

Tennessee Market Highlights

Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

Slaughter Cows

steady to \$2 lower

Slaughter Bulls

steady

Feeder Steers

\$4 to \$8 higher

Feeder Heifers

\$2 to \$6 higher

Feeder Cattle Index: 262.23

Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Thursday of \$194.93 up \$0.62 compared to last week and \$305.67 dressed, up \$2.27.

Corn

March closed at \$4.46 a bushel, up 4 cents since last Friday.

Soybeans

January closed at \$9.74 a bushel, down 14 cents since last Friday.

Wheat

March closed at \$5.33 a bushel, down 19 cents since last Friday.

Cotton

March closed at 68.06 cents per lb, down 1.21 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 \$194 to \$196 on a live basis. Dressed trade was mainly \$305 to \$307.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$194.93 live, up \$0.62 compared to last week and \$305.67 dressed, up \$2.27 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$170.13 live and \$270.07 dressed.

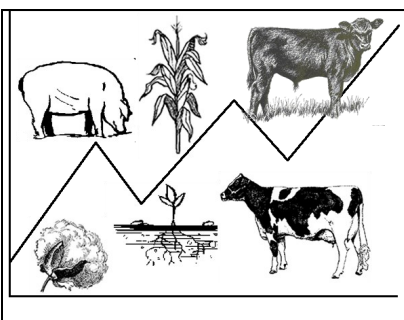
Prices in the South are lagging behind cattle prices in the North. Much of the trade in the South took place around \$191 this week on a live basis while prices in the North were \$3 to \$5 higher. Part of this is due to grading expectations, but the market is heading into a time period where end meats will be the focus. That being said, there is very little price difference in between a Prime grade and a Select grade end meat primal. In more general terms, there is little difference in the price of roasts based on quality grade. One may expect the discount in the South to tighten over the next couple of months, but it will widen once again when the spring grilling season takes control.

BEEF CUTOUT: At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was \$316.27 down \$4.42 from Thursday and up \$0.37 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$283.56 down \$0.55 from Thursday and up \$0.71 from last week. The Choice Select spread was \$32.71 compared to \$33.05 a week ago.

There was some positive movement in the Choice cutout this week as some entities were forced to make some extremely last-minute purchases. However, this strength was short lived as week-over-week gains were modest. The market will soon be moving from the rib primal to end cuts coming from the chuck and round. There should be more interest in the brisket moving through the winter months as

well. The brisket was a leader of the cutout in the last quarter of 2021 and the first quarter of 2022. From November 2021 through February 2022 the price of the brisket primal relative to the comprehensive Choice cutout price was 90 to 110 percent. For example, if the Choice cutout was \$200 then the brisket primal ranged from \$180 to \$220 during that time period. In 2024, the brisket has had an average value of 82 percent of the Choice cutout. The packer as well as cattle producers need consumers to push briskets higher. They will certainly increase moving into January, but market participants need them to move into the 2021 and 2022 winter range.

OUTLOOK: Based on weekly auction market averages, steer prices were \$4 to \$8 higher compared to last week while heifer prices were \$2 to \$6 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 steady compared to the prior week. Calf and feeder cattle markets at local auctions finished the year on a strong note. This was not ending the year on a strong week but rather several strong weeks to finish the 2024 cattle marketing year. Feeder cattle futures contracts did not share the same price trend movement this week as the cash markets for calves and feeder cattle locally, but the January contract is \$30 per hundred-weight higher than its low the first week of September and \$13 to \$15 higher than the first week of November. Pushing the feeder cattle market \$13 per hundred-weight in either direction over a six to seven-week period is no small task. However, that is exactly what has happened with the CME feeder cattle index. Similar types of price movements have become more common the past few years, but they are



Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

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just as surprising today as they were yesterday. From the local price standpoint, 550-pound steer prices are nearing the \$300 per hundredweight mark, which equates to \$1,650 per head. This is good for the cow-calf producer and less exciting for the buyer, but with the CME feeder cattle index near \$262, an 800-pound steer worth nearly \$2,100 per head. The current pricing opportunities provide an opportunity for a profit for the cow-calf producer and a positive margin for the stocker and backgrounding operators. The challenge here is that feeder cattle futures are trading at a discount compared to the CME feeder cattle index. The reason this is a challenge is because the cash price and futures prices are expected to converge. If a person is hedging then it is difficult to know how such a convergence would occur. This is important in that a hedged position could influence profits a great degree.

