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Seasons Greetings
from your friends
at Lee County
Extension



"HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS"...

a familiar and frequently used sentiment, originally encapsulating the thoughts of those separated by circumstances and pining to be with loved ones. Oh, how what should be the happiest of times, could take a turn for the worse right at the holiday season! What if the absence of someone from celebrations is preventable? Here are a few home safety tips to help avoid the "holiday blues".

Keep your kitchen a happy place. Many gravitate to the kitchen during special occasions. Be sure to clean up spills immediately to avoid slippery situations. This will also help prevent cross contamination. Everyone wants a good meal (and nothing more).

Thaw that turkey! Whether you are roasting or deep frying your turkey, be sure to completely thaw your turkey in the refrigerator. If you are opting to fry your turkey, here are some safety precautions.

- Setup your fryer outside on a safe stable surface away from flammable materials and have a fire extinguisher (for grease fires) on hand.
- Dry your thawed turkey completely.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions for your fryer to determine how much oil you need to cook your turkey. Do not overfill.
- Be sure your heat source is off and there is no flame when putting your turkey into the pot. This will prevent flames from splashed or overflowing oil.

For those climbing to new heights this season by trimming your tree or your house, be sure to follow these safety recommendations.

- Ask for help. It is best to have another person spot you while using a ladder. Use a sturdy ladder and wear good shoes for when you are decorating.
- Keep cords neatly coiled and out of walkways to prevent falls. Also use surge protectors and resist the urge to put too many plugs into one outlet. This will help reduce the risk of electrical shorts or fires.
- Be sure to water your live Christmas tree. Dry trees are a fire hazard.

Most of all...rest and don't over do it. Slow down. Enjoy your holiday season and the ones around you.

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Extension Service of Mississippi State University, cooperating with U.S. Department of Agriculture. Published in furtherance of Acts of Congress, May 8 and June 30, 1914. ANGUS L. CATCHOT JR., Director

CATTLE MARKET NEWS

A Small Percent of a Large Number is a Large Number

By: James Mitchell, University of Arkansas



Cattle prices are historically high, as we are all aware, but that is also skewing our reference point for normal cattle price dynamics. The first graph in this article shows the average seasonal price index for 700-800 lb steers in the Southern Plains. The graph indicates that the average seasonal pattern between September and March is for feeder steer prices to decline by 6 percent. Average cash prices for 700-800 lb steers in Oklahoma for the week ending September 26 were \$381 per cwt. The seasonal pattern shown in the graph implies that, between now and March, Oklahoma price should decline to \$359 per cwt if all other factors impacting price were held constant. That is a \$22 per cwt drop in the feeder cattle market over the next five months. A small percent of a large number is still a large number.

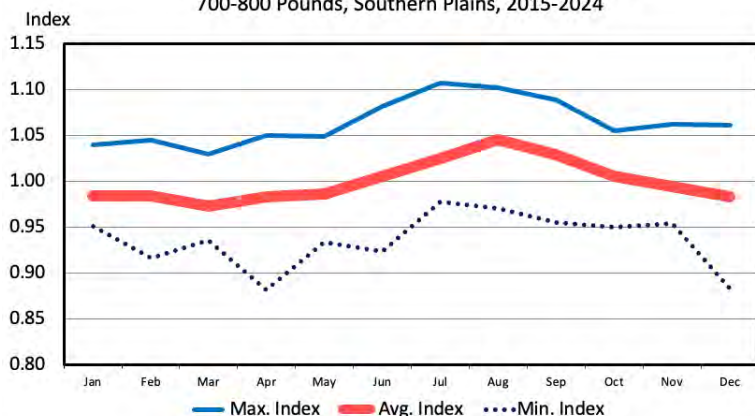
CME futures prices currently reflect the same seasonal pattern. For the week ending September 26, the March contract was trading at a \$13 per cwt discount to the October contract. This has implications for the price floor that can be established through put options or Livestock Risk Protection (LRP).

As of October 1, expected ending values for an LRP policy expiring April 1—relevant for 120-day Nov–Mar stocker cattle programs—are \$347 per cwt in Oklahoma for feeder cattle weighing more than 600 pounds. Purchasing LRP with a \$337 per cwt coverage level—97 percent of the expected ending value—means indemnities would trigger if the CME Feeder Cattle Index falls below \$337, \$10 lower than the expected ending value. Producer-paid premiums after subsidy for this policy are \$12 per cwt. After accounting for basis in Oklahoma (2023–2025 March average of +\$6 per cwt), this would establish an estimated price floor of \$343 minus \$12. Note the use of a conservative 3-year average basis.

In the current environment, a lot of money is at risk and establishing a price floor is still a useful way to think about managing risk, even if the implied floor seems low compared to the current market—especially if you can find something that would cover cost of gain and current calf prices. LRP premiums are higher because cattle prices are higher. The market is still pricing in normal seasonal patterns for feeder cattle. It just doesn't seem that way in absolute terms.

SEASONAL PRICE INDEX – FEEDER STEERS

700-800 Pounds, Southern Plains, 2015-2024

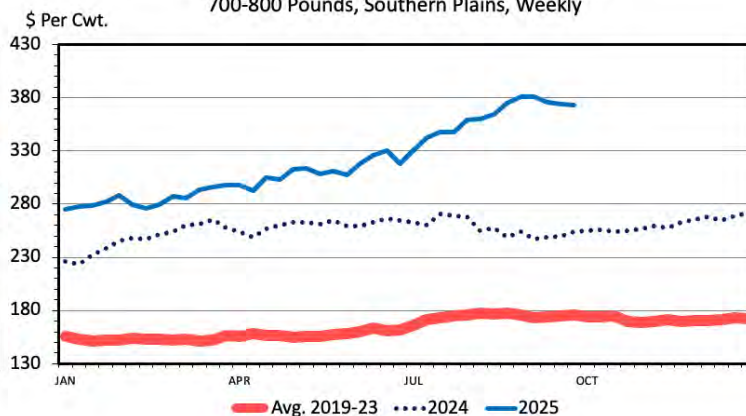


Data Source: USDA-AMS, Compiled & Analysis by LMIC
Livestock Marketing Information Center

07/09/25

MED. & LRG. #1 FEEDER STEER PRICES

700-800 Pounds, Southern Plains, Weekly



Data Source: USDA-AMS
Livestock Marketing Information Center

C-P-49
09/29/25

Lee County Cattlemen Association connects local cattlemen and provides access to learning & knowledge for the betterment of their cattle herds, from farm to plate. The next meeting will be next year. **Look for more information in the January/February 2026 newsletter.**

FORESTRY NOTES



Forestry/Wildlife Myths & Misconceptions

Revised by Brady Self, PhD, Extension Professor, Forestry, from an earlier version by Tim Traugott, PhD, Extension Professor Emeritus

Every autumn, thousands of sportsmen head to the field to hunt their favorite game. Except for a few game species, most of this hunting is done in the forests. Mississippi's forests provide the habitat (food and cover) our wildlife needs. The better the habitat, the healthier and more plentiful the wildlife.

Forest landowners can make their forestland more productive for native wildlife, especially game species such as deer and turkey. Forests are different and are probably the most variable natural resource we have. These forests range in age, shape, size, and species composition. Consequently, since they are not the same, the habitat they provide is not the same either.

How good is the wildlife habitat on your forest land? Can you improve it? What effect do forest management practices have on your habitat? These are just a few of the questions landowners should ask themselves, especially when trying to use alternative sources of income during low timber markets.

Forest landowners can simultaneously improve wildlife habitat and timber quality through proper forest management. However, their efforts are sometimes misdirected and work against their intended goals. Many forestry/wildlife myths and misconceptions have been passed down by misinformed individuals. These myths and misconceptions can cause forest landowners to hesitate about managing their forestland properly and serve to lower timber quality and supply.

This publication discusses some widespread myths and misconceptions about forest management. We try to replace rumor and myth with fact. Your forest resources are too valuable to be managed by hearsay. As forest landowners, we must learn scientifically proven forest-management techniques and manage forests properly.

Misconception #1: Fire is bad for wildlife. Wildfires can be very bad for wildlife and timber, but prescribed burning in pine and some upland hardwood stands can improve wildlife habitat. Prescribed burning is the deliberate use of fire under controlled conditions to accomplish certain forestland objectives. It is one of the best wildlife habitat improvement techniques available to forest managers.

Browse plants (woody sprouts and other forage plants) soon grow beyond the reach of deer in managed pine stands. Prescribed burning at 2- to 3-year intervals keeps browse within reach of deer and stimulates growth of green, succulent plants (Figure 1). Also, fire improves the nutritional quality of deer browse for 2 to 3 years. Quail and turkey also benefit because heavy brush is removed and annual plants are encouraged to grow. Prescribed burning used with pine thinning can dramatically improve wildlife habitat. Research has shown it can increase food for wildlife by as much as five times that found in unburned stands.

We will explore the other common misconceptions in newsletters to follow. If you can't wait until then, Explore this complete publication & more information on the extension website at:

<https://extension.msstate.edu/publications/forestrywildlife-myths-and-misconceptions>

**Join us for the next Forestry meeting,
Monday, November 3rd, at 6 PM.**



Call 662-841-9000 by 12 PM on Friday, October 31st to reserve your seat.

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EXTENSION

NOVEMBER



2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
02	03 Forestry 6 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office 	04	05 Crochet Club 10-18 4:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office 	06	07	08
09	10 Cloverbuds 5-7 & Jr Leaf 8-13 4:30 PM Rabbit Club 6 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office 	11 Aggies 6 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office 	12	13	14	15
16	17 Ropes & Reins 8-18 6:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office 	18 Sewing Club I 10-18 3:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office 	19	20 Sewing Club II 10-18 3:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office 	21	22
23	24 Craft Workshop 2:30 PM STEM Club 5-13 4:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office 	25	26	27 HAPPY <i>Thanksgiving</i> DAY 	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30						

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EXTENSION

DECEMBER



2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
30	01	02 Foodie Club 10-18 Lee Co. Ext. Office 	03 Crochet Club 10-18 4:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office 	04	05	06
07	08 Cloverbuds 5-7 & Jr Leaf 8-13 4:30 PM Rabbit Club 6 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office 	09 Aggies 8-18 6 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office 	10	11 4-H Awards Program 6 PM Springhill District Building 	12	13
14	15 STEM Club 5-13 4:30 PM Ropes & Reins 8-18 6:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office 	16 Sewing Club I 10-18 3:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office 	17	18 Sewing Club II 10-18 3:30 PM Lee Co. Ext. Office 	19	20
21	22	23 OFFICE CLOSED UNTIL FRIDAY, JANUARY 2ND, 2026	24	25 <i>Merry Christmas</i>	26	27
28	29	30	31	01 <i>HAPPY New Year</i> 	02	03

We also offer many opportunities for youth ages 5-18 in our 4-H programs.

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