

Tennessee Market Highlights

UTEXTENSION
INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

February 7, 2025

Number: 6

Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

Slaughter Cows

steady to \$3 lower

Slaughter Bulls

steady to \$1 lower

Feeder Steers

\$1 to \$7 lower

Feeder Heifers

\$5 to \$10 lower

Feeder Cattle Index: 277.64

Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Thursday of \$207.11 down \$2.25 compared to last week and \$327.19 dressed, down \$2.05.

Corn

March closed at \$4.87 a bushel, up 5 cents since last Friday.

Soybeans

March closed at \$10.49 a bushel, up 7 cents since last Friday.

Wheat

March closed at \$5.82 a bushel, up 23 cents since last Friday.

Cotton

March closed at 65.63 cents per lb, down 0.25 cents since last Friday.

Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew P. Griffith

FED CATTLE: Fed cattle traded \$2 lower on a live basis compared to last week. Prices were mainly \$206 to \$208 on a live basis. Dressed trade was mainly \$327 to \$328.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$207.11 live, down \$2.25 compared to last week and \$327.19 dressed, down \$2.05 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$178.85 live and no dressed price.

Cattle in the South are still trading at a discount compared to those in the North, but neither region will complain much with current prices. Further price declines will be expected in the coming weeks as packers will struggle to find support for beef prices. Given the losses in the packing industry, packers will not be as willing to bid up cattle prices as they have been the past few months. Prices in the South will be expected to trade at even larger discounts to northern cattle as the market moves toward spring and the summer grilling season. There is no guarantee they will continue to trade as high as they have been, but there is certainly plenty of optimism they will stay above \$200 in the near term.

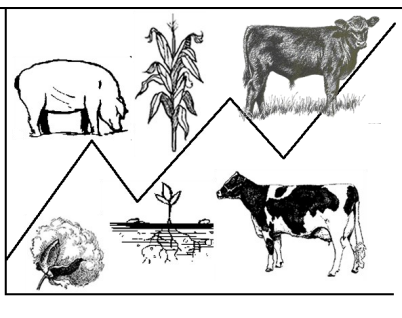
BEEF CUTOUT: At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was \$322.26 down \$1.72 from Thursday and down \$5.30 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$316.25 down \$0.24 from Thursday and down \$1.72 from a week ago. The Choice Select spread was \$7.73 compared to \$11.31 a week ago.

Wholesale beef prices are hitting a soft spot as market prices tend to be weak this time of year as February is a slow month for beef movement. The lower wholesale price is putting packers deep in the red considering they are paying more for finished cattle on a dressed basis than they are getting paid for beef. Packers have some profits stored from several good

years of beef prices, but they will not want to carry the burden of being the loser in the beef industry. As cattle supplies tighten further the next couple of years, there are sure to be some changes as it relates to the beef packing industry. It could come in the form of large packers buying out smaller packers, or it could lead to an even more vertically integrated system than what is already present. This brings to question why JBS is pouring so much into their U.S. facilities at a time when margins are negative. Maybe they are gearing up for a bigger move. Regardless, changes will occur in the packing sector. The specific changes and the magnitude of those changes is unknown, but they are on the horizon.

OUTLOOK: Based on Tennessee weekly auction average prices, steer prices were \$1 to \$7 lower this week compared to last week while heifer prices were \$5 to \$10 lower than the prior week. Slaughter cow prices were steady to \$3 lower compared to the previous week while slaughter bull prices were steady to \$1 lower compared to last week's prices. The calf and feeder cattle market took a breather this week as local cash prices followed the direction of feeder cattle futures, which have declined a little more than \$10 the past couple of weeks. There is speculation as to why feeder cattle futures declined ranging from reopening the Mexican border to cattle imports, potential tariffs with close trading partners, and the typical seasonal decline of feeder cattle futures the first week of February. Some may even say traders were getting a little scared with how high feeder cattle futures had moved. The likelihood of one factor causing this decline is small. The market is constantly responding to all of the available information, and this time is no different. There is no doubt cattle prices are pushing

(Continued on page 2)



Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

(Continued from page 1)

to levels never experienced, which can bring on hesitancy to continue pushing them higher. At the same time, many of the cattle that would have made their way across the Mexican border in December and January will now make the trek north a little later than normal, which means the market will be hit with a higher quantity of cattle at one time than is typical. However, this was not something that was unexpected. Industry participants knew this would happen, but the timing was uncertain. The trade tariffs have been delayed a month with Canada, China, and Mexico, which should be a net positive. The hope is the issues at the forefront get straightened out and the tariffs do not go into effect. Tariffs are a tool to be used in certain situations, but they are not the long-term solution for economic growth in many situations. With that said, cattle prices will likely bounce back and continue to display volatility.

ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK: On two separate occasions this week, high school students from different areas of the state have requested information for projects they are completing for their agricultural programs. This may be a regular occurrence for folks in the physical sciences such as animal

science and plant science. However, most high school agricultural students are not thinking about or even aware of agricultural economics as a profession or field of study. This is all to say there is hope for the agricultural industry as this country does have some young people who are interested in being active in the industry. What is more impressive is that these young people are being exposed to and are interested in more than just the production side of agriculture, because the financial and business component must be paired with production to ensure a sustainable operation. It is similar to the preacher who told his congregation he had good news and bad news. "The good news is we have enough money to pay for the new building program. The bad news is it is still in your pockets."

FRIDAY'S FUTURES MARKET CLOSING PRICES: Friday's closing prices were as follows: Live/fed cattle –February \$200.78 +0.15; April \$196.78 +0.00; June \$192.10 +0.28; Feeder cattle –March \$264.90 -0.40; April \$264.83 -0.18; May \$263.60 -0.10; August \$266.18 +0.23; March corn closed at \$4.88 down 8 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

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

Since September, the March corn futures contract price has increased from \$4.10 to \$4.98. Pricing into market rallies is a strategy that allows farmers to secure a futures market price, on a percentage of the crops held in storage, for a defined increase in the futures market price. The thought process for this strategy is to secure pricing at defined intervals in case the price rally stalls or reverses and prices decline. The strategy won't result in marketing home runs (selling everything at the top of the market), but it will avoid strikeouts (prices rally and then decline with no price action taken by the farmer).

For example, for the 2024 crop year, if you had 200,000 bushels of corn unpriced in storage at the end of harvest, you could have set a target to secure a futures price on 20% (40,000 bushels) of the total amount held in storage for each 25-cent increase in the future's market price. For the current marketing year, this strategy would have triggered sales of 40,000 bushels on September 24 at \$4.35; January 6 at \$4.60; and January 17 at \$4.85. In total this would have resulted in 120,000 bushels of sales at an average March futures price of \$4.60, leaving 80,000 bushels to be priced moving forward. The next target price would be \$5.10 and then \$5.35 where all 200,000 bushels will have a futures price established. This example could be modified using the same process for cash prices. The percentage of crops held in storage to be priced for each incremental increase in price, and the increment that triggers sales, can be set higher or lower than in this example based on the seller's preference.

Having a disciplined approach to marketing crops, with specific price targets, can assist in taking some of the emotions out of marketing decisions. Far too often market rallies are ruined by hope and inaction. It is human nature that once prices move higher, to increase sales price targets. This repeats until the market rally goes unacted upon and prices decline. A disciplined, systematic approach for the current price environment can assist in making pricing decisions.

	Previous	Current	Change
USD Index	108.24	107.93	-0.31
Crude Oil	72.45	70.91	-1.54
DJIA	44,532	44,365	-167

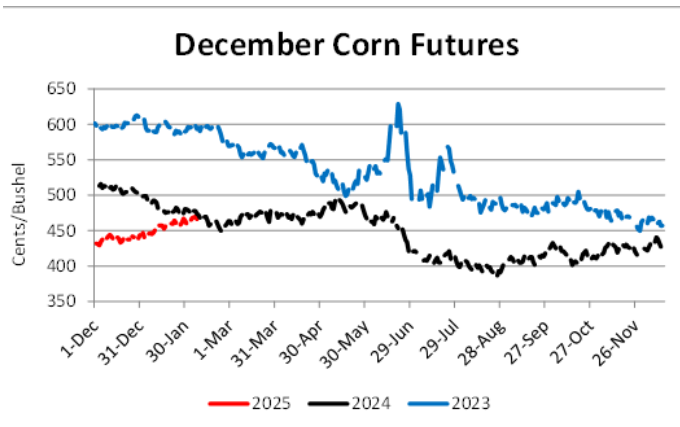
(Continued on page 3)

