

Livestock Market News

Federal-State Market News, P.O. Box 391
Little Rock, AR 72203, (501) 671-2200

Week Ending November 20, 2009

No report next week due to Thanksgiving Holiday. Next report will be December 4, 2009.

11/13/09-11/19/09	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	FEEDER CALVES	YEAR-LINGS	STOCK COWS	SLAUGHTER COWS	SLAUGHTER BULLS
MARKET	1584	2198	NR	1080	300	30	154	20
SPRINGDALE (F)	1713	2633	1633	1095	400	75	125	18
ASH FLAT (F)	NR	NR	366					
OLA (F)	403	702	NR	282	32	50	30	9
HEBER SPRINGS (M)	NR	NR	1051					
FT. SMITH (M)	946	895	1338	750	95	40	53	8
CONWAY (TU)	391	409	402	195	35	100	50	11
POCAHONTAS (TU)	NR	NR	349					
RATCLIFF (W)	798	NR	1056	444	172	125	50	7
CHARLOTTE (W)	885	2571	2057	600	158	25	94	8
GREEN FOREST (W)	1142	1883	1568	590	329	45	162	16
HOPE (TH)	588	780	1033	450	50	30	50	8
GLENWOOD (TH)	NR	NR	786					
OZARK (TH)	1329	1939	NR	869	250	100	90	20
SILOAM SPRINGS (TH)								

	THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	YEAR AGO	FEEDER CALVES	YEAR-LINGS	STOCK COWS	SLAUGHTER COWS	SLAUGHTER BULLS
THIS WEEK	9780			6355	1820	620	860	125
LAST WEEK		14010		9085	2625	825	1320	155
YEAR AGO			12952	7905	3470	530	930	115
YEAR TO DATE	2009		430519	258655	103915	26125	36810	4925
YEAR TO DATE	2008		373050	214490	92350	24420	36830	4655

PRICE TREND: Compared to last week: Slaughter cows sold 1.00 lower. Slaughter bulls sold steady to 1.00 lower. Feeder steers sold unevenly, weights under 550 lbs sold 1.00-3.00 higher, over 550 lbs sold steady to 3.00 lower. Feeder heifers sold mostly steady to 1.00 higher.

Following prices are for Medium and Large 1, feeder cattle, mostly English and exotic crosses in normal flesh and fill. They comprised about 40-45 percent of the feeder cattle receipts. 2 s discounted \$5-\$10, 3s discounted \$10-\$20, and Small frame discounted \$15-\$25.

FEEDER STEERS	Price Range	Weighted Average Price		
	This Week	This Week	Last Sale	Year Ago
300-350 lbs.	105.00- 130.00	116.77	113.30	120.77
350-400 lbs.	103.00- 125.00	112.33	109.32	114.09
400-450 lbs.	95.00- 120.00	106.69	106.91	107.22
450-500 lbs.	86.00- 111.00	100.81	99.99	98.47
500-550 lbs.	85.00- 108.50	95.84	94.96	96.34
550-600 lbs.	82.50- 100.00	91.78	93.48	90.48
600-650 lbs.	82.50- 95.00	87.82	90.42	86.89
650-700 lbs.	90.50- 91.50	85.76	87.53	85.28
700-750 lbs.	80.00- 92.00	89.07	88.34	84.56
750-800 lbs.	NA- NA	NA	85.00	85.33
FEEDER HEIFERS				
300-350 lbs.	81.00- 104.00	94.97	90.60	92.50
350-400 lbs.	77.00- 104.00	89.88	90.22	90.65
400-450 lbs.	77.00- 99.00	88.31	87.51	85.46
450-500 lbs.	75.00- 94.00	85.79	85.65	84.37
500-550 lbs.	75.00- 90.00	84.40	83.51	81.06
550-600 lbs.	72.50- 88.00	81.90	81.07	81.38
600-650 lbs.	70.00- 84.50	78.67	79.75	80.79
650-700 lbs.	72.50- 84.00	80.01	79.60	75.92
700-750 lbs.	71.50- 82.00	78.46	78.54	77.52
750-800 lbs.	70.00- 78.00	75.37	NA	76.35

