| Trends for the Week |
| :--- |
| Compared to a Week Ago |
| Slaughter Cows |
| Steady |
| Slaughter Bulls |
| Steady |
| Feeder Steers |
| Under 500 lbs. steady to \$3 lower, |
| over 500 lbs. steady to \$2 higher |
| Feeder Heifers |
| Under 500 Ibs. steady to \$3 lower, <br> over 500 lbs. steady to \$2 higher <br> Feeder Cattle Index <br> Wednesday's index: \$184.08 <br> Fed Cattle <br> The 5 -area live price of \$146.95 is <br> down \$3.07. The dressed price is <br> down \$1.99 at \$234.06. <br> Corn <br> July closed at \$4.83 a bushel, down <br> 24 cents since last Friday. <br> Soybeans <br> July closed at \$14.65 a bushel, down <br> 22 cents a bushel since last Friday. <br> Wheat <br> July closed at \$6.74 a bushel, down <br> 48 cents a bushel since last Friday. |

## Cotton

July closed at 89.82 cents per lb, down 2.54 cents per lb since last Friday.


## Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew P. Griffith

FED CATTLE: Fed cattle traded \$1 lower on a live basis compared to last week. Prices on a live basis were mainly \$146 to \$147 while dressed trade was mainly $\$ 234$ to $\$ 236$. The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were $\$ 146.95$ live, down \$3.07 from last week and \$234.06 dressed, down \$1.99 from a week ago. A year ago prices were \$124.79 live and \$199.76 dressed. Feedlot managers have been raking in strong margins the past few months, but they are aware margins will wear fairly thin in the coming months with many margins resulting in red ink. The feeder's leverage over the packer is dissipating quickly and will soon result in the seasonal decline in fed cattle prices. An average seasonal decline in fed cattle prices could result in cattle prices bottoming out this summer in the mid to low \$130 area. The tremendously short supply of cattle may provide enough support to keep the summer low from dipping that deep. However, cattle markets have had a tendency to contain significant volatility in recent years and it could easily rear its head here.

BEEF CUTOUT: At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was $\$ 226.72$ up $\$ 1.51$ from Thursday and up $\$ 2.83$ from last Friday. The Select cutout was $\$ 217.00$ up $\$ 1.53$ from Thursday and up $\$ 3.83$ from last Friday. The Choice Select spread was $\$ 9.71$ compared to $\$ 10.72$ a week ago. Packers are breathing a small sigh of relief this week as boxed beef prices advanced modestly and fed cattle prices softened which should improve margins slightly. Packers continue to find themselves between a rock and a hard place given current prices, but they are thankful the grinding wheel has slowed its pace. Beef features at the retail level have been few and far between leading into the unofficial start of summer and the biggest grilling holiday. Retailers are hesitant to feature beef with such lofty prices relative to chicken and pork. Pork, however, has little breathing room, and it appears may
have tighter supplies in the near future. The one saving grace is consumers' preference for beef relative to other meat proteins especially during grilling season. One aspect of the beef market not to be overlooked is the Choice Select spread. Generally, Choice beef would be outpacing Select beef heading into the grilling season resulting in a widening of the Choice Select spread. However, the spread has been stagnant for many weeks, and may be a sign of consumers trading down to lower quality beef.

TENNESSEE AUCTIONS: On Tennessee auctions this week compared to a week ago, steer, bull and heifer calves under 500 pounds were steady to $\$ 3$ lower. Calves over 500 pounds were steady to $\$ 2$ higher. Slaughter cows and bulls were steady. Average receipts per sale were 653 head on 12 sales compared to 717 head on 12 sales last week and 700 head on 10 sales last year.

OUTLOOK: Calf prices continue to hang around the historic highs set in recent weeks, but much like the end of the week weather lightweight calf prices cooled. This may be the onset of lightweight grass cattle prices showing their seasonal weakness heading into the summer months. Regardless if it is or if it is not the start of a price decline in lightweight cattle, grass calves not only held their ground but forged their way to higher prices later in the year than is the general tendency. Thus, producers who held calves a little longer than normal this year probably saw profits increase the past couple of months. Alternatively, feeder cattle prices continue to strengthen as has been suspected with the last few cattle on feed reports reiterating the short supply of cattle. There are very few if any market fundamentals conveying information indicating a decline in feeder cattle prices. The feedlot and packing industry are in a severe position of over capacity which has largely

## Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

(Continued from page 1)
resulted in bidding wars to place feeder cattle in the feedlot and fat cattle on the rail. The aforementioned short supply of cattle and overcapacity of feedlot space and packing facilities is the number one reason for price support. Due to the short supply of cattle, a number of feedlots and packing facilities have been forced to close in recent years or if not close then reduce production at certain facilities which results in laying off workers similar to Cargill's announcement this week of laying off workers at their Dodge City facility. There will be considerable heartburn in the feeding and packing industries the next few years, and it is likely more facilities will shut the doors, close the gates, and send workers home with their final paycheck.

