

THE OLD FARMER'S
THIS WEEK WITH
ALMANAC

NOV. 25-DEC. 1, 2002
 THANKSGIVING DAY, NOV. 28

DON'T FORGET THE CRANBERRY SAUCE!
 An evergreen bog plant, the cranberry is closely related to the blueberry. Our native American cranberry, larger than the European variety (which is also found in North America), is the one grown commercially. It has been in cultivation at least since 1840 and is prevalent on Cape Cod and in other parts of Massachusetts, as well as in New Jersey and Wisconsin. Commercial growers prepare their bogs for annual flooding. The highbush "cranberry," which is of the honeysuckle family, is unlike the bog cranberry, which comes from the heath family.

A thankful heart is the parent of all virtues.
 -Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman statesman and author (106-43 B.C.)

TIP OF THE WEEK
 Potatoes roast more quickly if they are washed in warm water and then allowed to soak for a moment.

CRANBERRY-APPLE SLAW
 12-ounce bag whole cranberries
 1/4 cup orange juice concentrate
 juice of 1 lemon
 6 large 'McIntosh' or 'Cortland' apples
 chopped nuts or raisins (optional)

In a food processor, blender, or meat grinder, coarsely chop or grind the cranberries, adding the orange juice concentrate and lemon juice until just blended. You can make this part of the recipe ahead and refrigerate until needed. Just before serving, core apples and shred them in a food processor or with a hand grater. Combine with the cranberry-orange mixture and toss until mixed. Add chopped nuts or raisins as desired. Serve immediately. Makes 6 servings.

THE OLD FARMER'S WEATHER PROVERBS
 If snow begins at mid of day, Expect a foot of it to lay.
 Anvil-shaped clouds bring on a gale.

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Pennsylvania Graded Feeder Cattle Sales

November 19, 2002
 Report Supplied by PDA
 HARRISBURG (Dauphin co.) — Summary of State Graded Feeder Cattle Sales conducted at nine auctions: Total receipts: 2308 head (1177 steers, 1046 heifers and 44 bulls). All cattle graded according to USDA standards and sold per hundredweight. Averages weights and average prices in parentheses. Following prices for lots of 6 or more head.

FEEDER STEERS: Large 1: 16 head, 405-448 lb (422) 61-98.00 (78.89); 51 head, 450-498 lb (469) 63-84.00 (76.91); 102 head, 500-548 lb (531) 61-99.00 (75.51); 144 head, 550-591 (569) 65-81.00 (73.02); 56 head, 600-646 lb (621) 58-84.00 (73.69); 16 head, 650-678 lb (659) 64-72.50 (67.92); 7 head 730-784 lb (739) 63-71.00 (68.78); 16 head (763-788 lb (773) 60.67.00 (64.77). Large 2: 6 head, 390-394 lb (393) 56-82.00 (77.70); 10 head, 400-438 lb (415) 65-73.00 (69.46); 28 head 455-485 lb (471) 66-82.00 (73.65); 28 head, 540-547 lb (529) 35-83.00 (74.80); 18 head, 562-590 lb (575) 60.50-80.00 (66.98); 13 head, 601-611 lb (608) 58-71.00 (69.16); 8 head, 650-685 lb (661) 59-66.00 (60.98); 11 head, 737-740 lb (739) 63-64.00 (63.82); 8 head, 754 lb 66.50. Medium 1: 8 head, 310-339 lb (329 lb) 76-85.00 (82.40); 36 head, 358-395 lb (369) 74-95.00 (86.87); 30 head, 425-446 lb (438) 73-85.00 (77.82); 141 head, 450-495 lb (457 lb) 69-97.00 (84.76); 49 head, 500-535 lb (524) 68-94.00 (80.96); 63 head, 550-594 lb (559) 64-88.00 (78.01); 29 head, 605-638 lb (628) 70-81.00 (79.00); 13 head, 726-735 lb (729) 69-76.00 (73.29). Medium 2: 16 head, 300-348 lb (342) 65-111.00 (85.01); 27 head, 350-395 lb (376) 65-91.00 (77.57); 55 head, 400-445 lb (428) 65-94.00 (75.59); 51 head, 450-484 lb (467) 49-84.00 (72.75); 34 head, 505-549 lb

