



Tennessee Market Highlights

UT Extension

December 4, 2009
Number :47

Livestock Comments by Emmitt L. Rawls

Fed cattle sold mostly for mostly \$80 to \$83 this week, \$1 to \$2 lower than last week. Cattle feeders sold mostly on Thursday as cutout values and futures declined sharply. The 5 area prices thru Thursday were \$81.62 live and \$130.03 dressed, compared to \$83.20 and \$130.79 a week ago. A year ago the live average was \$86.43 with dressed prices averaging \$136.37. Cutout values on Thursday compared to a week ago were down \$4.35 on the Choice and down \$1.51 on the Select. At midday Friday the Choice was \$136.79 down .76, while the Select was \$131.41 down .68. The Choice Select spread was \$5.38 compared to \$7.65 last week. The decline in the spread probably reflects a decline in the higher valued cuts use in the higher end restaurants. Feeder steers and bulls on the Tennessee auctions were \$2 to \$4 higher on some weakness in corn prices. Feeder heifers were \$1 to \$3 higher. Slaughter cows were \$1 to \$2 higher and slaughter bulls were firm to \$2 higher. Average receipts per sale were 701 head this week compared to 435 a week ago and 684 a year ago. Both fed and feeder cattle futures were hammered on Thursday with triple digit losses caused by the lower fed cattle trade and a continued decline in cutout values. While a slight recovery in futures has occurred at midday Friday, I would expect feeder prices to be lower in late week sales which could also continue into next week. Near term sellers of feeder cattle should be mindful of weather patterns both in Tennessee and in Corn Belt and S. Plains states where our feeder cattle are sent.

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Crop Comments by Chuck Danehower

Corn, soybeans and wheat finished down for the week while cotton prices were about even. The Dubai World financial problems announced Thanksgiving did not seem to impact the market this week. Jobs data released today showed unemployment at 10%, a reduction from 10.2% last month and the smallest cut in jobs since the recession began. This information lead to encouragement for the labor market and some optimism that the economy was indeed starting to turn around. I think more positive news is needed before that the proclamation that the recession has ended can be made. In a demonstration in how one thing leads to another, the positive jobs data caused some concern that the Federal Reserve might have to raise interest rates which then lead to a surge in the U.S. Dollar causing commodity prices to weaken. The U.S. Dollar is up 1.21 today and .81 for the week at 76.21 on the March contract before the close. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was at 10,400 before the close, up about 1% for the week. Crude Oil ended the week down .39 a barrel, closing at 75.66 a barrel. USDA will release their monthly supply and demand report on Thursday, December 10. Corn and soybean production data will not be updated this month, however, cotton production will. Comments on this report will be posted at <http://economics.ag.utk.edu/outlook.html> on the afternoon of December 10.

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Slaughter cows: \$1 to \$2 higher

Slaughter bulls: firm to \$2 higher

Feeder steers: \$2 to \$4 higher

Feeder heifers: \$1 to \$3 higher

Fed cattle: 5 area live price of \$81.62 is down \$1.58 and the dressed price is down \$.76 at \$130.03

Feeder cattle index: Wednesday's index \$93.52

Corn: March 2010 futures closed at \$3.89 a bushel on Friday, down \$0.25 bushel for the week

Soybean: January futures closed at \$10.43 bushel, down \$0.10 bushel from last week

Wheat: March 2010 futures contract closed at \$5.58 bushel, down \$0.12 bushel from last week

Cotton: March 2010 futures closed at 73.82 cents/lb. down .02 cents/lb. from last week

Livestock Comments by *Emmit L. Rawls*

Harsh weather can cause buyers to back off, especially on weekly auction calves which have to be moved right away. The current weakness in corn prices will be supportive of feeder cattle prices, but may not offset the recent decline in fed and feeder futures prices. Fed cattle supplies have been expected to increase somewhat in mid December. Good feeding conditions have probably pulled some of those cattle ahead. Those who purchase feed may want to buy or at least contract some on this break in the corn market. The final crop report in early January could also move the corn market.

