

Missouri Ag News

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Land Prices Peak; Cattle Still on Rise

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Farmland prices have likely peaked, but expect cattle prices to continue upward.

That was the message from Ron Plain, University of Missouri Extension agricultural economist, in his keynote address at the 2014 Missouri Livestock Symposium in Kirksville.

Plain says farmland prices depend on interest rates and returns that can be generated by that land. Interest rates are steady but returns per acre have declined as crop prices have dropped.

“With the high crop prices we saw the last few years, we bid up cropland and it’s probably as high as it’s going to go for now,” Plain says. “For cropland prices the peak is here because we’ve cut corn and soybean prices in half.”

But pastureland prices, which depend on cattle prices and how much producers are earning, continue to increase.

“We had record prices for cattle this year but we are expecting higher prices for next year, so expect both cash rent and sale prices for pastureland to be higher in 2015,” Plain says. “As far as the peak in cattle prices, maybe 2016, and the peak in pastureland could be 2016 or 2017.”

However, weather could postpone that peak. Dry conditions reducing grass production could keep cattle prices high. Plain says a drought would cause producers to sell more heifers and cows, further delaying an increase in the cattle herd.

“With chickens, it’s 10 weeks from breeding to slaughter,” Plain says. “For cattle it’s nine months for gestation; they have calves one at a time, and then a year and a half to two to raise that calf. So a nearly three-year production cycle makes for a pretty slow change.”

Soybean Meeting

January 14, 2015
 Miner Convention Center
 Miner, MO - 8:00pm

Agenda:

- 8:00 a.m. - Registration, Coffee, Doughnuts
- 8:30 a.m. - Soybean Update – Grover Shannon, University of Missouri - FDRC
- 9:00 a.m. - Weed Control Strategies – Larry Steckel, University of Tennessee
- 9:30 a.m. - Insecticide Seed Treatments – Scott Stewart, University of Tennessee
- 10:30 a.m. - Soil Cover: Dead or Alive – William Wiebold, University of Missouri - Columbia
- 11:00 a.m. - UAV for Agriculture: Promises and Limitations – William Wiebold, University of Missouri - Columbia
- 11:30 a.m. - Grain Marketing Outlook and Strategies – David Reinbott, MU Extension
- 12:00 p.m. - Soybean Association Update – Dan Engemann, MO Soybean Assoc.
- 12:30 p.m. - Lunch
- 1:15 p.m. - Farm Bill Program – David Reinbott, MU Extension and Chris Grojean, USDA/FSA Scott County

Contact Anthony Ohmes (573-243-3581) or David Reinbott (573-545-3516) to register and for more information or needs.

Beef Quality Assurance Training and Certification

January 8, 2015
 Cape Girardeau Extension Center
 Jackson, MO - 7:00pm

The state Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) program is a voluntary program linking all beef producers with livestock production specialists, veterinarians, nutritionists, marketers and feed purveyors interested in maintaining and improving the quality of cattle and the beef they produce.

The program focuses on educating and training cattle producers, farm advisors, and veterinarians on the issues in cattle food safety and quality. It also provides tools for verifying and documenting animal husbandry practices. Following BQA practices enhances the quality of beef produced and ensures beef products safely enter the food supply.

The program will be presented by Dr. Craig Payne, UMC Associate Extension Professor, Extension Veterinary Medicine. This 2 ½ hour session is designed to train and certify producers in Beef Quality Assurance. This session will also cover Show-Me Quality Assurance (SMQA) requirements of 4-H and FFA **cattle** exhibitors.

Sponsors: SEMO Cattlemen's Association and University of Missouri Extension

Meeting will be held at the Cape Girardeau County Extension Center- Lower Level at 7:00 PM.

Call and reserve your seat by January 5th (573-243-3581).

Is an Extended Calving Season Costing You?

