MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 30, 2024 LIVESTOCK REPORT

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CATTLE

DECEMBER 27, 2024	123,000
WEEK AGO	117,000
YEAR AGO	123,683
SATURDAY 12/28/2024	36,000
WEEK AGO	15,000
YEAR AGO	35,332
WEEK TO DATE (EST)	434,000
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK (EST)	617,000
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR (ACT)	500,521
2024 YEAR TO DATE	31,028,424
2023 YEAR TO DATE	32,236,026
PERCENT CHANGE YEAR TO DATE	-3.8%
YEAR TO DATE PER HEAD CHANGE	-1,207,602

HTTPS://WWW.AMS.USDA.GOV/MNREPORTS/AMS_3208.PDF

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2:00 PM DECEMBER 27, 2024

BOXED BEEF	CHOICE	SELECT
CURRENT CUTOUT VALUES:	322.38	291.13
CHANGE FROM PRIOR DAY:	1.99	2.36
CHOICE/SELECT SPREAD:	31.25	
TOTAL LOAD COUNT (CUTS, TRIMMINGS, GRINDS):	87	
5 DAY SIMPLE AVERAGE:	317.55	286.22

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CME BOXED BEEF INDEX ON 12/26/2024 WAS 309.55 UP 79 CENTS FROM PREVIOUS DAY

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2:00 PM DECEMBER 27, 2024

PRIMAL RIB	624.55	459.05
PRIMAL CHUCK	263.89	262.72
PRIMAL ROUND	265.72	262.57
PRIMAL LOIN	382.91	335.02
PRIMAL BRISKET	269.81	247.66
PRIMAL SHORT PLATE	195.85	195.85
PRIMAL FLANK	150.50	148.70

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LOAD COUNT AND CUTOUT VALUE SUMMARY FOR PRIOR 5 DAYS

DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	TRIM	GRINDS	TOTAL	600-900	600-900	
12/26	94	37	25	30	186	320.39	288.77	
12/23	66	21	14	14	114	315.98	286.75	
12/20	66	19	9	13	107	315.85	285.91	FRIDAY
12/19	62	19	7	9	98	320.69	284.11	
12/18	50	27	29	14	120	314.84	285.55	

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NATIONAL BOXED BEEF CUTS - NEGOTIATED SALES FOB PLANT BASIS NEGOTIATED SALES FOR DELIVERY WITHIN 0-21 DAY PERIOD. PRIOR DAYS SALES AFTER 1:30PM ARE INCLUDED.
DECEMBER 27, 2024 FINAL

CHOICE CUTS	52.66 LOADS	2,106,531 POUNDS
SELECT CUTS	15.75 LOADS	630,082 POUNDS
TRIMMINGS	8.08 LOADS	323,261 POUNDS
GROUND BEEF	10.78 LOADS	431,128 POUNDS

(ONE LOAD EQUALS 40,000 POUNDS)

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DECEMBER 2024 LIVE CATTLE DELIVERIES

0 DELIVERIES ON DECEMBER 27, 2024

DATE 12/27/24 SETTLEMENT: $193.50
OLDEST LONG 11/22/2024 $18.77

DECEMBER LIVE CATTLE OPEN INTEREST AS OF 12/30/2024 IS 617 CONTRACTS
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CHINA INVESTIGATES BEEF IMPORTS AS OVERSUPPLY SQUEEZES PRICES

"BEIJING, DEC 27 (REUTERS) - CHINA WILL LAUNCH AN INVESTIGATION INTO BEEF IMPORTS, THE COMMERCE MINISTRY SAID ON FRIDAY, AS THE WORLD'S BIGGEST MEAT IMPORTER AND CONSUMER GRAPPLES WITH AN OVERSUPPLIED MARKET THAT HAS SENT DOMESTIC PRICES TO MULTI-YEAR LOWS."

PRICE OF BEEF IN CHINA HAS FALLEN TO FIVE-YEAR LOW

ENTIRE REPORT
HTTPS://WWW.REUTERS.COM/WORLD/CHINA/CHINA-INVESTIGATES-BEEF-IMPORTS-OVERSUPPLY-SQUEEZES-PRICES-2024-12-27/

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CASH CATTLE PRICES LAST WEEK WERE $1.00 TO $2.00 HIGHER. SALES IN THE MIDWEST VERY LIGHT. PRICES IN THE MIDWEST WERE 195.00 TO 19.00 WITH DRESSED PRICES AVERAGING 307.00, 1.00 TO 2.00 HIGHER. SALES IN THE SOUTHWEST 192.00 TO 193.00 WITH A FEW AT 195.00.

PACKERS THIS WEEK WILL BE BUYING FOR THE FIRST FULL WEEK OF 2025. THEY WILL BE ABLE TO BRING IN THE CATTLE HELD OVER UNTIL 2025 ALONG WWITH THEIR OWN CATTLE AND CONTRACT CATTLE. CATTLE WEIGHTS WILL INCREASE.

