

Tennessee Market Highlights

UF Extension

March 12, 2010

Number :10

Livestock Comments by *Emmit L. Rawls*

Fed cattle sold \$2 to \$3 higher on Friday with top prices of \$94 in Texas and Kansas, \$92 to \$93 in Colorado, \$91 live and \$146 to \$147 dressed in Nebraska and \$144 to \$146 in the corn belt. The 5 area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$89.82 live and \$144.82 dressed compared to \$89.71 and \$144.84 a week ago. Neither of these prices reflect last week's nor this week's Friday trade. A year ago the live average was \$80.69 and dressed average was \$129.53. The higher trade reflects the strong position of feedlots versus the packers. Wholesale values have declined slightly after briefly exceeding \$150. The Thursday cutout compared to Thursday of last week was down \$1.02 on the Choice and down .24 on the Select. At midday Friday the Choice cutout was \$149.03 down .04 and the Select was \$148.20. The Choice Select spread was .77 compared to \$1.86 last week. The narrow spread can be attributed to several factors. The percentage of cattle grading Choice is up and the business of high end restaurants which serve more of the Choice beef is down. Furthermore, consumers who are trying to stretch their meat protein dollars and still buy beef are likely buying more Select grade or at least shopping at stores where Select is featured. If we have a higher percentage of cattle grading Choice, the percentage grading Select is lower. For the week ending February 20, 64.8 percent of the cattle graded were grading Choice compared to 62.4 a year ago and 54.6 in the week ending December 6, 2009. In contrast in February the percent grading Select was 26.8 compared to 27.4 a year ago and 34.7 in early December 2009.

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Crop comments by *Chuck Danehower*

Corn, soybean and wheat are down and cotton prices are mixed for the week. The June U.S. Dollar Index was 80.07 before the close, down .72 for the week. Economic data out this week was mixed as gains in retail sales were offset by flat business inventories. Consumer sentiment was also weaker. The Dow Jones Industrial Average before the close was at 10,608; up slightly for the week. April Crude Oil was trading before the close at 81.27 a barrel, down .44 a barrel for the week. USDA released their monthly supply and demand report on March 10 and a summary of the data can be found at the end of these comments. There were no real major surprises from this report; the overall tone of the report would be considered neutral to bearish. More detailed comments on this report have been posted at

<http://economics.ag.utk.edu/outlook.html>. The next major USDA reports will be the Prospective Plantings and Quarterly Grain Stocks released on March 31. **Corn:**

Nearby: May futures closed at \$3.64 a bushel on Friday, down \$0.11 bushel for the week. Support is at \$3.59 a bushel with resistance at \$3.69 a bushel. Weekly exports sales were 13.34 million bushels which were 13.3 million bushels for 2009/10 and 11,810 bushels for 2010/11; this was less than expected, and may even make the revised USDA export number look optimistic. In its resurvey of states with unharvested corn, USDA only cut production by 20 million bushels or 0.3 bushels per acre overall making the 2009 corn yield 164.9 bushels per acre. This was more than offset by a 100 million bushel reduction in exports..

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Slaughter cows: steady to \$1 lower

Slaughter bulls: steady to \$1 lower

Feeder steers: \$1 to \$3 higher

Feeder heifers: \$1 to \$2 higher

Feeder cattle index: Wednesdays index : \$102.28

Fed cattle: 5 area live price of \$89.82 is up \$.11 and the dressed price is down \$.2 at \$144.82

Corn: May futures closed at \$3.64 a bushel on Friday, down \$0.11 bushel for the week

Soybeans: May futures closed at \$9.26 bushel, down \$0.17 bushel for the week

Wheat: May futures contract closed at \$4.85 bushel, down \$0.08 for the week

Cotton: May futures closed at 80.47 cents/lb. down 1.96 cents/lb. for the week

Livestock Comments by Emmit Rawls

Harsh weather normally can impact quality grade as well as harvest weights. It does not appear to be affecting quality grade, but average harvest weights are down 27 pounds for the week ending March 6th. With a 620,000 head per week harvest, that is equivalent to a 13,000 per week reduction in the number of cattle being processed. So, much of the current recent fed price improvement is being supply driven due to weather and reduced fall placements on feed. The commodity funds are also helping to boost futures prices which fuels feeder prices. The lower corn market has also contributed to the strength in heavier feeders. Furthermore, the higher feeder futures stimulates the stocker calf market which heats up anyway as temperatures warm and grass turns green. Can this be sustained? Time will tell, but packers may need to reduce their level of processing to keep or boost wholesale prices to keep up with what they are having to pay for fed cattle. The higher feeder futures offers the opportunity to buy put options which set a floor but not a ceiling on prices or to buy LRP price insurance available from some crop insurance agents. Cattle feeders are earning a nice profit on cattle currently being sold which whets their appetite for replacement cattle. Feeder steers and bulls on the Tennessee auctions sold \$1 to \$3 higher with feeder heifers selling \$1 to \$2 higher. Slaughter cows and bulls were steady to \$1 lower. Average receipts per sale this week were 1193 head compared 977 a week ago and 673 a year ago. Open weather and recent stronger prices have brought more cattle to market. According to market reporters many are in thin condition and are going to local stocker operators.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING: Based on Thursday's closing prices. April live cattle closed at \$93.82. Support is at \$93.55, then \$93. Resistance is at \$94.10, then \$94.65. The RSI is 65.19. June cattle closed at \$91.95. Support is at \$91.60, then \$91.05. Resistance is at \$92.15, then \$92.70. The RSI is 67.52 near overbought condition. August cattle closed at \$90.15. Support is at \$89.65, then \$89.15. Resistance is at \$90.20, then \$90.90. The RSI is 62.27. March feeder cattle closed at \$101.93. Support is at \$101.76, then \$101.48. Resistance is at \$102.03, then \$102.31. The RSI is 55.03. April feeders closed at \$105.10. Support is at \$104.79, then \$104.19. Resistance is at \$105.39, then \$105.99. The RSI is 64.19. August feeders closed at \$107.75. Support is at \$107.45, then \$106.30. Resistance is at \$108.75, then \$109.35. The RSI is 65.95 again nearing an overbought condition. Friday's closing prices were as follows:

Live cattle - Apr. \$95.10 up 1.27; Jun. \$92.80 up .85; Aug. \$90.57 up .42 and Oct. 92.72 up .20. March feeders \$103 up 1.07; April \$105.97 up .87; May \$107.30 up 1.55 and Aug. \$109.17 up 1.42. March corn closed at \$3.54 down 1 and 1/2.

Crop Comments by Chuck Danehower

Ending stocks were raised 80 million bushels from February to 1.799 billion bushels, this was more than pre report guesses.

New Crop: The September contract closed at \$3.84, down \$0.10 a bushel for the week. Support is around \$3.78 with resistance at \$3.91 a bushel. The weak export numbers along with the increase in ending stocks in USDA's report have put a damper on prices. That level of carryover has lessened the need for price competition as the planting season approaches. Corn has a strong downward seasonal tendency for the month of April. However, it may garner some support from concerns on wet conditions causing a delay in corn planting. After the March 10 report I increased forward pricing 10% to 50% for 2010 production. I would continue to evaluate put options or other option strategies as part of a risk management plan.

Cotton:

Nearby: May futures closed at 80.47 cents/lb. down 1.96 cents/lb. for the week. Support is at 79.38, with resistance at 82.09 cents per pound. Weekly exports sales were 165,400 bales (131,900 bales of upland cotton for 09/10; 19,100 bales of upland cotton for 10/11; and 14,400 bales of Pima for 09/10). This was within the range of expectations. Equities for the 2009 crop have dropped back to the 15.50 cent range. Keep in contact with your cotton buyer for current quotes on loan equities. The Adjusted World Price for March 12 – March 18 is 68.21 cents/lb. USDA in its March report raised domestic cotton use 100,000 bales thus lowering ending stocks 100,000 bales to 3.2 million bales. Chinese production was only lowered slightly, not nearly as low as China's National Bureau of Statistics reported.

New Crop: The December futures contract closed at 75.62 cents/lb., up .53 cents/lb. for the week. Support is at 74.62 cents per pound, resistance at 76.10 cents per pound. Equities for the 2010 cotton were quoted in the 16 cent range. I would target the 76 – 78 cent area as a place to start forward pricing either through cash sales or booking cotton loan equities. Put options or option strategies should also be evaluated.

Soybeans:

Nearby: May futures closed at \$9.26 bushel, down \$0.17 bushel for the week. Support is at \$9.14 bushel, with resistance at \$9.42 a bushel. Weekly exports were less than expected with a net sales reduction of 1.9 million bushels (reduction of 4.3 million bushels for 2009/10 and sales of 2.4 million bushels for 2010/11. China accounted for the bulk of the cancellations and with the large South American crop being harvested, this was not completely unexpected. USDA lowered soybean ending stocks 20 million bushels from February to 190 million bushels which would be a three week supply. Production was lowered 2 million bushels from a resurvey of southeastern states while imports were increased 7 million bushels. Overall usage was increased 25 million bushels on a 5 million bushel cut in seed, a 20 million bushel increase in exports and a 10 million bushel increase in crush. World ending stocks were raised 35 million bushels from February to 2.23 billion bushels.

New Crop: The November contract closed at \$9.14 bushel, down \$0.11 a bushel this week. Support is at \$9.05 with resistance at \$9.25 bushel. Chinese cancellations this week were the cause of the decline in prices. Demand for soybeans in this marketing year

has been a record, but the market will need additional increases for prices to move up. The Prospective Plantings report will give some direction on acreage. If soybean acreage is up much over last year, then prices will struggle to rally in absence of weather problems. I am currently priced 15% for the 2010 soybean crop and would use a rally to \$9.50 - \$9.75 as a target to make catch up sales and increase pricing. If prices should drop back to \$9.00, I would use that as a signal to increase forward pricing.

Wheat:

Nearby: May futures contract closed at \$4.85 bushel, down \$0.08 for the week. Weekly exports were about expected at 16.5 million bushels with 15.0 million bushels in this marketing year and 1.5 million bushels in 2010/11 marketing year. USDA projected wheat ending stocks at 1 billion bushels on a 20 million bushel reduction in food use wheat. This would result is a stocks to use ratio of 50.4% and the highest ending stocks in 22 years. World ending stocks also increased to 7.23 billion bushels reflecting a plentiful supply.

