

AG NOTES
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FARMERS MARKET

After sending out a survey to the vendors for the Farmers Market, our vendors indicated that the crop is very late. None of them are ready to open this week, and most indicated that they needed another couple of weeks. We are going week by week to determine our opening date.

This is due to a wet and cold spring. It was difficult to plant, and the cool temperatures have slowed the growth and development of the crops. Keep in mind all of our growers are local and the food they produce is grown here and subject to weather here. Our market is somewhat different from others in that respect.

We will not open this week, and we'll let you know about next week when we know.

WHAT'S THE MARKET?

Drs. Andrew Griffith and Aaron Smith, livestock and crops economists for UT Extension, shared these comments.

For fed cattle ready for harvest, the 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$120.02 live, up \$0.13 compared to last week and \$190.66 dressed, down \$0.07 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$104.84 live and \$166.65 dressed.

Based on Tennessee weekly auction market data, steer and heifer prices were mostly steady compared to last week. Harvest cow prices were steady to \$3 higher while bull prices were steady to \$4 higher compared to the previous week.

Corn and cotton were up; soybeans were mixed; and wheat was down for the week. Harvest futures prices for corn and soybeans are near contract highs. A valid argument (weather, exports, low US ending stocks, and strong domestic demand) can be made for prices to continue close to these levels as we move through the summer and into the fall. However, everyone in agriculture knows how quickly prices can change.

In Tennessee, new crop cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$14.30 to \$14.90. November 2021 soybean futures closed at \$14.59, up 24 cents since last Friday.

New crop cash corn prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.93 to \$6.42. December 2021 corn futures closed at \$6.16, up 25 cents since last Friday.

Spot wheat prices ranged from \$6.61 to \$7.04. September 2021 wheat futures closed at \$6.81, down 11 cents since last Friday. July 2022 wheat futures closed at \$6.95, down 7 cents since last Friday.

ANOTHER PLANT ID

I got another photo sent to me for identification. This one is a forage grass that is found in lots of pastures and hay. I have attached a photo.

This one is Italian ryegrass. It makes a lot of grass early on. It's really a deep green color and makes a good-looking forage, but it seems that it may not be very palatable since it's not grazed very much by the animals in the field.

Removal is a problem, unless total removal is used. There is no control that I know of that is specific for this plant that will allow the rest of the stand to remain.



HEAT

Yes, I know it's hot. I'm out in it like everybody else. We're actually supposed to get back into the mid-80's, and that's a bit of relief.

But I want to remind livestock and pet owners to make double sure that animals have water and shade. This is the humane thing to do, and it will protect your animals from death due to overheating.

And while you're at it, make sure to stay hydrated and take a short shade break if you're in the direct sun. Be sure to check on others during heat periods. Heat strokes are very real, and very deadly.

STATE 4-H HORSE SHOW

The 2021 State 4-H Horse Show is in town this week at the Celebration Grounds. The show will feature western classes, jumping and dressage horses, walking and racking horses, speed events, judging competition, and even a goat tying contest. It lasts all week, and admission is free. Come watch.