

# Key decisions for retired couples



## Financial Focus

**Perry Dressler**  
Edward Jones  
Financial Advisor

Once you and your spouse retire, you'll have some decisions to make — decisions that could affect your quality of life in your retirement years. What are these choices?

Here a few of the most important ones:

- How much should you withdraw from your retirement accounts? By the time you retire, you may have contributed for decades to an IRA and a 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. But once you retire, you'll probably need

to draw on these accounts to help pay your living expenses. Consequently, both of you will need to be sure that you don't withdraw so much each year that you risk running out of money later in your retirement. One common guideline is to aim for an annual withdrawal rate of 4%, but everyone's situation is different based on age, pre-retirement income, lifestyle, health, travel plans and other factors. (Once you turn 73, or 75 if you were born in 1960 or later, you will have to take certain amounts, based on your age and account balance, from your traditional IRA and traditional 401(k) each year.)

- When should you take Social Security? The answer to this question depends on many factors, such as your age and other sources of income. You can take Social Security as early as age 62, but your monthly payments will typically be bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which will be age 67 if you were born in 1960 or

later. And if you can afford to wait even longer, your payments will "max out" when you reach age 70. Your decision on when to take Social Security can affect your spouse — and vice versa. If the lower-earning spouse claims Social Security before their full retirement age — again, age 67 — their own retirement benefit and any potential spousal benefit will be reduced. (Spousal benefits are given to the lower-earning spouse if their full retirement benefit is less than half the other spouse's full retirement benefit.)

- Should you downsize? If you live in a big home and your children are grown, you may find it economical to downsize. Of course, this is also an emotional decision, but you may find that you can save money by moving into a smaller home.
- Where should you live? Some states are far more expensive to live in than others. You'll want to weigh your decision carefully, considering the cost of housing,

food, income and real estate taxes, transportation and health care in whatever state you choose.

- Have you finished your estate plans? If not, now is the time. You'll want to work with your legal professional to create whatever documents are needed — a will, living trust, power of attorney — to help ensure your assets go where you want them to go, and that your financial and health care choices will be protected if you become physically or mentally incapacitated.

Of course, many of these same issues will apply if you are single, divorced or widowed. But if you are married, you and your spouse will want to discuss all your choices and then decide which steps to take. Once you've got your plans in place, you may well find that you can fully enjoy your retirement years.

*(Editors Note: This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.)*

# Feeder and stocker cattle summary

## Market Report

OIC USDA  
St. Joe, Mo. Market

Compared to last week's light trading volume, steers and heifers in the Southeast sold \$15 to \$20 higher while those in the North and South-Central areas were \$8 to \$12 higher. Buyers were aggressive this week and eager to procure their summer grazers already. The sharply higher prices were a welcome sight after the country went through a deep freeze the previous week limiting trading of feeder cattle at auctions. This week's auction volume of around 245K is normal for this time of year.

Cattle going through the severe cold will come out with a fresher and "greener" look to them as they shed a little flesh. All sales seemed to get back on their regular

sales schedule this week and in the Northern Plains had large receipts as the weather could be termed "beautiful" for this time of year. The mud from this week was a welcome sight to some as the ground thawed and some parts of southern Missouri has some pastures showing a green tint to it as the calendar moves to March. With the turn of the calendar, farmers will now be paying attention to ground temperatures and waiting for it to get warm enough to put the planter in the ground. It has dried in some areas enough to see a fertilizer buggy or floater heading across the field to get nutrients thrown out, ready for the next round of precipitation. Not only were feeder cattle in demand, but replacement stock was as well.

At Ozark Regional Stockyards in West Plains, MO, there was some young cows bred back in the 1st stage with 300 lb. calves at their side for \$4550.00. Also, at Ericson (NE) Auction Market there were some 3rd

state bred heifers that sold at \$3900 while young cows in that same stage brought \$3750. Negotiated sales of slaughter steers and heifers in the Southern Plains sold \$2 lower \$197. In Nebraska, live sales were \$1 to \$2 lower at \$198, while dressed sales sold \$2 lower at \$313. For the week, Choice Boxed beef

RECEIPTS:	Auctions	Direct	Video/Internet	Total
This Week	244,600	31,700	4,300	280,600
Last Week:	80,300	11,400	53,400	145,100
Year Ago:	227,500	46,200	6,200	279,900

closed on Friday at \$311.83, \$1.06 lower and Select closed at \$302.05, \$0.51 lower. Weekly Cattle Slaughter under federal inspection estimated at 566K, 3K less than last week and 28K less than a year ago. Auction volume this week included 64 percent weighing over 600 lbs and 43 percent heifers.

KENTUCKY 17,800. 56 pct over 600 lbs. 42 pct heifers. Steers: Medium and Large 1-2 300-349 lbs (328) 368.39; 350-399 lbs (378) 360.53; 400-449 lbs (429) 354.23; 450-499 lbs (476) 341.48; 500-549 lbs (527) 317.42; 550-599 lbs (575) 309.74; 600-649 lbs (627) 291.25; 650-699 lbs (679) 275.94; 700-749 lbs (728) 262.14; 750-799 lbs (768) 257.65; 800-849 lbs (820) 248.94; 850-899 lbs (880) 244.41; 900-949 lbs (938) 233.91; 950-999 lbs (979) 228.39; 1000-1049 lbs (1029) 219.10.

