



INSIDE WLJ

WOLF HAZING APPROVED — Colorado approved wolf hazing measures to annoy or frighten non-ESA listed gray wolves, which must not result in wolf injury or death. **Page 6**

FITBIT FOR COWS — A research team is using GPS and accelerometer technologies to detect animal welfare concerns and reduce overgrazing on a ranch in Arizona. **Page 16**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

In a January 1947 column, Lands Division Supervisor of the Washington Department of Game Norman P. Knott offered his advice on a controversial issue: "There is one very important idea which must be kept in mind, namely: big game is an important resource and we are always going to have huntable herds on Western ranges. If discord between stockmen and game hunters is to be settled, each side must recognize the rights of the other and cooperate on a program that will jeopardize neither. If this is not done—and in the near future—an unbridgeable gulf of bitterness will be born and one side will lose."

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Nebraska plans to divert water from the South Platte River to ensure the state has access to water under a 99-year-old compact. Pictured here, the South Fork South Platte River, located near Colorado Highway 9 near Hartsel, CO.

Jeffrey Beall, Wikimedia

NE's Ricketts pursues \$500M for South Platte canal

— CO will "protect" rights

Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts (R) announced a \$500 million provision in the mid-biennium budget to construct water canals diverting water from the South Platte River, ensuring the state's access to water under a 99-year-old compact.

"To secure Nebraska's water supply, I am recommending \$500 million to construct a canal and reservoir system from the South Platte River," Ricketts said during the State of the State address. "Access to this water enables our farmers and ranchers to produce. It protects quality drinking water. It keeps electric generating

costs manageable, and it ensures Nebraska remains the best place in the world to live, work and raise a family."

At a previous news conference, Ricketts said that Nebraska would invoke its rights under the South Platte River Compact signed in 1923. The South Platte River flows from the Rocky

Mountains through Denver and flows northeast, entering Nebraska near Big Springs.

Ricketts announced the plan after Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson learned of the release of a report this month by Colorado officials identifying 282 projects in the South Platte Basin, totaling \$9.87 billion.

The report states the population in the basin will rise 42 percent to 70 percent, about 6 million people between 2015 and 2050, creating more demand for water.

"If we fail to secure our supply from the South Platte River, we could expect to lose 90 percent of the water that currently comes to us from Colorado," Ricketts

said at the State of the State address. "We must act to preserve, protect, manage and steward our water supply for our future Nebraskans."

The South Platte River Compact called for the restriction of upstream diversions in Colorado by

See CANAL on page 14

EPA advisory committee releases WOTUS recs

— NCBA voices support

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Committee (FRRCC) recently released a 46-page report detailing recommendations for waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rules, among other environmental issues. The WOTUS recommendations have the sup-

port of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), which says EPA should listen to the committee's recommendation that "farmers and ranchers need clear rules and regulatory certainty to be successful."

"The FRRCC represents a diverse group of stakeholders, including academia, industry,

See EPA on page 21

Supply chain recovery facing setbacks

— Waiting for variant to pass

Supply chain impacts have been felt by every segment of the chain, largely a result of the latest COVID-19 variant, but they are expected to be short-lived compared to the previous variant's impacts, according to CoBank's latest Quarterly report.

"Economic risks from new, high-impact coronavirus variants will remain throughout 2022," said Dan Kowalski, vice president of CoBank's Knowledge Exchange division. "But Americans are increasingly making peace with the notion that the virus, in some form, will be with us for months if not years, and we must find a way to live more normally with it. This shifting mindset will de-risk

the economy to some degree."

Setbacks are largely a result of worker shortages, but the economic backdrop is bright, according to the report. Consumers continue to spend money, and workers are reentering the labor pool. However, higher inflation is expected, with the first interest rate increases likely to come in March.

Agri-food supply chain

"Omicron is everywhere, and the impacts are being felt along much of the agri-food supply chain. Farm inputs are still difficult to source, transportation rates remain sky high and empty shelves are

See SUPPLY on page 17

Cash trade steady with a week earlier

The big question in the markets is how cattle slaughter levels will continue to impact cash prices.

The CME markets were closed on Monday due to the holiday. Through Thursday, live cattle futures posted higher, even with uncertainties regarding processing capacity. The February contract gained just over \$1 to close at \$138.32, and the April contract gained over \$2 to close at \$143.17.

Cash trade numbers remain slim due to packer throughput issues. Through Thursday afternoon, about 55,000 head had traded. Live steers sold between \$136-138, and dressed steers sold from \$217-218.

"The negotiated cash fed cattle market this week has been slow and the price generally steady with last week. If throughput was normal, it's likely cash prices would be higher," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef.

Cash trade through Jan. 16 totaled 61,172 head. Live steers averaged \$136.62, and dressed steers averaged \$218.03.

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of Jan. 10 to Jan. 17 was the following on a live basis:

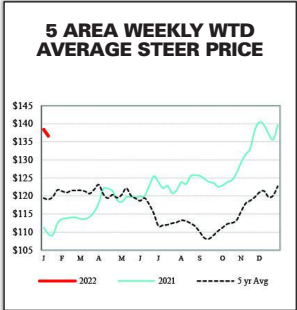
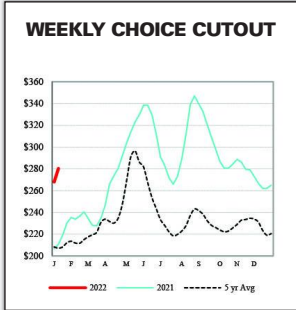
- Negotiated purchases: \$136.76.
- Formula net purchases: \$141.37.

- Forward contract net purchases: \$142.86.
 - Negotiated grid net purchases: \$139.86.
- On a dressed basis:
- Negotiated purchases: \$218.07.
 - Formula net purchases: \$222.60.
 - Forward contract net purchases: \$213.52.
 - Negotiated grid net purchases: \$221.12.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled 116,000 head, bringing the week's total to 461,000 head. This was 6,000 head more than a week earlier but 8,000 head short of the same time a year earlier. Slaughter

through Jan. 13 is estimated at 621,000 head. Actual slaughter through the first full week of January totaled

See MARKETS on page 29



LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$136.92	\$217.91	\$161.20
WEEK ENDING: 1-20-22		

COMMENTS

Market on the move

It happened again; the first two weeks of the new year always deliver a good market. Feeder cattle sales were huge as cattle feeders loaded up on long-weaned calves and what yearlings might be left. Oklahoma City sold 15,000 head—nearly every auction market had big numbers.

Fed cattle markets have been sluggish at best; the early week's trade was around \$137 live and \$218 dressed, but not many cattle were trading. Packers have been hit by the new COVID-19 variant omicron, and their labor problems continue to put a drag on beef production.

With low supplies of beef come larger prices. The beef cutout has been going straight up, printing \$293 for Choice product. Slaughter levels have been around 115,000 head per day; it's looking like employees are starting to show back up to work. Packer margins have grown again.

I find it remarkable that consumer demand has remained strong after the holiday season. If we could produce more, we would sell more product, and overseas sales of beef are solid, with China becoming a big buyer of U.S. beef.

The annual cattle inventory will be released Jan. 31, and the Livestock Market Information Center (LMIC) is expecting to see the calf supply down a full 2 percent and total cattle inventory down 1.2 percent at 92.4 million head. Beef replacement heifers are expected to be down 1.5 percent, while dairy replacements are expected up 1 percent.

It will be a long winter trying to carry replacement heifers over until breeding season. Hay prices have put the brakes on and are forcing cattlemen to consider fewer replacement heifers. The bred stock markets have been good, but all the bred females selling in the Intermountain West are leaving the area. There is a deep concern about how much winter moisture we will receive.

The LMIC reported, "Average returns to cattle feeding in the Southern Plains, as calculated by LMIC, jumped to \$200 per steer in December, capping off the year with two months well over \$100 per steer returns. This boosted the 2021 average for the year solidly in positive territory, about \$40 per head for the year. Positive returns would not have been possible without the astounding rally in the fed cattle market. Kansas Choice steers averaged over \$130.44/cwt, propelling returns to over \$100 per head in both months. Feed costs remained rather high all year, which created a balancing act between a hot feeder cattle market and cost of gain."

Fed cattle futures started trending higher last week, pushing February to \$138.55, which is a good signal to take fed cattle prices higher. Nearly all of the deferred contracts were a dollar higher. Let's hope that this makes for a bullish market.

We saw the last few weeks of 2021 bring a high volume of cash fed trade and substantial price increases, to about \$140. Many folks were thinking that the volume of cash trade is what pushed prices higher. I'd say it was excellent packer and consumer demand. Now we find ourselves in the winter months when beef demand is at its lowest point of the year. Slaughter levels typically slow down during the winter months. That's the cycle; when we get into April, fed prices will move higher because grilling season will be starting, and the best beef demand months will be upon us. April live cattle futures are currently \$143.35. Contraseasonal situations can and do happen, and the market will break away from its usual, predictable cycle.

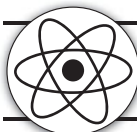
For now, enjoy the positive market we are in. Cattle inventories will be lower, and beef demand seems resilient. This is part of the price discovery process.

Stephen Koontz, ag economist at Colorado State University, said in his portion of the price discovery and industry issues workshop proceedings from last June, "Price discovery is about prices adjusting quickly to new market conditions—and that may be higher prices or lower prices. Some of the highest cattle market prices in history have been when the negotiated cash trade was the smallest. This is because of the supply/demand imbalance and not alternative marketing agreements use. Likewise, low cattle prices are due to the supply/demand balance or imbalance and not due to the path by which cattle are marketed. Mandating levels of negotiated cash trade would not have changed the supply/demand imbalance."

Congress will be back in session soon, and legislators will once again be promoting their cattle industry bills. However, it is an election year, so be careful what you ask for. Meanwhile, keep praying for moisture. — **PETE CROW**



CROW



RESOURCE SCIENCE

COVID-19 is everywhere, and the virus causing the disease (SARS-CoV-2) has even been found in wild animals. COVID-19 has been found in white-tailed deer in several states and provinces, including Ohio, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New York, Oklahoma, Texas and Quebec, Canada. The USDA National Wildlife Research Center in Fort Collins, CO, and state wildlife agencies are testing for COVID-19 in other states. It is thought that COVID-19 was transmitted from humans to deer. As of now, there is no record of COVID-19 being transmitted from deer or other wild animals to humans, but COVID-19 has been transmitted from captive animals to humans.

Research on COVID-19 in white-tailed deer was published in the Journal of Virology in 2021. The researchers did an experiment at an indoor facility in Iowa, in which four captive deer were inoculated by spraying the COVID-19 virus into their noses. Two additional deer were not inoculated but were kept in the same room, separated from the inoculated deer by a 3-foot Plexiglass barrier to prevent physical contact. There was air flow between the areas with the inoculated deer and the uninoculated deer. At the end of the experiment, all six deer were infected with COVID-19 and produced antibodies to it.

Additional research published in the journal Nature in 2021 reported COVID-19 in wild deer. The researchers took nasal swabs from 360 deer killed in a population management program in northeast Ohio and did mRNA COVID tests on them. About 36 percent of the deer were infected in six of the nine locations that were sampled. Males and heavier deer were more likely to have a positive COVID test than other deer.

Although research shows that deer are susceptible to infection, it is believed they don't show symptoms, or they have mild symptoms such as a cough or raspy breathing.

COVID-19 has also been found in other wildlife. Captive mink in Dutch farms contracted COVID from humans and then transmitted it back to humans. Mink in farms in Denmark and Poland also have had COVID-19. Pet dogs, cats, ferrets and zoo animals, including big cats (e.g., tigers), coati-mundis, otters, primates and hyenas have also had COVID-19. USDA is testing for COVID-19 in other species in the wild, such as coyotes, skunks and raccoons.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has

recommendations to reduce potential transmission of COVID-19 from wildlife to humans, such as keeping people and pets a safe distance from wildlife. Hunters should be cautious when field dressing and processing harvested deer and should wear gloves and masks and wash hands. Eating thoroughly cooked deer meat is thought to be safe.

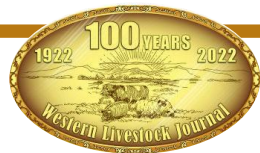
Humans transmitting COVID-19 to deer might seem unlikely considering the social distancing guidance of 6 feet to minimize the spread of the disease among people. Hunters, even bowhunters, know it's hard to get within 6 feet of a deer. The researchers who studied COVID-19 in deer suggest that deer in urban and suburban areas may be exposed to COVID-19 in trash, backyard feeders, bait stations, wildlife hospitals and infected water sources. Perhaps gardens with plants attractive to deer and pet feces also contribute. High population density of deer might facilitate deer-to-deer transmission of COVID-19, as with other diseases such as chronic wasting disease and Lyme disease.

COVID-19 in wildlife is a concern, but the potential for COVID-19 infecting livestock is perhaps a greater concern. Research indicates that pigs and poultry are not susceptible. Experimental infection of cattle with COVID-19 in two studies indicates that cattle show low susceptibility to SARS-CoV-2 infection, no productive infection or replication of COVID-19, and no cattle-to-cattle transmission. These two experiments involved direct infection into the nose, trachea or blood with one strain (i.e., variant) of the virus in each of the studies, and they show that cattle are likely not susceptible to COVID-19. New COVID-19 variants and interactions with related viruses suggest that more research of COVID-19 in cattle is warranted.

An interesting observation is that Ivermectin has been effective in treating COVID-19 in humans in India. Ivermectin is commonly used in livestock and perhaps could be useful for treatment if COVID-19 does occur in livestock.

— **Dr. Matthew Cronin**

(Matthew Cronin was a research professor at the University of Alaska, a U.S. Coast Guard officer and is now at Northwest Biology Company LLC [www.northwestbiology.com] in Bozeman, MT. He can be reached at croninm@aol.com. A full list of references may be found online at wlj.net)



Vol 23, No. 59, October 15, 1945

Observations by the Editor, Nelson R. Crow

LAST MONTH, our leading editorial article was headed: "PEACE ... What Will It Bring to Stockmen?" That question is now being answered, at least to some extent. And the answer so far is, not so good. Throughout the country, attempts at reconversion are being thwarted by strikes. Hundreds of thousands of workers are affected and each new strike means idleness for thousands more. Thus the first answer is labor unrest, and a widening chasm between labor and management, with both labor and management partly to blame, and the Federal government largely to blame.

Biggest difficulty in bringing about industrial peace is government policy—or lack of it. Big cause of failure of management and labor to get together is that the national administration is still attempting to hang onto wartime controls over prices, wages and industry, as well as agriculture.

Refusal of bureaucrats to permit any of the natural laws of economics to function and their insistence upon a "planned economy" most certainly is the heart of most of the troubles in America today. Employers

cannot meet wage demands, even though they feel that workers are entitled to increases in line with higher living costs, because Bureaucrat Chester Bowles of OPA continues to hang onto his wartime powers. Manifestly, costs of production can't be sharply increased without some increase in selling prices and this can't be done without OPA permission.

Outcome of the present labor disturbances, if they do not get out of control, may be a concerted public demand for more realistic attitude from the government. OPA Chief Bowles believes that the greatest Inflation threat is here now—and he is insistent that price controls must be adhered to rigidly. Perhaps he is right.

But the other side of the picture is that refusal of government to release industry from tight controls will in itself prevent industry from functioning—and thus aggravate shortages and more certainly bring about even greater inflation.

ONE THING does seem certain. We are headed for higher wages and higher prices for most commodities. As indicated on the graph

carried in our September issue, prices of livestock are closely linked with wages and national income. Thus the stockman has a very definite interest in the early settlement of wage disputes, fullest possible employment compatible with free enterprise, and a decent wage for workers.

The important thing is to get people back to work. You can just about gamble that workers generally are going to get more money in most industries, and you can safely bet that prices of most of the things you buy will be higher than before the war.

CATTLEMEN are alarmed over the sharp decline in prices of most of the "in between" grades of cattle which are still subject to rationing, while lowest grades are point-free. It is another reason why OPA Chief Bowles is unpopular with the livestock industry. Everybody in the meat trade feared that when a piecemeal job of taking meat off the rationing list was attempted, it would unduly disrupt the market.

It is another instance where the bungling of a bureaucrat has cost the livestock producers a lot of

money. It is time now for the removal of ALL MEATS from rationing before any further financial loss is forced upon cattlemen. The one way to get action is to bombard your Congressmen with your demands for a fair and square deal. Let Mr. Bowles understand that he isn't running the country with your approval and that it is time for OPA to heed the demands of practical people within the livestock and meat industry.

A CATTLEMAN who has been traveling a good deal since the reduction of point values on meat took effect criticizes the hotels and restaurants for their failure to serve meat and butter. To this man, it looks like a racket. The proprietors of public eating places raised hell during the war about their inability to get enough meat. Now they can get just about all the meat they can sell—but for some reason, they aren't serving it. One of the high-priced eating places in Los Angeles didn't have a single meat item on the menu, this cattleman informs us. It may be that restaurant people have learned how to make money out of meat substitutes.

Letters to the Editor: Letters for publication should be no longer than 675 words, must refer to an article that has appeared within the month, and must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Letters may be shortened for space requirements. Send a letter to the editor by emailing editorial@wlj.net or mailing it to Western Livestock Journal Editorial, 7355 E. Orchard Road #300, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

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BW	WW	Milk	YW	\$B
+3	+78	+25	+137	177



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Reg. #18298836

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BW	WW	Milk	YW	\$B
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How do I find information about a MT water right?

— Online query system

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (MT DNRC) has an online water right query system, which has made finding water right information much easier. Searching can be done in a variety of ways. The default option is the simple search tab, which allows you to search by water right number (note the exact formatting requirement), owner name or geocode.

The geocode is a unique identifier for a property and can be found through the state cadastral land owner-

ship system at svc.mt.gov/msl/mtcadastral. Geocodes can change, so always try an alternate search method if you don't find the expected results you are looking for; these default search options are a quick way to see if a property has water rights.

You can also click the advanced tab at the top of the search window to search more creatively for water rights or to create specific indexes (lists) of water rights based on a water source, a priority date or a ditch name. If you don't find a water right using the search, a water right may not exist for the property.

Another possibility is that the water right owner might

be a municipality, a ditch company, a water users association or another type of public water supply. If you pay a bill for water, this is most likely the case, and these water rights will show up reflecting the business or public entity name.

A search will generate links to three helpful pieces of information: a map, an abstract and the file documents. Abstracts provide a summary of the water right elements, such as maximum flow rate, points of diversion and purpose. The map link shows a very general map based on land description (not actual location of use), whereas the file documents often include an

accurate map of the water right along with other records like well log information and ownership updates.

If creating an index or looking at an ownership, some water rights may be listed more than once. The results can be downloaded into a table and then simplified for your needs.

MT DNRC has received very positive feedback on this initial query system, but it is still working to improve the tool, so you may see some upgrades to this system in the future.

To access the program, visit wrqs.dnrc.mt.gov. — **Montana State University Extension**

LEGAL LEDGER

Yellowstone bison under ESA review

A district judge recently ruled the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will have to review whether Yellowstone bison may warrant listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). U.S. District Court Judge Randolph D. Moss said the agency used the wrong standard in its review and failed to address a significant part of the question before denying Buffalo Field Campaign and Western Watersheds Project's petition to have the bison relisted. "It is concerning, to be sure, that over seven years have now passed since the 2014 petition was filed," Moss wrote in his opinion. "But it remains unclear whether sufficient basis exists to proceed to the next stage of the ESA process, and in light of the substantial amount of work done to date, the Service should be able to answer that question promptly." There is no deadline for USFWS to respond, but both sides must update the court within 90 days.

Animal treatment records online

After a lawsuit settlement with the Animal Welfare Institute (AWI) and Farm Sanctuary, the USDA will now post records related to the treatment of slaughter animals on the Food Safety and Inspection Service's (FSIS) website. Records will date back to January 2017 and include cases related to the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act. "Thousands of slaughterhouse records are now readily available to concerned citizens and animal advocacy groups who wish to monitor USDA enforcement without waiting months or even years for the department to respond to (Freedom of Information Act requests)," said Erin Sutherland, staff attorney for the AWI's farm animal program.

WY governor seeks bear delisting

Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon (R) has petitioned the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to remove the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem (GYE) population of grizzly bears from the Endangered Species List. The petition claims grizzly bears have been fully recovered since 2003. "This is an extraordinary and monumental success story for species recovery and should be celebrated," Gordon said. "The GYE grizzly bear is ready to join the ranks of the bald eagle, American alligator, peregrine falcon and brown pelican as receiving proper recognition as a thriving, recovered and stable species." Wyoming, along with Montana and Idaho, approved a modified tri-state Memorandum of Agreement, which establishes new management targets and practices to keep the bear population above the minimum recovery level after their delisting. USFWS has 90 days to review the petition and if approved for additional review, may take up to a year to further analyze the request before issuing a final decision.

Updating federal merger guidelines

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Justice Department's Antitrust Division launched a joint public inquiry Jan. 18 aimed at strengthening enforcement against illegal mergers. "Recent evidence indicates that many industries across the economy are becoming more concentrated and less competitive," a FTC statement read. "These problems are likely to persist or worsen due to an ongoing merger surge that has more than doubled merger filings from 2020 to 2021." To address concerns, the agencies are soliciting public input on ways to modernize federal merger guidelines to better prevent illegal, anticompetitive deals. Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF) applauded the move. "New guidelines should require a comprehensive analysis of the market's preexisting competitiveness prior to the application of review triggers," said R-CALF CEO Bill Bullard in a statement. "For the cattle industry, this analysis would require a review of historical indicators of competitiveness, such as the cattle industry's historical cattle cycle driven by supply and demand signals." Public comments can be submitted by searching for docket ID FTC-2022-0003 at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). Comments are due by March 21.

Committee advances Williams

On Jan. 12, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works advanced the nomination of Martha Williams to lead the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) with a 16-4 vote. Williams has served as USFWS principal deputy director over the past year while the director position has remained vacant. Top Republican member on the committee Sen. Shelley Capito (WV) voted in favor of Williams, saying, "In my discussions with her, Ms. Williams agreed to preserve opportunities for hunting, fishing and other outdoor pursuits important to many West Virginians and across this country. Ms. Williams and I will not agree with everything, but she has shown she takes her responsibility to be accountable to Congress seriously, and I thank her for that." Williams' confirmation will now be decided on the Senate floor.

Western Livestock Journal

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Poss Remington #20060430



CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	RE	\$B	\$C
8	0.2	80	138	29	1.00	0.79	190	347

SIRE: Connealy Clarity MGS: Poss Easy Impact 0119

Poss Rawhide 1519 #20055488



CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	RE	\$B	\$C
13	-1.3	83	140	29	1.36	0.85	183	312

SIRE: Poss Rawhide MGS: Connealy Uptown 098E

Poss Wrangler 1085 #20103685



CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	RE	\$B	\$C
1	3.3	107	177	29	0.79	1.14	200	348

SIRE: Poss Wrangler MGS: K C F Bennett TheRock A473

Poss Winchester #20060473



CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	RE	\$B	\$C
6	1.3	89	163	25	1.30	1.03	225	386

SIRE: Connealy Clarity MGS: Poss Easy Impact 0119

Poss Home Town 1525 #20057690



CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	RE	\$B	\$C
7	3.7	84	184	20	1.08	0.68	187	322

SIRE: G A R Home Town MGS: Connealy Power Play

Poss Rawhide 1506 #20055483



CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	RE	\$B	\$C
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USMCA deputies hold first meeting

— Discuss four areas

The first meeting of deputies under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) took place in mid-January, with officials noting, "Though there have been challenges, progress continues to be made."

"The meeting provided the deputies the opportunity to review progress on the implementation of the agreement since the inaugural meeting of the USMCA Free Trade Commission (FTC), convened by Ministers in May 2021," the deputies said in a statement. "The Parties reaffirmed their commitment to making North America a resilient, inclusive, and competitive economic region with trade policies that foster equitable growth, promote innovation, help protect our shared environment, and benefit our societies."

Mexico Undersecretary

for Foreign Trade Luz Maria de la Mora, Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Jayme White and Canada Deputy Minister for International Trade David Morrison heard from committees regarding their work to resolve implementation issues.

The deputies also discussed four key issues: labor, environment, inclusive trade (including small- and medium-sized enterprises and their competitiveness) and state-owned enterprises (SOEs).

• **Labor** — The three nations reaffirmed their commitment to combat forced labor globally, build a truly fair and free trading system, and prohibit the importation of these goods.

• **Environment** — The Environment Committee shared progress in implementing USMCA's environmental obligations. The deputies also discussed potential next steps to advance

trade and environmental issues in the region, including through environmental law enforcement cooperation.

• **Inclusive trade** — The deputies discussed the importance of trade for all citizens, ensuring that underrepresented and underserved groups, such as women, youth and Indigenous peoples, have the opportunity to be included in, and can benefit from, USMCA. Deputies agreed to focus on regional workforce development to enhance the region's competitiveness further and work on strategies to maintain North

American supply chains' resiliency in times of emergency.

• **State-owned enterprises** — The post-meeting statement said USMCA has "high standards and robust disciplines designed to address the trade distortions caused by the non-market-based activities of SOEs."

While not mentioning challenges in their press release, trade cases have been brought under the pact, including Mexico's challenge of the U.S. interpretation of automobile content rules. Canada announced they are joining Mexico, saying the U.S. in-

terpretation was inconsistent with USMCA provisions. Under USMCA, 75 percent of a vehicle's components must originate in North America to qualify for tax-free status. The two nations are also unhappy about proposed U.S. tax breaks for American-based manufacturers of electric vehicles.