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Corn

Across Tennessee, average corn basis (cash price-nearby futures price) strengthened or remained unchanged at West, North-west, West-Central, North-Central, and Mississippi River elevators and barge points. Overall, basis for the week ranged from 15 under to 28 over, with an average of 12 over the March futures at elevators and barge points. Ethanol production for the week ending January 31 was 1.112 million barrels per day, up 97,000 compared to the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 26.412 million barrels, up 0.690 million barrels compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for January 24-30 were net sales of 58.2 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year and 2.0 million bushels for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 2% compared to last week at 53.2 million bushels. Corn export sales and commitments were 72% 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%. Cash prices ranged from \$4.51 to \$5.24 at elevators and barge points. March 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.87, up 5 cents since last Friday. For the week, March 2025 corn futures traded between \$4.72 and \$4.98. May 2025 corn futures closed at \$5.00, up 7 cents since last Friday.

Corn	Mar 25	Change	Dec 25	Change
Price	\$4.87	\$0.05	\$4.66	\$0.06
Support	\$4.78	\$0.05	\$4.61	\$0.07
Resistance	\$5.03	\$0.11	\$4.73	\$0.07
20 Day MA	\$4.85	\$0.09	\$4.61	\$0.06
50 Day MA	\$4.61	\$0.06	\$4.47	\$0.03
100 Day MA	\$4.47	\$0.04	\$4.46	\$0.01
4-Week High	\$4.98	\$0.01	\$4.70	\$0.03
4-Week Low	\$4.53	\$0.04	\$4.62	\$0.23
Technical Trend	Up	=	Up	=

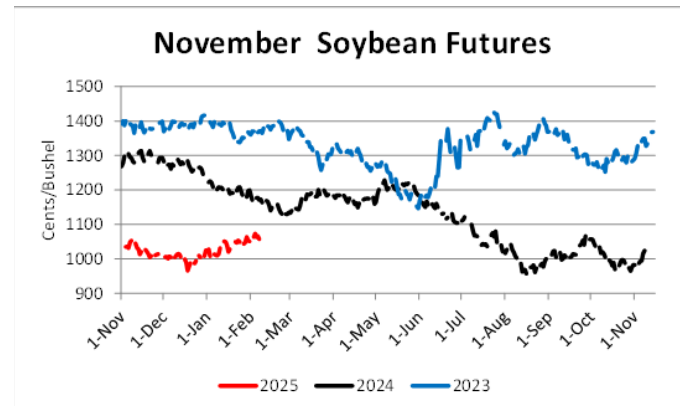


Mar/May and Mar/Dec future spreads were 13 and -21 cents. December 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.66, up 6 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$4.70 December 2025 Put Option costing 41 cents establishing a \$4.29 futures floor.

Soybeans

Across Tennessee the average soybean basis weakened or remained unchanged at West, Northwest, North-Central, West-Central, and Mississippi River elevators and barge points. Average basis ranged from 31 under to 12 over the March futures contract, with an average basis at the end of the week of 1 under. Soybean net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 14.2 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 62% compared to last week at 43.8 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments were 87% 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 85%. Cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$10.25 to \$11.01. March 2025 soybean futures closed at \$10.49, up 7 cents since last Friday. For the week, March 2025 soybean futures traded between \$10.31 and \$10.79. The March soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.19 at the end of the week. May 2025 soybean futures closed at \$10.65, up 8 cents since last Friday.

Soybeans	Mar 25	Change	Nov 25	Change
Price	\$10.49	\$0.07	\$10.57	\$0.06
Support	\$10.34	\$0.10	\$10.49	\$0.12
Resistance	\$10.75	\$0.15	\$10.79	\$0.13
20 Day MA	\$10.50	\$0.16	\$10.50	\$0.14
50 Day MA	\$10.15	\$0.07	\$10.22	\$0.05
100 Day MA	\$10.23	\$0.01	\$10.35	\$0.01
4-Week High	\$10.79	\$0.03	\$10.75	\$0.09
4-Week Low	\$9.85	\$0.00	\$10.01	\$0.01
Technical Trend	Up	=	Up	=