New Crop: July futures closed at \$4.98 bushel, down \$0.08 for the week. Support is at \$4.92 with resistance at \$5.02 a bushel. In order for wheat prices to improve, they will continue to need help from corn, soybeans and outside markets. At this time, it appears that to improve fundamentals of supply and demand, supply through production will need to be reduced. I would currently have up to 20% of the 2010 wheat crop priced. I would expect lower prices at harvest, but I am hesitant to price more until we get a little further along in the wheat production year. Put options could be used to set a floor price and leave an upside. There are other option strategies that could lessen the cost of the put, but would require a margin account.

USDA U.S. 2009/10 Projected Supply & Demand (03/10/10)

	Wheat	Corn	Soybeans	Cotton
Planted (mil. acres)	59.1	86.5	77.5	9.15
Harvested (mil. acres)	49.9	79.6	76.4	7.69
Yield per acre	44.4 bu.	164.9 bu.	44.0 bu.	774 lbs.
Production (mil. bu. or bales)	2,216	13,131	3,359	12.4
Beg. Stocks	657	1,673	138	6.34
Imports	115	10	15	0.01
Supply	2,988	14,814	3,512	18.74
Total Domestic Use	1,162	11,115	1,902	3.50
Exports	825	1,900	1,420	12.0
Total Use	1,987	13,015	3,322	15.40
Ending Stocks(mil. bu. or bales)	1001	1,799	190	3.20
Projected Season Avg. Price	\$4.90 bu.	\$3.60 bu.	\$9.45 bu.	\$0.63 lb.
Stocks/Use	50.4%	13.8%	5.7 %	20.6%

PRICES ON 11 TENNESSEE REPORTED LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS (\$/cwt)

March 12, 2010

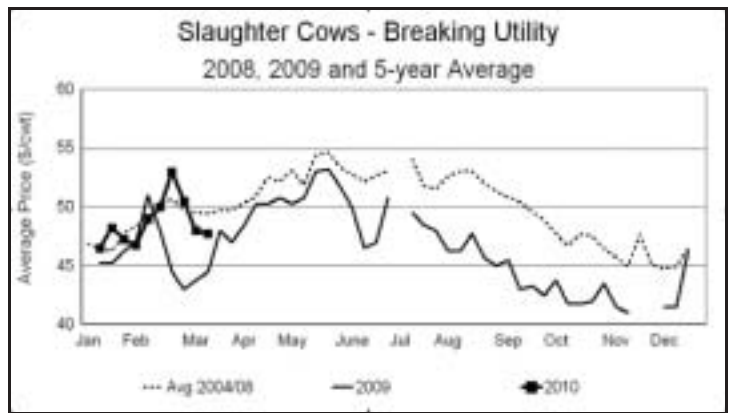
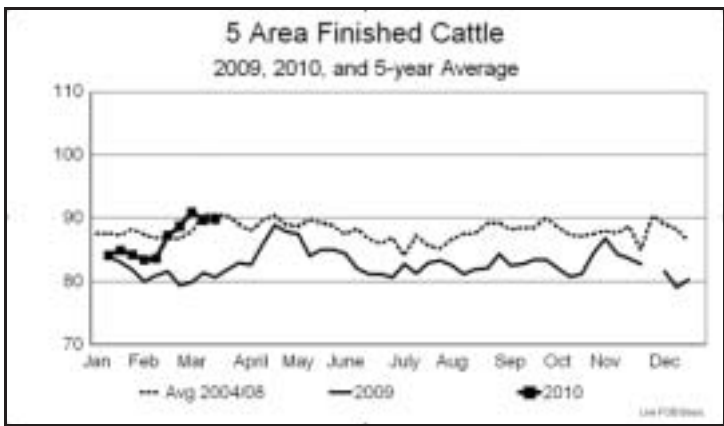
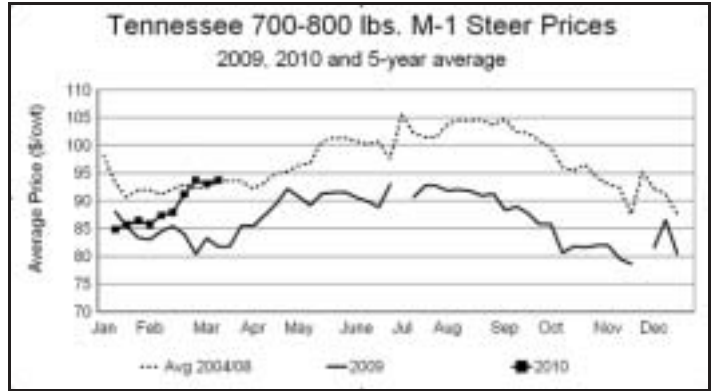
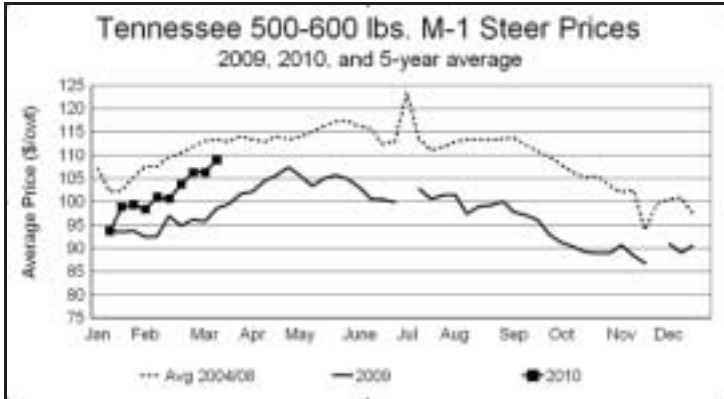
	This Week Low	This Week High	This Week Weighted Average	Last Week Weighted Average	Year Ago Weighted Average
<u>Steers: Medium/Large Frame #1-2</u>					
300-400 lbs.	108.00	136.00	121.85	120.53	107.20
400-500 lbs.	103.00	125.00	116.55	115.54	102.79
500-600 lbs.	97.50	122.50	108.98	106.27	98.59
600-700 lbs.	90.00	110.00	101.05	98.12	91.71
700-800 lbs.	81.00	100.00	93.73	93.09	81.74
<u>Steers: Small Frame #1-2</u>					
300-400 lbs.	91.00	120.00	110.04	99.21	94.87
400-500 lbs.	93.00	115.00	102.73	99.35	88.68
500-600 lbs.	86.00	92.00	89.13	-----	86.28
600-700 lbs.	80.00	83.00	81.03	81.50	77.18
<u>Steers: Medium/Large Frame #3</u>					
300-400 lbs.	95.00	124.00	111.62	109.39	99.20
400-500 lbs.	94.00	115.00	105.55	101.77	91.08
500-600 lbs.	85.00	108.00	95.99	95.31	86.29
600-700 lbs.	81.00	97.50	89.69	88.36	82.83
700-800 lbs.	83.00	93.00	86.36	89.37	74.99
<u>Holstein Steer</u>					
300-400 lbs.	58.00	90.00	82.84	74.13	69.88
500-600 lbs.	76.50	76.50	76.50	58.00	50.91
700-800 lbs.	54.00	65.00	60.98	67.00	56.50
<u>Slaughter Cows</u>					
Breaking Utility	43.00	52.50	47.75	48.00	44.50
Cutter & Boning	42.00	51.00	46.50	46.75	43.00
Canner	34.00	44.50	39.25	39.75	38.75
Bull YG 1-2	54.00	65.00	59.50	60.75	56.50
<u>Heifers: Medium/Large Frame #1-2</u>					
300-400 lbs.	92.50	115.00	103.91	102.51	90.51
400-500 lbs.	90.00	113.00	100.91	99.00	87.30
500-600 lbs.	84.50	106.00	110.11	93.87	81.20
600-700 lbs.	77.50	95.00	87.39	86.57	75.78
<u>Heifers: Small Frame #1</u>					
300-400 lbs.	70.00	96.00	86.67	86.83	77.06
400-500 lbs.	71.00	103.00	86.98	85.03	74.42
500-600 lbs.	69.00	86.00	80.93	82.62	71.89
600-700 lbs.	64.00	79.00	71.72	76.96	70.35
<u>Heifers: Medium/Large Frame #3</u>					
300-400 lbs.	85.00	107.00	93.66	94.71	83.59
400-500 lbs.	80.00	105.00	91.29	89.55	79.46
500-600 lbs.	74.00	97.00	86.80	84.80	73.74
600-700 lbs.	70.00	87.00	79.31	81.51	70.85