The May cattle on feed report for feedlots with a 1000 head or more capacity indicated cattle and calves on feed as of May 1, 2014 totaled 10.65 million head down 1.0\% compared to a year ago, which is consistent with pre-report estimates. April placements in feedlots totaled 1.64 million head, down $4.9 \%$ from a year ago while the pre-report estimate average had placements down $3.2 \%$. April marketing's totaled 1.78 million head down 2.0\% from 2013 with pre-report estimates expecting marketings down 2.1\%. Placements on feed by weight: under 600 lbs. up 4.1\%; over 600 pounds down $7.3 \%$.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING: Based on Thursday's closing prices, June closed at $\$ 137.40$. Support is at $\$ 136.76$ then $\$ 135.61$. Resistance is at $\$ 137.91$, then $\$ 139.06$. The RSI is 53.33 . August closed at $\$ 137.82$. Support is at $\$ 137.19$, then $\$ 135.92$. Resistance is at $\$ 138.47$, then $\$ 139.74$. The RSI is 61.24 . October closed at $\$ 141.70$. Support is at $\$ 141.40$, then $\$ 140.78$. Resistance is at $\$ 142.50$, then $\$ 142.73$. The RSI is 58.38 . May feeders closed at $\$ 186.15$. Support is at $\$ 185.79$, then $\$ 185.17$. Resistance is at $\$ 186.42$ then $\$ 187.04$. The RSI is 72.28 . August feeders closed at $\$ 192.43$. Support is at $\$ 191.54$, then $\$ 189.27$. Resistance is at $\$ 193.82$, then $\$ 196.09$. The RSI is 76.70 . November feeders closed at $\$ 192.43$. Support is at $\$ 192.30$, then $\$ 191.65$. Resistance is at $\$ 192.75$ then $\$ 193.35$. The RSI is 75.68. Friday's closing prices were as follows: Live/fed cattle June \$137.90 +0.50; August \$138.38 +0.55; October \$142.30 +0.60;Feeder cattle - May \$187.30 +1.15; August \$193.33 +0.90; October \$194.38+1.05; November \$193.28+0.85; July corn closed at $\$ 4.82$ down $\$ 0.02$ from Thursday.

| Milk Futures |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | Thursday May 15, 2014 |  |
| Month | Class III Close | Class IV Close |
| May | 22.55 | 22.55 |
| Jun | 20.57 | 22.00 |
| Jul | 19.92 | 21.57 |
| Aug | 19.88 | 21.40 |
| Sep | 19.77 | 21.22 |

USDA Box Beef Cutout Value

|  | Choice 1-3 <br> $600-900 \mathrm{lbs}$ |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | Select 1-3 <br> $600-900 \mathrm{lbs}$ |  |
| Thursday | 225.21 | 215.47 |
| Last Week | 225.65 | 212.51 |
| Year ago | 207.95 | 192.75 |
| Change from week ago | -0.44 | +2.96 |
| Change from year ago | +17.26 | +22.72 |

## Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

|  | Previous | Current | Change | Overview |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| USD Index | 79.96 | 80.11 | 0.15 | Corn, soybeans, cotton, and wheat were down for the week. Corn and soybean prices dropped this week partially due to strong planting progress and |
| Crude Oil | 100.04 | 102.01 | 1.97 | good weather forecasts. Some concerns still linger over corn planting in sev- |
| Dow | 16,574 | 16,484 | -90.39 | eral northern states as Michigan is estimated to be $20 \%$ planted ( 5 -year aver- | $3 \%$ (5-year average 33\%). According to the March 31st Prospective Plantings report corn acres were estimated to be 2.6, 2.95, and 8.6 million acres for Michigan, North Dakota, and Minnesota, respectively. As such, these three states represent about $15 \%$ of the estimated corn planted acreage in the United States. There is still time to get these acres planted however the longer planting is delayed the greater the probability that some acres will shift to soybeans. In Tennessee, corn and soybean basis for May are substantially lower than in 2013, corn basis averaged across five locations is 30 cents weaker and soybean basis is 42 cents weaker. Harvest cotton prices have retreated from almost 85 cents to 82 cents over the past two weeks. There will continue to be volatility in cotton futures prices as traders adjust to weather and potential abandonment acres in Texas. Pricing some cotton above 82 cents should be strongly considered for those that have yet to price 2014 production. There is a great deal of uncertainty both domestically and internationally in cotton markets and managing some price risk at this point in the season is strongly encouraged.

## Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Wheat prices decreased nearly 50 cents this week on increased global supply, increased spring wheat acreage, and more favorable weather conditions in parts of the southern plains.

