# Tennessee Market Highlights

October 11, 2024

UTEXTENSION INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

## Number: 41

# Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

#### Slaughter Cows

- \$1 to \$4 higher
- Slaughter Bulls
- \$1 higher
- Feeder Steers
- \$3 to \$7 higher
- Feeder Heifers
- \$2 to \$7 higher
- Feeder Cattle Index: 249.52

#### Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Thursday of \$187.08 up \$0.05 compared to last week and \$295.90 dressed, down \$3.77.

#### Corn

December closed at \$4.15 a bushel, down 9 cents since last Friday.

#### <u>Soybeans</u>

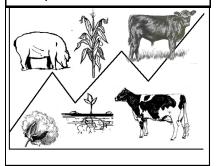
November closed at \$10.05 a bushel, down 32 cents since last Friday.

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

December closed at \$5.99 a bushel, up 10 cents since last Friday.

## <u>Cotton</u>

December closed at 72.21 cents per lb, down 1.06 cents since last Friday.



## Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew P. Griffith

**FED CATTLE:** Fed cattle traded steady to \$1 higher on a live basis compared to last week. Prices were mainly \$186 to \$188 on a live basis. Dressed trade was mainly \$294 to \$296.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$187.08 live, up \$0.05 compared to last week and \$295.90 dressed, down \$3.77 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$184.14 live and \$291.67 dressed.

Finished cattle are trading with a \$1 to \$2 negative basis in most cattle feeding regions with October live cattle futures trading a little over \$189 per hundredweight. What is more interesting about the futures market is the October through April contracts are all trading within a \$1.25 per hundredweight range while the contracts from June 2025 through February 2026 are trading in a \$2.58 per hundredweight range at the time of this writing. Additionally, next year's price expectation is lower than this year's price expectation based on live cattle futures. These simple observations scream confusion in the market. Some are sure to disagree there is confusion, but tighter supplies should not result in a \$5 to \$7 price decline.

**BEEF CUTOUT:** At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was \$311.05 up \$1.10 from Thursday and up \$8.69 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$287.14 up \$0.98 from Thursday and up \$4.57 from last week. The Choice Select spread was \$19.34 compared to \$15.22 a week ago.

Beef and veal exports for August totaled 238.2 million pounds, which was 19.4 million pounds less than July and 22.1 million pounds less than August 2023. The month to month decline and the year over year decline was due to no significant change from any of the trading partners. All trading partners reduced the quantity of beef purchased from the United States. This is likely due to sources of less expensive beef being available relative to the high beef prices in the United States. Despite a decline in the quantity of beef exported in August, there is little concern from a market standpoint as international demand for U.S. beef remains strong. In fact, total beef exports the first eight months of 2024 are only 74.6 million pounds lower than the same period in 2023. Did exports rebound in September and how will they finish out the year? The data will bring the answer into focus, but the expectation is that exports will remain strong given beef prices. At the same time, the results of the upcoming presidential election could influence the market moving into 2025.

OUTLOOK: Based on weekly auction market averages, steer prices were \$3 to \$7 higher compared to last week while heifer prices were \$2 to \$7 higher compared to the previous week. Slaughter cow prices were \$1 to \$4 higher compared to the previous week's weighted average price while bull prices were \$1 higher compared to the prior week. The calf market is moving in a contraseasonal direction as calf prices are increasing. October tends to be the month in which calf prices reach their seasonal low as many producers are bringing their spring born calf crop to market. The softness in the market tends to still be evident in November before slowly firming in December. Contrary to this seasonal tendency is the fall of 2024. The price of calves may have already achieved its seasonal low as two consecutive weeks of higher prices to start October may be the price reversal. If the price lows for the fall marketing time period have already been experienced then cattle producers have much more to look forward to as prices will be expected to increase through the spring. The primary thought or reasoning behind market prices increasing in the

# Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

(Continued from page 1)

current environment is that buyers are seeing fewer offerings than they may have been expecting. It is well documented that fewer cows were in the herd, which means fewer calves available for stocker, backgrounding, and feedlot operations. This known information has been masked to some degree as feeder cattle have continued making their way to the feedlot due to heifers not being retained and strong beef production from growing cattle larger in the feedlot. The simple calculation of the whole equation still remains in that fewer cows equals fewer calves unless cows start twinning like ewes or they start reproducing like rabbits. Neither of these seems possible and even less advantageous to cattle producers. There is likely to be considerable uncertainty in the futures market in the coming months. It is likely the market will undervalue feeder cattle the next few months as participants sort through fact and fiction.

**ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK:** What are the opportunities associated with producing Waygu beef? Is this an avenue to consider for beef producers? Should beef producers avoid this business? My answer to these questions is, does a bear poop in the woods? There are cattle producers in Tennessee

and all regions of the country that have been successful marketing Waygu beef. In like manner, there have been producers who have managed to mess up marketing specialty beef as bad as they have messed up everything else they have tried. Specialty beef marketing such as Waygu or any other beef marketing is generally producer specific. It takes a special set of skills to deal with individuals and businesses to whom the beef will be marketed. All people have not been blessed with the same skill set of marketing and managing personal and interpersonal relationships. Thus, any business can be successful if it is in the correct location, reaching the target audience and there is a skill set to meet the consumers desires. So, does a bear poop in the woods or on the kitchen table?

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 –October \$188.60 -0.58; December \$187.58 -0.70; February \$188.20 -0.68; Feeder cattle –October \$249.75 -0.53; November \$249.80 0.15; January \$247.25 +0.05; March \$245.90 +0.30; December corn closed at \$4.16 down 3 cents from Thursday.

## Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

#### **Overview**

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

Exports continue to lag the pace required to meet USDA export targets for corn, cotton, soybean, and wheat. Annually, the US exports 12-20% of corn production, 40-55% of soybean production, 40-55% of wheat production, and 80-90% of cotton production. Failing to achieve export targets will likely result in USDA increasing projected ending stocks for the 2024/25 marketing year, which would be negative for prices.

	Previous	Current	Change
USD Index	102.29	102.68	0.39
Crude Oil	74.42	75.56	1.14
DЛA	42,227	42,864	637

On Friday October 11, USDA released the October World Agriculture Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report.

For corn, US average yield was increased 0.2 bu/acre resulting in an increase in production, compared to last month, of 17 million bushels. Beginning stocks were decreased 52 million bushels based on greater disappearance in the previous marketing year based on the Grain Stocks report. US exports were increased 25 million bushels compared to last month, likely due to the lower price environment attracting additional foreign purchases. Internationally limited revisions were made. Overall, projected world ending stocks were estimated 72 million bushels lower. The report was mostly neutral for corn prices.

For soybeans, US yield was decreased 0.1 bu/acre resulting in decreased production of 4 million bushels. Foreign estimates were left mostly unchanged. Soybean markets will focus on Brazil's growing season, which got off to a dry start but has received precipitation recently resulting in declines to soybean futures. USDA currently projects Brazil soybean production at 6.2 billion bushels.

For cotton, US yield was decreased 18 lbs/acre, decreasing production by 310,000 bales. Damage due to hurricane Helene or Milton were not included in USDA estimates. Hurricane damage is likely to further reduce production and adversely affect quality. Cotton markets seem content trading between 70 and 75 cents until more information is known.

Additional details of the WASDE report and market reaction can be found at: <u>https://arec.tennessee.edu/extension/tennessee-market-highlights/monthly-crop-comments/</u>.

## Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

#### <u>Corn</u>

Across Tennessee, average corn basis (cash price-nearby futures price) strengthened or remained unchanged at Northwest, West, West-Central, North-Central, and Mississippi River elevators. Overall, basis for the week ranged from 40 under to 5 under, with an average of 24 under the December futures at elevators and barge points. Ethanol production for the week ending October 4 was 1.038 million barrels per day, up 23,000 from the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 22.154 million barrels, down 1.305 million barrels compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for September 27-October 3 were net sales of 48.1 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 9% compared to last week at 41.7 million bushels. Corn export sales and commitments were 30% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2024/25 marketing year (September 1 to August 31) compared to the previous 5-year average of 35%. The Crop Progress report estimated corn condition at 64% good-to-excellent and 13% poor-to-very poor; corn mature at 87% compared to 75% last week, 87% last year, and a 5-year average of 81%; and corn harvested at 30% compared to 21% last week, 31% last year, and a 5-year average of 27%. In Tennessee, corn condition was estimated at 43% good-to-excellent and 25% poor-to-very poor; corn mature at 98% compared to 96% last week, 97% last year, and a 5-year average of 98%; and corn harvested at 80% compared to 70% last week, 67% last year, and a 5-year average of 71%. Cash prices ranged from \$3.75 to \$4.26 at elevators and barge points. December 2024 corn futures closed at \$4.15, down 9 cents since last Friday. For the week, December 2024 corn futures traded between \$4.15 and \$4.28. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$4.20 December 2024 Put Option costing 11 cents establishing a \$4.09 futures floor.