The excitement of breeding season inspired the content for this month's article. The quickest way to shorten a calving season is to reduce the number of days in the breeding season, but how can we determine the value of shortening the calving season? This article will shed light on the dollars you may be missing by extending the breeding/calving season.

A common misconception about having a defined breeding season is that fewer females will become pregnant and year-long breeding gets more females pregnant and, therefore, generates more revenue. However, a 12-month calving interval is targeted to maximize profitability and if a cow starts falling behind and having her calf later each year, it will have greater maintenance costs per year reducing the net income from her calf. A defined breeding season also increases the uniformity and marketability of calves increasing the likelihood of premiums.

It is estimated that for every day after the beginning of the calving season that a calf is born, 2.42 pounds of weaning weight is lost. To put this into perspective, let's look at a 60 day breeding season with average pregnancy rates:

50 cow operation with 61% pregnant to artificial insemination (AI). This means 39% (20 cows) will calve at least 20 days later assuming they become pregnant on their 2nd cycle. Let's assume 14% will calve 40 days later if they become pregnant on 3rd cycle

and 4% are 60 days later in pregnancy than those that conceived to AI.

| | | |
|--------|---|---|
| 20 | Cows calving 20 days later (50x39%) | Total pounds gain / lost 960+339+97 |
| X 2.42 | Lbs of weaning weight lost per day (for 20 days) | |
| 960 | Total lbs lost for 20 day period | 1396 lbs |
| 7 | Cows calving 40 d later (50x14%) | 1396 lbs |
| x2.42 | Lbs of weaning weight lost per day (20 days) | X \$1.65/lb |
| 339 | Lbs of gain lost (d 20 – d 40) | \$2303.40 |
| 2 | Cows calving 60 d later (50x4%) | Dollars Lost |
| X 2.42 | Lbs of weaning weight lost per day (20 days) | |
| 97 | Lbs of gain lost (d 40 – d 60) | |

This table shows the pounds of weaning weight lost and potential dollars lost in a fairly standard breeding/calving season. Doing these calculations on your own herd may help you determine if shortening the breeding season is in your best interest. Shortening the breeding season will increase average pounds of calf weaned and selling open cows increases average net returns per calf by decreasing maintenance costs.

Erin Larimore, Livestock Specialist, University of Missouri, Jackson, MO.

Free online tool helps growers with nitrogen application decisions

COLUMBIA, Mo.— The Useful to Usable (U2U) climate initiative recently launched a new online decision-making tool, Corn Split Nitrogen, that helps farmers and crop advisers manage the application of in-field nitrogen for maximum crop yields and minimum environmental damage.

The free tool, available for use in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Missouri and Kansas, combines historical weather data and fieldwork conditions with economic considerations to determine the feasibility and profitability of post-planting nitrogen application. The product will be available in seven additional north-central states in 2015: Wisconsin, Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Nebraska, Ohio and Michigan.

Ray Massey, University of Missouri Extension economist and Corn Split Nitrogen project developer, says, “Traditionally, farmers have applied nitrogen to the soil in a single pass, either in the fall or in the spring before planting.” However, he says, farmers might instead want to split the nitrogen over two intervals—once in the fall or spring when the soil is not saturated and the temperature is 32-50 degrees Fahrenheit, and a second time when plants are in the ground and most in need of nitrogen. “Research has shown that will ultimately lead to better results because less fertilizer will be needed overall and not as much will be lost in runoff.”

Proper timing of nitrogen application varies depending on the weather and soil conditions, Massey says. Corn Split Nitrogen’s historical climate data helps farmers pinpoint when to apply nitrogen for best results.

Because the post-planting application must be done before the corn gets too tall, the tool also takes into account estimates of corn

development states based on location, selected planting date and accumulated corn growing degree days (GDD) for the year. GDD accumulations and associated corn growth beyond the current day are estimated based on the historical 30-year (1981-2010) average GDD accumulation for a location.

Massey noted that the Corn Split Nitrogen tool helps farmers quantify the costs and benefits under an average, worst-case and best-case scenario when doing a post-planting nitrogen application, even taking into account two passes of ground equipment in the fields.