The December cattle on feed report for feedlots with a 1000 head or more capacity indicated cattle and calves on feed as of December 1, 2024 totaled 11.98 million head, down 0.3% compared to a year ago, with the pre-report estimate average expecting a decrease of 0.1%. November placements in feedlots totaled 1.80 million head, down 3.7% from a year ago with the pre-report estimate average expecting placements down 4.1%. November marketing's totaled 1.73 million head down 1.5% from 2023 with pre-report estimates expecting marketings down 1.8%. Placements on feed by weight: under 700 pounds down 5.7%, 700 to 899 pounds down 2.8%, 900 pounds and over up 2.2%.

ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK: There were a couple of questions this week concerning breeds of cattle for an operation and one of those questions also included what sector of the cattle business to be in. When it comes to selecting a primary breed for a commercial cow-calf herd or for a seedstock business, it is important to know the goals of the operation other than "maximize profits." There are people that will say there is as much variation within a breed as across breeds. The truthfulness of this statement is largely dependent on how comparisons are made. The first thing a producer should identify is their intended market whether that be selling weaned calves straight off the cow, selling cuts of beef, or anything between the two. There are good cattle in most breeds to achieve any of these objectives. The challenge is that some breeds may not excel in certain areas, which will require more effort to identify those animals. The second aspect a producer should consider is choosing a breed or multiple breeds they will enjoy looking at every day.

FRIDAY'S FUTURES MARKET CLOSING PRICES: Friday's closing prices were as follows: Live/fed cattle –December \$191.33 +0.98; February \$188.40 +1.85; April \$190.13 +1.53; Feeder cattle –January \$255.60 +1.13; March \$255.83 +1.25; April \$256.75 +1.30; May \$256.80 +1.28; March corn closed at \$4.46 up 6 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, soybeans, and wheat were down; and corn was mixed for the week.

Corn futures continue to dramatically outperform soybeans. On August 30, March corn futures closed at \$4.19 and March soybean futures closed at \$10.31 ¾. A soybean-to-corn price ratio of 2.46. On December 20, the March futures contracts closed at \$4.46 ¼ and \$9.79 ¼, a price ratio of 2.19.

	Previous	Current	Change
USD Index	106.99	107.35	0.36
Crude Oil	71.29	69.43	-1.86
DJIA	44,856	42,987	-1,869

One of the reasons for the relative changes in futures prices were changes in the 2024/25 marketing year projected stocks. In the August USDA WASDE report, projected global corn ending stocks for the 2024/25 marketing year were estimated at 12.211 billion bushels, up 65 million bushels year-over-year, and global soybean ending stocks were estimated at 4.935 billion bushels, up 807 million bushels year-over-year.

Fast forward to the December USDA WASDE report, global corn ending stocks were estimated at 11.67 billion bushels, down 758 million bushels year-over-year, and global soybean ending stocks were estimated at 4.845 billion bushels, up 724 million bushels. The net change in estimated ending stocks, from August to December, were corn stocks declining 541 million bushels and soybean stocks declining 9 million bushels.

An additional factor for soybean price declines has been the removal of a substantial portion of the soybean production risk in South America. USDA's official estimate of Brazil's soybean production has not changed between August and December (6.21

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Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

billion bushels). However, due to mostly beneficial rainfall, a large portion of the downside production risk has been removed from the South American crop. There could still be adjustments made to South American production estimates, but it is unlikely that significant decreases will now occur.

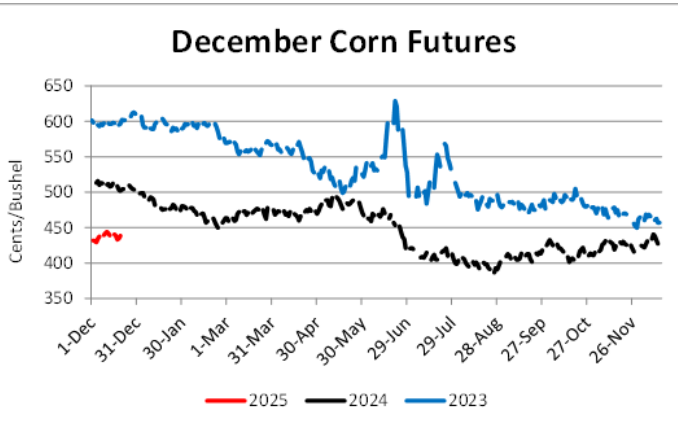
Moving forward, the soybean-to-corn price relationship will begin to focus more heavily on US planting intentions. The current price ratio would favor an increase of 3-5 million acres of corn at the expense of soybeans. This would assist in supporting domestic soybean prices relative to corn prices and push the soybean-to-corn price ratio closer to the historical average near 2.5.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Corn