TECHNICALLY SPEAKING: based on Thursday's closing prices. December live cattle closed at \$80.80. Support is at \$80.37, then \$79.17. Resistance is at \$81.57, then \$82.77. The RSI is 20.83, a very much oversold condition. February closed at \$82.90. Support is at \$82.37, then \$80.92. Resistance is at \$83.82, then \$85.27. The RSI is 22.49, again oversold. April cattle closed at \$85.80. Support is at \$85.75, then \$82.75. Resistance is at \$87.15, then \$88. The RSI is 31.41. June cattle closed at \$83.57. Support is at \$83.50, then \$83.27. Resistance is at \$84.65, then \$85.45. The RSI is 35.9. January feeder cattle closed at \$93.10. Support is at \$92.62, then \$91.52. Resistance is at \$93.72, then \$94.82. The RSI is 46.31. March feeders closed at \$93.50. Support is at \$93.13, then \$92.23. Resistance is at \$94.03, then \$94.93. The RSI is 42.66. Today's closing futures prices were: Live Cattle: December \$81.00 +0.20; February \$83.20 +0.30; April \$86.07 +0.27; June \$83.77 +0.20. Feeder Cattle: January \$93.35 +0.25; March \$94.12 +0.62; April \$95.57 +0.37; May \$96.50 +0.60. December corn closed at \$3.73, down 24 cents.

Crop comments by *Chuck Danehower*

Corn:

Nearby: March 2010 futures closed at \$3.89 a bushel on Friday, down \$0.25 bushel for the week. Support is at \$3.85 bushel with resistance at \$3.97 bushel. Weekly exports sales were 25.9 million bushels in line with expectations but still below pace to reach USDA's projections. As of November 29, corn harvest was 79% complete, compared to 68% last week, 94% last year and the five year average of 97%. EPA announced this week that they wanted to review further data before recommending an increase in the ethanol blend from the current 10% to 15%. A decision is expected by June 2010. Although the announcement is negative for short term prices, the fact that EPA is considering an increase to 15% has good implications for the long term.

New Crop: The September 2010 contract closed at \$4.17, down \$0.23 a bushel for the week. Support is \$4.15 with resistance at \$4.24 bushel. With prices having dropped through \$4.25, I would be 20% priced at this time.

Cotton:

Nearby: The March 2010 futures closed at 73.82 cents/lb. down .02 cents/lb. from last week. Support is at 73.31, resistance at 74.69 cents. Weekly exports sales were 266,400 bales, above expectations. As of November 29, cotton harvest is reported at 83% compared to 72% last week, 81% last year and the five year average of 82%. Production is expected to be decreased in the December 10 USDA report which could lower ending stocks. Keep in contact with your cotton buyer for current quotes on loan equities and or cash prices. Equities for loan cotton were in the 13-14 cent range this week. The Adjusted World Price for December 4 – December 10 is 57.82 cents/lb.

New Crop: The December 2010 futures contract closed at 76.64 cents/lb., up .22 cents/lb. for the week. Support is at 75.95, resistance at 77.41 cents per pound. Equities for 2010 loan cotton were quoted at 18 cents during the week. Consider pricing cotton for 2010, at least a percentage of the crop.

Soybeans:

Nearby: January futures closed at \$10.43 bushel, down \$0.10 bushel from last week. Support is at \$10.34, with resistance at \$10.54 bushel. Weekly exports were 26.8 million bushels (26.5 mb 09/10 and .3 mb 10/11), in line with expectations and above pace to meet the USDA's projection. As of November 29, 96% of the crop was harvested compared to 94% last week, 98% last year and the five year average of 98%.

Deferred: The March 2010 contract closed at \$10.51 bushel on Friday, down \$0.08 bushel from last week. The November 2010 contract closed at \$10.42 bushel, down \$0.06 bushel for the week. Support is at \$10.34 with resistance at \$10.48 bushel. Consider pricing up to 10% of the 2010 soybean crop at current levels. If prices drop back to the secondary support level of \$10.26, add another 5%, otherwise, watch the market.

Wheat:

Nearby: The March 2010 futures contract closed at \$5.58 bushel, down \$0.12 bushel from last week. Weekly exports were 14.4 million bushels, in line with expectations, but below pace to meet the USDA's export projection. The export market is indicating that even when the dollar is weaker, U.S. wheat is still overpriced in the global market.

New Crop: The July 2010 futures closed at \$5.80 bushel, down \$0.13 bushel from last week. Support is at \$5.77 with resistance at \$5.86 bushel. As of November 29, 96% of the winter wheat has been planted compared to 93% last week, 98% last year and the five year average of 98%. Emergence is 89% compared to 84% last week, 94% last year, and the five year average of 93%. As of

November 29, the crop condition ratings for wheat were 63% in the good to excellent rating compared to 64% the previous week. I would currently have up to 20% of the 2010 wheat crop priced. Producers with a good stand of wheat might want to consider increasing the percentage priced.

