

# Cornhusker Economics

Cooperative Extension

Institute of Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Department of Agricultural Economics  
University of Nebraska – Lincoln

## ASK CAFIO: A Medium for Interactive CyberReach

| Market Report  | Yr<br>Ago | 4 Wks<br>Ago | 1/30/04 |
|--|-----------|--------------|---------|
| <b><u>Livestock and Products,</u></b>  |           |              |         |
| <b><u>Average Prices for Week Ending</u></b>                                     |           |              |         |
| Slaughter Steers, Ch. 204, 1100-1300 lb<br>Omaha, cwt .....                      | \$77.54   | \$74.96      | \$80.54 |
| Feeder Steers, Med. Frame, 600-650 lb<br>Dodge City, KS, cwt .....               | 84.06     | *            | 96.34   |
| Feeder Steers, Med. Frame 600-650 lb,<br>Nebraska Auction Wght. Avg .....        | 89.74     | 106.42       | 105.09  |
| Carcass Price, Ch. 1-3, 550-700 lb<br>Cent. US, Equiv. Index Value, cwt .....    | 119.44    | 124.37       | 122.54  |
| Hogs, US 1-2, 220-230 lb<br>Sioux Falls, SD, cwt .....                           | 35.00     | 39.00        | 43.25   |
| Feeder Pigs, US 1-2, 40-45 lb<br>Sioux Falls, SD, hd .....                       | *         | *            | *       |
| Vacuum Packed Pork Loins, Wholesale,<br>13-19 lb, 1/4" Trim, Cent. US, cwt ..... | 92.51     | 97.86        | 114.89  |
| Slaughter Lambs, Ch. & Pr., 115-125 lb<br>Sioux Falls, SD, cwt .....             | *         | *            | *       |
| Carcass Lambs, Ch. & Pr., 1-4, 55-65 lb<br>FOB Midwest, cwt .....                | 166.60    | 182.36       | 182.73  |
| <b><u>Crops,</u></b>   |           |              |         |
| <b><u>Cash Truck Prices for Date Shown</u></b>                                   |           |              |         |
| Wheat, No. 1, H.W.<br>Omaha, bu .....  | 3.68      | 3.98         | 3.84    |
| Corn, No. 2, Yellow<br>Omaha, bu .....   | 2.29      | 2.41         | 2.52    |
| Soybeans, No. 1, Yellow<br>Omaha, bu .....                                       | 5.59      | 7.86         | 7.82    |
| Grain Sorghum, No. 2, Yellow<br>Kansas City, cwt .....                           | 4.52      | 4.65         | 4.66    |
| Oats, No. 2, Heavy<br>Minneapolis, MN, bu .....                                  | 2.22      | 1.71         | 1.74    |
| <b><u>Hay,</u></b>   |           |              |         |
| <b><u>First Day of Week Pile Prices</u></b>                                      |           |              |         |
| Alfalfa, Sm. Square, RFV 150 or better<br>Platte Valley, ton .....               | 150.00    | 130.00       | 130.00  |
| Alfalfa, Lg. Round, Good<br>Northeast Nebraska, ton .....                        | 80.00     | 55.00        | 55.00   |
| Prairie, Sm. Square, Good<br>Northeast Nebraska, ton .....                       | 115.00    | *            | *       |
| * No market.   |           |              |         |

The Center for Agricultural & Food Industrial Organization (CAFIO) has recently launched a program in Interactive CyberReach. Named "ASK CAFIO" and sponsored by a small grant from the Nebraska Rural Initiative, the program's objective is to provide two-way communication between academic researchers and the public. Researchers provide research-based answers to questions about the economics of competition in the agricultural and food marketing chain, and in return receive feedback from the public about important and potentially researchable issues. The targeted users are journalists, policy makers, farmers and ranchers, business people, students and anybody with access to the World Wide Web who has an interest in what research, published in refereed scientific journals, has to say about competitive issues in the food industry.

When a question is received through "ASK CAFIO," it is either forwarded to one of CAFIO's research fellows with expertise in the area, or to an industrial organization economist in other research institutions. Feedback is either in the form of reference to existing statistical evidence and/or the researcher's scientific judgment based on industrial organization theory. Feedback will be sent directly to the e-mail address of the user. Neither the identity of the user or his/her questions are made public without the written permission of the user.

So, next time you need feedback on competitive issues in the food marketing chain, go to CAFIO's website at <http://cafio.unl.edu>, click on the "ASK CAFIO" button, tell us who you are, compose your question and click "submit." It is as simple as that.

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