Across Tennessee, average corn basis (cash price-nearby futures price) weakened at Northwest barge points and strengthened or remained unchanged at West, West-Central, North-Central, and Mississippi River elevators and barge points. Overall, basis for the week ranged from 20 under to 20 over, with an average of 4 over the March futures at elevators and barge points. Ethanol production for the week ending December 13 was 1.103 million barrels per day, up 25,000 from the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 22.636 million barrels, down 0.012 million barrels compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for December 6-12 were net sales of 46.2 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year and 0.1 for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 11% compared to last week at 41.5 million bushels. Corn export sales and commitments were 58% 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 55%. Cash prices ranged from \$4.14 to \$4.70 at elevators and barge points. March 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.46, up 4 cents since last Friday. For the week, March 2025 corn futures traded between \$4.35 and \$4.47. May 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.51, up 2 cents since last Friday.

Corn	Mar 25	Change	Dec 25	Change
Price	\$4.46	\$0.04	\$4.37	-\$0.02
Support	\$4.33	-\$0.06	\$4.29	-\$0.06
Resistance	\$4.52	\$0.02	\$4.46	\$0.00
20 Day MA	\$4.38	\$0.01	\$4.35	-\$0.01
50 Day MA	\$4.34	\$0.01	\$4.39	-\$0.01
100 Day MA	\$4.29	\$0.01	\$4.42	-\$0.01
4-Week High	\$4.51	\$0.00	\$4.44	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$4.25	\$0.00	\$4.28	\$0.00
Technical Trend	Up	=	Up	=



Mar/May and Mar/Dec future spreads were 5 and -9 cents. December 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.37, down 2 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$4.40 December 2025 Put Option costing 36 cents establishing a \$4.04 futures floor.

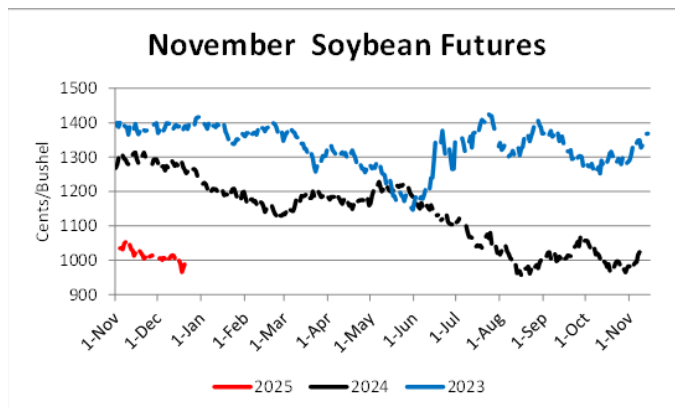
Soybeans

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 20 under to 35 over the January futures contract, with an average basis at the end of the week of 18 over. Soybean net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 52.3 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 9% compared to last week at 62.0 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments were 78% 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 77%. Cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$9.30 to \$10.17. January 2025 soybean futures closed at \$9.74, down 14 cents since last Friday. For the week, January 2025 soybean futures traded between \$9.45 and \$9.93. March soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.19 at the end of the week. March 2025 soybean futures closed at \$9.79, down 16 cents since last Friday.

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Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Soybeans	Jan 25	Change	Nov 25	Change
Price	\$9.74	-\$0.14	\$9.87	-\$0.19
Support	\$9.38	-\$0.46	\$9.54	-\$0.48
Resistance	\$9.89	-\$0.14	\$10.00	-\$0.20
20 Day MA	\$9.84	-\$0.06	\$10.02	-\$0.08
50 Day MA	\$9.94	-\$0.07	\$10.19	-\$0.09
100 Day MA	\$10.11	-\$0.04	\$10.38	-\$0.04
4-Week High	\$10.03	-\$0.10	\$10.21	-\$0.10
4-Week Low	\$9.45	-\$0.30	\$9.61	-\$0.36
Technical Trend	Down	=	Down	=