WEATHER IS EXPECTED TO BECOME COLDER. WEIGHT GAINS WILL SLOW INTO JANUARY.

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TRADE VOLUME FOR LIVE CATTLE AND LEAN HOGS IS LIGHT NOW. IT IS LIKELY TO STAY LIGHT UNTIL MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2024 OR AFTER. BIG TRADERS AREN'T GOING TO ANNOUNCE WHEN THEY ARE GOING TO START TO TRADE. WATCH THE VOLUME AND OPEN INTEREST.
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BELOW IS A TABLE FOR WEEKLY BEEF PRODUCTION. FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECMBER 21, 2024 PRODUCTION WAS 534.7 MILLION POUNDS. IF YOU BREAK IT DOWN TO LOAD MOVEMENT, IT IS 13,367.5 LOADS WEIGHING 40,000 POUNDS. FOR THE WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 21, 2024 THERE WERE 541 LOADS OF BEEF POSTED AS MOVEMENT. SO THERE WERE 12,826.5 LOADS NOT INCLUDED. OF COURSE, WHAT CUTS OF BEEF WERE MOVED, WHAT GRADE OF BEEF MOVED AND VARIOUS DIFFERENCE COMPARED TO TOTAL PRODUCTION WON'T BE NEAR EXACT, BUT FOR THIS EXPLANATION IT IS GOOD ENOUGH.

THE POINT, THERE IS CLOSE TO 95% OF THE BEEF PRODUCED THAT IS NOT PRICED ON THE OPEN MARKET, AND WHEN IT IS MOVED CONTRACTS ARE PRIVATE. THE USDA POSTS PRICES FROM PACKERS AND WHOLESALERS THEY ALLOW TO BE POSTED THAT IS SOLD ON THE OPEN MARKET.

DO YOU THINK A SMALL CORNER MARKET PAYS THE SAME AS A BIG BOX STORE OR A BUYER IN JAPAN?

IT IS WHY I SUGGEST USING THE CME BOXED BEEF INDEX AS A WAY TO VIEW PRICE MOVEMENT. THE CME BOXED BEEF INDEX IS THE WEIGHTED AVERAGE OVER TIME FOR CHOICE AND SELECT.

ANYONE USING THE TWICE A DAY BOXED BEEF COMPOSITE PRICE IS LIKE COMPARING A BABY MOUSE TO A FULL GROWN BULL ELEPHANT.

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SHOWLIST FEEDLOTS ARE HOLDING CATTLE UNTIL 2025. WITH HIGH COST OF REPLACEMENTS , GOOD WEATHER FOR WEIGHT GAIN AND KEEPING CATTLE IN ORDER TO NOT PUT INCOME IN 2024.

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THE 5 DAY NEGOTIATED AVERAGE STEER PRICE AS OF DECEMBER 26, 2024 WAS $194.58. DECEMBER LIVE CATTLE SETTLED AT 193.50 ON DECEMBER 27, 2024.

THE AVERAGE 5 DAY STEER WEIGHT IS 1526 POUNDS

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CATTLE ON FEED REPORT DECEMBER 20, 2024

	RANGE	AVERAGE	ACTUAL	ACTUAL HEAD	EST HEAD
ON FEED AS OF DEC. 1	99.1-100.3	99.7	100	11,982	11.975
PLACEMENTS IN NOVEMBER	91.3-98.9	94.9	96	1,796	1.778
MARKETINGS IN NOVEMBER	97.7-98.8	98.2	99	1,725	1.719

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FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 19, 2024 EXPORTS WERE 1,1000 MT. DOWN 81% ON THE 4 WEEK AVERAGE. NET SALES FOR 2025 WERE 13,100 MT UP 10% ON THE 4 WEEK AVERAGE .

EXPORTS TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE NEED TO AVERAGE 20,000 MT OR BETTER.

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***NATIONAL DAILY DIRECT CATTLE 12/27/2024

5 DAY ACCUMULATED WEIGHTED AVG

	WEIGHT	PRICE	HEAD
LIVE STEER:	1520	$194.26	14,910
LIVE HEIFER:	1363	$193.40	4,292
DRESSED STEER	986	$306.61	1,796
DRESSED HEIFER:	882	$305.00	434

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USDA POSTED SUMMARY CATTLE PRICES ON 12/27/2024
FOB STEER AND HEIFER COMBINED PRICES UNLESS NOTED

IA/MN – CASH FOB – 195.00-196.00 AVE PRICE 195.52
DRESSED DELIVERED 305.00-308.00 AVE PRICE 306.70
AS OF DECEMBER 27, 2024 TOTAL CATTLE SOLD 6,287 HEAD

NE – CASH FOB - 196.00
DRESSED DELIVERED 307.00-309.00
AS OF DECEMBER 27, 2024 TOTAL CATTLE SOLD 3,792 HEAD

KS – CASH – 192.00-195.00 AVE PRICE 192.54
LIVE DELIVERED - NO REPORTABLE TRADE
DRESSED DELIVERED - 307.00
AS OF DECEMBER 27, 2024 TOTAL CATTLE SOLD 16,984 HEAD