In late December, a dispute settlement panel found Canada violated USMCA, with the nation's practice of reserving tariff rate quotas on dairy products violating the treaty not to "limit access to an allocation to processors." U.S. Trade Repre-

sentative Katherine Tai said the "historic win will eliminate unjustified trade restrictions on American dairy products and will ensure that the U.S. dairy industry and its workers get the full benefit of the USMCA to market and sell U.S. products to Canadian consumers."

The deputies agreed to advance regional economic recovery by strengthening North American integration and will follow up with their respective teams to give additional guidance and report progress later this year. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

AZ faced with another lawsuit against grazing

— Agua Fria monument

In what feels like a never-ending cycle, a duo of conservation groups has launched another lawsuit against cattle grazing, this time in the Agua Fria National Monument in central Arizona. The monument contains 70,900 acres of federal land and 1,444 acres of private land.

The Center for Biological Diversity and Maricopa Audubon Society claim livestock grazing in the monument destroys habitat for threatened and endangered species, including the Gila chub, Gila topminnow, northern Mexican garter-snake and western yellow-billed cuckoo.

The suit against the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) alleges the agencies failed to reintitiate and complete an Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation regarding the impacts of livestock grazing within the monument.

"Based on BLM and FWS records that plaintiffs obtained through the Freedom of Information Act and plaintiffs' site visits and surveys of the riparian habitat within the Horseshoe allotment, the BLM is significantly failing to comply with the mandatory restrictions that were imposed to ensure adequate protection of this critically important habitat for threatened and endangered species," the lawsuit read.

The groups claim they have documented streams with cow manure, trampled streambanks and vegetation grazed to the roots.

"Even within a national monument, on a grazing allotment controlled by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the BLM, the agencies can't keep cows out of streams," said Maricopa Audubon President Charles Babbitt. "Endangered species across the Southwest are in crisis because these

agencies are unable or unwilling to protect the riparian habitats they depend on from cows."

In September 2020, the BLM issued a final Environmental Assessment, Finding of No Significant Impact and Notice of Proposed Decision for the Horseshoe Allotment Grazing Authorization Renewal, which allows grazing on the allotment for the next 10 years. The Horseshoe allotment consists of 29,851 acres of BLM administered lands.

Shortly after the BLM released its intentions to allow grazing on the allotment, the Center for Biological Diversity submitted a letter of protest. In November, BLM issued a Notice of Final Decision for the allotment, allowing grazing on the allotment as of March 1, 2021.

In February and March of 2021, the Center for Biological Diversity staff conducted field surveys in the allotment and documented "destructive cattle grazing" within the Silver Creek, Long Gulch and Agua Fria rivers. In August, the staff returned again and found that cattle were still accessing sections they were supposed to be excluded from during that time of year. The staff returned again in December and early January, continuing to document what they called destructive impacts from cattle grazing.

In August, the agencies said they were working to ensure ESA compliance and would be installing a fence, which the conservation groups said had still not been installed by their January visit.

"Federal officials have ignored this destruction and let cattle run rampant, so we're hopeful a judge will force them to do their jobs and protect these fragile ecosystems," said Chris Bugbee, Southwest advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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EZAR FIREBALL 0406

Sire: GB Fireball 672 • Dams Sire: EXAR Denver 2002B

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MA	RE	\$M	\$W	\$B	\$C
+10	+1.8	+57	+112	+28	+43	+1.02	+93	+49	+59	+165	+263



EZAR PLUS ONE 0357

Sire: E&B Plus One • Dams Sire: SydGen Enhance

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MA	RE	\$M	\$W	\$B	\$C
+9	-0.7	+62	+123	+26	+46	+0.87	+77	+65	+68	+162	+275



EZAR FIREBALL 0398

Sire: GB Fireball 672 • Dams Sire: EXAR Stud 4658B

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MA	RE	\$M	\$W	\$B	\$C
+2	+3.1	+87	+152	+20	+70	+1.08	+95	+65	+77	+198	+322



EZAR GURU 0400

Sire: EXAR Guru 8719B • Dams Sire: Summitcrest Complete 1P55

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MA	RE	\$M	\$W	\$B	\$C
-2	+4.1	+84	+148	+32	+71	+0.82	+89	+47	+81	+179	+279



EZAR FIREBALL 0352

Sire: GB Fireball 672 • Dams Sire: Byergo Black Magic 3348

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MA	RE	\$M	\$W	\$B	\$C
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CO approves wolf hazing measures

— Nonlethal techniques

At a virtual meeting in mid-January, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission voted to approve wolf hazing measures for livestock owners and their workers. The measures are designed to frighten or annoy gray wolves to dissuade them from preying on livestock or guard animals.

Scare devices and tactics include propane cannons, all-terrain vehicles, noise-makers, fox lights, motion- and radio-activated guard

devices, guard animals and flags. Other unspecified measures may be used, but any technique that results in the injury or death of a gray wolf may constitute unlawful harassment or an illegal take, according to a memo by Krista Heiner, CPW regulations manager.

“For example, the rule authorizes chasing a gray wolf when necessary to prevent or reduce injury or damages to livestock, but the rule does not authorize chasing a gray wolf for such an extended time or distance that it injures or kills the wolf,” Heiner wrote.

The rule does not regulate efforts to locate or observe gray wolves, and it does not

consider the presence of humans in gray wolf habitat as a hazing technique, includ-

The new rule does not authorize individuals to injure or kill gray wolves in defense of livestock—only in defense of human life.

ing on vehicles or horseback.

The new rule does not authorize individuals to injure or kill gray wolves in defense of livestock—only in defense of human life.

“During the rulemaking, some stakeholders advocated for a hazing rule authorizing the incidental take of gray wolves if the death was due to the use of an authorized hazing technique,” the memo read. “The commission does not adopt such an approach in this rulemaking and incidental take of gray wolves is not authorized.” The commission will address incidental take of gray wolves and lethal take of gray wolves in a future rulemaking.

Some stakeholders also questioned whether the use of authorized techniques resulting in minor pain or injury to gray wolves would violate the rule or require the party to report an injury to CPW, to which the commission said no. “The commission believes that such an approach strikes the appropriate balance among many policy considerations.”

However, hazing would

not be permitted if gray wolves are on the list of federally threatened or endangered species. As Mexican gray wolves are currently listed as endangered, the rule does not authorize hazing Mexican gray wolves.

While the commission was already considering hazing measures, recent wolf predation incidents warranted more immediate action. In December, a wolf killed a calf in Jackson County, CO, and a few weeks later, a dog was killed by a wolf in the same region. In addition, just after CPW announced its new hazing measures, two cows were injured by gray wolves, and one was euthanized near Walden, CO.

“Hazing allows livestock owners and their agents to temporarily mitigate or prevent livestock damage from occurring,” Heiner’s memo concluded. “Appropriate hazing can reduce livestock damage, increase social tolerance, and improve attitudes towards wildlife that might otherwise cause damage.” — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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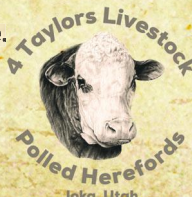
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Keeping livestock healthy during a Texas winter

Texas winters are famously fickle. Each year, weather conditions range from mild temperatures with high humidity to record-setting rain, sleet and sometimes snow. Sometimes, Texas livestock experience all of these weather conditions within the same week, presenting them with health challenges.

The Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory (TVMDL) offers several tests to maintain and evaluate animal health during the winter. Guy Sheppard, DVM, TVMDL veterinary diagnostician, said there are also a few basic mitigation strategies livestock producers may consider this winter.

Energy and protein are important levels to evaluate during a cold winter. People may think an animal’s metabolism slows during the winter, but the opposite is true, Sheppard said.

“Nutritional requirements increase during winter,” Sheppard said. “This coincides with a time when the nutritional value of our forage is decreasing.”

In addition to decreasing in nutritional value, certain forages may become stressed and produce toxins, Sheppard said. For example, forages within the sorghum family produce and accumulate cyanide, also known as prussic acid, and nitrates. Therefore, it’s important to evaluate the

“Manure removal and bedding replacement will ensure that your livestock have an excellent place to escape the winter elements.”

Most livestock species are adaptable. However, it’s important to provide animals shelter to protect them from cold, blustery and wet conditions. Once a shelter is in place, maintaining the area can ensure animals stay healthy.

“Cleanliness of the shelter areas is important, as disease pathogens survive and thrive in dirty and contaminated environments,” Sheppard said. “Manure removal and bedding replacement will ensure that your livestock have an excellent place to escape the winter elements. Along those same lines, make sure that clean, adequate water supplies are available and will be easy to maintain during freezing conditions.”

quality of forage before offering it to livestock.

TVMDL offers several tests that can be performed at the herd or individual level, ranging from panels to assess energy balance and mineral levels to testing forage or feed to ensure it’s free of toxins.

Five TVMDL veterinary diagnosticians, such as Sheppard, are available to assist with testing recommendations and result interpretation.

As a starting point, TVMDL encourages livestock producers to first contact their veterinarian to determine what kind of testing, if any, is recommended. — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

Coalition formed to protect Utah’s lands and waters

— 30 percent by 2030

A coalition of environmental groups in Utah has been formed to carry out the Biden administration’s goal of protecting 30 percent of the state’s lands and waters by 2030.

The Utah 30x30 coalition’s goals are similar to those outlined in the “America the Beautiful” initiative, calling for preservation, habitat connectivity, equitable access to nature, the sovereignty of Tribal Nations and science-based collaborative work to restore habitats.

Deeda Seed, public lands senior campaigner with the Center for Biological Diversity, said at a Zoom news conference, though public lands encompass more than

30 percent of the state, they do not meet the highest standards of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

“Essentially, wilderness areas are the gold standard for protection,” Seed said. “They’re something called GAP 1,...and then GAP 2... is almost as much protection as a wilderness area, but not quite. What we found from the analysis is that about 12-13 percent of Utah falls into those top two categories, so we’re working to get that other 17 percent protected by 2030.”

USGS classifies GAP 1 and 2 areas as those “having permanent protection from conversion of natural land cover and a mandated management plan in operation,” with GAP 1 lands maintaining a natural state without disturbance and GAP 2

“The Great Salt Lake ecosystem might serve as a poster child of the myriad ways we need to think about changing how we treat the lands of the state.”

lands suppressing natural disturbances, such as wildfires or insect infestations.

Seed said most of Utah’s public lands are GAP 3, as they are open to multiple uses.

The coalition of 12 environmental organizations surveyed Utahns to see what they want protected in the state. Respondents preferred all types of protections, especially wildlife and

wilderness areas, over state or national park designations. Areas to protect included the Great Salt Lake ecosystem, along with Utah’s river and watershed areas. Other areas chosen were Utah’s national forests, red rock wildlands, Wasatch Range’s mountains and foothills, and the West Desert.

Mary O’Brien, executive director of Project Eleven

Hundred, said the Legislature’s effort to address water issues and the Great Salt Lake in the upcoming 45-day session is the reaction members of the coalition hope to see with other goals of Utah 30x30.

“The Great Salt Lake ecosystem might serve as a poster child of the myriad ways we need to think about changing how we treat the lands of the state,” O’Brien said.

Further helping meet the 30x30 goal, Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) and Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA-47) sponsored America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act, designating 8 million acres of Bureau of Land Management land as wilderness. The bill would protect Utah landscapes such as Cedar Mesa, Factory Butte, the Kaiparowits

Plateau and the Greater Canyonlands area. The Navajo Nation Council passed a resolution supporting America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act, stating, “Protecting our land is important to the Navajo people, and we support this wilderness designation.”

A report by the Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance shows America’s Red Rock Wilderness Act accounts for 1.5 percent of land that needs to be conserved to reach the goal of protecting 30 percent of land in the U.S. by 2030.

Seed stated the next step is to put together a series of proposals for state and Biden administration officials on how public land in Utah can be protected. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

Wildfire season: Prepare for the worst

Wintertime in the Great Plains brings a lot of changes to the land. The dormant season is the driest time of the year in terms of rainfall, with December through February normally receiving the least amount of rain compared to other months. Then the drying and curing of the past summer’s growth of forage adds to conditions favorable for wildfires.

Typically, most wildfires in the region occur December through March due to these dry conditions, but wildfires can happen any month of the year. Being prepared for a wildfire is something that we can do year-round, and just a small amount of preparation can make a difference if you are ever faced with an oncoming wildfire.

One of the first things you should do is check with your insurance agent and determine what is covered and if you have enough coverage in case you were to receive damages from a wildfire. Then you need to start looking around your home, barns and other structures to see if there is anything that can be done to reduce the risk around those structures.

Make sure all the tall grass is mowed short around them, and remove any volatile trees, like cedars, that may be growing nearby. Also make sure to remove all flammable items, such as wood piles, from around buildings as well.

Equipment should be stored in areas that will not burn, like gravel or bare ground areas. If those are not available, continually mow or graze storage areas short to keep fire intensity down. Also, when you store equipment for the year, make sure to clean and remove all excess vegetation and oils from the outside.

Next, think about hay storage. Store hay in bare ground areas, and don’t store all of your hay in one area. A lot of times we store hay due to convenience, but this may not be the safest place to have it. Remember many insurance companies will only insure a haystack to a certain value or amount of hay. So, check your insurance policy and think about where you store your hay.

Plans should also be made for protecting and moving livestock in case of a wildfire. Create safe areas for

livestock with salt or mineral placements or winter feeding grounds along fence lines or in pasture corners. This will create areas of low fuel, reducing fire intensity and hopefully allowing livestock a safe haven during a

wildfire.

Do not try to herd or move animals in front of an oncoming wildfire—this is extremely dangerous. Always ensure the safety of your family, helpers and yourself before attempting

to move livestock during a wildfire.

The most proactive effort that can be done to help prevent and reduce wildfire impacts is fighting fire with fire. Start using prescribed fire during proper

conditions to remove old forage growth, control eastern red cedars and create blackened areas to protect property from damages.

Prescribed fire has been shown to reduce the incidence of wildfire and make

it safer for those fighting fire by removing volatile fuels and other fuel loads. — **John Weir, OSU associate Extension specialist, natural resources ecology and management**



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Private Treaty	99 Bar Cattle	Alzada	605-101-1280
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Economy sparks drop in operating loans

Overall good economic conditions in agriculture led to the lowest non-real estate agriculture lending at commercial banks in the fourth quarter of 2021 in nearly a decade, according to a new report from the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City (KC Fed).

According to the national survey of terms of lending to farmers, smaller-sized loans limited agricultural lending at the end of 2021. Non-real estate agricultural loans at commercial banks, in particular, decreased by about 13 percent in the fourth quarter, and the yearly average came in at its lowest since 2012.

The decline was driven by a “sharp drop” in operating loans and lending at banks with the largest farm-loan portfolios, according to a KC Fed analysis of the data.

“Despite an increase in the number of all types of loans, the average size of all non-real estate and operating loans was more than 20 percent and 30 percent less than a year ago, respectively,” the analysis said.

“Loan sizes decreased considerably at lenders of all sizes, but the number of loans increased notably at small and midsized lenders and decreased at banks with large agricultural portfolios.”

The KC Fed points to “strong” economic conditions in the ag economy through 2021 as the reason for the decline.

“Despite intensifying concerns about rising input costs impacting producer returns in the coming year, commodity prices remained elevated and supported profit opportunities through the end of the year,” the KC Fed report said. “Higher costs are likely to put upward pressure on demand for credit, but strong farm income and working capital could also supplement financing for some borrowers.”

The survey found the number of new loans at small and midsized lenders “increased considerably,” while most of the decline in loan volumes was among large lenders.

“The number of loans made by banks with the smallest farm-loan portfolios grew more than 35 percent from a year ago, but the average size of those loans was nearly 30 percent lower,” the KC Fed said. “The decline in loan size among the largest lenders was less pronounced, but those banks also made fewer loans and accounted for nearly all of the decline in total non-real estate lending.”

The report said the higher number of loans and smaller loan sizes were consistent across lending types, but “farm operating loans” drove most of the decline in lending volume.

“The sharp drop in the size of operating loans was a notable contrast to the trend in recent years,” the report said.

“Following several years of consistent increases and a record high for the fourth quarter in 2020, the average size of operating loans dropped to the lowest level for this time of year since 2016. The number of operating loans remained low com-

pared with past years but increased from the historic low for the fourth quarter reached last year.”

In addition, the volume of loans higher than \$100,000 decreased nearly 20 percent from a year ago, while the volume of all other loans increased almost 15 percent.

When it comes to interest rates, the report said the average interest rate charged on non-real estate loans declined in the fourth quarter and remained lowest for the largest loans at the largest agricultural banks.

“The average rate on loans greater than \$100,000 remained about 140 basis points lower than rates on smaller loans and has declined slightly more from the same time in 2019,” the report said.

“Similarly, the average rate at the largest farm banks remained lower than other lenders and has also declined slightly more from the same time in 2019.” — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

BEEF BITS

IA plant seeks investors

A proposed beef processing plant in western Iowa is seeking investors for its \$450 million project, with some funding expected to come from the Biden administration's recently announced meat and poultry supply chain action plan. “We are in fundraising right now through various means, talking to a lot of investors at this point,” Chad Tentinger, founder and owner of TenCorp Inc., the project developer for Cattlemen's Heritage, told WNAX radio. “We are 75 percent done with all blueprints and planning. We have the site under control. We have done grid sampling and boring samples to make sure it's stable. We're moving along quite nicely.” Bill Menner of the Bill Menner Group, an Iowa-based consulting firm, said \$75-90 million is available in grants to fund construction. Cattlemen's Heritage is offering to sell 100,000 units to investors. The minimum purchase is 67 units for a total of \$100,500. Each unit is \$1,500. The project is on schedule, he says, to be completed by late 2023 or early 2024. When complete, the facility would process roughly 400,000 head of cattle per year, about 1,500 head per day.

WI processing funding

Wisconsin Gov. Tony Evers (D) and the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection announced \$5 million in funding for the launch of a program designed to attract people in Wisconsin to meat processing training programs and a program to connect the meat processing industry with potential employees. Evers proposed in his 2021-23 biennial budget to put in \$2 million for meat processors to expand and modernize their operations and \$2.63 million for a meat talent development program and additional meat inspectors to keep up with production. “The last several years have brought challenges to every sector of our agricultural economy, including meat processing,” Evers said in a statement. “This investment will reduce barriers to careers in meat processing, provide new opportunities to workers across our state and ensure our food supply chain remains resilient and successful well into Wisconsin's future.”

COVID cases at JBS Greeley

JBS USA has seen an increase in the number of COVID-19 cases at its Greeley, CO, beef processing plant, according to Meat+Poultry. Officials with United Food and Commercial Workers Union Local 7 said about 40 workers tested positive for COVID-19 in early January. “We are actively working to limit any potential spread in the workplace,” said JBS spokesperson Nikki Richardson. “As many Americans are witnessing, the impacts of this variant have been less severe for many, particularly for the vaccinated.” Richardson stated the cases have been mild or asymptomatic and that 80 percent of workers have been vaccinated, with 35 percent receiving the booster. Richardson also said JBS is closely monitoring cases among its workforce and the surrounding community. The facility requires face masks, conducts daily health screenings and offers drive-through testing.

Grocer's beef sustainability pledge

Canadian-based Loblaw Companies Ltd. is expanding its beef sustainability commitment by purchasing three million additional pounds of Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) certified beef by 2023. The beef will be purchased from CRSB-certified farms in partnership with the Ontario Corn Fed Beef program. Loblaw is working toward 30 percent of its beef coming from CRSB and will incorporate it into Loblaw's overall beef purchases. “CRSB appreciates the ongoing support from a large grocery retailer like Loblaw, committed to working collaboratively with the beef industry in support of our sustainable practices and sharing that story with Canadian consumers,” said Anne Wasko, CRSB chair. The Canadian beef industry has a goal of reducing greenhouse gases by 33 percent, reducing post-harvest food loss and waste by 50 percent and preserving the 35 million acres of grasslands remaining in Canada by 2030.

NAMI submits meat price testimony

The House Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the effects of economic concentration on America's food supply. The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) submitted testimony to the committee, addressing meat price increases, stating they are because of labor shortages, greater consumer demand, supply chain problems and other factors experienced by most sectors of the economy. “It is no wonder the Biden administration and some members of Congress would rather hold press conferences and hearings instead of addressing the labor shortage and supply chain bottlenecks,” said Julie Anna Potts, president and CEO of NAMI. NAMI also addressed consolidation in the meatpacking sector, stating, “The rhetoric about concentration in the beef packing sector wrongly implies that consolidation is ongoing and that packers' market power is becoming more and more concentrated.” NAMI also testified that free market supply and demand are working and should remain so without government intervention with the recently introduced legislation to Congress.

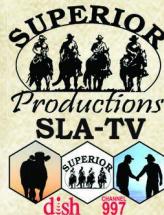
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CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MILK	M&G	FAT	REA	MARB	BMI	BII	CHB
6.4	2.9	60	90	1.3	30	60	0.042	0.27	0.12	\$379	\$459	\$107



DCR 428B Manhattan 0018

Churchill Sensation 028X
Churchill Manhattan 428B ET
Churchill Lady 002X

Anchor 44U
BP 44U Anchor Lady 17B
BP 144P Standard Lady 163U

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MILK	M&G	FAT	REA	MARB	BMI	BII	CHB
7.2	1.5	65	101	1.2	31	64	0.028	0.16	0.11	\$406	\$492	\$116

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The advantages of calving heifers before mature cows

For a cow-calf producer, many calves can be born over the season, and often-times that means performing night checks on the females and being able to intervene quickly if the laboring animal has trouble.

The ideal time to calve heifers was a discussion topic among the experts at the Kansas State (K-State) University Beef Cattle Institute on a recent Cattle Chat podcast.

"Heifers are going to require the greatest investment of labor at calving time, so having them calve at the beginning of the season is going to have better outcomes because the people monitoring them are fresher and not worn down by a long calving season," said veterinarian Brian Lubbers.

Veterinarian Brad White

agreed, adding: "It is important to calve heifers when you are fresh because you need to observe heifers closely to make sure things are going right."

"Not only do I like heifers calving ahead of the cows," added veterinarian Bob Larson, "but I like them to be finished calving well ahead of the cows."

Larson's reasoning is heifers that breed in the first 30-45 days of the breeding season are more likely to rebreed because of the recovery interval between calving and breeding.

White agreed: "A successful heifer breeding program is realized when she gets bred back for her second calf."

Larson offered a breeding strategy for heifers. "By first breeding heifers with AI, most of them should be able

"Heifers typically don't have the highest quality colostrum, and so when calving in a confined area, the goal is to have as low of pathogen exposure as possible, which is why it is better to calve them at the start of the season."

to get pregnant within the first 30 days of the season," he said.

Nutritionist Phillip Lancaster said by having vet-

erinarians date the pregnancies, there is an opportunity to market the late-bred heifers for a greater dollar value than open heif-

ers.

Another advantage for calving heifers first relates to calf health, Lubbers said.

"Heifers typically don't have the highest quality colostrum, and so when calving in a confined area, the goal is to have as low of pathogen exposure as possible, which is why it is better to calve them at the start of the season," he said.

White agreed and explained colostrum and its impact on calf health.

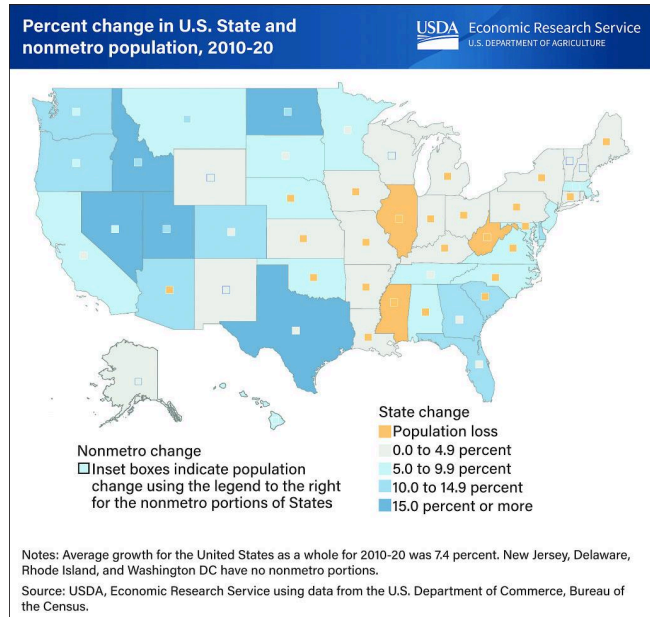
"Colostrum is the first milk the calf gets from its mother that contains a lot of immunity to set it up for the first four to five months of

life," he said. "As soon as the calf starts drinking, it has 12-24 hours to absorb the colostrum before his gut closes."

Along with health, the experts agree that just prior to calving and in the first few months of lactation, cow nutrition is going to be especially important.

Lancaster said: "It is best if I can match the nutritive value of the hay with the nutrient requirements of the animal because that will reduce the amount of supplemental feed and decrease my overall feed costs." — **K-State Research and Extension**

Nearly half of US states lost population in rural areas



During the decade from 2010-2020, 24 states lost population in nonmetropolitan or rural areas, according to the 2020 U.S. census. Sixteen of those states lost population overall or showed slow population growth (less than 5 percent) during the period.

