



Volume 11: October 2024

LIVE STOCK companion



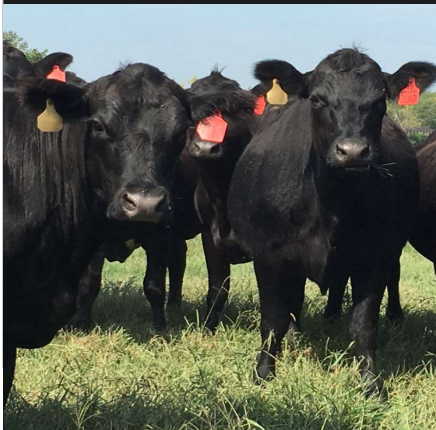
MONTHLY TIP

As cooler temperatures settle in Tennessee, be aware of the risk of prussic acid (cyanide) poisoning when grazing Sorghum, Sudangrass, and Johnsongrass after a frost. Prussic acid forms a few hours after frost but usually breaks down within a few days.

To be safe, if a frost hits, keep cattle off pastures with these forages for 14 days. Unlike nitrate toxicity, prussic acid levels decrease over time.

For Sudangrass, avoid grazing until it reaches at least 18 inches, and for Sorghum-Sudangrass, wait until it's 30 inches or taller.

*Dr. Bruno Pedreira
UT Extension Forage Specialist*



“The grass is always greener on the other side.”

- Unknown

HAY FEED

Dr. Bruno Pedreira, UT Extension Forage Specialist & Director of UT Beef and Forage Center

After Hurricane Helene, checking your pastures and hay to ensure they're safe for livestock is important. Start by walking through the fields to look for any wind damage or debris. Foreign objects in the pasture can hurt the animals, so be sure to clear them out before turning livestock out to graze. Once the pasture dries, it's a good idea to do a soil test to check for nutrient loss. Heavy rain and flooding can wash away nutrients, so you may need to adjust the fertilization plan. Next, take a good look at your hay, especially if it was exposed to floodwaters. Stored hay, whether in barns or covered stacks, can be damaged by flooding. Flooded hay tends to mold quickly, and feeding moldy hay can cause livestock health issues. If your hay got wet, unstack it and let it dry out. But remember, hay that's been underwater probably isn't worth feeding, especially to pregnant or lactating animals, and definitely not to horses. If the hay is too far gone, with visible mold or rot, it's best to dispose of it.

SNAPSHOT OF RETAIL BEEF PRICES

Dr. Charley Martinez, UT Extension Director of UT Center for Farm Management

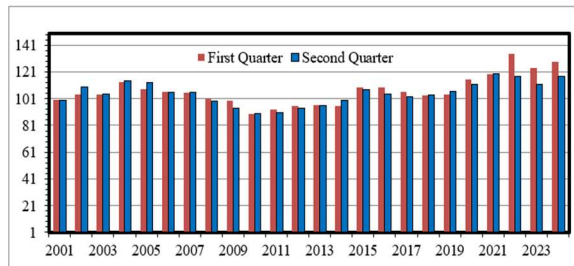


Figure 1. All Retail Beef Demand Index (source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, USDA-ERS. Compiled & Analysis by LMIC) ALL FRESH BEEF RETAIL DEMAND INDEX First and Second Quarter, Using CPI 2000=100.

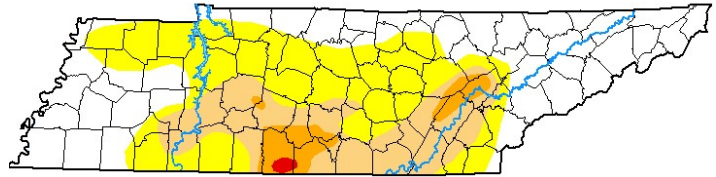
In September, the latest quarterly consumer demand information was released. Figure 1 displays all fresh beef retail demand for the first (red) and second (blue) quarters of a year, for years 2001-2024. Over the last 23 years, the first quarter of 2021 had the highest demand. The first quarter of this year is the second highest in the last 23 years. Similarly, the second quarter of this

year tied for the second highest indexed demand for the last 23 years. Monthly retail prices for the big three proteins in August saw retail beef prices average \$8.15/lb, which is \$5.71/lb higher than retail chicken, and \$3.25/lb higher than retail pork. Thus, while beef prices are higher than the alternative proteins, beef demand is still remaining strong. Historically, the thought was that if beef prices rise, then consumers shift their demand to other protein alternatives. But, during this run, it seems that consumers are switching their demand within beef alternatives. That is, instead of ribeyes, consumers are switching to ground beef, or other cheaper beef alternatives. If beef demand starts to trend downwards, that will cause lower beef prices in the subsequent months (remember supply is expected to stay steady to lower given the national beef herd size), which will alter demand from retail through wholesale.

