Tennessee Market Highlights

May 2, 2025

UTEXTENSION INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE

Number: 48:18

Trends for the Week Compared to a Week Ago

Slaughter Cows

Steady to \$1 higher <u>Slaughter Bulls</u> \$1 to \$2 higher <u>Feeder Steers</u> Steady to \$2 higher <u>Feeder Heifers</u> Steady to \$3 higher <u>Feeder Cattle Index:</u> 295.77

Fed Cattle

The 5-area live price on Thursday of \$220.99 up \$9.94 compared to a week ago and \$349.33 dressed with no comparison to last week.

Corn

July closed at \$4.69 a bushel, down 16 cents since last Friday.

<u>Soybeans</u>

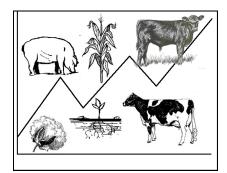
July closed at \$10.58 a bushel, down 1 cent since last Friday.

<u>Wheat</u>

July closed at \$5.43 a bushel, down 2 cents since last Friday.

<u>Cotton</u>

July closed at 68.41 cents per lb, down 0.39 cents since last Friday.



Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew P. Griffith

FED CATTLE: Fed cattle traded \$10 higher on a live basis compared to last week. Prices in the South were \$215 to \$218 while prices in the North were mainly \$349 to \$350.

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$220.99 live, up \$9.94 compared to a week ago and \$349.33 dressed with no comparison to last week. A year ago, prices were \$186.42 live and \$294.63 dressed.

Packers and cattle feeders decided to do the bulk of their business on Wednesday Thursday this week instead of waiting until Friday afternoon to come to terms. With significantly higher prices, it has become clear that time is not the only thing that marches on. Cattle prices have the ability to continue marching higher as well. Maybe the most amazing part of all of this is that as record cattle weights continue to roll in so do record prices. Can prices continue to push higher next week? It is doubtful many people thought they would make such a jump this week compared to last week, but they did. The question that comes to mind is if cattle prices can make similar price jumps in any of the next few weeks? Not likely, but certainly possible.

BEEF CUTOUT: At midday Friday, the Choice cutout was \$342.94 down \$0.23 from Thursday and up \$7.78 from a week ago. The Select cutout was \$325.64 up \$1.36 from Thursday and up \$6.25 from a week ago. The Choice Select spread was \$17.30 compared to \$15.77 a week ago.

Wholesale beef prices continue push higher in an attempt to ration beef consumption relative to the quantity of available product. Higher beef prices at retail will certainly result in some consumers consuming lower valued beef products and may even result in some consumers purchasing less beef. This is exactly what higher prices are expected to do as prices tend to increase as the quantity of product supplied declines. On the opposite end of the spectrum, summer grilling season will soon start, which generally leads to strong beef movement from the end of May through early July. The grilling holidays of Memorial Day, Father's Day, and Independence Day all tend to promote more activity at the beef counter and that is not expected to change this year. The question will just be how much of what products consumers purchase. Most consumers are expected to adjust products purchased as well as quantity purchased to some degree. The one truth remains that there is no good substitute for beef in the marketplace.

OUTLOOK: Based on Tennessee weekly auction reports, steer prices this week were steady to \$2 higher compared to last week while heifer prices were steady to \$3 higher than the previous week. Slaughter cow prices were steady to \$1 higher compared to a week ago while slaughter bull prices were \$1 to \$2 higher compared to last week. Feeder cattle futures continue to test the \$300 per hundredweight price point with the August contract just a little over \$2 shy of reaching that mark. There is sure to be some resistance at that price level just as there was resistance at \$200 and \$250 when those price points were eclipsed. There is a psychological component at play as traders reach new levels that are round numbers. Regardless of what traders are doing in the futures market, the price in the country is what should be noted. The CME feeder cattle index on May 1st was \$296.10 per hundredweight. This represents a seven-day weighted rolling average. The single day price was \$299.62, which means cattle traders are pushing prices higher. These prices have an 800-pound steer valued

Livestock Comments by Dr. Andrew Griffith

(Continued from page 1)

right at \$2,400. This simply means the cost of placing a calf on feed is \$2,400 plus trucking to get it there. On the other end, the cattle feeder sold 1,500-pound steers for \$221 per hundredweight this week, which equates to \$3,315 per head. That means feedlots are receiving \$915 per head more for what they are selling compared to what they are purchasing. There are a few dollars to be made when putting 700 pounds of weight on for \$915. There continues to be concern from cattlemen that these prices cannot be sustained. That is all relative to how long they are talking about. These prices may last one more day or they may last two more years. The point of higher prices is to ration the quantity of product that is available. The key for cattle producers is taking advantage of what the market is offering and capitalize on strong cattle prices while they are available. This does not mean selling the calf crop in a hurry before prices decrease!