(Continued on page 4)

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

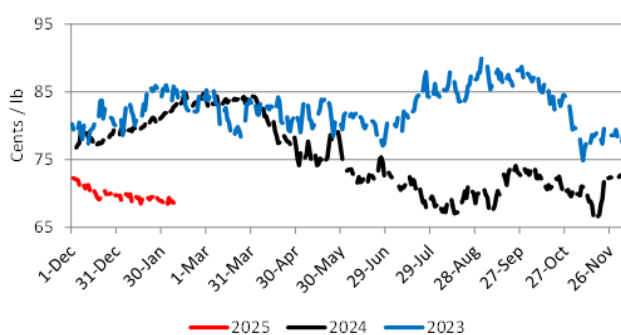
Mar/May and Mar/Nov future spreads were 16 and 8 cents. November 2025 soybean futures closed at \$10.57, up 6 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a \$10.60 November 2025 Put Option which would cost 63 cents and set a \$9.97 futures floor. Nov/Dec 2025 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.27 at the end of the week.

Cotton

North Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for February 6 were 63.53 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 65.53 cents/lb (31-3-35). Adjusted World Price (AWP) decreased 0.84 cents to 53.18 cents. Cotton net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 188,900 bales for the 2024/25 marketing year and 47,300 bales for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 44% compared to last week at 221,100 bales. Upland cotton export sales were 86% 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 88%. March 2025 cotton futures closed at 65.63 cents, down 0.25 cents since last Friday. For the week, March 2025 cotton futures traded between 65.01 and 67.31 cents. May 2025 cotton futures closed at 66.82 cents, down 0.22 cents since last Friday.

Cotton	Mar 25	Change	Dec 25	Change
Price	65.63	-0.25	68.61	-0.10
Support	64.92	-0.32	68.20	0.09
Resistance	66.86	0.06	69.50	0.19
20 Day MA	66.90	-0.54	69.06	-0.21
50 Day MA	68.44	-0.44	69.98	-0.26
100 Day MA	70.78	-0.27	71.33	-0.13
4-Week High	68.75	-0.69	70.06	-0.38
4-Week Low	65.01	-0.69	67.83	-0.58
Technical Trend	Down	=	Down	=

December Cotton Futures



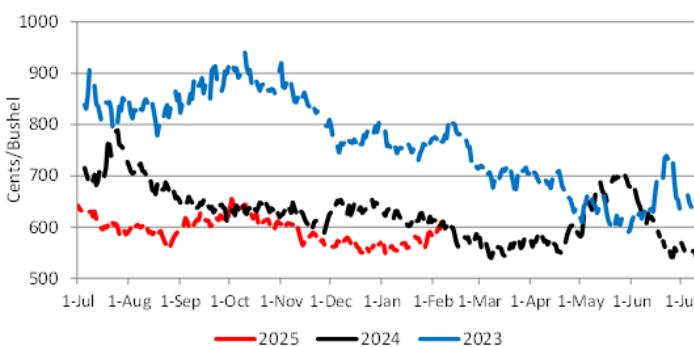
Mar/May and Mar/Dec cotton futures spreads were 1.19 cents and 2.98 cents. December 2025 cotton futures closed at 68.61 cents, down 0.1 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a 69 cent December 2025 Put Option costing 4.18 cents establishing a 64.82 cent futures floor.

Wheat

Wheat net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 16.1 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year and 1.7 million bushels for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 55% compared to last week at 9.7 million bushels. Wheat export sales were 81% 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 90%. Wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.27 to \$5.53. March 2025 wheat futures closed at \$5.82, up 23 cents since last Friday. The March wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.20. March 2025 wheat futures traded between \$5.50 and \$5.92 this week. May 2025 wheat futures closed at \$5.95, up 23 cents since last Friday.

