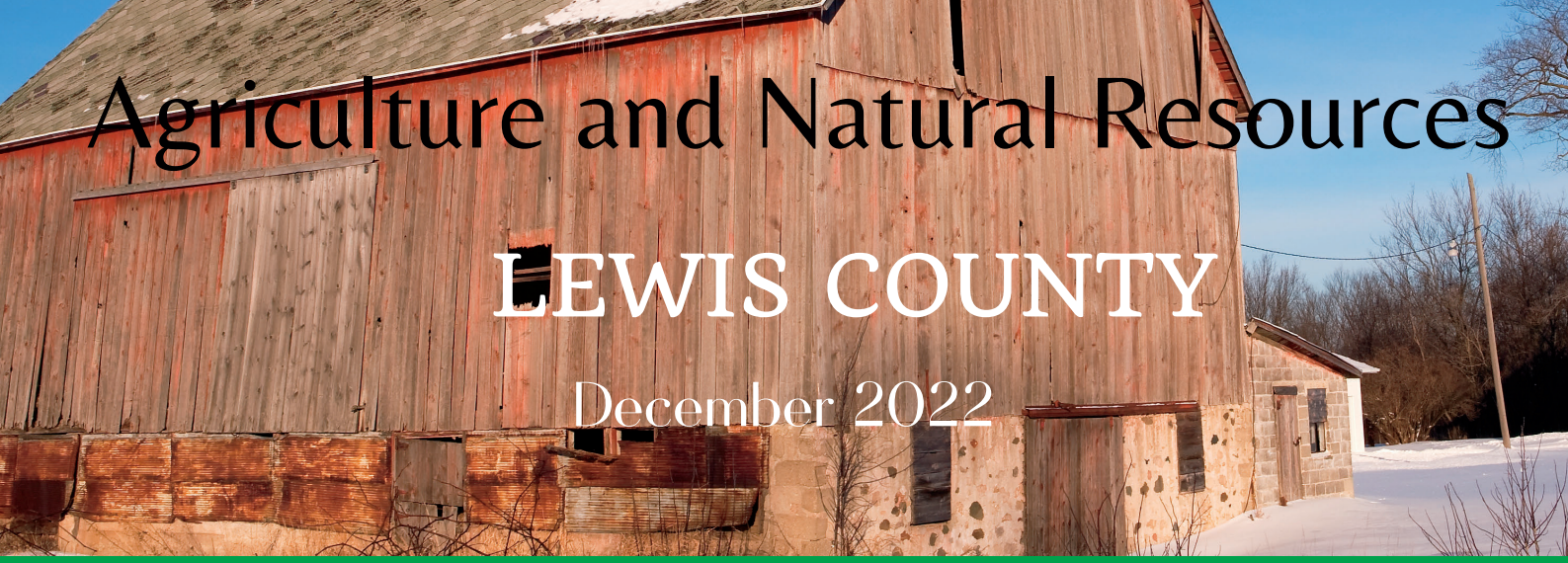


Agriculture and Natural Resources

LEWIS COUNTY

December 2022

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

NEWS & FEATURES

AG FIELD DAY

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Lewis, Menifee & Rowan County Cooperative Extension Office invites you to:

VIRTUAL

Ag Field Day

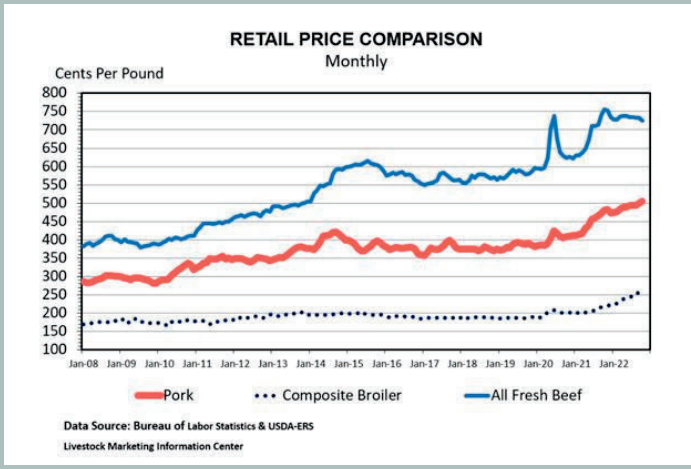
ON THE FARM VIDEO'S FROM

THE HONEY BEE CONNECTION - JIM AND PAULA COSS
ROCKHOUSE FALLS FARM - SCOTT & KATE MCMILLAN
ESHAM FARM - MITCH ESHAM

DECEMBER 8 @ 6:00PM

For More Information Contact
Rowan County Extension (606) 784-5457
Lewis County Extension (606) 796-2732
Menifee County Extension (606) 768-3866

