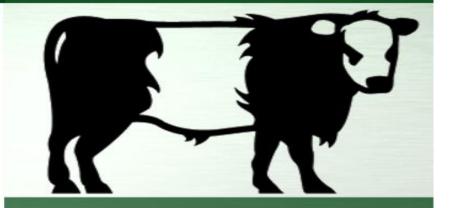


### **2018 Agricultural Commodity Futures Conference**



A Different Animal: Futures Contract Design, Hedging Effectiveness, and Transparency in Thinly Traded Cash Markets for Cattle and Hogs

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All charts compliments of Cattle-Fax.

### **Executive Summary and Outline**

#### **∅** First multi-year expansion in the cow herd since early 1990's

- $\mathscr{A}$  Many in room have never witnessed an expansion (including myself).

#### 

- Said long trades by 'appointment' and is transparent in their maneuvering.
- ✓ Participation by "traditional" fundamental discretionary trader is perhaps in a decline.
  - ✓ Lost execution advantage and barriers to entry for execution are high.
    - M How do we incentivize traditional risk taker to come back?
- $\mathscr{A}$  Both cattle feeder and beef buyer are reducing/eliminating signals.
  - A Less negotiated trade of both cattle and beef.
- ✓ Is a utilitarian approach the answer?
  - $\mathscr{A}$  The industry has proven to come together on other issues.

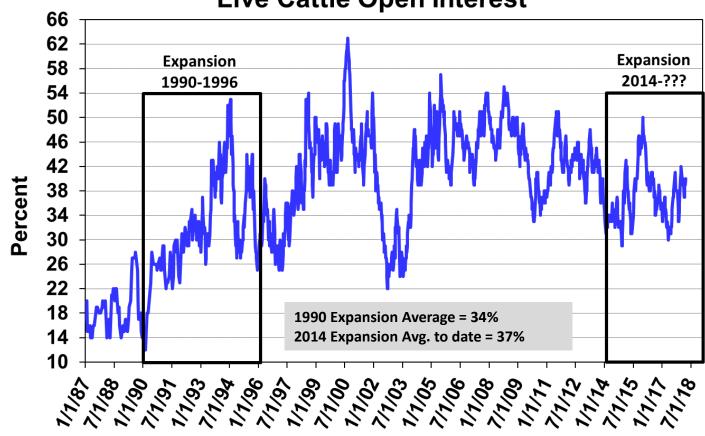


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### What does Expansion look like from a positioning standpoint?

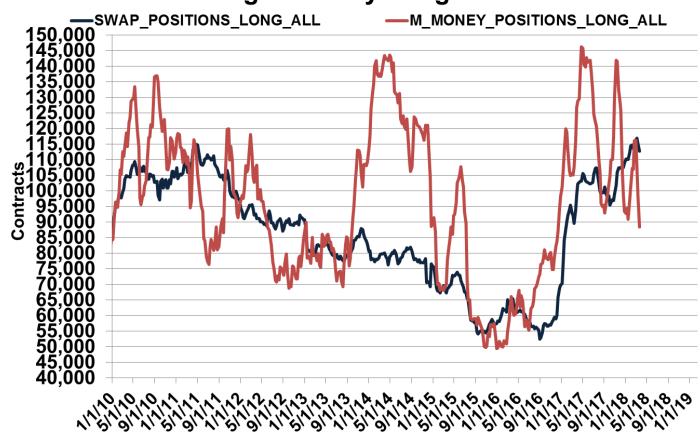




Source: CFTC, Futures Only WEEKS

### **Index and Managed Money Longs**

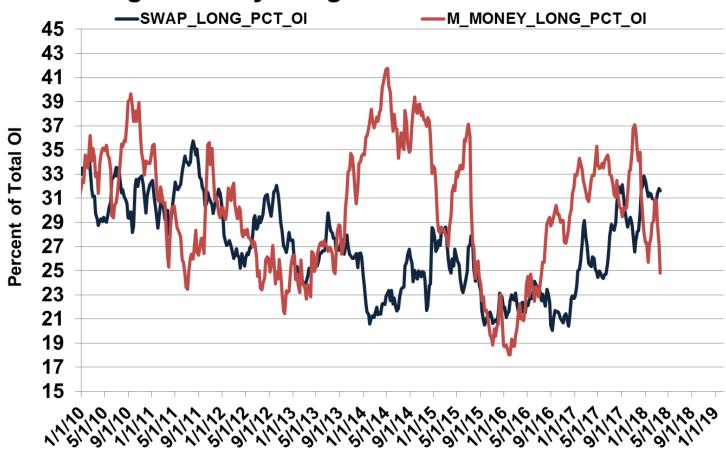
## Disaggregated COT Swap Long Position and Managed Money Long Position