Wheat	Mar 25	Change	Jul 25	Change
Price	\$5.82	\$0.23	\$6.06	\$0.22
Support	\$5.58	\$0.16	\$5.85	\$0.17
Resistance	\$6.03	\$0.26	\$6.23	\$0.22
20 Day MA	\$5.55	\$0.10	\$5.79	\$0.11
50 Day MA	\$5.50	\$0.01	\$5.70	\$0.02
100 Day MA	\$5.71	-\$0.01	\$5.90	\$0.00
4-Week High	\$5.92	\$0.23	\$6.14	\$0.20
4-Week Low	\$5.26	\$0.00	\$5.47	\$0.00
Technical Trend	Up	=	Up	=

July Wheat Futures



Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Mar/May and Mar/Jul future spreads were 13 and 24 cents. July cash contracts at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.32 to \$5.98. July 2025 wheat futures closed at \$6.06, up 22 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$6.10 July 2025 Put Option costing 48 cents establishing a \$5.62 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_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>

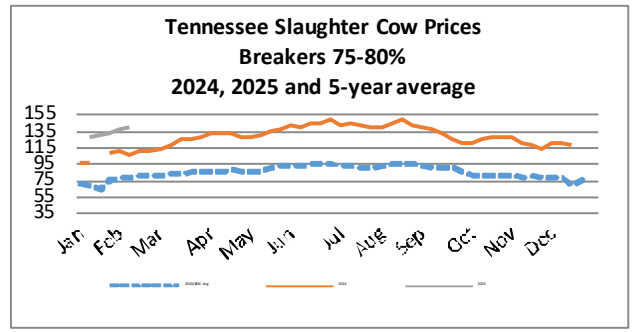
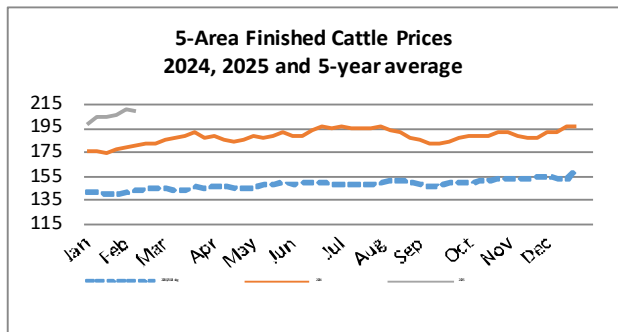
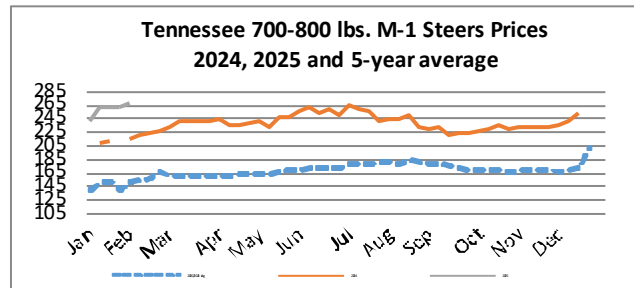
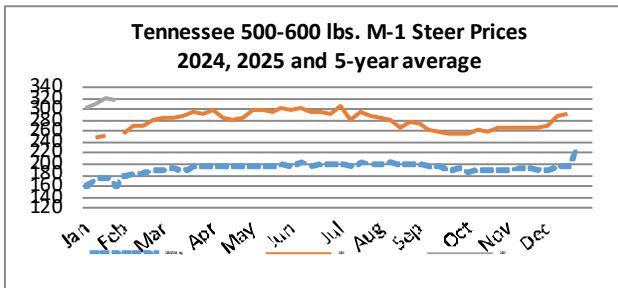
USDA AMS: Market News - <https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/search-market-news>

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 aaron.smith@utk.edu.

Prices Paid to Farmers by Elevators

Friday, January 31, 2025---Thursday, February 6, 2025

	Friday Average	Monday Average	Tuesday Average	Wednesday Average	Thursday Average
No. 2 Yellow Soybeans	-----\$/bushel-----				
Northwest	10.15	10.29	10.46	10.28	10.30
North Central	10.42	10.58	10.75	10.57	10.61
West Central	10.57	10.63	10.80	10.62	10.66
West	10.54	10.70	10.87	10.69	10.73
Mississippi River	10.50	10.66	10.83	10.65	10.69
Yellow Corn					
Northwest	4.87	4.94	5.00	4.98	5.00
North Central	4.62	4.74	4.80	4.78	4.80
West Central	5.02	5.09	5.15	5.13	5.15
West	5.07	5.17	5.23	5.21	5.23
Mississippi River	5.04	5.11	5.17	5.16	5.18
Wheat					
Northwest	5.20	5.27	5.37	5.32	5.48
North Central	5.25	5.32	5.42	5.37	5.53
Mississippi River			5.42	5.37	5.51
Cotton	-----\$/pound-----				
Memphis	63.38-65.38	63.54-65.54	64.44-66.44	63.54-65.54	63.53-65.53



