

Hickman County Extension Office
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Hickman County Agriculture and Natural Resources Newsletter

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December 2023

Cooperative
Extension Service

Agriculture and Natural Resources
Family and Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development
Community and Economic Development

MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Educational programs of Kentucky Cooperative Extension serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, physical or mental disability or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Reasonable accommodation of disability may be available with prior notice. Program information may be made available in languages other than English.
University of Kentucky, Kentucky State University, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and Kentucky Counties, Cooperating.
Lexington, KY 40506



Disabilities
accommodated
with prior notification.

Cattle Market Notes Weekly

Josh Maples



James Mitchell



Kenny Burdine



Figure 1: January 1 US Beef Cow Inventory - 1940 to 2023

USDA-NASS (1,000 cows)



Reviewing 2023 and Looking Ahead to 2024

By: James Mitchell, University of Arkansas and Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

The U.S. cowherd reached a 60-year low in 2023. Some of this decline is driven by efficiency in the beef industry. We produce more with less. As such, it would be misleading to compare today to 60 years ago. It still does speak to how significant the recent declines in beef cow numbers have been. For a more recent comparison, the 2023 cowherd is slightly smaller than in 2014, a year fondly remembered by most in the cattle business. Expansion resulting from those 2014 / 2015 price levels continued until 2019, and the cowherd has been getting smaller since then. The first figure in this article shows beef cow inventories from 1940 to 2023.

2020 was set to be the high-water mark for U.S. beef production. While production increased slightly in 2020, COVID backlogs pushed some of that production into 2021. Then, widespread drought led to significant increases in female slaughter in 2022, which resulted in another year-over-year increase. That brought us to 2023, which ended up being the first year-over-year decrease in beef production in eight years.

Data on cow slaughter and the share of heifers on feed both imply another year of declining inventories. Nationally, there is no doubt this cowherd got even smaller during 2023. Weather and hay supply has been an issue in some areas, but we also think we have to consider the impact that input costs and high interest rates have on the cost of expanding one's cowherd. At some point, expansion will occur, but farmers are not at that point yet. All this is to say that the 2024 calf crop will be smaller than the 2023 calf crop, and the feeder cattle supply will continue to shrink. Certainly, numerous things impact markets, but we expect calf prices to be stronger in the spring of 2024 than in the summer of 2023.

It is hard to see beef cow numbers increasing until 2025 at the earliest. So, cow-calf operators should get relatively strong calf prices for a few years. Some may choose to expand during this time, but we always like to point out that there are other ways to capitalize on a solid calf market. Investing in facilities, genetics, grazing systems, etc. has the potential to lower costs and/or increase efficiency. At the same time, paying down debt and/or building up working capital can put a farm in a better financial position for the future. The point is that each cow-calf operation should take a long-term view when they make decisions and know that what makes sense for one operation may not make sense for another.

