

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND RESOURCE ECONOMICS

Quiz
Fall 2023

Agricultural and Resource Economics 412
Agricultural Commodities Marketing

S.R. Koontz

This assignment is worth 20 points. Attach this page to the back of the work submitted. Your work should be constructed in an MS Word document. This quiz is due Friday 11/3.

The objective of this assignment is for you to locate and familiarize yourself with USDA sources of market information. You will submit a one-page write up for this quiz and that is what will be graded.

First, go to the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) website and find the market outlook reports. There are 10 per year for different commodity groups – Feed Outlook, Wheat Outlook, Oilseeds Outlook, Livestock Outlook, etc. Download the most recent report for a commodity group of interest to you. Read it. Attach it to our submission. Write a one paragraph summary of the market outlook. Your summary should identify a major event that has impacted the market in the immediate past and one major issue that will likely impact the market in the near future. Your summary must be of a major commodity livestock product or crop. Your summary must communicate some investment of time and thought.

Second, go to the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) website. And then go to the Mann Library at Cornell University which is the depository of all the past electronic versions of the USDA NASS reports. Click on the “Economics, Statistics and Market Information” link. Then Browse By: Agency and select NASS. Browse By: Subject and select Field Crops or Livestock, Dairy and Poultry. Familiarize yourself with the major grain or livestock reports on the Mann Library site. Spend some time doing this. Pick a commodity of interest to you. List three major report titles for that commodity. Attach those reports to your submission. Do not find three issues of the same report. Find a recent report. Write a one paragraph summary of the information in the report. Be brief but communicate that you have done the work. Discontinued reports are not acceptable. Once per year reports are not acceptable. Occasional reports are not acceptable. (If you use reports on catfish, mink, trout, or peanuts then that is acceptable, but I will make fun of you.) USDA NASS is the organization that compiles production and use reports.

Third, go to the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service website. Click on Market News button. Click on the Livestock, Poultry, and Grain button. Familiarize yourself with Reports by Commodity. Spend some time doing this because you will have to drill and drill and drill down. Find and print a report for Colorado wheat and corn, or Colorado feeder cattle, or some Colorado specialty crop. Please skip fed cattle. (Or find reports that are for the state close to your home or for futures delivery point markets.) Attach that report. Use caution as the AMS has transitioned from using text files to PDF files. Make sure your report is current. USDA AMS is the organization that performs price reporting.

The fourth point is optional may be worth extra points. There is lots of market outlook out there on the web. Most of it is trying to sell you something. Find someone that isn't. Read their outlook. Provide a short summary and provide the website. (Make sure it's current.) Do your alternative authors agree with the USDA ERS?