Data from the 2020 census show the U.S. population grew 7.4 percent from 2010 to 2020, slower than the 9.7 percent growth in the previous decade. West Virginia, Mississippi and

Illinois lost population in the most recent decade, with the population declining the most in West Virginia at 3.2 percent.

West Virginia also was the only state to lose population in metropolitan areas as well as in nonmetro areas. The highest population growing state from 2010 to 2020 was Utah at 18.4 percent, and Idaho, Texas, North Dakota and Nevada also showed population growth of 15 percent or more. — **USDA Economic Research Service**

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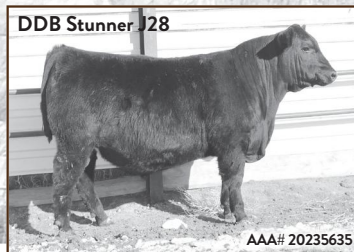
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Milk: +27 Marb: +.64 RE: +.80 \$W: +65 \$C: +259



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CED: +9 BW: +0.1 WW: +75 YW: +136
Milk: +20 Marb: +1.05 RE: +.45 \$W: +70 \$C: +265



DOB: 1/31/21 • Myers Fair-N-Square x Stunner
CED: -2 BW: +4.9 WW: +76 YW: +133
Milk: +25 Marb: +.78 RE: +.66 \$W: +64 \$C: +266



DOB: 2/5/21 • Musgrave 316 Stunner x Homestead
CED: +7 BW: +0.7 WW: +69 YW: +123
Milk: +31 Marb: +.71 RE: +.66 \$W: +75 \$C: +263



DOB: 1/31/21 • Musgrave 316 Stunner x Investment
CED: +5 BW: +1.6 WW: +67 YW: +121
Milk: +36 Marb: +.71 RE: +.49 \$W: +77 \$C: +256



DOB: 2/21/21 • Hover No Doubt x Upfront
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CA Gov. Newsom unveils 2022-23 budget

— Provisions for ranchers, farmers

California Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) unveiled a \$286 billion general fund budget buoyed by a projected surplus of \$45.7 billion earlier this month.

The spending plan outlines \$10 billion in new spending, fully funds the state's rainy-day fund and pays down future allocations, while increasing spending on "five of California's biggest challenges: COVID-19, climate change, homelessness, inequality and keeping our streets safe."

The budget Newsom detailed would be California's largest ever and includes several budget items to help farmers and ranchers recover from drought and wildfire and adapt to climate change.

To combat the effects of climate change, the proposed budget adds an additional \$1.2 billion on top of last year's \$1.5 billion over two years to continue investments in forest health and

fire prevention, including a major new reforestation effort. The budget invests \$400 million in firefighting efforts, including toward firefighters.

According to the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA), Newsom, during the press conference, showed a slide highlighting grazing's role in forest health and resilience and touched on CCA priorities, such as expanding grazing and utilizing prescribed fire. The proposed budget also earmarks \$382 million for strategic wildfire fuel breaks and \$44 million for community hardening, among other funding priorities.

The budget builds on an investment of \$5.2 billion over three years with a one-time \$750 million infusion into the general fund for drought resilience and response. Several items within the infusion would benefit farmers and ranchers, including \$40 million to repurpose irrigated agricultural land and rangelands to reduce reliance on groundwater, \$20 million for the State

Several items within the infusion would benefit farmers and ranchers, including \$40 million to repurpose irrigated agricultural land and rangelands to reduce reliance on groundwater, \$20 million for the State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program to improve on-farm conservation, and \$10 million for small farmers and ranchers who experience water cost increases of 50 percent.

Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program to improve on-farm conservation, and \$10 million for small farmers and ranchers who experience water cost increases of 50 percent.

The budget also includes a

\$768 million one-time general fund over two years to help implement the state's Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy and Pathways to 30x30 strategy.

Under the heading "Climate Smart Agriculture,"

Newsom proposes \$1.1 billion over two years, with \$417 million in the second year "to provide critical support for farmers and ranchers as they continue to work towards the state's climate goals." Among the investments are \$150 million for the Funding Agricultural Replacement Measures for Emission Reductions Program, which helps fund the replacement of agricultural equipment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, \$85 million for the Healthy Soils Program and \$48 million in livestock methane emission reduction funding.

Additionally, there are some tax credits and other breaks in the budget proposal, including the reinstatement of a "net operating loss" tax deduction for businesses and the recently adopted pass-through entity tax allowing business owners to mitigate the impact of the \$10,000 limit on state and local tax deductions.

Jamie Johansson, president of the California Farm Bureau, stated farmers are facing "unprecedented challenges beyond their control," and "it is critical that we shore up the farm economy" to ensure farmers have a voice in the programs that are supposed to benefit them.

"We need water, inputs and markets to feed people and provide the jobs that are the backbone of the California economy," Johansson said in a statement. "Gov.

Newsom's budget is a good framework for this year's budget discussions in that it proposes to fund more water storage and conveyance, an opportunity for California-grown products in schools, funds for both implementation of and research on climate-smart ag practices and begins to relieve the massive burden on employers on costs associated with COVID-19."

CCA stated they will "continue to press for investments to expand grazing on state-owned lands and improve the state's resilience to wildfire and drought ahead of the 'May Revise' of the state budget," and they will inform members of budget issues that affect ranchers. The "May Revise" is the process in which the finance department submits actual revenue and expenditures for both the current and budget years, and the governor unveils his updated budget to the Legislature. After wrangling between the state Assembly, Senate and governor, a final budget must be approved by June 15.

In addition to the above provisions, Newsom's spending plans include billions in additional investments to combat COVID-19, confront homelessness, fund community colleges and state universities, provide affordable housing, reduce crime rates and expand health care. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

Calving ease cows: Optimal or extreme?

— Finding a balance

The questions "Will easy calves grow into cows that have more calving difficulty?" and "Will calves from easy cows have higher mortality?" prompted the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center's (USMARC) research on calving ease cows.

Dr. Gary Bennett, from USMARC, presented the study's findings at the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Symposium in Des Moines, IA, June 23.

Nearly 900 animals across four breeds (Angus, Charolais, Gelbvieh and Hereford) and three composites (MARC I, II and III) were studied.

Concerns surrounding calving difficulty of cows that were easy calves is legitimate, due to the negative correlation between direct and maternal calving ease. Higher mortality of easy calves is also a valid question since easy calves tend to be smaller, and small calves have a higher rate of mortality.

What the study found, however, was that selection on calving ease may reduce duration of labor and result in a more vigorous calf regardless of birth weight.

"Genetically smaller calves might not be at a disadvantage unlike phenotypically smaller calves," Bennett says.

Selection on calving ease only decreased gestation length by about two days in the USMARC study. Bennett explains an EPD for calving ease using gestation length could decrease gestation below optimal viability but was



BIF

Dr. Gary Bennett

not evident during this study.

Additionally, contrary to prior beliefs, the USMARC researchers did not find that calving difficulty reduced rebreeding of heifers in this study.

The study found that cows from the calving ease selection line had significantly smaller mature weights and heights and may have smaller maintenance costs on a per-cow basis. Calving ease heifers had better calf survival and were more likely to rebreed and produce a second calf when compared to their control counterparts.

There was an apparent advantage for a system of mating calving ease females to calving ease bulls for first calving compared to control females bred to average birth weight bulls.

To watch Bennett's full presentation, visit youtu.be/at1oYAHTfMs. For more information about this year's Symposium and BIF, including additional presentations and award winners, visit BIFSymposium.com. — **BIF**



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Food business concentration center of debate

— Split on cause of food price spike

Mississippi poultry farmer Trina McClendon was on the road to financial recovery in 2020 following the 2017 death of her husband, Rusty, when Sanderson Farms announced a 9 percent pay cut for contract chicken farmers in the state in August 2021.

The devastating news came to light just days after a joint venture between Cargill Inc. and the investment firm Continental Grain Co. announced plans to buy Sanderson at a price tag of about \$4.5 billion.

Though the purchase remains on hold by the Department of Justice, the companies announced the transaction could be finalized in the first half of 2022.

McClendon told the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial and Administrative Law on Jan. 19 that the sale should be stopped.

The hearing focused on the effects of economic concentration on the food supply. The Biden administration and Democrats in Congress are pushing for more federal oversight of competition in general to combat inflation and higher food prices.

"I'm asking you to stop this buyout and send a clear and concise message to Sanderson Farms, Cargill and Continental Grain that the consolidation of our fabulous industry is detrimental to continue the practice of a free and fair market economy," McClendon said.

"Second, I'm asking that you simply enforce the rules that were written to protect our country's food supply and that you place a temporary moratorium on all large food and agribusiness mergers. And, lastly, I urge you to protect all Americans across this country. And you can do this by protecting our most important asset—our food and the farmers who grow it. We love our jobs, and we love growing food for this country."

In recent months, the Biden administration has sought to address consolidation in the food industry, pointing to it as a reason for higher food prices, particularly meat prices. According to USDA's Economic Research Service, from 2020 to 2021, food-at-home prices increased 3.1 percent, and food-away-from-home prices increased 4.2 percent. The beef and veal category, in particular, has seen the largest relative price increase of 8.7 percent.

McClendon told the committee that farmers want to have an even chance to compete. As a contract grower with Sanderson, she said she has little control as to the future of her farm. In 2003, McClendon and her husband signed a 15-year contract with the Laurel, MS, based Sanderson, under the impression the contract would pave the way for a profitable future.

"We soon realized that while we felt we were in a partnership with Sanderson, the truth is that our contract was very one-sided," she said.

"We had no say over quality of chicks, quality of feed and many other issues relating to growing a good bird. The fact that five farm defi-

ciencies could bankrupt us, causing us to lose the family farm and our home, created untold stress."

As a contract poultry grower, McClendon said she's responsible for the cost of building chicken houses, all the maintenance utilities, all equipment costs and all costs to maintain and run the houses, along with a \$1.4 million debt burden.

"Growers just never seem to get ahead because we are kept in debt for many years," she said. "It is a known statistic that over 71 percent of all poultry growers who solely rely on poultry for their income are below the poverty level."

McClendon and other poultry growers in Mississippi fought Sanderson on the pay cut, and the company dropped the plan for now.

Grocery business consolidation

Michael Needler, CEO of independent grocer Fresh Encounter Inc., an Ohio based company that operates about 100 grocery stores in Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky and Florida, said during the hearing that concentration in the retail grocery industry has led to supply shortages and perhaps has contributed to higher food prices.

About 12 years ago, he said, his company decided to expand operations to overcome tight margins and shrinking sales. Needler said his company was able to acquire "struggling companies" and expand into a larger operation.

"Our view is America's future food supply chain problems are a result of the increase in concentration and unchecked firepower by a few dominant retail firms," he said.

"Consumers have a narrowing range of choices to shop for the goods and services. Many entrepreneurs and independent businesses struggle to start up and sustain businesses, and producers such as farmers and ranchers are forced to accept unfavorable economic terms and conditions and prices imposed by the largest members of a consolidated supply chain."

Needler asked the committee to enforce the 1936 Robinson-Patman Act, which prohibits anti-competitive economic discrimination against independent businesses. The Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice have not brought for prosecution a Robinson-Patman case in more than 20 years.

"It's time to dust off the tools and go to work to protect the free and fair market to preserve the food supply chain and American consumers," he said.

Though smaller grocery chains and many farmers point to increased concentration in big agriculture businesses as one cause for higher food prices, groups like the North American Meat Institute (NAMI) don't quite see it that way.

In written testimony to the subcommittee, NAMI said consumers saw higher meat prices in 2021 because of labor shortages, greater consumer demand, supply chain problems and other factors experienced by most sectors

of the economy.

"Inflation is hurting consumers by erasing the wage gains workers received due to the tight labor market and the pandemic," said Julie Anna Potts, president and CEO of NAMI.

"It is no wonder the Biden administration and some members of Congress would rather hold press conferences and hearings instead of addressing the labor shortage and supply chain bottlenecks."

Concentration not to blame

Geoffrey A. Manne, founder and president of the International Center for Law and Economics, told the committee food industry concentration was not to blame for higher food prices.

"There is a wide range of possible explanations for the rise in consumer food prices over the past year," he said.

"Increased demand driven by fiscal stimulus, disruptions arising from an unprecedented set of simultaneous

supply and demand shocks, the incentive effects of government responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, and an increase in the money supply, among others. Each of these factors is interrelated, and each has surely contributed in varying degrees to current headline inflation woes.

"What is not a plausible explanation is increased concentration and the exercise of market power in the food supply chain."

Peter St. Onge, research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, said the data doesn't support the idea that concentration in the food industry is the problem.

"There are several key data points that argue strongly against the claim that rising prices of meat and other agricultural problems are due to monopoly," he told the committee.

"Taking the meatpacking industry, today's level of concentration was reached almost 30 years ago. According to the USDA, four-firm concentration in the meatpacking industry—a standard

concentration measure—is 84 percent today, and in 1994, it was 82 percent."

St. Onge said food processing also is concentrated in the U.S., partly because farming and ranching is concentrated. He said 70 percent of fed cattle, for example, are raised in just seven states, while 55 percent of feedlot corn is produced in just four states.

"Beyond these geographic reasons, two reasons why concentration is increasing in food processing are economies of scale and increasing regulation," St. Onge said.

"Economies of scale, where you can produce cheaper when you're producing bigger batches, are key to keeping prices low in most industries, including food. Because consumers want low prices, it's consumers that drive such industry concentration, meaning that oversight interfering with that process could actually raise prices to consumers."

Despite about 30 years of high concentration, American food prices have re-

mained exceptionally low, St. Onge said.

Joe Maxwell, president and co-founder of Farm Action, disagreed with Manne's and St. Onge's assessments, telling the committee he believes concentration in the food industry is at the root of the problem.

Maxwell, the former vice president of outreach and engagement for the Humane Society of the United States, told the committee food industry concentration "drives farmers from the land" and hurts the rural economy.

"It's unreasonable profits from supply chain disruptions that leave shelves bare at the grocery store, prices higher for consumers, and steals farmers' profits, increasing the burden of taxpayer-funded subsidies and safety nets that prop up farmers and provide for food-insecure households," Maxwell said.

"It is a self-perpetuating cycle of destruction that is tearing through rural America." — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

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Just what is a ‘resilient’ forest, anyway?

What does a “resilient” forest look like in California’s Sierra Nevada? A lot fewer trees than we’re used to, according to a study of frequent-fire forests from the University of California (UC), Davis.

More than a century ago, Sierra Nevada forests faced almost no competition from neighboring trees for resources. The tree densities of the late 1900s would astonish most Californians today. Because of fire suppression, trees in current forests live alongside six to seven times as many trees as their ancestors did—competing for less water amid drier and hotter conditions. The study, published in the journal *Forest Ecology and Management*, suggests that low-density stands that largely eliminate tree competition are key to creating forests resilient to the multiple stressors of severe wildfire, drought, bark beetles and climate change. This approach would be a significant departure from current management strategies, which use competition

among trees to direct forest development.

Defining “resilience”

But first, the study asks: Just what does “resilience” even mean? Increasingly appearing in management plans, the term has been vague and difficult to quantify. The authors developed this working definition: “Resilience is a measure of the forest’s adaptability to a range of stresses and reflects the functional integrity of the ecosystem.”

They also found that a common forestry tool, the stand density index, or SDI, is effective for assessing a forest’s resilience.

“Resilient forests respond to a range of stressors, not just one,” said lead author Malcolm North, an affiliate professor of forest ecology with the UC Davis Department of Plant Sciences and a research ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service’s Pacific Southwest Research Station. “Resistance’ is about surviving a particular

stress, like fire—but there’s a lot more going on in these forests, particularly with the strain of climate change.”

Competitive nature

For fire-adapted forests in the Sierra Nevada, managing for resilience requires drastically reducing densities—as much as 80 percent in some cases.

“Treatments for restoring resilience in today’s forests will need to be much more intensive than the current focus on fuels reduction,” said Scott Stephens of UC Berkeley, a co-author on the paper.

The study compared large-scale historical and contemporary datasets and forest conditions in the southern and central Sierra Nevada, from Sequoia National Forest to the Stanislaus National Forest. It found that between 1911 and 2011, tree densities increased six to sevenfold while average tree size was reduced by half.

A century ago, both stand

densities and competition were low. More than three-quarters of forest stands had low or no competition to slow a tree’s growth and reduce its vigor. In contrast, nearly all—82-95 percent—of modern frequent-fire forests are considered in “full competition.”

The study indicates that forests with very low tree densities can be more resilient to compounded threats of fire, drought and other climate stressors while maintaining healthy water quality, wildlife habitat and other natural benefits. Forests burned by high-severity fires or killed by drought lose such ecosystem services.

Wake-up call

The authors say the 2012-16 drought, in which nearly 150 million trees died from drought-induced bark beetle infestations, served as a wake-up call to the forestry community that different approaches are required to help forests confront multiple threats, not only severe wildfires.

A shift away from managing competitive forests and toward eliminating competition could allow the few to thrive and be more resilient.

“People have grown accustomed to the high-density forest we live in,” North said. “Most people would be surprised to see what these forests once looked like when frequent surface fires kept them at very low densities. But taking out smaller trees and leaving trees able to get through fire and drought leaves a pretty impressive forest. It does mean creating very open conditions with little inter-tree competition. But there’s a lot of historical data that supports this.”

“We think resilient forests

can be created, but it requires drastically reducing tree density until there’s little to no competition,” said Brandon Collins of UC Berkeley, another co-author on the paper. “Doing this will allow these forests to adapt to future climate.”

Additional co-authors include Ryan Tompkins of UC Cooperative Extension and Alexis Bernal and Robert York of UC Berkeley.

The study was funded by the National Park Service Pacific West Region, U.S. Forest Service’s Pacific Southwest Research Station, U.S. Joint Fire Science Program and the UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) division. — UC ANR

Treating deep puncture wounds in horses’ feet

Horse hooves are formed of insensitive, cornified material called horn and can be very resilient to penetration by an object. Inside the hoof capsule lie bone, joints, tendons, ligaments and other soft tissues.

While the hoof capsule is designed to protect these structures and provide the horse with a platform to support its weight, traumatic events can puncture the hoof and affect the deeper sensitive tissues. Puncture wounds often occur from stepping on nails, screws or other such objects.

Sustaining deep puncture wounds to the foot causes lameness in horses. The opening of the puncture

to fight the likelihood of infection.

A tetanus toxoid vaccine is also given as early as possible after the injury occurs. Deep punctures create the ideal environment for the tetanus organism to grow and release its deadly toxin. Anti-inflammatory drugs, such as phenylbutazone, are also administered to relieve inflammation and pain.

During the healing time, the foot is wrapped in a clean, dry, medicated bandage. If extensive removal (debridement) of the sole and deep tissues of the hoof was necessary to treat the puncture wound, a special shoe with a protective plate on the bottom called a med-

While the hoof capsule is designed to protect these structures and provide the horse with a platform to support its weight, traumatic events can puncture the hoof and affect the deeper sensitive tissues.

wound may or may not be evident during physical examination. The veterinarian examining the foot must try to determine if the horse is experiencing a common foot abscess or a puncture wound.

If a puncture wound is suspected, radiographs may be used to determine the location and depth of the injury. The veterinarian will place a metal probe into the wound tract and take radiographs of the foot. By doing this, the veterinarian can better determine the location and depth of the puncture, as the metal probe will be seen as a bright white object on the radiographs.

To treat deep hoof puncture wounds, remove the foreign object, if it is still present, and debris from the puncture wound. This may involve surgery to clean and debride the wound. Horses who have sustained a deep puncture wound of the foot are treated with antibiotics

icine plate shoe is placed on the foot to protect the wound.

The plate is made so that bolts can be unscrewed to remove the plate from the shoe to medicate the wound. This treatment is continued until the wound is totally healed. Treatment could take several weeks. Prognosis for soundness is dependent on what underlying structures were involved and if infection was controlled.

The key take-home message: If your horse suddenly becomes lame, a deep puncture wound to the hoof should be considered. If left untreated, puncture wounds to the foot may be disastrous. Call your veterinarian early. Prompt diagnosis and treatment may lead to a better outcome. — **Daniel J. Burba, DVM, Dipl. ACVS, Oklahoma State University’s College of Veterinary Medicine**

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I+54	I+50	I+39	+143	+265
30%	60%	80%	40%	25%



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Vilsack announces 10-year plan to confront wildfires

— \$3 billion in funding

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Chief Randy Moore announced a strategy to reduce fuels and increase forest health treatments to address wildfire dangers in high-risk fresheds.

The initiative, called “Confronting the Wildfire Crisis: A Strategy for Protecting Communities and Improving Resilience in America’s Forests,” proposes treating more than 50 million acres of land using \$3 billion in funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law during 10 years.

“You’re going to have for-

est fires. The question is, how catastrophic do those fires have to be?” Vilsack told the Associated Press in an interview. “The time to act is now if we want to ultimately over time change the trajectory of these fires.”

Research from USFS identified fresheds as large forested areas with a “high likelihood that ignition could expose homes, communities, infrastructure and natural resources to wildfire.”

Work would begin in the areas of highest risk based on community exposure, including the Pacific Northwest, the Sierra Nevada range in California, the Front Range in Colorado and the Southwest.

Working with other federal agencies, Tribes, states, local communities, private landowners and other partners, USFS will treat 30 million acres on USFS lands over current treatment levels and 20 million acres on other federal, state, Tribal and private lands. Moore said the agency currently treats 2-3 million acres per year.

According to the “Wildfire Crisis Implementation Plan” by USFS, they will launch projects in the first two years that are outcome-driven and designed to reduce wildfire risks to communities, water supplies or critical infrastructure. The project areas will:

- Have critical ecological values (including watersheds, wildlife habitat and old-growth stands).
- Have economic values (including outdoor recreation, timber and grazing areas).
- Be of cultural and historic significance (including areas important to Tribes).

“You’re going to have forest fires. The question is, how catastrophic do those fires have to be?”

- Be of social importance to communities (including for access and subsistence use). “We already have the tools, the knowledge and the partnerships in place to begin this work in many of our national forests and grasslands, and now we have funding that will allow us to build on the research and the lessons learned to

address this wildfire crisis facing many of our communities,” Moore said in a statement.

More than 7.6 million acres burned in wildfires in 2021, and the announcement noted more than 10 million acres burned in 2020, 2017 and 2015. “The running five-year average number of structures destroyed by wildfires each year rose from 2,873 in 2014 to 12,255 in 2020—a fourfold increase in just six years,” the announcement said.

The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) stated they “stand ready” to work with USFS to target wildfire risk “while leveraging diverse capacities and garnering broad public support.”

“Wildfires in the West may be top of mind, but managing wildfire is truly a national call-to-action that spans all landscapes and every state in this country,” said NASF president and Connecticut State For-

ester Christopher Martin in a statement. “All of the nation’s state foresters stand ready to work shoulder-to-shoulder with the Forest Service on implementing this national strategy.”

Critics say the government’s plan is just another strategy to increase logging, build roads on USFS lands and hurt fish and wildlife species.

“The U.S. Forest Service simply cannot log its way out of the climate crisis or effectively protect homes and communities from wildfires by dramatically increasing industrial logging of National Forest System lands,” Adam Rissien, rewilding advocate at WildEarth Guardians, said in a statement.

In addition to increasing forest health treatments, USFS has pledged to develop a \$1 billion program for community wildfire defense grants, which benefit at-risk communities. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

FFA program helps students make the leap into college

Going off to college is a big leap into the unknown for most college-bound high school seniors—especially when they’re doing so in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. To help ease the transition, the California Association of Future Farmers of America (FFA) has introduced a new program to make that leap a little more manageable—and to remind the students that there are many pathways to a career in California agriculture.

Funded in part by grants from Farm Credit, the Change Makers Summit: The Future Awaits! is a two-day program aimed at incoming high school seniors, explained Maureen Funk, the California FFA Association’s development director.

“The original plan, pre-pandemic, was that prior to their senior year, seniors would take time out and go to a conference at a college campus, experience life in the dorms and have conversations with FFA alums about what skills they need to develop during their senior year to get ready for their next steps,” she said. “It’s an opportunity for them to stop and reflect for a bit—you’re almost done with this program; what’s next?”

Of course, due to COVID-19, the conference had to be virtual. The first one was held in the spring of 2021 for students about to graduate from high school, with a second session held in August for incoming seniors. FFA is planning to hold the program again this year, but plans are not yet final.

Rob Faris, president and CEO of Golden State Farm Credit, said the program is designed to help students use the skills they have gained and fulfill their life’s purpose after leaving the FFA blue and gold.

“The FFA alumni volunteers help students identify the specific skills they have gained from their FFA education and help them create a career plan that highlights how those skills will help them find success,” Faris said. “The volunteers also outline specific service projects seniors can undertake in their home communities or at college, and the seniors will leave knowing how ca-

pable, valuable and marketable they are.”

Farm Credit institutions supporting the California FFA are American AgCredit, CoBank, Colusa-Glenn Farm Credit, Farm Credit West, Fresno Madera Farm Credit, Golden State Farm Credit and Yosemite Farm Credit. They are all part of the nationwide Farm Credit System, the largest provider of credit to American agriculture.

Curt Hudnutt, president and CEO of American AgCredit, noted that another key part of the summit is outlining all the careers students can pursue in agriculture.

“Whether a student pursues a career in finance, joins their family farm or has an innovative business idea they want to bring forward, California agriculture—and U.S. agriculture—needs them,” Hudnutt said. “In 2022, the plan is to amplify this message by bringing in former FFA students now working in agriculture-related businesses to tell the students how they got where they are and help them understand the opportunities that are open to them.”

Funk said 164 students participated last April, and another 207 did so in August.

“Our target was 150 participants at each session, so we were very pleased with the outcomes. Both sessions included a broad band of students from all our areas, and participation was very good. The interns and volunteers all felt they got really good feedback and that it was a valuable experience.”

Farm Credit has supported FFA for more than 20 years, during which it has contributed well over \$550,000. Funk said Farm Credit’s strong support has been extremely important to helping FFA provide programs like the summit.

“Farm Credit is our most generous donor. They commit year over year to the organization, which helps us plan new things, knowing that those funds are coming in. And sponsors like Farm Credit keep our programs affordable for our students. We really value their support,” Funk said. — **Farm Credit, California FFA Association**

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Increased wildfire danger anticipated across Texas

The Texas A&M Forest Service spent Jan. 18 readying firefighting resources in anticipation of an increase in wildfire activity caused by prefrontal weather conditions approaching the state.

The fire environment will include elevated critical fire weather, above normal temperatures and wind speeds near 20 mph in conjunction with freeze-cured grasses across the landscape. This combination will support increased wildfire activity.

Forecast fire danger will be high to very high for portions of the Rolling Plains, South Plains and Cross Timbers regions, specifically for areas around Plainview, Wichita Falls, Weatherford, Lampasas and San Angelo.

State and local firefighters, including the Texas A&M Forest Service and Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System (TIFMAS), have responded to 97 wildfires since the morning of Jan. 14, for an estimated 7,460 acres burned.

Strong north winds and dry vegetation contributed

to increased activity over the weekend, which included the 1,696-acre Mill Creek Fire in Shackelford County, the 787-acre Martin Fire in Young County and the 177-acre Carbon Camp Fire in Hutchinson County.

In anticipation of increased fire danger on Jan. 18, the Texas A&M Forest Service has prepositioned additional agency personnel and equipment, including 11 dozers and four engines, across areas of concern.

"Any time the forecast indicates that there is potential for wildfire activity, we mobilize resources to strategic locations to provide assistance to local fire departments and cooperators," said Wes Moorehead, Texas A&M Forest Service fire chief.

Texas A&M Forest Service and the Texas Division of Emergency Management worked together to mobilize two strike teams via TIFMAS to provide wildfire incident support prior to this weekend's increased activity.

"We greatly appreciate our state, federal and local part-

ners that continue to diligently work together to protect Texas' citizens and natural resources from wildfire," said Moorehead.

Two large air tankers, three single-engine air tankers, two air attack platforms

and one aerial supervision module remain ready to assist with wildfire response efforts.

Texas A&M Forest Service encourages the public to avoid outdoor activities that may cause a spark

while dry and windy conditions are present.

For current conditions and wildfire outlook, visit the Texas fire potential outlook at bit.ly/3kemhbG.

Texas A&M Forest Service does not own any avia-

tion resources but instead uses federal aviation contracts through the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management for all firefighting aircraft. — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

Canal could take decades to build

CANAL (from page 1)

creating mechanisms to ensure river flows reach Nebraska and the South Platte Valley. The mechanism stipulates that when river flows near Julesburg, CO, drop below 120 cubic feet per second (897.6 gallons) during the April 1 to Oct. 15 time period, the Colorado state engineer must limit diversions for those holding permits newer than June 14, 1897. At other times of the year, Colorado is entitled to "the full and uninterrupted use and benefit of the waters of the river."

Under the compact, Nebraska can build and operate canals within the borders of Colorado and acquire necessary rights-of-way through "purchase, prescription or the exercise of eminent domain." In 1894, the Perkins County Canal was started, and 24 miles of the canal were partially completed. Work started just south of Ovid, NE, and ran south to Julesburg, CO. Perkins County residents at the time approved \$90,000 in bonds, but the bonds were never sold, forcing them to give up. Remnants can still be seen along the north side of Interstate 76 between

Ovid and Julesburg.

The compact says Nebraska has the power to finish what Perkins County residents started, and Colorado must recognize a Dec. 17, 1921, priority date for diversions by the Perkins County Canal. It authorizes the diversion of 500 cubic feet per second (3,740 gallons) from Oct. 15 to April 1.

The canal project will be paid for by taking \$400 million out of the state's \$1.5 billion cash reserve fund and using \$100 million in federal pandemic relief money.

Ricketts told the North Platte Telegraph during his

not be taken as formally approved projects."

Lawrence Pacheco, a spokesperson for Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser, said in a statement that "the attorney general's office has been in contact with the Nebraska attorney general's office to learn more about the project and its implications for Colorado."

Joe Frank, general manager of the Lower South Platte Water Conservancy District, said during a presentation at a South Platte River update held in Brush, CO, the proposed projects in the report are either underway, being adjudicated or

"If we fail to secure our supply from the South Platte River, we could expect to lose 90 percent of the water that currently comes to us from Colorado."

two-day tour of the state, Colorado's attitude has amounted to "Nebraska has a right, but they're not exercising it, so they're probably fine to use up South Platte water in Colorado." Ricketts said reviving the Perkins County Canal could take a while, as "building a canal and reservoir system takes decades, no matter what." Still, it could also be subject to legal challenges.

Reaction

After news of Ricketts' announcement, Colorado Gov. Jared Polis (D) said the state would "protect and aggressively assert Colorado's rights under all existing water compacts."

Polis said he would work with Nebraska, but he wants more details of the planned project.

"We hope to more fully understand Nebraska's concerns and goals, as so far those concerns and goals are quite simply hard to make sense of," Polis said. "Our longstanding compliance of and respect for the water agreement between our states on the South Platte River remains intact, and we hope that our partners in Nebraska will show that they share that respect."

Polis said the report cited by Ricketts is a "misunderstanding" of the water planning process and that the projects identified "should

are environmental and recreational projects that have no bearing on water flow.

Frank disputes Ricketts' figure that "planned projects" in the South Platte Basin will diminish water flows by 90 percent, stating the compact guarantees Nebraska's water rights.

Any water fight between the states could last for years, as the North and South Platte rivers, along with the Republican River, have been involved in several legal disputes over the decades.

Efforts were unsuccessful in the 1920s to create a compact for sharing water of the North Platte River among users in Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska. Nebraska initiated litigation against Wyoming in 1934, and after lengthy proceedings, the Supreme Court of the U.S. entered a decree in October 1945.

Nebraska was in a water fight with Kansas over access to the Republican River, which runs through Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas. The lawsuits revolved around a similar compact with the three states approved in 1943. Starting in 1999 and again in 2010, Kansas accused farmers in Nebraska of diverting more water than they should for private use, violating the Final Settlement Stipulation negotiated in 2003. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**



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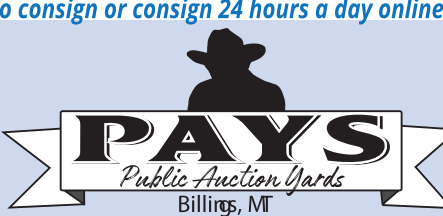
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Poultry execs face retrial in February

— Judge rejects acquittal motions

A group of poultry company executives accused of allegedly conspiring to fix broiler prices and rigging bids are set for a new trial on Feb. 22, after a jury failed to reach a verdict in December. The criminal trial held in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado was the first after ongoing federal investigations into the poultry industry.

Standing trial are Jayson Penn, former president and CEO of Pilgrim's Pride; Roger Austin, former vice president of Fresh Foodservice at Pilgrim's Pride; Mikell Fries, president of Claxton Poultry Farms; Scott Brady, vice president of national accounts for Claxton Poultry Farms; and other poultry company employees Jimmie Little, Timothy Mulrenin, William Kantola, William Lovette, Gary Roberts and Rickie Blake.

A grand jury indicted the employees back in June 2020. According to court records, attorneys for the defendants asked for and were denied a request to move the trial back a month because of several reported scheduling conflicts. The judge set a 22-day jury trial and a Feb. 10 hearing before the second trial begins.

Attorneys for the defendants filed motions for acquittal that were denied, arguing the mistrial showed there was insufficient evidence of a conspiracy. Chief Judge Philip A. Brimmer said in a Jan. 14 order, however, there was evidence of a conspiracy.

"The testimony of government witness Robbie Bryant, a Pilgrim's Pride employee, is sufficient to support a finding beyond a reasonable doubt that a conspiracy existed between Pilgrim's, Koch Foods, Claxton Poultry, Tyson Foods, Mar-Jac Poultry and George's Inc. to rig bids and fix prices," the judge said in his order.

"Mr. Bryant testified that he 'received competitor pricing and used that pricing to submit bids to customers and asked others to retrieve competitor pricing.' He also testified to obtaining competitors' bid pricing. He stated that the purpose of obtaining competitor pricing information 'was either to increase prices or limit a decrease in price.'"

The defendants were indicted on an alleged price-fixing scheme that goes back to at least 2012. The indictment points to repeated text communications among Austin, Brady and Fries regarding bids and prices for poultry contracts or overall market prices. The texts also repeatedly reference communications back to Penn. Those communications for bids on prices continued repeatedly until at least 2017.

The indictment also cited conversations over how to treat competitors who are short on product for delivery and competitors selling chicken products for lower margins. Penn noted in a series of emails regarding one unnamed competitor, "So in essence they are cheap and to add insult to injury are short product."

The indictment stated the

business practices of the four executives "substantially affected interstate trade and commerce." The Department of Justice filed the indictment with an antitrust class-action civil case in federal court in Illinois that was initially filed in 2016.

About 50 percent to 70 percent of broilers are sold under contract with a customer, about 10 percent to 20 percent are sold on the spot market and roughly 17 percent to 20 percent are exported, according to the U.S. Poultry and Egg Association.

There are several other similar ongoing cases.

In July 2021, a federal grand jury in Denver handed down an indictment of Park Ridge, IL, based Koch Foods, as well as Pilgrim's Pride executives Jason McGuire, a former executive vice president of sales for prepared foods; Timothy Stiller, a former general manager of fresh food services and small bird debone; Wesley "Scott" Tucker, a national accounts sales executive; and Justin Gay, director of fresh food service sales.

The indictment also cited conversations over how to treat competitors who are short on product for delivery and competitors selling chicken products for lower margins.

The Denver court scheduled a 15-day trial starting on Oct. 31, 2022, according to a court order. A pretrial court hearing is set for Sept. 30, 2022.

In February 2021, Pilgrim's Pride admitted to its

role in a conspiracy to fix broiler chicken prices starting in 2012 and will pay a \$107.9 million fine as part of a plea agreement entered in federal court.

The July 2021 indictment alleges the defendants conspired to suppress and eliminate competition for sales of broiler chicken products, which are chickens raised for human consumption and sold to grocers and restaurants.

Koch Senior Vice President William Kantola is among 10 people indicted in October 2020 for their roles in the alleged conspiracy. On May 19, 2021, a grand jury returned an indictment against Claxton Poultry for its role in the same alleged conspiracy.

Koch Foods, McGuire, Stiller, Tucker and Gay have been charged with a violation of the Sherman Antitrust Act, according to the indictment.

Violations of the Sherman Act carry a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$1 million fine for individuals or \$100 million fine for corporations. — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**



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LOT 25



C 1311 GENESIS 1062 ET

Elite herd bull prospect by the donor dam 1311. She is a full sister to Miles McKee and is the mother of Special Edition, Double Your Miles, Diversified, Spot On and numerous others. We feel 1062 has the credentials to join those ranks. Freckle faced, ring eyed with extra length and body depth. 1311 has produced \$977,800 in progeny sales thus far with 35 bulls and heifers averaged right at \$30,000. Retaining 1/4 in herd interest.

LOT 36



C 4038 G16 GENESIS 1086 ET

A young herd bull prospect with a great future. His enhanced EPD profile ranks him among the breeds elite in numerous traits. He is hard to fault and is wide based, clean in lines, and fluid in his motion. One half interest in his dam sold for \$97,500 to Bowling Ranch and has right at a half a millions in progeny sales thus far. She is an ideal Hereford female. Retaining 1/4 in herd use.

LOT 35



C 5355C BELL AIR 1085 ET

A bull that is youthful looking. Very elongated through his front end, and true in his stride. His dam was Reserve Grand Champion at Fort Worth and is a favorite with visitors at the ranch with a square, level udder. Six daughters have averaged over \$16,000. This is her first son offered.

LOT 151



C WINNIE TRUE NORTH 1011 ET

Out of the popular sire True North this son has an exceptional phenotype to go along with his data sheet. Flawless structure and build in a perfectly sized package for a western environment.

LOT 148



C SECURITY 1007

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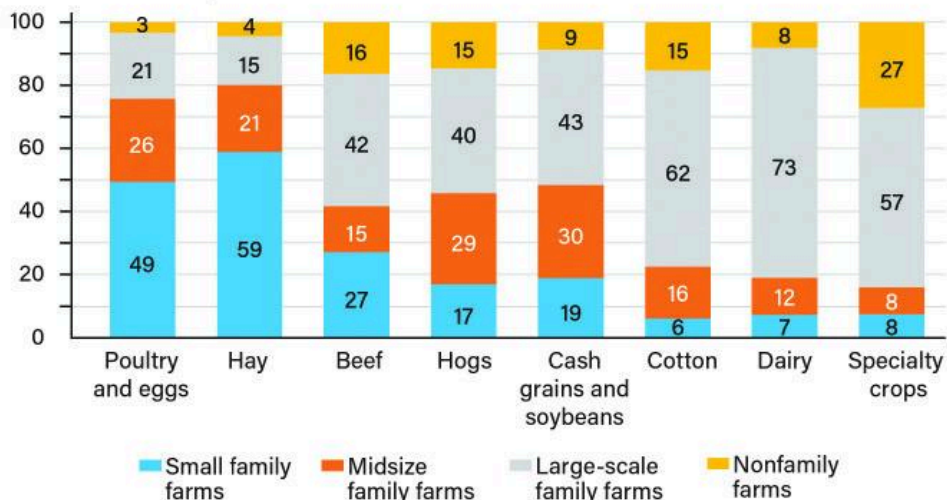
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Small family farms produce majority of poultry, eggs and hay

Value of production of selected commodities by farm size, 2020

USDA Economic Research Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Percent of value of production



Notes: **Family farm** = the principal operator and people related to the principal operator own a majority of the business. **Nonfamily farm** = the principal operator and people related to the principal operator do not own a majority of the business. Specialty crops include fruits, nuts, vegetables, and nursery/greenhouse crops. Because of rounding, numbers may not add to 100. Small family farms are those that have annual gross cash farm income (GCFI) of less than \$350,000, Midsize family farms are those that have GCFI between \$350,000 and \$999,999, and Large-scale family farms are those that have annual gross cash farm income of \$1 million or more.

Sources: USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service and USDA, Economic Research Service, 2020 Agricultural Resource Management Survey

In 2020, most of the values of cotton (62 percent), dairy (73 percent) and specialty crops (57 percent) were produced on large-scale family farms.

USDA defines a family farm as one in which the principal operator and related family own the majority of the assets used in the operation. Large-scale family farms are those with an annual gross cash farm income of \$1 million or more.

However, small family farms produced the bulk of hay production (59 percent) and poultry and egg output (49 percent) in 2020. Poultry operations are often classi-

fied as "small" because most output is under a production contract arrangement, with a contractor paying a fee to a farmer who raises poultry to maturity.

Additionally, more than one-quarter of beef production occurred on small family farms that generally have cow-calf operations. Another 42 percent of beef production occurred on large-scale family farms, which are more likely to operate feedlots.

Midsize family farm production ranges from 8 to almost 30 percent of the value of production. Nonfamily farms produce the

smallest share of the value of production for most commodities. Of all the commodities, nonfamily farms contribute the most to specialty crop production, at 27 percent. — **USDA Economic Research Service**



COMMENTS?
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'Fitbit for cows' tracks cattle behavior with GPS and accelerometer technology

When Derek Bailey was a child in southern Colorado, he was intrigued by cattle that would climb the steep slopes on his family's ranch while all the other cattle grazed below.

"It was steep, mountain-

ous terrain, so cows were down in the bottoms and overgrazed it. But there were always ones that found their way up," Bailey said. "My dad would be mad because we had to go get them. But I thought those cattle were

waiting for the water, (and) they're frustrated for some reason. Since I grew up on a ranch, I know that if you see cattle gathered together next to a water tank, it's not a good sign."

Research at Deep Well

"By remotely monitoring for their health and well-being, it helps ranchers treat livestock sooner, improve productivity and lower labor costs."

great—adventurous, fat and happy—and grazing on a ton of grasses."

As a professor of range science in New Mexico State University's (NMSU) College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, Bailey investigates the behavior of cows, including how to keep cows sustainably grazing throughout the country.

Since 2017, Bailey and his research team have used technologies, including GPS, to monitor animal welfare at the Deep Well Ranch in Yavapai County, AZ, thanks to the support of the Harold James Family Trust.

"They're tickled that we're doing this high-tech research because it has real benefits to ranchers, and it helps with their ranch's sustainability," he said. "My whole research focuses on ways to manipulate cattle to avoid overgrazing in sensitive areas—like riparian areas and streams—and utilize the steeper, rougher country that cattle typically avoid so they can spread out and take advantage of the forage."

Bailey and his research team use GPS tracking and accelerometers to monitor cattle activity and changes in normal behavior.

"Like a Fitbit for cows," he explained.

The team then combs through the data and develops algorithms and techniques to move cattle to undergrazed areas and detect animal diseases or other welfare concerns.

"Cows normally have a pattern," Bailey said. "They go in and get a drink and then walk off and lay down. But if they stay there, they're

Ranch has demonstrated that tracking cattle with GPS receivers could identify water system failures.

"With the technology, even with wide distances, ranchers could see the same behavior with real-time tracking and software that could say something's wrong by sending a text or email message to the rancher," he said.

Monitoring livestock on horseback is labor intensive and challenging, Bailey added.

"It's hard to monitor cattle and sheep on rangelands; it's such a large distance. There are lots of times you won't see them," he said. "By remotely monitoring for their health and well-being, it helps ranchers treat livestock sooner, improve productivity and lower labor costs."

In addition to his work in Arizona, Bailey has also conducted collaborative research in Australia, and he found that monitoring behavior with accelerometers could detect diseases like bovine ephemeral fever.

For Bailey, his research goes back to the individualistic nature of cows he witnessed when he was younger and the lingering question: Why would some cows have the ability to climb through more arid terrain to find food, and others won't?

"Genetic selection may be a powerful tool to resolve grazing distribution concerns if we can identify and verify the genes that cause some cows to keep going and others to stay in one area," he said. — **NMSU Extension**

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MGS: NJW 73S 3304 GUNSLINGER 86D ET

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WW	59
YW	89
Milk	30
SC	1.4
REA	0.61
SCHB	118



195H

SIRE: NJW 73S 3304 GUNSLINGER 86D ET
MGS: C MILES MCKEE 2103 ET



2136

SIRE: WOODHILL BLUEPRINT
MGS: CONNEALY COMBINATION 0188

CED	8
BW	+0.1
WW	54
YW	101
SF	88
SB	133
SC	233



2194

SIRE: KD ALL STAR 1930
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The importance of water to herd health during the winter

Water is an essential nutrient for people and animals alike. And while water consumption often increases on hot days, it is also an important nutrient in the winter, said the experts at the Kansas State (K-State) University Beef Cattle Institute on a recent Cattle Chat podcast. “A cow typically drinks a gallon and a half of water per 100 pounds in the summer, but in the winter, that will drop to a half gallon to three-

quarters of a gallon per 100 pounds,” veterinarian Brad White said. “Still, she is drinking water, and producers need to manage the water supply in the winter.” Veterinarian Bob Larson added that easy access to water is crucial. “The ground around water sources can get muddy with the changing weather, making it difficult for the cattle to come up and get access to the water,” he said.

Veterinarian Brian Lubbers added: “In the winter, producers need to make sure the water sources aren’t frozen.” Larson agreed and said cattle cannot be without water very long without having health challenges. “Water is the most important nutrient, so in a winter event such as a snow and ice storm, producers need to have a plan on how they are going to get water to the cattle,” he said.

“Producers who use electricity to keep the cattle waterers open need to have a backup generator for the water pumps in a power outage.” Nutritionist Phillip Lancaster said producers need to routinely check for electrical shorts in the tanks. “Sometimes there will be a short that will give the cattle a bit of a shock when they drink, and they will stop drinking,” he said. “If the

cattle aren’t drinking, they will often stop eating or reduce the amount of feed they consume, so that is something to watch for.” For producers who routinely take water to the cattle out on pasture, the experts stressed the importance of making sure the transport tanks—as well as the pumps and hoses—were not used for ag chemicals. “Avoid hauling water in a tank that had herbicides or

insecticides in it, as well as making sure the pumps and hoses weren’t used for the delivery of any chemicals,” Larson said. White added: “Depending on what chemicals were used, a small amount can cause severe side effects.” “When cows have toxicology problems, they aren’t just sick,” Larson said. “A lot of times they are dead.” — **K-State Research and Extension**

Fed has begun tightening financial conditions

SUPPLY
(from page 1)
reemerging at grocery stores,” Kowalski said. He wrote that the near-term effects of the COVID-19 omicron variant on the agribusiness and food supply chains are challenging, but if the variant follows the same trajectory in the U.S. as it did in South Africa, the wave should be much shorter. Until then, sick workers will be the biggest economic risk, and processors, grocers and restaurants will struggle to operate as normal, according to the report. However, Kowalski said reductions in protein production have been relatively modest so far, although ripple effects from drop-offs in 2020 slaughter are still being felt today. In addition, he said port issues in California are starting to clear up.

“Toward the end of 2021, 80 percent of inbound containers from Asia to the U.S. were sent back empty, leaving billions of dollars of ag exports stranded at the three most important ports in California. The Oakland terminal announced it would open a new container yard dedicated to ag goods, which Kowalski said should reduce some of the port congestion for exporters. “Finally, the supply chain picture looks a bit rosier due to more workers in warehousing and transportation,” he said. The U.S. added 800,000 jobs since May 2020, and although sick workers will slow the transport of food goods for a few weeks, the workforce will make steady improvements, he added. “As of late December, we have now regained 84 percent of the jobs lost since the pandemic began, equating to 3.6 million fewer workers than early 2020. But it’s estimated that more than 2 million people took early retirement and will not return,” Kowalski said. Omicron will make a dent in first quarter gross domestic product, but it should bounce back in the second quarter and remain on track for 4 percent growth in 2022, according to the report. However, if the Fed tightens financial conditions too quickly in the second and third quarter, it poses a risk in loss of economic momentum and possibly a recession in 2023, he warned. “As the labor market inches closer to full employment, any last arguments for the Federal Reserve to maintain its highly accommodative monetary policy are losing their merit,” the report read. “With the market now anticipating a sea change in monetary policy, the tightening of financial conditions has begun.”