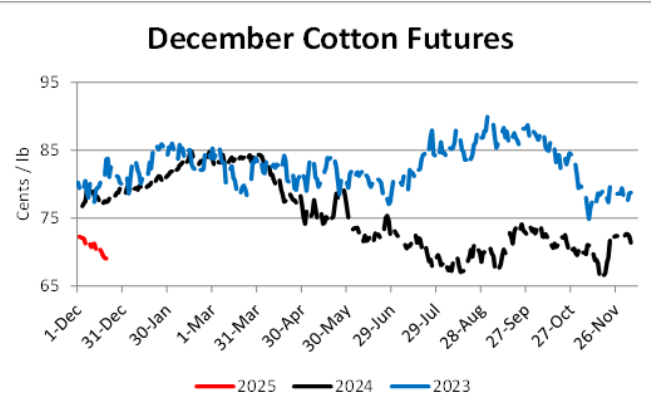


Jan/Mar and Jan/Nov future spreads were 5 and 13 cents. November 2025 soybean futures closed at \$9.87, down 19 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a \$10.00 November 2025 Put Option which would cost 68 cents and set a \$9.32 futures floor. Nov/Dec 2025 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.26 at the end of the week.

Cotton

North Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for December 19 were 64.41 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 66.41 cents/lb (31-3-35). Adjusted World Price (AWP) decreased 1.13 cents to 55.09 cents. Cotton net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 194,900 bales for the 2024/25 marketing year and 6,900 bales for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 6% compared to last week at 128,600 bales. Upland cotton export sales were 68% 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 75%. March 2025 cotton futures closed at 68.06 cents, down 1.21 cents since last Friday. For the week, March 2025 cotton futures traded between 67.48 and 69.91 cents. May 2025 cotton futures closed at 69.17 cents, down 1.24 cents since last Friday.

Cotton	Mar 25	Change	Dec 25	Change
Price	68.06	-1.21	69.28	-1.21
Support	67.19	-1.45	68.56	-1.44
Resistance	69.08	-1.30	70.14	-1.28
20 Day MA	70.19	-0.31	71.20	-0.32
50 Day MA	71.41	-0.65	71.97	-0.39
100 Day MA	71.74	-0.11	71.81	-0.12
4-Week High	72.15	0.00	72.71	0.00
4-Week Low	67.48	-0.92	68.81	-1.29
Technical Trend	Down	=	Down	=



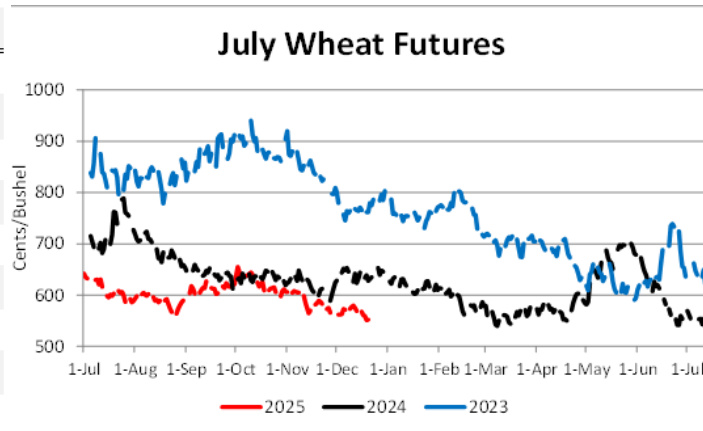
Mar/May and Mar/Dec cotton futures spreads were 1.11 cents and 1.22 cents. December 2025 cotton futures closed at 69.28 cents, down 1.21 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a 70 cent December 2025 Put Option costing 4.49 cents establishing a 65.51 cent futures floor.

Wheat

Wheat net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 16.8 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 104% compared to last week at 14.9 million bushels. Wheat export sales were 71% 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 78%. Wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$4.88 to \$5.25. March 2025 wheat futures closed at \$5.33, down 19 cents since last Friday. The March wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.20. March 2025 wheat futures traded between \$5.29 and \$5.59 this week. May 2025 wheat futures closed at \$5.42, down 20 cents since last Friday.

