

Tennessee Market Highlights

UTEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

December 2, 2024

Number: 48

Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

Slaughter Cows

Slaughter Bulls

Feeder Steers

Feeder Heifers

Feeder Cattle Index: 254.32

Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Thursday of \$189.97 up \$4.34 compared to last week and \$296.63 dressed, up \$6.37.

Corn

December closed at \$4.23 a bushel, down 2 cents since last Friday.

Soybeans

January closed at \$9.89 a bushel, up 6 cents since last Friday.

Wheat

December closed at \$5.32 a bushel, down 12 cents since last Friday.

Cotton

December closed at 73.35 cents per lb, up 1.7 cents since last Friday.

**No
Trends**

Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew P. Griffith

FED CATTLE: Fed cattle traded \$4 higher on a live basis compared to last week. Prices were mainly \$189 to \$190 on a live basis. Dressed trade was mainly \$295 to \$297.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$189.97 live, up \$4.34 compared to last week and \$296.63 dressed, up \$6.37 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$174.60 live and \$274.74 dressed.

Finished cattle prices ran higher over the holiday shortened week with most cattle on the cash market being scheduled for delivery over the next two weeks. Both of these pieces of information likely mean packers were short bought on cattle heading into the weeks leading up to the year-end holidays. Cattle feeders were pleased to receive these stronger prices, but it also told them they hold increased leverage in the current environment. Thus, cattle feeders will be holding out for higher prices moving into the first week of December just to see how much leverage they really have. There may be a week or two where fed cattle prices slip simply due to packers hoping for lower prices, but this will just result in higher prices another week.

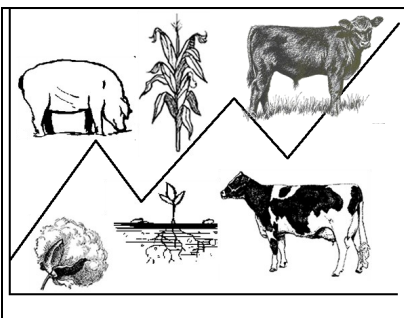
BEEF CUTOUT: At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was \$311.22 down \$0.04 from Thursday and up \$2.99 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$275.90 up \$1.60 from Thursday and up \$3.47 from last week. The Choice Select spread was \$35.32 compared to \$35.80 a week ago.

By this time, the turkey and ham leftovers have been consumed or fed to the hunting dogs in most households. There are only a little over three weeks until Christmas, which means most consumers will be making purchases for Christmas day meals and all those Christmas gatherings that take place prior and immediately following Christmas day. Many of the meals at

these gatherings or celebrations include beef as the primary protein with pork items generally being the secondary option. With extremely higher beef prices, will some consumers shift from beef to pork? The answer is that it is unlikely consumers will move away from beef as there tend to be some decent deals as grocery stores look to pull people in to purchase other items for the holiday meal. If restaurants, retailers, and food service providers find themselves short bought over the next couple of weeks then wholesale prices are likely to increase. If they are not short bought then there is no reason to believe prices will change much through the end of the year.

OUTLOOK: Based on weekly auction market averages, steer prices were \$2 to \$4 lower compared to last week while heifer prices were steady to \$3 higher compared to the previous week. Slaughter cow prices were unevenly steady compared to the previous week's weighted average price while bull prices were unevenly steady compared to the prior week. Only a few livestock markets held an auction this week due to the Thanksgiving holiday on Thursday. Despite the holiday, several head of cattle made their way to town and buyer interest remained strong. The question now is just how many more calves are still on the farm? There will be three more weeks of livestock auctions before most auction markets close for two weeks in observance of Christmas and the New Year holiday, which means time is of the essence for those who prefer to market calves before the end of the year. The same can be said for buyers. However, many of the cattle that are still on the farm will not have any wheels set under them until 2025 as some producers will be looking to defer income into the next year. With that being said, it does appear

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Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

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calf prices will continue to strengthen to finish 2024 and likely push even higher heading into the spring of 2025. This projection of a price direction is based on typical seasonal patterns and current supply and demand for lightweight cattle. The primary deterrent of prices strengthening would be the failure of feeder cattle prices pushing higher on the futures market. A potential supporter of higher prices could be reduced imports of Mexican calves due to the discovery of New World Screwworms in Mexican cattle. There will certainly be considerable discussion on this topic in the weeks to come as the two countries work to address live cattle imports from Mexico. This may not seem like a big deal to most cattle market participants across the United States, but this is a big deal for border states as most of the imported Mexican cattle end up on operations in these southern states.

ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK: Why would I castrate bull calves when prices are so high? There are producers who castrate bulls and make them steers. There are producers who simply sell bull calves. There are producers who think they castrate bull calves, but they clearly struggle with counting to two or their castration technique needs to be refined. Re-

gardless, there is still a good reason to castrate bull calves and market steers instead of bulls when prices are high. For instance, 525 pound bulls were discounted \$13 per hundredweight compared to same weight steers while 575 pound bulls were discounted \$20 per hundredweight the week before Thanksgiving compared to same weight steers. What other reason does a person need to castrate bull calves? What one will eventually realize when asking this question of those who do not castrate is the higher price does not always outweigh their cost of castration. Those who do not castrate will most likely never castrate bull calves and that is perfectly fine.

Please send questions and comments to 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 –December \$187.98 - 0.03; February \$188.63 +0.03; April \$190.78 +0.35; Feeder cattle –January \$259.48 +0.70; March \$258.63 +1.33; April \$259.63 +1.23; May \$259.78 +1.23; December corn closed at \$4.23 up 7 cents from Thursday.

Please use this link for cattle and market definitions: [Cattle and Beef Market Definitions Publication W801](#)

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Overview

Cotton and soybeans were up; wheat and corn were down for the week.

Corn futures continue to trade mostly sideways with the March contract, trading consistently between \$4.20 to \$4.50. Export sales continue to provide support for prices despite record US average yield estimates. Tennessee producers have seen basis bids improve substantially compared to a month ago. This highlights the need to manage futures price risk and basis price risk separately over time to maximize cash prices received by farmers.

January soybean futures continue to hug the bottom end of the trading range of \$9.80 to \$10.20. Production projections out of South America have a wide range with USDA's current estimates for Argentina and Brazil estimated at 1.9 billion bushels and 6.2 billion bushels. If realized soybean futures prices are likely to remain below \$10.50. From now until February, US soybean export sales will dictate projected carryover into the 2025 crop production year.

Cotton futures have increased over 6 cents over the past two weeks. Export sales have been the primary catalyst with back-to-back weekly marketing year highs in export sales. Weekly sales over 300,000 bales will assist in pulling futures prices into the mid-70 cent range.

The short Thanksgiving trade week saw wheat futures decline double digits primarily due to improved drought conditions across the winter wheat producing areas in the US. Winter wheat in drought was estimated at 28% compared to 40% last week and 38% last year. Particularly, North Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas experienced improved moisture conditions for the week ending November 26.

	Previous	Current	Change
USD Index	107.50	106.25	-1.25
Crude Oil	71.31	68	-3.31
DJIA	44,227	44,940	713

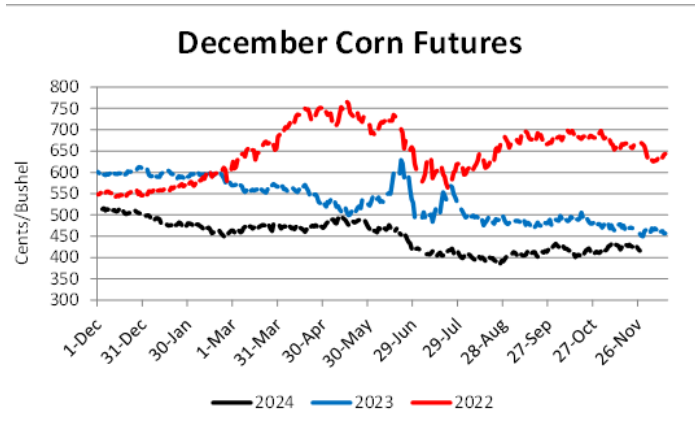
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Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Corn

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 and barge points. Overall, basis for the week ranged from 25 under to 32 over, with an average of 9 over the December futures at elevators and barge points. Ethanol production for the week ending November 22 was 1.119 million barrels per day, up 9,000 from the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 22.869 million barrels, up 0.306 million barrels compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for November 15-21 were net sales of 41.8 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year and 2.6 million bushels for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 6% compared to last week at 39.8 million bushels. Corn export sales and commitments were 55% 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 49%. Cash prices ranged from \$3.95 to \$4.61 at elevators and barge points. December 2024 corn futures closed at \$4.23, down 2 cents since last Friday. For the week, December 2024 corn futures traded between \$4.14 and \$4.26.

