



# U.S. Meat Bulletin

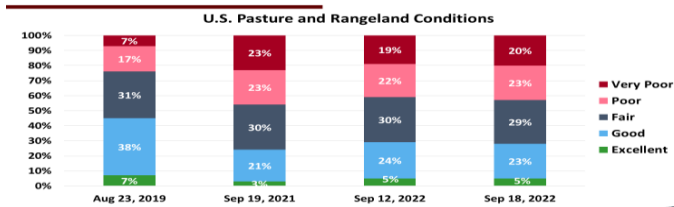
## September 27, 2022 Volume XIV | Issue 9.3

**Note:** Due to upcoming holidays, the next U.S. Meat Bulletin will be published Oct 11.

### SUPPLY & DEMAND

Last Friday, U.S. beef wholesale prices settled at their lowest level since March 2021. Drivers of the clear downward movement included domestic economic fears, concern about the dollar strength's impact on exports, and demand weakness for increasing supplies of USDA SELECT product. Harvest activity – with 667K head processed – was also robust, placing more product into sales channels. Interestingly, USDA PRIME values, especially for ribs and loins, remain elevated however, but this may be more due to an approximate 2.3% YOY decline in the % of fed cattle grading PRIME to the current level of approximately 7.6%. Last Friday's monthly USDA cattle-on-feed report for August showed relatively high placements of feeder cattle into lots during the month. Despite clear signs of a dwindling cattle pipeline, the high placements – with a high ratio of heifers in the mix – was somewhat expected given a continuation of drought conditions in areas holding nearly 60% of all U.S. cattle. But the marketing of cattle out of feedlots into plants was also higher than expected, giving a more bullish longer-term tone to the report that showed that total cattle on feed numbers on Sept 1 of 11.3 million head were slightly larger than last year, and near record levels for this time of year. The industry is expecting placements during this month will plummet given the shrinking herd. U.S. beef exports during the week ending September 15 were large, including to **China**, and despite reports of weakness in imported beef wholesale prices (see TRADE next column).

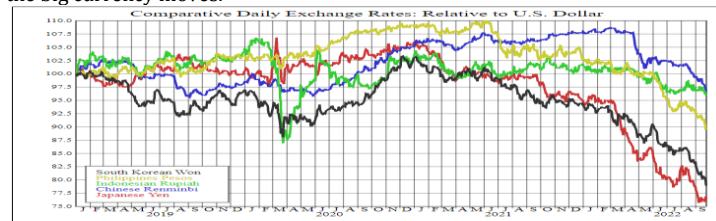
### Drought impacting pasture and range conditions



Source: USDA/NASS

**Beef Choice Beef Cutout Value: 26/9/2022 – US\$247.84/cwt. (-2% from 19/9/2022)**

The overall swoon in financial markets and consequent caution by institutional buyers pushed the pork cutout value lower last week. Although the Mexican peso has been surprisingly resilient against the dollar, currencies of other major U.S. pork markets including **Japan** and **Australia**, and other Asian commodity pork markets (see GRAPH below), are trading near recent historical lows. And like for cattle, lean hog futures sold off last week as Wall Street grew increasingly anxious about global macroeconomic conditions and a surging dollar. Moreover, harvest numbers seasonally ramp up during Q4, and the increase in supplies saw the December futures contract tumble toward the weekend. Last week's harvest of 2.538 million head was a 100K head uptick from the previous week, with the extra pork supplies dampening prices of raw material for further processors, including 42% & 72% trim, and boneless picnics. Belly values were unsettled on the downside, while retail items including loins and spareribs drifted lower. USDA will publish its next Hogs and Pigs report Sept. 29 and that data will indicate the market hog supply pipeline in the coming quarter. Despite concern over macro conditions, current demand remains firm overall; retail pork prices remain near record high levels, but demand is sustaining, helped in part by high poultry and egg prices (the latter setting a record last week – see MOVING AHEAD next column). New U.S. pork export sales during the week ending September 15 were nearly a quarter higher than the previous 4 weeks, a somewhat surprising performance given the big currency moves.