	This Week	Last Sale	Year Ago
REPLACEMENT COWS			
Open/short-bred	43.00- 53.00	45.00- 55.00	45.00- 55.00
Third Stage	53.00- 63.00	55.00- 65.00	54.00- 64.00
PAIRS			
Small calves	750.00- 850.00	700.00- 800.00	700.00- 800.00
Large calves	850.00- 950.00	800.00- 900.00	900.00- 1000.00
SLAUGHTER COWS			
Boners	34.00- 40.00	35.00- 41.00	39.00- 45.00
Lean	32.00- 38.00	33.00- 39.00	34.00- 40.00
SLAUGHTER BULLS			
1000-2100 lbs.	45.00- 54.00	46.00- 54.00	50.00- 57.00

MARKET SITUATION AND OUTLOOK: According to Darrell R. Mark, Ph.D., Assoc. Professor, Department of Agricultural Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln: The historically slow pace of harvest for the 2009 corn crop is well documented, and the situation is creating risk and uncertainty for livestock producers. As of November 15, USDA estimated that 54% of the corn crop was harvested, compared to the previous 5-year average of 89%. Relatively good harvesting conditions last week and this week are dramatically advancing harvest progress, but many key corn growing states are lagging even farther behind than the national averages imply. Illinois is 43 percentage points below its average pace, Nebraska is 38 points below, South Dakota is 55 points below, and North Dakota is an astounding 66 percentage points below its average harvest pace for this time of year.

While wet weather and resulting wet ground conditions in October and November are most responsible for the slow harvest pace, several other factors are tending to slow harvest. This year's corn crop has not dried down very well due to this fall's weather conditions and late planting last spring. The corn isn't just a few points above the 15% level (considered dry) either. Numerous anecdotal reports will find corn moisture levels between 19-25% across the entire corn belt. Until just the last week, it was still possible to harvest high moisture corn (25-35%) to ensile for cattle feed in areas of Nebraska. As a result, both on-farm and commercial drying capacity is strained to its maximum. Long lines at elevators evidence that many farmers are only able to harvest a few thousand bushels per day. The wet conditions have made it difficult to do much more than that anyway: in many cases, wagons, trucks, and grain carts can't be brought into the fields for fear of getting them stuck in mud. This inconvenience further slows harvest. As if these problems aren't enough, many areas are finding corn with molds, mycotoxins, or other disease problems that could result in rejection or substantial quality discounts (particularly if it is above thresholds safe for livestock consumption).

So, where does all this leave livestock feeders? With a lot of uncertainty. The recent rally in corn prices associated with the late harvest have been largely unexpected for livestock feeders. While it does seem less likely with each passing day, I think there is still a reasonable probability to see a modest drop in corn prices and basis levels yet during this harvest season. December 2009 corn futures posted a low on September 21 at \$3.16/bu. By October 23, it had rallied over \$4.00/bu and continues to test that level this week. While the "harvest low" was likely that brief drop in the third week of September, some pull back on prices is likely as harvest supplies pressure prices. USDA last week projected the national yield at 162.9 bu/acre, which, if realized, would be the highest yield on record. And, with 86.4 million acres, expected production at 12.921 billion bushels would be the second highest on record. With final yield estimates not available until January, there is still time for total corn production to "grow." More probable than a price drop, though, is pressure on basis. The large, high moisture crop is already causing bottlenecks with drying capacity, and ground piles of corn are starting to emerge across the Western Corn Belt. As those things occur, basis typically weakens, which is beneficial to cattle feeders and other corn buyers. Omaha, NE corn basis has already dropped from around -\$0.15/bu in mid-October to -\$0.32/bu this week.

Despite prices remaining higher than expected, other unique things about this year's corn crop do give cattle feeders an advantage over other corn buyers (including pork and poultry producers). High moisture levels in corn have given many cattle feeders an opportunity to source more high-moisture corn to ensile than in recent years. In many instances earlier in the corn harvest, cattle feeders were the best market (likely the only market) available for high moisture corn. Hog and poultry growers and ethanol producers would not have been able to handle large volumes of high moisture corn like Northern Plains cattle feeders can. The possible presence of mold or mycotoxins in this year's corn crop, while never a good thing, could put cattle feeders ahead of other livestock feeders for some infected corn because safe feeding tolerance levels are higher for cattle than other species (producers should consult their nutritionist and veterinarian before feeding grain with any mycotoxins or mold). A final aspect of this year's crop that may help the cattle feeder is a larger than normal movement of cash corn next March. This fall, a lot of corn is going into on-farm storage without being fully dried down to 15% moisture. Aeration systems will use natural air drying to preserve corn during the cold winter months, but warming temperatures next spring will likely lead to mold problems and corn going out of conditions in grain bins, thus spurring farmer selling of corn.

