

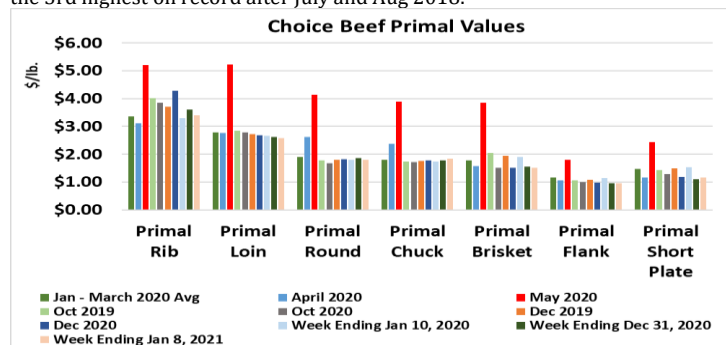


U.S. Meat Bulletin

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SUPPLY & DEMAND

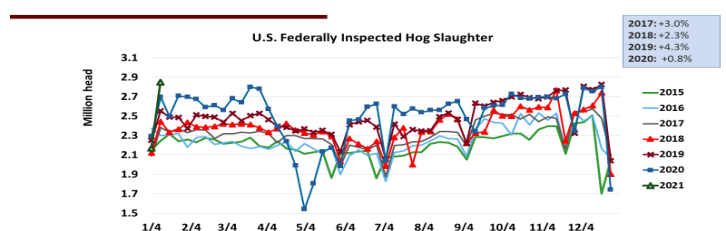
The beef cutout drifted lower last week, due primarily to unexpected weakness in buying interest for loins and ribs. Processors had hoped that the low production during the last 2 weeks of last December would result in tighter supplies & more firm prices, but restaurants – especially full-service independent establishments – continue to reel from CoVID and local restrictions on operations. During the week ending Dec 20, 2020, the nation's restaurants recorded their worst week since June, due to cold weather, rising infections and reports of a new more transmissible CoVID strain. The hit to foodservice is most evident in the weak demand for tenderloins; since mid-October last year, the average value of USDA CHOICE tenderloins has been tracking well below year-ago levels, with last week's average reference value of \$8.56/lb. down **14%** from last year and the lowest since July. Overall, despite all the disruptions and changes in consumer meat buying behavior, last Friday's cutout close was down just **1%** from year-ago pre CoVID levels, with primal value closeouts last Friday trending near the average for Jan-March 2020 (see 1st and last bars in graph below.) Live cattle prices were steady last week, but futures drifted lower, especially for feeder cattle, where values dropped due to rising grain prices. Weekly export data through the end of last December shows that overseas U.S. beef muscle cut shipments rose toward the end of 2020 & finished up **3%** for the year. Full CY monthly export data won't be available for another 3 weeks, but November U.S. beef muscle cut exports were the 3rd highest on record after July and Aug 2018.



Beef Choice Beef Cutout Value: 11/1/2021 - US\$207.69/cwt. (-1% from 4/1/2021)

The pork cutout strengthened **3%** last week as retail demand for product stayed high on the expectation that consumers would be refilling freezers with their new stimulus checks. A U.S. \$15+/cwt week-on-week appreciation (+24% week-on-week) of the primal belly value helped drive the overall cutout higher. After 2 holiday shortened production weeks, U.S. plants harvested an all-time record 2.849 million hogs last week, including Saturday activity, a level near full industry capacity. Lean hog futures moved in the opposite direction last week, as rising grain prices raise concerns about U.S. swine production costs moving forward. Despite the drift lower in U.S. hog futures, analysts remain bullish about livestock values this year, especially if the democrat-controlled Congress passes more CoVID stimulus spending programs. Under this scenario, meat prices would benefit from increased domestic consumer demand and greater exports as the dollar continues to weaken due to inflationary pressures. Meanwhile, the U.S. industry continues to watch China, its #1 export market. The much-anticipated debut of China live hog futures trading on the Dalian exchange last Friday saw the initial Sept 2021, Dec 2021 and March 2022 contracts slide **12.6%** in value on the 1st day, as market players remain pessimistic that current live hog prices will persist. The Sept 2021 China live hog futures settlement price of U.S. \$ 1.98/lb. is **22%** lower than the current live hog price of \$2.55/lb. According to full CY 2020 weekly export data released last week, China accounted for 36.5% of total U.S. pork muscle cut exports of 1.938 million metric tons.

U.S. Hog Slaughter



Source: USDA/NASS and USDA/AMS, last two data points are preliminary estimates
Hog Carcass Cutout Value: 11/1/2021 - US\$83.38/cwt. (+7% from 4/1/2021)

MARKET MAKERS

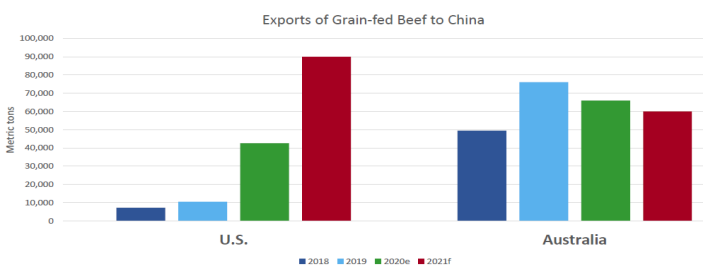
America's newest cattle harvest and beef processing plant is set to begin operations later this month. **Nextgen Cattle Co.** and its partners' new beef processing plant in Missouri is set to open its doors and process up to 500 cattle of day, operating as **Missouri Prime Beef Packers**. The 100 thousand square foot facility was formerly operated as a pork slaughter & processing plant by **Moon Ridge Foods**. The new facility will process both fed and non-fed beef cattle and employ technology through the harvest and fabrication floor to allow for full product traceability. The plant will also be available for custom or contract harvest for 3rd party cattle suppliers. (<https://www.missouriprimebeef.com/missour-beef-services/>). Although Missouri has not hosted a major beef plant in decades, the state has the 3rd largest cow population in the U.S. after Texas & Oklahoma.

MOVING AHEAD

MEF often fields questions from buyers about how cattle are fed in the U.S. and how they perform. **Kansas State University (KSU)** publishes monthly data on financials of cattle in feedlots in Kansas, a major feeding state, and numbers from November 2020 provide insights into the performance of a typical large-scale feedlot there. Based on KSU's survey of state feedlots, the average weight of feeder cattle (steers) entering feedlots last November was 808 pounds, slightly lighter than the 814-pound average from the previous 5 years. Steers fed for 167 days would reach a final harvest weight of 1,462 pounds, translating into an average daily gain of 3.88 pounds. The conversion rate of dry feed to animal weight was 6.02, and the average cost of gain per 1 hundred pounds was \$76.50. Corn prices have risen since last fall so the projected cost of gain currently is now near the \$88/cwt level, according to KSU. According to analysts, feeding conditions so far this winter have been excellent, and have helped offset the financial pinch of rising corn prices. Still, according to industry daily **The Cattle Report's** FEEDER METER calculator, the cost breakeven for a 750 pound feeder steer purchased last week for U.S. \$135.78/cwt, and then fed out 150 days to reach 1,350 pounds, equaled U.S. \$122.64/cwt, more than the \$115+/cwt current value of futures contracts that would cover the sales of those cattle under a hedge. In short, current cattle futures and grain prices are showing that current cattle feeding conditions – spread across all operators nationwide – are not on average profitable. Higher feed prices translate into higher feedlot ration expenses but also higher costs for cattle stocker and cow-calf producers who may need to feed supplemental grain. That could work to further tighten cattle supplies later as the impact of higher feed costs begins to impact the financials of the live cattle supply chain. The KSU 11/2020 data showed a higher percentage of heifers in the feeding mix, a sign of herd contraction. Drought in as much as one-half of the western U.S. could also be a factor in cattle supply dynamics moving forward.

TRADE

The final week of 2020 weekly U.S. meat export data has been published and it showed that during last year, the U.S. exported 43,681 tons of beef to **China**, making the market the #7th largest export destination by volume after **Japan, Korea, Mexico, Taiwan, Hong Kong, & Canada**. China buying of U.S. beef accelerated from mid-year 2020, as Australian supplies dwindled, and prices jumped; several Australian facilities also became ineligible to ship. According to USMEF projections, the U.S. also surpassed Australia to become the largest direct supplier of grain-fed beef to China last year (see graph below). Over 23 thousand tons of U.S. beef sales to China have already been booked for shipment this year, a sign that demand remains strong, especially among hot pot and Korean BBQ outlets, where record-setting business has been recorded this winter by some chains. In the meantime, weekly data shows U.S. beef exports to HK dropped 8% last year to 58.7 thousand tons. The year 2020 will see the 4th consecutive year of decline of USA shipments to the territory.

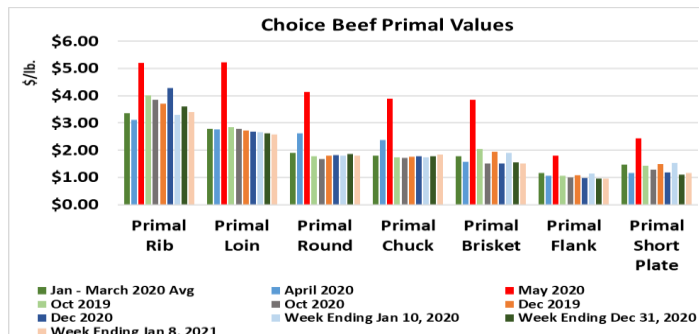


ACTIVITIES:

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

供應與需求

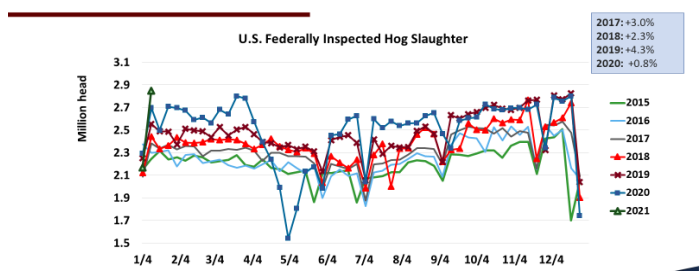
上週牛肉分切價格下降，主要由於里肌肉和肋排的購買興趣出乎意料的疲軟。加工商原本預計去年 12 月最後兩週的低產量，能使供應緊張而讓價格變得更加堅挺，但因 COVID 和當地運營限制，使尤其在提供全方位服務的餐廳持續受到干擾。截至 2020 年 12 月 20 日一週，由於天氣寒冷，感染率上升以及新的 COVID 病毒傳染報導，使美國餐廳自 6 月以來使營運達到最低。菲力的需求疲軟影響餐廳最為明顯，自去年 10 月中旬以來，USDA CHOICE 菲力均價一直低於去年同期水平，上週均價為 \$8.56 美元/磅，較去年同期下降 14%，為 7 月份以來最低價。總體而言，儘管消費者的肉類購買行為出現種種干擾及變化，但上週五的分切收盤價比去年同期 COVID 水平僅下降 1%，而上週五收盤價趨勢接近 2020 年 1-3 月的平均水平（見下圖第 1 欄及最後一欄）。上週活牛價格穩定，但由於穀物價格上漲，期貨價格走低，尤其在於架子牛，使價值下降。截至去年 12 月底的每週出口數據顯示，至 2020 年底，美國海外牛肉分切出貨量有所增長，並在年底增長 3%。完整的 CY 月度出口數據需再等 3 週，但 11 月美國牛肉分切出口量為 2018 年 7 月和 8 月紀錄以來第三高。



美國農業部牛肉屠體價格指數（特選級）：2021 年 1 月 11 日 - \$207.69 美元/百磅（較 2021 年 1 月 4 日減少 1%）

上週豬分切價格上漲 3%，是因為零售業者預期消費者將用新的措施刺激銷售狀態，使得零售通路的需求仍維持高位。腹脅肉價格每星期上漲 \$15 美元/百磅（每週上漲 24%），有助於推動整體分切價格增長。2 個假期在數週期間縮短了生產天數後，美國屠宰場上週（包含週六）突破屠宰紀錄達到 284.9 萬頭豬隻，其產能接近滿載水平。瘦豬期貨價格上週走勢相反，因穀物價格上漲引起美國養豬成本上漲的擔憂。儘管上週末美國生豬期貨走低，但分析師仍看好今年的畜牧價值，尤其在民主黨控制的國會下，可透過 COVID 的性刺激更多的消費支出計劃。在這種情況下，隨著美元通貨膨脹的壓力下而持續走弱，肉類價格將受益於美國國內消費者需求及出口的增加。同時，美國工業持續關注其第一大出口市場中國。上週五，備受關注的中國生豬期貨交易在大連交易所首次亮相，最初 2021 年 9 月、2021 年 12 月及 2022 年 3 月合約的價值在第一天下跌 12.6%，因市場參與者仍對當前的生豬價格持悲觀態度。2021 年 9 月中國生豬期貨結算價為 \$1.98 美元/磅，相較目前生豬價 \$2.55 美元/磅下跌 22%。根據上週發布的完整 CY 2020 週度出口數據，中國占美國豬肉分切出口總量 193.8 萬噸的 36.5%。