Cattle Receipts: This week: (11) 13,125

Week ago: (11) 10,750

Year ago: (11) 7,400

March 12, 2010



Average Daily Slaughter (number of head)

	This week (4 days)	Last week (4 days)	Year ago (4 days)	This week as percentage of Week ago (%)	Year ago (%)
Hogs	408,750	428,250	419,750	95%	97%
Cattle	121,250	122,000	120,500	99%	101%

USDA Box Beef Cutout Value (\$/cwt)

	Thursday	Week ago	Year ago	Change from week ago	Change from year ago
Choice 1 - 3					
600-900 #	149.07	150.09	136.02	-1.02	13.05
Select 1 - 3					
600-990 #	148.37	148.61	135.23	-0.24	13.14

FUTURES SETTLEMENT PRICES
Crops & Livestock
Friday, March 5, 2010 - Thursday, March 11, 2010

Commodity	Contract Month	Fri. 5	Mon. 8	Tues 9	Wed. 10	Thurs. 11
Soybeans (\$/bu)	Mar	9.35	9.40	9.41	9.52	9.25
	May	9.43	9.48	9.47	9.58	9.30
	Jul	9.50	9.56	9.56	9.65	9.39
	Aug	9.48	9.53	9.53	9.62	9.38
	Sep	9.35	9.41	9.38	9.47	9.25
	Nov	9.25	9.31	9.27	9.35	9.16
Corn (\$/bu)	Mar	3.65	3.64	3.59	3.55	3.55
	May	3.75	3.75	3.69	3.65	3.65
	Jul	3.86	3.86	3.80	3.76	3.76
	Sep	3.95	3.95	3.89	3.85	3.85
	Dec	4.02	4.03	3.97	3.95	3.95
	Mar	4.13	4.14	4.08	4.06	4.06
Wheat (\$/bu)	Mar	4.82	4.84	4.78	4.84	4.68
	May	4.93	4.95	4.89	4.91	4.79
	Jul	5.06	5.08	5.02	5.02	4.91
	Sep	5.20	5.23	5.18	5.13	5.08
	Dec	5.46	5.49	5.45	5.31	5.34
Soybean Meal (\$/ton)	Mar	256	260	259	259	250
	May	258	259	259	259	253
	Jul	259	259	259	259	253
	Aug	258	258	258	258	252
	Sep	256	257	255	255	250
	Oct	249	250	248	248	244
Cotton (\$/lb)	Mar	82.53	82.53	82.15	-----	-----
	May	82.43	82.43	82.04	80.21	78.77
	Jul	82.85	82.85	82.54	80.65	79.28
	Oct	76.55	76.55	76.34	76.79	76.38
	Dec	75.09	75.09	75.27	75.49	75.13
Choice Fed Cattle (\$/cwt)	Apr	92.95	94.20	94.40	93.87	93.82
	Jun	91.57	92.27	92.32	91.72	91.95
	Aug	90.20	90.85	90.75	89.82	90.15
	Oct	92.80	93.27	93.15	92.55	92.52
	Dec	94.45	95.20	94.92	94.30	94.27
Feeder Cattle (\$/cwt)	Mar	102.20	102.52	102.35	102.00	101.92
	Apr	105.22	106.00	106.02	105.02	105.10
	May	106.22	106.62	106.60	105.42	105.75
	Aug	108.20	109.12	108.87	107.65	107.75
	Sep	107.50	108.47	108.10	106.65	107.20
	Oct	107.50	107.95	107.90	106.87	107.02
Market Hogs (\$/cwt)	Apr	73.10	72.80	72.40	72.55	71.87
	May	79.02	78.80	77.92	78.05	77.25
	Jun	81.87	81.45	80.47	80.65	80.20
	Jul	81.95	81.80	80.72	80.75	80.17
	Aug	81.70	81.40	80.25	80.45	79.80

