

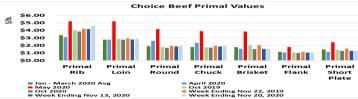
# **U.S. Meat Bulletin**

### November 24, 2020 Volume XII | Issue 11.4

Editor's Note: We will take a publishing break next week. The next issue of U.S. Meat Bulletin will be distributed December 8.

#### **SUPPLY & DEMAND**

The beef cutout advanced last week based on pre-Christmas stocking up by retailers. Restaurant closures are signaling that retail sales will remain strong through the remainder of the year and that small family gatherings will involve more home-roasting and stewing of beef ribs, rounds and chucks. Analysts reported particularly strong activity last week by retail buyers looking to lock down USDA CHOICE ribeye supplies for December. U.S. travel data shows that although domestic air travel during this coming weekend's Thanksgiving holiday will be -60% from pre-CoVID levels, long distance car trips may be similar to yearago levels as Americans look to join their families but maintain social distancing from strangers. Live cattle prices remained steady last week, with last Friday's USDA's cattle on feed report showing a record 12 million head of cattle in feedlots as of November 1. That said, the supply of heavier market-ready cattle continues to contract, a sign that markets are growing increasingly current. The placement of new cattle into feedlots dropped during in October, but this somewhat counterseasonal move was expected by analysts who believe that overall cattle supplies remain well balanced as the nation heads into the holiday season. Placements of cattle on feed had been running ahead of year-ago levels since they recovered from the trough in April and May at the height of the pandemic. October is historically the peak month for placements, but feedlot activity waned last month over market uncertainty about the economy in the months ahead & concern over higher grain



Beef Choice Beef Cutout Value: 23/11/2020 - US\$241.60/cwt. (+6% from 16/11/2020)

U.S. pork wholesale values moved 5% lower last week, marking the 5th week-onweek decline. Wholesale demand was tepid as most supermarkets have finished pre-Thanksgiving buying and export activity in the latest weekly report was muted. Heavy bone-in ham values dropped 11% week-on-week and now are 27% lower than last year's level. Belly demand has weakened due to increased hog weights, higher production and limitations in foodservice operations which have crimped demand for breakfast items. Weekly slaughter reached 2.711 million head, up 1.0% from the previous week but down 2% from the same week last year. Year to date production is now up +1.8% from last year with slaughter up 0.8%. Live market-ready hogs are averaging on the heavy side at 293 lbs. (133 kgs), up 1 lb. from the previous week and up 5 lbs. from last year. Analyst views remain mixed about the outlook, and lean hog futures trading was choppy last week. While retail meat sales remain strong, the lack of more pandemic relief from the government could cause more families to trade down to cheaper chicken. The National Chicken Council published research last week that estimated that in the last 9 months, the value of national chicken sales increased 19.5% from the pace of last year due in part to the meat being characterized by consumers as easy to prepare and versatile. Export news last week was mixed as well. New pork export sales during the week ending November 12th were noticeably lower than activity over the previous month, with declines in new sales reported to main markets Mexico, Japan and China. Although U.S. pork exports to China are expected to remain high, there is concern by buyers that imports will face more pressure from an expanding national herd in the months ahead. Last week, China's Ministry of Agriculture stated that China's national hog inventories had climbed +27% from year-ago levels during October, with sows up 31.5%. In addition, aggressive environmental testing by Chinese market authorities have resulted in more CoVID genetic material findings on imported meat packaging, raising the specter of increased plant de-listings.



Hog Carcass Cutout Value: 23/11/2020 – US\$77.77/cwt. (-5% from

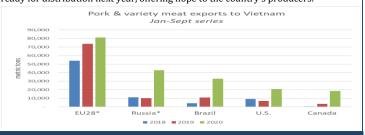
ACTIVITIES: HOFEX, Hong Kong: May 12-14, 2021 SIAL, Shanghai, May 18-20, 2021