TX/OK/NM - 192.00-193.00 AVE PRICE 192.42
AS OF DECEMBER 27, 2024 TOTAL CATTLE SOLD 8,256 HEAD

COLORADO - **INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO CONFIDENTIALITY**

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WEEKLY BEEF PRODUCTION (MILLIONS OF POUNDS) – DECEMBER 20, 2024
WEEK ENDING: BEEF
21, DEC-24 534.7
14DEC-23 527.2
CHANGE: 1.4%
23-DEC-23 525.5
CHANGE: 1.8%
2024 YTD 26003.4
2023 YTD 26124.7
CHANGE: -0.5%

AVERAGE WEIGHTS (POUNDS) CATTLE
WEEK ENDING LIVE:
21-DEC-24 ESTIMATE 1430
14-DEC-24 ESTIMATE 1429
23-DEC-23 ACTUAL 1403
DRESSED:
21-DEC-24 ESTIMATE 869
14-DEC-24 ESTIMATE 868
23-DEC-23 ACTUAL 848
HTTPS://WWW.AMS.USDA.GOV/MNREPORTS/SJ_LS712.TXT
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STERLING MARKETING BEEF MARGINS WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 21, 2024

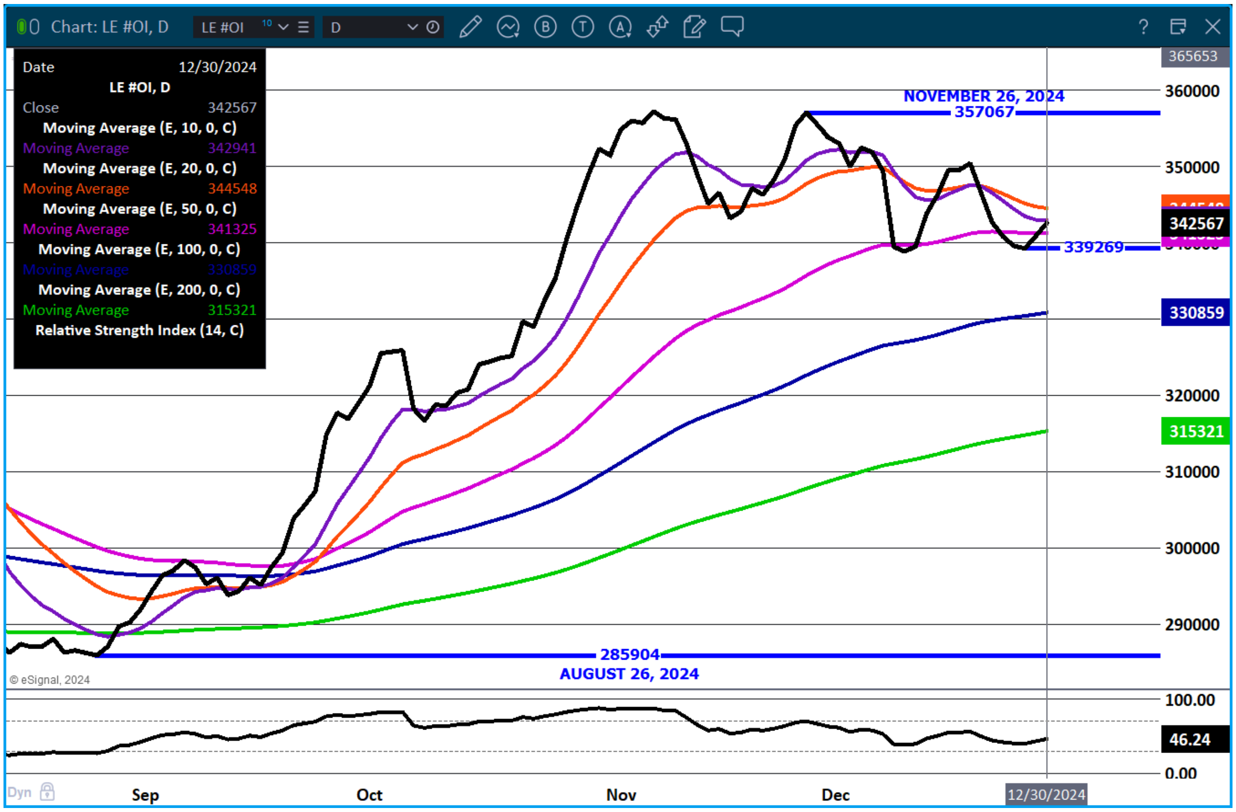
DECEMBER 21, 2024

PACKER MARGIN ($ /HEAD ($133.00) LAST WEEK ($97.68) MONTH AGO ($63.86) YEAR AGO ($82.00)

