

AG NOTES
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FARMERS MARKET

We had a very good market last week. The sweet corn is in and it's good. The tomatoes made a first appearance and they looked good. The baked goods were very popular and the jams and jellies are really good.

We'll be there this week on Thursday at the Farmers Market Pavilion on Celebration Drive next to the big blue water tower. The market opens at 2:30 pm and last until the vendors sell out or the crowd stops coming. Come and see us.

SAD THINGS OUT WEST

I wrote a few weeks ago that the drought for this year includes 32% of the counties in the United States, and it's severe in many of those areas. Livestock producers are fighting conditions of poor grazing, empty water ponds (tanks, they call 'em), extreme heat, and we've heard about the fires in some of the worst areas. And now reports are coming in that there are terrible numbers of grasshoppers that are stripping the forages that livestock need for grazing.

Many crop producers are in these same areas. Grain prices are high compared to previous years due to trade agreements, and now the weather may reduce the crop and cause prices to rise even more. It's a tough situation, one that I'm concerned about.

There are communities that have endangered water supplies. These reservoirs are low, some to the point of rationing water to customers, and this is causing discussions between residential, commercial and agricultural interests about who gets what.

I sure hope that there is a return of moisture to these areas. They are vital to the welfare of this country. It's bad anywhere to have a water shortage, and it could happen here.

Let's all hope not!

WHAT'S THE MARKET?

Drs. Andrew Griffith and Aaron Smith, livestock and crop economists with UT Extension, shared these comments.

Fed cattle traded \$2 lower compared to last week on a live basis and steady on a dressed basis. Prices on a live basis were primarily \$122 while dressed prices were mostly \$198 to \$199. The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$122.01 live, down \$1.81 compared to last week and \$198.48 dressed, up \$0.34 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$95.97 live and \$157.67 dressed.

Based on a limited test of Tennessee weekly auction market data, steer prices were unevenly steady compared to a week ago while heifer prices were steady to \$1 higher compared to last week. Harvest cow prices were \$1 to \$2 higher while bull prices were steady compared to the previous week.

Corn, soybeans, and wheat were down. In Tennessee, new crop cash corn prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.13 to \$5.60. December 2021 corn futures closed at \$5.17, down 62 cents since last Friday. Tennessee new crop cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$12.88 to \$13.47. November 2021 soybean futures closed at \$13.29, down 70 cents since last Friday.

In Tennessee, wheat prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$5.80 to \$6.26. September 2021 wheat futures closed at \$6.15, down 37 cents since last Friday. September 2021 wheat futures traded between \$6.09 and \$6.38 this week.

(After reading these grain prices being down, keep in mind that they are much higher than they have been in a long time, and the market may be adjusting to a more realistic price level. JKT)

CICADAS

I don't know where they are. All I know is that Bedford County is on the map for them to be here. I saw two in my yard and I heard some in the eastern part of the county. Don't worry, they'll be here in their own time. Then you'll be deafened by the noise. So, enjoy the peace and quiet while you can.

THE KIDS

I haven't said much about the kids lately. The boys have been traveling with their parents some, camping and visiting relatives in different states. The baseball stuff has slowed up some, but Hank did try out to be on a traveling team, and based on his tryout performance he was invited to join the team. So that sounds like we could be traveling, too. Ford is growing by leaps and bounds. He is an athlete as well, but we're focusing on his growing and taking time out for other activities. He's a good swimmer and enjoys the water. The boys are coming to visit during the fair and they are looking forward to it, and so are we.

Piper is learning to ride her horse. She is trailing with her mom on Dancer. She is learning to guide him in the direction she wants to go, and she's developing balance and control. She loves it. Another thing she is doing is bonding with a litter of Jack Russell puppies, and they love to follow her around and get cuddled and loved. She's got a special one or two, and the others have forever homes. And then there's the bobtailed kittens she's in charge of as well. The veterinarian came recently and Piper helped her with some of the ultrasound equipment, and she announced that she was a vet as well! I can see it.

To have them all together next week during the fair is going to be a great experience! I hope that Meme and Grandee is up to it! Eating and riding at the fair is fun for them!

I'm ready, bring 'em on!