Beef market
Protein disappearance remains historically large, limited only by animal numbers and processing capacity, according to Brian Earnest, lead economist for animal protein in CoBank’s Knowledge Exchange division. Red meat and poultry production set a November record of 8.9 billion pounds, 3.5 percent larger than a year earlier, while fourth

quarter wholesale meat indexes were 25 percent higher, reflecting robust consumer demand for meat and poultry. China’s animal protein imports have slowed significantly from the summer, but there is optimism for U.S. beef producers, especially since Brazil’s beef exports were suspended due to atypical bovine spongiform encephalopathy cases. Cutout values peaked 40 percent about 2020 levels in 2021. “After staying above prior-year levels and reaching more than \$1,300/cwt, the market for bone-in Choice ribeyes fell below \$800 to end December—a sign that the market succumbed to the old adage that the solution to high prices is high prices,” Earnest said. Fed cattle prices have increased roughly 12 per-

cent since late October and are up about 30 percent year over year, due to dwindling supplies, Earnest said. Weather remains a big factor, with more than 70 percent of the U.S. in some stage of drought. La Niña will bring drier and warmer conditions to the Southwest and Southern Plains, which will likely influence hay prices. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

Net farm income in KS

Working to help farmers make informed decisions, Kansas State (K-State) University agricultural economists have released their preliminary estimates of the 2021 Kansas net farm income and forecasts for 2022. “For 2021, we expect the net farm income for Kansas grain farms to be around \$261,000, which is a 39 percent increase from 2020,” said Gregg Ibendahl, associate professor of agricultural economics. For a variety of reasons, not all farms will experience a profit, and Ibendahl expects that 10 percent of farms will see negative net income for 2021. In their estimates, Ibendahl and his colleagues looked at seven areas: yields, prices, crop acres, expenses, crop insurance, government payments from the Farm Bill and ad hoc government payments. He said each area was projected to the farm level to estimate net farm income for 588 grain farms in the Kansas Farm Management Association database. “On the expense side, fertilizer has increased dramatically,” Ibendahl said. Other factors influencing the projections are higher inflation,

supply chain issues and the volatility of grain prices, yields and inputs. Looking to 2022, Ibendahl is projecting a drop in net farm income because of the increase in input costs and the likelihood of low government payments. “Everything in 2022 is going to be at least 5-10 percent higher for input costs because of inflation,” Ibendahl said. In respect to diesel and other fuels, the costs are expected to show a 30 percent increase in 2021 and an additional 30 percent increase in 2022. The projection for 2022 appears more bearish. “The net farm income is forecast to fall 65 percent in 2022 to \$90,000,” Ibendahl said. He added that this number will be influenced by rainfall and the timing of the fertilizer purchase, among other factors. “Most farms should still be profitable at levels last seen in 2018; the major worry is going into 2022 that 30 percent of Kansas grain farms could have a negative net farm income,” he said. To view the full report, go to agmanager.info. — **K-State Research and Extension**

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UPS ENDURE 013 ET

CE	BW	WW	YW	MM	REA	MARB	CHBS
1.3	3.8	69	115	31	0.99	0.05	115

UPS ENDURE 0290 ET

CE	BW	WW	YW	MM	REA	MARB	CHBS
3.4	4.3	65	104	40	0.51	0.37	145

UPS ENDURE 0807

CE	BW	WW	YW	MM	REA	MARB	CHBS
-4.2	3.6	72	120	36	0.78	0.31	165

UPS ENDURE 0883 ET

CE	BW	WW	YW	MM	REA	MARB	CHBS
4.8	2.9	63	102	38	0.54	0.39	140

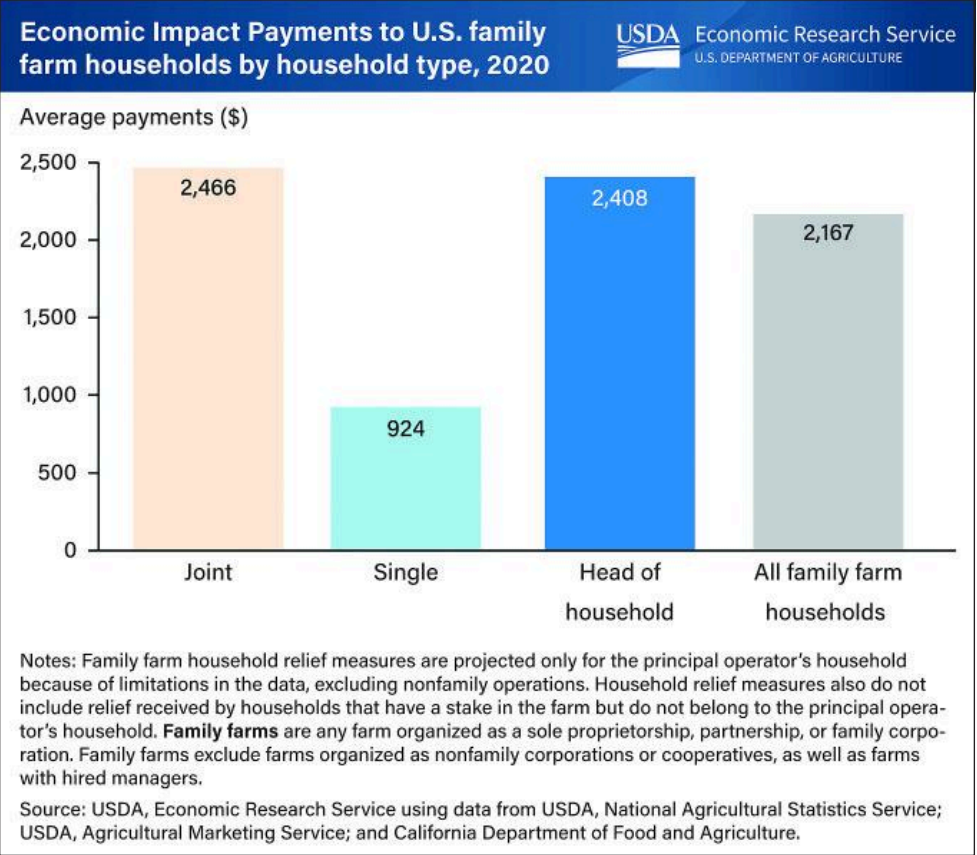
UPS 7616 SENSATION 0541

CE	BW	WW	YW	MM	REA	MARB	CHBS
4.9	2.6	75	114	41	0.75	0.08	121

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University of Wyoming launches new Ranch Management and Ag Leadership program

Information from Wyoming ranchers and other agricultural sectors molded a new ranch management and leadership program being launched this winter in the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming (UW).

The Ranch Management and Agricultural Leadership (RMAL) program has two approaches: one to meet the needs of students and another to meet the needs of community members already engaged in ranch management and agriculture.

Many of the community-based, informal learning opportunities in this program will involve UW Extension.

"I am very supportive of this program that has been developed based upon clearly defined needs from stakeholders and with their support and ideas," said Barb Rasco, dean of the college, who is co-teaching the for-credit course.

Program interim Director Kelly Crane said the RMAL development flipped the usual process of creating an academic program. Most programs start by convening a campus committee and developing a curriculum based on existing courses and faculty expertise. The initial effort in developing this program was listening to people across the state and region.

"We want the curriculum and educational experiences

in RMAL to reflect the specific needs for the future workforce in ranch, natural resource and agricultural management," said Crane.

College personnel heard from ranchers, ag business leaders, elected officials and ranch managers at a May 2018 summit convened by former UW President Lori Nichols at a ranch near Douglas. Another summit was held this fall in northern Wyoming.

"We asked that group what their workforce needs were for students coming out of our college and were we meeting their needs," said Crane, who is the director of UW Extension.

Respondents said the college trains really good rangeland managers, agribusiness professionals and animal scientists.

"But their perspective is what was needed were students who could integrate all the disciplines of agriculture with a blend of soft skills, interpersonal communication, understanding of public policy and the ability to interact with diverse audiences," he said. "We thought this was an opportunity to develop an integrated program in our college that really meets all those needs."

College personnel spent the last year and a half traveling the state listening to workforce needs in addition to those received at the summits.

A gift from Farm Credit

Services of America, plus a state match from the Wyoming Legislature, provided about \$3 million to start the effort.

To encourage interaction between UW students and leaders in the fields of ranch management and agriculture, RMAL is offering an on-campus course that will be livestreamed with five different educational events held throughout Wyoming this winter.

A total of four three-hour workshops will be held this winter/spring in Sheridan, Riverton, Evanston and Laramie. These sessions are open to the public and can be attended in person or via Zoom.

"We hope our students on campus benefit from this opportunity to interact with real issues and real people addressing natural resource, agricultural and leadership challenges in Wyoming," said Crane.

Topics include rangeland ecosystems, beef production, managing through winter and new developments in technology, said Rasco.

Crane said the college's aspirations for the program have resonated with ranchers and federal agencies.

"The needs for the workforce and for the kinds of students we turn out in natural resources have really evolved," said Crane. "They're embroiled in public policy and public lands issues. We still hope science provides the answers for everything, right? But it doesn't."

The issues are complex, and students need professional networks to work with complex issues, Crane said.

"We've had several people say this is exactly what needs to happen," said Crane. "Recent alumni say they wish this program was here when they went to school."

The RMAL has three planned aspects. An undergraduate program will offer an integrated bachelor's degree in ranch management and ag leadership that focuses on ag business, rangeland management, animal science and leadership

skills.

The second part is an RMAL institute for a select group of students. Up to 20 may be chosen to attend.

"Individuals accepted to the RMAL institute will get more intensive training, more expectations for internships and networking with professionals and more experiential learning opportunities," said Crane.

RMAL institute graduates may obtain a master's degree in ranch management or a certificate in ranch management and ag leadership. Details of the RMAL program continue to develop.

"We are just initiating the program development stage on campus," said Crane. "Many of the details regarding curriculum, degrees, program names and timelines will reflect our future conversations with UW faculty and administrators."

The third part has been created from discussions around the state, said Crane.

"And that is to deliver community-based, profes-

sional development educational opportunities for existing ag producers, ranchers, ranch managers and natural resource managers," he said. "That's where Extension comes in because that's our job."

The public option and student option have a required one-day leadership session scheduled in Casper.

"One of the really resonating messages we get when we talk to people who hire our graduates is they need what is termed soft skills—interpersonal communication, writing and public speaking skills," said Crane.

"It's not just about training how people manage ranches," he said. "We hope we grow our next generation of leaders in ag business and in federal and state agencies, as well as ranchers."

For more information about the program, contact Director of Development Pepper Jo Six in the College of Ag and Natural Resources at 307-766-4133 or pepperjo@uwyo.edu. — **UW Extension**

Proper vaccine handling and storage measures

The highest quality vaccine that producers purchase may be of little value if not handled and stored properly. Even experienced producers may overlook key principles when preparing and administering vaccines and other animal health products. Product storage and handling is important to ensure that the efficacy of the products is not compromised.

Modified live vaccines (MLV) must be reconstituted with a sterile diluent prior to administration. It is generally recommended that these products be used within an hour of reconstitution. The products are routinely used with a good response when administered and handled according to label directions. The processing speed in a stocker operation is often considerably faster than a cow-calf operation.

Cow-calf processing facilities are often in areas that are not well sheltered from the weather. This stresses the need to exercise caution when handling and administering modified live products. Common handling techniques can render MLV products ineffective and even reduce the effectiveness of killed vaccines and other products.

It is always a good practice to purchase vaccines from a reputable distributor. A vaccine will have less than normal effectiveness if it has ever been stored improperly. Improper storage includes freezing and/or exposure to heat or sunlight. Maintaining a high level of efficacy is

critical to establishing immunity in a majority of vaccinated cattle. Vaccines should be stored in a dependable refrigerator that maintains a temperature (typically 35-45 F) as directed by the product label.

Chute side vaccine coolers work well for holding the vaccines during processing. These coolers have slots for holding syringes after they are loaded, and vaccines are placed inside the cooler to maintain temperature. Vaccine coolers can be purchased ready to put to use, or they can easily be constructed by converting small coolers for this intended purpose. Instructions for constructing an inexpensive vaccine cooler are available by clicking the "Chute Side Vaccine Cooler" link on the beefextension.okstate.edu website.

It is also important to maintain a record of the lot/serial numbers of products in the event of a recall or other situations that may arise. A quick and easy method of recording the lot and serial numbers while working cattle is to simply take a photo of the information on the vial label with a cell phone camera. It can be transferred later to more permanent records.

Products that are out of date should be properly discarded. Through proper record keeping, storage and handling, animal health products will be an effective piece of a comprehensive cattle health program. — **Bob LeValley, Oklahoma Beef Quality Assurance coordinator**

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G A R Home Town x Young Dale Believe 46B
BW: +3.0 WW: +93 YW: +159 MILK: +26
BW: 85# Adj WW: 1006#



Reg# 20113888 DOB: 1/18/2021
G A R Home Town x Young Dale Believe 46B
BW: +2.8 WW: +82 YW: +143 MILK: +17
BW: 85# Adj WW: 1019#



Reg# 20113889 DOB: 1/20/2021
G A R Home Town x Young Dale Believe 46B
BW: +1.3 WW: +65 YW: +116 MILK: +18
BW: 85# Adj WW: 889#



Reg# 20113091 DOB: 2/1/2021
Frey's Cowboy Logic x Young Dale Believe 46B
BW: +3.5 WW: +93 YW: +157 MILK: +22
BW: 81# Adj WW: 984#



Reg# 20113162 DOB: 1/31/2021
Connealy King Air x Sitz Upward 307R
BW: -1.8 WW: +66 YW: +119 MILK: +27
BW: 76# Adj WW: 982#



Reg# 20113059 DOB: 1/13/2021
Frey's Perfection x S A V Institute 4281
BW: +2.0 WW: +76 YW: +129 MILK: +24
BW: 85# Adj WW: 897#



Reg# 20113060 DOB: 1/14/2021
Barstow Power On x KR Black Jack 5038
BW: +2.4 WW: +69 YW: +132 MILK: +39
BW: 85# Adj WW: 957#



Reg# 20113069 DOB: 1/24/2021
KR Quality 8525 x S A V Net Worth 4200
BW: +0.3 WW: +66 YW: +123 MILK: +25
BW: 75# Adj WW: 895#



Reg# 20113081 DOB: 1/29/2021
KR Quality 8525 x Musgrave Big Sky
BW: +3.1 WW: +85 YW: +142 MILK: +33
BW: 85# Adj WW: 972#



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CCA members gather for another highly successful mid-winter conference

It was a busy two days for Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) at the 2022 Mid-Winter Conference, which wrapped up in mid-January at the DoubleTree hotel in Denver. After a virtual 2021 event, it was great to return to business and tackle issues and opportunities facing the industry. The event was full with member engagement, policy discussions, award presentations and catching up with new and old friends from across the state. Attendees also had the unique opportunity to network with Colorado's legislators at CCA's Legislative Reception and 1867 Banquet.

The event kicked off on Jan. 17 with meetings among leadership and members. The day concluded with an Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) Reception, honoring Beatty Canyon

Ranch as the 2020 ESAP award winners, and a Capitol Hill briefing for members and stakeholders to get an inside look at what to expect in the 2022 legislative session.

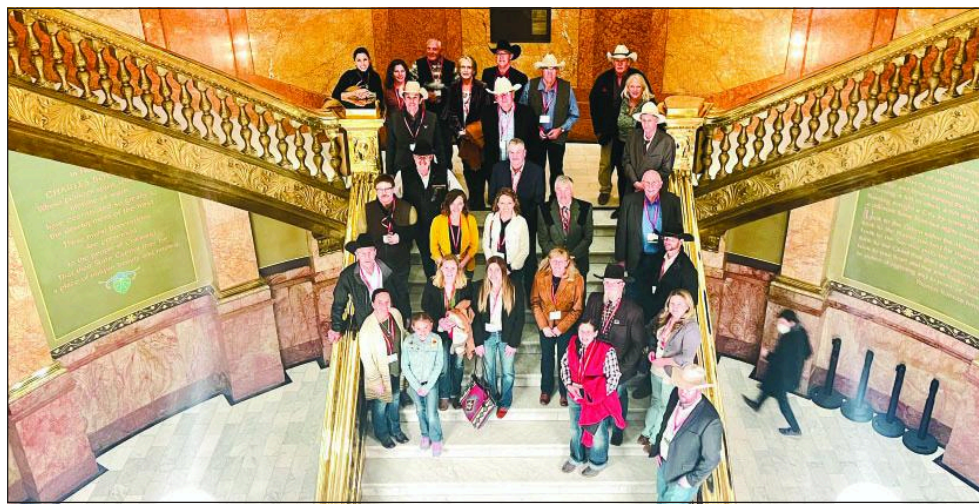
On Jan. 18, members gathered for a productive day, beginning with CCA's 10 steering committee meetings, which help establish the organization's policies and stance on a wide range of legislative and regulatory topics that impact Colorado's beef industry.

Following the committee meetings, CCA held its Awards Lunch, where the association recognized some of the best and brightest from our industry, honoring their service and dedication. After lunch, CCA hosted its Business Session before heading to the Colorado Capitol to meet with legislators.

That evening, CCA held its Legislative Reception and 1867 Banquet, where members and legislators had the opportunity to not only discuss ag related issues, but also build a more personal relationship through discussing issues of mutual importance.

"CCA is a grassroots, member-driven organization that represents the interests of over 10,000 cattle ranching families throughout the state," said Steve Wooten, CCA president. "While our primary focus relates to the beef industry, CCA also has an interest in all issues dealing with natural resources, private property rights and small business viability. We appreciate that the 1867 Banquet generated many beneficial conversations between CCA members and legislators."

The evening ended with additional award presenta-



CCA

Attendees at the 2022 Colorado Cattlemen's Association Mid-Winter Conference.

Award winners

CCA honored Slack as an honoree of the Colorado Cattlemen's Foundation Endowment Trust. The Endowment Trust began in 1959 as an idea to help secure a financial future for the association, and today, it continues with this mission. One form of support to the Endowment Trust is through contributions made in memory of a family member or friend. This has provided many with a way to help the Endowment Trust and remember those who have been a part of the beef cattle industry.

Slack, hall of fame farm broadcaster, had a radio career spanning 68 years, and during that time, he broadcasted from 45 states, four Canadian provinces and Australia. Not only did he interview thousands of farmers and ranchers during his career, but also several celebrities and politicians like John Wayne, Elvis Presley and President George H.W. Bush. Slack was a leader in the National Association of Farm Broadcasting and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2009. Once he got his pilot's license in 1967, he literally took off, and he flew the friendly skies of this country ever since, bringing his own brand of personal charm to the airwaves via the airwaves.

Slack had a great impact on our industry and will be dearly missed.

The 2021 Outstanding Commercial Producer of the Year is Warner Ranch of Fort Lupton, CO. The Warner Ranch, owned and operated by Bob Warner since 1970, is a Colorado Centennial Ranch and raises an Angus-based cow/calf herd. In addition to ranching, Warner has served on local conservation districts for the past 49 years and has been a member of CCA for over 40 years.

The 2021 Outstanding Seedstock Producer of the Year is Bridle Bit Simmentals. Bridle Bit Simmentals, located in Walsh, CO, is owned and operated by Erroll Cook and his three sons, Chad, Brent and Brad. The Cooks have been in the seedstock business since 1969 raising purebred Simmental cattle. The Cooks focus on economically relative traits and have recently installed a GrowSafe system on their ranch to gain additional feed efficiency data. The Cook family is a longtime member

of Bent-Prowers and CCA, as well as active with the Simmental Association at the state and national level.

The CCW Rookie of the Year award's purpose is to honor and recognize a new Colorado CattleWoman (CCW)/CowBelle who has served and promoted the programs and purposes of CCW in an outstanding manner. This year's recipient is Niki Wernsman from Logan County CattleWomen.

The CattleWoman of the Year Award is presented to Sharon Clever of the Routt County CattleWomen. Clever has held multiple leadership positions since 2018 and is always finding different ways to support her local organization. She continually puts in her time and effort to promote beef and the agriculture industry as a whole.

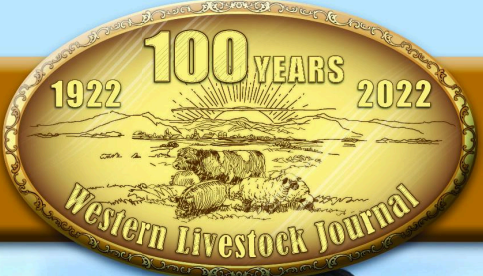
The 2021 Brand Inspector of the Year award is Deb Veron. Veron is the brand inspector supervisor for the south central area and has served for over 10 years. In recent years, he was instrumental in resolving a lingering livestock loss problem in the San Luis Valley. As the Electronic Brand Certificate project coordinator and supervisor, Veron has helped design, lead, manage and implement the brands division's conversion from a paper-based inspection certificate system.

CCA also recognized the 2020 Brand Inspector of the Year, Terry Florian, for his over 30 years of commitment and service in the northeast central area.

Although CCA did not receive a specific law officer candidate this year, we want to extend our appreciation and thanks for the law enforcement community and all they do to help and protect our industry.

Membership is our lifeblood. We thank everyone that is a CCA member, as well as those that help recruit on our behalf. The winner of the 2021 Individual Membership Recruiter Contest and the wonderful S01 Priefert Rancher chute is Joe Kasza, who recruited an impressive 56 members!

CCA's Rate-of-Growth winner is given to the affiliate with the highest rate of growth averaged based on the size of affiliate, retention of members and new members recruited. The affiliate with the highest rate of growth for 2021 is Yuma County Cattlemen's Association. — CCA





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FRRCC details ag exemptions in report

EPA

(from page 1)

nongovernmental organizations, and state, local and Tribal governments,” said Scott Yager, NCBA chief environmental counsel. “NCBA strongly supports the committee’s recommendation to develop a clear and limited WOTUS definition and protect key exemptions for common agricultural features.”

In its report, FRRCC says EPA’s mission to protect human health and the environment aligns perfectly with the mission of American farmers and ranchers, and they must maintain a working relationship to achieve their respective missions. The committee provides policy advice, information and recommendations on environmental issues that are of importance to ag and rural communities to the EPA administrator.

Regarding WOTUS, the committee recommended five specific points:

- Adhere to the Clean Water Act (CWA) and relevant Supreme Court precedent.
- Define WOTUS using clear terms that are easy to interpret and apply.
- Define jurisdictional features.
- Retain exclusions that are critical to ag and rural communities, and recognize regional differences.
- Reconsider the roundtable process.

CWA, Supreme Court

FRRCC said there are important Supreme Court cases regarding the CWA, which reinforce the fact that Congress placed limits on the scope of federal jurisdiction by using the term “navigable” and “by recognizing, preserving and protecting the primary responsibility and rights of states over land and water use and development.”

The committee wrote that any definition of WOTUS should be guided by the cases and should be limited to traditional navigable waters and territorial seas. In addition, jurisdiction over non-navigable tributaries should be limited to those with clearly discernible physical features, as well as consistent flow into traditionally navigable waters.

Defining WOTUS

FRRCC wrote the most important aspect of any WOTUS definition is that it should be clearly understood by producers and leaders of rural communities. “It is necessary that a new WOTUS rule avoid vague terminology that both landowners and regulators cannot apply without engaging in burdensome analyses,” the report read.

The committee also recommended online interactive tools to map jurisdictional waters to serve as an informal guide to interested parties. However, FRRCC wrote that agency determinations should be made in the field to ensure an accurate determination and adequate due process.

Define jurisdictional

The committee also recommended defining jurisdictional features with an eye toward allowing farmers, ranchers and rural communities the necessary flexibility to implement environmentally beneficial projects that do not adversely affect the function or water quality of WOTUS.

Retain exclusions

FRRCC wrote that EPA should retain exclusions that are critical to producers and rural communities, and waters that do not fit any of the jurisdictional categories in the new WOTUS rule should not be jurisdictional. However, the committee noted there is potential for misinterpretation, so exclusions should be well-defined and clear.

FRRCC advised the following exemptions as the most important:

- **Prior converted cropland** — Prior converted cropland no longer exhibits defining characteristics of wetland and should not be considered WOTUS.
- **Groundwater** — EPA should continue to exclude groundwater in the new regulations.
- **Ditches and other isolated features** — These are commonly found on operations and are used to utilize water for agricultural use, and producers should not have the burden of proving their historical status.
- **Storm water deten-**

tion, tail water recovery — These and other environmentally beneficial practices should not be considered WOTUS.

- **Wastewater** — Reclaimed water or recycle water systems should not be considered WOTUS.

Roundtable process

Finally, the committee recommends EPA to reconsider the roundtable process. The report said the agencies should retain previous public input processes to hear from the public to include all stakeholders, and all parties should be allowed to provide input and be heard equally.

“The FRRCC also wants to emphasize the importance of ensuring USDA is in lockstep with the regulatory process surrounding WOTUS,” the committee concluded.

In addition to WOTUS recommendations, the report also provided recommendations regarding an ecosystems management system, pesticide recommendations and food loss and food waste recommendations. To view the report in its entirety, visit www.epa.gov/faca/frrcc. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**



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COMING EVENTS

(Send calendar of events information to editorial@wlj.net.)

Jan. 24 — The California Rangeland Conservation Coalition Rangeland Summit will take place at the Cabral Ag Center in Stockton, CA. Rancher and student registration is \$30, and general registration is \$75. To register and to view more details, visit carangeland.org/2022-summit.

Feb. 1-3 — The 2022 National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) Cattle Industry Convention and NCBA Trade Show will take place in Houston,

TX, at the Hilton Americas. Registration details: convention.ncba.org.

Feb. 18-19 — The Herd Improvement and Bull Selection Symposium, designed for commercial ranchers, will take place in Phoenix-Mesa, AZ. Speakers will address how ranchers can produce cattle to better perform on western ranches. The symposium is free of charge from noon Feb. 18 until noon Feb. 19. For more info, contact organizer Chuck Backus at cbackus@asu.edu.

Exploring climate, human and wildlife interactions on rangeland

— Idaho, Oregon

The combined effect of wolves and drought on human, plant and animal communities on rangelands in Idaho and eastern Oregon will be explored by a team led by researchers at the University of Idaho, which includes collaborators at the University of Michigan and Ohio State University, as part of a five-year project.

Funded by a \$1.6 million National Science Foundation grant, researchers will monitor six sites to learn how drought could affect vegetation in the region and how resulting changes impact elk, deer and livestock, as well as their interactions with predators.

Scientists will also ex-

plore on a broad scale what effect wolves and drought jointly have on ranching communities and the changing rangeland system across the West.

"We'll look at the interactions between wolves and drought and how those affect wild ungulate populations, as well as livestock and the people who live there," said Sophie Gilbert, assistant professor of wildlife ecology and management and the project's lead investigator.

The research also seeks to determine how decision-makers respond to these multiple sources of stress and how wildlife and plant forecasting tools—resulting from the project—are re-

ceived and used by ranchers and wildlife managers.

The study will examine the interconnectedness of the inhabitants of western rangelands, including humans, plants and animals, in the face of a changing climate and other stressors, Gilbert said.

"Stereotypical stories about the West are told with heroes and villains, where some animals may be considered good or bad, and some may be saviors or foes," Gilbert said. "We want to go beyond that, to learn how interconnected those things are and how all wildlife comes with costs and benefits to humans that share these landscapes."

The researchers will use

camera traps to collect images of animals in the study area and will work with a film crew to document the research and produce a documentary film to share with the public.

Chloe Wardropper, assistant professor of human dimensions of ecosystem management, said researchers will share findings, footage and images from the camera traps in an effort to engage residents in communities throughout the study area. Volunteer citizen scientists will also get a chance to participate, and collaboration will take place online with anyone interested in the research.

