Tennessee Market Highlights

INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

> April 25, 2025 Number: 48:17

Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

Slaughter Cows

\$2 to \$4 higher Slaughter Bulls

\$2 to \$5 higher

Feeder Steers

\$2 to \$4 higher

Feeder Heifers

\$2 to \$5 higher

Feeder Cattle Index: 287.24

Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Thursday of \$211.05 down \$0.55 compared to a week ago and no dressed trade to report.

Corn

May closed at \$4.78 a bushel, down 4 cents since last Friday.

<u>Soybeans</u>

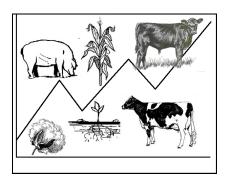
May closed at \$10.49 a bushel, up 13 cents since last Friday.

<u>Wheat</u>

May closed at \$5.30 a bushel, down 18 cents since last Friday.

<u>Cotton</u>

May closed at 66.85 cents per lb, up 0.53 cents since last Friday.



Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew P. Griffith

FED CATTLE: Fed cattle trade was not established at time of publishing. Asking prices in the South were \$214 to \$215 with bids at \$210 to \$213. Asking prices in the North were \$340 and higher.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$211.05 live, down \$0.55 compared to a week ago and no dressed trade to report. A year ago, prices were \$184.00 live and \$294.45 dressed.

Some would call it procrastination. Others would call it doing business. Still others may call it playing the game. No matter what it is, cattle feeders and packers continue to be challenged with coming to terms on finished cattle prices. There is no doubt every seller wants to receive a higher price and every buyer wants to pay a lower price, but each player in this cat and mouse game has obligations to fill and a need to do business. That is why cattle have always traded. It would seem the leverage moves towards the cattle feeder with late week trades given the current market conditions. Packers have to have cattle for the next week while feeding cattle another week or two for cattle feeders is not as big of a deal.

BEEF CUTOUT: At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was \$335.16 up \$1.46 from Thursday and up \$0.29 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$319.39 up \$3.04 from Thursday and up \$2.18 from a week ago. The Choice Select spread was \$15.77 compared to \$17.66 a week ago.

The general public tends to use the term demand incorrectly as it relates to an economics term. There is a difference in demand and quantity demanded, and most people are actually talking about quantity demanded when they speak of demand. As the price of a good increases, the quantity demanded decreases for a normal good. However, demand itself is a function of both quantity and price. In the case of beef, demand the past five years has been extremely strong when compared to the previous 20 years. Based on Bureau of Labor Statistics and USDA-ERS data and LMIC analysis, the retail all fresh beef demand index for 2024 was 128 which is the highest level over the past 25 years. In fact, beef demand the past five years has been higher than any single year the first 20 years of this century. From 2000-2019 the beef demand index averaged 103 while it has averaged 123 the past five years. If recent history is any indicator then there is little concern over softening beef demand. Beef demand could decline marginally and the beef industry would still be in good shape.

OUTLOOK: Based on Tennessee weekly auction reports, steer prices this week were \$2 to \$4 higher compared to last week while heifer prices were \$2 to \$5 higher than the previous week. Slaughter cow prices were \$2 to \$4 higher compared to a week ago while slaughter bull prices were steady to \$2 to \$5 higher compared to last week. When it comes to cattle prices, the sky is the limit. No one knows how high cattle prices will go, and no one knows when cattle prices will begin to decline. Thus, the sky may not be the limit in this cycle as 500-pound steers in Tennessee are not bringing \$10 per pound yet. In fact, they are not even hitting \$5 per pound. However, there have been some animals that exceeded \$4 per pound in the 500-pound weight class. It would be naïve to say cattle prices cannot reach a certain price level, because if a person lives long enough and the world does not end then any price level is possible. This statement holds for higher prices and lower prices. For instance, cattle prices will never be under \$1 per pound for a 500pound steer in Tennessee. Given the current set of information, this would be an

Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

(Continued from page 1)

accurate statement. However, if some new information were to be discovered a year from now or 100 years from now that a food borne illness was passed through beef or that cattle were a host for a parasite that killed humans quickly then the dynamic changes. The hope is that no such things ever happen, but who would have thought pig prices would have declined to nearly nothing in the 1990s? The point is that cattle prices are good now and producers should take advantage of strong cattle prices. Cattle prices will seem relatively low at some point and producers should also take advantage of weaker cattle prices. An opportunity always exists, but people do not always know and understand how to capture that opportunity. Cattle prices are expected to remain elevated despite the fact that spring grass cattle buying is winding down. Feedlots are in a situation of having to assume some of these risky cattle to fill pens.

ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK: I had a couple of conversations this week concerning the cattle business that reminded me that sometimes we simply do not know what questions to ask. One of those conversations was someone asking me a question and the other was me asking a question. In both instances, it became clear the starter question was not the correct question at all. However, the process led each conversation down a road that was beneficial to the decision-making process. It reminded me of a song by Eric Church titled "Some of It" with the following chorus, "Some of it you learn the hard way. Some of it you read on a page. Some of it comes from heartbreak. Most of it comes with age. And, none of it ever comes easy. A bunch of it you maybe can't use. I know I don't probably know what I think I do. But there is somethin' to some of it." It does not matter if it is farming, family or faith. We are in this constant space of learning and growing, and that is a big part of my job. I enjoy sharing my faith, my family and my farm. I probably know more about what not to do than what to do!

Please send questions and comments to <u>agriff14@utk.edu</u> or send a letter to Andrew P. Griffith, University of Tennessee, P.O. Box 160, 1000 Main Entrance Dr., Spring Hill, TN 37174.

FRIDAY'S FUTURES MARKET CLOSING PRICES: Friday's closing prices were as follows: Live/fed cattle –April \$214.25 +0.75; June \$208.25 +0.25; August \$204.10 +0.00; Feeder cattle – May \$290.53 +1.45; August \$294.30 +1.60; September \$293.55 +1.78; October \$291.78 +1.90; May corn closed at \$4.79 up 2 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 and wheat were down; soybeans and cotton were up for the week.

Planting continued to progress this week with 12% of corn, 8% of soybeans, and 11% of cotton estimated to be planted nationally as of April 21st. Weather will be a key factor in planting pace and price direction

this spring. Currently, 26% of corn, 21% of soybeans, and 21% of cotton area nationally are estimated to be in drought, down from the previous week, but higher than this time last year. Most of the drought affected corn and soybean areas are in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas. West Texas and Oklahoma have the majority of drought in the Cotton Belt. NOAA's 7-day precipitation forecast indicates some relief in these drought afflicted areas, with 1-2 inches forecast for the northern plains and up to five inches in Texas and Oklahoma.

This week December cotton futures filled the April 2-3 price gap of 69-70.28 cents created when the Trump administration announced sweeping tariffs for most trade partners. Tariff pauses and the potential for beneficial trade negotiations, with several southeast Asian nations, have assisted in moving prices higher. Filling the price gap should allow futures prices to move higher, possibly pushing December futures prices into the previous trading range of 70-74 cents. Advances beyond 74 cents will likely be weather driven and will mostly be contingent upon forecasts in the U.S. southern plains.

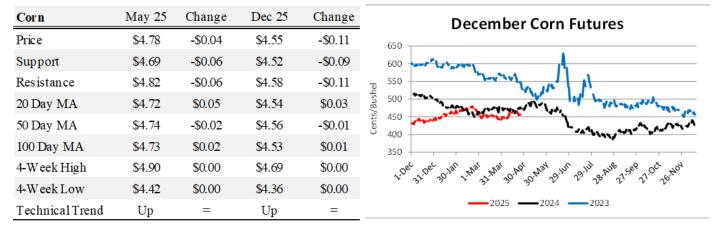
Despite the uncertainty around tariffs, exports of corn, soybeans, and wheat are favorable compared to last year. As of April 17, corn exports are up 26%, soybeans up 12%, and wheat up 12% compared to the same week last year. Cotton exports are down 6% compared to last year. Outstanding sales are also ahead of last year, with corn and wheat up 24%, soybeans up 27%, and cotton up 2%. Exports are essential for improved price prospects as the U.S. is projected to send 16.4%, 41.8%, 43.1%, and 76.3% of 2024 corn, soybean, wheat, and cotton production to foreign markets.

	Previous	Current	Change
USD Index	99.13	99.31	0.18
Crude Oil	64.68	63.07	-1.61
DЛА	39,142	40,119	977

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Corn

Across Tennessee, average corn basis (cash price-nearby futures price) strengthened or remained unchanged at West, Northwest, North-Central, and West-Central elevators and barge points and weakened at Mississippi River elevators and barge points. Overall, basis for the week ranged from 25 under to 30 over, with an average of 15 over the May futures at elevators and barge points. Ethanol production for the week ending April 11 was 1.033 million barrels per day, up 21,000 compared to the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 25.481 million barrels, down 1.333 million barrels compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for April 11-17 were net sales of 45.4 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 5% compared to last week at 70.1 million bushels. Corn export sales and commitments were 89% 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 92%. Cash prices ranged from \$4.47 to \$5.12 at elevators and barge points. May 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.78, down 4 cents since last Friday. For the week, May 2025 corn futures traded between \$4.70 and \$4.87. July 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.85, down 5 cents since last Friday. May/Jul and May/Dec future spreads were 7 and -23 cents.