## Corn

July 2014 corn futures closed at $\$ 4.93$ down 24 cents from last week with support at $\$ 4.76$ and resistance at $\$ 4.90$. Across Tennessee basis (cash price- nearby future price) strengthened or remained unchanged across all five regions. Overall basis for the week ranged from 1 under to 21 over the July futures contract with an average of 13 over at the end of the week. Corn net sales reported by exporters from May 2nd to 8th were within expectations at 13.5 million bushels for the 2013/14 marketing year and below expectations at 1.9 million bushels for the 2014/15 marketing year. Exports for the same time period were 40.3 million bushels. Corn export sales and commitments are $92 \%$ (after the 150 million bushel increase in exports on the May 9th WASDE report) of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2013/14 marketing year (September 1 to August 31) compared to a 5-year average of $91 \%$. Ethanol production for the week ending May 9th was 922,000 barrels per day up 28,000 barrels per day. Ending ethanol stocks were 17.302 million barrels up 162,000 barrels. July/Sept and July/Dec future spreads were -2 cents and -2 cents, respectively.

| Corn | Jul 14 | Change | Sep 14 | Change |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Price | $\$ 4.83$ | $-\$ 0.24$ | $\$ 4.81$ | $-\$ 0.20$ |
| Support | $\$ 4.76$ | $-\$ 0.28$ | $\$ 4.73$ | $-\$ 0.25$ |
| Res istance | $\$ 4.90$ | $-\$ 0.32$ | $\$ 4.87$ | $-\$ 0.32$ |
| 20 Day MA | $\$ 5.05$ | $-\$ 0.03$ | $\$ 5.01$ | $-\$ 0.04$ |
| 50 Day MA | $\$ 5.00$ | $\$ 0.01$ | $\$ 4.97$ | $\$ 0.01$ |
| 100 Day MA | $\$ 4.76$ | $\$ 0.03$ | $\$ 4.75$ | $\$ 0.02$ |
| 4-Week High | $\$ 5.22$ | $\$ 0.00$ | $\$ 5.18$ | $\$ 0.00$ |
| 4-Week Low | $\$ 4.80$ | $-\$ 0.10$ | $\$ 4.77$ | $-\$ 0.11$ |
| Technical Trend | Down | - | Down | - |



September 2014 corn futures closed at $\$ 4.81$ down 20 cents from last week with support at $\$ 4.73$ and resistance at $\$ 4.87$. December futures closed at $\$ 4.81$. Nationally, the May 12th Crop Progress report estimated corn planting at 59\% compared to 29\% last week, $26 \%$ last year, and a 5 -year average of $58 \%$; and corn emerged at $18 \%$ compared to $7 \%$ last week, $5 \%$ last year and a 5 -year average of $25 \%$. In Tennessee, corn planted was estimated at $87 \%$ compared to $68 \%$ last week, $62 \%$ last year, and a 5 -year average of $76 \%$; and corn emerged at $53 \%$ compared to $35 \%$ last week, $43 \%$ last year, and a 5 -year average of $62 \%$. This week September and December 2014 corn futures prices traded between $\$ 4.76$ and $\$ 4.97$. September cash forward contracts at elevators and barge points for the week averaged $\$ 4.79$ with a range of $\$ 4.49$ to $\$ 5.17$. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a $\$ 4.90$ September 2014 Put Option costing 33 cents establishing a $\$ 4.57$ futures floor.

## Soybeans

July 2014 soybean futures closed at $\$ 14.65$ down 22 cents for the week with support at $\$ 14.51$ and resistance at $\$ 14.85$. Nearby soybean to corn price ratio was 3.03 at the end of the week. For the week, average soybean basis strengthened at Memphis, northwest barge points, and upper-middle Tennessee and weakened at northwest and lower-middle Tennessee. Basis ranged from 15 under to 40 over the July futures contract at elevators and barge points. Average basis at the end of the week was 12 over the July futures contract. Net sales reported by exporters from May 2nd to 8 th were above expectations with net sales of 2.7 million bushels for the 2013/14 marketing year and within expectations for the 2014/15 marketing year with net sales of 11.9 million bushels. Exports for the same period were 9.9 million bushels. Soybean export sales and commitments are $103 \%$ of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2013/14 marketing year (September 1 to August 31), compared to a 5 -year average of $98 \%$. August 2014 soybean futures were trading at $\$ 13.99$. July/Aug and July/Nov future spreads were -66 cents and -244 cents.