Milk Futures, Thursday , March 11, 2009 CME Futures

Month	Class III Close	Class IV Close
March	12.89	13.13
April	12.79	13.38
May	13.19	13.61
June	13.87	13.93
July	14.25	14.14

**Nashville, TN Wednesday, March 10, 2010 USDA-TN Dept Market News
Tennessee Video Board Sale and Graded Sale****3/9/10 Fayetteville (TLP)**

Receipts: 878 (469 Graded and Grouped)

Steers: Med & Lg 1-2	Heifers: Med & Lg 1-2
300-395 lbs	300-395 lbs 98.50-105.00
400-475 lbs 115.00-121.00	400-475 lbs 97.50-108.25
480-550 lbs 111.50-117.00	480-550 lbs 94.50-103.50
555-625 lbs 96.50-103.00	555-625 lbs 90.00-99.00
630-700 lbs 96.00-100.00	630-700 lbs 86.50-87.50
705-775 lbs 90.00-95.50	705-775 lbs 85.00-87.00

Bulls: Med & Lg 1-2
300-395 lbs 121.50-128.00
400-475 lbs 114.50-119.00
480-550 lbs 111.00
555-625 lbs 100.00-108.50
630-700 lbs 85.00-93.00
705-775 lbs 79.50

3/8/10 Cookeville - Graded Sale

Receipts: 885

Steers: Med and Lg 1	Heifers: Med & Lg 1
300-395 lbs 118.00-125.50	300-395 lbs 109.00
400-475 lbs 111.50-112.50	400-475 lbs 96.00-105.00
480-550 lbs 115.50-117.00	480-550 lbs 94.00-97.50
555-625 lbs 104.25-106.00	555-625 lbs 88.00-97.00
630-700 lbs 97.85-98.00	630-700 lbs 87.50-90.85
705-775 lbs 90.00-95.85	705-775 lbs 80.00-86.50
780-850 lbs 87.00-92.25	780-850 lbs 86.25

Steers: Med and Lg 2	Heifers: Med & Lg 2
300-395 lbs 116.00-119.50	300-395 lbs 96.00-98.00
400-475 lbs 111.00	400-475 lbs 94.00-95.00
480-550 lbs 108.00-109.00	480-550 lbs 92.50-97.00
555-625 lbs 94.75-107.00	555-625 lbs 92.00-95.00
630-700 lbs 99.00	630-700 lbs 78.00-84.50
705-775 lbs 91.25	
780-850 lbs 86.50-88.00	

3/5/10 Sweetwater- Graded Sale

Receipts: 694, Prices for Blk, Bwf and Cont X only

Steers: Med and Lg 1	Heifers: Med & Lg 1
400-450 lbs 125.00	400-450 lbs 98.00-100.00
450-500 lbs 109.00-124.00	450-500 lbs 98.00-98.50
500-550 lbs 107.00-120.00	500-550 lbs 94.50-102.25
550-600 lbs 106.50-115.00	550-600 lbs 90.00-99.50
600-700 lbs 98.10-103.10	600-700 lbs 87.50-90.50
700-800 lbs 94.70	700-800 lbs 79.50-84.50
800-900 lbs 86.00-89.50	800-900 lbs 75.00
900-1000 lbs 79.00-81.00	

Steers: Med & Lg 2	Heifers: Med & Lg 2
400-450 lbs 121.50	400-450 lbs 93.00-98.00
450-500 lbs 107.50-117.00	450-500 lbs 105.00
500-550 lbs 107.00-108.50	500-550 lbs 91.50-99.00
550-600 lbs 99.50-102.50	550-600 lbs 80.00-96.50
600-700 lbs 92.50-94.50	600-700 lbs 78.00-87.00
700-800 lbs 89.00-92.50	700-800 lbs 75.00-79.50

3/5/2010 Lower Middle TN. Cattle Assoc. Video Board Sale Columbia TN.

