

AG NOTES
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FARMERS MARKET

The market is going to continue on into October. The vendors there last week was discussing the crops that they have coming in. One vendor has fresh green beans and leafy greens coming and she plans to be there.

Another vendor continues to have tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, eggplants and okra. A third vendor still has vegetables, canned goods and baked goods. Popcorn will still be available as long as customers ask for it.

Come on to the market on Thursday afternoons at 2:30 pm. The Pavilion is next to the big blue water tower at the Celebration Grounds. And when you come, be sure to talk to the vendors about how long they will be having good produce.

WHAT'S THE MARKET?

Drs. Andrew Griffith and Aaron Smith, UT Extension livestock and crops economists, shared these comments. (If I have any, they'll be in brackets.)

The 5-area weighted average prices thru Thursday were \$123.64 live, down \$0.26 compared to last week and \$196.46 dressed, down \$2.19 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$105.03 live and \$164.87 dressed.

Based on Tennessee weekly auction market data, steer prices were unevenly steady compared to last week while heifer prices were \$2 to \$4 lower compared to a week ago. Harvest cow prices were steady to \$1 higher while bull prices were steady compared to the previous week.

The cattle market has made its way to the fall calf marketing time period. September is not typically thought of as the start to calf marketing, but the last half of the month generally sees producers starting the fall run of calves. For the week ending September 18, national feeder and stocker receipts through auction totaled 182,400 head, which was 43,800 head higher than the previous week and the largest total since April.

Last week, soybeans, cotton, and wheat were up; corn was mixed for the week.

December 2021 corn futures closed at \$5.26, down 1 cent since last Friday. For the week, December 2021 corn futures traded between \$5.07 and \$5.31. In Tennessee, new crop cash corn prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$4.72 to \$5.10. March 2022 corn futures closed at \$5.34, unchanged since last Friday. May 2022 corn futures closed at \$5.39, up 1 cent since last Friday.

For the week, November 2021 soybean futures traded between \$12.57 and \$12.90. In Tennessee, new crop cash soybean prices at elevators and barge points ranged from \$12.03 to \$12.55.

January 2022 soybean futures closed at \$12.94, up 1 cent since last Friday. March 2022 soybean futures closed at \$12.97, unchanged since last Friday.

As corn, soybean, and cotton harvest progresses, Mid-South producers will consider planting wheat. Three factors of primary importance are: 1) weather; 2) July wheat futures prices or harvest contract prices; and 3) input costs.

Weather will dictate acres that can be planted and affect crop progress but is largely outside the producer's control. As of September 24, July wheat futures prices were above the 85th percentile of prices dating back to January 2000 or for the past 20+ years prices were above \$6.90/bu about 15% of the time.

So, with July 2022 futures at \$7.15 there is a price incentive to plant wheat this fall. However, input prices are up substantially compared to recent years. For example, fertilizer prices are up 55% to 73% compared to the same week last year. (Will it be enough to get wheat acres? We'll see.)

FROST IS COMING

We are approaching some colder weather. Frost forecasts are around the corner as our night temperatures start to fall. I always start to get calls about that time due to the presences of Johnsongrass in our pastures and hayfields. Here is some information on the dangers of frost in time to get some understanding and to make alternative plans.

Our average frost date here is about October 19. Note that I said about. That's why we use average, since we can have a heavy frost in late September or early November. It's going to vary from place to place. But the mid-October date is about three weeks away.

When Johnsongrass gets frosted on, this causes rupturing of some of the plant cell walls and causes the plant to produce prussic acid, another term for cyanide. Animals allowed to graze frosted Johnsongrass run the potential for ingesting this plant in a dangerous stage, and this can cause death almost immediately. If this potential exists, then the animals need to be moved to pastures or lots where there is no Johnsongrass.

The good news is that this prussic acid breaks down and grazing can be allowed after a couple of weeks. If the Johnsongrass is cut and baled for hay, the curing process causes the prussic acid to break down and the hay can be fed after a couple of weeks with no danger.

The problem is that every time we have a light frost this potential reappears, but when we finally have a big killing frost, then that is the final time to observe the two-week rule. So be observant, and protect the animals until we get a final killing frost.