PRICES ON 11 TENNESSEE REPORTED LIVESTOCK AUCTIONS (\$/cwt)

December 4, 2009

	This Week Low	This Week High	This Week Weighted Average	Last Week Weighted Average	Year Ago Weighted Average
<u>Steers: Medium/Large Frame #1-2</u>					
300-400 lbs.	97.50	125.00	108.47	-----	101.34
400-500 lbs.	88.00	115.00	99.35	-----	88.33
500-600 lbs.	81.50	102.00	90.98	-----	82.66
600-700 lbs.	74.00	91.00	83.79	-----	80.69
700-800 lbs	75.00	85.00	81.58	-----	78.87
<u>Steers: Small Frame #1-2</u>					
300-400 lbs.	96.00	110.00	101.97	-----	89.87
400-500 lbs.	68.00	97.00	82.94	-----	79.22
500-600 lbs.	72.50	86.00	78.02	-----	73.26
600-700 lbs.	72.00	72.00	72.00	-----	66.78
<u>Steers: Medium/Large Frame #3</u>					
300-400 lbs.	83.00	114.00	97.65	-----	92.97
400-500 lbs.	75.00	100.00	87.29	-----	81.03
500-600 lbs.	72.00	89.00	83.52	-----	73.97
600-700 lbs.	66.00	85.00	77.47	-----	72.48
700-800 lbs.	66.50	81.00	75.77	-----	71.58
<u>Holstein Steer</u>					
300-400 lbs.	54.00	83.00	73.70	-----	60.65
500-600 lbs.	54.50	61.00	57.01	-----	54.36
700-800 lbs.	-----	-----	-----	-----	56.86
<u>Slaughter Cows</u>					
Breaking Utility	36.50	46.50	41.50	-----	43.25
Cutter & Boning	32.50	43.50	38.00	-----	43.00
Canner	30.50	40.00	35.25	-----	37.25
Bull YG 1-2	47.00	57.00	52.00	-----	55.00
<u>Heifers: Medium/Large Frame #1-2</u>					
300-400 lbs.	79.50	103.00	88.61	-----	83.92
400-500 lbs.	71.00	95.00	83.61	-----	77.01
500-600 lbs.	71.00	87.00	77.91	-----	73.16
600-700 lbs.	66.00	81.00	74.51	-----	71.00
<u>Heifers: Small Frame #1</u>					
300-400 lbs.	60.00	87.00	75.99	-----	71.85
400-500 lbs.	60.00	79.00	71.28	-----	65.61
500-600 lbs.	61.00	76.00	69.03	-----	64.52
600-700 lbs.	65.00	71.00	67.40	-----	60.96
<u>Heifers: Medium/Large Frame #3</u>					
300-400 lbs.	69.00	95.00	82.03	-----	79.51
400-500 lbs.	66.00	85.00	75.90	-----	68.93
500-600 lbs	65.00	78.00	72.60	-----	66.34
600-700 lbs.	64.00	73.00	69.35	-----	66.14

Cattle Receipts: This week: (10) 7,015

Week ago: (5) 2,275

Year ago: (11) 7,525

Average Daily Slaughter (number of head)

	This week (4 days)	Last week (4 days)	Year ago (4 days)	This week as percentage of Week ago (%)	Year ago (%)
Hogs	428,250	323,500	434,250	132%	99%
Cattle	123,500	94,250	120,750	131%	102%

USDA Box Beef Cutout Value (\$/cwt)

	Thursday	Week ago	Year ago	Change from week ago	Change from year ago
Choice 1 - 3					
600-900 #	137.45	141.43	145.78	-3.98	-8.33
Select 1 - 3					
600-990 #	132.09	133.78	137.14	-1.69	-5.05

PRICES PAID TO FARMERS BY ELEVATORS (\$ / bushel)*Friday, November 27, 2009 - Thursday, December 3, 2009*