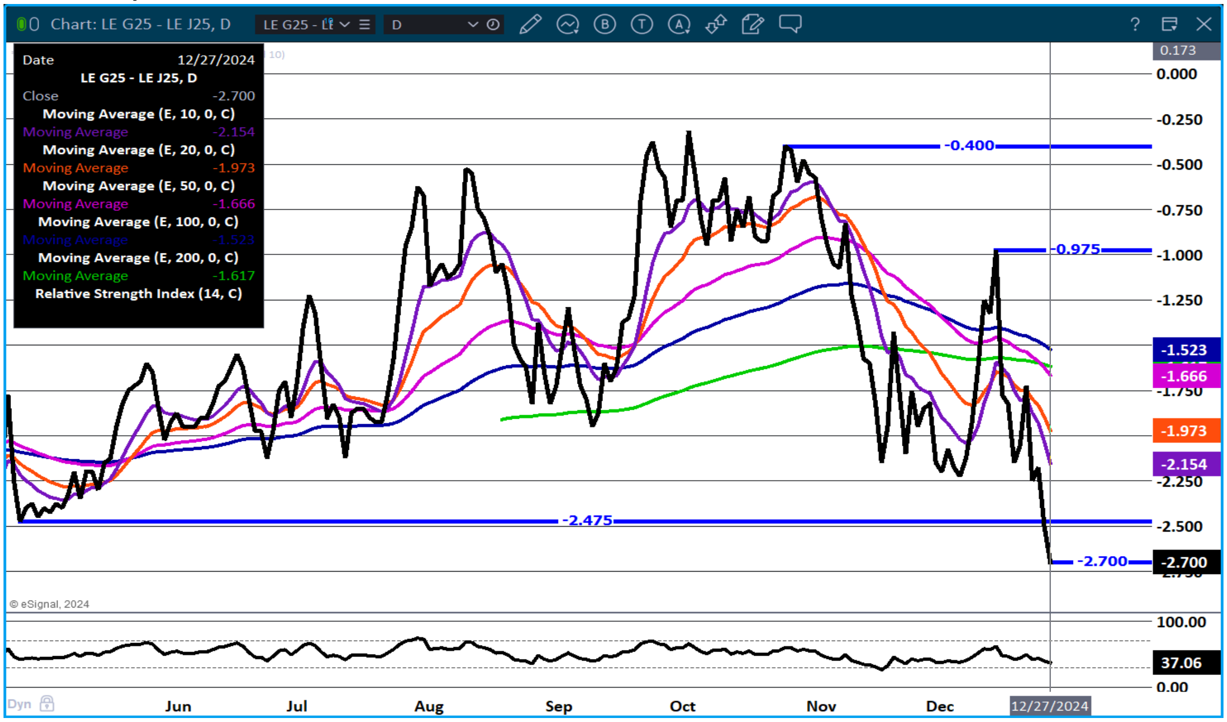
FEEDLOT MARGINS: $202.33 LAST WEEK $162.08 MONTH AGO $92.13 YEAR AGO ($178.78)

Sterling Marketing uses the Comprehensive Beef Cutout Value reported by USDA. I have included a document that explains this cutout value. I looked at this value about 4 years ago and compared the beef packer margin values from my Choice-Select Adjusted value and this Comprehensive value. There was little difference. However, over the past few weeks, the difference has become significant. I believe this is because the mix of cattle slaughtered is increasingly includes higher valued cattle – i.e., Prime, Upper 2/3 Choice, and Branded Program cattle. In addition, it includes the formula-priced cattle. Using just the Choice and higher grade and Select grade to generate the cutout does not reflect this important difference in the quality of cattle which in turn is definitely a driver to the notable improvement in beef demand over the past year.