Farmers get customized results based on their planting and fertilization schedule, local costs and available equipment.

A summarized fieldwork table and crop calendar makes it easy for farmers to see how schedule adjustments might affect their ability to fertilize on time.

Corn Split Nitrogen is part of the U2U suite of tools created to help farmers and agricultural advisers manage increasingly variable weather and climate conditions across the Corn Belt. For more information, go to www.AgClimate4u.org.

Useful to Usable is a USDA-funded research and extension project comprising 50 faculty, staff and students from nine north-central U.S. universities with expertise in applied climatology, crop modeling, agronomy, cyberotechnology, and agricultural economics and other social sciences.

Submit Requests for Financing Early

The Farm Loan team in your county is already working on operational loans for spring 2015. It is important that potential borrowers submit their requests early so they can be timely processed. Funding should be available for all loan purposes. Farm Loan officers at the FSA office in your county or region can help determine which loan programs are best for you.

FSA offers a wide range of low interest loans that can meet the financial needs of any farm operation for just about any purpose. The traditional farm operating and farm ownership loans can help large and small farm operations take advantage of early purchasing discounts for spring inputs as well expenses throughout the year.

MICROLOANS are a simplified loan program that will provide up to \$50,000 to eligible applicants. These loans are targeted for smaller operations and non-traditional operations and can be used for operating expenses, starting up a new agricultural enterprise, purchasing equipment, or any other need associated with a farming operation.

FSA staff can provide you with basic information on farm operating and Microloans and provide you with applications as well.

Loans to beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged or underserved groups are a priority.

If you are interested in a different type of loan, FSA staff can also help you with the following types of loans:

Marketing Assistance Loans allow producers to use eligible commodities as loan collateral and obtain a 9-month loan. The purpose of these loans is to give the producer some cash flow and allow them to market the crop when prices may be more advantageous.

Farm Storage Facility Loans - These loans can be used to build permanent structures used to store eligible commodities. These structures would include bunker silos, grain bins, hay storage structures and refrigerated structures for vegetables and fruit. The limit for a facility loan is \$500,000.

Beginning Beekeepers Workshop

February 7, 2015

Butler County Extension Center

Poplar Bluff, MO - 8:00am to 4:00pm

- Basic honey bee biology and behavior
- Where to get bees / how to install
- Hive manipulations and seasonal colony management through the first year
- Honey production, processing, packaging
- Bee associations and sources of Information
- Equipment
- Bee health and diseases

Fee of \$15.00 includes lunch. Contact the Butler County Extension Center at 573-686-8064 to register.

2015 Crop Budgets

The 2015 Southeast Missouri Crop Budgets, Crop Budgets with Crop Rent Analysis, and other Agriculture data can be found at <http://extension.missouri.edu/scott/crop-budgets.aspx>. The crop budgets are in both Excel and PDF format.

On the Crop Budget Spreadsheet, there are **Two Crop Decision Aid Worksheets** to assist in making decisions on which crops to plant based on variable production costs and changes in yields and prices. **The Crop Decision Aid - Breakeven Worksheet** calculates the yield and price between two crops that give equal net returns. **Crop Decision Aid - Net Returns Worksheet** calculates the net return between two crops based on changes in yield and price.

Additional agricultural information can be found at the following link including the 2014 Farm Bill.

<http://extension.missouri.edu/scott/agriculture.aspx>

Listed are the Farm Bill informational meetings to be held in the region. Many of the meetings are jointly held with FSA and Extension. Contact your county FSA office for more information.

