

GRAIN, CATTLE, HOG, & MILK BFP

FUTURES MARKETS

Markets Courtesy of Chicago Board and Mercantile Exchange
Closing Bids: Thursday, October 30, 2003

Corn

Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg	
03Dec	251	251	246	248 247 1/2	247 3/4	-4	
04Mar	255	255	252	252 1/2	253	252 3/4	+2
04May	258	259	254 1/2	256 1/4	256 3/4	256 1/2	+2
04Jul	260	260	257 1/2	258 1/4	258 3/4	258 1/2	Unch
04Sep	250	253 1/2	250	252 1/4		252 1/4	+4
04Dec	248 3/4	249 3/4	247 1/2	249 1/2	249 3/4	249 1/2	+6
05Mar	253 1/2	255	253	254 1/2	255	254 3/4	+10
05May	255 3/4	257	255 3/4	257		257	Unch
05Jul	258	259 1/2	257	258 1/2	259	258 3/4	Unch
05Dec	245	245	245	245		245	+2
Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg	

Soybeans

Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg	
03Nov	799	802	788 1/2	792 1/2	794 1/2	793 1/2	-64
04Jan	802	805	792 1/2	798	800	799	-44
04Mar	785	793	781	785	786 1/2	785 3/4	-36
04May	748	753	743	748 1/2	749 1/2	749	+10
04Jul	725	735	725	730	733	731 1/2	+34
04Aug	710	714	705	705 1/2	706 1/2	706	+54
04Sep	655	665	655	664 b	665 a	664 1/2	+104
04Nov	596	599	594	595	598	596 1/2	+50
05Jan	595	595	595	595		595	+30
05Mar				594 n		594	+60
Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg	

Soybean Meal

Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg	
03Dec	255.0	256.5	252.3	254.6	254.8	254.7	-1
04Jan	252.2	255.0	250.0	252.5	252.7	252.6	-2
04Mar	247.0	251.0	245.5	248.0	247.3	247.7	-3
04May	234.0	238.0	232.5	234.8	234.2	234.5	-1
04Jul	228.5	233.0	227.0	229.5		229.5	Unch
04Aug	220.0	225.5	219.0	220.5		220.5	Unch
04Sep	208.5	214.0	207.5	208.8		208.8	+3
04Oct	182.5	187.0	182.5	183.2		183.2	+5
04Dec	178.5	183.6	178.5	179.5	179.8	179.6	+1
05Jan	181.0	183.0	179.0	179.0		179.0	-2
Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg	

Lean Hogs

Date	Open	High	Low	Last Chge	Previous Volume	Previous Open_Int		
10/29/03	*CASH*	0	4610	4610	4610	+30	0	0
10/30/03	Dec 03	5330	5345	5215	5255	-10	5345	24397
10/30/03	Feb 04	5810	5840	5720	5785	+18	1743	11148
10/30/03	Apr 04	5940	5970	5872	5907	-3	421	4951
10/30/03	May 04	6195	6200	6165	6195	+25	63	743
10/30/03	Jun 04	6445	6485	6440	6480	+33	166	1656
10/30/03	Jul 04	6155	6200	6127	6142	+42	30	612
10/30/03	Aug 04	6015	6040	6010	6035	+30	40	256
10/30/03	Oct 04	5340	5390	5335	5335	+25	52	206
10/30/03	Dec 04	5350	5350	5330	5340	+30	12	34

Composite Volume Open_Int
10/29/03 7873 44003

Live Cattle

Date	Open	High	Low	Last Chge	Previous Volume	Previous Open_Int		
10/29/03	*CASH*	0	9780	9780	9780	unch	0	0
10/30/03	Oct 03	10267	10267	10167	10180	+13	1005	737
10/30/03	Nov 03	9705	9745	9550	9580	-80	158	645
10/30/03	Dec 03	9285	9285	8992	9065	-77	8309	52732
10/30/03	Jan 04	9050	9070	8855	8945	-60	41	433
10/30/03	Feb 04	8710	8710	8485	8560	-60	5852	29857
10/30/03	Apr 04	8180	8200	8020	8110	-50	2303	17791
10/30/03	Jun 04	7580	7580	7430	7525	-25	1054	10475
10/30/03	Aug 04	7470	7490	7375	7425	-40	397	3323
10/30/03	Oct 04	7480	7490	7415	7415	-65	2	282

