

HARRISON COUNTY AG/NR NEWSLETTER



SEPTEMBER 2020



RETAIL BEEF PRICE DROP REFLECTS LOWER WHOLESALE PRICES

Beef consumers should be seeing lower prices on beef, whether steaks or ground chuck, at grocery stores as production increased and wholesale prices continue to decline, said a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist, College Station, said the U.S. Department of Agriculture retail market report showed prices on beef and other meats are moving downward.

Cuts of beef, from prime rib to ground chuck, were lower in July compared to June. The drop at grocery stores reflects wholesale prices that have been falling for weeks. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Kim Topp) Retail choice beef of all cuts – steaks to ground chuck – averaged \$6.84 per pound in July compared to \$7.56 per pound in June, he said. However, prices are still higher than this time last year when choice beef averaged \$6.07 per pound.

“Even though they’re coming down, we’re way above prices at this time a year ago,” he said.

Anderson said the price decline for beef at grocers reflects a lower wholesale price trend. Retail prices for pork and chicken also slipped since June.

Wholesale choice beef cutout value was \$2.05 per pound last week, basically where it was before COVID-19, he said. Wholesale prices were falling, and retail prices are just now catching up.

Despite wholesale prices dipping, COVID-19 restrictions continue to contribute to retail prices being higher than a year ago, Anderson said.

Stockpiling Bermudagrass or Bahiagrass

Steps to stockpile bermudagrass/bahiagrass include:

1. Graze pasture to a 2-3" stubble height or harvest the final cutting of hay in preparation for fertilization approximately 8 weeks prior to first anticipated frost.
2. Apply 60 to 75 lbs of Nitrogen and phosphorus and potassium based on soil test recommendations.
3. Defer pastures from grazing and allow forage to accumulate until frost or forage is needed.
4. Initiate grazing in response to the need for hay supplementation.
5. When stockpiled forage is completely grazed, it will be time to start traditional hay feeding program or initiate grazing cool season forages.
6. Be sure to provide free choice mineral supplement to cattle and monitor body condition of the cattle.

Check out more info on foragefax.com



*Stockpiled Bermudagrass (photo
courtesy of Dr. Jason Banta)*

A different winter feeding approach, other than hay, could be the use of standing or stockpiled warm season perennials (such as bermudagrass or bahiagrass). These forages are allowed to accumulate in the field for grazing during fall and early winter. Stockpiled bermudagrass can provide the required nutrition for dry, pregnant cows through January if the appropriate procedure is followed. Producers should plan on providing approximately 45 to 60 days of grazing with the dormant bermudagrass. In most instances, stockpiled bermudagrass should be used up by January. Once the stockpiled bermudagrass is completely grazed, a shift to another winter feeding option (cool season forages and/or hay).



SAM PARRISH WARE

Sam Parrish Ware has always been an asset to Texas 4-H. She was an active 4-H member for 8 years where she was a member of the Rebel Riders Mounted Drill Team and The New Generation Club. Among her countless awards Sam received the I Dare You Award in 2006 and the Gold Star Award in 2007. She attended Cedar Valley College where she majored in Veterinary Technology and became Licensed Veterinary Technician. Sam currently works as a Chiropractic Assistant.

4-H Spotlight

Harrison County 4-H is lucky enough to still have Sam involved in our organization today. She is currently an Adult Volunteer and manages the Harrison County 4-H Council.

When asked about how 4-H made an impact in her life she, “ I can still say the 4-H motto and pledge and they still hold true. 4-H taught me how to work hard, to lead, to humbly follow, to work as a team, to plan and be proactive, to care for others (both human and animal), and to be proud of myself and my club. I would not have the work ethic I do today if it weren’t for learning how to take care of my horse through the 4-H program. I still ride competitively today and most of the horsemanship I learned, I learned while in 4-H. The leadership and team building skills we learned have helped me in the workplace as well. 4-H helped make me who I am today, and I am forever thankful.”