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, February 3, 2025

	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	320.00	425.00	387.79	379.66	306.13
400-500 lbs	300.00	400.00	359.60	343.27	287.41
500-600 lbs	282.00	350.00	323.28	311.92	267.25
600-700 lbs	267.50	322.50	289.55	278.05	238.07
700-800 lbs	149.00	285.00	265.30	259.15	219.09
Steers: Small Frame #1-2					
300-400 lbs	275.00	337.50	310.97	---	250.92
400-500 lbs	250.00	322.50	290.07	---	241.85
500-600 lbs	252.00	272.50	262.25	---	215.00
600-700 lbs	235.00	242.50	238.73	---	---
Steers: Medium/Large Frame #3					
300-400 lbs	300.00	395.00	359.97	347.90	276.89
400-500 lbs	270.00	365.00	325.78	308.17	252.19
500-600 lbs	246.00	322.50	291.98	279.27	242.52
600-700 lbs	230.00	280.00	261.73	255.65	218.36
700-800 lbs	220.00	262.50	243.16	243.13	199.29
Holstein Steers					
300-400 lbs	---	---	---	---	---
500-600 lbs	---	---	---	---	---
700-800 lbs	---	---	---	---	---
Slaughter Cows & Bulls					
Breakers 75-80%	114.00	149.00	136.70	136.20	108.83
Boners 80-85%	118.50	147.00	133.29	136.19	104.17
Lean 85-90%	104.00	130.00	116.86	117.25	92.02
Bulls YG 1	132.00	181.00	159.58	159.83	123.58
Heifers: Medium/Large Frame #1-2					
300-400 lbs	295.00	400.00	334.78	338.00	259.40
400-500 lbs	272.50	340.00	307.04	309.55	243.55
500-600 lbs	250.00	315.00	274.92	271.64	226.97
600-700 lbs	230.00	272.50	252.46	251.21	207.97
Heifers: Small Frame #1-2					
300-400 lbs	250.00	316.00	287.42	---	224.94
400-500 lbs	225.00	295.00	267.46	---	218.21
500-600 lbs	220.00	240.00	233.23	---	203.83
600-700 lbs	241.00	252.00	246.86	---	190.68
Heifers: Medium/Large Frame #2-3					
300-400 lbs	250.00	342.50	303.13	306.81	234.72
400-500 lbs	237.00	315.00	278.18	281.98	227.83
500-600 lbs	210.00	280.00	252.09	251.01	211.60
600-700 lbs	210.00	252.50	233.12	234.82	196.22

Cattle Receipts

This week:14,052

Week ago:6,985

Year ago:11,462

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

Graded Sales, Video Board Sales, Video Sales & Loads

Browning Livestock Market Video/Internet Auction - Lafayette, TN

Weighted Average Report for 2/5/25

For complete report:

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

Hardin County Stockyard - Savannah, TN

2/5/25

164 Steers, 571 lbs, M&L #1, 100% Blk/BWF, 4-5 flesh, value added, \$345.00

133 Steers, 647 lbs, M&L #1, 100% Blk/BWF, 5 flesh, value added, \$330.00

78 Steers, 653 lbs, M&L #1, 100% Blk/BWF, 5 flesh, value added, \$326.00

86 Heifers, 589 lbs, M&L #1, 100% Blk/BWF, 5 flesh, value added, \$289.00

Warren Co. Livestock Graded Sale - McMinnville, TN

Weighted Average Report for 2/5/25

For complete report:

https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_2079.pdf

Graded Sales, Video Board Sales, Video Sales & Loads

Lower Middle Tennessee Cattlemen's Association Video Board Sale - Columbia, TN

Weighted Average Report for 2/7/25

For complete report:

https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3340.pdf

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

314 Morgan Hall • 2621 Morgan Circle • arec.tennessee.edu

USDA / Tennessee Department of Agriculture Market News Service <https://www.tn.gov/agriculture/farms/news.html>

1-800-342-8206

Real. Life. Solutions.