Qualifies for CAIP Education



DO BEEF PRICES DRIVE CONSUMPTION OR DOES BEEF CONSUMPTION DRIVE PRICES?

By: Kenny Burdine, University of Kentucky

I open a lot of my Extension programs by showing the retail price chart seen above and discussing general trends in production levels for our three main meats (beef, pork, and chicken). By the end of 2022, pork production is going to be down year-over-year and the increase in broiler production is going to be relatively small. Beef production will actually be a little bit higher than last year, primarily due to very high cow and heifer slaughter. However, that trend is likely to reverse in a big way for 2023 and we should see a reduction in beef production of 5% or more.

As I walk through this discussion, someone in the audience will sometimes ask something like, “given that retail beef prices are already very high, and production is likely to get even smaller next year, will retail beef prices get so high that consumers move away from purchasing beef at the grocery store?” When this comes up, the person asking the question is genuinely concerned that beef could price itself off the average plate. I thought this idea would be worth discussing in this week’s article.

I want to begin by looking at this question from a slightly different angle. The question comes from the perspective that price is fixed and price is what determines consumption levels. At the individual household level, this is largely true. A consumer makes purchase decisions at a retail location based on the prices they see. If the beef product they wanted was higher than expected, and a better buy was perceived to be had on another product, that consumer may well choose to purchase a competing product. But, I like to think about this from more of a macro perspective.

Most economists would argue that consumption is primarily a measure of production levels, and those production levels are largely fixed in short run. The number of cattle on feed, and the eventual number that are harvested, really determine beef production for a given time period. That level of production will either be consumed domestically or exported. So, beef production really ends up determining how much beef is consumed in a given period of time. If beef consumption isn't keeping pace with production, retailers and restaurants will adjust prices upward or downward such that the market clears.

If we go back to that individual at the grocery store, they may well purchase something different that week if they perceive beef prices to be too high relative to other products. If enough people do that, the retailer is sent a message and they have to adjust those prices in response. And this occurs at retail locations all across the county. Consumers send messages through their purchasing patterns. By looking at it this way, prices become a reflection of consumer willingness to pay for beef. If beef production increases, the additional beef will be consumed. The question really comes down to what price level is needed to absorb the additional production. And if

beef production decreases, prices likely have to adjust upward to ration out the tighter supply levels.

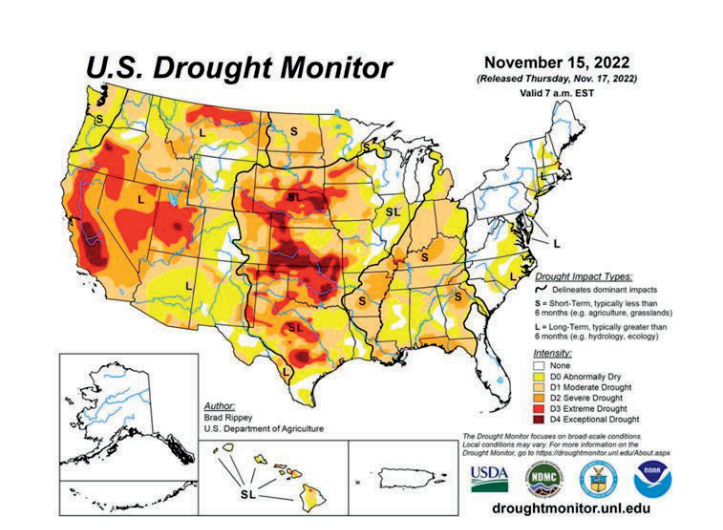
I walked through this simply to say that I view price as the more fluid element of this discussion. If retail beef prices are high, it is likely a reflection of the relative value consumers place on beef. If retail beef prices get “too high” consumers will respond and the prices will adjust accordingly. While price may determine consumption at the household level, I would argue that consumption determines price at the overall market level.