ASK ANDREW, TN THINK TANK: What is the value of pregnancy evaluation in the beef cow herd? The first thing most people think about is the out of pocket expense associated with pregnancy evaluation, and there is certainly a cost to doing it. However, there is also a cost to carrying a cow that eats and drinks and takes up space every day if she does not produce a calf that year. A liberal cost estimate for pregnancy evaluation would be about \$10 per head. Thus, it would cost about \$300 for a 30-cow herd. If one animal is found to be open at the time of evaluation, how much grass, hay or other feedstuffs will that cow consumer in dollars between the time of pregnancy evaluation and when she should calve? In most cases, pregnancy evaluation would take place between two and four months bred. If it is assumed that the cows would have six months between evaluation and calving then the person who did not perform an evaluation would feed an open cow for 180 days. How many open cows does it take to pay for pregnancy evaluation?

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 –June \$211.10 +1.45; August \$206.78 +2.13; October \$204.48 +2.25;Feeder cattle – May \$294.95 +1.73; August \$296.90 +2.45; September \$295.55 +2.70; October \$293.35 +2.75; May corn closed at \$4.61 down 3 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, soybean, cotton, and wheat were down for the week.

It may be worthwhile for farmers to consider an option fence on a portion of their projected 2025 corn production. As of May 2, a December \$4.20 corn put option could be purchased for 16 cents and a \$5.00 corn call option sold for 16 cents. This would result in no out of pocket premi-

	Previous	Current	Change
USD Index	99.31	99.79	0.48
Crude Oil	63.07	58.32	-4.75
DЛA	40,119	41,334	1,215

um expense to the farmer – the money paid for the put option premium would be offset by the premium received from sale of the call option. By purchasing a put option and selling a call option, a futures market price between \$4.20 and \$5.00 could be secured. If the December futures contract falls below \$4.20, the put option would be in-the-money, creating a financial benefit to offset lower cash prices when corn is sold in the fall. If the December futures contract is above \$5.00, the call would cost the farmer money, but this would be offset by gains in the cash market when the crop is sold in the fall. This strategy would require the farmer to meet margin requirements to maintain the option positions.

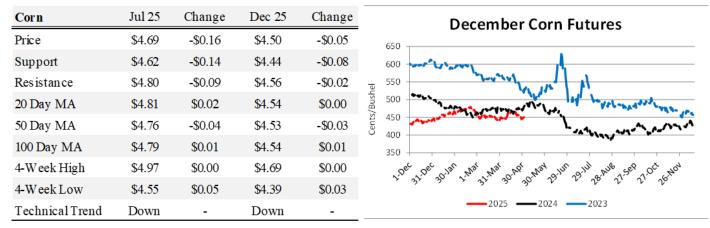
This strategy may be attractive to farmers due to corn futures price uncertainty resulting from unknown trade outcomes and the potential for a large U.S. corn crop if weather cooperates. The USDA projected 95.3 million acres of corn to be planted in the March Prospective Planting report, however relative prices between spring planted crops and favorable planting conditions so far this spring could push corn acreage higher. Having a \$4.20 futures price floor and a positive basis will provide many Tennessee producers with the opportunity to cover at least cash expenses (not necessarily total economic costs of production). The downside to this strategy is covering potential margin calls if prices rally, particularly if a widespread drought occurs in key corn producing areas. High interest rates necessitate sufficient liquidity should the futures market rally and additional margin needs to be posted to maintain positions.

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

Marketing and price risk management decisions involve being fully aware of the advantages and disadvantages of any strategy and being comfortable with the potential outcomes. The goal at this point in the production year should be to strategically eliminate a portion of price risk while maintaining some upside potential in the market.

<u>Corn</u>

Across Tennessee, average corn basis (cash price-nearby futures price) weakened or remained unchanged at West, Northwest, North-Central, West-Central, and Mississippi River elevators and barge points. Overall, basis for the week ranged from 25 under to 30 over, with an average of 6 over the July futures at elevators and barge points. Ethanol production for the week ending April 25 was 1.040 million barrels per day, up 7,000 compared to the previous week. Ethanol stocks were 25.389 million barrels, down 0.092 million barrels compared to last week. Corn net sales reported by exporters for April 18-24 were net sales of 39.9 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year and 9.6 million bushels for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were down 10% compared to last week at 62.9 million bushels. Corn export sales and commitments were 91% 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 94%. Cash prices ranged from \$4.45 to \$5.14 at elevators and barge points. July 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.69, down 16 cents since last Friday. For the week, July 2025 corn futures traded between \$4.68 and \$4.85. September 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.40, down 5 cents since last Friday. Jul/Sep and Jul/Dec future spreads were -29 and -19 cents.