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Wheat	Mar 25	Change	Jul 25	Change
Price	\$5.33	-\$0.19	\$5.50	-\$0.18
Support	\$5.23	-\$0.22	\$5.42	-\$0.19
Resistance	\$5.46	-\$0.18	\$5.63	-\$0.17
20 Day MA	\$5.51	-\$0.06	\$5.67	-\$0.06
50 Day MA	\$5.72	-\$0.08	\$5.88	-\$0.08
100 Day MA	\$5.81	-\$0.01	\$5.97	-\$0.02
4-Week High	\$5.77	\$0.00	\$5.94	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$5.29	-\$0.11	\$5.47	-\$0.08
Technical Trend	Down	=	Down	=



Mar/May and Mar/Jul future spreads were 9 and 17 cents. July cash contracts at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.03 to \$5.46. July 2025 wheat futures closed at \$5.50, down 18 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$5.60 July 2025 Put Option costing 50 cents establishing a \$5.10 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_mdbl_w.htm

Upland Cotton Reports - <https://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/epasReports?area=home&subject=ecpa&topic=fta-uc>

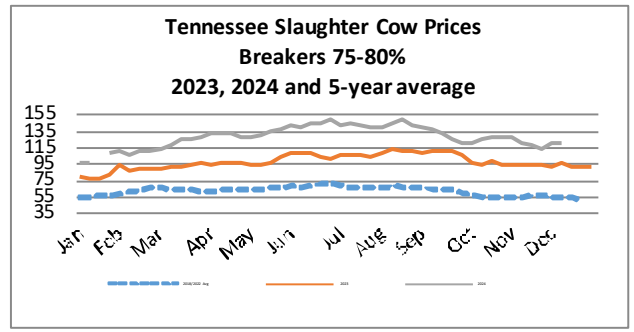
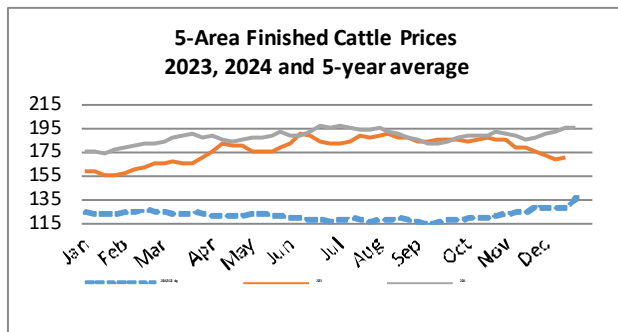
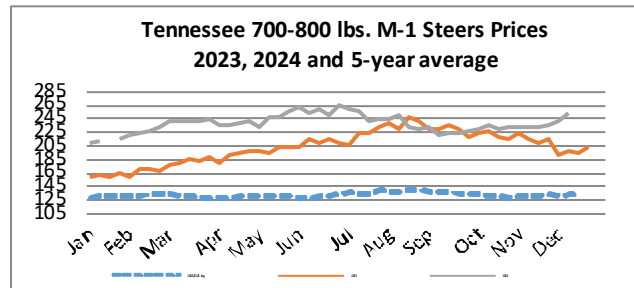
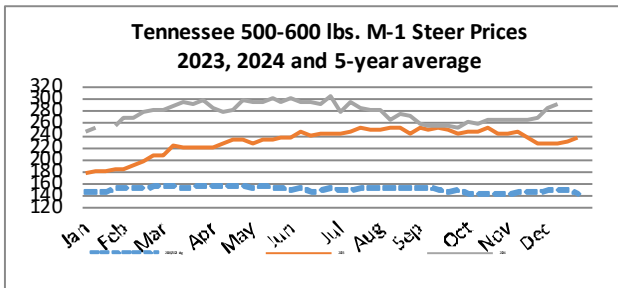
Tennessee Crop Progress - https://www.nass.usda.gov/Statistics_by_State/Tennessee/Publications/Crop_Progress_&_Condition/

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, December 13, 2024---Thursday, December 19, 2024					
	Friday Average	Monday Average	Tuesday Average	Wednesday Average	Thursday Average
No. 2 Yellow Soybeans	-----\$/bushel-----				
Northwest		9.63	9.57	9.31	9.43
North Central		10.07	10.02	9.77	9.88
West		10.17	10.12	9.87	9.98
Mississippi River		10.13	10.08	9.83	9.95
Yellow Corn					
Northwest		4.49	4.46	4.39	4.43
North Central				4.17	4.21
West		4.65	4.64	4.57	4.61
Mississippi River		4.61	4.59	4.53	4.57
Wheat					
Northwest		5.10	5.05	5.01	4.93
North Central		5.05	5.00	4.96	4.88
Mississippi River		5.25	5.20	5.16	5.08
Cotton	-----\$/pound-----				
Memphis	65.77-67.00	65.56-67.56	65.19-67.19	64.58-66.58	64.41-66.41