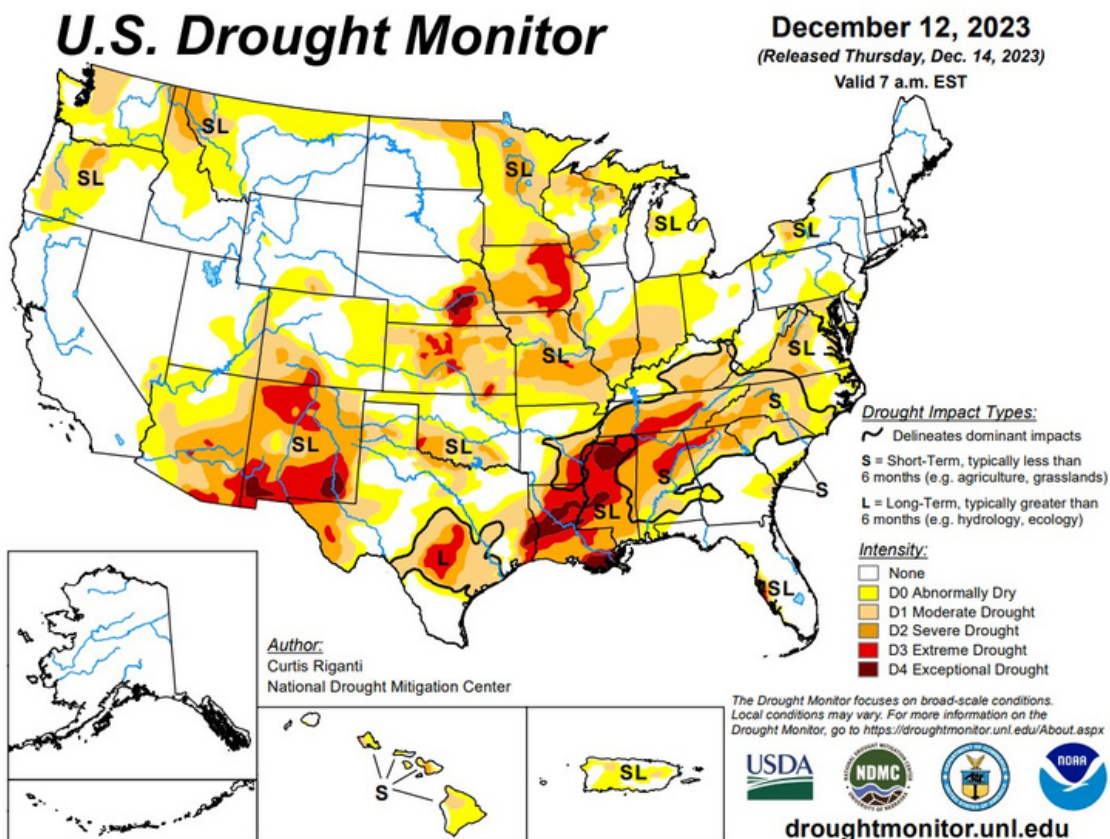
The Markets

Cattle auction market averages were mixed last week. As we move into Christmas, auction volumes will be light, making it harder to draw conclusions about regional cash markets. Feed and fed cattle futures both improved last week.

<i>Cattle Market Report</i>		For Weeks Ending On			% Chg	% Chg	
Prices \$/cwt. Sources: USDA, LMIC, and CME		12/15/23	12/8/23	12/16/22	Prev. Week	Prev. Year	Chg Prev. Week
500-600 lb. Feeder Steers	Mississippi M/L #1-2	\$227.69	\$218.68	\$164.65	4%	38%	\$9.02
	Arkansas M/L #1	\$246.18	\$245.69	\$168.97	0%	46%	\$0.49
	Kentucky M/L #1-2	\$235.31	\$229.07	\$168.97	3%	39%	\$6.24
	Oklahoma City M/L #1-2	\$253.92	\$272.54	\$183.79	-7%	38%	(\$18.63)
	Alabama M/L #1	\$248.94	\$250.89	\$183.36	-1%	36%	(\$1.96)
	Tennessee M/L #1-2	\$225.60	\$221.73	\$168.83	2%	34%	\$3.87
	Missouri M/L #1-2	\$243.57	\$239.71	\$183.38	2%	33%	\$3.87
700-800 lb. Feeder Steers	Mississippi M/L #1-2	\$200.52	\$188.54	\$143.45	6%	40%	\$11.97
	Arkansas M/L #1	\$202.27	\$204.11	\$176.48	-1%	15%	(\$1.84)
	Kentucky M/L #1-2	\$203.65	\$200.21	\$157.50	2%	29%	\$3.44
	Oklahoma City M/L #1-2	\$211.28	\$208.35	\$164.69	1%	28%	\$2.93
	Alabama M/L #1	\$184.63	\$190.08	\$154.00	-3%	20%	(\$5.45)
	Tennessee M/L #1-2	\$195.99	\$188.67	\$149.57	4%	31%	\$7.31
	Missouri M/L #1-2	\$206.89	\$208.10	\$172.00	-1%	20%	(\$1.20)
Negotiated Fed Steers	Live Price	\$168.71	\$169.94	\$155.69	-1%	8%	(\$1.23)
	Dressed Price	\$267.53	\$269.63	\$247.80	-1%	8%	(\$2.10)
Boxed Beef Cutout	Choice Value, 600-900 lb.	\$291.76	\$291.43	\$255.83	0%	14%	\$0.33
	Select Value, 600-900 lb.	\$259.30	\$259.72	\$228.36	0%	14%	(\$0.42)

