

AG NOTES
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POISON HEMLOCK

I'm going to keep on talking about these weeds because they are so bad. And we're seeing them growing all over the county.

Folks, this really bad stuff. It's dangerous! The sap and all parts of the plant is dangerous. I was given an article from Good Housekeeping about a gentleman who was cleaning up his back yard last year and fell ill before he finished. At 4 am the next morning he was in the hospital in his home town. He then spent 109 days there, part of it in a ventilator. It was determined that he had cut and shredded poison hemlock, and it aerosolized the sap and he absorbed the toxins and breathed them in. He recovered, but as you can expect there are still problems.

This plant is everywhere. It's in ditches, pastures, woodland edges, around buildings, etc. We have been spraying patches with 2,4-D and getting results. We are continuing to treat certain areas of high risk to humans and livestock. I advise you to try to control it. It will take more than one application in a spot spray. I've attached a picture I took in a local ditch to help you identify it.

If I can keep any one of my children or grandchildren or one of our animals from exposure, it's worth it to me. Think about it.



ANOTHER POISON PLANT

Butterweed is coming in a lot of places. This one is toxic to animals. All parts are toxic. It damages livers, and death will be in one or two days after ingestion. I've included a link to a publication from the University of Florida on this plant. Looks somewhat like wild mustard, but it is different, so study this close. <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/AG406>



MARKET COMMENTS

These comments are from Drs. Andrew Griffith and Aaron Smith, livestock and crop economists with UT Extension. If I have any comments, they'll be in brackets.

Fed cattle traded \$2 higher compared to last week on a live basis. Prices on a live basis primarily ranged from \$141 to \$144 while dressed prices were mainly \$230 to \$234. The 5-area weighted average prices through Thursday were \$143.00 live, up \$1.98 compared to last week and \$231.90 dressed, up \$6.03 from a week ago. A year ago, prices were \$121.36 live and \$192.11 dressed.

Based on Tennessee weekly auction market reports, steer prices this last week were steady to \$4 lower compared to a week ago while heifer prices were unevenly steady compared to last week. Harvest cow prices were steady while bull prices were also steady compared to the previous week. There is tremendous uncertainty in the market. (There are more cattle on feed, grain prices are

climbing, the 2022 crop is not even planted and safe to estimate, so the short term is very volatile. However, the extreme drought is causing cowherd dispersals in many parts of the country, and that could spell an increase in cattle for 2023 and beyond.)

Cotton and wheat were down; soybeans were up; and corn was mixed for the week. December corn set a new contract high of \$7.55 on Tuesday April 19th. Prices retreated 24 cents on Thursday and Friday closing the week down 11 cents at \$7.24. The price trend is up, and fundamentals remain bullish.

Last week, November soybeans added 39 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents from Monday to Thursday before giving back all but 4 cents at close on Friday. November soybeans have been unable to take out the February 24th contract high of \$15.55. November 2022 soybean futures closed at \$15.05, up 4 cents for the week. The long-term trend remains up, with good underlying support near \$14.50.

Planting progress will be watched closely as corn, soybeans, and cotton continue to battle for last minute acreage. The fear in soybean markets is that the relatively low input cost for soybeans (compared to corn) could be the deciding factor for many producers and cause greater planted acres than USDA's current projection of 90.955 million acres.