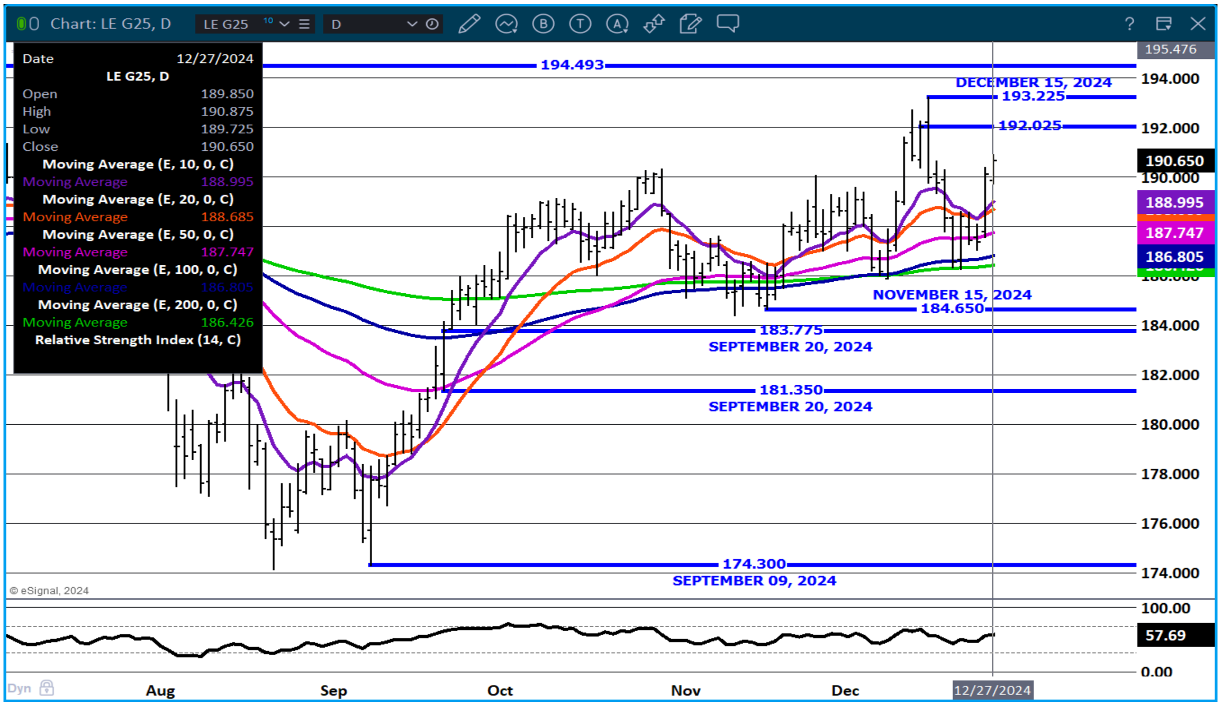
LIVE CATTLE OPEN INTEREST – OPEN INTEREST REMAINS LARGE -



FEBRUARY/APRIL LIVE CATTLE SPREAD - BEAR SPREAD WIDENING



FEBRUARY 2025 LIVE CATTLE - RESISTANCE AT 192.00 SUPPORT AT 189.00



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FEEDER CATTLE

CME FEEDER INDEX ON 12/26/2024 WAS 258.32 DOWN 2.45 FROM PREVIOUS DAY

JANUARY 2025 FEEDER CATTLE SETTLED ON DECEMBER 27, 2024 AT $261.37

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CASH SALES WILL BE LIGHT THIS WEEK. PRODUCERS KEEP FEEDERS UNTIL 2025 NOT WANTING TO PUT ADDITIONAL INCOME IN 2024.
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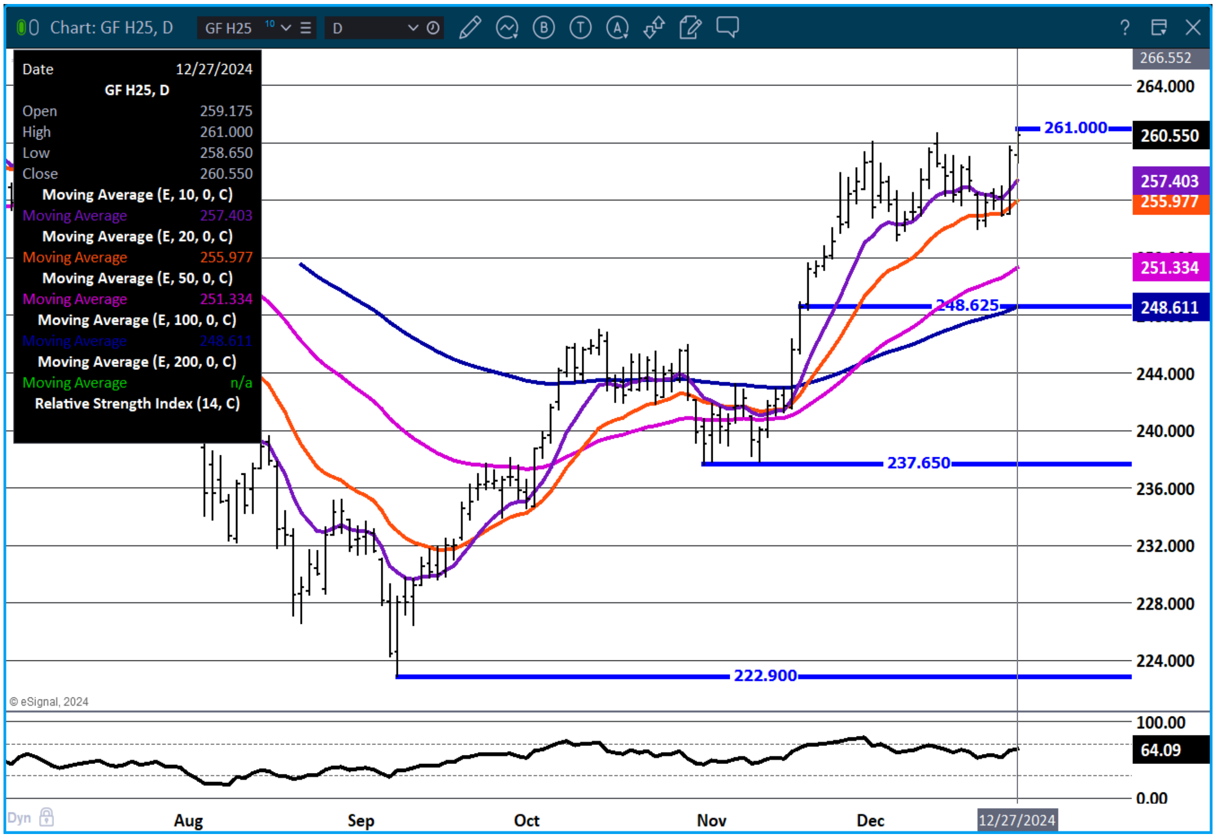
MARCH FEEDER CATTLE - RESISTANCE AT 261.00 SUPPORT AT 256.00