	Fri.		Mon.		Tues.		Wed.		Thurs.		Thurs. Harvest	
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
<i>No. 2 Yellow Soybeans</i>												
<i>Memphis</i>	-----		10.42-10.57		10.59-10.61		10.29-10.34		4.86-5.31		-----	
<i>N.W. B.P.</i>	-----		10.44-10.59		10.46-10.51		10.21-10.26		10.32-10.43		10.58-10.68	
<i>N.W. TN.</i>	-----		10.15-10.44		10.23-10.42		9.98-10.09		10.11-10.22		10.47-10.47	
<i>S.W. TN.</i>	-----		-----		-----		-----		-----		-----	
<i>Upper Md.</i>	-----		10.35-10.40		10.29-10.49		10.04-10.24		10.21-10.37		10.42-10.42	
<i>Lower Md.</i>	-----		10.35-10.40		10.35-10.39		10.09-10.14		10.22-10.27		10.27-10.47	
<i>Yellow Corn</i>												
<i>Memphis</i>	-----		3.96-4.00		3.99-4.01		3.84-3.91		3.80-3.81		-----	
<i>N.W. B.P.</i>	-----		3.88-3.99		3.82-3.95		3.74-3.87		3.71-3.77		3.87-3.89	
<i>N.W. TN.</i>	-----		3.82-3.98		3.93-4.10		3.77-4.01		3.90-3.97		4.01-4.01	
<i>S.W. TN.</i>	-----		-----		-----		-----		-----		-----	
<i>Upper Md.</i>	-----		3.77-3.77		3.73-3.73		3.66-3.66		3.56-3.60		3.71-3.75	
<i>Lower Md.</i>	-----		4.03-4.03		4.00-4.00		3.92-3.92		3.85-3.86		3.96-4.06	
<i>Wheat</i>												
<i>Memphis</i>	-----		4.73-4.73		4.68-4.89		4.91-5.36		4.86-5.31		-----	
<i>N.W. B.P.</i>	-----		-----		-----		-----		-----		-----	
<i>N.W. TN.</i>	-----		-----		-----		-----		-----		-----	
<i>S.W. TN.</i>	-----		-----		-----		-----		-----		-----	
<i>Upper Md.</i>	-----		-----		-----		-----		-----		-----	
<i>Lower Md.</i>	-----		-----		-----		-----		-----		-----	

FUTURES SETTLEMENT PRICES

Crops & Livestock
Friday, November 27, 2009 - Thursday, December 3, 2009

Commodity	Contract Month	Fri. 27	Mon. 30	Tues. 1	Wed. 2	Thurs. 3
Soybeans (\$/bu)	Jan	10.53	10.60	10.59	10.34	10.47
	Mar	10.59	10.66	10.66	10.41	10.54
	May	10.60	10.69	10.70	10.46	10.61
	Jul	10.65	10.74	10.75	10.52	10.67
	Aug	10.63	10.71	10.72	10.49	10.64
	Sep	10.55	10.59	10.58	10.40	10.54
Corn (\$/bu)	Dec	3.97	4.03	4.00	3.92	3.85
	Mar	4.13	4.17	4.14	4.06	4.01
	May	4.24	4.27	4.24	4.17	4.11
	Jul	4.33	4.36	4.33	4.25	4.20
	Sep	4.39	4.42	4.38	4.31	4.27
	Dec	4.45	4.48	4.44	4.38	4.34
Wheat (\$/bu)	Dec	5.49	5.67	5.62	5.54	5.50
	Mar	5.70	5.89	5.84	5.76	5.71
	May	5.82	6.00	5.96	5.88	5.84
	Jul	5.93	6.10	6.06	5.98	5.94
	Sep	6.08	6.24	6.20	6.12	6.07
Soybean Meal (\$/ton)	Dec	327	327	325	317	322
	Jan	315	315	313	306	313
	Mar	309	310	309	302	309
	May	306	307	306	300	308
	Jul	307	308	307	301	309
	Aug	306	308	307	301	309
Cotton (¢/lb)	Dec	69.74	70.75	69.65	69.68	70.55
	Mar	73.84	74.68	73.48	73.57	74.24
	May	74.97	75.85	74.68	74.83	75.46
	Jul	75.53	76.52	75.49	75.62	76.34
	Oct	76.07	76.91	75.90	76.20	76.78
Choice Fed Cattle (\$/cwt)	Dec	83.20	83.20	82.55	82.10	80.80
	Feb	85.47	85.72	84.82	84.27	82.90
	Apr	88.00	88.12	87.65	87.27	85.80
	Jun	85.02	85.30	84.87	84.52	83.57
	Aug	85.47	85.67	85.42	85.00	84.20
Feeder Cattle (\$/cwt)	Jan	92.50	92.95	93.47	93.95	93.10
	Mar	93.15	93.75	93.75	94.47	93.50
	Apr	94.55	95.20	95.37	95.90	95.20
	May	95.45	95.95	96.47	96.72	95.90
	Aug	97.35	97.82	98.15	98.65	98.10
Market Hogs (\$/cwt)	Dec	59.02	58.60	59.22	59.67	59.25
	Feb	67.32	66.87	66.95	66.65	65.30
	Apr	70.65	70.55	70.77	70.72	69.85
	May	75.30	75.05	75.05	74.90	74.60
	Jun	78.17	78.07	78.15	77.75	76.65