"There will be opportunities to engage, to help identify wildlife and to volunteer," Wardropper said.

As environmental changes intensify, they threaten human livelihoods and wildlife biodiversity, Gilbert said. The research will explore how multiple sources

"We'll look at the interactions between wolves and drought and how those affect wild ungulate populations."

of stress impact humans, free-ranging livestock and wildlife in shared rangelands.

The study, which began in September, will also be used to train an array of students, including undergraduate and graduate researchers and a postdoctoral research-

er at the University of Idaho. The team also includes professors, a postdoctoral researcher and undergraduate researchers at the University of Michigan and Ohio State, as well as a co-investigator from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

"Outcomes of this project include a better understanding of how climate and carnivore risks affect human decision-making and how humans impact rangeland food webs by raising livestock and altering wildlife behavior and abundance," Gilbert said. "It could lead to increased opportunities for coexistence between humans and wildlife in changing environments."

This project was funded under the National Science Foundation award 2109005. The total project funding is \$1,597,830, of which 100 percent is the federal share. — **University of Idaho Extension**

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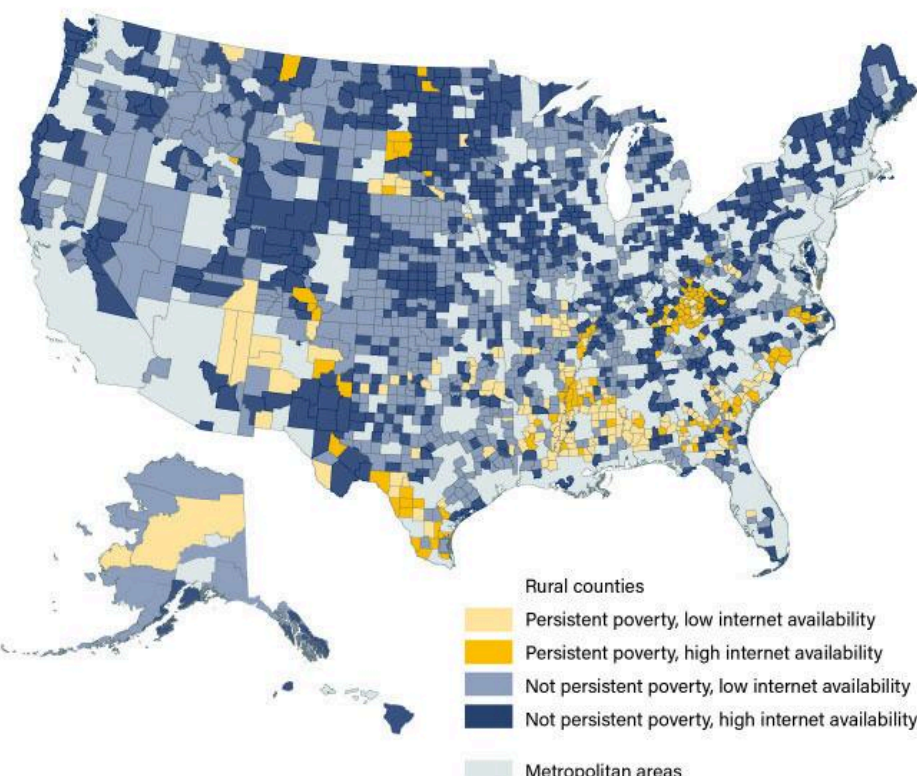
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Less internet access available for residents in rural counties

Internet availability in rural U.S. counties by poverty status, 2019

USDA Economic Research Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Notes: Internet availability is calculated using the share of residents in a county who live in a census block with moderate- or high-speed broadband internet availability. Moderate-speed broadband is defined as a download speed of 100–999 Megabits per second (Mbps); high-speed broadband is defined as a download speed of at least 1,000 Mbps. High internet availability indicates the county's share is at or above the county-national average (70.3 percent); low internet availability indicates the county's share is below the average. Rural counties are defined as counties outside of metropolitan areas, and urban counties are part of a metropolitan area. Metropolitan status was determined using the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's 2013 Core-Based Statistical Area classifications. Persistent poverty counties have a poverty rate of 20 percent or more for four consecutive U.S. census measurements (dating to 1980). For this analysis, USDA, Economic Research Service researchers used Federal Communications Commission data that assume equal availability throughout a census block. These data should be treated as an upper limit, as availability may vary within census blocks.

Sources: USDA, Economic Research Service calculations using 2015 County Typology Codes and Federal Communications Commission Form 477 Broadband Deployment (June 2019, version 2) data for fixed connections.

Access to fast internet speeds has been crucial throughout the nation with the increased online presence of school, work and shopping due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In June 2019, the moderate- or high-speed broadband internet needed for high-quality video calls was available in the census blocks of more than 90 percent of U.S. residents. In rural counties, however, only 72 percent of residents had access to those internet speeds.

Only 63 percent of rural

residents in counties with persistent poverty had moderate- or high-speed broadband available in their census blocks. Counties are considered persistently poor if they have a poverty rate of 20 percent or more for four consecutive U.S. Census measurements dating back to 1980.

Among persistently poor rural counties, high availability of moderate- or high-speed internet was clustered in and around eastern Kentucky and southern Texas. Rural persistently

poor counties in the Deep South and Southwest had low internet availability, as did rural counties in the lower Great Plains and western Mountain States that were not persistently poor.

Rural counties without persistent poverty that had high internet availability were scattered throughout the eastern half of the United States and were clustered in the upper Great Plains and eastern Mountain States. — **USDA Economic Research Service**



April 1945, Vol. 23, No. 27

The Longhorn: Prominent Texas Ranger of the Panhandle

The Texas Rangers were organized in 1835 and given legal status while Texas was in the midst of revolution against Mexico, and have been in almost continuous service to this time, except that now they are mechanized, and no longer ride forth on fiery little mustangs in keeping the bad people under control. There never was a set of men banded together to protect society that had more brains and more guts than them rangers have proved themselves to possess.

Walter Prescott Webb, former head of the history department of the University of Texas, in his book, "The Texas Rangers, Century of Frontier Defense," describes the ranger as follows, to wit. Quote: "It was Eugene Manlove Rhodes who suggested that the western man—he was speaking of cowboys—can be understood only when studied in relation to his work. And so it is with the ranger.

"When we see him at his daily task of maintaining the law, restoring order, and promoting peace, even though his methods be vigorous, we see him in his proper setting, a man standing alone between a society and its enemies. When we remember that it was his duty to deal with the criminal in the dangerous nexus between the crime and the capture, when the criminal was in his most desperate mood, we must realize that neither the rules nor the weapons were of the ranger's choosing.

"It has been his duty to meet the outlaw breed of three races, the Indian warrior, Mexican bandit, and the American desperado, on the enemy's ground and deliver each safely within the jail door or the cemetery gate. It is recorded that he has sent many patrons to both places. As strange as it may seem in some quarters, the Texas Ranger has been throughout the century a human being, and never a mere automaton animating a pair of swaggering boots, a big hat, and a six-shooter, all moving across the prairies under a cloud of pistol smoke. Surely enough has been written about men who swagger, fan hammers, and make hip shots. No Texas Ranger ever fanned a hammer when he was serious, or made a hip shot. The real Ranger has been a very quiet, deliberate, gentle person who could gaze calmly into the eye of a murderer, divine his thoughts, and anticipate his action, a man who could ride straight up to death. In fatal encounter, the last resort of a good officer, the Ranger has had the unhurried courage to take the extra fraction of a second essential to the accuracy which was at a premium in the art and the science of western pistolology. The smoke from such a man's hand was a vagrant wisp and never the clouds read of in books written for those who love to smell powder vicariously." Unquote.

Prof. W. P. Webb has described the Ranger better than I could hope to do, though I have known per-

sonally a heap of Rangers and have seen some of them in action.

Of the early day Rangers I have met, here are only a few of them: the late Capt. J. B. Gillett, who wrote the book of his six years' experience as a Ranger, and titled "Six Years With the Texas Rangers, 1875 to 1881." He was one of the best in service. When he passed on, he owned the Barrell Ranch near Marfa that his son still runs. I prize highly his book, autographed to me in 1935. I saw Capt. June Peak in 1878, but never met him on account he and his men were shooting it out with Sam Bass May 12, 1878, on Salt Creek in Wise County, Tex., as we passed along, and as it wasn't our fight we didn't stop to ask why they were shootin' at each other, but we learned later, and found out that Arkansas John of the Bass side was killed, and the Bass hosses were either killed or broke away, but the Bass bunch in a few hours was mounted and equipped and rode back towards Denton, where Sam Bass was killed that fall by Major Jones and a company of his Rangers. I have known Col. Jeff D. Milton ever since 1884, just after he had left the Texas Ranger service. We have been close friends ever since. He is now retired but has been a peace officer ever since he joined the Rangers at the age of about 17. His life story would make a book more exciting and stranger than fiction, but up to now he has not permitted it to be written. I have met others of that great service, but have not space here to mention them on account this is to really be a story of Capt. S. A. McMurray, who was a friend of my old pal W. L. (Billy) Amonett, who sent me the story, so here is what Billy wrote me, as follows, to wit. Quote: "In compliance with my promise some months ago I hand you herewith same data and the personnel of the Texas Rangers in the Panhandle of Texas that I became acquainted with during my short stay in that section. When I went into Jack, Clay and Wichita Counties in 1887, Capt. Lee Hall was the much talked of, and universally loved Ranger Captain of that section. I am positive, however, that he had left that section when I arrived there. In later years, subsequent to his Philippine service, I had the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with Lee Hall in El Paso, Tex., and found him to be a very fine gentleman.

"In 1888 I went into the town of Quanah, Hardeman County, with a broken leg acquired on the headquarters of the Big Wichita River at what was known as the 'J. L.' Ranch. Ranger Capt. S. A. McMurray had some men stationed at Quanah, Childers, Clarendon and, in fact, all over the Panhandle. Their duties were to lend assistance to the town and county officials of the organized counties, but to police and protect the unorganized counties in the sparsely settled sections.

"The personnel of Captain McMurray's command

at that time consisted of about the following men: J. M. (Gude) Brittian from Parker County, Tex., second in command to Captain McMurray and a very outstanding peace officer; one who could command the respect and confidence of his men under him, but also of the citizens with whom he came in contact; the Platt boys, Tom, Johnnie and Sam, from Austin, Tex., all outstanding officers of the law; George Adamson, a southern Texas product; John Bishop, from around Austin; John Brittan from Parker County (no relation to Knude Brittian); Johnnie Brackin and Frank Martin, both from Austin, and while small in stature, both were very efficient officers; Tom O'Dare (Red Tom), from the southwest part of Texas, a very courageous officer.

"Capt. Samuel A. McMurray was born and raised at Memphis, Tenn., but went to Texas while quite young and evidently joined the Rangers in Southwest Texas, as in my very long years of acquaintance with him, I never heard him mention any other occupation than the Ranger service. He often mentioned the names of Ranger Captains under whom he had served. He often related to me his experience as a Ranger Captain on the Texas & Pacific Railway during its construction in the early '70s, while visiting me at Sierra Blanca, Tex., of his hardships and trials there when the T. & P. and S.P. Railroads were vieing with each other to get across the line first and secure the large land bonus offered by Texas for the first railroad to cross the state. They had their Chinese and other laborers fighting pitched battles on the part of each railroad to retard the progress of the other.

"Captain McMurray was a fearless peace officer, never hesitating to perform any duties, regardless of what the conditions and surroundings might be. If he wanted to arrest a man, he faced him square and took him prisoner. He died, however, with the happy thought in mind that he had never killed a man knowingly. He had participated in battles where men were killed on both sides, but he did not know for sure if his bullets had actually killed a man. One of the battles was at Herald, Tex., when Herald was the terminus of Fort Worth & Denver Railway, with a crowd of Palo Pinto County cowmen, who did not consider a Ranger should exist. There were several men killed on each side.

"Captain McMurray resigned as Captain of the Ranger company in 1891.

"Capt. Wm. J. (Bill) McDonald succeeded Captain McMurray. Captain "Bill" as he was familiarly called. He re-

tained some of Captain McMurray's men, such as Sandy, J. M. (Gude) Brittian as his second in command, Tom O'Hare (Red Tom), and some others. The major portion of his men, however, were brought in from Southern and Southwestern Texas. Quite a few were gathered in the Panhandle. W. J. (Billie) McCaully, a nephew of Captain Bill, became his sergeant when J. M. Brittian resigned. McCaully in later years made an enviable record for himself as a peace officer. Captain McDonald served until he resigned to become bodyguard for the late President Teddy Roosevelt.

"There was another outstanding Ranger Captain in the Panhandle I didn't mention in the foregoing. He was Capt. J. C. Arrington, who served in the

early days of the country and, of course, long before I was in the Panhandle. However, it was my pleasure to have had a long acquaintance and friendship with him in his later life. When Captain Arrington passed away in the early 1920's, D. J. Young, then president of the First National Bank of Canadian, Tex., as he knew I was very fond of Arrington, wired me announcing the death of the famous old Ranger Captain. I, in turn, relayed the message to your and my mutual friend, the famous Jas. H. East, at Douglas, Ariz. Jim answered me by letter in long-hand, deploring the death of Captain Arrington, and went on to say that Captain Arrington was not only one of the finest southern gentlemen it had ever been his pleasure to know, but was

conceded to be one of the outstanding peace officers in the Southwest. East added. Quote: 'I had a long acquaintance with Captain Arrington. We were elected sheriff at the same time, he of Wheeler County and I of Oldham County at Tascosa. I had known him for several years prior thereto, while in the Ranger service.' Unquote. I loaned Jim East's letter to a pencil pusher and never did get it back. I wish I had it now to enclose to you for publication. Your friend, W. L. Amonett." Unquote. I also thought a heap of Jim East. Pat Garrett once said of Jim, "He is a great and safe man to send out after an outlaw, because he never gets scared and shoots out of turn." One of my younger Ranger friends is Adjutant General W. W. Sterling. — **Frank M. King**

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CED	BW	WW	YW	M	SEN	RE	MARB	SB
7	2.1	67	124	28	-24	0.47	0.47	141



BB TOP SHELF 0138

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	M&G	RE	MARB	CHB
0.5	4.5	55	97	25	53	0.43	0.04	\$120



BB SIGNAL 1006

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	SEN	RE	MARB	SB
7	1.6	63	112	25	-22	0.73	0.41	152



BB 5040 DOMINO 1039

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	M&G	RE	MARB	CHB
0.6	3.7	57	95	29	58	0.58	0.16	\$130



BB FOUNDATION 0089

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	SEN	RE	MARB	SB
8	0.2	59	108	25	-16	0.34	0.29	117



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UC ANR receives \$1.5M NIFA grant for climate-smart agriculture

To help California farmers and ranchers adjust to uncertain weather and climate events, the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) has awarded \$1.5 million to a team of scientists led by University of California (UC) Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR). The project is one of six projects funded by USDA NIFA's \$9 million investment to expand adoption of climate-smart practices.

"The Cooperative Extension (CE) system and the USDA Climate Hubs have unmatched capacity to reach agricultural, Tribal and underserved communi-

ties, as well as educators and students, and our nation's farmers directly," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in a statement announcing the grant recipients. "This partnership will strengthen climate research efforts and accelerate the development, adoption and application of science-based, climate-smart practices that benefit everyone."

California has the largest and the most diverse agricultural economy in the nation, with revenue exceeding \$50 billion, which is larger than the revenues of the other 10 western states combined. Despite its size,

the state is highly vulnerable to climate change.

"California farmers and ranchers need locally relevant climate information and adaptation resources," said Tapan Pathak, UCCE specialist based at UC Merced and principal investigator for the grant. "Similarly, technical service providers are often ill equipped to assist farmers and ranchers when asked questions about climate change, weather variability and local implications to implement those decisions."

To train the next generation of workers to be climate-ready, colleges expose students to climate science

and agricultural science separately, but they often lack opportunities for the students to learn about the nexus of climate and agriculture.

Pathak plans to provide classes—along with opportunities for practical learning experiences—to farmers, ranchers, agricultural service providers and students.

"An overarching goal of this project is to develop robust multifaceted pathways to climate-smart agriculture by integrating Extension and participatory education program development and delivery to enhance agricultural resilience to climate change," he said.

"To tackle this ambitious goal, we have a large team of multidisciplinary leading scientists and experts from local, state and federal agencies, the California Climate Hub and the University of California ready to work with diverse stakeholder groups."

UCCE specialists Leslie Roche, Vikram Koundinya and Daniele Zaccaria at UC Davis; Mark Cooper, UC Davis professor; and Steven Ostojia of the USDA California Climate Hub are co-principal investigators with Pathak.

They will begin with a needs assessment for all of their stakeholders, including socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers. Through three components, the project team will work to understand growers' perception of climate change related threats, build capacity for technical assistance providers to advance climate-smart agriculture research and delivery of science-based information, and educate community college and undergraduate university students.

Engaging with producers

With the help of community partners, including the Community Alliance of Family Farmers and the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts, the team will reach out to socially disadvantaged and limited-resource producers, including beginning and first-generation farmers and ranchers, to attend regional workshops,

"California has so much diversity in terms of scale, crops, geography, microclimates, market conditions and natural resource considerations that a one-size-fits-all approach will not work."

led by instructors who are fluent in Spanish and Hmong.

Workshop content will address a broad range of topics, including climate change trends and local impacts, drought planning strategies, optimization of agricultural productivity with limited resources and farm and ranch economic sustainability.

"California has so much diversity in terms of scale, crops, geography, microclimates, market conditions and natural resource considerations that a one-size-fits-all approach will not work," wrote Renata Brilling, California Climate and Agriculture Network executive director, in her letter supporting the project. "We support your plans to address the needs of producers through region-specific workshops."

Five county-based UCCE academics will serve as regional leads for the farming workshops across broad geographic regions:

- Andre Biscaro, UCCE irrigation and water resources adviser serving Ventura County.
- Ruth Dahlquist-Willard, UCCE small farms adviser for Fresno and Tulare counties.
- Surendra Dara, UCCE entomology and biologicals adviser serving San Luis Obispo and Ventura counties.
- Jairo Diaz, director of the UC Desert Research and Extension Center in southern California.
- Jhalendra Rijal, UCCE integrated pest management adviser serving San Joaquin and Merced counties.

Workshops for ranchers and rangeland managers will be coordinated by UCCE rangeland and livestock advisers in their respective regions:

- Dan Macon, UCCE livestock and natural resources adviser for Plumas, Nevada, Sutter and Yuba counties, will organize workshops for the Sierra Nevada mountains and foothill region.
- Grace Woodmansee, UCCE livestock and natural resources adviser for

Siskiyou County, will organize workshops in northern California.

- Rebecca Ozeran, UCCE livestock and natural resources adviser for Fresno and Madera counties, will organize workshops in central California.

- Devii Rao, UCCE livestock and natural resources adviser for Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties, will organize workshops in the coastal region.

- Brooke Latack, UCCE livestock adviser for Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, will organize workshops in southern California.

The team will offer climate-smart agriculture trainings for technical service providers on how to prepare for key stressors in California agriculture such as floods, droughts, wildfires and heatwaves; effective climate communications; invasive pests and disease management under future climate; and weather and climate resources and decision support tools for managing risks.

One of the aims of this component is to encourage more coordinated efforts among different agencies to deliver climate change resources to their respective stakeholders, Pathak said.

The California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) has expressed its support for the project.

"Given ranchers' strong relationships with and reliance upon technical services providers—particularly those housed within the USDA and University of California—CCA also sees great value in the project's goal of building capacity within those organizations to assist ranchers in addressing the challenges of climate change," wrote Kirk Wilbur, CCA vice president of government affairs.

Nurturing future generations

For college students, there will be the UC Merced summer Institute on Climate and Agriculture certificate course organized by Karina Diaz Rios, UCCE specialist based at UC Merced; the UC Davis credit-based course "Science and Society: Climate Change and Agriculture"; and a certificate course for community college students, which will be overseen by the Bay Area Community College Consortium of 28 colleges.

"We will join you in this exciting work and shared vision towards inclusive education in climate resilient agriculture," wrote Nancy Gutierrez, statewide director of the Agriculture, Water and Environmental Tech sector of the California Community College System.

Students from the three courses will be selected for paid summer internships to engage in CE projects.

"Through climate-smart agriculture education, the workforce will be prepared to advance climate science and research efforts for future generations," Pathak said. — UC ANR

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VIDEO AUCTION

Jan. 12-14, Oklahoma City, OK
Cattle producers offered over 139,000 head of calves, yearlings and breeding stock from 32 states for the Bellringer Video Auction. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through September 2022. This auction was met with lots of anticipation from both buyers and sellers. When the gavel fell, Bellringer produced an upwardly trending market report despite the shadows of uncertainty.

Day one feeder steers from region 3/4/5/6 close-up deliveries were fully steady compared to the last auction. Deferred deliveries were \$3-7 higher, with most advances on March and April deliveries. Feeder heifers from the same regions followed with deferred deliveries \$4-8 higher.

Day two saw strong demand also on region 1 and 2 feeder steers and heifers, with advances of as much as \$10 higher on deferred deliveries of March and April. Program steers and heifers were in strong demand, holding gains over commodity cattle in all regions at \$8 to as much as \$15 higher.

Day three opened aggressively. Weaned calves under 600 pounds from regions 1 and 2 were \$6-10 higher than the last offering. Weaned calves under 475 lbs. were as much as \$15 higher. Regions 3/4/5/6 were also well received on grazing condition calves.

TOPS—Feeder steers: McKnight Ranch Co. LLC, Springer, NM, sold 85 feeder steers @ 600 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Verified, CARE Certified, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Certified Natural Plus, Superior Progressive Genetics. Reputation calves out of Black Angus & Angus cross (BWF) cows by reg. Red Angus bulls selected for performance & carcass traits. \$176, Jan. 15-28 delivery. Detrick Cattle Co., Ames, OK, sold 134 feeder steers @ 750 lbs. Superior Verified, GAP 4, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Certified Natural Plus. Out of pred. Angus & Angus cross w/a few Red Angus & Charolais cross cows by pred. reg. Black Angus & reg. Cherry Creek Booth SimAngus (Stellar, Hickok & Absolute) bulls. 100% black hidied. \$177, March 5-25 delivery. Teddy Mixon, Ocilla, GA, sold 57 feeder steers @ 875 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Verified, Black Angus Verified Beef, GAP 4, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Certified Natural Plus, Superior Progressive Genetics, BQA Certified. Out of Angus, SimAngus & Limousin cross cows by Deer Valley Angus bulls. Pred. black with two Charolais & two red. \$167, Jan. 17-22 delivery. 54 heifer mates @ 900 lbs. brought \$157, same delivery. Circle M Cattle Co., Halstead, KS, sold 52 feeder steers @ 975 lbs. SimAngus & Red Angus. \$152.50, March 1-15 delivery. Rocking S Ranch, McLeod, ND, sold 160 feeder steers @ 675 lbs. VAC 45+. Out of black Angus, black Angus Limousin cross & Red Angus Limousin cross cows by black An-

gus, black LimFlex. 80% black & 20% red, depending on sort. \$175, Jan. 24-Feb. 1 delivery. Circle B LLC, Forsyth, MT, sold 260 feeder steers @ 700 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Verified, CARE Certified, NHTC, Superior Progressive Genetics, \$CHB, BQA Certified. Out of black Angus cows by Feddes Hereford bulls. Approx. 99% BWF & BBF, 1% solid black. \$177, Feb. 1-10 delivery. **Feeder heifers:** Meinzer & Patterson LLC, Benjamin, TX, sold 54 feeder heifers @ 625 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Verified, GAP 4, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Certified Natural Plus, Superior Progressive Genetics. Out of pred. black Angus cows by reg. Cross Diamond Red Angus bulls. Approx. 50% red & RWF, 50% black & BWF. \$174, Jan. 14-28 delivery. Kelley Cattle Co. LLC, Saratoga, WY, sold 54 feeder heifers @ 850 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Verified, CARE Certified, NHTC, Certified Natural, Superior Progressive Genetics, BQA Certified. Out of black & Red Angus cows by Beckton Red Angus & reg. black Angus bulls. Approx. 75% black & 25% red hidied, prior to sort. \$148, Jan. 20-30 delivery. Cardinal Charolais, Brush, CO, sold 79 feeder heifers @ 675 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Verified, NHTC, Superior Progressive Genetics, VitaFerm Raised, BQA certified. Out of Charolais cows sired by 100% reg. Cardinal Charolais bulls. Sires of dams DNA tested & selected for leptin marker (marbling). 95% Charolais & 5% Charolais cross. \$161, Jan. 15-25 delivery. M&K Ranch, Centerfield, UT, sold 550 feeder heifers @ 875 lbs. VAC PRECON. Black & red Angus cross & Charolais Angus cross. Approx. 80% black hidied, balance Red Angus cross & Charolais cross. \$148.25, April 10-25 delivery. **Beef-dairy crosses:** LJ Beef, Syracuse, KS, sold 120 beef-dairy cross steers @ 400 lbs. VAC PRECON, Superior Verified, NHTC, Superior Progressive Genetics, BQA Certified. Out of Holstein cows AI'd to SimAngus & Angus bulls. \$212, April 1-May 1 delivery. 120 heifer mates @ 400 lbs. brought \$191, same delivery. Arch Diamond LLC, Portales, NM, sold 194 beef-dairy cross steers @ 495 lbs. VAC 45+, Superior Verified, NHTC, Superior Progressive Genetics. Out of Holstein cows (closed herd) by ABS In Focus Beef sires. 100% black w/a few white socks, white belly or star. \$208, Jan. 18 delivery. 202 heifer mates @ 475 lbs. brought \$176, same delivery. Wakefield Farms LLP, Allen, NE, sold 100 beef-dairy cross steers @ 525 lbs. Superior Verified, NHTC, Superior Progressive Genetics. Out of Jersey cows AI sired by Genex Charolais Kingsman & Warroad bulls (closed herds). China approved, Saudi Arabia approved & approved for no growth promotants. \$174, Jan. 17-21 delivery. **Bred stock:** D-H Ranch LLC, Sidney, MT, sold 142 bred heifers @ 980 lbs. Red Angus & black Angus heifers bred to Beckton Red Angus