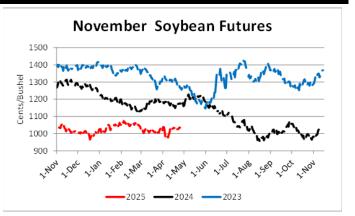
Nationally, the Crop Progress report estimated corn emerged at 2% compared to 3% last year and a 5-year average of 2% and corn planted at 12% compared to 4% last week, 11% last year, and a 5-year average of 10%. In Tennessee, corn planted was estimated at 25% compared to 7% last week, 28% last year, and a 5-year average of 27% and corn emerged at 4% compared to 4% last year and a 5-year average of 5%. December 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.55, down 11 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$4.60 December 2025 Put Option costing 35 cents establishing a \$4.25 futures floor. This week, Oct/Nov cash contracts ranged from \$4.30 to \$4.62 at elevators and barge points.

Soybeans

Across Tennessee the average soybean basis strengthened or remained unchanged at West, North-Central, West-Central, and Mississippi River elevators and barge points and weakened at Northwest elevators and barge points. Average basis ranged from 35 under to 25 over the May futures contract, with an average basis at the end of the week of 8 over. Soybean net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 10.2 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year and net sales cancellations of 0.003 million bushels for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 31% compared to last week at 18.2 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments were 95% 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 95%. Cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$9.97 to \$10.78. May 2025 soybean futures closed at \$10.49, up 13 cents since last Friday. For the week, May 2025 soybean futures traded between \$10.29 and \$10.58. The May soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.19 at the end of the week. July 2025 soybean futures closed at \$10.59, up 12 cents since last Friday. May/Jul and May/Nov future spreads were 10 and -14 cents.

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

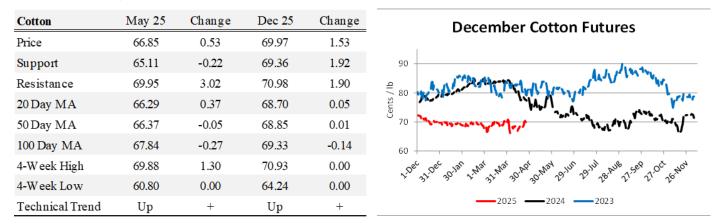
Soybeans	May 25	Change	Nov 25	Change
Price	\$10.49	\$0.13	\$10.35	\$0.03
Support	\$10.33	\$0.09	\$10.19	-\$0.01
Resistance	\$10.65	\$0.14	\$10.45	\$0.00
20 Day MA	\$10.25	\$0.08	\$10.19	\$0.05
50 Day MA	\$10.25	-\$0.02	\$10.23	-\$0.03
100 Day MA	\$10.27	\$0.02	\$10.24	\$0.01
4-Week High	\$10.58	\$0.09	\$10.43	\$0.04
4-Week Low	\$9.69	\$0.00	\$9.71	\$0.00
Technical Trend	Up	=	Up	=



Nationally, the Crop Progress report estimated soybeans planted at 8% compared to 2% last week, 7% last year, and a 5-year average of 5%. In Tennessee, soybeans planted were estimated at 15% compared to 5% last week, 16% last year, and a 5-year average of 7%. Oct/Nov cash prices at elevators and barge points were \$9.86 to \$10.43 for the week. November 2025 soybean futures closed at \$10.35, up 3 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a \$10.40 November 2025 Put Option which would cost 59 cents and set a \$9.81 futures floor. Nov/Dec 2025 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.27 at the end of the week. Oct/Nov cash contracts ranged between \$9.85 and \$10.43 this week at elevators and barge points.

Cotton

North Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for April 24 were 67.42 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 69.42 cents/lb (31-3-35). Adjusted World Price (AWP) increased 1.45 cents to 54.88 cents. Cotton net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 104,000 bales for the 2024/25 marketing year and 38,000 bales for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 11% compared to last week at 292,200 bales. Upland cotton export sales were 107% 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 104%. May 2025 cotton futures closed at 66.85 cents, up 0.53 cents since last Friday. For the week, May 2025 cotton futures traded between 65.35 and 69.88 cents. July 2025 cotton futures closed at 68.8 cents, up 1.67 cents since last Friday. May/Jul and May/ Dec cotton futures spreads were 1.95 cents and 3.12 cents.