Milk Futures, Thursday , December 3, CME Futures

Month	Class III Close	Class IV Close
November	14.09	13.45
December	14.81	14.75
January	14.72	15.23
February	14.79	15.28
March	15.17	15.37

**Nashville, TN Thursday Dec 03, 2009 USDA-TN Dept Market News
Tennessee Video Board Sale and Graded Sale****12/3/09 Hodge Video Board sale, Newport, TN
Receipts 42 loads**

Steers-Med & Lg 1-2

6.5 Lds 610-675 lbs 86.25-93.50 mostly 90.90-93.50 TN, GA, Ark
4.5 Lds 700-775 lbs 83.25-89.00 TN, NC
15 Lds 800-885 lbs 81.75-90.80 mostly 83.75-88.80 TN, NC, VA

Holstein Steers Lg 3

Ld 800 lbs 68.50 NC
Ld 850 lbs 67.30 NC

Heifers-Med & Lg 1-2

5 Lds 600-660 lbs 78.40-86.00 TN, GA
4 Lds 720-750 lbs 76.40-82.70 VA, TN
2 Lds 800 lbs 79.80-81.80 NC, SC

Mixed Loads Steers & Heifers Med & Lg 1-2

Ld Strs 660 lbs 85.75 TN
Hfrs 660 lbs 79.75
Ld Strs 680 lbs 87.00 NC
Hfrs 600 lbs 81.00
Ld Strs 700 lbs 87.75 NC
Hfrs 600 lbs 81.75

**12/01/09 Columbia-TN Beef Alliance, PVP Cert, Age & Source Verified
Receipts: 1182 Cattle assembled in Columbia and Cookeville.**

Steers: Med and Lg 1 few 2 Heifers: Med & Lg 1 few 2
2 loads 589-590 lbs 95.10-95.20 load 579 lbs 84.50
3 loads 673-680 lbs 89.70-90.90 2 loads 668-680 lbs 83.10-83.40
3 loads 774-778 lbs 87.70 Part load 499 lbs 84.20
2 loads 815-850 lbs 86.60-87.20 Part load 595 lbs 82.20
Part load 489 lbs 94.25 Part load 718 lbs 81.50
Part load 943 80.00 Part load 740 lbs 81.10
Part load 880 lbs 73.60

12/01/2009 Fayetteville (TLP)

Receipts: 854 (520 Graded and Grouped)

Steers: Med & Lg 1-2	Heifers: Med & Lg 1-2
300-350 lbs	300-400 lbs 79.50-80.00
350-400 lbs 97.50-104.00	400-450 lbs 76.00-84.00 few 87.00
400-500 lbs 100.00-102.50	450-500 lbs 70.00-76.50
500-600 lbs 85.00-94.50	600-700 lbs 69.00-77.00
600-700 lbs 78.50-85.00	700-800 lbs 71.50-74.50
700-800 lbs 76.00-81.50	800-900 lbs 74.50
900-1000 lbs 70.50-76.50	

Bulls: Med & Lg 1-2
300-400 lbs
400-500 lbs 89.00-103.00
500-600 lbs 81.50-85.00
600-700 lbs 74.50-76.00
700-800 lbs 65.00-69.00

EAST TENNESSEE LIVESTOCK CENTER DECEMBER 2, 2009

1 load out of 200 steers, est. wt. 740 lbs., range 690 to 790 lbs., \$.04 slide up if over 741 lbs., 100% L&M -1, med flesh, 80% Black & BWF, 15% ChaX & Smoky, 5% Red/RWF, wormed, no implants, hauled 25 miles to barn, selling with a 1% shrink. Price: \$88.00

