



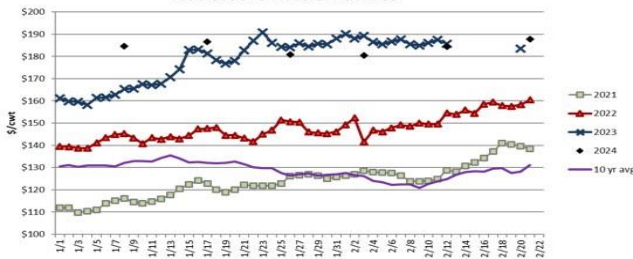
U.S. Meat Bulletin

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SUPPLY & DEMAND

Wholesale beef prices – across all primals – dipped last week due to increased slaughter activity and a darkening outlook about overall holiday retail demand. A recent survey by the National Retail Federation indicates that U.S. end-of-year holiday sales are expected to rise at the slowest pace in 5 years. Beef wholesale prices were expected to continue to stage their seasonal rally through last Friday, so last week's pause has raised new concern about overall demand for beef, where retail prices remain at record levels. In recent weeks, weekly slaughter volumes have been running 5-6% below last year's levels, but boxed beef prices have struggled to make their normal seasonal gains. With the USDA CHOICE cutout value running 17-18% higher than year-ago levels, high absolute prices are taking a toll on consumers' wallets. U.S. beef export activity has also been weak (see TRADE next column). In the live cattle market, it remains to be seen whether steer prices will stage the seasonal upward movements of past years (see purple line in GRAPH below). Unexpectedly large placements of cattle into feedlots in September (+6.1% YOY) have caused a small balloon in the market-ready front-end inventory of fed cattle, which should somewhat limit spot fed cattle price increases in coming months. Some analysts believe that feedlot placement activity in October dropped, while others cite buoyant auction receipts through the month as evidence that feedlot operators are still aggressively seeking out feeder cattle supplies. After rallying earlier in the week, the December fed cattle futures contract dropped last Friday, with losses continuing yesterday. But despite the negative overtones of last week's market, all indicators suggest tighter cattle supplies lie ahead; increased placements in recent months translate into lower inventories of cattle outside of feedlots, a trend that is occurring both in the U.S. and **Canada**, a source of feeder cattle for the U.S. when domestic supplies are tight.

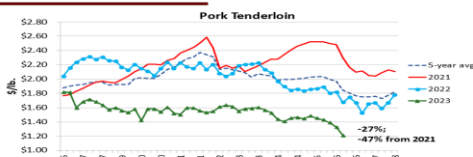
Live Steer Prices & Futures



Beef Choice Beef Cutout Value: 6/11/2023 – US\$301.72/cwt. (-2% from 30/10/2023)

Last week's seasonally elevated hog harvest of 2.677 million head pressured pork prices in wholesale markets. Institutional activity – both by domestic and foreign buyers – was tepid as buyers remained cautious about holiday demand. There were no clear directional trends for hams & bellies, the latter's value having fallen dramatically since the summer. Primal loin & butt values have also been declining in recent weeks and are now similar to year-ago levels. Rib values are below those of last year and the most recent 5-year average for this time of year. Pork tenderloin prices are now at their lowest level in years (see GRAPH below) and are considered a buying opportunity. In the futures market, December 2023 lean hog futures have rebounded slightly from their October low, but there is no evidence that a sustained recovery is underway, with market observers citing last week's broad rally in equities and commodities as a macro factor helping push up lean hog futures. The pace of sow slaughter has been running a few percentage points higher than that of 2022, a trend analysts believe may be related to the current financial stress of producers (see MOVING AHEAD next column). Sow prices have also seasonally turned up since early October, which is encouraging sow culling. U.S. pork exports are still running ahead of last year, with slower recent sales to **Mexico** and **China** being somewhat offset by higher activity to other markets (see TRADE next column).

Pork Tenderloin



Hog Carcass Cutout Value: 6/11/2023 – US\$91.61/cwt. (+4% from 30/10/2023)

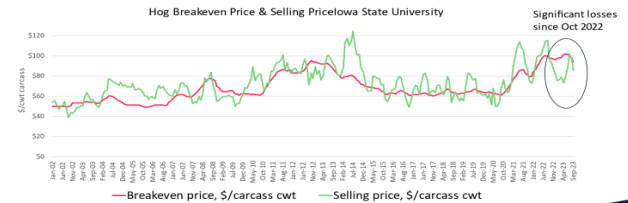
ACTIVITIES:

FHC Shanghai Global Food Trade Show: Nov 8-10, 2023 (Tomorrow)

