

GRAIN, CATTLE, HOG, & MILK BFP

FUTURES MARKETS

Markets Courtesy of Chicago Board and Mercantile Exchange
Closing Bids: Thursday, April 4, 2002

Corn

Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg
02May	201 1/4	202 3/4	200 1/2	201 1/2	201 3/4	201 1/2 +2
02Jul	207 1/2	209	206 3/4	207 3/4	208	207 3/4 +2
02Sep	214 1/4	215 1/2	213 1/2	214	214 1/4	214 Unch
02Dec	222 1/4	223 3/4	221 3/4	222 1/4	222 1/2	222 1/4 Unch
03Mar	230 1/2	231 1/2	230 1/4	230 3/4	230 3/4	230 3/4 Unch
03May	236 1/2	237	236	236	236	236 -4
03Jul	240 3/4	241 1/2	240	240 3/4	240 3/4	240 3/4 -4
03Sep	238	239	238	239	239	239 -4
03Dec	242 1/2	243 1/2	241 3/4	242 3/4	242 3/4	242 3/4 -4
04Mar	250	250	249	249 1/2	249 1/2	249 1/2 -4
04Jul	253	253 1/2	253	253	253	253 -4
04Dec	247	247 1/2	247	247 1/2	247 1/2	247 1/2 +4
Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg

Soybeans

Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg
02May	461 1/2	463	456 3/4	458 1/2	459 1/2	459 -26
02Jul	465	467	460	462 1/2	464	463 1/4 -22
02Aug	465 1/4	466 3/4	460 1/2	462 1/2	462	462 1/4 -30
02Sep	463	464 1/2	457 1/2	458 1/2	458	458 1/4 -42
02Nov	465 1/2	468	460	461	461 3/4	461 1/2 -42
03Jan	468	472	465	465	465	465 -44
03Mar	473	475	468 1/2	469	469	469 -44
03May	475 1/2	475 1/2	470	470 1/2	470 1/2	470 1/2 -40
03Jul	478	478	472	472 1/2	472 1/2	472 1/2 -40
03Sep				473 n	473	473 -30
03Nov	480	480	475	475	475	475 -50
Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg

Soybean Meal

Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg
02May	156.5	157.0	155.0	155.4	155.3	155.4 -15
02Jul	155.3	156.4	154.0	154.5	154.6	154.6 -16
02Aug	154.5	155.4	153.2	153.5	153.4	153.5 -14
02Sep	153.5	154.2	152.0	152.0	152.0	152.0 -19
02Oct	152.7	153.5	150.6	150.6 b	150.7 a	150.7 -21
02Dec	153.3	154.0	151.3	151.5	151.3	151.4 -23
03Jan	153.0	153.8	151.5	151.5	151.5	151.5 -20
03Mar	151.0	152.5	149.5	150.0	149.5	149.8 -18
03May	151.0	151.0	149.2	149.2	149.2	149.2 -13
03Jul	150.5	151.5	150.0	150.0 b	150.2 a	150.1 -4
03Aug	150.0	151.0	149.5	149.0 b	149.5 a	149.5 -10
03Sep	151.0	151.0	149.5	149.0 b	149.5 a	149.5 -10
03Oct	150.0	150.0	149.5	149.0 b	149.5 a	149.5 -10
03Dec				150.0 b	150.5 a	150.3 -2
Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg

Lean Hogs

Date	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge	Previous Volume	Previous Open_Int
04/03/02	*CASH*	0	4801	4801	4801	+128	0
04/04/02	Apr 02	4702	4772	4675	4695	-75	3568
04/04/02	May 02	5730	5755	5597	5597	-200	1077
04/04/02	Jun 02	5950	5990	5777	5777	-200	4081
04/04/02	Jul 02	5810	5845	5635	5645	-190	587
04/04/02	Aug 02	5580	5610	5400	5405	-190	206
04/04/02	Oct 02	4755	4765	4600	4625	-147	190
04/04/02	Dec 02	4570	4570	4440	4455	-105	124
04/04/02	Feb 03	4735	4780	4720	4720	-40	1