The Markets

Feeder cattle prices were very mixed last week with several states showing major swings in prices. Fed cattle prices were unchanged, while boxed beef values were down 2%. Live cattle, feeder cattle, and corn futures were all a bit stronger than last week.

Cattle Market Report Prices $/cwt. Sources: USDA, LMIC, and CME		For Weeks Ending On 11/18/22	 11/11/22	 11/19/21	% Chg Prev. Week	% Chg Prev. Year	Chg Prev. Week
500-600 lb. Feeder Steers	Mississippi M/L #1-2	$156.64	$157.68	$139.32	-1%	12%	($1.05)
	Arkansas M/L #1	$182.31	$181.24	$155.81	1%	17%	$1.07
	Kentucky M/L #1-2	$165.94	$169.83	$146.94	-2%	13%	($3.89)
	Oklahoma City M/L #1-2	$175.40	$173.48	$157.81	1%	11%	$1.93
	Alabama M/L #1	$169.66	$171.55	$149.64	-1%	13%	($1.89)
	Tennessee M/L #1-2	$161.21	$165.75	$144.44	-3%	12%	($4.54)
	Missouri M/L #1-2	$179.65	$179.30	$154.55	0%	16%	$0.35
700-800 lb. Feeder Steers	Mississippi M/L #1-2	$133.58	$146.38	$127.38	-9%	5%	($12.79)
	Arkansas M/L #1	$148.25	$173.33	$142.10	-14%	4%	($25.08)
	Kentucky M/L #1-2	$151.77	$152.32	$134.59	0%	13%	($0.55)
	Oklahoma City M/L #1-2	$165.67	$167.29	$148.36	-1%	12%	($1.62)
	Alabama M/L #1	$155.89	$142.42	$130.68	9%	19%	$13.47
	Tennessee M/L #1-2	$145.33	$146.93	$131.57	-1%	10%	($1.60)
	Missouri M/L #1-2	$167.76	$166.07	$149.97	1%	12%	$1.69
Negotiated Fed Steers	Live Price	$152.89	$152.71	$133.11	0%	15%	$0.18
	Dressed Price	$241.79	$241.34	$209.60	0%	15%	$0.45
Boxed Beef Cutout	Choice Value, 600-900 lb.	$257.08	$263.27	$279.67	-2%	-8%	($6.19)
	Select Value, 600-900 lb.	$232.18	$235.86	$264.98	-2%	-12%	($3.68)

Futures Prices		11/18/22	11/11/22
Live Cattle	December	$153.07	$151.52
	February	$155.85	$153.25
	April	$159.25	$157.05
Feeder Cattle	January	$180.77	$178.57
	March	$183.13	$181.15
	April	$186.10	$184.60
Corn	December	$6.68	$6.58
	March	$6.70	$6.63
Source: CME Group			



FESCUE FOOT CAN FLARE IN COLD WEATHER

Mike Rankin, Hay and Forage Grower (UK Forage News)

The symptoms of a bad case of fescue toxicity are well-documented. One symptom — fescue foot — can become more apparent when temperatures drop during the winter. “As the cold weather moves in, you are likely to notice some cows or yearlings on fescue pastures may be slow-moving early in the day,” notes Eldon Cole, a livestock specialist with the University of Missouri. “This might be an early warning sign of fescue foot,” he adds.

Toxic alkaloids in Kentucky 31 tall fescue cause the restriction of blood vessels. The animals’ extremities are especially susceptible to restricted blood flow such as ears, tails, and feet. Calves can lose the tips of their ears or switches from their tails which lowers market value.

“For affected cows, producers may notice slight swelling in the rear ankles and possible breaks in the skin from the top of the hoof to up above the dew claw,” Cole notes. “Early detection of limping is key. By the time hooves on hind feet show red, gangrene may have set in.” If a limping animal is detected, Cole suggests putting it in a chute and checking its lower leg. “If the animal’s leg feels cooler than the rest of the leg, move the affected animals from that toxic pasture and dry lot them or at least put them on a different pasture,” Cole recommends. The colder extremity is the result of a lack of blood flow.

