50	227.69	220.88	176.09			
Heifers: Small Frame	#1-2							
300-400 lbs	210.00	302.00	240.67	279.81	193.27			
400-500 lbs	210.00	242.50	228.99	191.51	188.04			
500-600 lbs	200.00	240.00	218.62	172.34	156.17			
600-700 lbs	200.00	220.00	211.25					
Heifers: Medium/Larg	ge Frame #2-3							
300-400 lbs	220.00	295.00	274.33	268.87	195.71			
400-500 lbs	213.00	287.00	251.43	255.22	183.74			
500-600 lbs	200.00	250.00	228.67	230.80	168.15			
600-700 lbs	190.00	215.00	202.57	212.60	160.20			

Cattle Receipts

This week:5,832

Week ago:7,477

Year ago:6,852

Graded Sales, Video Board Sales, Video Sales & Loads

East Tennessee Livestock Center Graded Holstein Steer Sale - Sweetwater, TN 4/12/24 Total Receipts: 585 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_2072.pdf

Browning Livestock Market Video/Internet Auction

- Lafayette, TN 4/17/24 Total Receipts: 136 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3467.pdf

Hardin County Stockyard Video Auction - Savannah, TN 4/17/24 Total Receipts: 64 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3509.pdf

TLP Beef Alliance Sale - Columbia, TN 4/17/24 Total Receipts: 97 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_2078.pdf

East Tennessee Cattle Alliance Preconditioned Graded Feeder Sale - Greeneville, TN 4/18/24 Total Receipts: 271 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_2075.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.