Source: CFTC Week

### Index and Managed Money Longs Another View

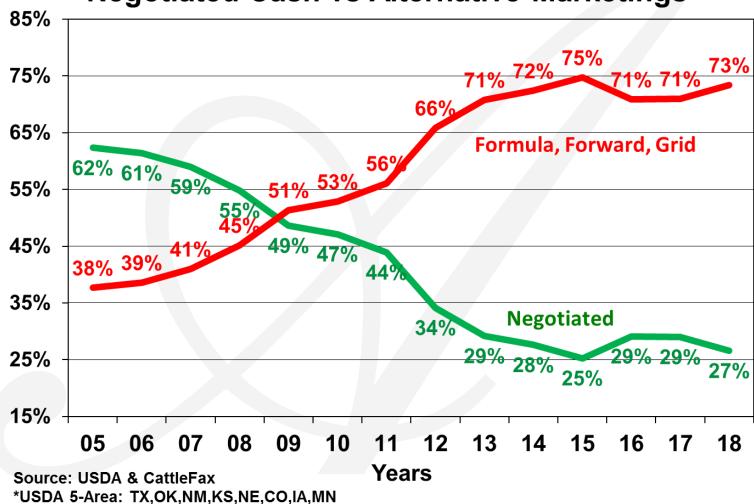
# Disaggregated COT Swap Long Position and Managed Money Long Position Percent of Total Ol



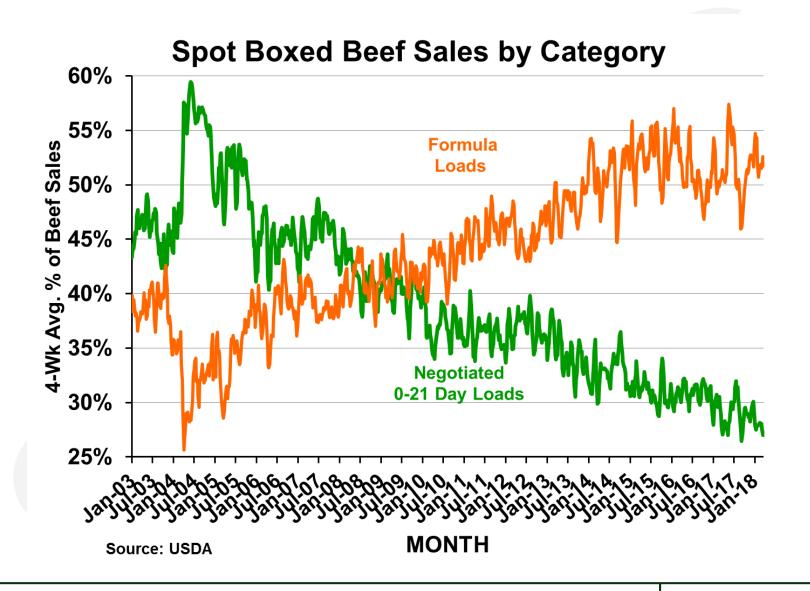
Source: CFTC Week

## Cattle Feeder has Been Decreasing Signals

### **Negotiated Cash vs Alternative Marketings**

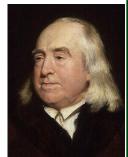


## Beef Buyer has Been Eliminating Signals Too





### A Utilitarian Approach

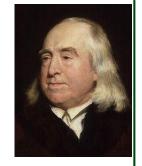


- $\mathscr{A}$  We have a template and "mental algorithm" of working together.
- **M** Perhaps this is temporary as many participants have never seen expansion?

  - $\mathscr{A}$  All communication today is a discussion of more numbers to come.
- - ✓ Only means to potentially recapture these participants is to offer edge, which is dually beneficial to commercial and speculator.
  - This comes at a <u>small and quantifiable</u> cost to producers that is easily offset by an <u>unquantifiable greater good</u> of functioning markets, smooth risk management and reduced/muted volatility.



### A Utilitarian Approach Cont.



### $\mathscr{A}$ The speculator and the beef buyer takes its signals from the producer.

- ✓ Notice how the Beef Buyer (Commercial long) has shifted its procurement model to the way producers sell.
- Market participants need to "take one for the team" (Utilitarian Approach) on a small variable sample in a frequent and transparent environment similar or equal to something like the Fed Cattle Exchange.
  - All Participants- Producers (commercial shorts) and beef buyers (commercial longs).
    - Meed to create additional transparency in the beef market via similar platform?
  - A Participants can't be worried about 1-2/cwt as we are missing the "forest through the trees." Is that cost really 2.00/cwt? Or is there a greater benefit to that personal 'cost.'
- Increasing the transparency of cash trade in both cattle and beef will grant the producer edge, but give the discretionary fundamental trader inputs to take on risk. Must be a constant input with reasonable size.
  - Additionally, this might incentivize the commercial long to wade into the water with larger size to offset the fragmented nature of the "by appointment" long of today.

## Questions?





