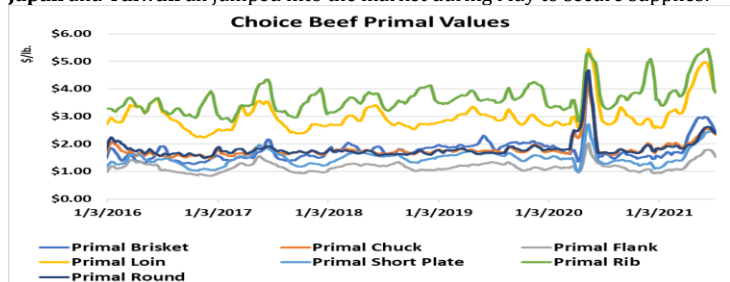


SUPPLY & DEMAND

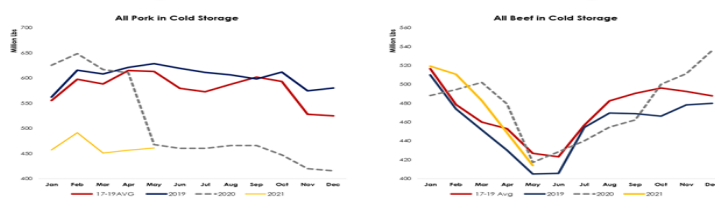
Wholesale beef values declined again last week as hot weather seasonally weakened outdoor grilling and BBQ activity. The decline of the beef cutout value from the mid-June high is now approximately **14%** spread across all cuts. The sharp decline in wholesale ribeye and striploin values slowed last week, although tenderloin values saw continued weakness. In the live cattle trade, prices were soft in the Texas region, while packers were paying noticeably higher prices in Iowa and Nebraska where the fed cattle pipeline is tighter. Overall, live cattle futures weakened through the week, with analysts trying to determine whether dropping beef prices would pressure fed cattle prices lower. Almost all see higher fed cattle prices on the horizon however as supplies tighten. Drought is driving increased beef cow slaughter activity; through mid-June, beef cows harvested were **10%** higher than a year ago and at the highest levels since 2011. The cow culling has accelerated over the last 3 months as the drought has intensified in the west and SW U.S. To be sure, dairy cow culling is significantly lower than in recent years but given beef cows higher proportion in the total slaughter mix, some observers believe that the number of all cows slaughtered this year could be **4%** above 2020 levels. While signs point to lower cattle numbers ahead, there are more announcements about the construction of new beef harvest facilities. These announcements don't translate into new slaughter capacity overnight, but the stage is set for an expansion in weekly slaughter space within the next few years (see MARKET MAKERS next column). On the export side, U.S. trade data showed all-time record U.S. beef exports during May of 133.4 thousand tons. The export value of \$900+ million also was a record. After sitting on the sidelines while **China** helped drive up prices of many Asian beef cuts during Q1 and into April, **Korea**, **Japan** and **Taiwan** all jumped into the market during May to secure supplies.



Beef Choice Beef Cutout Value: 12/7/2021 - US\$275.00/cwt. (-8% from 28/6/2021)

A holiday shortened production week and a clear rebound in export interest led to a firmer undertone for some pork cuts, which supported another week-on-week increase in the overall cutout value. Bellies, trimmings and hams, the latter supported by new export orders, all moved higher during the week. However, loins, butts and ribs moved sharply lower and despite increased retail promotions - especially of pork chops - at U.S. supermarkets. Futures markets zigzagged during the week with bulls managing to stabilize the clear drift lower in the past few weeks of most contract values. Although last Monday's holiday put a damper on total weekly harvest numbers, analysts believe the pipeline of live hog supplies remains tight, evident in lower harvest-ready hog weights. That said, the recent fall of pork prices from record highs have helped drive new export orders. For the week ending July 1, new net pork export sales were **65%** above the previous 4-week average. Sales to **China** of 16,300 tons were the largest since March and new orders from **Mexico** posted another solid week. **Japan** buyers were more active than they had been since February while new purchases by **Colombia** were the largest since January. The China sales come on the heels of a bounce in hog prices following the Chinese government's pledge to support the pork market through reserve buying. Live Chinese hog prices have been relatively stable in the last 2 weeks since the big rebound from the plunge to the post-ASF low on June 22.

