



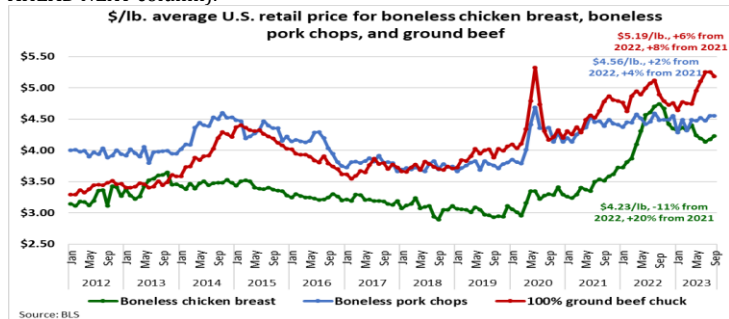
U.S. Meat Bulletin

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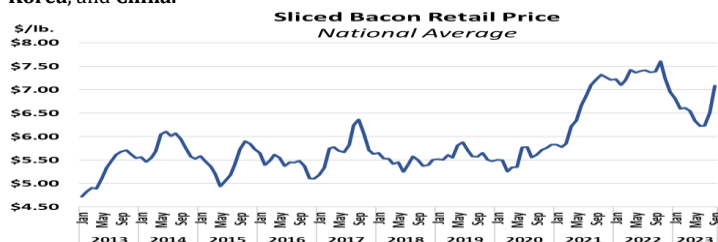
SUPPLY & DEMAND

Wholesale beef prices traded mostly flat through last week, with declines in thin meat prices (briskets, flanks & plates) being offset by firming loin values. Buyers continue to be cautious about holiday demand, with the instability in the Middle East creating new geopolitical uncertainty. The U.S. published its September GDP growth statistic, showing that inflation remained roughly level with that of August, dashing hopes that price growth would moderate faster. For beef, the average retail value of all fresh beef cuts sold at retail reached a new record at U.S. \$7.82/lb. Average retail ground beef prices also hit a historical record, touching U.S. \$5.11/lb. Lofty ground beef prices may be hurting hamburger demand, especially as boneless chicken breast prices have been easing over the last year (see GRAPH below). As we pointed out last week, wholesale beef grind values, both for 50s & 90s, have been falling as of late in a sign of slowing institutional demand. Still, analysts believe that despite a weak start to the month, wholesale beef values should gather steam in the weeks ahead as year-end holiday buying accelerates. Live fed cattle prices managed to increase slightly last week, a possible sign that packers are readying for demand to pick up. Interestingly, USDA slightly increased its U.S. beef production forecast for Q4, but most of the increase was due to higher-than-expected cow & bull slaughter. This suggests that U.S. cattle producers have yet to begin holding back breeding animals for herd expansion (see MOVING AHEAD NEXT column).



Beef Choice Beef Cutout Value: 16/10/2023 – US\$304.67/cwt. (+1% from 6/10/2023)

The pork cutout value fell again last week on weakening spot belly values and lower loin prices. U.S. – Mexico border congestion issues for truckers had largely been resolved by the end of last week, helping Mexican bone-in ham demand to remain firm. Weaker domestic deli meat demand caused boneless ham values to soften, while rising retail bacon prices during September has curbed belly usage (see GRAPH below) and caused the belly primal value to fall to its lowest level since June. Overall, pork supplies were ample last week with slaughter exceeding a relatively high 2.6 million head. The seasonal fall ramp up in processing activity is likely to further pressure lean hog & wholesale pork prices in the weeks ahead. In the futures market, the December lean hog futures contract has been trending lower for the last 3 weeks. USDA's latest monthly crop & livestock forecasts (WASDE) raised the agency's forecast for Q4 pork production, providing additional bearish overtones to the market. Market optimists believe that consumer pork demand in the U.S. remains solid, and the current drift lower of wholesale pork values reflects larger seasonal supplies. September average pork retail prices – across all cuts – were flat compared to year-ago levels, although were the 3rd highest ever for a one-month period. But with beef retail prices hitting another record high in September, pork should look relatively attractive to shoppers. Weekly USDA trade data for the Sept. 29 – Oct. 5 week showed unusually low U.S. pork muscle cut sales during the one-week period, with significant declines in new business for Mexico, Japan, Korea, and China.