November 2014 soybean futures closed at $\$ 12.21$ down 5 cents from last week with support at $\$ 12.08$ and resistance at $\$ 12.29$. The Crop Progress report estimated soybean planting at $20 \%$ compared to $5 \%$ last week, $5 \%$ last year, and a 5 -year average of $21 \%$. In Tennessee, soybeans planted were estimated at $13 \%$ compared to $5 \%$ last week, $2 \%$ last year, and a 5 -year average of $11 \%$. This week November 2014 soybean futures traded between $\$ 12.06$ and $\$ 12.29$. Harvest soybean to corn price ratio was 2.54 . November cash forward contracts averaged $\$ 12.15$ with a range of $\$ 11.40$ to $\$ 12.36$. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a $\$ 12.40$ November 2014 Put Option which would cost 75 cents and set an $\$ 11.65$ futures floor.

## Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith



## Cotton

July 2014 cotton futures closed at 89.82 down 2.54 cents for the week with support at 89.39 and resistance at 91.77 . Cotton adjusted world price (AWP) decreased 1.47 cents to 70.87 cents. Net sales reported by exporters from May 2nd to 8th were down from last week at 34,000 bales of upland cotton for the 2013/14 marketing year and 12,100 bales for the 2014/15 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up from last week at 210,900 bales. Cotton export sales and commitments are $99 \%$ of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2013/14 marketing year (August 1 to July 31), compared to a 5-year average of 102\%. Oct 2014 cotton futures are trading at 82.22 . July/Oct and July/Dec future spreads were -7.6 cents and -7.48 cents.


December 2014 cotton futures closed at 82.34 down 1.37 cents
for the week with support at 81.53 and resistance at 83.89 . The Crop Progress report estimated cotton planting at $30 \%$ compared to $16 \%$ last week, $22 \%$ last year, and a 5 -year average of $34 \%$. In Tennessee, cotton planted was estimated at $26 \%$ compared to $6 \%$ last week, $3 \%$ last year, and a 5 -year average of $16 \%$. December cotton futures traded between 82.17 and 83.90 cents this week. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing an 83 cent December 2014 Put Option costing 4.42 cents establishing a 78.58 cent futures floor.

## Wheat

July 2014 wheat futures closed at $\$ 6.74$ down 48 cents for the week with support at $\$ 6.63$ and resistance at $\$ 6.88$. Net sales reported by exporters from May 2nd to 8th were below expectations at 2 million bushels for the 2013/14 marketing year and within expectations at 7.2 million bushels for the 2014/15 marketing year. Exports for the same period were 23.3 million bushels. Wheat export sales are $98 \%$ of the USDA estimated total annual exports for the 2013/14 marketing year (June 1 to May 31), compared to a 5 -year average of $103 \%$. The Crop Progress report estimated winter wheat condition at $30 \%$ good to excellent and $42 \%$ poor to very poor; and winter wheat headed was $44 \%$ compared to $29 \%$ last week, $28 \%$ last year, and a 5 -year average of $46 \%$. In Tennessee, winter wheat condition was estimated at $82 \%$ good to excellent and $2 \%$ poor to very poor; winter wheat jointed was estimated at $97 \%$ compared to $90 \%$ last week, $100 \%$ last year, and a 5 -year average of $100 \%$; and winter wheat headed was $68 \%$ compared to $30 \%$ last week, $76 \%$ last year, and a 5 -year average of $87 \%$. July wheat futures traded between $\$ 6.70$ and $\$ 7.22$ this week. July wheat to corn price ratio was 1.40. In Tennessee, June/July cash forward contracts averaged $\$ 6.82$ with a range of $\$ 6.28$ to $\$ 7.13$ at elevators and barge points. July/Sept and July/Jul future spreads were 9 cents and 45 cents.

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith


September 2014 wheat futures closed at $\$ 6.83$ down 48 cents from last week with support at $\$ 6.72$ and resistance at $\$ 6.97$. The Crop Progress report estimated spring wheat planted at $34 \%$ compared to $26 \%$ last week, $40 \%$ last year, and a 5 -year average of $53 \%$; and spring wheat emerged was $12 \%$ compared to $7 \%$ last week, $9 \%$ last year, and a 5 -year average of $27 \%$. September wheat to corn price ratio was 1.42 . July 2015 wheat futures closed at $\$ 7.19$. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a $\$ 7.20$ July 2015 Put Option costing 68 cents establishing a $\$ 6.52$ futures floor.

## Additional Information

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.