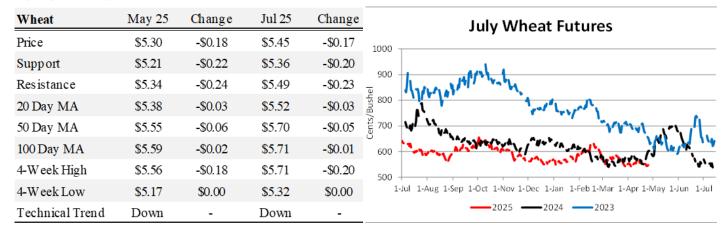


Nationally, the Crop Progress report estimated cotton planted at 11% compared to 5% last week, 11% last year, and a 5-year average of 11%. In Tennessee, cotton planted was estimated at 2% compared to 1% last week, 1% last year, and a 5-year average of 1%. December 2025 cotton futures closed at 69.97 cents, up 1.53 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a 70 cent December 2025 Put Option costing 3.91 cents establishing a 66.09 cent futures floor.

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

<u>Wheat</u>

Wheat net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales cancellations of 5.3 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year and net sales of 13.7 million bushels for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 1% compared to last week at 17.6 million bushels. Wheat export sales were 96% 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 103%. Wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$4.62 to \$4.89. May 2025 wheat futures closed at \$5.30, down 18 cents since last Friday. The May wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.11. May 2025 wheat futures traded between \$5.24 and \$5.52 this week. May/Jul and May/Sep future spreads were 15 and 29 cents.



Nationally, the Crop Progress report estimated winter wheat condition at 45% good-to-excellent and 21% poor-to-very poor; winter wheat headed at 15% compared to 8% last week, 16% last year, and a 5-year average of 13%; spring wheat planted was estimated at 17% compared to 7% last week, 14% last year, and a 5-year average of 12%; and spring wheat emerged at 2% compared to 2% last year and a 5-year average of 2%. In Tennessee, winter wheat condition was estimated at 70% good-to-excellent and 10% poor-to-very poor; winter wheat jointing at 80% compared to 60% last week, 80% last year, and a 5-year average of 84%; and winter wheat headed at 32% compared to 2% last week, 22% last year, and a 5-year average of 23%. July cash contracts at elevators and barge points ranged from \$4.99 to \$5.44. July 2025 wheat futures closed at \$5.59, down 17 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$5.45 July 2025 Put Option costing 23 cents establishing a \$5.22 futures floor. September 2025 wheat futures closed at \$5.59, down 17 cents since last Friday.

Additional Information:

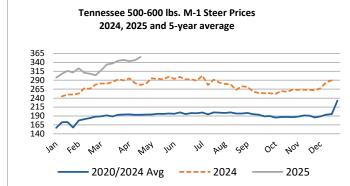
Links for data presented: U.S. Export Sales - <u>https://apps.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html</u> USDA FAS: Weekly Export Performance Indicator – <u>https://apps.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/esrpi.aspx</u>

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>

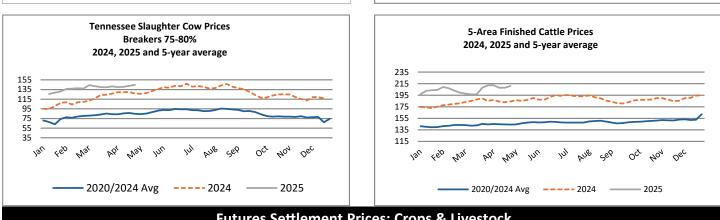
U.S. Crop Progress - <u>http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/MannUsda/viewDocumentInfo.do?documentID=1048</u> USDA AMS: Market News - <u>https://www.ams.usda.gov/market-news/search-market-news</u>

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, April 18, 2025Thursday, April 24, 2025						
	Friday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday		
	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average		
No. 2 Yellow Soybeans	\$/bushel\$/bushel						
Northwest		9.97	10.00	10.05	10.18		
North Central		10.20	10.25	10.30	10.43		
West Central		10.40	10.45	10.50	10.63		
West		10.55	10.60	10.65	10.78		
Mississippi River		10.43	10.49	10.54	10.67		
Yellow Corn							
Northwest		4.91	5.06	5.02	5.07		
North Central		4.57	4.51	4.47	4.52		
West Central		5.07	5.01	4.97	5.02		
West		5.12	5.06	5.02	5.07		
Mississippi River		5.00	4.93	4.89	4.94		
Wheat							
North Central		4.89	4.86	4.78	4.79		
Mississippi River		4.73	4.70	4.62	4.69		
Cotton	\$/pound\$						
Memphis		65.07-67.07	65.47-67.47	67.28-69.28	67.42-69.42		







