

GRAIN, CATTLE, HOG, & MILK BFP FUTURES MARKETS

Markets Courtesy of Chicago Board and Mercantile Exchange
Closing Bids: Thursday, May 24, 2001

Corn	Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg
	01Jul	194	194 1/2	193 1/4	193 3/4	194	+14
	01Sep	201 3/4	202 1/2	201 1/4	201 3/4		+16
	01Nov	209	209 1/4	209	209 1/4		+16
	01Dec	212 1/2	213 1/2	212 1/4	212 1/2	213	+14
	02Jan				216 1/4 n	216 1/4	+14
	02Mar	224 1/4	225 1/4	224 1/4	224 1/2	224 3/4	+14
	02May	231 1/2	232	231 1/2	231 1/2	231 3/4	+14
	02Jul	238 1/4	239	238 1/4	238 3/4		+16
	02Sep	242 1/2	243 1/2	242 1/2	243 1/4		+16
	02Dec	248	249	248	248 1/2		+20
	03Dec	260	261	260	261		+12
	Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg

Soybeans	Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg
	01Jul	447 1/2	452	447	450 1/2	449 1/4	+42
	01Aug	442	445	441 1/4	443	442 1/2	+32
	01Sep	433	434 1/2	431 1/2	432 1/4	431 1/2	+14
	01Nov	434	436	432 1/2	433 1/2	432 1/2	+14
	02Jan	442	444	441 1/2	441 1/2		+14
	02Mar	451	452	449 1/2	449 1/2		+14
	02May	457	457	456	456		+14
	02Jul	464 1/2	464 1/2	461 1/2	461 1/2		+14
	02Nov	472 1/2	472 1/2	470	472	470	+10
	Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg

Soybean Meal	Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg
	01Jul	163.3	166.1	163.2	165.3	165.5	+30
	01Aug	158.5	160.6	157.9	159.7	159.6	+23
	01Sep	154.5	155.8	153.8	155.0		+18
	01Oct	150.7	151.7	150.7	151.0	150.9	+12
	01Dec	151.4	151.5	150.4	150.7	150.8	+7
	02Jan	151.8	151.8	150.7	150.7		+7
	02Mar	152.0	152.3	151.7	151.7		+5
	02May	151.0	151.0	150.0	150.0	150.5	+9
	02Jul	151.0	151.2	150.5	150.5	150.7	+11
	02Aug			149.0 b	149.5 a	149.3	Unch
	02Sep			149.5 b	150.0 a	149.8	Unch
	02Oct			150.5 b	152.0 a	151.2	+9
	Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg

Lean Hogs

Daily Prices As of :- Thursday, 24 May

Date	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge	Prev. Volume	Prev. Open_Int
05/24/01	Jun 01	6710	6775	6680	6695	-50	3659
05/24/01	Jul 01	6385	6475	6375	6407	-10	1983
05/24/01	Aug 01	6075	6140	6070	6087	-15	1082
05/24/01	Oct 01	5220	5260	5210	5237	-3	234
05/24/01	Dec 01	4980	5040	4960	4987	+15	362
05/24/01	Feb 02	5100	5117	5100	5110	-7	8
05/24/01	Apr 02	5140	5140	5135	5140	unch	2

Composite Volume Open_Int
05/23/01 7332 42308

Live Cattle

Daily Prices As of :- Thursday, 24 May

Date	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge	Prev. Volume	Prev. Open_Int
05/24/01	Jun 01	7370	7390	7332	7372	+17	9215
05/24/01	Aug 01	7307	7347	7280	7327	+35	8566
05/24/01	Oct 01	7435	7490	7422	7480	+53	3032
05/24/01	Dec 01	7502	7547	7480	7540	+50	624
05/24/01	Feb 02	7525	7567	7495	7560	+45	282
05/24/01	Apr 02	7670	7740	7662	7732	+37	120
05/24/01	Jun 02	0	7390	7360	7390	unch	16

Composite Volume Open_Int
05/23/01 21855 111246

Pork Bellies

Daily Prices As of :- Thursday, 24 May

Date	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge	Prev. Volume	Prev. Open_Int
05/24/01	May 01	0	7612	7612	7612	unch	4
05/24/01	Jul 01	7590	7760	7590	7732	+75	767
05/24/01	Aug 01	7380	7555	7380	7470	+35	125
05/24/01	Feb 02	6950	7050	6950	6985	+35	9
05/24/01	Mar 02	0	6960	6900	6900	unch	0
05/24/01	May 02	0	7000	6950	6950	unch	0

Composite Volume Open_Int
05/23/01 905 2804

Oats

Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg
01Jul	110 1/2	111 3/4	110 1/2	111 1/2	111 1/4	+12
01Sep	108 3/4	109 3/4	108 3/4	109	109	+12
01Dec	115	116	115	115 3/4 a	115 3/4	+16
02Mar			120 1/2 b	121 a	120 3/4	+6
02May	124 1/2	124 1/2	124 1/2	124 1/2	124 1/2	+2
Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg

Weekly Dairy Market Outlook

Ken Bailey
Penn State
May 18, 2001

Cow Numbers Heading Down

- April milk production report released.
- April milk down 1.9 percent.
- Cold storage shows fewer dairy stocks.