MOVING AHEAD

Once a month, **Iowa State University** (ISU) economists publish profitability estimates for an average swine raising operation in Iowa, the largest hog producing state in the U.S. ISU calls its monthly *Estimated Returns* data a "barometer of profitability for the industry", noting that the calculations do not reflect the actual financials of any one operation. Moreover, many producers utilize future markets and can hedge against losses. The most recent September ISU report highlighted the continued challenges for U.S. swine farmers, not just in Iowa, but throughout all producing areas. Estimated returns during the month for a typical wean-to-finish operation in the state were in the red to the tune of U.S. \$21.38 per head, the 13th consecutive month where ISU calculated producers were incurring losses. ISU estimated that the average breakeven value of production of U.S. \$0.99/lb. during September 2023 was above the average carcass price the operator would have received for his animals of U.S. \$0.86/lb. During September 2022, a year earlier, the mean breakeven was higher at U.S. \$1.13/lb., with selling prices averaging U.S. \$0.97/lb. Breakevens were higher last year due to elevated feed costs, which now have come down, but not enough to stem continued operating losses (see GRAPH below). The outlook for producers continues to be mostly negative, with elevated sow slaughter an indicator that operators are trimming herds. Based on its latest quarterly survey data, USDA has forecast that the U.S. industry intends to farrow less sows during the September-November and December 2023-to Feb-2024 quarter. There are several bright spots on the horizon, however. With three-quarters of the U.S. corn harvest complete, this year's projected harvest of 15.064 billion bushels will be significantly above the 2000 to 2020 average of 12.96 billion bushels. That should mean lower feed costs to operators. International demand for U.S. pork remains strong (see TRADE below), and signals by the U.S. Federal Reserve that the end of interest rate hikes is near could translate into a weaker dollar moving forward.

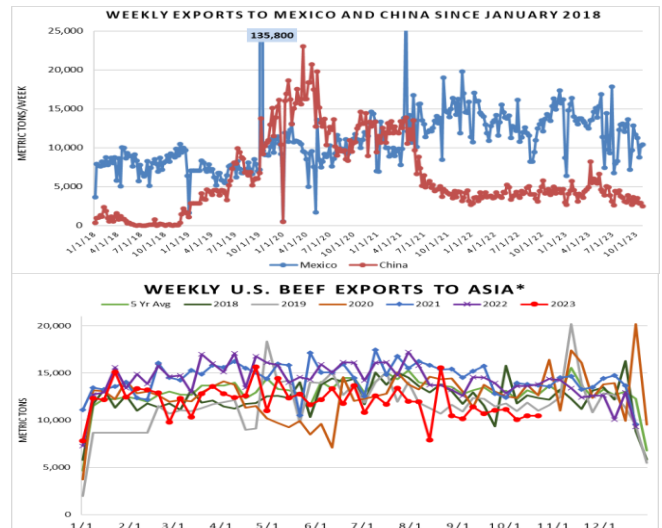
Hog production costs easing but at historically elevated levels



Source: Iowa State University, Leeschultz

TRADE

Here is a quick snapshot of the status of U.S. pork & beef exports based on weekly trade data; combined U.S. pork muscle cut exports to #1 & #2 markets **Mexico** & **China** through the end of October were approximately -3% YOY, but large increases in U.S. exports to other markets, principally **Australia** (+94% YOY), **Chile** (+104%) & **Canada** (+29%) are offsetting the export drop to the market leaders. On the beef side, total muscle cut exports through Oct 26 are -15% the pace of last year, with combined shipments to the top 3 markets **Korea**, **Japan**, and **China** off 20% last year's pace. Across the USA's top 10 export destinations, only trade with **Hong Kong** (+11%) & **Guatemala** (+26%) show gains YOY.



供应与需求

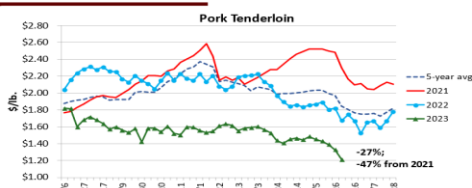
由于屠宰活动增加以及整体假日零售需求前景黯淡，上周所有初级分切牛肉的批发价格均下跌。美国零售联合会最近的一项调查显示，美国年终假期销售额预计将以五年来最慢的速度增长。本预计牛肉批发价格将在上周五继续呈现季节性上涨，上周的增长停滞引发了人们对牛肉整体需求的新担忧，牛肉平均零售价格仍处于创纪录水平。最近几周，每周屠宰量比去年水平下降了5-6%，但盒装牛肉价格一直难以实现正常的季节性上涨。由于美国精选级牛肉分切价格比去年同期高出17-18%，高企的绝对价格让消费者的钱包吃紧。美国牛肉出口活动也疲软（见贸易新闻专栏）。在活牛市场上，出栏牛价格是否会呈现过去几年的季节性上涨趋势（见下图中的紫色线）还有待观察。9月份出人意料地将大量牛安置在育肥场（同比增长6.1%），导致市场出栏牛前端库存小幅增加，这将在一定程度上限制未来几个月现货出栏牛价格的上涨。一些分析师认为，10月份转移到育肥场的数量有所下降，而另一些分析师则指出，整个月的拍卖收入强劲，证明育肥场运营商仍在积极寻找架子牛供应。继本周早些时候上涨后，12月出栏牛期货合约上周五下跌，昨日继续下跌。尽管上周市场存在负面影响，但所有指标都表明未来牛只供应将趋紧；近几个月来，安置数量的增加导致育肥场以外的牛库存减少，这种趋势在美国和加拿大都出现，加拿大是美国国内供应紧张时的架子牛来源。