bulls. Start calving approx. 3/5/22 for approx. 45 days. Preg checked 9/9/21. 114 red & 28 black. \$1,485, Jan. 15-22 delivery. Alfred Krogh Land & Cattle, Paxton, NE, sold 45 bred heifers @ 1,000 lbs. Purebred Red Angus heifers AI'd to ABS calving ease bull (Profit Maker) 5/29/21. Start calving approx. 3/7/22 for 21 days. Ultrasounded in August. Preg checked again 14 days prior to delivery. Purchased from Bledsoe Cattle Co. & SRS Red Angus. \$1,875, Jan. 17-21 delivery. Ben Cramer, Healy, KS, sold 50 bred cows @ 1,050 lbs. Superior Progressive Genetics. Red Angus & Red Angus cross cows by reg. Pharo Red Angus bulls turned in approx. 7/10/21 for approx. 90 days. Preg checked via ultrasound 11/10/21. Start calving approx. 4/10/22. Three 5-year-olds, pred. 4-5-year-olds. \$1,640, Jan. 17-24 delivery. **Weaned calves:** Jenkins Ranches Inc., Vale, OR, sold 97 weaned steer calves @ 415 lbs. Superior Verified, Black Angus Verified Beef, NHTC, BQA Certified. Out of Angus Limousin cross, Angus & Angus cross cows by Riverbend (Rampage, Ingenuity, River Index & Bend 4P26) & 44 Farms black Angus bulls. 100% black hidied. \$232.50, Feb. 1-4 delivery. 92 heifer mates @ 390 lbs. brought \$205, same delivery. Cato Soldier Creek Ranch, Sheridan, WY, sold 225 weaned steer calves @ 465 lbs. VAC 45, Superior Verified, CARE Certified, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Superior Progressive Genetics. Out of Angus & Angus cross cows by reg. Black Angus Lucky 7 & Leachman bulls. Pred. black hidied, few brockles, possibly 3 red, depending on sort. \$231.50, Feb. 1-7 delivery. Irby Ranches LLC, Gunnison, CO, sold 96 weaned steer calves @ 500 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Progressive Genetics, BQA Certified. Out of SimAngus & Angus cross cows (pred. black) by Diamond Peak & T-Heart Ranch SimAngus bulls. Bulls 100% PAP tested 42 & under. Black & BWF. Will sign grass-fed affidavit. \$215, Jan. 17-21 delivery. 100 heifer mates @ 480 lbs. brought \$188.50, same delivery. JFR Ranch Ltd., Waco, TX, sold 770 weaned steer calves @ 450 lbs. Angus cross, Charolais cross & English exotic cross carrying 1/4 or less Brahman influence. \$209, Jan. 17-31 delivery. Milagro Ranch, Wapanucka, OK, sold 99 weaned steer calves @ 435 lbs. VAC 60, Certified Natural Plus. Out of Red Angus cows by reg. Red Angus bulls. High percentage AI sired by Short Magnum. \$224, Jan. 15-31 delivery. 97 heifer mates @ 435 lbs. brought \$192, same delivery. Buryl Baty, Ben Baty & Game Management, Lake Charles, LA, sold 175 weaned steer calves @ 520 lbs./weaned heifer calves \$12/cwt back @ 500 lbs. VAC 45+. Out of Brahman cross cows by Charolais & Angus bulls, Charolais cows by Brangus bulls & Brangus cows by Angus & Angus cross bulls. \$175, Jan. 17-25 delivery.

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RODEO STANDINGS



PRCA January 2022 world standings

The top five contestants and earnings are listed as provided on the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) website, www.prorodeo.com, as of Jan. 18.

All Around

1. Bart Brunson, Terry, MS, \$14,643.35. 2. Paul David Tierney, Oklahoma City, OK, \$13,842.64. 3. Seth Hall, Albuquerque, NM, \$9,884.12. 4. Taylor Santos, Creston, CA, \$8,669.38.

Bareback Riding

1. Ty Breuer, Mandan, ND, \$15,342.39. 2. Clayton Biglow, Clements, CA, \$14,345.94. 3. Tim Kent, Chambersburg, PA, \$13,762.03. 4. Tanner Aus, Granite Falls, MN, \$13,156. 5. Chad Rutherford, Hillsboro, TX, \$11,582.34.

Saddle Bronc Riding

1. Brody Cress, Hillsdale, WY,

\$20,575.52. 2. Ryder Wright, Milford, UT, \$18,726.63. 3. Sterling Crawley, Huntsville, TX, \$18,157.67. 4. Logan Hay, Wildwood, AB, \$14,838.10. 5. Sage Newman, Melstone, MT, \$14,543.66.

Bull Riding

1. Lukasey Morris, Union City, OK, \$25,952.24. 2. Bubba Greig, Estherville, IA, \$19,946.38. 3. Scottie Knapp, Albuquerque, NM, \$18,876.92. 4. Toby Collins, Stephenville, TX, \$18,626.42. 5. Jace Troclair, Chauvin, LA, \$16,700.28.

Steer Wrestling

1. Dirk Tavenner, Rigby, ID, \$9,567.18. 2. Cody Harmon, Dublin, TX, \$8,609.09. 3. Tyler Waguespack, Gonzales, LA, \$8,480.07. 4. Gavin Soileau, Bunkie, LA, \$8,116.59. 5. Riley Duvall, Checotah, OK, \$7,922.68.

Team Roping (Headers)

1. Clint Wallace, Little Rock, AR, \$9,768.22. 2. Marcus Theriot, Lumberton, MS, \$9,053.14. 3. Paul David Tierney, Oklahoma

City, OK, \$9,002.61. 4. Justin Pruitt, Greenbrier, AR, \$8,897.11. 5. Bubba Buckaloo, Kingston, OK, \$8,113.57.

Team Roping (Heelers)

1. Tyler McKnight, Pollok, TX, \$13,880.18. 2. Cole Curry, Liberty, MS, \$9,991.45. 3. Tanner Braden, Dewey, OK, \$9,002.61. 4. Adam Plyler, Pageland, SC, \$7,837.86. 5. Reno Gonzales, Scott, LA, \$7,804.42.

Tie-Down Roping

1. Shad Mayfield, Clovis, NM, \$13,276.93. 2. Adam Gray, Seymour, TX, \$12,851.19. 3. Bart Brunson, Terry, MS, \$11,046.10. 4. Marcos Costa, Menard, TX, \$10,803.52. 5. Cory Solomon, Prairie View, TX, \$10,561.35.

Steer Roping

1. Cody Lee, Gatesville, TX, \$15,923.25. 2. J. Tom Fisher, Andrews, TX, \$15,477.43. 3. Landon McClaugherty, Tilden, TX, \$13,967.93. 4. Scott Snedecor, Fredericksburg, TX, \$13,241.40. 5. Vin Fisher, Andrews, TX, \$12,116.11.

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Kentucky Bluegrass Ranch Study Tour II

MAY 22-MAY 28

KENTUCKY REVISITED!

It’s time to start making plans to be a part of this year’s Western Livestock Journal Tour, Kentucky Revisited! This will be our second tour to Kentucky. We have had so many requests to do another Kentucky tour, and this is your chance if you missed the first one. This tour is entirely different, with some great stops that will give you firsthand knowledge of this great state noted for Thoroughbred horses, cattle, bourbon and beautiful scenery.

The tour will kick off in Louisville, Kentucky, on May 22 and finish up back in Louisville on May 28. The first day will include a stop at Maple Heights Farm, Owenton, KY, where you will see cattle, nationally renowned Southdown sheep, tobacco, hemp and a first-rate operation that is generations old. We will also visit the unique Hermitage Farm and see their carriage horses at work. That evening and the next five nights will be spent in Lexington at the Embassy Suites. No bags to pack for five days! Tuesday, we travel south to visit Tarter Farm and Ranch Equipment, Dunnville, KY. This is a very impressive facility where we will see top of the line equipment all manufactured starting with flat steel. The tube plant is most impressive. After lunch at the Bread of Life café, we will visit Donald Tarter’s cattle operation and see some innovative practices he has instituted. And we’ll visit Branch View Angus Ranch.

The middle of the week will be spent in the Lexington area with visits to Spendthrift Farm, where we will see such greats as Malibu Moon, Omaha Beach and Bolt d’Oro. We are also invited to visit the world-famous Rood and Riddle Equine Hospital with 60 equine veterinarians on staff, and we might just get lucky enough to watch some surgery. Rood and Riddle care for some of the most valuable horses on the planet.

Also in the Lexington area, we will have the opportunity to visit the Kentucky Horse Park, which is an impressive facility. Another stop in the area that will surely impress is the Bluegrass Stockyards Regional Marketplace. This is not only a premier stockyard, but the complex includes shops, educational facilities and offices. You have never seen anything like this place, and we will have lunch there with opportunities to do some shopping. Then we will visit Golden Age Farm, which direct markets their wagyu and wagyu cross beef.

Many of our repeat tour members know Mr. Bob Hall and his son Lee from our tours, and we are excited to include Hallway Feeds on this year’s tour. This is a premier equine feed facility that utilizes the latest technology to supply feed to some of the Thoroughbred industry’s most well-known and respected farms nationally and internationally. Wednesday evening, we will be guests of Hallway Feeds as they host a special dinner for our group.

Churchill Downs is also on the list of stops, as well as Spy Coast Farm, a sport horse farm.

Plan now to attend! The tours have been filling up fast the last couple of years, so don’t get shut out. There is excellent air service into Louisville, and there are many sights to see for all you early arrivals. This is a great opportunity to see this wonderful country with old friends, and you’ll meet some new ones along the way. We are limiting the tour to three buses and 145 people. We have a lot of interest in this tour, so sign up quickly.



Kentucky Bluegrass Ranch Study Tour II — MAY 22-MAY 28, 2022

I understand the price is **\$1,935 PER PERSON** and is based on double occupancy. The price includes seven nights’ accommodations, all transportation, six breakfasts, six lunches, one cocktail party and two dinners, all fees, admissions, taxes and tips. The single rate supplement is **\$570**. The tour begins **Sunday, May 22nd in Louisville, KY, at the Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport** and ends back in Louisville **Saturday, May 28th. A deposit of \$300 PER PERSON is due with a signed application to hold your reservation. Final payment is due April 24.** Make your check payable to **Livestock Tours, LLC** and mail to: **7355 E. Orchard Rd., #300, Greenwood Village, CO 80111. Cancellations after April 24** will be subject to a **\$300 per-person cancellation fee**. Cancellations after May 15th will be subject to any and all funds not recovered from our vendors, as well as the \$300 per-person cancellation penalty. Refunds cannot be made if a member leaves the tour before its completion.

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Meat preservation: Making jerky, sausage and meat sticks

Sausage is a tale as old as time. The word comes from the Latin word “sal-sus,” meaning salted. Salting is one of the oldest methods of food preservation. When we first learned that salt was effective in preserving meat, sausages, jerky and meat sticks all took on a new life. In history, Homer wrote about smoking and salting meat in “The Odyssey” around 830 B.C.

Many regions developed their own variety, often named for the village they originated from, such as Frankfurt, Salami, Genoa, Vienna, Bologna and others. Any meat that has been changed from its original form (processed) and seasoned is considered sausage.

Sausage is generally made from beef, veal, pork, lamb, poultry, buffalo, wild game or any combination of meats. It is a good way to utilize all animal trimmings for less waste. Jerky can be made from whole muscle or ground meat and should be made from lean whole muscle cuts like beef round roasts or pork loins. This is more suitable because fattier cuts can become rancid during storage.

- There are six basic classifications of sausage:
- Fresh sausage is made from fresh ground meat and not cured or smoked. It needs to be refrigerated and cooked before consuming and then should be eaten within three days or frozen. This includes breakfast sausage and Italian sausage.
 - Uncooked smoked sausage is initially smoked and not cooked. It needs to be kept refrigerated and cooked thoroughly before eating. Once cooked, it should be eaten within seven days or frozen soon after cooking. Examples are country style, kielbasa and mettwurst.
 - Cooked smoked sausage is fully cooked to an internal temperature of 155 F and smoked during the process. It needs to be kept refrigerated and eaten within seven days after opening the vacuum-sealed package. This includes bologna, cotto salami and frankfurter.
 - Cooked meat specialty sausages are made from a variety of ingredients and need to be refrigerated and consumed within three days after opening the vacuum-sealed package. Examples are head cheese, olive loaf and foie gras.
 - Dry sausage is seasoned, cured, smoked and air-dried. It does not require refrigeration when finished. These include Genoa salami and pepperoni.
 - Semi-dry sausage has a tangier flavor and should be kept refrigerated for the best quality. Examples include summer sausage, Thuringer and cervelat.

Equipment and guidelines

The equipment needed to make sausage, jerky or meat sticks includes: a thermometer, scale, meat

grinder, sausage stuffer, cutting boards and knives, packaging, optional smoker and optional dehydrator or oven.

The ingredients should include high-quality, fresh meat because the final product is only as good as its components. The proper lean-to-fat ratio should be followed in a recipe to produce good binding quality as well. A cure (sodium nitrite) is needed for smoked products, as it inhibits production and growth of botulism toxins. Curing also gives the characteristic color to sausages and can improve flavor.

Directions need to be followed for specific cure formulations. Federal regulations permit a maximum of 0.25 ounces of sodium nitrite per 100 pounds of chopped meat. Other ingredients needed are salt or a premix, spices, optional smoke powder for flavor, optional high-temperature cheese and casings. Specialty recipes may also call for a starter culture, encapsulated acids, binders, reducing agents, mold inhibitors or antioxidants.

Some food safety guidelines to follow include washing your hands before starting and throughout prep, using clean equipment and clean surfaces, and sanitizing and air-drying equipment. Keep raw meat separate from any ready-to-eat food or produce.

If meat is frozen, thaw in a refrigerator, in cold water or in a microwave—never on the counter at room temperature. Marinate raw meat in the refrigerator, and keep the meat as cold as possible when working with it. If dehydrating, use a calibrated thermometer and one with temperature control.

The process of sausage making

Prepare the recipe ingredients. First, mix precisely the base mix and cure. Then mix other flavoring ingredients. Taste test ingredients and adjust accordingly before adding the base mix and water to the mixture. Create a slurry with the base mix, cure, spices and water.

- Cut up meat in small chunks to fit into the grinder, and grind the meat through a coarse plate of one-quarter inch or three-eighths inch.
- Thoroughly mix slurry

- with coarse ground meat.
- Grind the meat mixture a second time through a finer plate at one-eighth inch or three-sixteenths inch.
 - Prepare natural hog casings. Soak them in lukewarm water for 30 minutes, and flush the inside of the casings two times to remove the salt preservative.
 - Fit the casings on a stuffer and fill the stuffer with meat. Stuff the meat carefully into the casing.
 - Thermally process the casing, either cooking it for fresh meat or smoking the meat according to smoker directions (usually 155 F).
 - Package the final product with a vacuum sealer or butcher paper. Use a double-fold insulating wrap to keep the product fresh. Remember to label and date the final product.

If making meat sticks, they will be stuffed into smaller, dry collagen casings. You can store sausage in the refrigerator for up to three days or in the freezer for up to three months.

Ground jerky can be made similarly. It should be pressed and laid in a dehydrator, following the dehydrator directions. For safety, the meat needs to be cooked to 160 F after the drying process because most dehydrators won’t reach that temperature.

Whole-muscle jerky should be thinly sliced (the colder the meat, the better for slicing) to no more than one-quarter inch strips. If the dehydrator reaches 160 F, meat strips can be placed in the dehydrator to finish drying. Otherwise, they should be placed in a boiling marinade to reach 160 F to destroy bacteria and then smoked or dehydrated.

Do not smoke jerky at lower temperatures and finish it off at a higher temperature; there is a potential that bacteria can survive during this drying process.

Home sausage and jerky making has become more popular as a family activity. Sausage and jerky are convenient foods that provide a great source of complete protein, vitamins and minerals.

The Dietary Guidelines for Americans suggest that individuals need between 10–35 percent of their daily calories from protein sources, which are necessary for the growth, maintenance and repair of body tissue and organ function. — **Wendy Becker, Montana State University Extension**



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

(In an effort to serve the next generation of livestock producers, WLJ’s Youth Opportunities calendar lists internship and scholarship information for agricultural- and livestock-focused students, listed by application deadline. If you have an internship or scholarship to announce, please email it to editorial@wlj.net.)

Jan. 31 – National Livestock is offering several general scholarships in the amount of \$2,000 and a few veterinary medicine scholarships in the amount of \$5,000. Students must be pursuing a degree in agriculture or a field related to agriculture. Details: nationallivestock.com.

Jan. 31 – The Red Angus Association of America is seeking a communication intern for the summer. Applications:

redangus.org/careers.

Feb. 15 – The Red Angus Association of America will award a minimum of five \$1,000 college scholarships through the support of the Red Angus Foundation Inc. Applicants must be current Junior Red Angus members in good standing and graduating high school seniors or current college freshmen. Apply via the online portal at redangus.awardspring.com.

March 1 – The NILE Foundation is now accepting scholarship applications for the 2022-23 academic year. There will be five levels of scholarships awarded, and winners will be announced in April. Applications and guidelines can be found at www.thenile.org or by contacting the NILE office at 406-256-2495.

Prescribed fire training builds foundation for effective landscape restoration

The skies threatened to open, but 20 trainees in heavy coats with mud stuck to their boots gathered in the Oregon State University (OSU) Dunn Forest for lessons in prescribed fire.

The day was gray, but not the enthusiasm of the participants from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), who climbed into trucks to carpool up the hill to a recently harvested patch of forest. Two piles of debris at least 15 feet tall stood waiting for them, one wet and one dry. Across the valley, an oak savanna, an endangered habitat traditionally restored by fire, gave credence to the controlled burning techniques being taught.

The class—taught by OSU Forestry and Natural Resources Extension faculty—was a three-day learning experience for employees of NRCS, which consults with private landowners about land use restoration solutions.

“We put together a curriculum to teach NRCS participants the basic foundations of prescribed fire,” said Carrie Berger, Extension Fire Program manager, as she walked up the hill from the burning piles of forest slash. “We’re giving them the information they’ll need to recommend prescribed fire as a practice, as a tool for landowners to use on their property.”

In order to recommend prescribed fire, NRCS staff need to be certified, according to Tom Snyder, who works in the Eugene NRCS field office and concentrates on oak woodland and savanna, a fire-adapted landscape that’s been shaped for thousands of years through intentional burning by the Indigenous people of what are now known as the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians.

To this day, Native Americans use fire to produce quality basketry materials such as beargrass, hazel and willow. They also use fire to maintain habitat for food and medicine plants, such as camas, biscuitroot and huckleberries, according to Berger. Cultural burning supports wildlife habitat and plays an important part in the traditions, culture and sovereignty of Tribes. Tribal burning practices in Oregon today are diverse. They range from small, family-oriented burns focused on single cultural species to large-scale burns on reservation forests.

“We’ve been doing restoration without fire, which is the tool that created this landscape,” Snyder said, speaking over the crackling sound of burning wood piles. “We’ll be able to use fire in the future as part of our restoration methodology within the Willamette Valley.”

In most cases, landowners use heavy machinery, mowing, spraying and grazing to thin out overgrown land, according to Stephen Fitzgerald, Extension silviculture specialist and director of the OSU College of Forestry Research Forests. Grazing is better than mowing because there’s no thatch buildup that remains as fuel for wildfires. But nothing beats fire.

“Some threatened and endangered species, like Fender’s blue butterfly, are associ-

ated with open habitat,” Fitzgerald said. “Not so much with closed wood canopy but more grass prairie, open upland prairie and oak savanna. Here we’re reducing the risk of wildfire and creating spots for reforestation. We can use fire to rejuvenate the oak prairie. Fire recycles nutrients and causes a flush of growth. Then those plants support insects, which are important pollinators, and other wildlife.”

In the classroom, participants from around the state studied fuels and weather and learned about planning strategies before any fire is involved. In the field, they put that education into practice by following the lead of the instructors, who lit the piles of slash generated by a recent timber harvest. One pile had been covered during recent rain, the other left open to the elements. Trainees experienced some hands-on work lighting fires.

They also tried their hands at broadcast burning, where fire is applied to debris left on the forest floor and not turned into piles. The idea, said Amanda Rau, Extension Fire Program’s fire specialist in the Willamette Valley and North Cascades area, is to understand the difference between what happens when you light a fire under appropriate and inappropriate conditions.

“That helps the students better educate landowners about conditions under which to burn and how to construct piles and make sure they are dry enough so they don’t produce a lot of smoke,” Rau said. “We want to have the kind of fire behavior that is controllable, predictable and within the objectives that are set forth for the prescribed burn.”

Generally, fire is used to manipulate dead and/or live vegetation. The objectives vary considerably depending on the vegetation type and the natural resource intent of the landowner, Rau said. For the workshop, the NRCS trainees participated in post-harvest disposal using fire to remove slash. In order to reduce the hazard of fire from logging, it’s essential to remove the debris.

“And the best way to remove slash is using fire,” said Rau, who acted as burn boss for the day. “When I say best, I mean the most efficient. There are other mechanisms for using slash, like taking it off site and generating energy with it or using it for firewood. But there’s typically not enough energy demand or yield to justify removing the amount of material out on the landscape.”

“Fire historically has been a tool for that removal, whether you’re talking about Tribes or early colonial settlers or loggers. That’s what we’re doing today: using an age-old tool to reduce that material.”

Planning the burn

Fitzgerald, who was the firing boss for the training, said he was happy with the conditions of the burn because they experienced different types of fire and smoke.

“Smoke is a health hazard, so when we burn, we want to burn under conditions or create conditions where the fire burns more cleanly and there’s less smoke,” said

Fitzgerald as he flicked a hand toward a safely burning pile of slash. “They got to see that hands-down. One pile was covered, and one was not. One was a smoky fire, and the other went up beautifully with very little smoke.”

Preparing for a controlled burn means writing a plan,

keeping an eye on the weather and getting permits from the Oregon Department of Forestry to ensure air quality isn’t negatively impacted by the smoke being produced. Weather determines if the smoke is likely to go into a populated area or cause a wildfire danger. There are a lot of checks and

balances to ensure everything is ready to go on burn day, Rau said.

Lexi Gardner, who works for NCRS in Linn and Benton counties, said the class helped her recognize the importance of relaying to landowners all the planning and inventory that needs to happen before prescribed fire is on the land.

“Educating landowners will be super important, notifying them about what kind of liabilities that will be on the ground and also recommending what we can do as NRCS to help convey safety information,” Gardner said. “In general, talking the lingo of prescribed fire is going to be important, and I’ve learned a lot about that and how to communicate with

landowners.”

As the chilly day wound down, trainees and teachers who were lucky enough to avoid rain bundled into trucks for a ride back to the Forestry Club Cabin a couple of miles down the hill.

“The hardest part in teaching prescribed burning is being able to show or talk about all the accumulated knowledge of people who have been doing burning all of their career,” Fitzgerald said. “It’s hard to translate that in a short training period. The fun part is bringing them out here and actually doing some fire and having them participate and ask questions about things they’ve probably been thinking about for a long time.”

— OSU Extension

“We’re giving them the information they’ll need to recommend prescribed fire as a practice, as a tool for landowners to use on their property.”

Herd Improvement and Bull Selection

SYMPOSIUM

February 18 & 19, 2022
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ

How to Prosper on large, sparsely vegetated Western Ranches

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Dr. Matt Spangler, Univ. Neb.; Dr. Bob Weaber, KSU; Lee Leachman, LCC; Paul Dykstra, CAB; Dr. Kelli Retallick, AGI; Bob Prosser, BTB; Leo McDonnel, Midland BTC; and Roger Wann, ABS.

The Symposium is from noon on Friday until noon on Saturday and will be held in the Phoenix - Mesa.

The organizer, Dr. Chuck Backus, has owned a Ranch in roughed AZ country for over 40 years, has been on the Board of Trustees for many years and organized several symposia for the Az Cattle Industry Research & Education Foundation.

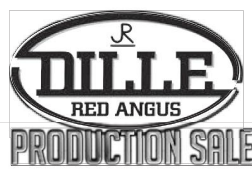
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MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

WLJ compiles its market reports, ODJ stories and statistics from USDA and independent marketing organizations.