Composite Volume Open_Int

04/03/02 9834 36140

Live Cattle

Date	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge	Previous Volume	Previous Open_Int
04/03/02	*CASH*	0	7100	7100	7100	unch	0
04/04/02	Apr 02	7180	7187	7012	7012	-150	8081
04/04/02	Jun 02	6655	6655	6480	6480	-150	5488
04/04/02	Aug 02	6600	6600	6432	6432	-150	1856
04/04/02	Oct 02	6870	6870	6705	6705	-150	2020
04/04/02	Dec 02	7045	7050	6885	6885	-150	448
04/04/02	Feb 03	7145	7145	7005	7005	-150	105
04/04/02	Apr 03	7170	7170	7120	7150	-120	15

Composite Volume Open_Int

04/03/02 18015 103005

Pork Bellies

Date	Open	High	Low	Last	Chge	Previous Volume	Previous Open_Int
04/03/02	*CASH*	0	6700	6700	6700	unch	0
04/04/02	May 02	7090	7170	6985	7065	-37	780
04/04/02	Jul 02	7190	7265	7100	7135	-55	144
04/04/02	Aug 02	7050	7185	7015	7015	-35	36
04/04/02	Feb 03	6875	6875	6875	6875	+5	0
04/04/02	Mar 03	6845	6845	6845	6845	unch	0

Composite Volume Open_Int

04/03/02 960 2820

Oats

Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg
02May	205 1/2	215 1/2	204 1/2	215 1/4	215 1/2	215 1/4 +90
02Jul	170	172	168 1/2	169	168 1/2	168 3/4 -22
02Sep	142	144 1/4	142	144	144	144 +2
02Dec	142 1/4	142 3/4	142	142	142	142 -2
03Mar				147 a	147	147 Unch
Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg

Weekly Dairy Market Outlook

Ken Bailey
Penn State
March 29, 2002

MARKETS CLOSED FOR EASTER/PASSOVER

• Market activity light this week.

• Cheese and butter prices unchanged.

• Commercial disappearance numbers strange.

The dairy markets at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange were closed March 29 in observance of Good Friday. Markets reopened Monday, April 1.

The short trading week didn't offer much in the way of price information. Butter and cheese prices at the Chicago Mercantile Exchange were unchanged. Blocks were about \$1.23 per pound and barrels were about

\$1.20 per pound. Grade AA butter prices were unchanged at \$1.2250-\$1.2350 per pound.

USDA reported numbers for commercial disappearance for milk and dairy products from November 2001-January 2002. The numbers were strange. Butter consumption during this period was up 11.9 percent. This is very strong. Looking at retail butter prices over a similar time period (December 2001-February 2002), prices were up about 14 percent. This is strange, I thought. Normally, consumption drops when retail prices rise.

Here is what I pieced together. First, wholesale butter prices spiked in the fall of 2000, rising to more than \$1.80 per pound by the first week in December. This had an adverse effect on consumption of butter, particularly at the food-service level. As for retail, it was likely that retailers did not pass on all of the higher wholesale costs, since butter sold for less than \$3 per pound.

Now fast forward to November 2001-January 2002. Wholesale prices for butter fell considerably from the summer levels, from more than \$2 per pound in August to a low of \$1.24 by the middle of December. Retail butter prices fell from summer levels, but not nearly as much as wholesale prices. The retail price of

butter in major urban markets fell from \$3.70 per pound in September 2001 to \$3.28 by February 2002. While retail customers faced some reduction in prices by the fall, food-service customers likely got a bigger discount because of lower wholesale prices. Overall, because of lower prices, butter consumption increased during this period relative to a year ago.

Unlike cheese, butter consumption is very sensitive to wholesale and retail prices.

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 — 2.34 bu., 4.18 cwt.
- Wheat, No.2 — 2.64 bu., 4.41 cwt.
- Barley, No.3 — 1.84 bu., 3.93 cwt.
- Oats, No.2 — 1.85 bu., 5.76 cwt.
- Soybeans, No.1 — 4.32 bu., 7.21 cwt.
- Ear Corn — 66.66 ton, 3.33 cwt.
- Alfalfa Hay — 135.50 ton, 6.78 cwt.
- Mixed Hay — 127.50 ton, 6.38 cwt.

BUSINESS PAGE APPEARS IN SECTION C

See the latest in equipment and material news, promotions and new hires, and burgeoning ag ventures on the business news page located in Section C this issue!