美国农业部牛肉胴体价格指数（特选级）：2023年11月6日 - \$301.72美元/百磅（较2023年10月30日减少2%）

上周生猪屠宰量季节性增加，达267.7万头，对批发市场猪肉价格构成压力。由于买家对假期需求保持谨慎态度，国内外买家的机构活动不温不火。后腿和腹部没有明显的方向性趋势，后者的价格自夏季以来急剧下降。最近几周，腰脊部和肩胛部初级分切的价格也一直在下降，目前与去年同期的水平相似。肋骨价格低于去年和每年这个时候最近5年的平均水平。猪柳的价格目前处于多年来的最低水平（见下图），被认为是买入的机会。在期货市场上，2023年12月瘦肉猪期货已从10月低点小幅反弹，但没有证据表明正在持续复苏，市场观察人士将上周股市和大宗商品的广泛上涨视为宏观因素，有助于推高瘦肉猪期货价格。母猪屠宰速度比2022年高出几个百分点，趋势分析师认为这可能与生产者当前的财务压力有关（请参阅产业动态）。自十月初以来，母猪价格也出现季节性上涨，这促进了母猪的产能去化。美国猪肉出口仍领先于去年，近期对墨西哥和中国的销售放缓在一定程度上被其他市场的活跃活动所抵消（见贸易新闻专栏）。

Pork Tenderloin



Source: USDA/AMS
 猪屠体分切价格：2023年11月6日-\$91.61美元/百磅（较2023年10月30日增加4%）

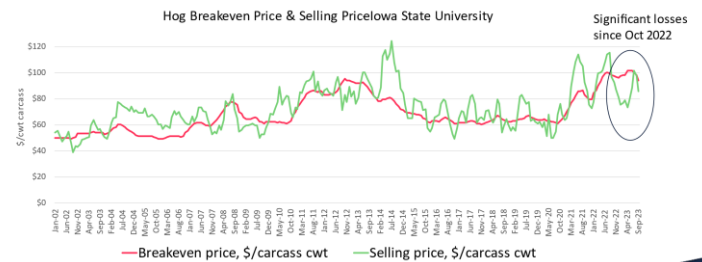
美国肉类出口协会活动预告：

FHC 上海环球食品展：2023年11月8-10日（明天）

产业动态

爱荷华州立大学（ISU）经济学家每月一次发布对爱荷华州（美国最大的商品生猪生产州）平均养猪场盈利能力的预估。ISU 将其月度预估回报数据称为“行业盈利能力的晴雨表”，并指出该计算并不反映任何一项业务的实际财务状况。此外，许多生产商利用期货市场并能够对冲损失。ISU 9月份的最新报告强调了美国养猪户面临的持续挑战，不仅是在爱荷华州，而且在所有产区。美国典型的断奶至育成猪场本月的预计回报为每头亏损，达21.38美元，这是ISU计算出生产商平均亏损的连续13个月。ISU 估计2023年9月期间生产的平均盈亏平衡值为0.99美元/磅，价格高于经营者收到的动物实际胴体价格0.86美元/磅。一年前的2022年9月，平均盈亏平衡点较高，为1.13美元/磅，实际售价平均为0.97美元/磅。去年，由于饲料成本上升，盈亏平衡点较高，目前饲料成本已有所下降，但不足以阻止持续的经营亏损（见下图）。生产者的前景仍然大多为负面，母猪屠宰量增加表明经营者正在削减猪群。根据最新的季度调查数据，美国农业部预测，美国产业界打算在2023年9月至11月和2023年12月至2024年2月季度减少母猪的产仔数。然而，目前仍有几个亮点。随着美国玉米收获工作完成四分之三，今年预计玉米产量为150.64亿蒲式耳，将大大高于2000年至2020年平均产量129.6亿蒲式耳。这应该意味着经营者的饲料成本更低。国际对美国猪肉的需求依然强劲（见下文贸易新闻），美联储发出的加息即将结束的信号可能会导致美元走弱。

Hog production costs easing but at historically elevated levels



Source: Iowa State University, LeeShulz

贸易新闻

以下是基于每周贸易数据的美国猪肉和牛肉出口状况的快速概览；截至10月底，美国对第一和第二市场墨西哥和中国的猪肉出口量同比下降约3%，但美国对其他市场的出口大幅增加，主要是澳大利亚（同比增长94%）、智利（+104%）和加拿大（+29%）正在抵消对主要出口市场的下降。牛肉方面，截至10月26日，牛肉出口总量比去年下降了15%，其中对韩国、日本和中国三大市场的出口总额比去年下降了20%。在美国十大出口目的地中，只有与中国香港（+11%）和危地马拉（+26%）的贸易出现同比增长。