#### MOVING AHEAD

Most political observers now assume that a new administration will enter the White House on January 20. There also likely will be new players in Congress, which together with the new President could change the policy orientation the government takes toward agriculture and the livestock & meat industry. Pending topics range include those affecting producers to consumer issues. On the production side, the new leadership in Washington will continue to study the spread and relationship between live cattle prices and beef to determine whether markets are providing adequate price discovery, competition and pricing The August 2019 fire and CoVID disruptions earlier this fall highlighted the sensitivity of the cattle market to slight disruptions and industry players, Congress and the Department of Justice have been scrutinizing market behavior. On the meatpacking side, Capitol Hill may further debate new FSIS inspection modernization rules that USDA enacted in the hog slaughter industry last year that helped improve plant efficiencies. Those rules have generated some opposition by labor groups, and the Congressional leaders may have to revisit the issue as USDA moves toward implementing similar inspection rules on beef. The New Swine Slaughter Inspection System (NSIS) has allowed plants to increase processing speeds without compromising process control and the integrity of safety inspections, the USDA argues. USDA will also tackle a private petition to reclassify a number of serotypes of the common pathogen Salmonella as added ingredients, or adulterants, Reclassification could mean that meat facilities would have to ensure that all raw meat and poultry be absent of the pathogen. Currently, several serotypes of E. Coli are classified as adulterants on ground beef but adding Salmonella could complicate plant operations. On the consumer end, labeling and nutrition issues continue to generate controversy between consumers and the meat industry. Country of Origin labeling (COOL) will continue to be pushed by interest groups that oppose meat & livestock imports. After implementing COOL legislation in 2009, Congress repealed the short-lived law after trading partners Canada & Mexico filed WTO complaints. Since then, meat imported from other countries has been legally sold as a "Product of U.S.A.," or labeled "Made in the U.S.A.," even if it's only been repackaged here. USDA announced in April this year that it will revisit the COOL issue. FDA and USDA may also try and tackle the issue of defining the word "natural". USDA is responsible for labeling of meat products, while FDA has labeling jurisdiction over all other food products. The USDA's definition of "natural" is based on whether the product and its ingredients are "not more than minimally processed" while the FDA does not have an exact definition of the term "natural." On the trade side, the new administration is expected to review several agreements concluded under the Trump administration, including the U.S. Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA), and the Phase I bilateral agreements with China and Japan. It will also continue work on opening trade with the UK after Brexit, the EU, and Kenya. A major question is how the new President will engage with the World Trade Organization following 4 years during which the current administration preferred to negotiate bilaterally rather than multilaterally. How the U.S. and China will engage economically is of immense interest and consequence to the meat trade, which hopes that current punitive duties on U.S. red meat exports can be quickly rescinded next year.

#### TRADE

While China has claimed that ASF is basically under control, the disease continues to spread in the Philippines and Vietnam. Late last week, the Philippine government reported the 1st outbreak was in northern Mindanao, the 3rd major hog production region in the country. In Vietnam, new infections have increased in recent weeks according to reports, and data from Vietnam's Department of Animal Health (DAH) shows that since October, ASF has re-broken in 31of its 63 provinces & municipalities, killing 20,500 pigs. DAH has been candid in projecting that the epidemic will continue to rage into 2021. Although reliable statistics on Vietnam's pork production are made difficult by the atomized small-scale production which characterizes the industry, VN's Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD), stated last month that as of the end of September, the country's herd stood at 25.5 million, 82% the level of pre-ASF. Price data shows live hog prices have drifted steadily lower since early summer, with southern VN prices of US \$140+/cwt approximately 22% lower than their May levels. With the new outbreaks and the peak winter consumption period approaching, hog prices are expected to firm in the months ahead, although high retail prices have caused some substitution away from pork to beef and especially poultry. Still, with prices relatively high from a global perspective, imports have soared this year to record levels (see GRAPH below). Recently, MARD announced that an ASF vaccine may be ready for distribution next year, offering hope to the country's producers.