Heifers: Medium and Large 1-2 250-299 lbs (273) 326.92; 300-349 lbs (325) 330.15; 350-399 lbs (373) 327.64; 400-449 lbs (430) 309.77; 450-499 lbs (476) 296.77; 500-549 lbs (529) 284.77; 550-599 lbs (576) 273.91; 600-649 lbs (627) 255.27; 650-699 lbs (675) 247.87; 700-749 lbs (729) 240.68; 750-799 lbs (768) 233.57; 800-849 lbs (826) 221.30; 850-899 lbs (878) 216.97; 900-949 lbs (933) 212.06.



Photo Submitted

## Peavler Wins Annual Rotary Speech Contest

The Harrodsburg Rotary Speech Contest held their annual speech contest on Wednesday, Feb. 26, at their weekly luncheon. Pictured, left to right, were Lori Burkhead of Garrard County High School, Baron Bradshaw of Burgin Independent School and Emerson Daniels, who placed second, and Sadie Peavler, who placed first, of Mercer County Senior High School. Peavler will advance to the Rotary Sectional Speech Contest in Campbellsville on March 26.

# Agricultural Development Board approves Mercer funding

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board approved \$292,722 for agricultural diversification and rural development projects across the Commonwealth at its monthly board meeting, including assistance with the purchase of farm equipment here in Mercer County.

The Shared-Use Equipment Program assists broad-based community organizations with the purchase of farm equipment. The equipment purchased is made available for producer use in a specific county on a leased basis.

One Shared-Use Equipment Program, total-

ing \$16,500, was approved by the board in Mercer County.

"The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board continues to be a good steward of the Tobacco Master Settlement money," said Commissioner of Agriculture and Kentucky Agricultural Development Board Chair Jonathan Shell in a press release. "The projects approved today will continue to strengthen the economic viability of Kentucky agriculture creating benefits for farm families and the state as a whole."

Other projects include

- Kentucky Halal Meats, LLC was approved up to

- \$1,350 in state funds for consultation fees as part of the Food Safety and Efficiency Incentives Program.
- Metcalfe County 4-H Council, Incorporated was approved up to \$2,063 in Metcalfe County funds to purchase 40 hams for the Metcalfe County 4-H members.
- Six On-Farm Energy Efficiency Incentives Programs totaling \$53,591.
- Two County Agricultural Incentive Programs, totaling \$176,718.
- One Deceased Farm Animal Removal totaling \$12,500.
- One Youth Agricultural Incentives Program totaling \$30,000.

# The Chamber supports people



**Chamber Chat**  
**Jill Cutler**  
Executive Director  
Mercer Chamber of Commerce

Did you know the Mercer Chamber isn't just about supporting businesses though? We support PEOPLE too. Ribbon cuttings celebrate the courage and hard work

of people opening new enterprises.

That is very personal. Often we become more than acquaintances and support these folks in their personal lives. We check on them and their businesses after hours and jump in when help is needed. If there are disasters or economic downturns, we make sure everyone has the resources they need.

During covid shut downs we combed for grants and business helps and were a huge part with the Small Business Administration making connections and getting information directly to each business. That is a chamber community!

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL:**  
**PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE**

**Reference Number:** INSURANCE 25/26  
**Title:** INSURANCE PROPOSAL

The Burgin Independent School District seeks proposals from qualified insurance providers for property and casualty insurance for the 2025-26 fiscal year, with potential renewal for one additional year upon mutual agreement by both parties. Proposals must be submitted by Thursday, May 1, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. EST. FOR BID OPENING AT 10:30 a.m. EST

**Requirements:**

- Kentucky-licensed insurance agency and company approved by the State Department of Insurance.
- Experience with School District insurance programs.

**Submission Details:**

- Physical submissions: Mark envelopes with "PROPOSAL – Insurance25/26" and send to P.O. Box B, Burgin, KY. 40310 OR Deliver to 140 Danville St, Burgin, KY. 40310.

Full RFP and additional details are available at: <https://www.burginschool.com>

The Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject proposals as deemed in its best interest.

Christi Ochs, Finance Officer, 859-748-4000

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**Rotary of Harrodsburg**

**6:30: TRIVIA begins!**  
Winning team receives \$25 gift card to **CASA GRANDE MEXICAN RESTAURANT**

**7:00: Rotary Club Queen of Hearts Raffle!**  
**\$2 Raffle ticket. This Week's Pot amount: \$3545**

Queen of Hearts drawn you win 65% of the pot!  
Non-Face Card drawn; you win \$100 cash!  
Face Card drawn; you win \$150 cash!  
Joker drawn; you win \$200 cash!

Money raised goes to Rotary Club's service projects in Harrodsburg!

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