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HOGS

DECEMBER 27, 2024	487,000
WEEK AGO	483,000
YEAR AGO	478,617
SATURDAY 12/28/2024	413,000
WEEK AGO	148,000
YEAR AGO	321,071
WEEK TO DATE (EST)	2,051,000
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK (EST)	2,581,000
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR (ACT)	2,222,639
2024 YEAR TO DATE	128,149,457
2023 YEAR TO DATE	127,338,988
PERCENT CHANGE YEAR TO DATE	0.6%
YEAR TO DATE PER HEAD CHANGE	810,469

HTTPS://WWW.AMS.USDA.GOV/MNREPORTS/AMS_3208.PDF

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CME LEAN HOG INDEX ON 12/23/2024 WAS 85.10 UP 35 CENTS FROM PREVIOUS DAY

CME PORK CUTOUT INDEX 12/26/2024 AT 95.89 DOWN 17 CENTS SFROM PREVIOUS DAY

THE CME LEAN HOG INDEX IS MINUS $10.79 TO THE CME PORK INDEX 12/27/2024.

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ACCORDING TO THE CME INDEX PRICES PACKERS ARE IN THE BLACK. PORK PRICES ARE UP AND THE CUTOUT IS UP WITH HAMS AND BELLIES.

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TRADE VOLUME ON FRIDAY WAS AGAIN LIGHT. TRADERS ARE LIKELY WAITING TO JANUARY 6TH OR AFTER. NOTHING IN THE HOG AND PIGS REPORT REQUIRED ANY IMMEDIATE CHANGES

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FOR 2025, TRADERS WILL BE WATCHING EXPORTS. THEY WERE AN IMPORTANT SUPPORT TO PRICES IN 2024.

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USDA HOGS AND PIGS REPORT

UNITED STATES HOG INVENTORY UP 1 PERCENT

	RANGES	AVERAGE	ACTUAL	HEAD
ALL HOGS DECEMBER 1	99.4-100.9	100.1	101	75,845
KEPT FOR BREEDING	98.5-100.7	100	100	6,004
KEPT FOR MARKET	99.4-101.2	100.1	101	69,841
PIG CROP				
SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER	100-101.2	100.6	102	
WEIGHT GROUPS				
UNDER 50 LBS	99.6-101.4	100.5	101	
50-119 LBS	99.8-100.8	100.3	101	
120-179 LBS	98.3-100.3	99.4	99	
OVER 180 LBS	97.9-100.1	99	99	
FARROWINGS				
SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER	99.6-100.3	99.9	100	
PIGS PER LITTER				
SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER	100.1-101.1	100.7	102	

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EXPORTS

FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 19, 2024 EXPORTS WERE 7,100 MT, DOWN 67% ON THE 4 WEEK AVERAGE. JAPAN WAS THE LARGEST BUYER WITH 2000 MT. MEXICO TOOK ONLY 1400 MT AND CHINA BOUGHT 1400 MT.

NET SALES FOR 2025 WERE AT 39,400 MT WITH MEXICO AT 21,000 MT FOLLOWED BY CHINA WITH 6000 MT.

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WEEKLY PORK PRODUCTION (MILLION POUNDS) DECEMBER 20, 2024

WEEK ENDING	PORK
21-DEC-24	557.7
14-DEC-24	551.7
CHANGE:	1.1%
23-DEC-23	523.1
CHANGE:	6.6%
2024 YTD	27026.5
2023 YTD	26694.3
CHANGE:	1.2%

WEEKENDING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024
AVERAGE WEIGHTS (LBS) HOGS
WEEK ENDING LIVE:

21-DEC-24	ESTIMATE	291
14-DEC-24	ESTIMATE	290
23-DEC-23	ACTUAL	290

DRESSED:

21-DEC-24	ESTIMATE	216
14-DEC-24	ESTIMATE	215
23-DEC-23	ACTUAL	215

HTTPS://WWW.AMS.USDA.GOV/MNREPORTS/SJ_LS712.TXT

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STERLING PORK PROFIT TRACKER WEEK ENDING - DECEMBER 21, 2024
PACKER MARGINS $22.11 LAST WEEK $11.17 MONTH AGO $8.51 YEAR AGO $59.74
FARROW TO FINISH MARGIN $27.35 LAST WEEK $31.41 MONTH AGO $30.41 YEAR AGO ($51.63)
THE PRICES TO CALCULATE MARGINS ARE FROM HOGS SOLD ON NEGOTIATED PRICES AND PORK POSTED ON DAILY CARCASS. BOTH ARE A VERY SMALL AMOUNT OF ACTUAL PORK OR HOG SOLD. STERLING MARKETING CAN ONLY USE DATA PROVIDED AND PRIVATE FORMULAS AND GRIDS FOR HOGS AND PORK ARE NOT INCLUDED BECAUSE PACKERS DON'T SHARE CONTRACTED PORK PRICES AND HOG PRODUCERS SELLING ON FORMULAS AND CONTRACTS DON'T SHARE HOW PRICES ARE STRUCTURED.
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FOB PLANT - NEGOTIATED SALES
BASED ON NEGOTIATED PRICES AND VOLUME OF PORK CUTS DELIVERED WITHIN 14 DAYS AND ON AVERAGE INDUSTRY CUTTING YIELDS. CALCULATIONS FOR 215 LB. PORK CARCASS. 55-56%

LOADS PORK CUTS : 198.04
LOADS TRIM/PROCESS PORK : 43.84

2:00 PM	LOADS	CARCASS	LOIN	BUTT	PIC	RIB	HAM	BELLY
12/26/2024	41.89	95.07	81.77	110.11	75.32	135.95	99.73	125.10
CHANGE:		-0.62	-2.44	-1.87	-4.48	1.79	0.60	3.16
FIVE DAY AVERAGE		95.76	82.67	110.56	80.26	134.29	99.74	124.77

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HOG REPORT - PLANT DELIVERED PURCHASE DECEMBER 27, 2024

NATIONAL NEGOTIATED PRICE
HEAD COUNT 2,059
LOWEST PRICE: 70.00
HIGHEST PRICE 79.00
WEIGHTED AVERAGE 77.27
CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS DAY -1.81 LOWER

OTHER MARKET FORMULA (CARCASS)
HEAD COUNT: 26,937
LOWEST BASE PRICE: 62.75
HIGHEST BASE PRICE 85.95
WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE 78.07

SWINE/PORK MARKET FORMULA (CARCASS)
HEAD COUNT 201,536
LOWEST BASE PRICE: 73.55
HIGHEST BASE PRICE 88.19
WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE 83.19

OTHER PURCHASE ARRANGEMENT (CARCASS)
HEAD COUNT: 180,661
LOWEST BASE PRICE 74.50
HIGHEST BASE PRICE: 101.66
WEIGHTED AVERAGE PRICE 81.30
HG216 (usda.gov)

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NATIONAL DAILY DIRECT HOG PRIOR DAY REPORT - SLAUGHTERED SWINE
HTTPS://WWW.AMS.USDA.GOV/MNREPORTS/AMS_2511.PDF

SLAUGHTER DATA - DECEMBER 27, 2024

****PRODUCER SOLD:**
HEAD COUNT 227,166
AVERAGE LIVE WEIGHT 292.84
AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHT 218.93

PACKER SOLD:
HEAD COUNT 35,612
AVERAGE LIVE 293.31
AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHT 218.67