(527) 70-84.00 (77.70); 11 head, 570-595 lb (579) 45-66.50 (59.17).
HOLSTEIN STEERS: Large 2: One lot 4 head, 575 lb 42.50. Large 3: 5 head, 580-597 lb (588 lb) 36-46.00 (40.86); 15 head, 783-790 lb (787 lb) 32-36.00 (34.13); 6 head, 1007 lb 50.00.
FEEDER HEIFERS: Large 1: 20 head, 353-378 lb (370) 61-79.00 (72.49); 32 head, 400-446 lb (436) 59-78.00 (67.58); 72 head, 450-493 lb (469) 61-78.00 (72.35); 71 head, 500-548 lb (532) 58-78.00 (68.21); 43 head, 551-597 lb (567) 56.50-78.00 (70.90); 23 head, 613-645 lb (622) 64-69.00 (67.06); 9 head, 653-698 lb (683) 58-65.00 (60.23); 7 head, 728-745 lb (735) 58-64.00 (62.58). Large 2: 11 head, 365-395 lb (381) 46-75.00 (64.88); 9 head, 425-448 lb (438) 55-67.00 (60.45); 18 head, 450-483 lb (464) 53.50-75.00 (65.34); 46 head, 500-547 lb (521) 53-72.00 (66.92); 14 head, 602-640 lb (618) 60-69.00 (66.44). Medium 1: 13 head, 308-346 lb (333) 56-80.50 (67.66); 38 head, 350-385 lb (365) 64-82.00 (73.61); 111 head, 400-449 lb (470) 63-495.00 (112.27); 67 head, 506-545 lb (521) 54-74.00 (70.04); 62 head, 555-570 lb (556) 61-74.00 (69.75); 6 head, 610-613 lb (612) 56-68.00 (66.10). Medium 2: 24 head, 300-340 lb (323) 57-77.00 (68.66); 347 head, 350-398 lb 51-77.00 (69.95); 81 head, 400-448 lb (432) 52-73.50 (68.84); 20 head, 454-495 lb (465) 60-79.00 (68.65); 31 head, 522-545 lb (528) 42-71.00 (61.68); 6 head, 600-630 lb (607) 54-67.00 (58.24). Medium 3: 7 head, 405-425 lb (422) 50-58.00 (56.90). Small 1: 11 head, 385-399 lb (398) 49.50-62.00 (50.60); 10 head, 420-445 lb (426) 54-65.00 (59.98).
FEEDER BULLS: Large 1: 11 head, 655-660 lb (658) 54.50-69.00 (61.50). Medium 1: 28 head, 415-445 lb (444) 63.50-72.00 (71.75). Small 1: 8 head, 379 lb 49.00.

National Feeder Cattle Weekly Review

St. Joseph, Mo.
 November 15, 2002
 Report Supplied by USDA
NATIONAL FEEDER & STOCKER
 Summary for week ending Nov. 15, 2002
 Total Receipts: 493,200, last week 346,900. Direct: 76,600, last week 66,100. Video/Internet: 26,600 head, last week 3,500. Auction Receipts: 390,000; last week 277,300. This week's reported auction volume included 28 percent over 600 lbs and 42 percent heifers.
 Compared to last week, yearling feeders sold firm to 2.00 higher with instances of 3.00-4.00 higher on weights over 800 lbs that have a chance to finish in February or early March. The CME February Live Cattle contracts are presently trading near 76.50 and this week's fat cattle market broke 70.00 for the first time since April. Demand was much improved for calves this week and prices trended steady to 4.00 higher. In the Southeast and Southern Plains the full advance was placed on weights under 500 lbs, but in the upper Midwest and Northern Plains the biggest gains were noted on the heavier calves. Most areas reported improved weather conditions as being a major market driver for calves. This week marked the most popular turn-out date for winter wheat pasture and the warmer temperatures and drier fields allowed most backrounders to put their stockers to work. The early-fall moisture has created lush wheat pastures and many grazers will be able to increase their stocking rate, which should keep the fire burning under calf prices. Early purchases were cheap enough to allow buyers to pay these higher prices and still keep a decent average. Yearling prices continue to inch closer to the sun, with 8 weight steers routinely selling well into the 80.00 range. This is

the same 80.00 range where many 5 weight calves are selling, leaving cow-calf producers scratching their head. In the past, 85.00 yearlings meant 110.00 calves. Not so this year, as the dry summer caused many herds to be placed on feed early and left a short supply of yearlings coming off grass this fall. At the same time, the excellent late-summer grass and emergence of early wheat pasture allowed many cattlemen in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas to hold onto their 6 weight cattle, instead of putting them on feed. This resulted in much lower October placement number on Friday's cattle-on-feed report than most analysts expected, only 87 percent of last year's. Marketings were toward the top of most guesses at 104 percent and the USDA pegged on-feed numbers at 91 percent of a year ago. This should result in a significant boost to the CME Futures market, which is odd, following a cattle-on-feed report that was forecasted to be bullish.

LIVESTOCK FUTURES MARKET

Chicago Mercantile Exchange
 Wednesday, November 20, 2002

	Choice Steers		Choice Feeders		Live Hogs		Frozen Pork Bellies	
	Today	Wk Ago	Today	Wk Ago	Today	Wk Ago	Today	Wk Ago
N 02	-----	-----	80.725	83.050	-----	-----	-----	-----
D 02	74.225	73.100	-----	-----	46.025	45.150	-----	-----
J 02	-----	-----	83.775	83.050	-----	-----	-----	-----
F 03	77.950	76.975	-----	-----	53.800	52.375	83.575	81.675
Mr 03	-----	-----	81.950	81.000	-----	-----	82.500	80.950
Ap 03	77.125	76.200	81.375	80.300	57.975	56.175	-----	-----
My 03	-----	-----	81.575	80.300	61.950	61.100	83.100	81.500
Jn 03	70.825	70.075	-----	-----	64.500	63.300	-----	-----
Ji 03	-----	-----	-----	-----	61.875	60.950	82.500	81.000
Au 03	69.075	68.575	83.625	82.400	59.350	57.700	78.200	79.000
S 03	-----	-----	83.550	82.425	-----	-----	-----	-----
O 03	70.050	69.750	83.250	82.000	52.550	52.050	-----	-----
D 03	-----	-----	-----	-----	51.975	52.275	-----	-----

