

GRAIN, CATTLE, HOG, & MILK BFP FUTURES MARKETS

Markets Courtesy of Chicago Board and Mercantile Exchange
Closing Bids: Thursday, March 29, 2001

Corn

Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg
01May	208 1/2	209 1/2	207	207 1/4	207	207 1/4 -20
01Jul	216 1/4	217 1/4	214 3/4	214 3/4	215 1/4	215 -22
01Sep	224 3/4	225	223	223	223	223 -22
01Nov				229 1/2 n	229 1/2	229 1/2 -22
01Dec	234 1/2	235 1/4	233	233	233 1/4	233 1/4 -22
01Mar	244	244 1/4	242 1/4	242 1/2	242 1/4	242 1/2 -22
02May	250 1/2	250 1/2	249 1/4	249 1/4	249 1/4	249 1/4 -22
02Jul	255 1/4	255 3/4	254	254 1/4	254	254 1/4 -22
02Sep				255 1/2 n	255 1/2	255 1/2 -22
02Dec	258	258 3/4	256 1/2	257 1/4	257 1/4	257 1/4 -14
03Dec	260 1/2	260 1/2	258	260 1/2	260 1/2	260 1/2 -10
Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg

Soybeans

Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg
01May	442	443	436	437	436	436 1/2 -52
01Jul	446 1/2	447 1/4	440	441 1/4	440	440 3/4 -56
01Aug	444 1/2	445 1/4	438 1/2	439	438 1/2	438 3/4 -54
01Sep	440 1/2	441 1/2	433 1/2	434	433 1/2	433 3/4 -72
01Nov	445 1/2	446	437	438	437 1/2	437 3/4 -74
02Jan	455	455	446 1/2	446 1/2	446 1/2	446 1/2 -82
02Mar				455 1/2 n	455 1/2	455 1/2 -82
02May	470	470	463	463	463	463 -80
02Jul	475	475	471	471	471	471 -60
02Nov				477 n	477	477 -84
Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg

Soybean Meal

Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg
01May	152.7	153.5	150.9	151.2	150.9	151.1 -16
01Jul	149.5	150.0	147.4	147.4	147.7	147.6 -19
01Aug	147.5	148.0	145.8	145.8	146.0	145.9 -17
01Sep	145.5	145.8	143.7	143.8	143.7	143.8 -20
01Oct	144.3	144.4	142.7	142.7 b	142.8 a	142.8 -19
01Dec	144.7	144.9	142.8	143.0	143.1	143.1 -20
02Jan	145.5	145.6	143.5	143.5	143.5	143.5 -22
02Mar	147.5	147.5	145.1	145.1	145.1	145.1 -20
02May	148.0	148.2	145.5	145.0 b	145.5 a	145.5 -27
02Jul	149.0	149.0	147.5	147.5 b	147.6 a	147.6 -11
Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg

Lean Hogs

Daily Prices As of :- Thursday, 29 March

Date	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge	Prev. Volume	Prev. Open_Int	
03/29/01	Apr 01	6420	6455	6375	6387	-75	2625	14446
03/29/01	Jun 01	6890	6975	6890	6925	-12	2672	17393
03/29/01	Jul 01	6540	6597	6540	6575	+13	412	4050
03/29/01	Aug 01	6150	6220	6150	6182	+7	200	4073
03/29/01	Oct 01	5435	5500	5420	5497	+30	183	3816
03/29/01	Dec 01	5240	5295	5235	5282	+35	100	2636
03/29/01	Feb 02	5325	5360	5290	5360	+35	22	274
03/29/01	Apr 02	5200	5260	5200	5260	+45	0	67

Composite Volume Open_Int

03/28/01 6214 46755

Live Cattle

Daily Prices As of :- Thursday, 29 March

Date	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge	Prev. Volume	Prev. Open_Int	
03/29/01	Apr 01	7870	7915	7865	7882	+50	7976	39764
03/29/01	Jun 01	7290	7330	7285	7307	+35	5201	35514
03/29/01	Aug 01	7225	7240	7215	7222	+7	2011	25175
03/29/01	Oct 01	7400	7427	7400	7407	+7	1547	17776
03/29/01	Dec 01	7500	7515	7495	7497	+5	417	7272
03/29/01	Feb 02	7580	7600	7580	7585	+5	111	1595
03/29/01	Apr 02	7677	7695	7677	7692	+17	11	647