To nominate someone email kelsie.hopkins@ag.tamu.edu

Texas 4-H is part of Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service and the Texas A&M System. Founded in 1908, 4-H is the largest youth development program in Texas, reaching more than 550,000 youth each year.

Getting involved in Harrison County 4-H

Texas 4-H is like a club for kids and teens ages 5-18, and it's BIG! It's the largest youth development program in Texas with more than 550,000 youth each year. No matter where you live or what you like to do, Texas 4-H has something that lets you be a better you! You may think 4-H is only for your friends with animals, but it's so much more! You can do activities like shooting sports, food science, healthy living, robotics, fashion, and photography.

In 4-H, the activities are organized by topics and called 'projects.' All 4-H members must be enrolled in at least one project. When you choose a project, you will learn everything there is to know about that topic. You will participate in various hands-on activities, learn new skills, do community service, or even make speeches about your project.

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR 4-H

PROJECT:

- **SELECT A PROJECT YOU LIKE.**
- **SELECT A PROJECT THAT CAN BE COMPLETED.**
- **CONSIDER THE MONEY AND TIME IT WILL TAKE. CAN PARENTS/GUARDIANS HELP?**
- **CONSIDER THE SPACE AND EQUIPMENT THAT YOU HAVE AT HOME.**

A 4-H PROJECT SHOULD BE FUN, SERVE A PURPOSE, AND BE WORTH THE EFFORT. SELECT ONLY THE NUMBER OF PROJECTS YOU CAN COMPLETE.

Call the Harrison County Extension Office if you would like more information about joining 4-H!
903-935-8413 102 W. Houston Marshall, TX



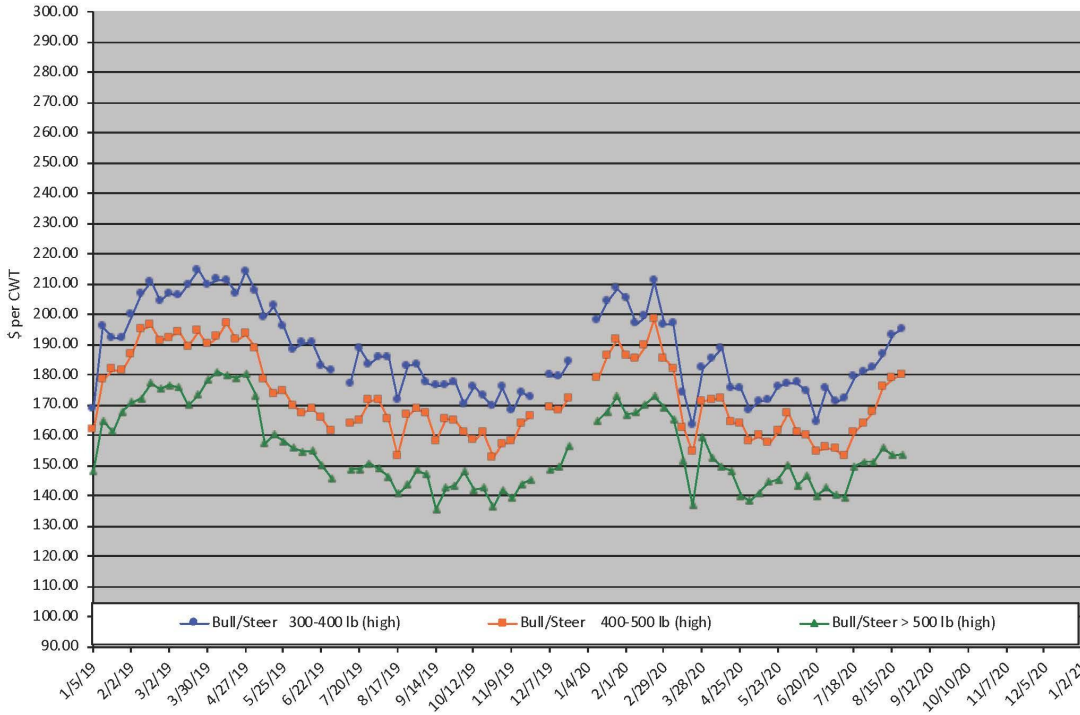
Cattle Price Trends

Calf Price Trends

Trend of the **Highest Price Reported for Various Weight Calves**, Average of 6 East & Central Texas Livestock Auctions