1 load out of 175 heifers, est. wt. 690 lbs., range 640 to 740 lbs., \$.04 slide up if over 6981 lbs., 100% M -1, med flesh, 100% M -1, med flesh, 75% Black & BWF, 20% ChaX & Smoky, 5% Red/RWF, wormed, no implants, hauled 25 miles to barn, selling with 1% shrink. Price: \$82.35

1 load out of 85 heifers, est. wt. 700 lbs., range 650 to 750 lbs., \$.04 slide up if over 701 lbs., 100% M -1, med flesh, 65% Black/BWF, 30% ChaX & Smoky, 5% Red 7 RWF, wormed and implanted, hauled 8 miles to barn, selling with a 1% shrink. Price: \$82.25

BLUEGRASS INTERNET SALE 12-2-09

75 head steers, bbwf-xb, 675 lbs., \$93.10
70 head heifers, bbwf-chax, 785 lbs., \$80.75
60 head steers bbwf-chax, 810 lbs., \$85.00
65 head steers, bbwf, 775 lbs., \$91.90
63 head holsteins, 775 lbs, \$68.75

Weighted Average Monthly Prices on Tennessee Auctions													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Year to Date Average
Fed Steers (Kansas)													
2008	91.45	92.02	89.42	89.19	94.08	94.78	97.62	99.35	98.59	91.94	90.88	84.61	93.57
2009	83.08	81.74	82.22	86.39	84.54	81.85	82.76	82.80	84.49	83.66	84.17		83.43
700-800 lbs. Steers													
2008	87.03	92.85	88.45	90.68	97.80	97.58	97.68	101.14	94.11	84.16	81.28	76.30	92.07
2009	85.35	83.86	83.13	89.82	90.97	90.31	91.85	91.18	87.38	81.55	80.43		86.89
600-700 lbs. Steers													
2008	90.25	100.87	96.87	96.75	102.43	102.03	100.12	103.42	96.59	86.81	82.37	78.02	96.23
2009	87.39	87.54	91.25	97.79	98.69	94.83	97.28	94.39	90.35	83.99	83.48		91.54
500-600 lbs. Steers													
2008	98.08	110.45	108.97	103.62	107.62	106.62	102.36	106.11	99.35	92.38	87.69	82.39	102.11
2009	93.32	96.00	99.87	105.44	104.92	101.03	101.54	99.80	94.68	89.51	89.02		97.74
400-500 lbs. Steers													
2008	107.87	121.28	117.59	109.96	112.76	109.47	105.87	110.58	106.09	99.08	94.73	88.72	108.66
2009	100.75	102.78	104.77	109.82	110.42	106.82	107.10	104.67	101.20	83.99	97.70		102.73
300-400 lbs. Steers													
2008	117.40	127.95	124.80	116.21	117.65	115.27	110.97	116.97	115.37	107.13	105.04	97.85	115.89
2009	108.92	108.74	110.37	115.42	117.52	113.49	113.39	110.92	109.54	105.60	106.89		110.98
Utility Cows													
2008	46.47	53.89	52.19	53.16	56.81	58.45	57.26	56.90	54.97	49.77	45.34	42.68	53.20
2009	46.39	45.78	46.63	50.25	53.00	49.05	48.37	46.19	43.84	42.50	40.94		46.63

Source: USDA/Tennessee Department of Agriculture Market News Service

****The following news summary is from the National Livestock Producers Association****
For more information please go to www.NLPA.org

USDA Final Rule to Improve Transparency and Equity in Poultry Market (USDA, 12/2) – Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced that USDA's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA) will publish a final rule tomorrow to increase fairness and equity in the poultry industry by amending regulations under the Packers and Stockyards Act of 1921 to provide poultry growers with new information and improve transparency in poultry growing arrangements. Under the new regulations, a poultry grower must be provided a true written copy of a poultry growing arrangement in a timely manner. The poultry growing arrangement must include information about any Performance Improvement Plans and provisions for written termination notices of the arrangement. And, notwithstanding confidentiality provisions, the rule allows growers to discuss the terms of poultry growing arrangements with designated individuals. The proposed rule was published August 1, 2007. The final rule becomes effective on January 4, 2010. A copy of the rule can be found at www.gipsa.usda.gov.

Senator Feinstein Introduces Food Safety Bill With Food Maker Focus (Food Navigator USA, 12/2) -- Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif) has introduced food safety legislation that would require all food producers to take responsibility for certifying that finished products are pathogen-free. The legislation would amend the Poultry Products Inspection Act, the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act to prohibit the sale of any food that has not been certified as safe. It would also require manufacturers to list every cut of meat included in ground meat products, and ensure that food makers tell the consumer about all added colorings, synthetic flavorings and spices, according to a bill summary released on Monday.

NASDA Says Plan to Help Producers Taking Shape (Brownfield Network, 11/27) -- Two-thirds of the “Meat the Need” rescue program proposed by the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture to help struggling dairy, pork and poultry producers has been put in place. Missouri Ag Department Director Jon Hagler is co-chairman of the NASDA working group that proposed the “Meat the Need” plan two months ago.

Hagler says \$350-Million dollars in dairy relief was included in the Ag Appropriations bill and Secretary Vilsack recently announced an additional \$50-Million-dollar purchase of pork products for federal food programs, “I’m really pleased with Secretary Vilsack and what he’s been able to do. He’s been very, very responsive to our farmers and our farmers needs. He understands that crisis very well.” Hagler says these steps to reduce the oversupply on the market are starting to work, “So far it looks like we’ve got a market response from that. You know, things are headed in the right direction, they’re a long way from being there. Our dairy folks are still hurting and struggling and the quickest we can get this out to them, I think that’s important.”

Sask. Minister Tells Farmers Owed Money by Big Sky None Coming From Government (Canadian Press, 12/2) -- Farmers owed money by Big Sky Farms marched outside the Saskatchewan legislative building to press the government to get involved. Big Sky Farms filed for bankruptcy protection last week and owes creditors more than \$80 million. The Humboldt, Sask., company, which is 70 per cent owned by the Saskatchewan government, blames its woes on the protracted downturn in the North American pork market. The farmers say they have nowhere to turn and they haven't been paid for hog feed they delivered to Big Sky just before it went into bankruptcy protection. Agriculture Minister Bob Bjornerud invited the two dozen farmers into his office and talked briefly with them. He repeated that the government isn't putting any more money into Big Sky Farms and that includes giving cash to creditors.

Canada Pork International Confident in Ukraine as Potential Canadian Pork Export Market (mySteinbach.ca, 12/2) -- Canada Pork International is confident Ukraine has the potential to become an important export market for Canadian pork. Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada is assessing the level of interest in initiating negotiations aimed at establishing a bilateral free trade agreement with Ukraine. Canada Pork International executive director Martin Lavoie says we have a history of exports to Ukraine but it's not representative of the full market potential. The Ukraine has a lot of potential for Canadian pork exports.

US Ranchers Are Wrangling Over Livestock (Yakima Herald, 11/28) -- In a global economy, where mad cow, hoof and mouth and other diseases can crush a market overnight, the ability to track cattle can be crucial. In Australia, where 65 percent of all beef is exported, it's especially critical.

"It gives us lifelong traceability," said Ray Campbell, who owns a 26,000-acre cattle operation in Cloncurry. "It gives us the edge in the world market. Australian beef is known as clean and green." In the United States -- where discovery of a single case of mad cow disease at a Mabton dairy in December 2003 prompted Japan, Korea and others to ban U.S. beef imports for more than a year -- some see the Australian system as worth replicating.

Superior Livestock Back in Hands of Local of local Jim Odle (Brush Tribune, 12/1) -- After selling Superior Livestock Auction in the spring of 2007, co-founder Jim Odle of Brush is again at the helm of the major U.S. livestock marketer. Odle assumed the role of general manager of Superior Livestock on Nov. 12 after the company was taken over by SLAI, LLC, a wholly owned entity of Farm Credit West, ACA. SLAI obtained the company from the California family that purchased it in 2007, Odle said.

“They are big cattle feeders and just got in a financial bind,” he said. Odle said he plans to remain as general manager of the company for as long as it is owned by the bank, which has the ability to maintain ownership indefinitely. Though SLAI may sell Superior Livestock in later years, he said, the company is not currently for sale.

Agriprocessors Bankruptcy Comes Back to Bite Some Cattle Producers (Iowa Independent, 11/30) -- Some Iowa cattle producers that sold livestock to the now-defunct Agriprocessors meatpacking operation in Postville have received an unexpected and unwanted piece of holiday mail from the federal bankruptcy court.