Corn	Dec 24	Change	Mar 25	Change
Price	\$4.23	-\$0.02	\$4.33	-\$0.02
Support	\$4.18	-\$0.04	\$4.27	-\$0.04
Resistance	\$4.28	-\$0.06	\$4.37	-\$0.07
20 Day MA	\$4.25	\$0.03	\$4.36	\$0.02
50 Day MA	\$4.19	\$0.01	\$4.33	\$0.00
100 Day MA	\$4.12	\$0.01	\$4.27	\$0.00
4-Week High	\$4.34	\$0.00	\$4.47	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$4.13	\$0.04	\$4.25	\$0.02
Technical Trend	Down	-	Down	-



Dec/Mar and Dec/Dec future spreads were 10 and 8 cents. March 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.33, down 2 cents since last Friday. December 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.31, down 5 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$4.40 December 2025 Put Option costing 40 cents establishing a \$4.00 futures floor.

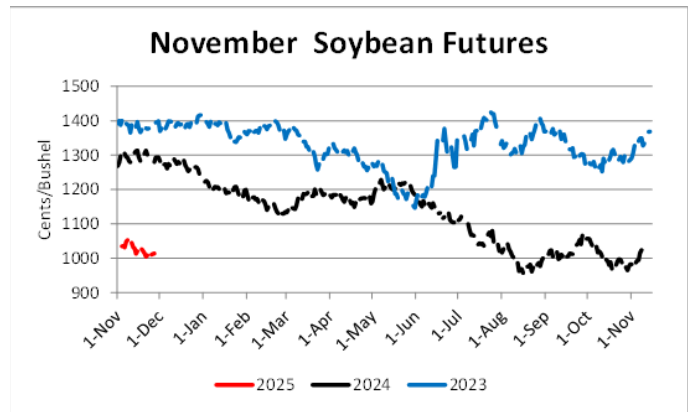
Soybeans

Across Tennessee the average soybean basis weakened or remained unchanged at Northwest, West, North-Central, West-Central, and Mississippi River elevators and barge points. Basis ranged from 26 under to 39 over the January futures contract, with an average basis at the end of the week of 12 over. Soybean net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 91.5 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year and 0.7 million bushels for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 15% compared to last week at 76.5 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments were 68% 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 70%. In Tennessee the crop progress report estimated soybeans harvested at 95% compared to 92% last week, 96% last year, and a 5-year average of 92%. Cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$9.57 to \$10.28. January 2025 soybean futures closed at \$9.86, up 6 cents since last Friday. For the week, January 2025 soybean futures traded between \$9.76 and \$9.98. Jan/Dec soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.34 at the end of the week.

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Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Soybeans	Jan 25	Change	Nov 25	Change
Price	\$9.89	\$0.06	\$10.10	\$0.02
Support	\$9.71	\$0.10	\$9.93	\$0.03
Resistance	\$9.97	-\$0.09	\$10.17	-\$0.10
20 Day MA	\$9.98	-\$0.01	\$10.22	-\$0.05
50 Day MA	\$10.14	-\$0.05	\$10.42	-\$0.06
100 Day MA	\$10.21	-\$0.07	\$10.47	-\$0.06
4-Week High	\$10.44	\$0.00	\$10.60	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$9.75	\$0.00	\$9.98	-\$0.01
Technical Trend	Down	=	Down	=

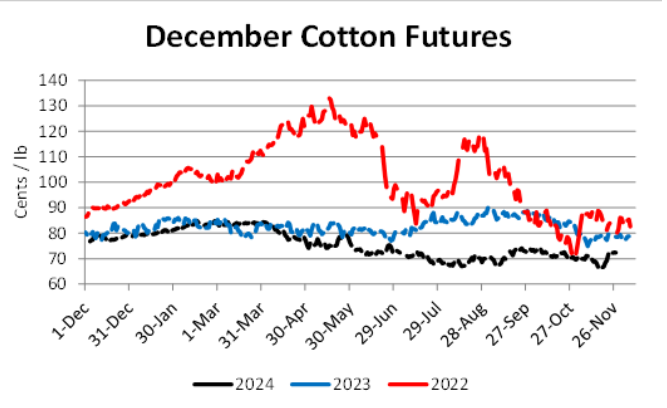


Jan/Mar and Jan/Nov future spreads were 7 and 21 cents. March 2025 soybean futures closed at \$9.96, up 4 cents since last Friday. November 2025 soybean futures closed at \$10.10, up 2 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a \$10.20 November 2025 Put Option which would cost 73 cents and set a \$9.47 futures floor. Nov/Dec 2025 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.34 at the end of the week.

