It’s been my pleasure to serve you over the last 32 years. I hope our paths cross again.

This will be the final Market News Report as funding was not secured to continue this service. This has been a voluntary program on part of the auction barns, so I would like to sincerely thank them for allowing the reporters to collect and publish data. The Livestock Market News program has provided transparency in price discovery for livestock and proved useful to many farmers. Thank you for the dedication of the reporters. Their expertise was at the heart of the program. Finally thank you to the Commissioner Richard Ball, Department of Agriculture and Markets for 4 years of funding to make this program possible. Mike Baker, Cornell Beef Extension Specialist.

Additionally, my last day of work as Cornell Beef Extension Specialist is June 30, 2021. I will be retiring on that date. I cannot imagine having a better job than in Extension. Getting to work with farmers, educators, ag service providers and policy makers has been my honor. It is one of the few jobs I know of where you I learned something new every day.

Cull Cows.

The average price for the week ending June 25, 2021, of Lean/Boner cull cows in NY was $60.93/cwt. This is typical of the seasonal increase in cull cows through the summer. Except for the COVID disrupted sales last year, prices are very similar to year ago.
**Finished cattle.**

The average price for Choice and Prime steers for the week ending 6/26/2021 was $127.63/cwt compared to $121.91 the previous week. Much of the increase in price is due to optimism from food service/restaurants getting back to normal business volumes.
Feeder cattle.

Compared to 2019 and 2020 calf prices were higher in March and April, followed by a decline through June. Depending on how many calves end up in feedlots early due to severe drought in the plains and southwest stated, calf prices should follow a seasonal decline. If the influx is higher due to drought, the price decline could be more severe. However, in the last two years NYS calf prices have seen a counter seasonal increase starting in October. In our markets we are seeing higher demand for preconditioned cattle.

Stocker Cattle.

In the last report, I included an article by Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension Livestock Marketing Specialist on how High grain price impacts on the cattle industry. His summary statement was that higher corn prices provide incentives for feedlots to change how cattle are finished and those decisions, in turn, will signal the rest of the cattle industry to make production adjustments utilizing the ruminant flexibility of cattle in response to changing feed prices. Relative to a given fed cattle price level, higher feed prices imply lower feeder cattle prices with prices of lighter weight feeder cattle under more pressure than heavier feeder cattle.

Feeder cattle (650-750 lb) futures have born this out, showing steady gains since October last year. This should make for a profitable year for stockers.

The 3rd Annual Yearling Board sale, hosted by Empire Livestock – Bath will be held Saturday, September 11. Details on the Yearling Board Sale can be found under “Events/Programs” at https://blogs.cornell.edu/beefcattle/. Vaccinations including any required boosters and application of de-wormers must be completed by 8/1/2021. For consignment information, Jonathan Lubic, Empire Bath (607) 250-2032, Jonathan.Lubic@empirelivestock.com, Marty Layden (607) 426-6106.
**Bull calves.** The premium for beef x dairy calves increased to $87/hd over 2020, indicating a higher demand for cross calves. Anecdotally I have been told that many calves are going direct leaving fewer calves in the sale barn. This has raised the value of calves, both dairy and cross calves. You can see the difference in the table below. Dairy bull calves are $13/h greater in 2021 and Beef x Dairy bull calves are $34/hd greater compared to 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Dairy</th>
<th>Beef x Dairy</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>106.19</td>
<td>171.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>119.35</td>
<td>206.29</td>
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<tr>
<td>Difference</td>
<td>13.16</td>
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( Funds to support the NYS Market News program come from New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets project “Stocker cattle: Using underutilized grasslands to improve economic viability of the Southern Tier while providing viable careers for beginning farmers.” ).