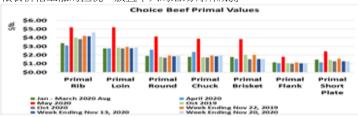
# 美国肉品新知

## 2020 年 11 月 24 日第十二卷 11. 4 期

编辑笔记:下周将暂停发布一次。下期《美国肉品新知》将於 12 月 8 产业新知

#### 供应与需求

上周,基於圣诞节前零售业者开始库存牛肉,因此牛肉分切价格上涨。 餐厅的关闭显示,在今年所剩的日子中零售商的销售将持续保持强劲, 以及小型家庭团聚时将使用更多家庭式烘烤和炖煮牛肋排、後腿肉、肩 胛肉。上周零售业的采购量特别强劲主因是他们观察到美国特选级肋眼 於 12 月份的供应量将有所限制。美国旅游数据显示,虽然在即将到来 的感恩节周末期间,国内的航班会较 CoVID 前减少 60%,但因为美国人 正在寻找能跟家人相聚且同时也维持与陌生人社交距离的方法,因此长 途公路旅行的数量可能会与去年同期水平相似。上周活牛价格维持稳 定,随着周五美国农业部牛只在养报告指出,11 月 1 日肥育场的牛只 在养头数达到 1200 万的新记录。这表示,可收成并供应予市场使用的 牛只持续紧缩,这是市场需求不断增加的信号。10月份期间,置入肥育 场的新牛只头数下降,但这些许违反季节动态的状况是在分析师的期待 值中,他们认为随着全国进入节庆的季节,整体牛只的供应仍会保持良 好的平衡。自4月和5月疫情最严重的期间後,牛只放置头数逐渐从低 点恢复,并且持续高过去年同期水平。牛只放置头数在 10 月份达到历 史上最高峰,但上个月由於肥育市场对未来几个月经济的不确定性以及 粮食价格上涨的担忧,放置牛只的活动有所减弱。



美國農業部牛肉屠體價格指數 (特選級): 2020 年 11 月 23 日 - \$241.60 美元/百磅 (較 2020 年 11 月 16 日增加 6%)

上周美国猪肉批发价值减少5%,这表示连续第5周的下降。上周批发需 求平淡,因为大多数超市已经购买完感恩节前的采购,并且出口活动在 最新周报中也很平淡。带骨後腿肉价格较上周减少 11%,目前较去年同 期水平减少 27%。由於生猪体重增加,屠宰量提高和餐饮业经营的限 制,这使早餐类食品的需求紧缩,因此腹胁肉需求疲软。周屠宰量达到 270.1 万头,比上周增长 1.0%,但比去年同期下降 2.0%。 到目前为 止,生产量比去年增长 1.8%,屠宰量增长 0.8%。市场上可供给活猪的 平均体重偏重,为 293 磅(即 133 公斤),较上周增加 1 磅,较去年增 加 5 磅。分析师对前景仍然感到忧喜参半,上周瘦猪期货交易表现不 佳。虽然肉类零售销售仍然强劲,但由於政府没有提供更多的疫情救 助,可能会导致更多的家庭转而购买较便宜的鸡肉。全国养鸡协会上周 发表研究报告,估计在过去的9个月中,全国鸡肉销售价格较去年的速 度增长 19.5%,部分原因为鸡肉具便於消费者准备和用途广泛的特点。 上周出口新闻也是忧喜参半。截至 11 月 12 日的一周内,新的猪肉出口 销售量明显低於上月的活动量,主要市场墨西哥、日本和中国的销售量 均有下降。虽然预期美国销至中国的猪肉猪进口量将保持高位,但有买 家担心,未来几个月,进口将面临更多来自扩张全国猪群覆复苏的压 力。上周中国农业部表示,10月期间中国全国猪库存较去年同期水平增 加 27%,其中种母猪增长 31.5%。此外,中国市场主管部门积极开展环 境检测,导致进口肉类包装上发现了更多的 CoVID 遗传物质,这使更多 工厂退市的阴影垄罩。

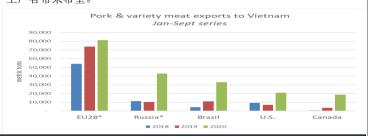


猪屠体分切价格: 2020 年 11 月 23 日 - \$77.77 美元/百磅 (较 2020 年 11 月 16 日减少 5%)