Cotton

North Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for November 29 were 67.93 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 69.93 cents/lb (31-3-35). Adjusted World Price (AWP) increased 1.62 cents to 57.53 cents. Cotton net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 324,100 bales for the 2024/25 marketing year – a marketing year high. Exports for the same period were down 12% compared to last week at 130,300 bales. Upland cotton export sales were 63% 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 70%. The Crop Progress report estimated cotton harvested at 84% compared to 77% last week, 81% last year, and a 5-year average of 80%. In Tennessee, cotton harvested was estimated at 95% compared to 89% last week, 96% last year, and a 5-year average of 91%. December 2024 cotton futures closed at 73.35 cents, up 1.7 cents since last Friday. For the week, December 2024 cotton futures traded between 71.99 and 73.7 cents.

Cotton	Dec 24	Change	Mar 25	Change
Price	73.35	1.70	72.15	1.38
Support	70.68	4.52	69.63	0.21
Resistance	74.55	1.57	72.99	1.59
20 Day MA	70.14	0.78	71.24	-0.19
50 Day MA	71.25	0.07	72.85	-0.32
100 Day MA	70.42	0.11	72.06	-0.06
4-Week High	73.70	0.95	73.75	-0.95
4-Week Low	66.00	0.00	68.40	0.00
Technical Trend	Up	=	Up	=



Dec/Mar and Dec/Dec cotton futures spreads were -1.2 cents and -0.77 cents. March 2025 cotton futures closed at 72.15 cents, up 1.38 cents since last Friday. December 2025 cotton futures closed at 72.58 cents, up 0.87 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a 73 cent December 2024 Put Option costing 4.62 cents establishing a 68.38 cent futures floor.

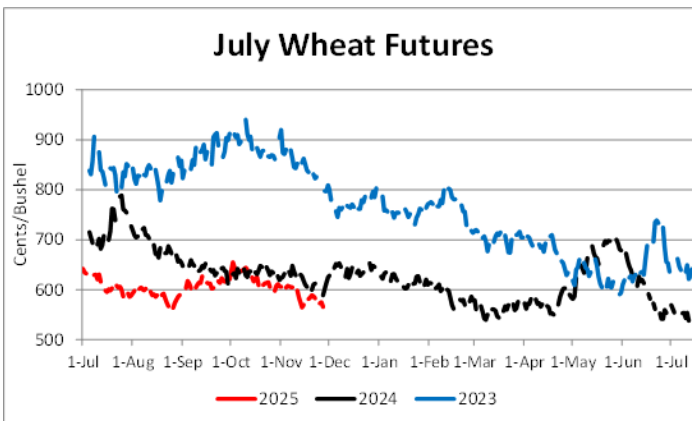
Wheat

Wheat net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 13.5 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 224% compared to last week at 15.9 million bushels. Wheat export sales were 68% of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2024/25 marketing year (June 1 to May 31), compared to the previous 5-year average of 71%. Wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$4.87 to \$5.11. December 2024 wheat futures closed at

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

\$5.32, down 12 cents since last Friday. The December wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.26. December 2024 wheat futures traded between \$5.29 and \$5.47 this week. March 2025 wheat futures closed at \$5.48, down 16 cents since last Friday.