U.S. Hog Slaughter



Source: USDA/NASS and USDA/AMS, last two data points are preliminary estimates

豬屠體分切價格：2021 年 1 月 11 日 - \$83.38 美元/百磅（較 2021 年 1 月 4 日增加 7%）

產業新知

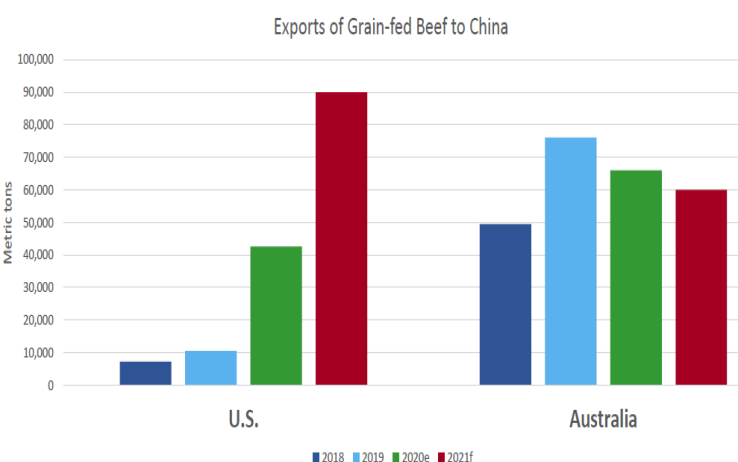
美國最新的牛隻屠宰及牛肉屠宰場將於本月下旬開始運營。以 Missouri Prime Beef Packers 的名義運營，Nextgen Cattle Co. 及其合作夥伴，位在密蘇里州 (Missouri) 的新牛肉屠宰場即將開業，每日屠宰牛隻數可達 500 頭。這座占地 10 萬平方英尺的屠宰場前身為 Moon Ridge Foods 經營的豬肉屠宰加工廠。新屠宰場將屠宰已肥育及未肥育牛隻，而屠宰及分切樓層的員工技術也會將產品具有完全可追溯性考慮在內。該屠宰廠將為第三方牛隻供應商提供定製或合同屠宰服務。[\(https://www.missouriprimebeef.com/missour-beef-services/\)](https://www.missouriprimebeef.com/missour-beef-services/)。儘管密蘇里州幾十年來沒有承辦大型牛肉屠宰場，但該州的牛隻數量僅次於德克薩斯州及俄克拉荷馬州，為美國排名第三。

產業動態

MEF 經常收到買家諮詢關於美國牛的飼養方式。Kansas State University (KSU) 每月發布的堪薩斯州牛隻肥育場財務數據，自 2020 年 11 月的數據顯示提供有關大型肥育場的見解。飼養 167 天的小公牛最終屠宰重量為 1,462 磅，日均增重 3.88 磅。乾飼料與動物體重的換算率為 6.02，平均每百磅增重成本為 \$76.5 美元。根據 KSU 的數據，玉米價格自去年秋季以來一直在上漲，因此預測目前上漲成本接近 \$88 美元/百磅。分析師稱，今年冬季至今飼養條件良好，有助於抵消玉米價格上漲帶來的財務壓力。不過，根據行業日報《The Cattle Report》的 FEEDER METER 計算器，上週一頭 750 磅的架子小公牛要價 \$135.78 美元/百磅，隨後當肥育達到 150 天，體重達 1,350 磅時的牛隻則以 \$122.64 美元/百磅售出，但期貨價格必須超過 \$115 美元/百磅才能覆蓋銷售成本。簡而言之，當前的牛期貨和穀物價格顯示，目前遍布全美飼養牛的經營者平均條件並無利可圖。較高的飼料價格轉化為較高的肥育場支出，但對於可能需要補充更多營養的架子牛買賣商和牛犢生產者成本將提升。隨著飼料成本上漲的影響開始在整個活牛供應鏈上的財務狀況顯現，進而造成未來牛隻供應緊收的可能。KSU 2020 年 11 月數據顯示，小母牛飼養的比例較高，呈現牛群收縮的跡象。美國西部多達二分之一地區乾旱可能成為未來牛群供應動態的一個因素。

貿易新聞

2020 年最後一週美國肉類出口週度數據已發布，該數據顯示美國去年向中國出口 43,681 噸牛肉，使中國市場成為僅次於日本、韓國、墨西哥、台灣、香港與加拿大的第七大出口目的地。由於澳大利亞供應短缺、價格上揚、部分工廠被取消出貨資格，使得中國在 2020 年中旬對美國牛肉採購量增加。根據 USMEF 的推測，美國去年超越澳大利亞成為中國最大糧飼牛供應國（見下圖）。今年已超過 2.3 萬噸的美國牛肉銷售至中國，表明需求依然強勁，尤其在火鍋和韓國燒烤店，其中一些連鎖店向 MEF 報告今年冬季的銷售量已創下新高。同時，每週數據顯示，去年美國對香港出口的牛肉下降 8%，至 5.87 萬噸。2020 年是美國牛肉出口至該特別行政區連續第四年的衰退。



美國肉類出口協會活動預告：
 HOFEX, 香港: 2021 年 5 月 12-14 日
 中國國際食品和飲料展覽會, 上海: 2021 年 5 月 18 日-20 日