Hog Carcass Cutout Value: 16/10/2023 – US\$91.22/cwt. (-2% from 6/10/2023)

MARKET MAKERS

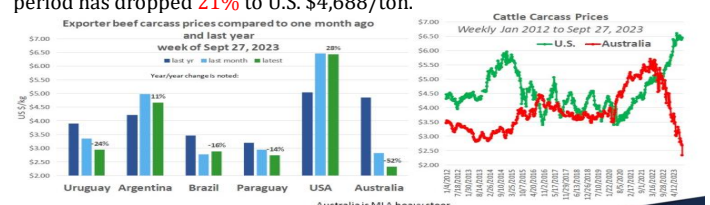
A new generation of meat cold storage technologies are now in play with the opening last week of a new warehouse facility in Colorado by cold storage provider **Lineage**. According to press reports, the warehouse, designed exclusively for meat giant **JBS**, is designed to help lower energy consumption and reduce food waste by storing products in a denser, more energy efficient cube structure. The warehouse features automated decision-making to optimize loading, unloading and storage. The completed facility has approximately 200,000 square feet of storage space and 20,000 pallet positions.

MOVING AHEAD

Last week, several analysts published opinions about whether U.S. cattle producers have started to rebuild the herd. The consensus is that high cattle prices, continued drought, and inflationary pressures – including high interest rates – are de-incentivizing many producers from starting any significant herd rebuilding this year. With feeder steer and heifer prices up 55% YOY at auction barns, producers continue to sell off their females to feedlots & packing plants, especially as they try to trim debt loads from higher input & interest costs. Dry pasture conditions have also been a factor; with 40% of the U.S. still considered in drought as of early October, cow slaughter has been elevated all year. To be sure, on a national level, herd liquidation has likely slowed or stopped, but with 51.7% of total cattle slaughter over the past 12 months being females – the highest average rate since 1986 – it will take at least several more months of reduced female slaughter before a new cycle of herd expansion can commence. The latest USDA cattle on feed report showed that although placements of cattle into feedlots were down roughly 5% YOY during September, the proportion of females is still higher than normal. During the 2016 nadir of the last expansionary cattle cycle phase, the percentage of females in the slaughter mix dipped to 43.3%. Analysts also note that with the average age of U.S. cattle producers being 58, some older operators may be taking advantage of high cattle prices to pay off their debts and finally exit the industry. Despite what currently look like negative industry fundamentals, analysts are optimistic that incentives to rebuild are just around the corner. The longer-term outlook for domestic & international demand for U.S. beef is good, and with the drought having pushed the cow herd size to its lowest level since 1962 (Jan 1, 2023= 28.9 million head), and below the level at which a recovery should have already commenced, the stimulus to expand will be that much stronger. Still, after historically high U.S. beef output last year, U.S. production will likely contract 15-16% between 2022 & 2025.

TRADE

Weak China demand and higher output in **Australia** and **Brazil** are pressuring cattle prices in the 2 major beef exporting countries, along with prices in **Uruguay** and **Paraguay**. In contrast, **Argentina** prices have surged in recent weeks on tightening cattle supplies due to rains and continued political uncertainty. Australian cattle and beef carcass prices have dropped sharply in recent weeks (see right GRAPH below) and are approximately 52% lower than a year ago. Industry sources in Australia note that processing space at some plants is fully booked through early November, with 2-month backups of slaughter-ready cattle being reported in some areas. Adding to the pain, last month was Australia's driest September ever, pushing some cattle producers in key cattle areas to liquidate. Cattle prices for both grass & grain-fed production have fallen. For example, current F1 Australian Wagyu feeders are selling for only 35-40% of the price as a year-ago. Analysts cite weak 2023 Asian demand, especially from China, as a major factor hurting Australian grain-fed & Wagyu values. Brazilian beef carcass prices are also noticeably lower year-on-year. Forecasters predict Brazil's total beef production will set consecutive records this year and in 2024 at 8.67 & 8.71 million tons respectively, before dropping in 2025. High feed availability & lower costs, coupled with long-term demand potential in China, have stimulated strong growth in Brazil's cattle & beef sector, with H1 2023 beef output up a sharp 7% YOY. Weaker China demand has caused Brazil's Jan-Sept total beef exports to fall 4.5% while the average per ton export value for the 9-month period has dropped 21% to U.S. \$4,688/ton.



Source: MLA, World Beef Report, USMEF estimates

ACTIVITIES:

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

Web: www.usmeff.org.cn



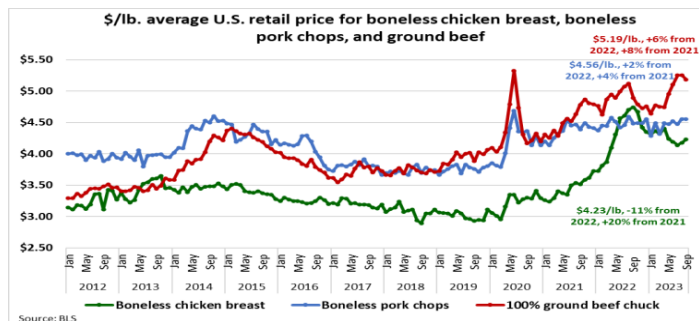
美国肉品新知

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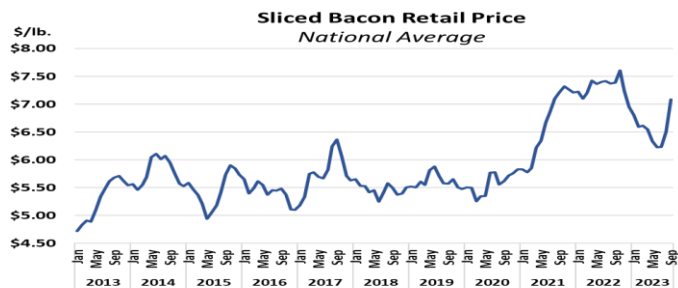
供应与需求

上周，批发牛肉价格基本持平，薄肉（前胸肉、胸腹部和腹部）价格的下跌被腰部价格坚挺所抵消。买家继续对假期需求持谨慎态度，中东不稳定局势造成新的地缘政治不确定性。美国公布 9 月 GDP 增长统计数据，显示通胀率与 8 月大致持平，令物价增速放缓的希望破灭。就牛肉而言，所有零售新鲜牛肉分切部位的平均零售价创下新纪录，达到 7.82 美元/磅。绞牛肉平均零售价格也创下历史纪录，触及 5.11 美元/磅。高涨的绞牛肉价格可能会不利于汉堡包的需求，特别是去年以来无骨鸡胸肉价格一直在下降（见下图）。正如我们上周指出的，50% 和 90% 瘦肉率的批发牛绞肉价格最近一直在下降，这是机构需求放缓的迹象。尽管如此，分析师认为，尽管本月开局疲弱，但随着年底的假期购买加速，牛肉批发价格应在未来几周内积聚动力。上周出栏牛价格小幅上涨，这可能表明屠宰厂正在为需求回升做好准备。有趣的是，美国农业部小幅上调了第四季度美国牛肉产量预测，但增长的主要原因是母牛和公牛屠宰量高于预期。这表明美国养牛生产者尚未开始减少母牛售卖以扩大种群（参见下一栏“产业动态”）。



美国农业部牛肉屠体价格指数（特选级）：2023 年 10 月 16 日 - \$304.67 美元/百磅（较 2023 年 10 月 6 日增加 1%）

由于现货腹部价格疲软和背部价格走低，上周猪肉分切价格再次下跌。美国-墨西哥边境卡车司机的拥堵问题已于上周末基本得到解决，帮助墨西哥带骨后腿需求保持坚挺。国内熟食肉类需求疲软导致去骨后腿价格走软，而九月份零售培根价格上涨抑制了腹部的使用（见下图），并导致腹部初级分切价格跌至六月以来的最低水平。总体而言，上周猪肉供应充足，屠宰量超过 260 万头。秋季屠宰活动的季节性增加可能会在未来几周进一步给生猪和猪肉批发价格带来压力。在期货市场，12 月瘦肉猪期货合约价格过去三周一直呈走低趋势。美国农业部最新的月度农作物和牲畜预测（WASDE）上调了该机构对第四季度猪肉产量的预测，为市场带来了额外的看跌基调。市场乐观人士认为，美国猪肉消费需求依然强劲，目前猪肉批发价格的下降反映了季节性供应的增加。虽然是历史上月度第三高的价格，9 月份猪肉平均零售价格（所有分切部位）与去年同期水平持平。但随着 9 月份牛肉零售价格再创历史新高，猪肉对购物者来说应该相对有吸引力。美国农业部 9 月 29 日至 10 月 5 日周度贸易数据显示，这周内美国猪肉新销售量异常低，其中销往墨西哥、日本、韩国和中国的销量大幅下降。