USDA released the April milk production and cold storage reports this week. They reveal a recent trend toward less milk from fewer cows and lower inventory levels for cheese and butter.

Milk production in 20 major dairy states during April 2001 totaled 12.2 billion pounds, down 1.9 percent relative to a year ago. March revised milk production was 12.4 billion pounds, down 2.3 percent from March 2000.

Production per cow in the 20 major dairy states averaged 1,572 pounds for April 2001, a drop of 21 pounds relative to April 2000. And cow numbers

on farms was 7.74 million head for April 2001, 45,000 head less than a year ago and 12,000 head less than March 2001. The data indicates there have been eight successive months of declines in cow numbers.

An analysis of the April 2001 data indicates that 13 of the 20 major dairy states experienced a decline in milk production relative to a year ago. In fact, production changes in April relative to a year ago for the top 5 major milk producing states (in order) were California up 1.6 percent, Wisconsin down 3.3 percent, New York down 4.7 percent, Pennsylvania down 5.7 percent, and Minnesota down 5.2 percent.

Fourteen out of the 20 major dairy states had a reduction in cow numbers in April relative to a year ago, and 13 out of 20 experienced reduced production per cow.

The only states with production growth in April (relative to April 2000) were Indiana (+10.6 percent), Idaho (+8.6 percent), New Mexico (+3.8 percent), California (+1.6 percent), Michigan

(+0.4 percent), and Ohio (+0.3 percent).

The top five worse performing states in April with regard to milk production growth were Texas (-12.3 percent), Missouri (-10.5 percent), Arizona (-9.4 percent), Vermont (-6.4 percent), and Pennsylvania (-5.7 percent).

One possible reason for the sudden reduction in cow numbers may have been due to beef prices. USDA's NASS office reports that cull cow prices (Wisconsin) rose \$1.60 per CWT from \$41.70 in March to \$43.30. Cull cow prices in April 2000 were just \$40.50 per CWT. Some farmers may be using higher beef prices to replace low-end cows. The problem, however, is that the cost of replacements has also risen in recent months.

The cash markets remain very strong. At the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, barrel cheese prices closed at \$1.5675 per pound and block cheese prices closed at \$1.6075 per pound on Friday, May 18 (both had no sales). Grade AA butter prices advanced slightly this week, closing at \$1.91 per pound on Friday. The butter price rose on Friday because no one was will-

ing to sell butter at prices between \$1.88 and \$1.91 per pound.

Futures settlement prices at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange also remained firm in light of the milk production report. Class III futures settlements on May 18 rose to \$13.78 for May 01, about \$14.50 for June through September 01, \$13.79 in October, 13.26 in November, and \$12.65 in December. Class IV settlement prices on May 18 were \$14.90 for May 01, about \$15.20-\$15.42 for June 01-September 01, \$14.95 for Oc-

tober, \$14.15 for November 01, and \$13.85 for December 01.

USDA released the April cold storage report today. April butter stocks were down 17.5 percent relative to a year ago. American cheese stocks at the end of April were down 10 percent.

Finally, all cheese stocks by the end of April were down 9.2 percent. This trend in cheese and butter inventories signals a significant reduction in inventories in the next few months, if the milk supply continues to be tight.

Average Farm Feed Costs for Handy Reference

To help farmers across the state to have handy reference of commodity input costs in their feeding operations for DHIA record sheets or to develop livestock feed cost data, here's last week's average costs of various ingredients as compiled from regional reports across the state of Pennsylvania.

Remember, these are averages, so you will need to adjust your figures up or

down according to your location and the quality of your crop.

- Corn, No.2y — 2.2 bu., 3.94 cwt.
- Wheat, No.2 — 2.31 bu., 3.85 cwt.
- Barley, No.3 — 1.51 bu., 3.23 cwt.
- Oats, No.2 — 1.42 bu., 4.43 cwt.
- Soybeans, No.1 — 4.06 bu., 6.78 cwt.
- Ear Corn — 60.61 ton, 3.03 cwt.
- Alfalfa Hay — 108.00 ton, 5.4 cwt.
- Mixed Hay — 110.00 ton, 5.5 cwt.
- Timothy Hay — 105.75 ton, 5.29 cwt.