(Delivery current through March, 0-2% shrink and \$4.00-5.00/cwt slide)

Total Receipts: 805

Steers Medium and Large 1 few 2	Heifers Medium and Large 1 few 2
45 Hd 715 lbs 98.20 TN	1 Ld 730 lbs 88.70 TN
61 Hd 750 lbs 97.90 TN	
54 Hd 800 lbs 95.00 TN	
4 Lds 800-830 lbs 93.75-95.50 TN	
3 Lds 885-900 lbs 90.35-94.50 TN	

Mixed Group Medium and Large 1 few 2 (heifers \$6 back steers)

28 steers 850 lbs, 28 heifers 800 lbs 90.25 TN
 31 steers 730 lbs, 14 heifers 600 lbs 95.00 TN

BLUEGRASS INTERNET SALE MARCH 10, 2010

72 head of mixed heifers, 725 lbs, \$88.25
 59 head of steers, bbwf, 820 lbs, 92.95
 62 head of steers, black, chax, 800 lbs, \$94.00
 55 head of holsteins, 935 lbs, \$73.50

HARDIN COUNTY STOCKYARD MARCH 10, 2010

68 head of steers, 725 lbs, \$100.50
 64 head of steers, 775 lbs, \$97.00
 108 head of steers, 920 lbs, \$90.85
 80 head of heifers, 725 lbs, \$91.00

EAST TENNESSEE LIVESTOCK CENTER MARCH 10, 2010

92 head of heifers, 540 lbs, \$97.80
 71 head of heifers, 700 lbs, \$90.75

JANUARY	5 12 13 15 15 19 26	FAYETTEVILLE FAYETTEVILLE MCMINNVILLE COLUMBIA SWEETWATER FAYETTEVILLE FAYETTEVILLE	TLP (TN LIVESTOCK PROD) TLP (TN LIVESTOCK PROD) WARREN CO. LIVESTOCK VIDEO BOARD SALE FEEDER CALF SALE - PREMIUM TLP (TN LIVESTOCK PROD) TLP (TN LIVESTOCK PROD)
FEBRUARY	2 3 4 8 9 12 16 18 23	FAYETTEVILLE MCMINNVILLE NEWPORT COOKEVILLE FAYETTEVILLE SWEETWATER FAYETTEVILLE ATHENS FAYETTEVILLE	TLP WARREN COUNTY LIVESTOCK HODGE VIDEO SALE CBBA TLP HOLSTEIN STEER TLP FEEDER CALF SALE TLP
MARCH	2 3 4 5 5 8 9 12 16 18 19 23 29 30	FAYETTEVILLE MCMINNVILLE NEWPORT COLUMBIA SWEETWATER COOKEVILLE FAYETTEVILLE SWEETWATER FAYETTEVILLE ATHENS SWEETWATER FAYETTEVILLE COLUMBIA FAYETTEVILLE	TLP WARREN COUNTY LIVESTOCK HODGE VIDEO SALE VIDEO BOARD SALE FEEDER CALF SALE CBBA TLP HOLSTEIN STEER TLP PRECONDITION SALE FEEDER CALF SALE PREMIUM TLP MULTI-COUNTY PC SALE TLP
APRIL	1 2 2 6 7 12 13 20 22 27	NEWPORT COLUMBIA SWEETWATER FAYETTEVILLE MCMINNVILLE COOKEVILLE FAYETTEVILLE FAYETTEVILLE ATHENS FAYETTEVILLE	HODGE VIDEO SALE VIDEO BOARD SALE HOLSTEIN STEER TLP WARREN COUNTY LIVESTOCK CBBA TLP TLP PRECONDITION SALE TLP
MAY	4 5 6 7 7 11 18 25	FAYETTEVILLE MCMINNVILLE NEWPORT COLUMBIA SWEETWATER FAYETTEVILLE FAYETTEVILLE FAYETTEVILLE	TLP WARREN COUNTY LIVESTOCK HODGE VIDEO SALE VIDEO BOARD SALE HOLSTEIN STEER SALE TLP TLP TLP

JUNE	1	FAYETTEVILLE	TLP
	2	MCMINNVILLE	WARREN COUNTY LIVESTOCK
	3	NEWPORT	HODGE VIDEO SALE
	4	COLUMBIA	VIDEO BOARD SALE
	4	SWEETWATER	FEEDER CALF- PREMIUM
	8	FAYETTEVILLE	TLP
	15	FAYETTEVILLE	TLP
	17	ATHENS	PRECONDITION SALE
	22	FAYETTEVILLE	TLP
	29	FAYETTEVILLE	TLP

* Athens Internet vide sales 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month.

* Hodge Livestock Network in Newport video sale the 1st Thursday of the month.

****The following news summary is from the National Livestock Producers Association**
for more information please go to www.NLPA.org**

Obituary: Dave Mitchell, Long-time Manager of Sioux City Producers (Sioux City Journal, 3/10) -- David F. Mitchell, 92, of Sioux City died Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at Holy Spirit Retirement Home. A gathering of family and friends will be 1 p.m. Thursday at Nelson-Berger Northside Chapel. Condolences may be sent online to

meyerbroshapels.com. Memorials in David's name may be made to Holy Spirit Retirement Home and Hospice of Siouxland

USDA Veterinarian Reveals Slaughterhouse Violations (USA Today, 3/5) -- Department of Agriculture officials failed to act on reports of illegal and unsafe slaughterhouse practices, letting suspect operations continue despite public health risks, a USDA veterinarian alleges in testimony to be aired today at a congressional hearing. The charges by Dean Wyatt, a supervisory veterinarian at the USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service, detail instances in which he and other inspectors were overruled when citing slaughterhouses for violations such as shocking and butchering days-old calves that were too weak or sick to stand. He also describes being threatened with transfer or demotion after citing a plant for butchering conscious pigs, despite rules that they first be stunned and unconscious.