Wheat	Dec 24	Change	Jul 25	Change
Price	\$5.32	-\$0.12	\$5.63	-\$0.19
Support	\$5.27	-\$0.14	\$5.53	-\$0.23
Resistance	\$5.44	-\$0.17	\$5.75	-\$0.22
20 Day MA	\$5.49	-\$0.09	\$5.82	-\$0.11
50 Day MA	\$5.69	-\$0.05	\$6.06	-\$0.05
100 Day MA	\$5.65	-\$0.03	\$6.01	-\$0.04
4-Week High	\$5.79	-\$0.06	\$6.12	-\$0.07
4-Week Low	\$5.28	\$0.00	\$5.57	-\$0.06
Technical Trend	Down	=	Down	=



Dec/Mar and Dec/Jul future spreads were 16 and 31 cents. The Crop Progress report estimated winter wheat condition at 55% good-to-excellent and 12% poor-to-very poor, winter wheat planted at 97% compared to 94% last week, 97% last year, and a 5-year average of 98%; and winter wheat emerged at 89% compared to 84% last week, 90% last year, and a 5-year average of 89%. In Tennessee winter wheat condition was estimated at 74% good-to-excellent and 8% poor-to-very poor, winter wheat planted at 93% compared to 86% last week, 92% last year, and a 5-year average of 92%; and winter wheat emerged at 80% compared to 69% last week, 76% last year, and a 5-year average of 77%. July cash contracts at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.26 to \$5.54. July 2025 wheat futures closed at \$5.63, down 19 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$5.70 July 2025 Put Option costing 53 cents establishing a \$5.17 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 – <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_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/

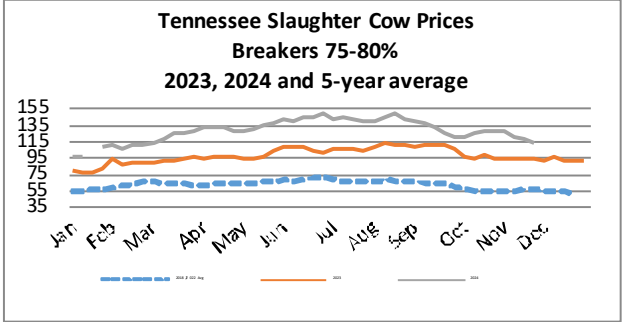
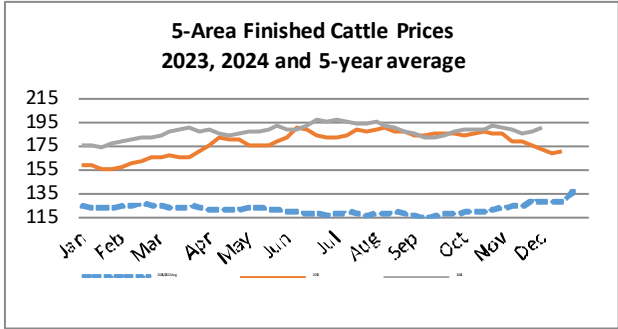
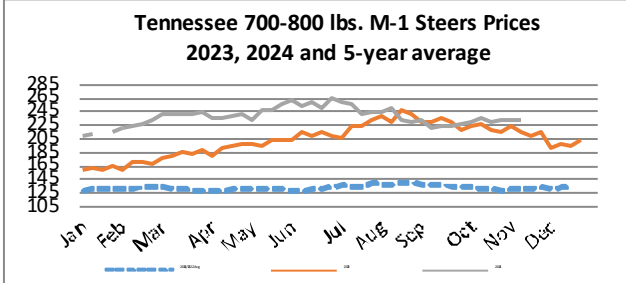
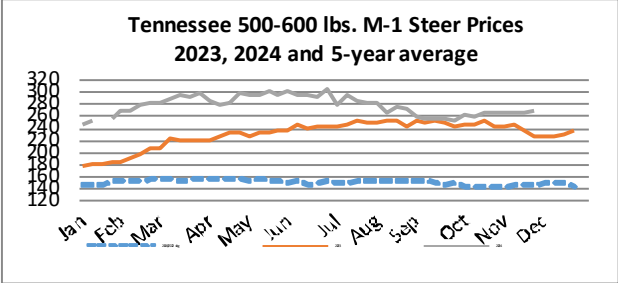
[Crop Progress & Condition/](#)

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.