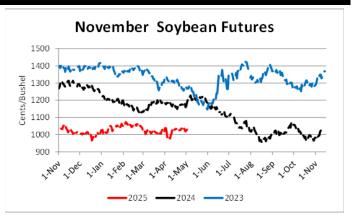
Nationally, the Crop Progress report estimated corn emerged at 5% compared to 2% last week, 6% last year, and a 5-year average of 4% and corn planted at 24% compared to 12% last week, 25% last year, and a 5-year average of 22%. In Tennessee, corn planted was estimated at 41% compared to 25% last week, 41% last year, and a 5-year average of 44% and corn emerged at 15% compared to 4% last week, 16% last year, and a 5-year average of 16%. December 2025 corn futures closed at \$4.50, down 5 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$4.60 December 2025 Put Option costing 37 cents establishing a \$4.23 futures floor. This week, Oct/Nov cash contracts ranged from \$4.19 to \$4.79 at elevators and barge points.

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 40 under to 15 over the July futures contract, with an average basis at the end of the week of 16 under. Soybean net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 15.7 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year and 1.8 million bushels for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 19% compared to last week at 21.6 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 96%. Cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$10.10 to \$10.77. July 2025 soybean futures closed at \$10.58, down 1 cent since last Friday. For the week, July 2025 soybean futures traded between \$10.36 and \$10.64. The July soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.26 at the end of the week. August 2025 soybean futures closed at \$10.51, down 2 cents since last Friday. Jul/Aug and Jul/Nov future spreads were -7 and -28 cents.

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

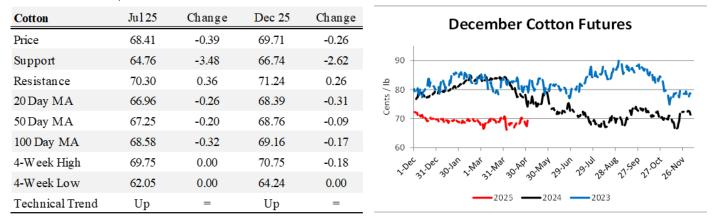
Soybeans	Ju125	Change	Nov 25	Change
Price	\$10.58	-\$0.01	\$10.30	-\$0.05
Support	\$10.44	\$0.02	\$10.20	\$0.01
Resistance	\$10.68	-\$0.05	\$10.38	-\$0.07
20 Day MA	\$10.41	\$0.04	\$10.18	-\$0.01
50 Day MA	\$10.36	-\$0.02	\$10.21	-\$0.02
100 Day MA	\$10.41	\$0.01	\$10.25	\$0.01
4-Week High	\$10.67	\$0.00	\$10.43	\$0.00
4-Week Low	\$9.85	\$0.00	\$9.71	\$0.00
Technical Trend	Up	=	Up	=



Nationally, the Crop Progress report estimated soybeans planted at 18% compared to 8% last week, 17% last year, and a 5-year average of 12%. In Tennessee, soybeans planted were estimated at 25% compared to 15% last week, 26% last year, and a 5-year average of 14%. Oct/Nov cash prices at elevators and barge points were \$9.84 to \$10.43 for the week. November 2025 soybean futures closed at \$10.30, down 5 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be achieved by purchasing a \$10.40 November 2025 Put Option which would cost 60 cents and set a \$9.80 futures floor. Nov/Dec 2025 soybean-to-corn price ratio was 2.29 at the end of the week.

<u>Cotton</u>

North Delta upland cotton spot price quotes for May 1 were 63.91 cents/lb (41-4-34) and 65.91 cents/lb (31-3-35). Adjusted World Price (AWP) increased 0.06 cents to 54.94 cents. Cotton net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 108,400 bales for the 2024/25 marketing year and 32,900 bales for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 25% compared to last week at 366,000 bales. Upland cotton export sales were 108% 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 106%. July 2025 cotton futures closed at 68.41 cents, down 0.39 cents since last Friday. For the week, July 2025 cotton futures traded between 65.53 and 68.86 cents. October 2025 cotton futures closed at 69.91 cents, down 0.41 cents since last Friday. Jul/Oct and Jul/ Dec cotton futures spreads were 1.5 cents and 1.3 cents.