Composite Volume Open_Int

03/28/01 17275 127743

Pork Bellies

Daily Prices As of :- Thursday, 29 March

Date	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge	Prev. Volume	Prev. Open_Int	
03/29/01	May 01	9380	9420	9245	9290	-92	428	1964
03/29/01	Jul 01	9370	9440	9265	9330	-65	136	596
03/29/01	Aug 01	9220	9245	9140	9170	-70	20	174
03/29/01	Feb 02	7960	7960	7905	7915	-60	0	18
03/29/01	Mar 02	0	8175	8175	8175	unch	0	3

Composite Volume Open_Int

03/28/01 584 2755

Oats

Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg
01May	106 1/4	107 3/4	106 1/4	107	107	107 +4
01Jul	109 3/4	111	109 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2	110 1/2 +6
01Sep	113	113	111 3/4	112 3/4	113	112 3/4 +4
01Dec	119	119 1/2	119	119 1/4	119 1/4	119 1/4 +4
01Nov				124 b	124 3/4 a	124 1/4 Unch
Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg

Weekly Dairy Market Outlook

Ken Bailey
Penn State
March 23, 2001

Butter Markets
Sense Scarcity

- Grade AA butter hits \$1.6450 at CME.
- Cheese remains stable.
- Futures markets strengthen.

It's official! I've taped today's futures market settlement prices for March through December 2001 on the wall in my office. I'm calling the top of the market and believe prices will not get much higher (no, this bit of news won't depress futures market prices). I could be wrong about this, but we'll just have to wait and see. Any way you look at it, some enterprising individual could lock in a portion of their 2001 milk supply at some very favorable prices.

The futures market settlement prices for today at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange shows the Class III price to peak at \$13.25 per cwt in September of 2001. Recall the September Class III price last year was \$10.76 per cwt. The Class IV fu-

tures price peaks at \$14.53 by April 2001 and remains close to that level through November 2001.

These are very strong prices! The question then is whether the actual Class III and IV prices will be this strong when we roll into the spring and fall months. In reality they will be either higher or lower. What we do know is that producers can use the futures markets today to "lock in" substantially higher milk prices when compared to last year.

The new information that has likely affected the butter market is USDA's Cold Storage report that was released March 20. It shows butter stocks on February 28, 2001 at 83.6 million pounds, down 22.5 percent from a year ago. Grade AA butter prices at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange this week rose from \$1.5650 per pound on Monday, March 19 to \$1.6450 by Friday, March 23. USDA reported this week that cream supplies are reported as "tight." If adequate butter is not made by June of this year, butter will be tight the rest of the year.

The cheese market remained

steady this week at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Blocks rose slightly from \$1.32 per pound on Monday, March 19 to \$1.34 by Friday, March 23. Bar-

rels rose from \$1.2675 per pound on Monday to \$1.29 by Friday. Because of these higher prices, the Class III price for March 2001 is expected to be \$11.39 per

cwt.

For more detail, see my Website at <http://www.aers.psu.edu/dairyoutlook/>

Table 1. Chicago Mercantile Exchange Prices, Weekly Averages

	23-Mar-01	16-Mar-01	9-Mar-01	2-Mar-01	23-Feb-01
Cheese					
500 lb barrels	1 2725	1 2710	1 2685	1 2850	1 2600
40-lb blocks	1 3280	1 3120	1 2800	1 3180	1 2900
Butter					
Grade AA	1.6133	1.5183	1 5050	1.5008	1 4663

Source: Dairy Market News, AMS, USDA
(<http://www.ams.usda.gov/dairy/mncs/weekly.htm>)

Table 2. NASS Weekly US Average Survey Prices

	17-Mar-01	10-Mar-01	3-Mar-01	24-Feb-01	17-Feb-01
Cheese					
500 lb Barrels 1/	1 2779	1 2671	1 2408	1 1958	1 1647
40-lb blocks	1 2573	1 2343	1 1968	1 1458	1 1064
Butter	1 4873	1 4843	1 4666	1 3432	1 3097
Nonfat Dry Milk	1 0132	1 0131	1 0131	1 0125	1 0127
Dry whey	0 2357	0 2451	0 2408	0 2479	0 2559

Source: Dairy Product Prices, NASS, USDA
(<http://usda.mannlib.cornell.edu/reports/nassr/price/dairy/1999/>)
1/ Adjusted to 39% moisture.