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

	nnessee Reported Livestock Auctions for the w This Week			Last Week's	Year Ago
-	Low	High	Weighted Average	-	Weighted Average
		-	\$/cwt		
Steers: Medium/Larg			<i>,,</i>		
300-400 lbs	400.00	470.00	429.11	413.48	335.94
400-500 lbs	340.00	427.50	392.84	394.12	308.07
500-600 lbs	285.00	392.50	355.02	345.77	280.75
600-700 lbs	280.00	342.50	320.84	312.06	260.31
700-800 lbs	262.00	312.50	293.33	284.99	234.55
Steers: Small Frame #			230.00	201100	
300-400 lbs					
400-500 lbs					
500-600 lbs					
600-700 lbs					
Steers: Medium/Larg	e Frame #3				
300-400 lbs	345.00	440.00	393.29	367.29	293.56
400-500 lbs	300.00	390.00	360.44	356.37	271.76
500-600 lbs	265.00	367.50	325.63	306.98	251.78
600-700 lbs	250.00	325.00	291.81	288.21	233.53
700-800 lbs	227.00	275.00	249.85	243.52	202.77
Holstein Steers	227.00	275.00	249.03	243.32	202.77
300-400 lbs					
500-600 lbs					
700-800 lbs					
Slaughter Cows & Bul					
Breakers 75-80%	124.00	155.00	144.65	142.68	130.17
Boners 80-85%	124.00	155.00	143.38	142.08	125.87
Lean 85-90%	133.00	137.00		121.02	110.19
Bulls YG 1			124.60		147.33
	159.00	185.00	172.33	169.16	147.55
Heifers: Medium/Lar	320.00	430.00	260.22	272.04	202.22
300-400 lbs	280.00	430.00 395.00	369.22	373.84	293.22 269.93
400-500 lbs			345.24	338.49	
500-600 lbs	265.00	342.50	304.83	299.34	247.21
600-700 lbs	240.00	305.00	281.91	268.85	229.01
Heifers: Small Frame		277.00	004.05		225.00
300-400 lbs	245.00	377.00	321.25		235.00
400-500 lbs	242.00	327.50	280.59	282.07	233.53
500-600 lbs	222.50	302.50	256.21	216.97	
600-700 lbs	195.00	255.00	242.10		
Heifers: Medium/Lar					
300-400 lbs	305.00	385.00	342.95	328.37	266.30
400-500 lbs	250.00	348.00	315.15	307.20	251.84
500-600 lbs	226.00	310.00	275.55	350.14	228.35
600-700 lbs	225.00	275.00	254.55	248.54	206.29

Cattle Receipts

This week:8,865

Week ago:5,027

Year ago:7,441

Graded Sales, Video Board Sales, Video Sales & Loads

Graded Sales, Video Board Sales, Video Sales & Loads

Knoxville Livestock Center - Knoxville, TN 4/22/25

1 load ML 1 preconditioned Steers, 815 lbs., medium flesh, all black/bwf, \$294.00

1 load ML 1 preconditioned Steers, 818 lbs., medium flesh, appx. 75 percent black/bwf and 25 percent continental, \$285.50

Columbia Livestock Center (UPI) - Columbia TN

4/23/25 57, Heifers, 852lbs, M/L, 1's, 5/6 fleshed, 100% Blk/BWF, Weaned and two rounds of Vaccination, \$263.00

East Tennessee Livestock Center Video/Board Sales -

Sweetwater, TN 4/23/25 Total Receipts: 65 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_2228.pdf

Hardin County Stockyard - Savannah, TN

4/23/25 159 Steers, 628 lbs, M&L #1, 100% Black/BWF, 5 Flesh, Value Added, \$358.00

Publications & Tools:

2025 Cow-Calf Budget D 31 2025 Stocker/Backgrounding Budget D 32 Field Crop Budgets for 2025 D 33 Tennessee Forage Budget Calculator Tool Tennessee Forage Budget Calculator D 252-A 2025 Tennessee Baleage Budgets D 252-B 2025 Tennessee Hay Budgets D 252-C 2025 Tennessee Pasture Budgets D 252-D Seasonal Prices for Tennessee Feeder Cattle and Cows D39 Basis Estimates for Feeder Cattle and Fed Cattle D34 Buy/Sell Margins Calculator

Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics

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