Futures Settlement Prices: Crops \& Livestock
Friday, May 9, 2014 -Thursday, May 15, 2014

| Commodity | Contract Month | Friday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Soybeans | May | 15.01 | 14.83 | 15.02 | 14.96 | --- |
| (\$/bushel) | Jul | 14.87 | 14.65 | 14.83 | 14.86 | 14.70 |
|  | Aug | 14.22 | 14.04 | 14.15 | 14.16 | 14.01 |
|  | Sep | 12.85 | 12.70 | 12.76 | 12.77 | 12.73 |
|  | Nov | 12.26 | 12.12 | 12.19 | 12.22 | 12.17 |
|  | Jan | 12.32 | 12.18 | 12.25 | 12.28 | 12.23 |
| Corn | May | 5.05 | 4.97 | 5.03 | 4.94 | -ーー |
| (\$/bushel) | Jul | 5.07 | 4.99 | 5.02 | 4.95 | 4.84 |
|  | Sep | 5.01 | 4.94 | 4.96 | 4.90 | 4.81 |
|  | Dec | 4.98 | 4.92 | 4.95 | 4.89 | 4.80 |
|  | Mar | 5.06 | 5.00 | 5.03 | 4.97 | 4.88 |
|  | May | 5.11 | 5.06 | 5.09 | 5.03 | 4.94 |
| Wheat | May | 7.14 | 7.05 | 7.00 | 6.81 | --- |
| (\$/bushel) | Jul | 7.22 | 7.15 | 7.09 | 6.90 | 6.78 |
|  | Sep | 7.31 | 7.24 | 7.18 | 6.99 | 6.87 |
|  | Dec | 7.45 | 7.39 | 7.33 | 7.15 | 7.02 |
|  | Mar | 7.58 | 7.52 | 7.47 | 7.29 | 7.17 |
| Soybean Meal | May | 497 | 489 | 497 | 497 | --- |
| (\$/ton) | Jul | 487 | 478 | 484 | 486 | 481 |
|  | Aug | 462 | 455 | 458 | 459 | 455 |
|  | Sep | 423 | 418 | 420 | 421 | 420 |
|  | Oct | 392 | 388 | 389 | 390 | 389 |
|  | Dec | 388 | 384 | 385 | 386 | 385 |
| Cotton | Jul | 92.36 | 91.30 | 90.93 | 90.70 | 90.36 |
| (c/lb) | Oct | 84.19 | 83.59 | 83.34 | 82.75 | 82.39 |
|  | Dec | 83.71 | 83.57 | 83.45 | 82.88 | 82.62 |
|  | Mar | 82.83 | 82.85 | 82.80 | 82.10 | 81.91 |
|  | May | 82.77 | 82.84 | 82.72 | 82.20 | 82.05 |
| Live Cattle | Jun | 138.05 | 137.65 | 137.00 | 137.45 | 137.40 |
| (\$/cwt) | Aug | 138.20 | 138.07 | 137.85 | 138.40 | 137.82 |
|  | Oct | 142.45 | 142.45 | 141.90 | 142.72 | 141.70 |
|  | Dec | 144.77 | 144.77 | 144.27 | 144.95 | 144.22 |
|  | Feb | 146.25 | 146.15 | 145.70 | 146.30 | 145.70 |
| Feeder Cattle | May | 184.57 | 184.60 | 184.72 | 185.40 | 186.15 |
| (\$/cwt) | Aug | 191.37 | 191.87 | 191.67 | 192.45 | 192.42 |
|  | Sep | 191.70 | 192.27 | 192.32 | 193.45 | 193.55 |
|  | Oct | 192.05 | 192.60 | 192.47 | 193.62 | 193.32 |
|  | Nov | 191.35 | 191.80 | 191.65 | 192.75 | 192.42 |
|  | Jan | 188.27 | 188.80 | 188.70 | 189.15 | 188.35 |
| Market Hogs | May | 114.67 | 113.42 | 112.40 | 112.40 | 112.40 |
| $(\$ / c w t)$ | Jun | 120.17 | 119.00 | 119.60 | 120.57 | 119.42 |
|  | Jul | 124.55 | 125.15 | 125.40 | 126.90 | 125.35 |
|  | Aug | 122.50 | 123.35 | 124.97 | 126.50 | 125.62 |
|  | Oct | 104.15 | 104.85 | 105.30 | 105.57 | 106.00 |

