Wilson County Agricultural Article from Ruth Correll, Agricultural Extension Agent

Cattle Market Continues To Be Strong

The cattle market continues to be strong. We have not experienced a down side to the market in quite some time. Cattle producers continue to remark on the record prices they are receiving. Someone recently said that if cattle producers cannot realize a profit currently then they really need to explore another enterprise. Dr. Andrew Griffith, UT Extension Agricultural Economist, had the following words of wisdom for cattle producers regarding the summer marketing of cattle.

“As the summer heat begins to set in, cattle marketing is expected to begin slowing. Some of the reduction in cattle marketing is due to other farm work taking precedence over corralling cattle while some of it is due to the shear heat and humidity.

The total revenue received from the sale of an animal is based on the price and the weight. As temperatures rise, calves and feeder cattle tend to experience increased shrink or loss of body weight in the early stages of the marketing process. Thus, producers should consider the increased potential for weight loss during the marketing process in summer months relative to months with more moderate temperatures. If marketing must be done in the summer then producers may want to consider corralling and transporting cattle in the early morning hours to reduce stress caused by high temperatures.

In addition to feeder cattle, the marketing of slaughter cows and bulls is generally in a summer lull which supports prices in May and June. Slaughter cow prices have been fairly strong this year, but they lost some momentum this week that could easily cost a producer $30 to $50 a head. Producers with plans to market older and less productive cows may want to consider doing that in the near future as slaughter cow prices seasonally decline through the end of summer and through the fall time period.

Feeder cattle marketed in load lots in Tennessee continue to command a strong price as steers weighing between 800 and 960 pounds brought $1,750 to $1,900 per head. Similarly, load lots of heifers weighing between 770 and 835 pounds brought $1,610 to $1,715 per head. These types of prices are resulting in tight margins for cattle feeders and in many cases are resulting in projections of negative margins. Cattle feeders feed cattle and they will continue to do so. However, they could start applying pressure to the feeder cattle market and will likely do so as soon as feeder cattle supply begins to expand.”

Agricultural Market Summary
Cattle Market Trends
Feeder steers unevenly steady, $184.00-$356.00; Feeder heifers steady to $1 higher, $176.00-$325.00; Slaughter cows $3 lower, $91.00-$115.50; Slaughter bulls $5 lower, $125.00-$150.00.
**Grain Market Trends**
Corn and wheat were down; soybeans were mixed for the week. Corn – cash price, $3.58-$4.05. July futures closed at $3.53 a bushel, down 7 cents. Soybeans – cash price, $9.27-$9.89. July futures closed at $9.40 a bushel, up 3 cents. Wheat – cash price, $5.03-$5.35. July futures closed at $5.03 a bushel, down 14 cents.

**TN Goat and Sheep Market Report**
Goats – Slaughter kids, $$150.00-$240.0; Yearlings, $120.00-$168.00; Slaughter bucks, $100.00-$139.00; Slaughter nannies, $100.00-$135.00; Feeder kids, $140.00-$201.00.
Sheep – Slaughter lambs, choice & prime - $110.00-$207.00, good - $130.00-$161.00; Slaughter ewes, $65.50-$106.00; Slaughter rams, $75.00-$78.00.

For additional information on these and other topics, contact the UT Extension Office, 925 East Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, TN 37087, 615-444-9584 or acorrell@utk.edu. UT Extension provides equal opportunities in all programs. Visit the UT/TSU Extension webpage at http://utextension.tennessee.edu/wilson or look for UT & TSU Extension, Wilson County on Facebook.

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