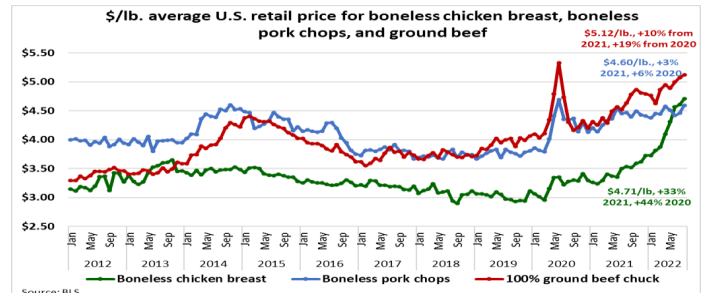
**Hog Carcass Cutout Value: 26/9/2022 – US\$101.46/cwt. (-4% from 19/9/2022)**

### ACTIVITIES:

FHC Shanghai Global Food Trade Show: Nov 8-10, 2022  
SIAL, Shanghai: December 7-9, 2022

### MARKET MAKERS

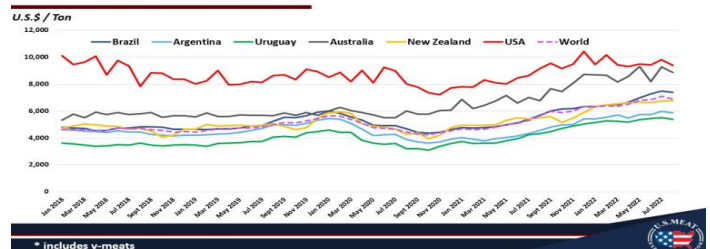
As consumers try and manage their rising food bills, competition between core staple meat protein items is intensifying. In the U.S., analysts often compare the relative prices & total spending on boneless chicken breasts, pork chops and ground beef as bellwethers of consumer behavior toward the protein complex. Values of all 3 of these staples are up sharply YOY, but average retail prices of chicken breasts have grown the quickest. Supermarket chicken breast prices are hitting new records as consumers seek affordable protein options and as fast-food outlets heavily promote chicken sandwiches. Chicken breast prices are now inverted with those of pork chops, a historic anomaly (see GRAPH below.) And the ratio of ground beef prices to chicken breasts in the last few months has been the lowest since 2017. Interestingly, expenditures on chicken breasts are now weakening relative to other chicken parts, with shoppers trading down to cheaper legs and thighs. Consumers also appear to be trading down from unprocessed/uncooked meats to processed meats. Average retail prices of breakfast sausages, all meat frankfurters and luncheon meats have risen 14.4%, 18.3% & 18.2% respectively YOY through August, faster than price increases for common raw red meat items. The price increases have come despite rising U.S. meat production. But after increasing in 2020 & 2021, total U.S. red meat & poultry production is set to decline – albeit slightly – this year and next. USDA's latest forecasts estimate that total 2022 U.S. red meat and poultry production of 48.33 million tons will be 0.2% lower than last year, with next year's output falling another 0.4%. It is too early to predict whether that drop is offset with weaker consumer spending



### TRADE

**China's** 278 thousand tons of August beef imports were a historically large monthly volume, and of any market. The tonnage was 30% higher than the beef import volume of all other Asian markets combined, including **Japan**, **Korea**, **Taiwan**, **HK**, and those comprising SE Asia. January-August China beef imports are up 12% in volume, but 52% in value with the 8-month total beef import bill standing at \$11.56 billion. The August record narrowly beat July volumes, which at the time, were also record high. China's beef imports are now close to outpacing pork and on a value basis, beef is China's biggest meat import by a wide margin. Reports are surfacing that the unprecedented beef imports are currently causing a pileup in inventories and downward pressure on wholesale prices, especially for grass-fed **Brazilian** product. That decline is yet to be evident in import values according to PRC trade data through August (see GRAPH below), but last week industry publications noted that recent offers out of South America had weakened. Last week, beef market sentiment took another hit with USDA's release of its latest 2023 trade estimates in which it forecast a 20% decline in Chinese beef imports from this year's predicted 3.1-million-ton level to 2.5 million tons. USDA cited the impacts of ongoing CoVID-zero policies on China's foodservice industry as a factor contributing to its negative outlook, as well as weaker macroeconomic conditions. The weakening RMB is also challenging traders; the currency has dropped 12% since the end of Q1. Optimists counter that the short-term market dislocations were inevitable given the mid-summer bunching of large import arrivals, and that longer term, beef demand will grow as CoVID restrictions are generally loosened, especially within the restaurant sector.