Don’t graze toxic fescue pastures too short. Research shows that toxins stay in the lower 2 inches of the fescue plant during the fall. Intensive rotational grazing with frequent movement of cattle will help ensure plants are not grazed too short. Consider feeding stored hay during late fall and early winter cold spells. Toxin levels in stockpiled fescue pastures decline over time. Grazing these pastures in mid- to late winter is rarely a concern.

Cows that develop fescue foot have difficulty walking or grazing, which drastically impacts performance. While there is no cure for the condition, preventative measures such as planting a novel endophyte tall fescue variety can essentially eliminate the problem. Other strategies are also available for mitigating the dis-ease, such as including legumes into a toxic tall fescue pasture.

DECEMBER UPDATES FROM THE FARM SERVICE AGENCY

Greetings from the Farm Service Agency! Here are news and updates from FSA:

2022 County Committee Election in Lewis County

2022 County Committee Elections are currently ongoing for one of the Local Administrative Areas (LAAs) in Lewis County. The LAA up for election this year is LAA 2, which is located in the north and southeastern part of Lewis County (Southwest to Mill Branch to Route 59; South along Briery Creek; South and southeast to Rowan, Carter, and Greenup County lines).

Ballots have been mailed to all eligible voters. If you believe you are an eligible voter in LAA 2 and did not receive a ballot, please contact the Vanceburg USDA Service Center at (606) 796-3866, ext. 2. We can verify your location and eligibility.

Thomas Roe, who is currently serving on the County Committee, is the sole candidate. Write-in candidates are accepted, but he/she must be an eligible voter in LAA 2.

The individual selected will serve on the local FSA County Committee for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2023. Ballots must be returned in-person to the Vanceburg USDA Service Center or postmarked by December 5, 2022.

Upcoming Farm Service Agency Special Crop Reporting Deadlines

Producers and growers are encouraged to report general crops and forages to the Farm Service Agency Office each year in July, however, there are some special reporting deadlines for specific crops as follows:

·December 15 – Fall-Seeded Small Grains
·December 15 – Cover Crops
·January 2 – Honeybee Colonies
·January 15 – Peaches

Filing a crop report helps verify production in the event of a natural disaster where Federal funds become available to assist.

Update Your Farm Records
As we prepare for the 2023 growing season, now is a great time to update your farm records with FSA. Please report any changes of address, zip code, phone number, email address, or incorrect names.
Please also report changes in your farm operation, like the addition of a farm by lease or purchase. Report any changes to your operation in which you reorganized to form a trust, LLC, or other legal entity.

POINSETTIAS ARE A HOLIDAY STAPLE

With their bright red, pink or white leaves, poinsettias herald the approach of the holiday season. They are beautiful as stand-alone plants or as components of bigger holiday displays. In the United States, we grow poinsettias as indoor potted plants, most in heated greenhouses, but you might be surprised to know that in its native climate, this subtropical species can grow to more than 10 feet tall.
The person responsible for bringing poinsettias to the United States was Joel Roberts Poinsett, a botanist, physician and the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico. December 12 is officially Poinsettia Day and marks the 1851 death of Poinsett.
Growers cultivate more than 100 varieties of poinsettias, but the red leaf variety is the most popular. Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias are not poisonous. The plant was cleared of this charge by the National Poison Center and the American Medical Association. A study at Ohio State University found that a 50-pound child would have to eat more than 500 leaves to have any harmful effect. However, the leaves have an awful taste, so you probably don't want to make them part of your salad. It's still a good idea to keep pets away from the plants, because consuming them can cause digestive upset.
More than 34 million poinsettias are sold each year, accounting for about a quarter of the sales of all flowering potted plants. Even though that may seem like a big money-maker for growers, production is a high-risk venture that has significant start-up costs and requires demanding labor and management. Growers must have a heated greenhouse structure. You can use tobacco greenhouses, but poinsettia production in late summer can compete with labor for tobacco harvest, housing and stripping.
The profit margin for most poinsettia growers is very low because of the highly competitive marketing environment of wholesale and retail markets like local garden centers, florists and grocers, roadside stands, farmer's markets, fundraisers and direct sales from the farm. Another consideration is the short sale window of about six weeks beginning in early November. Still, growers see a value in producing a crop of poinsettias, because it allows for spreading capital investments over the whole year versus having the greenhouse sit idle during later summer and fall.
Growers who cultivate multiple varieties can distinguish themselves a bit from the competition and have a market advantage.