For a weekly email copy of this chart please subscribe at <http://beeffax.tamu.edu> or contact a Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent

Chart created by Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist

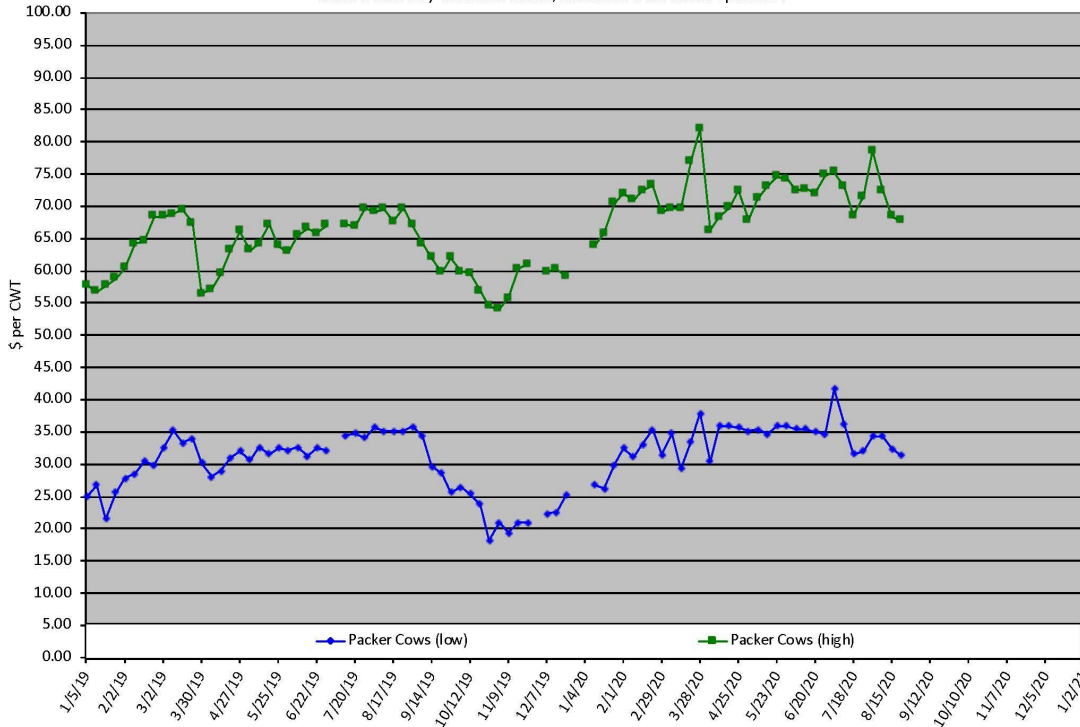


Packer Cow Price Trends

Trend of **High and Low Prices Reported for Packer Cows**, Average of 6 East & Central Texas Livestock Auctions

For a weekly email copy of this chart please subscribe at <http://beeffax.tamu.edu> or contact a Texas A&M AgriLife County Extension Agent

Chart created by Dr. Jason Banta, Extension Beef Cattle Specialist



The graphs show the average of the highest prices reported for 6 livestock auction markets located in East and Central Texas.