Composite Volume Open_Int
10/29/03 19121 116275


Pork Bellies

Date	Open	High	Low	Last Chge	Previous Volume	Previous Open_Int		
10/29/03	*CASH*	0	7800	7800	7800	+200	0	0
10/30/03	Feb 04	8700	8820	8660	8685	+13	639	1612
10/30/03	Mar 04	8617	8670	8615	8615	+25	14	116
10/30/03	May 04	8800	8855	8720	8720	+50	1	50
10/30/03	Jul 04	8970	8970	8930	8970	+50	1	34
10/30/03	Aug 04	8840	8850	8840	8850	+30	5	8

Composite Volume Open_Int
10/29/03 660 1821

Oats

Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg
03Dec	148	149 1/2	143 1/2	143 3/4	143 3/4	-42
04Mar	151	151	145 1/2	146	146	-42
04May	148 1/2	148 1/2	147	148 a	148	-30
04Jul				150 a	150	Unch
04Sep				150 n	150	Unch
04Dec				151 n	151	Unch
Month	Opening	High	Low	Closing	Settle	Net Chg



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Oct. 24, 2003
**CHEESE PRICES SHOW
SIGNS OF WEAKNESS**
• Barrel prices drop 2.5 cents/pound.
• Blocks still holding.
Block cheese prices have been stuck at \$1.60 per pound for the last few months. That's good for dairy farmers. But how long will that last?

Will blocks strengthen or weaken in the weeks ahead? The Chicago Mercantile Exchange futures market indicates that cheese prices will begin to weaken during the last week in October. Barrel cheese prices fell a few pennies by week's end.
American cheese production through August has been down 1.7 percent relative to a year ago.

With heat stress in California and poor forage quality in the Northeast, there is no reason to believe that the U.S. milk supply, and hence cheese production, will rebound significantly this year. I'm projecting that American cheese production for September through December will remain just below year-ago levels, if that high.

Imports of American cheese through June were up just over 10 percent. However, cumulative American type cheese imports were just 40.6 million pounds, small enough not to impact U.S. supply and demand.

Commercial ending stocks for American cheese in cold storage facilities fell to 514.9 million pounds. Of that amount, 8.8 million pounds were Government owned. Thus net inventory in commercial channels was below year-ago levels.

The real indication of future cheese prices is commercial disappearance, or the amount of cheese that was consumed. By my own calculations, commercial disappearance through September for American cheese was 2.75 million pounds, or 1.6 percent below a year ago. It has trended upward the last few months, but at a rate that is still below year-ago levels.

So here are my thoughts. If demand remains sluggish and we get any milk production rebound in October through December, look for cheese prices to weaken rapidly. However, if the milk supply remains even with a year ago (as I expect it will) and demand picks up a bit, we could see cheese prices weaken very gradually. Again, it all boils down to supply and demand!

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 — 2.50 bu., 4.47 cwt.
- Wheat, No.2 — 3.23 bu., 5.39 cwt.
- Barley, No.3 — 1.88 bu., 4.02 cwt.
- Oats, No.2 — 1.77 bu., 5.52 cwt.
- Soybeans, No.1 — 6.66 bu., 11.11 cwt.
- Ear Corn — 63.11 ton, 3.16 cwt.
- Alfalfa Hay — 122.50 ton, 6.13 cwt.
- Mixed Hay — 132.00 ton, 6.6 cwt.
- Timothy Hay — 141.75 ton, 7.09 cwt.