Prices on Tennessee Reported Livestock Auctions for the week ending May 16， 2014

|  | This Week |  |  | Last Week Weighted Average | Year Ago <br> Weighted Average |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Low | High | Weighted Average |  |  |
|  | －－－ | －－－ | －－－\＄／cwt－－－－ | －－－－－－－－－ | －－－－－－ |
| Steers：Medium／Large Frame \＃1－2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 300－400 lbs | 221.00 | 280.00 | 246.77 | 247.39 | 153.01 |
| 400－500 lbs | 204.00 | 241.00 | 222.20 | 227.10 | 147.44 |
| 500－600 lbs | 188.00 | 222.00 | 206.36 | 208.02 | 138.45 |
| 600－700 lbs | 166.00 | 207.50 | 192.06 | 188.86 | 130.98 |
| 700－800 lbs | 159.00 | 190.00 | 175.20 | 174.73 | 124.18 |
| Steers：Small Frame \＃1－2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 300－400 lbs | 180.00 | 230.00 | 211.79 | 224.08 | 140.01 |
| 400－500 lbs | 187.00 | 220.00 | 211.07 | 210.76 | 128.01 |
| 500－600 lbs | 170.00 | 197.00 | 181.92 | 195.35 | 118.71 |
| 600－700 lbs | －ーー | －－－ | －－－ | －－－ | 90.00 |
| Steers：Medium／Large Frame \＃3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 300－400 lbs | 200.00 | 252.00 | 225.12 | 228.76 | 138.18 |
| 400－500 lbs | 180.00 | 219.00 | 198.52 | 202.34 | 135.26 |
| 500－600 lbs | 165.00 | 205.00 | 190.10 | 189.06 | 126.32 |
| 600－700 lbs | 158.00 | 190.00 | 179.40 | 182.69 | 117.18 |
| 700－800 lbs | 172.00 | 182.50 | 176.56 | 162.14 | 110.56 |
| Holstein Steers |  |  |  |  |  |
| 300－400 lbs | －－－ | －－－ | －ーー | 154.34 | 123.78 |
| 500－600 lbs | －－－ | ーーー | －ーー | 121.31 | 90.50 |
| 700－800 lbs | －－－ | －－－ | －－－ | 126.97 | －－－ |
| Slaughter Cows \＆Bulls |  |  |  |  |  |
| Breakers 75－80\％ | 91.50 | 105.50 | 96.76 | 97.54 | 77.38 |
| Boners 80－85\％ | 90.00 | 105.00 | 98.07 | 98.55 | 79.88 |
| Lean 85－90\％ | 79.00 | 93.00 | 86.40 | 87.25 | 72.20 |
| Bulls YG 1 | 104.00 | 122.50 | 114.62 | 114.89 | 98.03 |
| Heifers：Medium／Large Frame \＃1－2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 300－400 lbs | 200.00 | 240.00 | 218.94 | 220.64 | 138.05 |
| 400－500 lbs | 183.00 | 225.00 | 202.71 | 203.71 | 134.18 |
| 500－600 lbs | 163.00 | 207.00 | 191.45 | 188.45 | 126.94 |
| 600－700 lbs | 155.00 | 183.00 | 170.42 | 169.72 | 117.81 |
| Heifers：Small Frame \＃1－2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 300－400 lbs | 147.00 | 215.00 | 196.29 | 194.80 | 122.64 |
| 400－500 lbs | 162.50 | 204.00 | 188.03 | 183.58 | 118.13 |
| 500－600 lbs | 150.00 | 182.50 | 165.04 | 168.62 | 108.91 |
| 600－700 lbs | －ー－ | －－－ | －－－ | －－－ | 103.26 |
| Heifers：Medium／Large Frame \＃3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| 300－400 lbs | 170.00 | 225.00 | 198.48 | 201.40 | 128.14 |
| 400－500 lbs | 162.50 | 210.00 | 186.91 | 187.18 | 121.92 |
| 500－600 lbs | 149.00 | 198.00 | 174.02 | 168.62 | 114.86 |
| 600－700 lbs | 132.50 | 178.00 | 159.57 | 159.16 | 107.57 |



## Video Sales

EAST TENNESSEE LIVESTOCK CENTER - May 7, 2014
1 load out of 67 steers; est. wt. 825 lbs., wt. range 775-875 lbs.; Slide: $\$ 0.04$ on first 50 lbs ., over 51 lbs . $\$ 0.06$ back to first lb. over 826 lbs.; 95\% L\&M-1s, 5\% L\&M-2s; medium flesh; 70\% Black/BWF, 20\% Red/RWF, 10\% Chax/Smoky; Feed: pasture plus hay receiving corn gluten/soy hull/wheat mids mix; vaccinated; dewormed; hauled 5 miles, sorted on grounds, reloaded, hauled 2 miles, weighed on goosenecks; $2 \%$ shrink $\$ \mathbf{1 7 4 . 0 0}$

1 load out of 150 heifers; BQA certified producer; est. wt. 750 lbs ., wt. range 700-800 lbs.; Slide: \$0.04 on first 50 lbs., over 51 lbs . \$0.06 back to first lb. over $751 \mathrm{lbs} . ; 95 \% \mathrm{M}-1 \mathrm{~s}$, 5\% M-2s; medium flesh; 85\% Black/BWF, 15\% Chax/Smoky; Feed: pasture receiving corn silage/corn gluten based ration; vaccinated; dewormed; gathered early a.m., hauled 8 miles, weighed on grounds after sort; $2 \%$ shrink $\$ \mathbf{1 6 9 . 7 5}$

