

## **National Beef reports larger 3Q profits**

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KANSAS CITY, Mo. - National Beef Packing Co. LLC, the nation's fourth-largest beef processor, reported a larger third-quarter profit from a combination of higher sales and lower cattle prices.

In a securities filing, the Kansas City-based company said it earned \$74.3 million during the three months ending May 31, compared with \$13.6 million during the same period a year ago.

Sales during the quarter rose 3.4 percent, from \$1.48 billion to \$1.53 billion, which the company attributed to an extra week during the period and increased beef demand, offsetting a 7 percent decline in the amount of cattle processed per week.

Expenses and cost of sales dipped slightly to \$1.45 billion. The company said live cattle prices during the quarter declined 5.8 percent and average cattle weights increased 2.1 percent.

The company in March said it was being acquired by Brazilian giant JBS S.A. in a cash and stock deal worth \$560 million.

National Beef said JBS, the world's largest beef processor, will pay National Beef members about \$465 million in cash and \$95 million JBS common shares. The deal, which still requires regulatory approval, also includes JBS assuming an unreleased amount of National Beef's debt.

National Beef has operations in Liberal, Kansas City and Dodge City, Kan.; as well as Brawley, Calif.; Hummels Wharf, Penn.; and Moultrie, Ga.

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