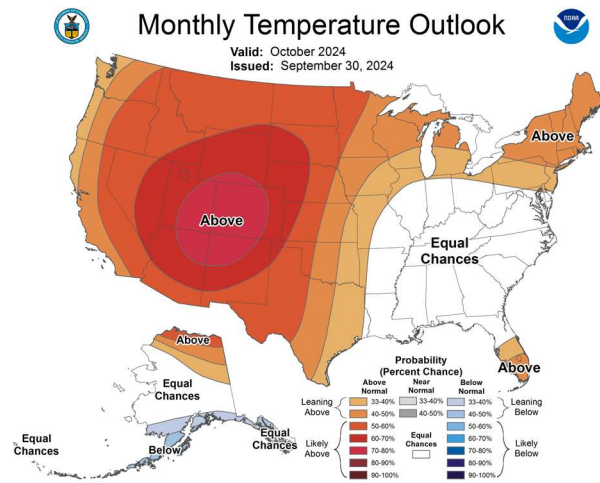
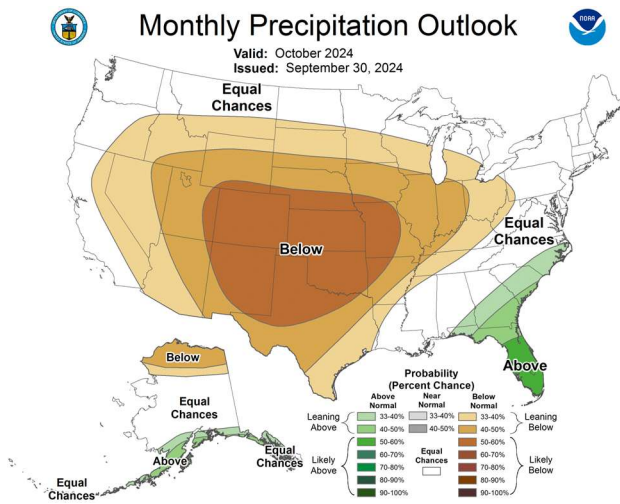
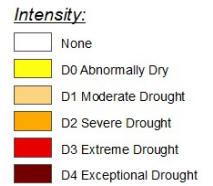
WEATHER

Dr. Bruno Pedreira, UT Extension Forage Specialist

As the "NCEI in Asheville has been significantly impacted by Hurricane Helene", we were not able to provide weather data for September. ncei.noaa.gov



For October, temperatures are cooling down and are expected to stay near the average. Rainfall in East Tennessee is already well above normal due to Hurricane Helene. Middle and West Tennessee saw some rain, but overall precipitation is expected to be below average. This has already impacted the drought monitor released on October 8. Northeast and Southwest Tennessee are now drought-free, but drought conditions persist in parts of Middle-South Tennessee. Several counties are experiencing dry conditions, ranging from D0 (abnormally dry) to D2 (severe drought). Giles and Lincoln counties remain the hardest hit, with some areas still in D3 (extreme drought). droughtmonitor.unl.edu



UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Live.Stock](#) - Join us for our live stream November 13, 2024 at 2 PM ET
- [Northeast Tennessee Beef Expo](#) October 17, 2024 at 8:30 AM ET
- [Beef Heifer Development School](#) October, 18, 2024 at 8 AM ET

These events can be found on UTBEEF.COM

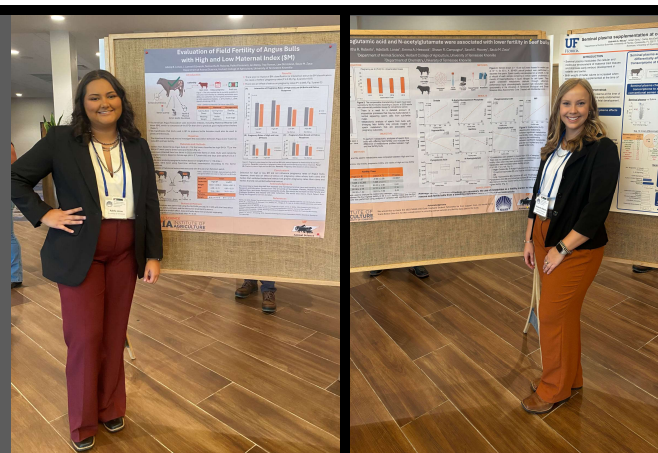


Photo of the Month by Dr. Saulo Zoca – Adella Lonas and Samantha Roberts, graduate students under Dr. Saulo Zoca, presenting their research at the biannual NAAB-CSS Conference. Both students received fellowship awards to present at this conference.

This and other useful information can be found at your local UT Extension office, or on our website.

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