FUTURES CLOSES

	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THU	YEAR
11/13/09-11/19/09	13	16	17	18	19	AGO

Feeder Cattle - CME

Nov-09	93.15	93.10	93.15	92.95	93.03	94.80
Jan-10	92.58	92.38	92.78	91.73	91.83	89.75
Mar-10	93.60	93.30	93.65	92.93	92.85	90.35
Apr-10	94.55	94.35	94.80	94.03	94.00	90.50

Live Cattle - CME

Dec-09	83.33	83.58	84.08	83.08	83.68	85.80
Feb-10	85.15	85.13	85.65	84.98	85.38	86.53
Apr-10	87.70	87.55	88.05	87.88	87.88	87.45
Jun-10	84.73	84.58	82.13	84.80	84.88	83.50

Lean Hogs - CME

Dec-09	55.00	54.95	56.40	56.45	55.98	56.80
Feb-10	61.85	62.35	63.98	64.23	63.28	64.67
Apr-10	66.75	67.20	68.10	67.85	67.35	71.25
May-10	71.48	71.73	72.95	72.50	72.33	78.80

Corn - CBOT

Dec-09	3.90	4.02	4.02	3.98	3.95	3.64
Mar-10	4.06	4.18	4.18	4.14	4.11	3.80
May-10	4.16	4.28	4.27	4.24	4.21	3.91

CASH MARKETS

	FRI	MON	TUE	WED	THU	Year
	13	16	17	18	19	Ago

5 Area Wkly Accumulated, Negotiated, Dir Sltr Cattle Wtd Avg

Steers, Beef Breeds						
Live Basis	83.68	83.68	NA	80.69	82.77	87.80
Dressed Basis	131.18	131.17	129.00	129.83	130.04	139.53
Heifers, Beef Breeds						
Live Basis	83.93	83.91	NA	80.64	82.97	87.70
Dressed Basis	131.33	131.34	NA	129.86	130.07	139.73
Beef Cut-Outs						
Choice 600-900 lbs	139.42	140.40	140.55	140.75	139.61	157.79
Select 600-900 lbs	132.19	132.37	132.79	132.12	132.07	146.15
Cutter Cow	101.32	101.54	100.11	99.72	100.32	106.23
Beef Kill (000)	118	124	124	121	120	128
Hide & Offal Value						
Per cwt Live	9.14	9.14	9.27	9.25	9.43	8.54

Iowa-So. Minnesota Direct Hog, wgt'd.avg., plant del., carcass basis

	52.24	51.45	50.48	50.59	50.68	50.24
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U.S. Slaughter Sow Report (Plant del. price live)

300-450 lbs	39.53	41.18	40.64	40.79	40.60	31.94
450-500 lbs	42.87	44.68	44.39	44.19	44.43	40.49
500-550 lbs	43.88	45.02	45.22	45.14	46.09	45.74
550 lbs & up	44.81	46.30	45.83	46.23	47.42	45.77

Souix Falls Ter Mkt

Barrows & Gilts	37.50	NA	38.00	NA	37.00	37.50
Boars over 300 lbs	12.00	NA	18.00	16.00	16.00	14.00

200 lb Pork Cut-Out

53-54% Lean	57.38	57.66	58.33	56.79	56.94	56.67
Hog Kill (000)	413	431	433	432	435	436

Lambs-Midwest

	NA	120.00	96.00	107.00	120.00	98.00
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Goats

	AL	PA	TX	TN	NC	
Billies (125 lbs)	NA	115.25	97.50	78.00	106.00	100.50
Nannies (95 lbs)	NA	69.50	58.50	65.00	80.50	66.25

Kids Sec. 1 (55 lbs)	99.50	121.75	138.00	133.25	132.00	147.00
Broilers-Georgia	82.25	82.25	82.25	82.00	82.00	86.75

Turkeys-Eastern

8-16 lb Hens	85.50	86.50	87.00	87.00	87.00	89.00
16-22 lb Toms	87.00	87.00	87.00	87.00	87.00	88.00

SOUTHERN DIRECT SLAUGHTER COW AND BULL CARCASS REPORT (\$/CWT.)