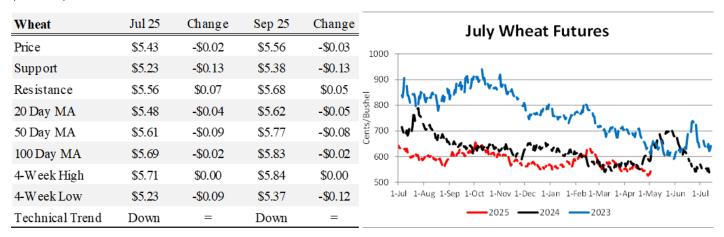


Nationally, the Crop Progress report estimated cotton planted at 15% compared to 11% last week, 14% last year, and a 5-year average of 14%. In Tennessee, cotton planted was estimated at 6% compared to 2% last week, 4% last year, and a 5-year average of 3%. December 2025 cotton futures closed at 69.71 cents, down 0.26 cents since last Friday. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a 70 cent December 2025 Put Option costing 4.16 cents establishing a 65.84 cent futures floor.

Crop Comments by Dr. Aaron Smith

<u>Wheat</u>

Wheat net weekly sales reported by exporters were net sales of 2.6 million bushels for the 2024/25 marketing year and 8.8 million bushels for the 2025/26 marketing year. Exports for the same period were up 3% compared to last week at 18.1 million bushels. Wheat export sales were 97% 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 104%. Wheat cash prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$4.49 to \$4.66.



Nationally, the Crop Progress report estimated winter wheat condition at 49% good-to-excellent and 19% poor-to-very poor; winter wheat headed at 27% compared to 15% last week, 28% last year, and a 5-year average of 22%; spring wheat planted was estimated at 30% compared to 17% last week, 31% last year, and a 5-year average of 21%; and spring wheat emerged at 5% compared to 2% last week, 5% last year, and a 5-year average of 5%. In Tennessee, winter wheat condition was estimated at 68% good-to-excellent and 8% poor-to-very poor; winter wheat jointing at 89% compared to 80% last week, 91% last year, and a 5-year average of 91%; and winter wheat headed at 49% compared to 22% last week, 57% last year, and a 5-year average of 49%. July 2025 wheat futures closed at \$5.43, down 2 cents since last Friday. July 2025 wheat futures traded between \$5.23 and \$5.46 this week. Downside price protection could be obtained by purchasing a \$5.45 July 2025 Put Option costing 26 cents establishing a \$5.19 futures floor. Jul/Sep and Jul/Dec future spreads were 13 and 35 cents. The July wheat-to-corn price ratio was 1.16. July cash contracts at elevators and barge points ranged from \$4.81 to \$5.28. September 2025 wheat futures closed at \$5.56, down 3 cents since last Friday. December 2025 wheat futures closed at \$5.78, down 4 cents since last Friday.

Additional Information:

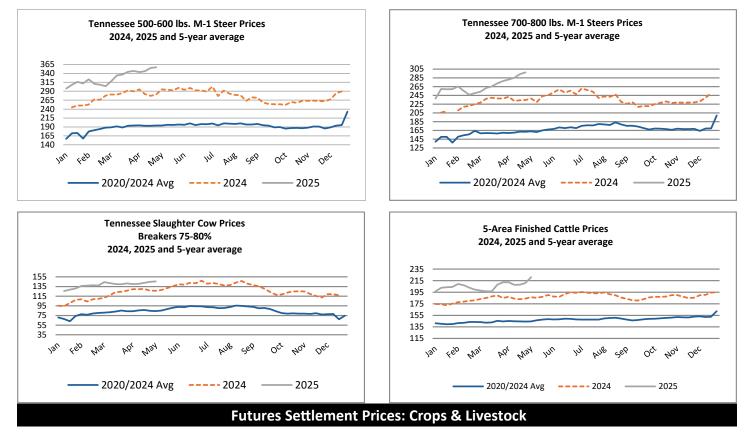
Links for data presented: U.S. Export Sales - <u>https://apps.fas.usda.gov/export-sales/esrd1.html</u> USDA FAS: Weekly Export Performance Indicator – <u>https://apps.fas.usda.gov/esrquery/esrpi.aspx</u>

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 25, 2025Thursday, May 1, 2025					
	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average
No. 2 Yellow Soybeans	\$/bushel\$/bushel				
Northwest		10.23	10.13		10.10
North Central		10.43	10.33		10.30
West		10.77	10.41		10.45
Mississippi River		10.65	10.54		10.51
Yellow Corn					
Northwest		5.13	5.00		5.02
North Central		4.63	4.45		4.47
West		5.06	4.91		
Mississippi River		4.93	4.78		4.85
Wheat					
North Central		4.66	4.61		4.66
Mississippi River		4.56	4.50		4.51
Cotton			\$/pound		-
Memphis	67.05-69.05	65.80-67.80	64.74-66.74	64.27-66.27	63.91-65.91