Court officials, in an effort to ensure that none of the company’s accounts payable received preferential treatment, have informed Iowa producers that they have 10 days from the date of the letter to repay 80 percent what the company paid them in the time period before it declared bankruptcy. If the letter is ignored or no answer provided, the court will move to recoup 100 percent of the Agriprocessors payments.

Livestock Auction Closure Impacts Local Ranchers (Granite Bay, 11/25) -- After more than 60 years, the Roseville Livestock Auction might be going... going... gone. The large-animal auction – a veritable institution on Church Street – was suspended earlier this month, said Jeff Ronten, chief financial officer at Denio’s Farmers Market and Auction. Denio’s owns the land and leases out the property to an operator. Officials at Denio’s, which owns the property, said they were still deciding on what to do with the business after its current operator, Frank Caputo, retired. Already, the closure is putting a crimp in small local ranchers’ ability to buy and sell cows, goats, hogs, sheep and other livestock.

“It’s gonna be a lot more expensive for a lot of people to sell,” said Wayne Vineyard, a longtime Placer rancher and county agricultural commissioner. “I think it’s something that’s still needed.”

Survey Shows Consumers’ Concern Over Food Safety (National Meat Assn., 11/30) -- According to an American Society for Quality (ASQ) survey conducted on February 25-27, 2009, among 2,078 adults ages 18 and older showed that a majority of the public feels that the food industry hasn’t done enough to ensure the safety of their food. The survey finds that 93 percent of consumers believe the food manufacturers, growers, or suppliers should be held legally responsible when individuals are fatally sickened by tainted food. 82 percent believe that the food industry should be required to follow international standards on food safety. Along with 80 percent of consumers believing that the federal government should select the agencies that inspect the facilities of food manufacturers. Interestingly, less than half (48 percent) said that they actually trust the government’s ability to ensure the safety of food products. Also, only half believe the federal government does a good job enforcing laws that ensure our nation’s food supply is safe. More information regarding this survey can be found on the ASQ website at www.asq.org.
<http://nmaonline.org/htmlresources/lt-text>

Thinking Globally, Marketing Beef Around the World (Beef, 11/30) -- According to global estimates, there are 6.8 billion people living around the globe, and for farmers and ranchers, that’s a lot of mouths to feed. The question is, how do American food producers get their share of the global market? That was the topic of discussion at the Feeding Quality Forums, held Nov. 10 in South Sioux City, Neb., and Nov. 12 in Garden City, Kan. The featured speaker at these two events was Dan Basse, president of the Chicago-based AgResource Company, who also spoke at this event in 2007. The event was sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health, Certified Angus Beef LLC (CAB), Feedlot magazine and Land O’Lakes Purina Feed LLC.

Whole Foods Invests in Mobile Slaughterhouses (Triple Pundit, 11/26) -- This Thanksgiving, much attention has been paid to how your bird was raised, but how about the manner in which it was killed? The head meat buyer at Whole Foods, Theo Weening, made public the company’s effort to collaborate with both USDA and state regulatory agencies to develop certifiable mobile slaughterhouses for poultry. Before claiming a victory for the locavore movement, one has to ask, is this good news for family farmers?

First, understand that Whole Foods mobile units are a long way off. To begin with, the company must wade through USDA bureaucracy and has yet to identify an authority to approve a mobile poultry slaughter and processing facility. Whole Foods aims to overcome a barrier – the dearth of slaughterhouses – to a meet customer demand for local food products.

5-Day Food Fight A Success (Cattlemen’s Beef Board, 12/1) -- The checkoff’s Food Fight effort, which centered around beef producers, dairy farmers and importers using their voices in the debate, and putting a face on the industry, resulted in a few highlights:

- On the producer communications Web site, MyBeefCheckoff.com, a specific landing page was created for state beef councils and producers. In just four days, the page received more than 1,900 page views as a result of e-mails sent, banner ad click-throughs and trade media coverage of the program.
- A message board posted to ExploreBeef.org gave consumers to “Give Thanks” to farmers and ranchers directly, thanking them for the food on our plates. Throughout the campaign, hundreds of messages of thanks were posted.
- Social media posts were fast and furious. As a result, our give thanks Facebook flair has 276 users.
- 17 states successfully encouraged their Governor or Ag Secretary to sign a Give Thanks proclamation declaring Nov. 20 “Thank a Farmer Day”.

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