PLANT DELIVERED DATE: Thursday, November 19, 2009

Compared previous report: Lean cows were 4.00 lower; Boner cows were 4.00-5.00 lower; Breakers were 2.00-5.00 lower; Bulls were 2.00-4.00 lower.

SLAUGHTER COW CARCASSES

	Lean	Boners	Breakers	SLAUGHTER BULL CARCASSES	
	90% Lean	85% Lean	75% Lean		92% Lean
500 lbs & up	80.00-90.00	76.00-87.00	66.00-77.00	600 lbs & up	90.00-102.00
400-500 lbs	78.00-86.00	74.00-83.00	64.00-73.00	under 600 lbs*	84.00-92.00
350-400 lbs	75.00-82.00	70.00-80.00	60.00-70.00	*includes low yielding and fat bulls	
300-350 lbs	70.00-78.00	66.00-75.00	56.00-65.00		
200-300 lbs	60.00-68.00				

Oklahoma National Stockyards, Oklahoma City, OK.

Weekly Weighted Average Summary for Week of 11/16/2009.

Receipts This Week: 12,373 Last Week: 15,418 Year Ago: 15,460

Compared to last week: Feeder cattle lightly tested and steady to 2.00 lower. Steer and heifer calves steady to 2.00 higher.

Feeder Steers Medium and Large 1

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
32	310-333	315	120.00-123.00	120.69
72	353-384	375	121.00-126.50	124.74
53	401-420	413	117.50-124.50	120.96
180	453-496	474	108.00-116.00	112.46
274	501-548	526	103.00-112.50	108.40
135	552-590	572	96.00-105.50	99.10
97	615-640	625	94.25-96.00	94.57
326	652-698	679	92.75-96.25	94.43
113	705-744	724	92.50-95.00	93.87
64	754-787	770	92.50-93.00	92.66
20	851-855	852	89.00-90.10	89.93

Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 1

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
44	350-393	378	93.50-102.00	95.32
45	422-447	433	94.00-100.50	97.73
258	459-488	472	94.00-100.50	98.52
162	501-539	524	88.00-97.00	93.71
177	550-598	568	85.00-90.10	86.47
107	666-698	677	85.50-88.25	87.38
71	715-724	720	86.75-87.50	87.18

West Plains- Ozarks Regional Stockyards

Feeder Cattle Weighted Average Report for 11/17/2009

Receipts: 2200 Last Week: 4834 Year Ago: 4433

Compared to last week, steers and heifers sold steady to 2.00 lower, although heavy 6 weight heifers were 2.00-4.00 lower than last week's sharp upturn.

Feeder Steers Medium and Large 1

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
8	351-371	361	110.00-114.00	112.76
42	401-446	425	103.00-110.00	107.90
35	450-486	461	100.00-114.50	107.42
65	502-541	521	94.00-101.00	97.67
66	553-598	574	88.00-97.50	93.37
23	606-627	615	90.50-94.00	92.89
29	650-676	670	87.50-94.00	90.12
6	760-768	764	85.00-88.50	86.74
32	818-843	835	86.50-87.50	86.78

Feeder Heifers Medium and Large 1

Head	Wt Range	Avg Wt	Price Range	Avg Price
19	378-379	379	90.00-93.00	91.74
21	419-447	430	87.50-91.50	88.62
22	455-483	460	85.00-87.00	85.68
69	504-549	526	82.00-85.00	83.96
43	558-596	572	80.00-83.50	82.14
33	650-686	678	82.00-86.00	82.57
16	722-747	739	80.00-82.50	81.74

Sammy Cline - Kingston - 479-665-2711

Jerry Foley - Smithville - 870-528-3244

Dianne Hardgrave - Clarksville - 479-754-7195

Rickey Wiedower - Guy - 501-679-3244

Wade Wiedower - Greenbrier - 501-679-5877

Prepared by Steve Cheney, USDA Officer-In-Charge

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