

## Ag Market Price Reporting USDA AMS summary of discussion on July 22, 2021

Notes from Donna Coffin, UMaine Extension

The types of market reports that farmers have mentioned include having Maine data similar to [Vermont's Weekly Summer Farmers Market Report](#) that reports on low, high, average of not certified organic and certified organic produce by the pound, bag, pint or each and [Vermont Monthly Beef Report](#) that includes information on direct to consumer retail beef prices by carcass and by individual cuts all by the pound.

To make this happen the state/university would need to take the lead and individual farmers or farmers' market managers would need to be willing to send in regular price reports by a standardized pricing sheet. Prices received from individuals would not be made public. Only composite prices would be reported.

Reviewed [MyMarketNews.ams.usda.gov](https://mymarketnews.ams.usda.gov) updated site that now has easy search buttons for Market News Database and Previous Reports as well as datasets for specialty crops. [USDA Market News](#) provides unbiased, timely, and accurate market information of hundreds of agricultural commodities and their related products, free-of-charge to everyone.

Follow-up email from Bryan Sullivan, Agriculture Market Reporter:

The Quality Assessment Division (QAD) offers some cost-share assistance with grading procedures that could be available to the state

- Grading fee applied, state gets some money back
  - Cheaper to have a local representative than to have someone drive up and pay for travel time and mileage
- Money available through grants for updating/increasing efficiency of current slaughter facilities
  - Interest in seeing other ways in which slaughter capacity could be increased aside from updates
- USDA Partnerships with the States/Universities
  - Partnered through Memorandums of Understanding (MOU's) to establish and report markets across the nation
  - Training and some monetary resources provided through USDA to establish state/university graders to cover markets
- Information access via dashboards
  - Dashboards are being developed for public use to pull and display price information for states where reporting is conducted
  - Primarily focusing on mandatory price information and voluntary reporting done through auctions
  - Can be broken out to single state views, or regional displays depending on options chosen

- More information will be available as this moves closer to being released
  - Currently API's can be used to pull current information in the database
    - Historic information is being transitioned into the current database, but can be accessed
- Wool Reporting
  - Currently polling national data, but in the process of trying to expand data points collected
  - Potential to use NE states for broader data pulls to meet confidentiality guidelines
- Potential of marketing in Maine
  - Wool Reporting (direct to consumer/niche markets)
  - Farmers Markets (Direct to Consumer)
  - Direct Cattle trades
  - Aquaculture
    - Primarily focusing on oysters, clams, scallops and muscles