Figure 2: Beef and Pork in Cold Storage



Hog Carcass Cutout Value: 12/7/2021 - US\$117.73/cwt. (+2% from 28/6/2021)

MARKET MAKERS

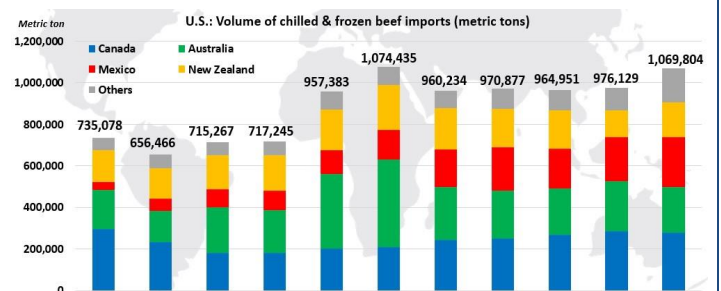
Yet another U.S. beef plant is in advanced planning stages. Newly formed **Cattlemen's Heritage** has announced it will invest U.S. \$325 million in a 1,500 head-per-day cattle harvest and fabrication facility in Southwest Iowa. Construction is expected to begin during the 1st half of 2023. According to industry journal **Cattle Buyers Weekly** (CBW), last week's news is the 8th new beef plant announcements in the last year. CBW says that if all announcements come to fruition as planned, U.S. daily cattle harvest capacity will increase by 6,700 head per day, which would represent a 5-6% increase over current levels.

MOVING AHEAD

Record demand and prices for meat products have analysts scrambling to explain the phenomenon, especially given that beef and pork output for Jan-May 2021 is up **3.7%** and **3.3%** respectively from the pace of pre-pandemic 2019. A Dow Jones (DJ) report last week claimed that supermarket chains are maintaining higher stocks of a wide range of grocery items, including frozen meat, in anticipation of higher prices later. The report claimed that whereas consumers hoarded goods last year due to uncertainty about the pandemic, this year it is retailers who are stockpiling, both in response to uncertainty over producer price inflation and better-than-expected summer retail sales. Some retailers told DJ they were purchasing more products due to being shorted by producers/manufacturers, who themselves have cited supply chain challenges to meeting orders. Since March of this year, restaurant spending has soared, but retail sales have also remained robust, with sales even accelerating in late May and into early June, according to **Nielson** and **Morgan Stanley** data. **Bloomberg** reported in mid-June that its surveys show that 2/3rds of the nation's consumers state that their current level of grocery spending is the same as during the peak pandemic period. A private survey by leading retailer **Kroger** revealed that 92% of its customers were cooking at the same frequency or more than during peak CoVID. It is not clear how retail stockpiling may affect wholesale meat demand since most retail sales consist of chilled product, which cannot be stored for long periods of time. Frozen meat in cold storage at the end of May was clearly below pre-pandemic levels but mainly due to big declines in chicken stocks. Beef stocking activity was not heavily affected by the pandemic, but frozen pork stocks are markedly below recent average levels (see GRAPH column 1). USDA's Cold Storage Report (CSR) consists of data gathered from 800+ commercial and public warehouses but is not believed to include data from private retailers. In short, it is difficult to conclude whether reported recent retailer stockpiling has exacerbated the tight meat supply situation.

TRADE

Another contributor to recent high U.S. beef prices has been the drop-off of U.S. beef imports, primarily due to low supplies from #3 supplier **Australia**. According to weekly trade data, total U.S. beef imports during H1 2021 were down **8.1%** from last year's pace. Monthly data shows Jan-May U.S. imports of fresh & frozen unprocessed beef totaled 394,000 tons, **-7.6%** on last year's pace and **-6.2%** from pre-pandemic 2019. That is a major volume decrease considering that the U.S. historically imports approximately 8-10% of the total beef it consumes. While the 519 thousand tons of beef imported from free trade neighbors **Canada** and **Mexico** last year represented 48.5% of all imports, historically, Australia has been a main market driver for lean boneless manufacturing beef, the principal ingredient for ground beef and hamburger production. Imported frozen 90CL prices have historically traded at a discount to domestic fresh 90CL, but analysts believe that imported manufacturing beef will - on average over this year - trade at the highest premium to domestic beef in nearly 20 years. And the average per ton value of beef imported into the U.S. during Jan-May 2021 of \$6,467/ton is the highest ever for this time period. Through the 3rd week of June, Australia's beef exports to the U.S. of roughly 63K tons were off nearly half from the 110K ton pace of last year. Australia's Jan-May exports to all global markets were **-20% YOY**.