CHANGES TO CEU REQUIREMENTS FOR COMMERCIAL APPLICATORS IN 2023

New laws and regulations governing the sale, use, and storage of pesticides, as well as changes to training and certification standards, were approved earlier this year and will be implemented in 2023. This is the most significant change to the program since 1978. In September, I outlined some of the more important changes for the Private and Commercial Applicator Programs in two Kentucky Pest News articles. In this article, I will explore the changes to the CEU requirements for commercial applicators and how these changes can affect recertification and relicensing.

New Category Structure and Recertification

Beginning in 2023, there will be fewer commercial categories; several have been consolidated or split and a few have been eliminated.

In terms of those that have been consolidated, the old categories 3 (Lawn and Ornamental), 18 (Golf Course), 19 (Interior Plantscape Pest Control), and 20 (Athletic Turf) will be consolidated into the new Category 3, now called Turf, Lawn, and Ornamental Care. People certified in any of those 4 categories will be issued a new Category 3 certification without having to retest.

The previous fumigation categories of 1b (Ag Fumigation) and 7b (Structural Fumigation) have been separated into the new categories of Category 7b (Structural Fumigation), Category 12 (Soil Fumigation), and Category 13 (Non-Soil Fumigation). This new Category 13 covers fumigation of structures which are not habitable, such as grain bins and grain cars, while Category 7b, Structural Fumigation, also addresses fumigation of habitable structures. Persons holding current Category 1b certification will be certified in both Categories 12 and 13 without having to retest.

The categories being eliminated are 12 (Pesticide Retail Sales Agent), 13 (Anti-Fouling Marine Paint), 14 (Consultant), 15 (Anti Microbial), and 16 (Sewer Root Control). While retail pesticide sales agents will not be certified, the business must be registered and maintain and submit necessary records to the KDA.

General CEUs Eliminated

In the past, commercial applicators had to earn 9 general and 3 category-specific CEU credits by the end of their certification period to be eligible to recertify. With the new system, they need to earn 12 CEU credits with at least one in each of the categories they are certified in. So, in the future, applicators do not need to keep track of general and category-specific CEU hours. In order to deliver the general information to commercial applicators, presenters applying for CEU credit will need to identify what general pesticide safety and use educational material they will cover in their presentation. They must cover some core pesticide information in order to receive approval.

Annual CEU Requirement

What has changed regarding CEUs is that each year with relicensing (licenses are valid for one year and certifications last for 3 years), applicators must have 12 CEU in the previous 3 years. In the past, applicators only had to meet this requirement when they recertified every 3 years. This new requirement is to ensure that applicators receive more frequent pesticide updates. For people that have just taken the test for the first time and passed, they will be awarded 12 CEU hours that first year, which will cover that requirement until they recertify in 3 years. Applicators will need to earn their CEU credits by November 30 in order to receive credits for the current year.

License Renewal Grace Period Shortened

In the past, commercial applicators had 90 days to pay the annual fee and renew their licenses online. That grace period has been shorted to 31 days beyond the expiration of the license. Persons not renewing their license before the end of the 30-day period will not be able apply pesticides and will have until November 30 to pay their license fee or have to retest.

Penalty for not Earning CEUs

Commercial applicators that have not earned the necessary 12 CEUs in the previous 3 years will need to retest and will be subject to a $200 recertification fee. This is to encourage commercial applicators to stay up to date in their areas by earning CEU credits. The best practice for applicators will be to earn at least 4 CEU hours each year, and for persons organizing training sessions for pesticide education credit, to offer at least 4 CEU hours.

By Ric Bessin, Entomology Extension Specialist

University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture, Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Carbon Market Considerations for Kentucky Farmers & Woodland Owners

Carbon Markets can possibly provide another revenue source for your farm

Presented by the Buffalo Trace Cooperative Extension Service Counties

January 31, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. via Zoom

Topics include: Carbon Markets, Farm level cost and benefits, current value and pricing structure

To register please use the QR code
For more information contact
Lewis County Extension Office
(606)796-2732

Our Office will close on December 23rd and will re-open on Tuesday, January 3, 2023

Sincerely,

Philip Konopka

Philip Konopka
County Extension Agent for Agriculture & Natural Resources