Five-Area Weekly Average Direct Slaughter Cattle

St. Joseph, Mo., November 18, 2002 — USDA Market News Service
 Sales in Texas/Oklahoma; Kansas; Nebraska; Colorado; and Iowa/Minnesota Feedlots for
 Week Ending Sunday, November 17, 2002

Confirmed Sales: 236,726, Week Ago: 122,921; Year Ago: 139,725

LIVE FOB BASIS SALES - Beef Breeds:

SLAUGHTER STEERS:

Price	#Head	Wt Range	Price Range	Av. Wt	Av.
Over 80% Choice	5,471	850-1460	66.50-69.50	1,401	68.00
65-80% Choice	5,325	1060-1640	65.50-70.75	1,346	68.54
35-65% Choice	54,952	1050-1425	66.00-70.50	1,278	69.55
0-35% Choice	3,435	1200-1400	66.00-70.00	1,285	69.00
TOTAL all grades	69,183	850-1640	65.50-70.75	1,293	69.33

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS:

Price	#Head	Wt Range	Price Range	Av. Wt	Av.
Over 80% Choice	4,936	1150-1350	65.00-70.00	1,272	68.44
65-80% Choice	10,330	1050-1330	67.00-70.00	1,254	69.25
35-65% Choice	38,869	1040-1375	68.00-70.50	1,157	69.76
0-35% Choice	416	1100-1175	69.00-69.00	1,143	69.00
TOTAL all grades	54,551	1040-1375	65.00-70.50	1,185	69.54

DRESSED DELIVERED BASIS - Beef Breeds:

SLAUGHTER STEERS:

Price	#Head	Wt Range	Price Range	Av. Wt	Av.
Over 80% Choice	5,398	766- 915	105.00-110.00	851	108.22
65-80% Choice	15,032	650- 946	105.00-110.00	868	107.54
35-65% Choice	17,542	700- 990	106.00-110.50	822	108.58
0-35% Choice	430	784- 822	107.00-109.00	802	108.08
TOTAL all grades	38,402	650- 990	105.00-110.50	844	108.12

SLAUGHTER HEIFERS:

Price	#Head	Wt Range	Price Range	Av. Wt	Av.
Over 80% Choice	2,241	704- 848	105.00-110.00	792	107.71
65-80% Choice	12,259	677- 915	106.00-110.00	787	108.34
35-65% Choice	28,678	672- 887	107.00-111.00	760	109.19
0-35% Choice	284	668- 668	109.50-109.50	668	109.50
TOTAL all grades	43,462	668- 915	105.00-111.00	769	108.88

Kentucky Feeder Cattle Sales

Lexington, Ky.
 November 19, 2002
 Report Supplied by USDA
Blue Grass Stockyards Auction
CATTLE: Receipts: 2,383. Compared to Monday: Steer and heifer calves mostly steady with quality better. Yearling steers steady, yearling heifers steady to 1.00 higher. Holsteins steady.
FEEDER STEERS: Med./Lge. 1. Few 300-350 lbs 100.00-103.00, 350-400 lbs 93.00-99.00; 400-450 lbs 85.50-88.50, 450-500 lbs 84.00-86.50; 500-550 lbs 81.00-87.50, 550-600 lbs 79.00-84.75, including 22 head (bbwf) 551 lbs 84.75 and 28 head (mixed) 597 lbs 83.95; 600-700 lbs 77.00-85.70 fleshy 75.00-77.00, including 76 head (mixed) 639 lbs 85.70; few 700-800 lbs 76.00-83.00; 800-900 lbs 80.00-83.50, including 33 head (mixed) 883 lbs 80.00; 900-1000 lbs 76.00-79.50. Holsteins: Large 3: 500-600 lbs 44.00-57.00; 600-700 lbs 53.50-55.70; cpl. 728 lbs 51.00; cpl. 838 lbs 47.50.
BULL CALVES: Med./Lge. 1: 300-400 lbs 86.00-95.00; 400-500 lbs 76.00-84.00; 500-600 lbs 72.00-82.00 few to 84.00; 600-700 lbs 68.00-75.00; few 700-800 lbs 69.50.
FEEDER HEIFERS: Med./Lge. 1: 300-400 lbs 78.00-81.00 fleshy 76.00-77.00; 400-500 lbs 74.00-79.50; 500-600 lbs 73.00-75.75 fleshy 71.00-73.00; 600-700 lbs 72.00-77.80, including 29 head (mixed) 612 lbs 77.80; 700-800 lbs 69.00-78.20, including 100 head (Charx-blk) 780 lbs 78.20; few 800-900 lbs 66.50-75.25; 900-1000 lbs 65.00-70.50.

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