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: <u>https://www.cmegroup.com/trading/agricultural/livestock/live-cattle.html</u>
- 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

		This We	ek	Last Week's	Year Ago
-	Low	High	Weighted Average	-	
		-	\$/cwt		
Steers: Medium/Large			φ / cw t		
300-400 lbs	392.50	495.00	423.77	429.11	344.89
400-500 lbs	345.00	435.00	391.42	392.84	313.34
500-600 lbs	300.00	388.00	357.02	355.02	294.99
600-700 lbs	250.00	345.00	318.47	320.84	264.83
700-800 lbs	247.50	320.00	297.25	293.33	237.57
Steers: Small Frame #					
300-400 lbs	270.00	335.00	302.50		
400-500 lbs	302.50	355.00	329.07		
500-600 lbs					
600-700 lbs					
Steers: Medium/Large	e Frame #3				
300-400 lbs	335.00	405.00	376.94	393.29	315.80
400-500 lbs	320.00	395.00	356.16	360.44	292.51
500-600 lbs	275.00	360.00	319.47	325.63	262.89
600-700 lbs	222.50	305.00	286.34	291.81	238.80
700-800 lbs	270.00	270.00	270.00	249.85	
Holstein Steers			_/ 0.00		
300-400 lbs					
500-600 lbs					
700-800 lbs					
Slaughter Cows & Bul	ls				
Breakers 75-80%	131.00	155.00	145.56	144.65	126.53
Boners 80-85%	130.00	159.00	145.30	143.38	121.23
Lean 85-90%	114.00	144.00	128.62	124.60	109.28
Bulls YG 1	160.00	186.00	174.66	172.33	145.86
Heifers: Medium/Larg					
300-400 lbs	340.00	405.00	371.87	369.22	302.93
400-500 lbs	300.00	385.00	343.90	345.24	279.37
500-600 lbs	280.00	347.50	311.04	304.83	257.15
600-700 lbs	230.00	304.00	276.64	281.91	229.19
Heifers: Small Frame			_,,	1	
300-400 lbs				321.25	307.16
400-500 lbs	250.00	325.00	270.90	280.59	212.30
500-600 lbs				256.21	216.86
600-700 lbs	225.00	260.00	241.85	242.10	
Heifers: Medium/Larg					
300-400 lbs	270.00	370.00	337.78	342.95	275.17
400-500 lbs	290.00	337.50	316.92	315.15	258.93
500-600 lbs	245.00	320.00	287.72	275.55	238.28
600-700 lbs	212.50	280.00	255.08	254.55	220.46

Cattle Receipts

This week:6,721

Week ago:8,865

Year ago:6,093

Graded Sales, Video Board Sales, Video Sales & Loads

East Tennessee Livestock Center Replacement Cattle Sale (Seasonal) - Sweetwater TN 4/25/25 Total Receipts: 182 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3893.pdf

Browning Livestock Market Video/Internet Auction

- Lafayette, TN 4/30/25 Total Receipts: 321 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3467.pdf

Columbia Livestock Center (UPI) - Columbia TN 4/30/25 62, 833 lbs, Steers, M/L, 1's, 5 fleshed, 23 colored, put together as 3wts with two rounds of vaccinations, \$280.10

Hardin County Stockyard - Savannah, TN

4/30/25 56 Steers, 969 lbs, M&L #1, Mixed Colors (37 Black/BWF), 5 flesh, Value Added, \$254.50 106 Steers, 836 lbs, M&L #1, Mixed Colors (73 Black/BWF), 5 flesh, Value Added, \$274.00 62 Heifers, 797 lbs, M&L #1, 52 Black/BWF, 6 Red, 4 CharX, 5 flesh, Value Added, Guaranteed Open, \$264.75

Graded Sales, Video Board Sales, Video Sales & Loads

East Tennessee Livestock Center Video/Board Sales -Sweetwater, TN

4/30/25

1 load out of 70 steers from BQA certified producer, Est weight 885 lbs, 95% L&M-1s and 5% L&M-2s, medium flesh, 100% BLK/BWF, \$290.00

Lower Middle Tennessee Cattlemen's Association Video Board Sale - Columbia, TN Weighted Average Report for 5/2/25

For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_3340.pdf

Graded Goat & Sheep Sales

Columbia Graded Sheep and Goat Sale-Columbia, TN Weighted Average Report for 4/28/25 Total Receipts: 882 For complete report: https://www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/ams_2081.pdf

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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