January 6 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.,
Naylor Vo-Ag, Naylor

January 7 - 10:00 a.m. to Noon, Ozora
Sacred Heart Catholic Church

January 8 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Ste.
Genevieve County Extension Office,
Patke Room

January 9 - 9:30 a.m. to 1:00
p.m., Kennett VFW Hall, Kennett

January 14 - 1:00 p.m. to
3:00 p.m., Miner Convention Center,
Miner

January 15 - 9:00 a.m. to 11:00
a.m., Malden Community Center,
Malden

January 28 - 9:00 a.m. to 11:00
a.m., Dexter Eagles Lodge, Dexter

February 3 - 1:00 p.m. to
3:00 p.m., Fisher Delta Research
Center, Portageville

February 19 - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00
p.m., Dexter Eagles Lodge, Dexter

David Reinbott, Agriculture Business,
University of Missouri, Columbia, MO

Future Meetings & Events -

Beef Quality Assurance Training and Certification. January 8, 2015. Cape Girardeau County Extension Center- Lower Level in Jackson, MO.at 7:00 PM. Call and reserve your seat by January 5th (573-243-3581).

Regional Soybean Meeting January 14, 2015. Miner Convention Center, Miner, MO. Registration at 8:00 a.m. Contact Anthony Ohmes 573-243-3581 or David Reinbott 573-545-3516.

Peach Pruning Workshop January 22, 2015. Beggs Berry World, Benton, MO. 10:00 am to 12:00 pm with hands-on instruction. Contact Anthony Ohmes 573-243-3581 to register. Dress accordingly and bring pruners.

Ag Expo January 30 and 31, 2015. Black River Coliseum in Poplar Bluff, MO.

Southeast Missouri Scouting School February 1-19, 2015. Monday to Thursday from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Delta Fisher Research Center in Portageville, MO. Contact Andrea Jones at 573-379-5431.

Regional Cotton Meeting February 3, 2015. Delta Fisher Research Center in Portageville.

Beginning Beekeeper Training February 7, 2015. Butler County Extension Center in Poplar Bluff, MO.

Missouri Rice Producer Meeting February 19, 2015. Dexter Eagles in Dexter, MO. Registration at 8:00 a.m. Contact Sam Atwell at 573-748-5531

Missouri State Fair August 13-23, 2015. Sedalia, MO. For more information visit www.mostatefair.com or call 1-800-422-FAIR.

Farm Bill Meetings:

- January 6 - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Naylor Vo-Ag, Naylor
- January 7 - 10:00 a.m. to Noon, Ozora Sacred Heart Catholic Church
- January 8 - .6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Ste. Genevieve County Extension Office, Patke Room
- January 9 - 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Kennett VFW Hall, Kennett
- January 14 - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Miner Convention Center, Miner
- January 15 - 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Malden Community Center, Malden
- January 28 - 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., Dexter Eagles Lodge, Dexter
- February 3 - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Fisher Delta Research Center, Portageville
- February 19 - 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., Dexter Eagles Lodge, Dexter

Commodities and markets - <http://extension.missouri.edu/scott/crop-budgets.aspx>

2014 Farm Bill - <http://extension.missouri.edu/scott/Farm-bill.aspx>

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Welcome to Extension

On December 1, 2014 extension welcomed Richard DeLoughery to Southeast Region Missouri Extension as Agronomy Specialist & County Program Director, headquartered in Mississippi County.

Rick has a Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy, from University of Wisconsin-Madison. His Master's degree is in Agronomy from University of Minnesota – St. Paul, with a minor in Crop Production and Plant Physiology. He has a PhD in Agronomy from University of Nebraska – Lincoln, with emphasis in Crop Production and Physiology and Plant Pathology.

Rick's professional experience includes serving as extension center director, working with

extension programming for the eastern band of Cherokee Indians and work with North Carolina Cooperative Extension. He also has experience working to direct agriculture and extension programs in South Dakota. His experience includes working with water quality extension programming in Nebraska, crop production with extension in Iowa and work as a crop consultant.

Rick has been an author or co-author on several research and extension publications.

Please stop by the Mississippi Extension Center at 109 North 1st street in Charleston, MO to see Rick and welcome him to Southeast Missouri.