USDA Outlines New Strategy to Boost Ag Exports (Meatingplace.com, 3/8) -- Delivering the keynote speech Friday at the 2010 Commodity Classic in Anaheim, Calif., Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said USDA will focus efforts on increasing exports to strengthen the American agriculture economy and outlined a plan to achieve that goal. Vilsack's announcement follows the State of the Union address in which President Obama announced a National Export Initiative to help rebuild the economy by increasing export opportunities. The plan announced today will help achieve Obama's goal of doubling all U.S. exports in the next five years, USDA said.

USDA and Department of Justice Announce Updated Schedule for Agriculture Workshop on March 12 in Iowa (USDA, 3/10) -- The Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced today an updated schedule and panelists for the first joint public workshop, which will be held on March 12, 2010, in Ankeny, Iowa, to explore competition and regulatory issues in the agriculture industry. The workshop will be held at the FFA Enrichment Center at Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC). The workshops, which were first announced by Attorney General Eric Holder and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack on Aug. 5, 2009, are the first joint Department of Justice/USDA workshops ever to be held to discuss competition and regulatory issues in the agriculture industry. The goals of the workshops are to promote dialogue among interested parties and foster learning with respect to the appropriate legal and economic analyses of these issues, as well as to listen to and learn from parties with experience in the agriculture sector. Attendance at the workshops is free and open to the public. The general public and media interested in attending the initial workshop should register at <https://go.dmacc.edu/ffa/agworkshop>.

Harkin Pushing Food Safety Act (National Meat Assn., 3/8) -- Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) said last week that, if all goes well, the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, S. 510, will be "on the President's desk by May." Harkin is chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), which unanimously approved this bill in November just after the House passed a version of it. Since then the legislation has been stuck on the far side of the health care debate.

Lummis Introduced EAJA Legislation (American Sheep Industry Assn., 3/5) -- In a letter to Rep. Cynthia Lummis (Wyo.), Glen Fisher, president of the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), commended the congresswoman for her introduction of the "Open Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) of 2010."

"This legislation is critical to the future of a productive sheep industry in America," said Fisher. "This particularly affects the Intermountain West where land managers and operators are stalled in the bureaucratic and judicial arena by undue scrutiny of public land grazing by activist groups."

Lummis, along with Reps. Stephanie Herseth Sandlin (S.D.) and Rob Bishop (Utah), introduced the bill that seeks to re-instate oversight and transparency measures for payments made to organizations through the EAJA. At its 2010 convention, ASI's board of directors passed a resolution supporting stringent oversight of the EAJA award process, detailed accounting and fair distribution of funds.

Farm Bureau Urges Passage of Business Relief Act (American Farm Bureau Federation, 3 / 4) -- The American Farm Bureau Federation is urging the Senate to promptly pass a bill that includes many important farm-related tax relief provisions that expired at the end of 2009. The American Workers, State, and Business Relief Act also includes renewable energy tax incentives, provisions to maintain vital rural health care services and emergency disaster assistance.

Amish Farmer Wins Fight Over Registering Livestock (Marshfield News Herald, 3/10) -- An Amish livestock farmer who refused to follow a 2005 Wisconsin law requiring him to register his land and livestock has won a legal battle with state regulators. Clark County Circuit Judge Jon Counsell on Tuesday ruled in favor of Emanuel Miller Jr., of Loyal, who was accused of violating the law meant to help regulators track animal diseases. Some Amish say the tracking system would amount to the "mark of the beast" mentioned in the Bible as being related to Satan. Counsell determined that the state did not show why alternatives that would not affect Miller's religious freedom would not be just as effective.

Johanns Speaks on Japan's Ban on U.S. Beef (www.johanns.senate.gov, 3/5) -- In a meeting today with Japanese Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki, Sen. Mike Johanns continued to push for Japan to lift its partial ban on U.S. beef. Johanns highlighted the inconsistency between Japan's continued ban on safe U.S. beef and beef products compared to America's fair treatment of Japan after reports of faulty Toyota vehicles and parts.

"The Japanese ban on U.S. beef has devastated our beef industry and many producers throughout Nebraska for almost seven years," Johanns said. "Japan's position, for which there is absolutely no scientific justification, has cost American producers billions of dollars and created a double standard that defies rationalization. I am not suggesting any sort of ban on Japanese products; I am asserting that the Japanese ban on American beef is entirely unfair, without merit, and should be lifted immediately."

Russia to Resume U.S. Pork Imports (Pork, 3 / 4) -- Russia will gradually lift import bans on U.S. pork plants after Washington agreed to observe Russian food safety rules, according to Reuters. Russia had banned imports claiming antibiotic residues were found in the meat they were receiving. A new export verification program provides rules under which U.S. processors may prove the meat for export is free of the antibiotics prohibited by Russia. Sergei Dankvert, head of a Russian watchdog group, said Russia had agreed to reopen its market to pork from banned U.S. plants after Washington met Moscow's food safety demands.