现在大多数政治观察家都认为,新政府将於 1 月 20 日入主白宫。美国 国会同时也会有新的参与者,他们可能会与新总统一起改变政府对农业 和畜牧及肉类产业的政策导向。待定议题范围包含影响生产者到消费者 的问题。在生产方面,在华盛顿的新领导将延续研究活牛价格及牛肉之 间的价差和关系,以确定市场是否能提供充分价格发现、竞争和定价透 明度。2019年8月的火灾和今年初秋时的CoVID中断事件,凸显牛市对 轻微中断的敏感度,业内人士、美国国会和司法部一直在检视市场行 为。在肉类包装方面,Capitol Hill 可能会进一步与 FSIS 辩论现代化 检验新规则, USDA 去年在活猪屠宰行业颁布的规则有助於提高工厂效 率。这些规则引起了一些劳工团体的反对,随着 USDA 向牛肉实施相识 的检验规则,美国国会领导人可能不得不重新审查这个问题。USDA 认 为,新猪屠宰检验系统 (NSIS) 会使工厂在不影响流程控制及安全检验 完整性的前提下提高加工速度。USDA 还将处理一项私人请愿,要求将 一些常见病原体,沙门氏菌,重新归类为添加成分或掺杂物。重新分类 可能会意味着肉类设施将必须确保,所有生肉及家禽都不得含病原体。 目前,大肠杆菌 的几种血清型被列为牛绞肉中的掺杂物,但如果添加 沙门氏菌 後可能会使工厂运营变得复杂化。在消费端,标志及养分问 题持续在消费者和肉类行业之间引发争议。原产地标示(COOL)将持续 被反对肉类和牲畜进口的利益集团有所推动。2009 年实施 COOL 立法 後,在贸易夥伴**加拿大**及墨西哥向 WTO 投诉後,美国国会废除了这短暂 的法律。从那时起,其他国家进口的肉类已被合法地作为"美国产品" 出售,或贴上 "美国制 "的标签,即使产品只在美国重新包装。USDA 今年 4 月宣布,将重新审视 COOL 的问题。FDA 及 USDA 也可能尝试并 解决 "天然 "一词的定义问题。USDA 负责肉制品的标志, 而 FDA 则对 所有其他食品的标志有权限。USDA 对"天然"的定义基於产品及其成 分是否"不超过最低期限的加工",而 FDA 对"天然"一词没有确切的 定义。在贸易方面,新政府预计将审查川普政府上任期间达成的几项协 议,包括《美国**墨西哥加拿大**协定》(USMCA),以及与**中国**及**日本**达 成的第一阶段双边协议。此外,美国新政府将继续展开与英国、欧盟和 肯亚开放贸易後的工作。接下来 4 年当中,美国新政府倾向於双方而非 多方谈判,到时他要如何与世界贸易组织接洽成为了主要的问题。中美 两国将如何进行经济往来,对肉类贸易来说,有着庞大的利益和後果, 肉类贸易希望明年能尽快取消目前对美国红肉出口的惩罚性关税。

#### 贸易新闻

虽然中国宣称 ASF 已控制下来,但**菲律宾及越南**的疫情仍持续蔓延。上周下旬,菲律宾政府宣布,第一波疫情发生在棉兰老岛北部,这是该国第三主要生产猪的地区。据报导指出,越南近几周新的感染病例有所增加,越南动物卫生局(DAH)数据显示,截至 10 月以来,ASF 已重新在其他 63 个省;31 个直辖市,杀死 20,500 头猪。DAH 曾坦言,推算疫情将持续蔓延至 2021 年。由於越南猪肉行业的特点是原子化小规模生产,但很难对越南猪肉产量进行可靠的统计,越南农业及农村发展部(MARD)上月表示,截至 9 月底,越南全国猪只数量为 2550 万头,是 ASF前水平的 82%。价格数据显示,自初夏以来,活猪价格持续走低,越南南部价格为 140 多美元/cwt,比 5 月水平低约 22%。随着新疫情的爆发和冬季消费高峰期的到来,预计未来几个月活猪价格将保持坚挺,不过高企的零售价格使一些人从猪肉转向牛肉,尤其是家禽的替代。但从全球来看,价格相对较高,今年的进口量已飙升至创纪录水平(见下图)。近期 MARD 宣布,一种 ASF 疫苗可能会在明年准备分发,给越南生产者带来希望。



美国肉类出口协会活动预告: Hofex,香港: 2021 年 5 月 12-14 日 中国国际食品和饮料展览会, 上海; 2021 年 5 月 18 日-20 日