Futures Prices		12/15/23	12/8/23
Live Cattle	December	\$168.23	\$165.45
	February	\$169.35	\$165.73
	April	\$172.85	\$169.30
Feeder Cattle	January	\$220.90	\$215.30
	March	\$222.18	\$216.07
	April	\$226.57	\$219.20
Corn	March	\$4.83	\$4.86
	May	\$4.95	\$4.97
Source: CME Group			

Pasture Conditions





Cooperative Extension Service



HICKMAN COUNTY COOPERATIVE EXTENSION PRIVATE APPLICATOR PESTICIDE CARD RENEWAL

***Needed if your Private Applicator card expired 12/2023

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Hickman County Extension Office

329 James H. Phillips Drive, Clinton KY 42031

January 25, 2024 - 3:00 PM

February 6, 2024 - 9:00 AM

February 21, 2024 - 9:00 AM

For more information call Hickman County Extension office at 270-653-2231

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2024 WINTER AG CONFERENCE

“DRONES: FARMING ON THE FLY”



FEBRUARY 9, 2024

LOWRY FARMS
PILOT OAK, KY

KY & TN PESTICIDE
AND
CCA CEU'S PENDING



UPCOMING EVENTS

2024 Winter Wheat Meeting

February 1, 2024

Kentucky Crop Health Conference

February 8, 2024

Italian Ryegrass Control Field Tour

March 28, 2024

KATS Planter Workshop

April 4, 2024

Wheat Field Day

May 14, 2024

KATS Crop Scouting Workshop

May 21, 2024

KATS Soil Properties & Their Impact on Delivering Water & Nutrients

June 6, 2024

Pest Management Field Day (IPM Grain Crops)

June 27, 2024

Corn, Soybean & Tobacco Field Day

July 23, 2024

KATS Field Crop Pest Management & Spray Clinic

August 29, 2024

Loaded Beef Stroganoff

Servings:10 Serving Size:2 cups Recipe Cost:\$13.87 Cost per Serving:\$1.39



Ingredients:

- 12 ounces egg noodles (choose whole-wheat if available)
- 1 pound lean ground beef
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 tablespoons garlic powder
- 8 ounces sliced white mushrooms
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 32 ounces (or 4 cups) low-sodium beef broth
- 1 can (14.5 ounces) no-salt-added peas, drained
- 1 can (14.5 ounces) no-salt-added sliced carrots, drained
- 1 1/2 cups plain nonfat Greek yogurt or light sour cream
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- Parmesan cheese (optional)

Directions:

1. Wash hands with warm water and soap, scrubbing for at least 20 seconds.
2. Wash fresh produce under cool running water. Cut to prepare for the recipe.
3. Cook egg noodles according to package directions while preparing the other steps. Drain.
4. On the stove, preheat a large pot on medium heat. Add the ground beef, onion, and garlic powder.
5. Wash hands after handling raw meat.
6. Cook the ground beef mixture, stirring often until the onion is tender and the beef reaches an internal temperature of 165 degrees F as measured by a meat thermometer.
7. Add mushrooms. Cook until mushrooms are tender (about 5 to 8 minutes).
8. Stir in flour and cook for 2 minutes.
9. Stir in beef broth, peas, and carrots. Bring to a simmer and cook about 5 minutes, until the mixture thickens. Remove from heat.
10. Once the mixture stops simmering, stir in the Greek yogurt, salt, and black pepper. Add cooked egg noodles and combine. If mixture is too thick, add milk or beef stock until reaching the desired consistency.
11. Serve immediately. Sprinkle with parmesan cheese when serving, if desired.
12. Refrigerate leftovers within 2 hours.

Notes

To reheat leftovers, add a little beef broth or milk before warming.

Source: Brooke Jenkins, Extension Specialist, University of Kentucky Cooperative Extension Service

270 calories; 4.5g total fat; 1.5g saturated fat; 0g trans fat; 30mg cholesterol; 610mg sodium; 38g total carbohydrate; 3g dietary fiber; 6g total sugars; 0g added sugars; 22g protein; 0% Daily Value of vitamin D; 6% Daily Value of calcium; 15% Daily Value of iron; 10% Daily Value of potassium.

 Cooperative
Extension Service

For more information follow us at
<https://hickman.ca.uky.edu/>

or

Hickman County Cooperative Extension Service on
Facebook

Agent for Agriculture and
Natural Resources

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John D. O. T.", written over a light gray background.



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*University of Kentucky
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Martin-Gatton

College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED