



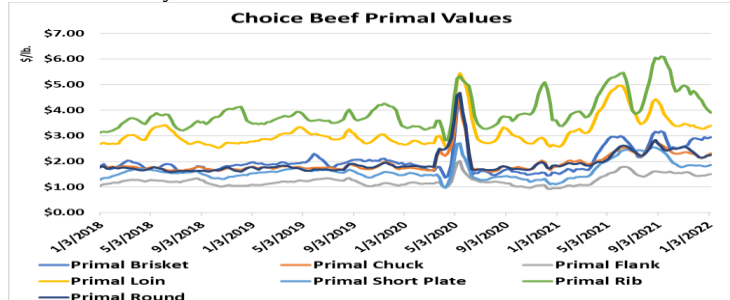
# U.S. Meat Bulletin

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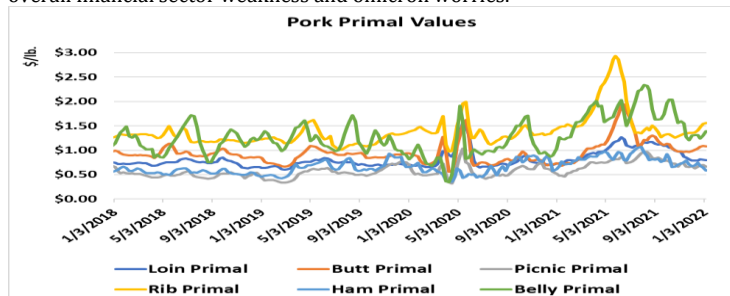
## SUPPLY & DEMAND

The beef cutout closed last Friday, the 1<sup>st</sup> full week of the year, up slightly from its close from our last report of Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>. Last week's wholesale market was somewhat unsettled by Omicron-driven labor shortages and uncertainty over possible new social distancing measures. The nation's low weekly cattle slaughter of 620,000 head was seen as reflecting the impact of labor unavailability at plants due to either illnesses, fear of contracting the variant, or the need of plant workers to stay at home to supervise children who had returned to online learning. Analysts forecast that U.S. plants could have processed 660K head without the constraints. The fact that wholesale beef prices were steady with the values at the end of last year was a sign of tepid demand, and consumer apprehension over an economy that may not be as vibrant as the stimulus-driven 2021. Consumers may shift consumption to cheaper beef cuts – e.g., top butt steaks instead of ribeyes - in the weeks ahead as consumers look to save pennies following the Christmas/New Year splurge. Wholesale rib values have been dropping while the loin value has held firm over the last month (see GRAPH below). Live cattle prices weakened slightly last week due to the reduced demand for fed cattle by plants, but are expected to be stronger throughout 2022 than last year (see MOVING AHEAD next column). Although fed cattle prices softened last week, demand by feedlots for calves & feeder cattle is steady to firm, driven by smaller herd numbers and expectations 2022 beef demand will stay strong. The White House also announced the release of U.S. \$1 billion in funding to support independent meat processors and ranchers as part of a plan to address competition issues in the U.S. meat industry.



**Beef Choice Beef Cutout Value: 10/1/2022 - US\$276.04/cwt. (+6% from 21/12/2021)**

Falling bone-in ham values helped to push the pork cutout lower last week. Heavy bone-in ham values of U.S. \$0.48/lb. are now at their lowest level since August 2020. Plants managed to harvest 2.578 million head, up 18.2% from the previous week but down 8.9% from the same week last year. Labor shortages of plants, especially on boning lines, are putting price pressure on bone-in items, while supporting more labor intensive items such as boneless ham rollouts. Attention will focus this week on China's pork market, which is unsettled 3 weeks in advance of the peak annual consumption period around Lunar New Year. There are reports at slowdowns at the 3 major ports of Ningbo, Tianjin and Shenzhen due to small CoVID clusters, although any disruptions should be short term. China's pork muscle cut import duties also reverted higher on Jan 1 this year to the MFN rate of 12% after staying at a concessional rate of 8% since Jan 1, 2020. With retaliatory duties on U.S. product still at 25%, tariffs on U.S. product are now back to 37%. But U.S. pork exports to Mexico in November were the highest monthly volume ever, showing that exporters were diversifying away from China as import demand there fell. As of early this week, lean hog futures are feeling pressure from overall financial sector weakness and omicron worries.



**Hog Carcass Cutout Value: 10/1/2022 - US\$86.42/cwt. (+2% from 21/12/2021)**

**ACTIVITIES:**  
 SIAL, Shanghai: May 18-20, 2022  
 Food & Hotel Asia, Singapore: September 5-8, 2022

## MOVING AHEAD

The most common question we have received in these early days of the new year is how U.S. beef prices will behave in 2022. Predicting beef price movements is always difficult, but almost all analysts are in agreement that U.S. fed cattle prices are set to increase this year, which in normal times, would work to push up beef prices. The slow but steady reduction in the cattle herd, and the slow but nearly complete normalization of the fed cattle supply pipeline after 18 months of CoVID-induced backlogs, should see feedlots spending more money bringing feeder cattle into pens, and processing plants spending more money to bring fattened cattle to harvest. Total cattle inventories on Jan 1 of this year are estimated to be 1.4 million head lower than the 93.6 million head that were on farms and ranches at the beginning of 2021. Live fed cattle prices are expected to average U.S. \$1.35/lb this year compared to \$1.22 last year, according to USDA projections. USDA says live fed cattle prices will be the highest in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters. Analysts are also predicting lower cattle on feed numbers for almost every month this year, lower fed steer and heifer slaughter, and total 2022 beef production which could register a noticeable 2.5% decline from 2021's output. An unknown on the supply side is the extent to which continued long-term drought in the west and SW U.S. influences cattle operations in that region; another round of drought could result in more cow culling and a temporary increase in beef supplies. It is important to note that a smaller cattle supply doesn't assure higher beef prices. Over the last few years, the positive correlation between live fed cattle prices and beef prices has weakened, with processors enjoying record margins while cattle prices remained weak. While most analysts expect some correlation to return this year, how demand will hold up remains a wildcard. Beef demand last year was exceptional, but was boosted by favorable economic & financial conditions including government stimulus checks layered upon a booming stock market and rising wages. This year, inflation could become more of a drag on consumption and interest rate hikes could dent U.S. equities markets. In international markets, the new year is starting with relatively muted demand by #1 beef importer China as the country fights omicron outbreaks. But most analysts are optimistic that overall beef demand for the whole year – both domestic and foreign – will support wholesale prices at a level that will be on the high side of historical averages. Despite current weakness in China, USMEF sees no major impediments to another year of very strong overseas demand for U.S. beef, especially since a recovery in Australian cattle & beef supplies – and competitive Australian pricing – will probably not be a factor for most of this year.

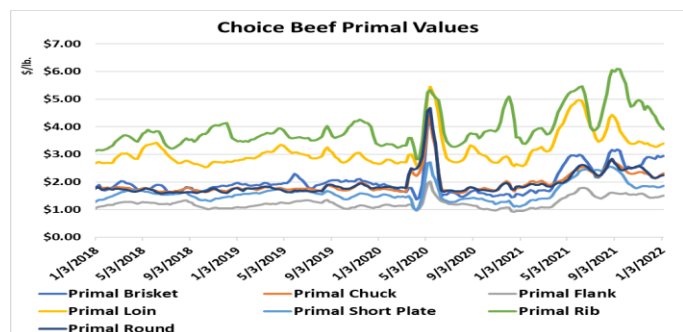
## TRADE

Another critical question for international meat markets this year concerns the outlook for China's pork market. Live Chinese hog prices ended last Friday on a weaker undertone, with the level of RMB 15.20/kg being 17% lower than the Q4 2021 high set on Nov 28 of RMB 18.41/kg. Pork consumption usually rallies in the 3-4 week period before Chinese New Year (Feb 1), but buying interest in porkmeat, along with other meats, is reported to be weak to tepid, in part due to localized CoVID outbreaks that have negatively affected travel, banqueting & overall foodservice sales. There are also large inventories of imported frozen meat & poultry, which have been moving more slowly in 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> tier wholesale markets due to strict enforcement of CoVID testing and disinfection regulations, and in some smaller localities, outright sales bans. The various live hog futures contracts traded in Dalian have shown a marked way-to-day uncertainty over the direction of the market. Values for the May, September and November 2022 contracts suggest traders believe potential for substantial increases in live hog prices are minimal. But domestic analysts also think that the large cull of last year will produce some sort of hole in supplies that will manifest itself in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the year. USDA is currently predicting that China's pork output will contract 4.9% this year, equal to 2.25 million tons, or roughly one-quarter of the total volume of the international pork muscle cut trade last year. USDA will update its global production and trade forecasts next week.



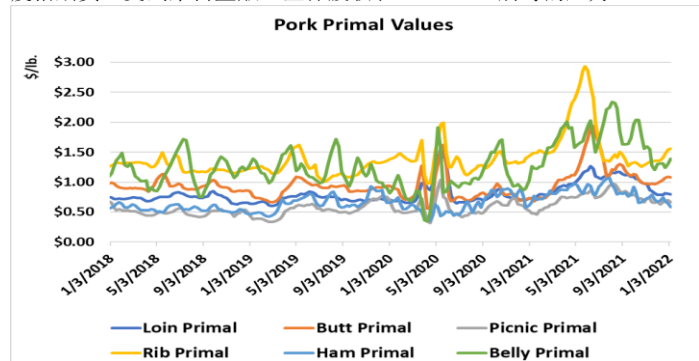
## 供应与需求

上周五，即今年第一个完整的一周，牛肉分切价比我们上次 12 月 22 日的肉品新知中所报告的收盘价格略有上升。上周的批发市场有些不安，因 Omicron 病毒导致的劳动力短缺，以及新防疫措施可能会带来的不确定性。美国每周屠宰 620,000 头牛只的低水平，被认为屠宰厂反映了劳工生病、工人担心感染该变种病毒，以及工人需留在家中监督重新开始上网课的孩子，而导致屠宰厂劳动力不足的影响。分析师预测，美国屠宰厂可以在没有限制的情况下屠宰 66 万头牛只。牛肉批发价格与去年年底的价格持平，这表明需求不温不火，进而消费者对经济的担忧可能与 2021 年的经济刺激一样充满活力。消费者可能会在未来几周将消费转移至更便宜的牛肉分切，例如，购买上后腰脊肉，而不是肋眼，因消费者希望在圣诞节/新年大肆挥霍后节省一点。在过去的一个月里，肋脊部的批发价格一直在下降，而腰脊部的价格在上个月则保持坚挺（请参见下图）。由于屠宰厂对已肥育牛只的需求减少，上周活牛价格略有下降，但预计 2022 年整年的活牛价格将比去年走强（请参见下一栏产业动态）。尽管上周已肥育牛只价格走软，但受较小的牛群数量以及预计 2022 年牛肉需求将保持强劲，肥育场对仔牛以及未肥育牛只的需求从稳定至坚挺。同时作为解决美国肉类行业竞争问题计划的一部分，美国白宫还宣布他们将释放 \$ 10 亿美元的资金，来支持独立的肉类屠宰业者和牧场主。



**美国农业部牛肉屠体价格指数（特选级）：2022 年 1 月 10 日 - \$276.04 美元/百磅（较 2021 年 12 月 21 日增加 6%）**

上周，带骨后腿肉价格下跌有助于推低猪肉分切价。带骨后腿肉价值目前处于 2020 年 8 月以来的最低水平，为 \$ 0.48 美元/磅。屠宰厂成功屠宰了 257.8 万头，比前一周增长 18.2%，但比去年同期下降了 8.9%。屠宰厂劳动力短缺，尤其在去骨生产线上的劳动力短缺，正在给带骨产品带来价格的压力，并且同时支持劳动力密集的产品，例如去骨后腿肉。本周关注的焦点将集中在中国猪肉市场，该市场在农历新年前后的年度消费高峰期，前 3 周状态处于不稳定。有报告称，由于小型的 CoVID 群聚感染，宁波、天津以及深圳三个主要港口出现放缓，但目前任何中断都应该是短期的。在自 2020 年 1 月 1 日以来一直保持 8% 的优惠税率后，中国的猪肉分切进口关税在今年 1 月 1 日也恢复至 12% 的最惠国税率。由于中国对美国产品的报复关税仍为 25%，对美国产品的关税现在又恢复至 37%。但去年 11 月美国对墨西哥的猪肉出口量是有史以来最高的月度出口量，这表明随着中国进口需求的下降，出口商正在从中国转向多元化。截至本月初，瘦猪期货正受到来自金融整体疲软和 omicron 病毒的压力。



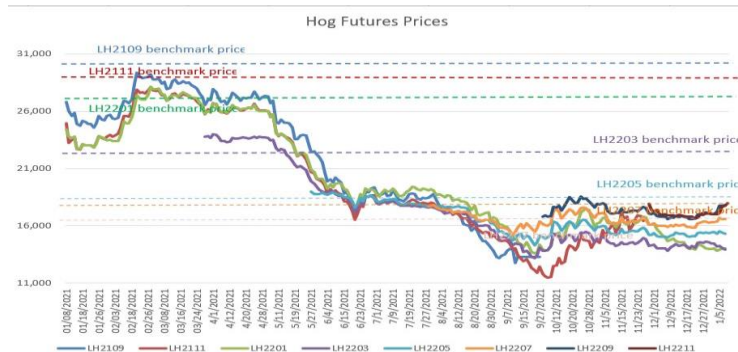
**猪屠体分切价格：2022 年 1 月 10 日 - \$86.42 美元/百磅（较 2021 年 12 月 21 日增加 2%）**

## 产业动态

在新的一年里，我们经常收到的问题是美国牛肉价格在 2022 年的走势。而预测牛肉价格走势总是很困难，但几乎所有分析师都认为，今年美国已肥育牛只价格将在正常情况下上涨，并同时推高牛肉价格。现在牛群正在缓慢但稳定的减少，以及经过 CoVID 18 个月所引起的积压后，已肥育牛只供应缓慢但几乎完全正常化，接下来应该会看见肥育场花费更多资金将未肥育牛只送入牛栏，以及屠宰厂花费更多资金将肥育牛只送去屠宰。与 2021 年年初，农场和牧场的 9360 万头牛只相比，今年 1 月 1 日的牛只库存总量估计将减少 140 万头。根据美国农业部的预测，今年活体已肥育牛只预计的平均价格为 \$1.35 美元/磅，而去年则是 \$1.22 美元。美国农业部表示，活体已肥育牛只价格将在第一和第四季度达到最高点。分析师同时也预测，今年几乎每个月的已肥育牛只数量都会减少，同时已肥育小公牛和小母牛的屠宰量也将会减少，最后他们还预测 2022 年的牛肉总产量可能会比 2021 年的产量明显下降 2.5%。供应方面的一个未知数是，美国西部和西南部持续的长期干旱对该地区养牛业的影响程度；再发生一次干旱可能导致更多的母肉牛被宰杀，以及牛肉供应暂时增加。值得注意的是，较少的牛只供应量并不能保证牛肉价格的上涨。在过去的几年里，活体已肥育牛只价格与牛肉价格之间的正相关关系已经减弱，屠宰业者的利润创历史新高，而牛只价格仍然疲软。虽然大多数分析师预计今年将会恢复一些相关性，但需求将如何保持，仍是一个未知数。去年受到包括美国政府发放的经济影响补助金、繁荣的股市和工资上涨，有利的经济和金融条件推动，去年的牛肉需求异常强劲。今年，通货膨胀可能会拖累更多的消费，以及利率也可能影响美国股市。在开始新的一年，在国际市场上，随着中国与美国 omicron 疫情奋斗，第一大牛肉进口国，中国的需求相对疲软。但大多数分析师也乐观地认为，全年包括美国国内和国外的整体牛肉需求，将支撑批发价格处于历史平均水平的高位。尽管中国市场目前表现疲软，但 USMEF 认为，海外对美国牛肉的需求又是非常强劲的一年，同时也不会受到重大阻碍，尤其是澳洲牛和牛肉供应的复苏，以及澳洲定价的竞争力，可能在大部分时间里，可能不会是一个因素。

## 贸易新闻

今年国际肉类市场的另一个关键问题是猪肉市场的前景。上周五，中国生猪价格收盘走弱，与 2021 年 11 月 28 日创下的第四季度高点 \$ 18.41 人民币/公斤相比，低 17%，表现为 \$15.20 人民币/公斤。猪肉消费通常在农历新年（2 月 1 日）前 3-4 周内回升，但根据报导，今年猪肉以及其他肉类的购买兴趣从疲软至不温不火，而部分原因因为部分地区 CoVID 疫情的爆发，影响了旅行、宴会和整体餐饮业的销售。目前仍有大量的进口冷冻肉类和禽肉库存，但由于需严格执行 CoVID 检测和消毒规范，以及一些较小的地区直接禁止销售，这些库存存在第三和第四级批发市场的销售速度较慢。在大连交易的各种生猪期货合约在过去 3 个月中呈现出明显的波动趋势（请参见下图），这表明市场每日方向的不确定性。但 2022 年 5 月、9 月和 11 月合约的价值表明，贸易商认为生猪价格大幅上涨的可能性较小。但中国国内分析师也认为，去年的大量宰杀将造成某种供应缺口，并将在今年下半年显现。美国农业部目前预测，今年中国猪肉产量将收缩 4.9%，相当于 225 万吨，约占去年国际猪肉分切贸易总量的四分之一。同时，美国农业部也将在下周更新其全球产量和贸易预测。



**美国肉类出口协会活动预告：**

SIAL 国际食品展(上海)：2022 年 5 月 18-20 日

新加坡国际食品与饮料展 - 新加坡：2022 年 9 月 5-8 日