PACKER OWNED:
HEAD COUNT 191,507
AVERAGE LIVE WEIGHT 290.89
AVERAGE CARCASS WEIGHT 217.06

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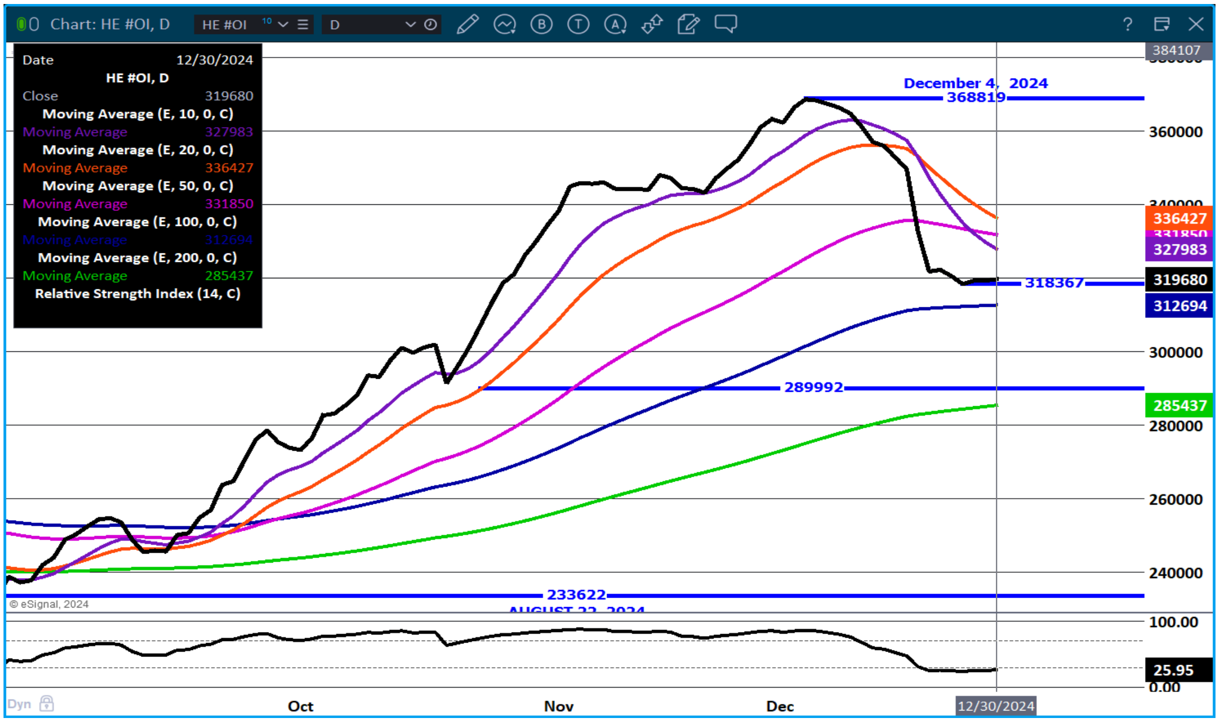
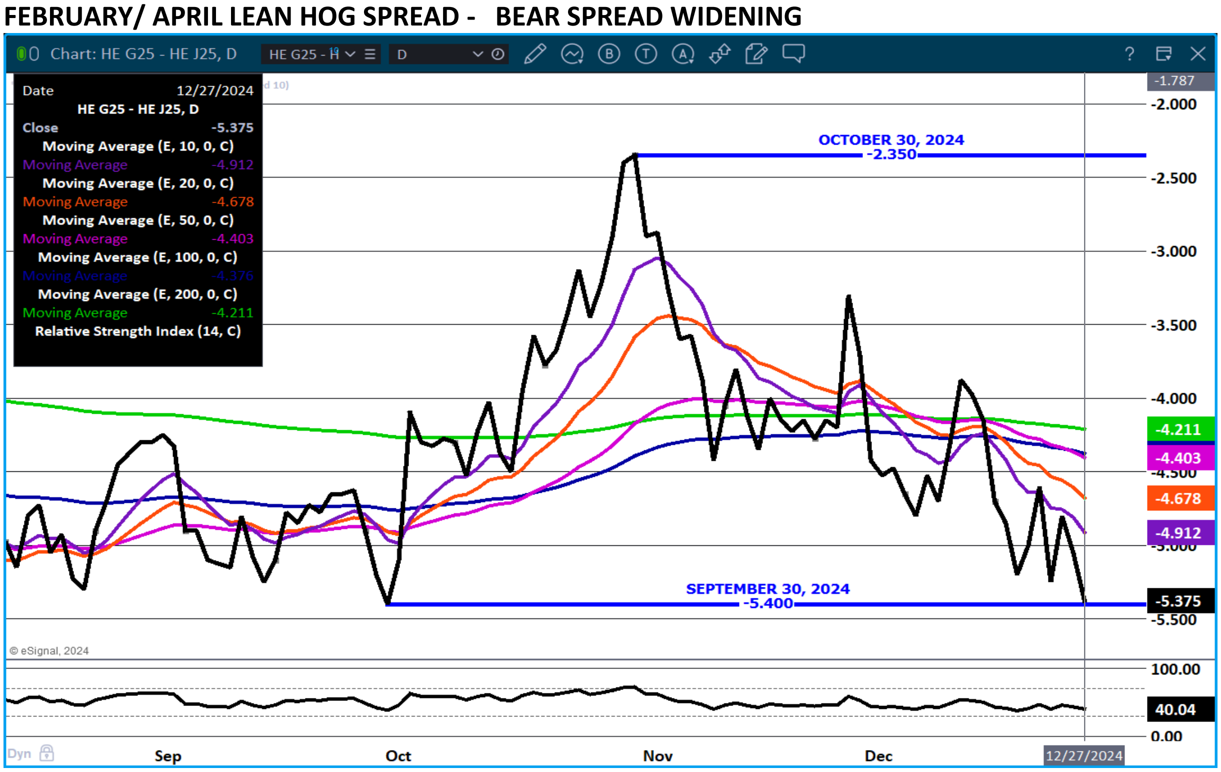
LEAN HOG OPEN INTEREST - DECREASE IN OPEN INTEREST – LONGS HAVE BEEN LIQUIDATING



FEBRUARY/ APRIL LEAN HOG SPREAD - BEAR SPREAD WIDENING



FEBRUARY 2025 LEAN HOGS – RESISTANCE 86.00 SUPPORT AT 81.75 VOLUME 16,136

ALL CHARTS PROVIDED BY ESIGNAL INTERACTIVE.COM

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