U.S. Bone-in Beef Returns to Taiwan (Cattlemen's Beef Board, 3/8) -- U.S. bone-in beef made a splashy return to Taiwan last week at a trade reception and products show for 80 guests representing importers, restaurateurs, retailers and the trade at the five-star Sherwood Taipei Hotel. Funded by the Texas Beef Council, the beef checkoff and USDA Market Access Program (MAP) funds, the Feb. 25 event highlighted the versatility of U.S. beef, which was featured in Chinese-style dishes along with Thai-style chuck tender salad, braised chuck short ribs, baked garlic flavored bone-in short ribs and OP ribs.

Beef checkoff investments continue to build on the popularity and quality of U.S. beef to continue growing market share and establish long-term purchasing loyalty. Taiwan ranked among the leading destinations for U.S. beef exports in 2009, importing a total of 27,257 metric tons (60 million pounds) of beef muscle cuts and variety meat valued at more than \$141 million. While the volume of imports remained level with 2008, the value of the imports rose 11 percent.

Livestock Producers Will Lead U.S. Ag Recovery, FAPRI tells Congress (Drovers, 3/9) -- Livestock producers will lead a recovery in U.S. agriculture over the next two years as the broader economy improves and demand for beef, pork and dairy products increases, University of Missouri researchers told Congress. Net farm income in 2010 is expected to jump 18 percent from 2009, to \$66.5 billion, primarily because of the outlook for higher livestock prices, the Food and Agricultural Policy Research Institute, known as MU FAPRI, said in a report to the House and Senate agriculture committees.

Lawmakers Approve More Privacy For Feed Lots (Cattle Network, 3/9) -- Cattle feed lot operators are hoping lawmakers will restrict public access to manure management reports, comparing their waste handling strategies to trade secrets worthy of protection from competitors. The Senate Agricultural Affairs Committee approved a measure 6-2 Tuesday that would keep the curious from routine feed lot inspection reports. The reports by the Department of Agriculture are done once or twice a year and available to the public upon request. Idaho Cattle Association representative Rick Stott said information like the number of cows owned or how manure is disposed or treated could become a competitive advantage to other operators. The Idaho Conservation League's Courtney Washburn opposes the bill. She says making inspection reports confidential would prevent the public from tracking the state's efforts to regulate the industry and protect the environment.

The "Red List" (Cattlemen's Beef Board, 3/8) -- Antibiotic use in farm animals is a hot topic that should be of concern to all of us in the livestock business. There is a rising level of scrutiny by government regulators, the media and the general public about the use of antibiotics and antimicrobials in animal agriculture. We can expect the intensity of the debate to increase during the months ahead.

There is a list called the FSIS Residue Violation Information System List that all of us in animal agriculture should all be aware of. The list which no responsible livestock producer should be on can be [viewed here](#). The 110-page list includes almost 900 names of producers and dozens of business that have purchased their cattle. Not only does this list present a negative image for the cattle industry, it is a target for increased scrutiny from industry critics. We must eliminate antibiotic residues in food animals and make this list go away. This is an issue that must be taken seriously. The reputation of individual producers and the entire livestock industry is on the line.

Central Livestock Virtual Market Tour (Central Livestock, 3/10) -- Central Livestock is pleased to release the first Virtual Market Tour of the Zumbrota market. As a member-owned cooperative, Central Livestock holds fall delegate meetings each year to gain input, and this project was inspired from these meetings, and approved by the Central Livestock Board of Directors. The Virtual Market Tour details the entire process of marketing livestock at the auction market, including loading, office, auction ring, and pens. It also gives a closer look at the new improvements, such as roofs, pens, waterers, and rain gutter system, which were recently completed at the Zumbrota market. Furthermore, the Virtual Market Tour displays safe and careful animal handling as a means to show positive images of animal agriculture.

The Zumbrota Virtual Market Tour is the first of the Central Livestock markets to be completed, with the other markets to be completed mid-year, with all to be displayed on the website. Visit <http://www.centrallivestock.com/> and click on Virtual Market Tour to view the first Central Livestock Virtual Market Tour of the Zumbrota market.

Pork Producers Concerned with Traceability (Brownfield Network, 3/8) -- At the recent Pork Industry Forum in Kansas City, pork producers expressed concern about USDA's decision to abandon efforts to establish a National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The Nebraska delegation was successful in introducing and gaining passage of a resolution encouraging producers and states to continue to use nationally standardized premises ID numbers as part of animal ID methods and movement records. Beethe says having that consistency among states is important. A separate resolution passed by NPPC delegates urges USDA to require all states to develop species specific systems within the new disease traceability network. It says each species group should be permitted to develop its own ID system and that USDA should permit species groups to have mandatory systems if producers within a group approve such a plan.

The National Swine Identification Plan has succeeded in registering more than 85 percent of swine premises in the U.S. Delegates urged its adoption to ensure compatibility and consistency among states.

Linden Man, 44, Rejects Plea Deal in Cattle Scheme (Recordnet.com, 3/9) -- A Linden man charged with swindling actor Kiefer Sutherland and others in a cattle deal will take his chances in a jury trial rather than accept a deal of seven years, eight months in state prison, a prosecutor said Monday. Yet, the attorney for 44-year-old Michael Wayne Carr said his client is guilty of nothing more than making bad business choices. Like many people these days, Carr fell victim to hard times, Woodbridge attorney Randy Thomas said.

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