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, December 16, 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	311.00	420.00	358.70	342.21	256.69
400-500 lbs	290.00	362.00	329.56	322.00	248.36
500-600 lbs	260.00	330.00	289.40	284.02	225.68
600-700 lbs	243.00	285.00	267.08	259.15	209.69
700-800 lbs	227.00	270.00	250.09	239.74	190.83
Steers: Small Frame #1-2					
300-400 lbs	---	---	---	319.14	235.96
400-500 lbs	217.00	260.00	243.44	260.00	195.42
500-600 lbs	245.00	270.00	258.33	246.71	191.17
600-700 lbs	---	---	---	229.71	---
Steers: Medium/Large Frame #3					
300-400 lbs	270.00	355.00	315.44	309.53	211.24
400-500 lbs	262.50	322.50	297.69	293.12	207.47
500-600 lbs	240.00	305.00	268.70	259.65	191.25
600-700 lbs	217.50	265.00	241.63	241.58	184.38
700-800 lbs	212.50	250.00	231.71	222.06	184.09
Holstein Steers					
300-400 lbs	---	---	---	---	---
500-600 lbs	---	---	---	---	---
700-800 lbs	---	---	---	---	---
Slaughter Cows & Bulls					
Breakers 75-80%	108.00	128.00	119.11	119.15	89.51
Boners 80-85%	100.00	125.00	114.86	116.63	87.49
Lean 85-90%	93.00	113.00	102.38	105.17	77.62
Bulls YG 1	119.00	156.00	139.84	147.15	113.04
Heifers: Medium/Large Frame #1-2					
300-400 lbs	275.00	337.50	303.57	294.22	215.54
400-500 lbs	250.00	309.00	277.75	269.14	205.55
500-600 lbs	225.00	272.50	252.25	245.63	194.26
600-700 lbs	209.00	255.00	231.16	228.24	181.96
Heifers: Small Frame #1-2					
300-400 lbs	247.50	287.50	273.16	250.92	201.05
400-500 lbs	214.00	270.00	242.76	224.93	187.49
500-600 lbs	210.00	240.00	224.19	220.77	162.74
600-700 lbs	---	---	---	195.00	147.50
Heifers: Medium/Large Frame #2-3					
300-400 lbs	252.00	318.00	283.56	269.98	200.60
400-500 lbs	200.00	272.00	253.99	246.86	189.47
500-600 lbs	210.00	247.50	232.60	228.27	178.56
600-700 lbs	200.00	230.00	220.55	212.93	159.14

Cattle Receipts

This week:7,099

Week ago:8,709

Year ago:5,950

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

Graded Sales, Video Board Sales, Video Sales & Loads

Dickson Regional Livestock Center - Dickson, TN

12/16/24

56 Steers, 911 lbs, M&L #1, 100% Black/BWF, 5-6 flesh, value added, \$247.50

Browning Livestock Market Video/Internet Auction

- Lafayette, TN

12/18/24

Total Receipts: 283

For complete report:

https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3467.pdf

Hardin County Stockyard - Savannah, TN

12/18/24

114 Steers, 832 lbs, M&L #1, 87 Black/BWF, 14 Char X, 13 Red, 5-6 flesh, Value Added \$223.00

Hardin County Stockyard Video Auction - Savannah, TN

12/18/24

Total Receipts: 75

For complete report:

https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3509.pdf

Knoxville Livestock Center - Knoxville, TN

12/18/24

1 load ML 1 preconditioned Steers, 703 lbs., medium flesh, mostly black/bwf, \$270.00

1 load ML 1 preconditioned Steers, 561 lbs., medium flesh, mostly black/bwf, \$323.00

East Tennessee Livestock Center Video Sale

- Sweetwater, TN

12/18/24

2 loads out of 140 steers from BQA certified producer; Est weight 880 lbs; 95% L&M-1s and 5% L&M-2s; 100% BLK/BWF; \$248.25

Graded Goat & Sheep Sales

Columbia Graded Sheep and Goat Sale-Columbia, TN

Weighted Average Report for 12/16/24

Total Receipts: 1,036

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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