Corn	Dec 24	Change	Mar 25	Change	December Corn Futures
Price	\$4.15	-\$0.09	\$4.33	-\$0.08	800 -
Support	\$4.10	-\$0.10	\$4.27	-\$0.10	750 700
Resistance	\$4.25	-\$0.04	\$4.42	-\$0.07	650
20 Day MA	\$4.17	\$0.03	\$4.35	\$0.03	200 550 550 550 550 550 550 550 550 550
50 Day MA	\$4.07	\$0.01	\$4.25	\$0.02	
100 Day MA	\$4.23	-\$0.04	\$4.39	-\$0.03	
4-Week High	\$4.34	\$0.00	\$4.52	\$0.00	20e 30 20 30 10 2 10 31 10 30 10 30 10 30 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10
4-Week Low	\$3.97	\$0.00	\$4.16	\$0.00	、 ひ、 ひ、 か、 ひ、 ひ、 ひ、 ひ、 ひ、
Technical Trend	Down	-	Down	-	2024 2023 2022

Dec/Mar and Dec/Dec future spreads were 18 and 35 cents. March 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.33, down 8 cents since last Friday. December 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.50, down 3 cent since last Friday.

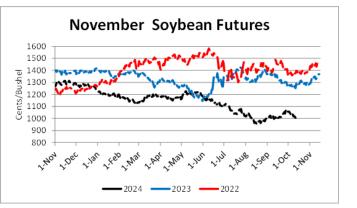
#### **Soybeans**

Across Tennessee the average soybean basis strengthened or remained unchanged at Northwest, West, North-Central, West-Central, and Mississippi River elevators and barge points. Basis ranged from 65 under to 8 over the November futures contract, with an average basis at the end of the week of 28 under. Soybean net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 46.5 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year and net sales cancellations of 0.3 million bushels for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 135% compared to last week at 62.7 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments were 40% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2024/25 marketing year (September 1 to August 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 50%. The Crop Progress report estimated soybean condition at 63% goodto-excellent and 11% poor-to-very poor; soybeans dropping leaves at 90% compared to 81% last week, 91% last year, and a 5year average of 85%; and soybeans harvested at 47% compared to 26% last week, 37% last year, and a 5-year average of 34%. In Tennessee, soybean condition was estimated at 40% good-to-excellent and 23% poor-to-very poor; soybeans dropping leaves at 83% compared to 78% last week, 80% last year, and a 5-year average of 70%; and soybeans harvested at 51% compared to 42% last week, 35% last year, and a 5-year average of 29%. Cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$9.44 to \$10.32. November 2024 soybean futures closed at \$10.05, down 32 cents since last Friday. For the week, November 2024 soybean futures traded between \$10.04 and \$10.39. Nov/Dec 2024 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.42 at the end of the week. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a \$10.10 November 2024 Put Option which would cost 15 cents and set a \$9.95 futures floor.

(Continued on page 4)

## Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Soybeans	Nov 24	Change	Jan 25	Change
Price	\$10.05	-\$0.32	\$10.21	-\$0.35
Support	\$9.91	-\$0.33	\$10.06	-\$0.18
Resistance	\$10.30	-\$0.32	\$10.47	-\$0.15
20 Day MA	\$10.31	\$0.03	\$10.49	\$0.21
50 Day MA	\$10.10	-\$0.01	\$10.27	\$0.16
100 Day MA	\$10.62	-\$0.10	\$10.78	\$0.06
4-Week High	\$10.69	\$0.00	\$10.87	\$0.18
4-Week Low	\$9.97	\$0.02	\$10.15	\$0.20
Technical Trend	Down	-	Down	-

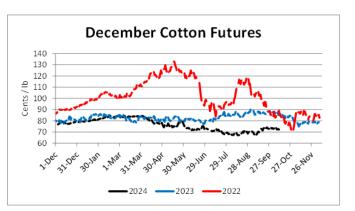


Nov/Jan and Nov/Nov future spreads were 16 and 50 cents. January 2025 soybean futures closed at \$10.21, down 35 cents since last Friday. November 2025 soybean futures closed at \$10.55, down 25 cents since last Friday. Nov/Dec 2025 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.34 at the end of the week.