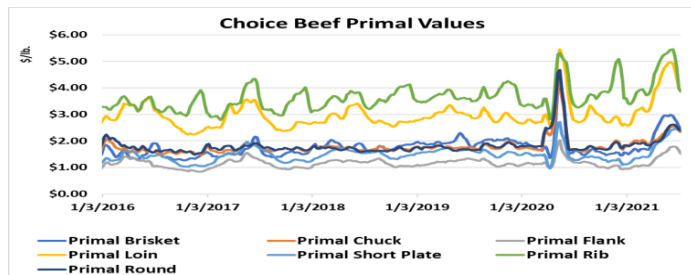


ACTIVITIES:

Restaurant and Bar/HOFEX, Hongkong: September 7-9, 2021

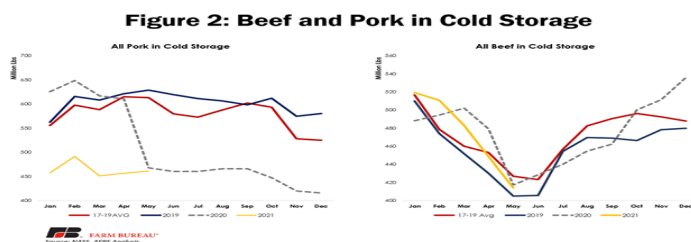
供应与需求

由於炎热的天气季节性削弱了户外烧烤和烤肉活动，上周牛肉批发价格再次下跌。牛肉分切价自6月中旬的高点开始下降，目前所有分切的下降幅度约为14%。尽管菲力的价格持续疲软，但上周肋眼及纽约客批发价格的大幅下降放缓。在活牛交易中，德克萨斯地区的价格疲软，而爱荷华州和内布拉斯加州的屠宰商则支付的价格明显较高，因那两州的已肥育牛供应量较紧。总体而言，本周活牛期货走弱，分析师试图确认牛肉价格下跌是否会压低已肥育牛价格。然而，随着供应收紧，几乎所有人都认为肥育牛价格即将上涨。乾旱正在推动肉牛屠宰活动的增加；至6月中旬，屠宰的肉牛比一年前高出10%，达到2011年以来的最高水平。在过去的3个月，随着美国西部和西南部乾旱的加剧，肉牛的宰杀速度加快。乳母牛屠宰量明显低於近几年，而肉牛在总屠宰量中的比例提高，一些观察人士认为，今年屠宰的所有肉牛数量可能较2020年的水平高4%，但转化为明年1月1日的总牛数量会明显减少。虽然有迹象表明未来牛只的数量会减少，但同时有更多关于建设新的牛肉屠宰厂的公告。这些公告并不能在一夜之间转化为新的屠宰能力，但在接下来的几年内，每周的屠宰空间将扩大（请参见下一栏的产业新知）。在出口方面，美国贸易数据显示，5月份美国牛肉出口创历史新高，达到13.34万吨。9亿美元以上的出口额也创下历史新高。在第一季度和4月份中国帮助推高了亚洲牛肉的价格後，韩国、日本和台湾都在5月份进入市场，以确保供应。



美国农业部牛肉屠体价格指数（特选级）：2021年7月12日 - \$275.00 美元/百磅（较2021年6月28日减少8%）

假期缩短了生产周，出口兴趣的明显反弹，导致部分猪肉分切的基调更加坚定，这又支撑了整体分切价一周环比的增长。腹肋肉、修切肉和後腿肉，後者受到新出口订单的支持，都在本周走高。然而，在本周末，尽管美国超市的零售促销活动增加，尤其是猪排，但上腰肉、上肩肉和肋排却大幅下跌。本期货市场走势不一，多头设法稳定了大多数合约价值在过去几周明显下跌的趋势。尽管上周一的假期抑制了每周的总屠宰量，但分析师认为，生猪供应量仍然紧张，可屠宰的生猪重量较低。话虽如此，近期猪肉价格从历史高位回落有助于推动新的出口订单。截至7月1日当周，新的猪肉净出口销售量较前4周平均水平高出65%。对中国的销售量为16,300吨，是自3月以来的最高水平，同时对墨西哥的新订单连续一周表现强劲。日本买家比2月以来更加活跃，而哥伦比亚的新买家是1月以来最大的。在中国政府承诺通过储备购买来支持猪肉市场後，中国的销售在生猪价格反弹後进行的。自6月22日中国活猪价格从暴跌至ASF後低点大幅反弹以来，过去两周中国生猪价格相对稳定。