### China beef import per-ton values



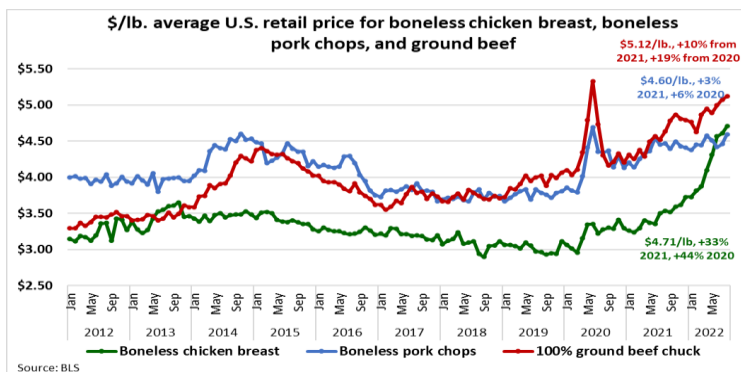
编辑笔记：下期《美国肉品新知》将于2022年10月11日发布。

## 供应与需求

上周五，美国牛肉批发价格收于2021年3月以来的最低水平。造成牛肉价格明显下降的因素包括对美国国内经济、美元走强对出口影响以及可选级产品供应日益增加而明显的需求疲软的担忧。66.7万头的屠宰量依然强劲，将更多牛肉产品投入销售渠道。有趣的是，美国最佳级牛肉的价格，特别是肋脊部和腰脊肉的价格，仍在上升，但这可能更多是由于最佳级品质出栏牛只的百分比同比下降了约2.3%，目前的占比约为7.6%。美国农业部上周五公布的8月份育肥牛只报告显示，8月份进入育肥场的架子牛数量相对较高。尽管有明显的迹象表明，牛只的数量在减少，但鉴于拥有近60%的美国牛的地区持续干旱，更多的架子牛进入育肥场，包括了高比例的小母牛在其中，这多少是在预料之中。但从育肥场向工厂出售的牛只数量也高于预期，这使该报告的长期基调更加乐观。该报告显示，9月1日的育肥牛总数为1130万头，略高于去年，并且接近每年这个时候的创纪录水平。鉴于牛群的减少，业内预计进入育肥场的架子牛数量将直线下降。在截至9月15日的一周内，美国牛肉出口量很大，包括对中国的出口，尽管有报道称进口牛肉批发价格疲软（请见贸易新闻下一栏）。

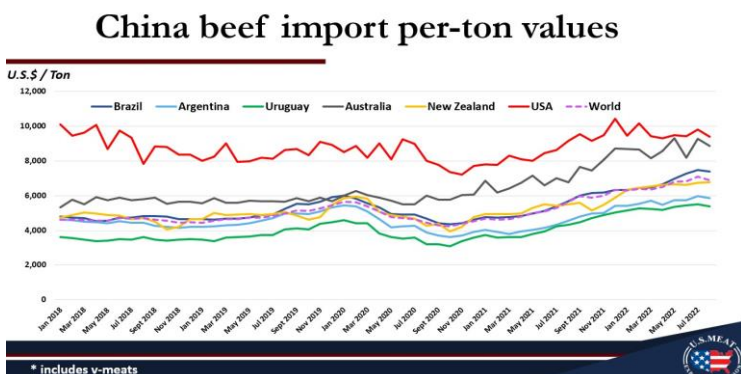
## 产业动态

当消费者试图控制不断上涨的食品费用账单时，主要肉类蛋白质产品之间的竞争也在加剧。在美国，分析师们常常把无骨鸡胸肉、猪肉和牛绞肉的相对价格和总支出作对比，以此作为蛋白质复合体消费行为的判断标准。以上三种主要蛋白质产品的价格同比均急剧上涨，但鸡胸肉的平均零售价格上涨速度最快。因为消费者寻求价格友好的蛋白质产品以及快餐店重点推销鸡肉三明治的原因，超市鸡胸肉的价格创下历史新高。现在鸡胸肉的价格高于猪肉价格，属于历史性反常现象（见下图）。过去几个月里，牛绞肉与鸡胸肉的价格比率达到了2017年以来的最低水平。有意思的是，相对于鸡肉的其他部位，消费者购买鸡胸肉的频率正在下降，转而购买更便宜的鸡小腿和大腿。肉的品类选择也从未加工或生肉类转向加工肉类产品，整个8月，早餐香肠、所有法兰克福肉肠和午餐肉的平均零售价格同比依次上涨了14.4%、18.3%和18.2%。以上价格的涨幅速度快于一般生红肉。但经过2020年和2021年的增长之后，美国红肉和家禽总产量被认为将在今明两年略微下降。美国农业部的最新预测估计，2022年美国红肉和家禽总产量为4833万吨，将比去年减少0.2%，明年的产量预计将再下降0.4%。现在来预测产量的下降与消费支出的下降是否能相抵消，还为时尚早。