Prices Paid to Farmers by Elevators					
Friday, November 22, 2024---Thursday, November 28, 2024					
	Friday Average	Monday Average	Tuesday Average	Wednesday Average	Thursday Average
No. 2 Yellow Soybeans	-----\$/bushel-----				
Northwest	9.58	9.60	9.58	9.63	
North Central	9.99	10.01	9.94	9.99	
West Central					
West	10.16	10.18	10.16	10.28	
Mississippi River	10.09	10.10	10.09	10.15	
Yellow Corn					
Northwest	4.27	4.26	4.21	4.17	
North Central	4.01	4.00	4.00	3.96	
West Central					
West	4.58	4.57	4.52	4.48	
Mississippi River	4.50	4.49	4.45	4.41	
Wheat					
Northwest					
North Central	5.14	5.06	4.95	4.93	
West					
Mississippi River					
Cotton	-----\$/pound-----				
Memphis	66.77-68.77	67.72-69.72	67.68-69.68	67.75-69.75	



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, November 25, 2024

	This Week			Last Week's	Year Ago
	Low	High	Weighted Average	Weighted Average	Weighted Average
-----\$/cwt-----					
Steers: Medium/Large Frame #1-2					
300-400 lbs	272.50	365.00	324.46	323.32	257.91
400-500 lbs	275.00	330.00	296.76	291.82	235.38
500-600 lbs	245.00	287.50	267.47	261.72	223.69
600-700 lbs	230.00	266.00	251.52	245.14	218.35
700-800 lbs	217.50	243.00	231.36	229.15	211.70
Steers: Small Frame #1-2					
300-400 lbs	---	---	---	238.15	---
400-500 lbs	230.00	280.00	254.35	---	---
500-600 lbs	210.00	242.50	232.74	202.47	---
600-700 lbs	---	---	---	201.84	---
Steers: Medium/Large Frame #3					
300-400 lbs	265.00	315.00	290.82	282.17	211.48
400-500 lbs	242.50	300.00	272.10	258.23	212.85
500-600 lbs	210.00	270.00	244.17	240.81	205.42
600-700 lbs	207.50	237.50	224.86	220.97	198.50
700-800 lbs	190.00	225.00	216.00	221.90	---
Holstein Steers					
300-400 lbs	---	---	---	---	---
500-600 lbs	---	---	---	---	---
700-800 lbs	---	---	---	---	---
Slaughter Cows & Bulls					
Breakers 75-80%	95.00	125.00	112.19	115.56	89.96
Boners 80-85%	95.00	124.00	110.77	111.00	88.02
Lean 85-90%	88.00	107.00	98.75	100.87	74.02
Bulls YG 1	130.00	159.00	142.27	142.80	115.64
Heifers: Medium/Large Frame #1-2					
300-400 lbs	232.50	295.00	274.37	269.27	213.89
400-500 lbs	215.00	282.00	255.24	252.72	208.15
500-600 lbs	207.50	260.00	234.11	235.05	195.19
600-700 lbs	194.00	240.00	223.83	215.19	184.29
Heifers: Small Frame #1-2					
300-400 lbs	200.00	252.50	229.80	230.22	---
400-500 lbs	152.50	230.00	203.30	218.28	---
500-600 lbs	189.00	230.00	213.80	210.60	---
600-700 lbs	205.00	220.00	212.27	200.09	---
Heifers: Medium/Large Frame #2-3					
300-400 lbs	220.00	277.00	252.47	241.26	182.07
400-500 lbs	187.00	255.00	233.56	229.13	188.01
500-600 lbs	172.00	236.00	219.08	217.82	181.16
600-700 lbs	167.00	220.00	207.04	196.80	169.42

Cattle Receipts

This week:10,058

Week ago:9,336

Year ago:1,330

Link to report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_2063.pdf

Graded Sales, Video Board Sales, Video Sales & Loads

Knoxville Livestock Center - Knoxville, TN

11/19/24

1 load ML 1 preconditioned Heifers, 570 lbs., medium flesh, appx. 70 percent black with 30 percent Continental; \$272.50

1 load ML 1 preconditioned Steers, 827 lbs., medium flesh, black and Continental mix; \$244.75

Dickson Regional Livestock Center Yearling Special (Annual)

- Dickson, TN

11/22/24

Total Receipts: 984

For complete report:

https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3874.pdf

Southwestern Sales Co. Replacement Cattle Sale (Seasonal)

- Huntingdon, TN

11/26/24

Total Receipts: 138

For complete report:

https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3873.pdf

Graded Goat & Sheep Sales

Columbia Graded Sheep and Goat Sale-Columbia, TN

Weighted Average Report for 11/25/24

Total Receipts: 860

For complete report:

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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