1 load out of 80 Holstein steers; BQA certified producer; est. wt. 815 lbs., wt. range $765-865 \mathrm{lbs}$.; Slide: $\$ 0.04$ on first $50 \mathrm{lbs} .$, over 51 lbs . \$0.06 back to first lb. over $816 \mathrm{lbs} . ; 100 \%$ 1s; medium flesh; Feed: pasture plus hay receiving $10 \mathrm{lbs} / \mathrm{hd} /$ day $12 \%$ commodity mix; double vaccinated; dewormed twice; no implants; weighed on grounds at farm on certified scales; 2\% shrink $\mathbf{\$ 1 4 7 . 7 5}$

## SMITH COUNTY COMMISSION, Carthage - May 10, 2014

1 load of 88 steers, est. wt. 561 lbs., \$218.75

DICKSON REGIONAL LIVESTOCK CENTER - May 12, 2014
1 load of 85 steers, est. wt. 625 lbs., \$202.00

HARDIN COUNTY STOCKYARD - May 14, 2014
1 load of 65 steers, est. wt. 960 lbs., \$157.85
BLUE GRASS STOCKYARDS—May 14, 2014
65 heifers, mostly blk/bwf, 800 lbs., \$171.50
120 steers, mix, 835 lbs., \$180.00
120 steers, mostly blk/bwf, 850 lbs ., $\mathbf{\$ 1 8 0 . 0 0}$
110 steers, mix, 935 lbs., \$168.75
100 Holstein steers, 1015 Ibs., \$142.00
Video Board Sales and Graded Sales
5/14/14 Athens Stockyard/Red Carpet Video Sale
Receipts: 7 Loads—Reporting TN loads only

Steers
Lot 211 load 785 Ibs TN 183.25

Heifers
Lot 191 load 560 lbs TN 206.20
Lot 221 load 770 lbs TN 170.00
Lot 231 load 770 lbs TN 171.75

5/13/14 Tennessee Livestock Producers - Fayetteville Receipts: 547 (282 graded and grouped)

Steers: Med \& Lg 1-2
300-400 lbs 228.00-234.00
400-500 lbs 210.00-218.00

Heifers: Med \& Lg 1-2 300-400 lbs 202.00-225.00 400-500 lbs 188.00-198.00

## Video Board Sales and Graded Sales continued

500-600 Ibs 196.00-216.00 $600-700 \mathrm{lbs} 184.00-206.00$ 700-800 lbs 170.00-175.00

500-600 lbs 180.00-190.00 600-700 lbs 172.00-180.00 700-800 lbs 154.00

Bulls: Med \& Lg 1-2
400-500 lbs 209.00-220.00
500-600 lbs 184.00-204.00
$600-700 \mathrm{lbs} 170.00$
700-800 lbs 157.50-164.00
5/9/14 East Tennessee Livestock Holstein Sale
Receipts: 841
For complete report:
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nv Is180.txt

5/8/14 Crossville Stockyard, Crossville, TN
Receipts: 637
For complete report:
http://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/nv Is180.txt

## Tennessee Sheep and Goat Auction

## 5/12/14 Tennessee Livestock Producers Graded Goat and Sheep

 Sale, Columbia, TNReceipts: 1,125 (574 Goats; 551 Sheep) Last Sale 185
Next Sale May 26, 2014. (2nd \& 4th Monday of each month) Goats sold per hundred weight (cwt) unless otherwise noted, weights, actual or estimated.

Slaughter Classes: Kids
Selection 1
25-35 lbs 158.00-220.00
36-50 lbs 174.00-186.50
$51-65$ lbs 168.00-174.00
66-80 lbs 150.00-164.00
81-90 lbs 160.50-174.00

Selection 3
25-35 lbs 129.00-154.00
36-50 lbs 133.00-153.00
51-65 lbs 132.00-144.00
$66-80 \mathrm{lbs} 134.00$

Selection 2
25-35 Ibs 139.00-162.50
36-50 lbs 133.00-164.00
51-65 lbs 140.00-154.00
$66-80 \mathrm{lbs} 145.00$
$81-100 \mathrm{lbs} 133.00$

Yearlings Selection 2-3
50-100 lbs 125.00-131.00

Slaughter Bucks/Billies 90.00-125.00
Slaughter Nannies/Does 77.00-111.00
Kids Feeders Selection $3 \quad 24-50$ Ibs 123.00-163.00

SHEEP:
Slaughter Lambs-Includes all breeds, sold per hundred weight (cwt).
Choice and Prime 40-60 lbs 141.00-171.00
Good 131.00-147.00
Choice and Prime 61-80 lbs 153.00-171.00
Good
Choice and Prime 81-100 lbs 140.00-153.00
Good
112.00-136.00

Slaughter Ewes Utility and Good:
Slaughter Rams:

All wgts 56.00-88.00
All Wgts 74.00-109.00

# Featured Article from Drovers CattleNetwork 

## Cull cow prices strong

Cull cow prices in the U.S. have been at record high levels throughout 2014. Seasonally peak prices occurred in March, with April prices averaging about $\$ 4$ per hundredweight lower than March. Record high prices have been supported by lower cow slaughter, fewer beef imports in January and February, and good consumer demand for hamburger with record high retail beef and pork prices.