beeffax.tamu.edu

Annual East Texas Regional Forage Conference

SEPTEMBER 4, 2020
RUSK COUNTY YOUTH CENTER
3303 FM 13 WEST
HENDERSON, TEXAS
8:15am to 3:30 pm

5 CEU'S
(3 General, 1 L&R
& 1 IPM)

- 8:15 A.M. **Registration**
- 9:00 A.M. **Weed ID and Control for Pastures and Hay Meadows –**
Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Texas A&M Extension Associate Professor and Forage Extension Specialist, Overton, TX
- 10:00 A.M. **The Impact of Soil Fertility on Pesticide Performance –**
Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Texas A&M Extension Associate Professor and Forage Extension Specialist, Overton, TX.
- 11:00 A.M. **Break**
- 11:15 A.M. **Introduction to Prescribed Burning-**
Chase T. Brooks, County Extension Agent– Agriculture & Natural Resources, Collin County
- 12:15 P.M. **Lunch** - Sponsored By Legacy Ag Credit, ACA
- 1:00 P.M. **Laws and Regulation Update-**
Darren Rozell, Rozell Sprayer Manufacturing Co.– Tyler, TX
- 2:00 P.M. **Break**
- 2:15 P.M. **Gopher and Mole Control In Pastures-**
Kevin Proctor, Kaput Products

\$20.00 Per
Person
(Payable at door)



**DUE TO THE COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS AND GUIDELINES ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL
BE REQUIRED TO WEAR A MASK AND PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING**

**RSVP in REQUIRED to your respective Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service County Office by
August 31, 2020 in order to guarantee admittance.**

**SPONSORED BY TEXAS A&M AGRILIFE EXTENSION SERVICE -
GREGG, HARRISON, PANOLA, RUSK, & UPSHUR COUNTIES**

Gregg: 903-236-8429

Harrison: 903-935-8413

Panola: 903-693-0380

Rusk: 903-657-0376

Upshur: 903-843-4019

It's Big, but it's Not a Murder Hornet

Since the release of information about Asian giant hornets, Texas A&M AgriLife entomologists are being inundated with cicada killers and other lookalike insects submitted for identification as a possible "murder hornet," which thus far has only been found in Washington state in the U.S. While the agency wants to continue to encourage Texans to be vigilant in watching for the Asian giant hornet, they also want to help provide guidance that will help narrow the focus. David Ragsdale, chief scientific officer and associate director of Texas A&M AgriLife Research and professor in the Department of Entomology, said many photos of Texas native cicada killers, or ground hornets, are being submitted as suspected Asian giant hornets. He said their website receives five to 10 photos a day, and agency pest management agents and specialists around the state have also been handling inquiries.

Cicada Killer found in Marshall, TX Post Office



Is it an Asian giant hornet or one of the look-alike insects?

Vespa mandarinia
Asian giant hornet
Photo credit: Xanthia Shirley, USDA-APHIS

Vespa mandarinia
Asian giant hornet

Sphecus spencerae
Cicada killer
Photo credit: Xanthia Shirley, USDA-APHIS

Sphecus concolor
Pacific cicada killer

Sphecus grandis
Western cicada killer

TEXAS A&M
AGRI LIFE
EXTENSION

Holly Davis and Patrick Porter, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension
With images from USDA-APHIS and others

The Asian giant hornet preys on bees and can decimate local honey bee populations, essential for most fruit and vegetable crop production. The Asian giant hornets also are fiercely protective of their nests and will deploy painful stings that can cause fatal allergic reactions in people already sensitive to bee stings. The cicada killer and wood wasps, however, are solitary and thus do not aggressively protect their nesting sites by attacking in large numbers, Davis said. Cicada killers, however, may cause alarm due to the males' territorial behavior, dive-bombing or buzzing people and animals that walk into their territory. "Although cicada killers are solitary, you can often find numerous individuals in areas with sandy soils where females dig nests in the ground," she said. "These nests appear as dime to quarter sized holes. As females come and go, provisioning their nest with cicadas they paralyze with a sting and carry back to their nests." The males are more interested in mating. Thus, they may try to chase off intruders they perceive as a threat to their mating opportunities. However, male wasps are not capable of stinging, thus they are not dangerous, just a nuisance for a few weeks out of the year during the nesting season. Females can sting but are not aggressive, and reports of stings are rare. "Hornets and wood wasps may have what appear to be very long stingers, but they are unable to sting. They lack venom glands and instead they use this structure, called an ovipositor, to insert eggs into plant tissue, hence the name wood wasp, Davis said.



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