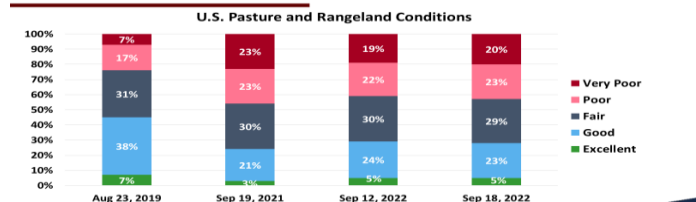


## 贸易新闻

今年8月，中国的牛肉月进口量达到27.8万吨，创下历史新高。相比之下，这比亚洲其他市场的牛肉总进口量加起来还要高30%（包括日本、韩国、台湾、香港和东南亚地区）。今年1-8月中国的牛肉进口量增长了12%，但进口额增长了52%，这8个月牛肉进口总额为115.6亿美元。8月份的牛肉进口量刚刚达到7月份的进口纪录，而当时7月份的进口量也处于历史高位。中国的牛肉进口量目前快要超过猪肉，牛肉是中国最大的肉类进口品类，进口量遥遥领先。有报道称，目前前所未有的牛肉进口量正造成库存堆积的现象，也给批发价格带来下行压力，特别是巴西的草饲牛肉。根据中国8月份的贸易数据（见下图），进口额没有明显下降，但值得注意的是，上周行业刊物提到最近来自南美地区的成交量有所减弱。上周，美国农业部发布了最新的2023年贸易预测报告，据预测中国牛肉进口量将从今年的310万吨下降20%，至250万吨，这再次打击了牛肉市场情绪。美国农业部指出，持续的“动态清零”政策给中国餐饮服务业前景带来负面影响，同时宏观经济环境也被削弱。人民币走弱也给贸易商们带来了挑战；自今年第一季度末以来，人民币已经下跌了12%以上。也有乐观情绪者持不同意见，鉴于夏季中旬大量进口牛肉到港，短期内市场混乱是常事，长期来看，随着CoVID-19限制逐渐放松，牛肉需求将增长，特别是餐饮行业。

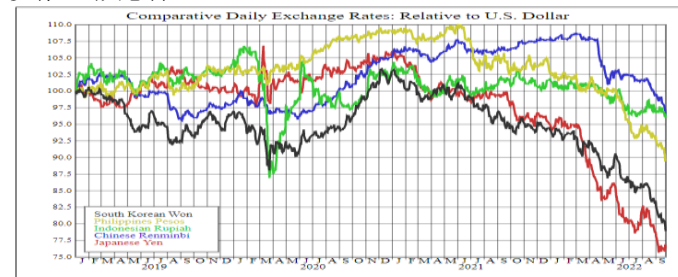


## Drought impacting pasture and range conditions



美国农业部牛肉屠体价格指数（特选级）：2022年9月26日 - \$247.84美元/百磅（较2022年9月19日减少2%）

金融市场的整体低迷以及机构买家随之而来的谨慎态度，在上周压低了猪肉价格。尽管墨西哥比索对美元表现出惊人的弹性，但包括日本和澳大利亚在内的美国其他主要猪肉市场的货币，以及其他亚洲猪肉市场的货币（见下图），交易价格接近近期历史低点。和牛一样，瘦肉猪期货上周遭遇抛售，原因是华尔街对全球宏观经济状况和美元升值日益感到焦虑。此外，在第四季度，屠宰数量季节性增加，供应的增加导致12月期货合约价格在临近周末时暴跌。上周的屠宰量为253.8万头，比前一周增加了10万头，额外的猪肉供应抑制了进一步加工的原材料价格，包括42%和72%瘦肉比的绞肉和去骨前腿肉。腹部的价格波动下跌，包括腰脊肉和肋排在内的零售商品价格则有所下降。美国农业部将于9月29日发布下一份生猪报告，数据将显示下一季度的市场生猪供应情况。尽管人们对宏观经济状况感到担忧，但目前的需求总体上仍然强劲；猪肉零售价格保持在历史最高水平附近，但需求持续，部分原因是禽类和蛋类价格居高不下（后者上周创下历史新高——参见下一专栏）。截至9月15日当周，美国猪肉新出口量较前四周增长近四分之一，考虑到汇率的大幅波动，这一表现多少有些出人意料。



猪屠体分切价格：2022年9月26日 - \$101.46美元/百磅（较2022年9月19日减少4%）

美国肉类出口协会活动预告：  
FHC 上海环球食品展：2022年11月8-10日  
SIAL 国际食品展(上海)：2022年12月7-9日