猪屠体分切价格：2021年7月12日 - \$117.73 美元/百磅（较2021年6月28日增加2%）

**美国肉类出口协会活动预告：
香港餐饮展/HOFEX, 香港: 2021年9月7-9日**

产业新知

然而，另一家美国牛肉厂正处于高级规划阶段。新成立的 **Cattlemen's Heritage** 公司宣布将投资 3.25 亿美元在爱荷华州西南部建立一个每日产 1,500 头牛只的屠宰和加工厂。预计將於 2023 年上半年开始建设。据行业杂志《牛市周刊》(CBW) 报导，上周的消息为去年第 8 家新牛肉屠宰厂的公告。CBW 表示，若所有公告都按计划实现，美国每日的牛只屠宰能力将增加 6,700 头，这将比当前水平增加 5 至 6%。

产业动态

肉类产品创纪录的需求和价格让分析师争先恐後地解释这一现象，特别是考虑到 2021 年 1 月至 5 月的牛肉和猪肉产量分别比 2019 年疫情前增长 3.7% 和 3.3%。道琼斯(DJ) 上周的报告称，连锁超市正在维持包括冷冻肉在内的各种库存较高的杂货，以期待往後的价格上涨。该报告称，尽管去年消费者因疫情的不确定性而囤积商品，但今年换成零售商在囤货，以应对生产者价格通胀的不确定性和夏季零售销售预期的情况。一些零售商告诉 DJ，由於生产者/制造商的短缺，零售商正在购买更多产品，而他们也自己提到了满足订单的供应链挑战。**尼尔森(Nielson)** 和 **摩根士丹利(Morgan Stanley)** 的数据显示，自今年 3 月以来，餐厅支出猛增，零售额也保持强劲，5 月底至 6 月初的销售甚至加速增长。**彭博社(Bloomberg)** 6 月中旬报导称，其调查显示，美国全国 2/3 的消费者表示，他们目前的食品杂货支出水平与疫情高峰期相同。领先零售商 **克罗格公司(Kroger)** 的一项私人调查显示，其 92% 的客户烹饪频率与 CoVID 高峰期相同甚至更高。目前尚未清楚零售库存会如何影响肉类的批发需求，因大多数零售销售包括冷藏的产品无法长期存放。5 月底於低温储藏的冷冻肉明显低於疫情前的水平，但这主要是由於鸡肉库存大幅下降。牛肉库存活动并未受到疫情的严重影响，但冷冻猪肉库存明显低於近期平均水平（请参见图表第 1 栏）。USDA 的低温储藏食品报告(CSR) 包括自 800 多个商业和公共仓库收集的数据，但据信不包括来自私人零售商的数据。简而言之，很难断定近期报告的零售商库存是否加剧了肉类供应紧张的局面。

贸易新闻

最近美国牛肉价格居高不下的另一个原因是因美国牛肉进口量下降，这主要是由於第三大供应商 **澳大利亚** 的供应量不足。根据每周贸易数据，2021 年上半年美国牛肉进口总量较去年下降 8.1%。月度数据显示，1 月至 5 月美国新鲜和冷冻未加工牛肉的总进口量为 39.4 万吨，比去年同期相比下降 7.6%，比 2019 年疫情期间前下降 6.2%。考虑到美国历史上进口的牛肉约占其消费总量的 8-10%，这是一个重大的减少。虽然去年从自由贸易邻国 **加拿大** 和 **墨西哥** 进口的 51.9 万吨牛肉占所有进口量的 48.5%，但从历史上看，澳大利亚一直是去骨低脂牛肉的主要市场驱动力，该牛肉是牛绞肉和汉堡生产的主要材料。进口冷冻 90CL 价格历来低於美国国内新鲜 90CL 的价格，但分析师认为，今年进口的加工牛肉平均价格将比美国国内牛肉近 20 年来的最高溢价。2021 年 1 月至 5 月期间，进口到美国的牛肉的平均每吨价格为 \$6467 美元/吨，是这个时期的最高水平。截至 6 月的第三周，澳大利亚对美国的牛肉出口量约为 6.3 万吨，比去年的 11 万吨减少了近一半。澳大利亚 1 月至 5 月对全球所有市场的出口同比下降 20%。