## <u>Cotton</u>

North Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for October 11 were 66.71 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 68.71 cents/lb (31-3-35). Adjusted World Price (AWP) decreased 0.40 cents to 60.41 cents. Cotton net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 89,600 bales for the 2024/25 marketing year and 13,200 bales for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 11% compared to last week at 95,100 bales. Upland cotton export sales were 46% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2024/25 marketing year (August 1 to July 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 59%. The Crop Progress report estimated cotton condition at 29% good-to-excellent and 35% poor-to-very poor; cotton bolls opening at 82% compared to 72% last week, 80% last year, and a 5-year average of 80%; and cotton harvested at 26% compared to 20% last week, 23% last year, and a 5-year average of 22%. In Tennessee, cotton condition was estimated at 34% good-to-excellent and 30% poor-to-very poor; cotton bolls opening at 91% compared to 85% last week, 83% last year, and a 5-year average of 80%; and cotton harvested at 19% compared to 10% last week, 12% last year, and a 5-year average of 11%. December 2024 cotton futures closed at 72.21 cents, down 1.06 cents since last Friday. For the week, December 2024 cotton futures traded between 71.11 and 74.14 cents. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a 73 cent December 2024 Put Option costing 2.21 cents establishing a 70.79 cent futures floor.

Cotton	Dec 24	Change	Mar 25	Change
Price	72.21	-1.06	74.33	-0.95
Support	70.75	-0.95	72.98	-0.85
Resistance	74.23	0.09	76.16	0.11
20 Day MA	72.91	0.86	74.77	1.00
50 Day MA	70.48	0.38	72.16	0.43
100 Day MA	71.53	-0.11	73.19	-0.08
4-Week High	74.55	0.00	76.19	0.00
4-Week Low	69.30	1.79	70.82	1.54
Technical Trend	Down	-	Up	=



Dec/Mar and Dec/May cotton futures spreads were 2.12 cents and 3.5 cents. March 2025 cotton futures closed at 74.33 cents, down 0.95 cents since last Friday. May 2025 cotton futures closed at 75.71 cents, down 0.81 cents since last Friday.

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

Wheat net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 15.9 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year and 0.2 million bushels for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 32% compared to last week at 13.2 million bushels. Wheat export sales were 54% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2024/25 marketing year

## Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

(June 1 to May 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 58%. Wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.27 to \$5.49. December 2024 wheat futures closed at \$5.99, up 10 cents since last Friday. The December wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.44. December 2024 wheat futures traded between \$5.84 and \$6.11 this week. March 2025 wheat futures closed at \$6.21, up 9 cents since last Friday.



Dec/Mar and Dec/Jul future spreads were 22 and 40 cents. The Crop Progress report estimated winter wheat planted at 51% compared to 39% last week, 52% last year, and a 5-year average of 52%; and winter wheat emerged at 25% compared to 14% last week, 25% last year, and a 5-year average of 25%. In Tennessee winter wheat planted was estimated at 20% compared to 10% last week, 14% last year, and a 5-year average of 16%; and winter wheat emerged at 2% compared to 0% last week, 3% last year, and a 5-year average of 6%. July cash contracts at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.99 to \$6.22. July 2025 wheat futures closed at \$6.39, up 7 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$6.40 July 2025 Put Option costing 56 cents establishing a \$5.84 futures floor.

#### Additional Information:

*Links for data presented*:

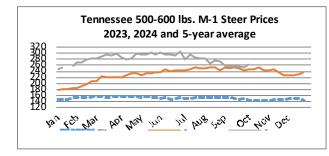
U.S. Export Sales - https://apps.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html

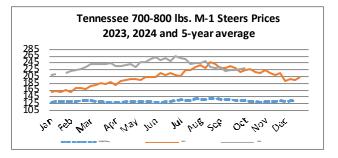
USDA FAS: Weekly Export Performance Indicator – <u>https://apps.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/esrpi.aspx</u> EIA: Weekly ethanol Plant Production - <u>https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet\_pnp\_wprode\_s1\_w.htm</u> EIA: Weekly Supply Estimates - <u>https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet\_sum\_sndw\_a\_EPOOXE\_sae\_mbbl\_w.htm</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>

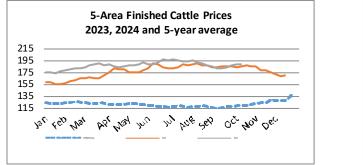
U.S. Crop Progress - <u>http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1048</u> USDA AMS: Market News - <u>https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/search-market-news</u>