Total cow slaughter has averaged about 9.5 percent below last year with beef cow slaughter down about 9.4 percent $(88,780$ head) and dairy cow slaughter down about 9.6 percent ( 98,660 head). Beef cow slaughter during April has been down about 16 percent from last year. Declining beef cow slaughter is the result of better moisture conditions east of the Mississippi River and in some areas of the Northern Plains. Record high calf prices are also stimulating interest in retaining beef cows where moisture conditions allow it. Lower dairy cow slaughter is due both to higher milk prices and declining feed costs, which has improved profitability in the dairy sector.

Fresh, 90 percent lean wholesale boneless beef prices at about $\$ 250$ per hundredweight are down from the $\$ 264$ peak in March, but still higher than the $\$ 206$ last year at this time. Demand for ground beef is expected to stay strong throughout the grilling season with other beef cuts and pork at record high levels. The National Restaurant Association recently released its restaurant Performance Index (RPI) which at 101.4 rose to a 10 month high in March. The stronger RPI was supported by stronger customer traffic and an optimistic outlook among restaurant operators.

Cull cow prices are likely to remain at record high levels but with late summer seasonal weakness occurring. Risk to cow prices would come from an expanding drought and forced liquidation in beef cow country. Both the Southern Plains and Southwest are very dry now.

USDA-NASS released the first U.S. pasture and range condition report on May 5. For the week ending May 4, 2014, 22 percent of pastures and ranges in the U.S. were rated as very poor or poor, compared to 36 percent with the same rating last year.

# University of Tennessee Extension Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics 

314 Morgan Hall • 2621 Morgan Circle<br>http://economics.ag.utk.edu/ http://economics.ag.utk.edu/curmkt.html<br>USDA / Tennessee Department of Agriculture Market News Service http://www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/marketing/marketnews.html 1-800-342-8206<br>the UNIVERSITYofTENNESSEE UIT

Institute of Agriculture

| Weighted Average Monthly Prices on Tennessee Auctions |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Year to Date Average |
| Fed Steers (5-Area) |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2013 | 124.75 | 125.06 | 126.74 | 127.54 | 126.08 | 121.23 | 119.99 | 122.99 | 123.93 | 129.07 | 131.47 | 131.78 | 126.02 |
| 2014 | 142.29 | 146.01 | 150.71 | 148.14 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 146.79 |
| 700-800 lbs. Steers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2013 | 132.91 | 129.28 | 122.94 | 123.17 | 122.89 | 124.12 | 131.34 | 138.17 | 135.81 | 140.29 | 144.08 | 144.71 | 127.08 |
| 2014 | 155.96 | 155.08 | 162.59 | 166.56 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 160.05 |
| 600-700 lbs. Steers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2013 | 140.54 | 138.90 | 132.86 | 133.73 | 130.32 | 130.50 | 136.18 | 145.19 | 141.28 | 146.19 | 149.79 | 153.11 | 136.51 |
| 2014 | 163.40 | 167.47 | 177.09 | 181.59 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 172.39 |
| 500-600 lbs. Steers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2013 | 152.54 | 151.99 | 147.17 | 143.97 | 137.95 | 137.28 | 143.50 | 154.43 | 149.54 | 154.06 | 159.19 | 159.97 | 148.92 |
| 2014 | 179.78 | 184.37 | 196.83 | 200.03 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 190.25 |
| 400-500 lbs. Steers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2013 | 166.68 | 168.79 | 161.28 | 155.56 | 147.67 | 145.26 | 150.87 | 167.55 | 161.88 | 168.06 | 173.47 | 178.13 | 163.08 |
| 2014 | 197.92 | 200.75 | 214.37 | 220.95 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 208.50 |
| 300-400 lbs. Steers |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2013 | 180.96 | 185.76 | 174.23 | 166.36 | 157.50 | 156.45 | 166.32 | 186.61 | 173.95 | 182.92 | 193.32 | 194.10 | 176.83 |
| 2014 | 215.28 | 213.06 | 227.86 | 234.30 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 222.63 |
| Utility Cows - Breakers 75-80\% |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2013 | 74.11 | 76.63 | 78.42 | 74.23 | 77.36 | 76.63 | 77.13 | 78.72 | 75.95 | 74.36 | 75.88 | 78.00 | 75.85 |
| 2014 | 85.66 | 89.10 | 94.56 | 95.39 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 91.18 |

Source: USDA/Tennessee Department of Agriculture Market News Service