猪屠体分切价格：2023 年 10 月 16 日 - \$91.22 美元/百磅（较 2023 年 10 月 6 日减少 2%）

产业新知

随着上周冷库供应商 Lineage 在科罗拉多州开设新仓库设施，新一代肉类冷藏技术正在发挥作用。据媒体报道，该仓库专为肉类巨头 JBS 设计，旨在通过将产品存储在更密集、更节能的立方体结构中，帮助降低能源消耗并减少食物浪费。仓库具有自动化决策功能，可优化装卸和存储。竣工后的设施拥有约 200,000 平方英尺的存储空间和 20,000 个托盘位。

产业动态

上周，几位分析师发表了关于美国养牛生产者是否已开始重建牛群的观点。人们的共识是，高牛价、持续干旱和通货膨胀压力（包括高利率）正在削弱许多生产者今年开始任何重大牛群重建的动力。随着拍卖场的架子公牛和小母牛价格同比上涨 55%，生产商继续将母牛出售给育肥场和屠宰厂，特别是当他们试图减轻投入和利息成本上升带来的债务负担时。干旱的牧场条件也是一个因素：截至 10 月初，美国 40% 的地区仍处于干旱状态，因此全年母牛屠宰量都在增加。可以肯定的是，在全国层面上，牛群去产能可能已经放缓或停止，但过去 12 个月屠宰牛群中 51.7% 是母牛——这是自 1986 年以来的最高平均比例——在新的畜群扩张周期开始之前，雌性屠宰量至少还需要几个月的时间才能减少。美国农业部最新的牛育肥报告显示，尽管 9 月份转移到育肥场的牛只数量同比下降约 5%，但母牛比例仍高于正常水平。在 2016 年最后一个牛扩张周期的最低点期间，屠宰组合中雌性的比例下降至 43.3%。分析师还指出，由于美国养牛生产者的平均年龄为 58 岁，一些年龄较大的经营者可能会利用高牛价来偿还债务，最终退出该行业。尽管目前看来行业基本面不佳，但分析师乐观地认为重建的动力即将到来。国内和国际对美国牛肉需求的长期前景良好，干旱已将牛群规模推至 1962 年以来的最低水平（2023 年 1 月 1 日 = 2,890 万头），低于本已经开始复苏的水平，扩张的动力将会更加强劲。尽管如此，继去年美国牛肉产量创历史新高后，2022 年至 2025 年美国产量可能会萎缩 15-16%。

贸易新闻

中国需求疲软以及澳大利亚和巴西产量增加正在对这两个主要牛肉出口国的牛肉价格以及乌拉圭和巴拉圭的价格构成压力。相比之下，由于降雨和持续的政治不确定性，阿根廷牛的供应收紧，最近几周价格飙升。澳大利亚牛只和牛胴体价格近几周大幅下跌（见下图），比一年前下降约 52%。澳大利亚的行业人士指出，截至 11 月初，一些工厂的屠宰空间已被预订满，据报道，一些地区的可供屠宰牛只数量已经有 2 个月的储备。雪上加霜的是，上个月是澳大利亚有史以来最干旱的九月，迫使主要养牛区的一些养牛生产者被迫售卖牛群。草饲和谷饲生产的牛只价格均有所下降。例如，目前澳大利亚 F1 和牛育肥者售卖牛只价格仅为一年前的 35-40%。分析师指出，2023 年亚洲需求疲软，尤其是来自中国的需求，是损害澳大利亚谷饲和牛价格的主要因素。巴西牛肉胴体价格也同比明显下降。相关人士预测，今年和 2024 年巴西牛肉总产量将连续创下纪录，分别为 867 万吨和 871 万吨，然后在 2025 年下降。高饲料供应和较低成本，加上中国的长期需求潜力，刺激了巴西活牛和牛肉的强劲增长，2023 年上半年牛肉产量同比大幅增长 7%。中国需求疲软导致巴西 1-9 月牛肉出口总量下降 4.5%，而 9 个月期间每吨平均出口额下降 21% 至 4,688 美元/吨。



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