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, October 4, 2024Thursday, October 10, 2024						
	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		
	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average		
No. 2 Yellow Soybeans			\$/bushel				
Northwest	9.73	9.69	9.51	9.55	9.50		
North Central	10.03	9.99	9.81	9.85	9.80		
West Central							
West	10.23	10.32	10.14	10.23	10.18		
Mississippi River	10.01	9.98	9.81	9.90	9.84		
Yellow Corn							
Northwest	3.97	3.99	3.94	3.94	3.92		
North Central	3.85	3.86	3.81	3.81	3.79		
West Central							
West	4.10	4.16	4.13	4.16	4.14		
Mississippi River	3.99	4.00	3.98	4.02	3.99		
Wheat							
Northwest							
North Central	5.25	5.28	5.30	5.34	5.39		
West							
Vississippi River							
Cotton			\$/pound				
Memphis	66.77-68.77	67.53-69.53	66.27-68.27	66.25-68.25	66.66-68.66		









# **Futures Settlement Prices: Crops & Livestock**

Corn: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/grain-and-oilseed/corn.html Soybeans: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/grain-and-oilseed/soybean.html Wheat: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/grain-and-oilseed/wheat.html Soybean Meal: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/grain-and-oilseed/soybean-meal.html Cotton: https://www.theice.com/products/254/Cotton-No-2-Futures/data?marketId=5352193 Live Cattle: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/livestock/live-cattle.html Feeder Cattle: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/livestock/live-cattle.html Lean Hogs: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/livestock/lean-hogs.html Class III Milk: https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/dairy/class-iii-milk.html

		This We	ek	Last Week's	ctober 7, 2024 Year Ago	
-	Low		Weighted Average	-	•	
			\$/cwt			
Steers: Medium/Large			φ, ewe			
300-400 lbs	261.00	365.00	312.65	244.16	254.28	
400-500 lbs	240.00	320.00	281.92	250.11	251.95	
500-600 lbs	232.00	300.00	259.76	242.48	241.36	
600-700 lbs	213.00	265.00	244.56	232.17	233.89	
700-800 lbs	218.00	245.00	228.03	221.26	216.23	
Steers: Small Frame #	1-2			-		
300-400 lbs					237.31	
400-500 lbs	200.00	255.00	234.83		210.00	
500-600 lbs	220.00	250.00	234.06			
600-700 lbs						
Steers: Medium/Large	e Frame #3					
300-400 lbs	220.00	320.00	275.38	228.88	235.22	
400-500 lbs	215.00	290.00	261.25	218.63	231.91	
500-600 lbs	175.00	255.00	235.68	213.98	222.10	
600-700 lbs	180.00	240.00	226.85	210.44	207.16	
700-800 lbs	175.00	220.00	206.02	187.19	195.84	
Holstein Steers						
300-400 lbs						
500-600 lbs						
700-800 lbs						
Slaughter Cows & Bul	ls					
Breakers 75-80%	105.50	127.00	118.60	92.86	94.01	
Boners 80-85%	105.00	127.00	117.31	87.71	90.56	
Lean 85-90%	94.00	114.00	105.29	77.77	81.71	
Bulls YG 1	137.00	157.00	148.11	119.55	123.37	
Heifers: Medium/Larg						
300-400 lbs	226.00	305.00	260.52	224.59	223.50	
400-500 lbs	228.00	285.00	248.02	217.50	215.97	
500-600 lbs	207.00	255.00	234.60	211.24	212.02	
600-700 lbs	208.00	247.50	226.14	196.05	203.18	
Heifers: Small Frame						
300-400 lbs	210.00	255.00	232.50	185.23		
400-500 lbs	200.00	240.00	224.63	191.30		
500-600 lbs	190.00	225.00	212.02	180.55		
600-700 lbs	192.50	204.00	198.25	142.50		
Heifers: Medium/Larg	e Frame #2-3					
300-400 lbs	210.00	271.00	247.74	206.76	203.03	
400-500 lbs	205.00	265.00	229.18	203.08	206.17	
500-600 lbs	185.00	237.50	218.79	187.53	194.98	
600-700 lbs	170.00	227.50	206.08	182.82	181.85	

Cattle Receipts

This week:7,192

Week ago:7,339

Year ago:8,715

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

#### East Tennessee Livestock Center Graded Feeder Cattle Sale - Sweetwater, TN 10/4/24 Total Receipts: 1,094 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams\_2073.pdf

#### **Dickson Regional Livestock Center - Dickson, TN**

10/7/24 61 Steers, 787lbs, Medium & Large #1, 100% Blk/BWF, 5 Flesh, Value Added \$252.50

East Tennessee Livestock Center Video Sale

- Sweetwater, TN 10/9/24 1 load out of 70 steers from BQA certified producer; Est weight 885 lbs; 95% L&M-1s and 5% L&M-2s; 100% BLK/BWF; \$236.00

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

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

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