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 1/20/2022		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	136.92	▲	136.49	109.08
CME Feeder Index	161.20	▼	162.01	133.19
Boxed Beef Average	292.98	▲	292.86	221.20
Average Dressed Steers	217.91	▼	217.99	172.00
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,397	▲	1,394	1,403
Weekly Slaughter**	621,000	▲	620,000	651,000
Weekly Beef Production	521.9	▲	519.9	550.8
Hide/Offal Value	14.15	▲	14.14	9.35
Corn Price	6.11	▲	5.87	5.24
*Average weight for previous week. **Total slaughter for previous week. ***Estimated year-to-date figure in million pounds for previous week.				

89BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef											
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price
January 14	6,831	280.40	227	339.11	1,252	281.21	2,091	276.16	702	264.19	2,558 254.25
January 7	6,921	270.18	196	333.11	1,239	271.48	2,216	265.89	757	265.89	2,513 247.60
December 31	5,655	267.79	178	330.78	1,002	268.63	1,707	262.80	590	252.29	2,177 246.09
December 24	5,109	264.34	205	330.10	955	266.70	1,656	260.32	514	249.37	1,779 240.49
Cutouts ----- FED BOXED BEEF -----											
DATE	CHOICE		SELECT		COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN		90% LEAN		
January 20	292.98		282.18		228.61		123.09		275.70		
January 19	291.60		280.43		229.81		124.29		277.48		
January 18	289.49		278.39		230.69		126.79		278.95		
January 17	287.86		277.05		229.25		121.46		275.79		
January 14	284.31		273.97		228.63		122.59		274.94		

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle						
	1/14	1/17	1/18	1/19	1/20	High* Low*
Feb.	13798	N/A	13768	13855	13818	13970 10527
Apr.	14213	N/A	14185	14335	14280	14483 10920
Jun.	13763	N/A	13708	13848	13805	14385 12525
Aug.	13695	N/A	13658	13775	13733	14240 13055
CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle						
	1/14	1/17	1/18	1/19	1/20	High* Low*
Jan.	16270	N/A	16145	16140	16128	17068 14110
Mar.	16638	N/A	16543	16563	16483	17025 15385
Apr.	17035	N/A	16958	17005	16940	17275 15425
May	17273	N/A	17218	17305	17258	17755 16625
*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.						

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	12,199	1,474	136.92
Live FOB Heifer	7,010	1,395	137.08
Dressed Del Steer	10,176	973	217.91
Dressed Del Heifer	4,620	850	217.98
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	14,563	1,490	136.49
Live FOB Heifer	7,047	1,326	136.48
Dressed Del Steer	8,524	974	217.99
Dressed Del Heifer	2,229	865	218.00
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	16,850	1,480	109.08
Live FOB Heifer	10,282	1,333	109.80
Dressed Del Steer	120	875	172.00
Dressed Del Heifer	460	884	171.38

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	41,692	5,946
Formula	273,009	1,095
Negotiated Cash	57,537	168
Negotiated Grid	36,199	0
Packer Owned	6,970	0
Total	415,407	7,209

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,971
Jan. '22	190,144	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,151
Feb. '22	172,223	Formula sales	3,548
Mar. '22	198,521	Forward contract sales	162
Apr. '22	211,491	Domestic sales	6,037
May. '22	114,604	NAFTA Exports	124

CANADIAN LIVESTOCK PRICES & FEDERAL INSPECTED SLAUGHTER FIGURES		
Alberta Direct Sales (4% shrink)	Price	Weekly Change
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	130.23	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	128.02	N/A
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	138.79	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	138.27	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	58.39	N/A
*Price comparison from one week ago.		

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, January 7, 2021			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	174.89	N/A	179.38
601-700 lbs	162.22	N/A	168.52
701-800 lbs	155.18	N/A	158.01
801-900 lbs	148.27	N/A	148.95
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	148.61	N/A	145.53
501-600 lbs	143.33	N/A	145.22
601-700 lbs	139.51	N/A	139.83
701-800 lbs	137.93	N/A	125.08

USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS				
Feeder cattle imports weekly and yearly volume.				
Species	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Year-to-date	Previous Year-to-date
	1/15/22	1/8/22		
Feeders	17,994	8,667	26,661	34,275

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE		
Friday 1/14/22		
Mexico to TX. & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary		
Receipts EST: 11,000	Week Ago Act: 7,369	Year Ago Act: 13,200
Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold steady to 2.00 higher. Heifers 2.00-4.00 higher. Trade moderate to active, demand moderate to good. The bulk of the supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.		
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 175.00-190.00; 400-500 lbs 160.00-174.00, few 175.00; 500-600 lbs 149.00-162.00, few 163.00; 600-700 lbs 139.00-152.00, few 153.00. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 160.00-175.00; 400-500 lbs 145.00-159.00; 500-600 lbs 134.00-147.00.		
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 150.00-164.00; 400-500 lbs 140.00-154.00; 500-600 lbs 132.00-144.00, few 145.00; 600-700 lbs 122.00-134.00, few 135.00.		
(All sales fob port of entry.)		

Selected Auction					Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2					
Week Ending January 20, 2022										
DATE MARKET		STEERS / HEIFERS						SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS	
		200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.			800 lb. -up
January 14 Blackfoot, ID	N/A		160-205 130-178	150-198 130-181	140-195 130-167	137-170 130-155	135-155 127-144	127-149	47-65 60-75	NORTHWEST
January 6 Burley, ID										
No report available Emmett, ID										
January 15 Eugene, OR	873		130-150* 120-140.50*	140-168* 126-143.50*	138-169* 120-148.50*	130-142.50* 110-135*		100-115.50* 104-122*	60-66 75-78 400-940	
January 17 Madras, OR	1,964		187-197 170-184	180-202 165-178	170-195 150-164	150-165 140-149	143-154 130-139		50-70 70-80	
January 12 Vale, OR	2,487		151-186 128-155	160-200.50 141-169.50	149-204 138-164	140-170.50 136-150	137-152 124-138.50		55-68 71-78.50	
January 17 Davenport, WA	700					153.62-160.50 140.93-145.25	146.37-154			
January 13 Toppenish, WA	2,000			206.50-209.75 160.50*	152-152.50*	142.50-145*			45-77.50 75-90 1,250	

January 14 Orland, CA	4,906		140-225 199	130-223 191-199	130-200 161-180	120-176 145-151	110-160 149			
No report available Escalon, CA										
January 17 Famoso, CA	705		150-198 120-170	150-192 120-160	150-192 110-130	125-184 100-142	115-134 95-130	110-120 95-130	45-64 60-75	
January 12 Galt, CA	606			135-155	145-175 130-145	135-165 125-140	135-150 125-140		50-68 65-90	
January 11 Turlock, CA	1,527			170-189.50 140-160	161-186.50 138-160	142-151 130-144	135-159.50 127-160.25		55-70 75-81	
January 18 Salina, UT	1,693	155-185 142-162.50	150-200 137-174	148-199.50 135-179.50	145-185 130-169	140-171.50 131-160	138-160.25 130-151	118-145 79.50-140	43-59 64-83.50	

January 17 Iowa	29,694	198-212 162.50	190-227 160-190	175-225 150-188	160-209.50 135-177.25	148.50-185 137.25-162.75	140-179.25 130-159	124-167.75 121-151.25	48-85 42-99	
January 19 Miles City, MT	3,371		213-230 182-185	203.50-217.50 153-187	180-201 141-171.50	157-186 140-151	154		40.50-70.50 62.50-88.50	610-1,575
January 19 Bassett, NE	2,575		214 190	203.50-210 172-190	187-207 170-182.50	172.50-186.75 156-170.50	160-171.50 137-170	145		
January 15 Ericson, NE	4,310		245 200	206-150 180-199	180-206 160-184	166-188.75 153-168	158-175.25 145-154	147-161.50 142.50-152.75		
No report available Imperial, NE										
January 19 Kearney, NE	5,066		201	188.75-207 176-186	179-203 158-182	166-184.75 151-173	153-177 150.25-152.25	153-168 145-147		
January 7 Lexington, NE	5,196			205 173-189.50	173.50-200 155-176.75	160.50-178.50 148-163	151.25-174.25 145.50-155.5	145.75-169.50 143-153.50		
January 13 Ogallala, NE	7,570		241 209	206.50-236 190-211	193-221 166-203	170-206 147-187	163-182 146-185	153.50-163 126-145		
January 13 Valentine, NE	5,620		224	224.50-231.50 176-181.50	188.50-222 168-183.50	171.50-199 161-174.50	164.50-182 151-170	150-163 127.50		
January 14 Herreid, SD	4,341			198-213 170-188	184.50-209.75 158-175.25	155-183.75 139-168	159.50-174.75 134-151.50	149.25-167 146.75		
January 12 Torrington, WY	6,700		220-236 189-216	201-230 178-203.50	187.50-225 164-180.50	171-200 155-169.50	165-179.50 153.50	157.50-161.50 149		

January 14 Willcox, AZ	1,544	214-231 142-158	200-223 163-179	185-219 150-167	168-200 145-156	150-166 131-145			50-82 78-91	800-950
January 18 Colorado	25,202		223-245 185-209	190-243 165-201	170-216.50 152-185	151-198 122-171	151-172 121-154.25	118-164 127-145.50	46-85 69-100	1,075-1,460 560-1,550
January 12 La Junta, CO	2,859		208-234 180-187	186-227 156-186	175-202 152-170	156-173 141-155	151-164 141-151	146-154	52-77 85-97	
No report available Loma, CO										
January 19 Dodge City, KS	4,036		194-224 161-189	175-218 146-178	155-201 143-169	164.50-176 149.50-161.75	148-167.75 146-158	151.25-160.50 116-150.75	60-75 68-101	760-1,175
January 20 Pratt, KS	3,000			203 163-173	181.75-197 154-161.50	170.50-179.25 150.50-156.50	158-168 146-151.50	149-160.35 42-146.75		
January 13 Salina, KS	5,848		219-230 183.50-189	210-218 170-188	197.50-214 151.50-171	165-182.50 146.50-156	151-171.10 142.25-153.50	145-164.10 139-152		
January 20 Clovis, NM	2,987	222-225 179-183	212-220 170-184	185-206 155-183	169-190.50 146-159	141-166 136-149	145-159.50 126-140.50	136	45.50-70.50 74-102	625-1,400 750-1,100
January 19 El Reno, OK	9,817		227.50-240 163-195	194-235 161-186	160-205 151-173	150-181 147-167	153-166 135-152.85	138-169 144-150		
January 19 McAlester, OK	1,536		201-221 158-173	190-221 156-171	168-183 133-147	142-160 126-144	139-141 125-126	132	56-71 77-94	850-1,375 750-1,160
January 18 Oklahoma City, OK	15,073	229 180-195	190-228 171-185	187-227 145-183	158-212.25 149-173.50	150.50-183 140-157	151-168.50 140-154	147-156 135-145		
January 14 Cuero, TX	2,173	145-200 130-170	141-216 134-180	157-188 138-190	147-179 132-200	145-167 122-163	134-154 101-145		48-76 70-103	
January 14 Dalhart, TX	3,052		217-232 184-206	208-220 170-189	180-198 158-171	163-178.50 152-163	156.50-163.50 145-153	151-157.50 147.50	57-79 90	
January 13 San Angelo, TX	2,439			189-196 150-163.50	165-178.50 140-157	151.50-169.50 125-155.50	148-157 125-149	140-153.50 115-126		
January 13 Tulia, TX	2,439			189-196 150-163.50	165-178.50 140-157	151.50-169.50 125-155.50	146-157 125-149	140-153.50 115-126	62-70	850-1,050

SOUTH CENTRAL

Expectations for upcoming USDA cattle reports

In addition to the monthly Cattle on Feed report on Jan. 21, USDA will issue the annual Cattle report on Jan. 31. This report provides Jan. 1 cattle inventories for a variety of cattle classes, as well as the calf crop total for the previous year with a complete breakdown for all states. The report may also include revisions to values reported previously, which can complicate interpretation of the report.

This report follows the July Cattle report, which provides national numbers for the same inventory categories but is based on a smaller survey and does not include individual state values. The July report provided the first estimate of the 2021 calf crop.

The report provides confirmation of what happened last year and provides some

information that helps to shape expectations for this year. For example, there is little doubt that the beef cow herd is smaller compared to a year ago. The general feeling among analysts seems to be that the herd likely decreased 1.5-2 percent in 2021, with some possibility that the decrease was over 2 percent.

The level of beef cow slaughter in 2021 was up 9.1 percent year over year, leading to a culling rate of 11.44 percent for the year, the highest since 2011. In 2011, the beef cow herd decreased 2.04 percent. However, the net change in the beef cow herd in 2021 depends also on what happened with beef replacement heifers.

On Jan. 1, 2021, the number of beef replacement heifers was 18.7 percent of the beef cow herd. This level of

replacement heifers indicates neither significant herd liquidation nor aggressive expansion. In the last two decades, the beef replacement heifer percentage has varied from a low of 16.6 percent in 2011 (liquidation) to a high of 21 percent in 2016 (expansion) and has averaged 18.2 percent.

Comparing once again to 2011, the inventory of replacement heifers in 2021 was well above the level that year. The replacement heifer inventory consists of both bred heifers (coming first-calf heifers) and heifer calves in development for breeding. The inventory of heifers calving was much higher in absolute terms last year compared to 2011. This likely means that some of the additional cow culling in 2021 was offset by more bred heifers entering the herd.

It seems likely that the inventory of beef replacement heifers will be significantly lower in this report.

The heifer calves' portion of the replacement heifers from one year ago may well have been diverted to feeder markets, but many of the sizable inventory of bred heifers likely entered the

herd somewhere.

All of this discussion is complicated by the drought conditions in 2021, which impacted what producers had to do as opposed to what they would like to do. The same may be true in 2022. It's hard to anticipate the number of replacement heifers in the upcoming report because continuing drought conditions are likely restricting what some producers are able to do.

It is also possible that some producers outside of drought areas are holding a few extra replacement heifers to speculate on rebuilding demand in 2022. Of course, drought conditions going forward will determine if that is successful or not. The Northern Plains region that has been and continues to be in severe drought contains areas that normally

hold a higher percentage of replacement heifers compared to the rest of the country. They may not be able to do so going into 2022.

If heifer calves from one year ago were diverted to feeder markets, the inventory of bred heifers in the upcoming report may be lower. The remainder of the replacement heifer inventory is heifer calves, which could be up if producers are trying to compensate for fewer bred heifers, but, again, it's not clear that the continuing drought conditions are allowing more replacement heifer calves to be held. It seems likely that the inventory of beef replacement heifers will be significantly lower in this report.

— **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Corn market advances past \$6

MARKETS (from page 1)

only 619,479 head.

"The improvement at beef processing plants is slow and not big enough yet to have a true and lasting positive impact on negotiated cash fed cattle prices and somewhat on CME cattle futures," Fish wrote on Thursday. "A 117k head slaughter day on Tuesday followed by 115k head yesterday aren't quite good enough, as the industry needs to be able to easily process at least 120k head per day to be out of the woods."

Boxed beef prices continue to shoot higher. The Choice cutout gained over \$10 from the previous week to close at \$292.98, and the Select cutout gained just under \$10 to close at \$282.18.

"Once again, we are seeing box prices shoot higher, while fed prices move lower," the Cattle Report wrote. "Retailers will be forced to raise prices on the beef counter, making beef a focus point for the battle against inflation. There also will be some beef products that are out of stock and result in a lost sale. These conditions force consumer decisions that threaten the destruction of beef demand."

Feeder cattle

The January contract lost \$1.75 to close at \$161.17, and

the March contract lost nearly the same to close at \$164.95. The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost 81 cents to close at \$161.20.

Corn futures are back over \$6. The March contract gained 24 cents to close at \$6.11, and the May contract gained 21 cents to close at \$6.10.

"The corn market isn't even to blame for Thursday's weakness as corn contracts are trading mostly steady after Wednesday's wild advancement," Stewart said. "Largely, the feeder cattle contracts are lower on a pull-back from traders and with the live cattle contracts now lower too, the market is apprehensive about being too bullish."

Colorado: Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 5,165 head on Tuesday. Compared to the last sale, steers under 550 lbs. sold mostly steady, 550-700 lbs. sold \$2-3 higher and over 700 lbs. sold steady to \$1 lower. Heifers under 600 lbs. sold \$2-3 lower, 600-700 lbs. sold steady to \$2 lower and over 700 lbs. sold steady to \$3 lower, with the decline on 750-800 lbs.

Iowa: Russell Livestock in Russell sold 4,018 head on Monday. Compared to the previous auction, steer calves under 550 lbs. sold steady to \$3 higher, 550-750 lbs. were mostly \$2-7 higher and over 750 lbs. ended mixed. Heifers under 650 lbs. ended mixed, while 650-750 lbs. sold \$2-4

lower. Benchmark steers averaging 780 lbs. sold between \$154-166, averaging \$160.06.

Kansas: Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 3,620 head on Wednesday. Compared to the prior week, yearling steers 600-950 lbs. sold steady to \$3 higher. Steer calves 400-600 lbs. sold unevenly steady. Yearling heifers 550-900 lbs. sold steady to \$3 higher. Heifer calves 400-550 lbs. sold unevenly steady. Benchmark steers averaging 777 lbs. sold between \$148-157.50, averaging \$155.19.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 5,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers traded steady to \$2 lower, and feeder heifers traded \$2-8 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 727 lbs. sold between \$159-165.50, averaging \$160.87.

Nebraska: Tri-State Livestock in McCook sold 3,610 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, steers were steady to \$9 higher, except for 850-950 lbs., which traded \$4-9 lower. Heifers were steady to \$9 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 774 lbs. sold between \$166.75-171.75 and averaged \$169.51.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 15,500 head Monday. Compared to the previous sale, feeder steers and heifers sold mostly steady to \$2 higher. Steer and heifer calves sold steady. A group of fancy steers averaging 761 lbs. sold between \$166.50-168.50, averaging \$167.43.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Livestock in Worthing sold 4,989 head Monday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers 350-400 lbs. sold \$3-7 higher, 400-500 lbs. were \$7-11 lower, 500-600 lbs. were \$5-10 higher, 600-650 lbs. traded \$3-6 lower, 650-700 lbs. were \$1-3 higher, 700-750 lbs. sold \$1-5 lower, 750-800 lbs. were \$3-5 higher, 800-900 lbs. were steady to \$2 higher and over 900 lbs. traded \$4-9 lower. Feeder heifers were steady to \$4 lower, but 500-550 lbs. traded \$3-7 higher, and 700-900 lbs. sold \$1-3 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 721 lbs. sold between \$159-172.75, averaging \$165.85. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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Jan. 14-Feb. 5 – Fort Worth Stock Show, Fort Worth, TX
Jan. 25-29 – Red Bluff Bull, Gelding & Stock Dog Sale, Red Bluff, CA
Jan. 29 – Red Bluff Bull Sale, Red Bluff, CA
Feb. 1 – PAYS Blue Ribbon Cow Sale, Billings, MT
Feb. 5 – Klamath Falls, Bull Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Feb. 19 – Nevada Cattlemen's Association Bull Sale, Fallon, NV

ANGUS

Jan. 25 – Huwa Cattle, Bull Sale, Roggen, CO
Jan. 26 – Bear Mountain Angus, Bull Sale, Palisade, NE
Jan. 26 – Brooks Chalky Butte, Female Sale, Bowman, ND
Jan. 27 – Marcy Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Gordon, NE
Jan. 28 – McConnell Angus, Production Sale, Dix, NE
Jan. 28 – Ruggles Angus, Production Sale, McCook, NE
Jan. 29 – Baldrige Performance Angus, Bull Sale, North Platte, NE
Jan. 29 – Bobcat Angus, Production Sale, Great Falls, MT
Jan. 29 – Nichols Farms, Bull Sale, Bridgewater, IA
Feb. 4 – Burgess Angus, Bull Sale, Homedale, ID
Feb. 4 – Poss Angus, Bull Sale, Scotia, NE
Feb. 4 – Spring Valley Angus, Bull Sale, Burwell, NE
Feb. 5 – Ellingson Angus, Production Sale, St. Anthony, ND
Feb. 5 – Leachman Cattle, Topline Bull Sale, Orland, CA
Feb. 6 – Frey Angus, Production Sale, Granville, ND
Feb. 8 – G Bar H Angus, Bull Sale, Torrington, WY
Feb. 8 – South Mountain, Bull Sale, Melba, ID
Feb. 9 – Jindra Angus, Production Sale, Clarkson, NE
Feb. 9 – Meadow Acres Ranch, Bull Sale, Hermiston, OR
Feb. 10 – Booth Cherry Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Veteran, WY
Feb. 11 – Dutch Flat Angus Sale w/ Cox Ranch, Lewiston, ID
Feb. 11 – Lambert Ranch/Bar KD Ranch Modoc, Bull Sale, Alturas, CA
Feb. 11 – Powder River Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Feb. 12 – EZ Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Myrtle Creek, OR
Feb. 12 – Schaff Angus Valley, Production Sale, St. Anthony, ND
Feb. 12 – Gem State Angus, Bull Sale, Twin Falls, ID

Feb. 12 – Jocko Valley Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Missoula, MT
Feb. 13 – Bradley's 3 Ranch, Bull Sale, Memphis, TX
Feb. 14 – BB Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Connell, WA
Feb. 15 – Coleman Angus, Bull Sale, Missoula, MT
Feb. 15 – Doug Booth Family Angus, Bull Sale, Torrington, WY
Feb. 15 – Felton Angus, Bull Sale, Springdale, MT
Feb. 15 – Kessler Angus, Bull Sale, Milton-Freewater, OR
Feb. 15 – Ostrand Angus, Production Sale, Mason City, NE
Feb. 16 – Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 17 – Krebs Ranch, Bull Sale, Gordon, NE
Feb. 17 – Wooden Shoe Farms, Bull Sale, Blackfoot, ID
Feb. 18 – Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Feb. 19 – Angus Alliance, Bull Sale, Eltopia, WA
Feb. 19 – Minert-Simonson Angus, Bull Sale, Dunning, NE
Feb. 19 – Schiefelbein Angus, Bull Sale, Kimball, MN
Feb. 20 – PABCO, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Feb. 21 – Bulls of the Big Sky, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Feb. 21 – Frank Cattle, Bull Sale, Chappell, NE
Feb. 21 – Teixeira Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Terrebonne, OR
Feb. 21 – Weaver Ranch, Bull Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Feb. 22 – Haynes Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Ogallala, NE
Feb. 22 – J.C. Heiken & Sons, Miles City Livestock Commission, Miles City, MT
Feb. 22 – Connelly Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Valier, MT
Feb. 22 – Thomas Angus, Bull & Bred Heifer Sale, Baker City, OR
Feb. 23 – TC Ranch, Bull Sale, Franklin, NE
Feb. 24 – Botts Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Enterprise, OR
Feb. 25 – Cowman's Kind, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Feb. 25 – Diamond Peak Cattle, Bull Sale, La Junta, CO
Feb. 25 – Hyline Angus, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT
Feb. 25 – Skinner Ranch, Hall, MT
Feb. 26 – 44 Farms, Bull Sale, Cameron, TX
Feb. 26 – Baker Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Feb. 26 – Rancher's Choice, Bull Sale, Eltopia, WA
Feb. 26 – Sutphin Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Lamar, CO
Feb. 27 – Buchanan Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Feb. 28 – Circle L Angus, Bull Sale, Dillon, MT
Feb. 28 – Colyer Herefords, Bull Sale, Bruneau, ID
Feb. 28 – Reyes/Russell, Bull Sale, Wheatland, WY

Mar. 1 – Barker Cattle Co, Bull & Female Sale, Burley, ID
Mar. 1 – Ipsen Cattle, Online Bull Sale
Mar. 2 – Adams Angus, Bull Sale, Blackfoot, ID
Mar. 2 – Ox Bow Ranch, Bull Sale, Wolf Creek, MT
Mar. 2 – Pasture View & ZWT Ranch, Bull Sale, Valentine, NE
Mar. 3 – Cannon Angus, Production Sale, Preston, ID
Mar. 3 – Split Diamond Ranch, Bull Sale, Dillon, MT
Mar. 4 – Crouthamel Cattle Co, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 4 – Reminisce Angus, Bull Sale, Dillon, MT

BALANCER

Feb. 21 – Frank Cattle Ranch, Bull Sale, Highmore, SD

BEEFMASTER

Apr. 16 – Evans Beefmasters, Bull Sale, Enterprise, UT

CHAROLAIS

Feb. 13 – Bradley's 3 Ranch, Bull Sale, Memphis, TX
Feb. 15 – VAL Charolais, Bull Sale, Nyssa, OR
Feb. 19 – Angus Alliance, Bull Sale, Eltopia, WA
Feb. 25 – Cowman's Kind, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Feb. 26 – Rancher's Choice, Bull Sale, Eltopia, WA
Feb. 26 – Sutphin Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Lamar, CO

GELBVIEH

Feb. 21 – Eagle Pass Ranch, Bull

Sale, Highmore, SD

HEREFORD

Jan. 25 – Churchill Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT
Feb. 3 – Ridder Herefords, Production Sale, Callaway, NE
Feb. 4 – Elkington Polled Herefords, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Feb. 5 – Upstream Herefords, Production Sale, Taylor, NE
Feb. 8 – South Mountain Cattle, Bull Sale, Melba, ID
Feb. 9 – Durbin Creek Ranch, Bull Sale, Worland, WY
Feb. 11 – Dutch Flat Angus Sale w/ CX Ranch, Lewiston, ID
Feb. 11 – Lambert Ranch, Bull Sale, Alturas, CA
Feb. 14 – BB Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Connell, WA
Feb. 16 – Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 17 – Wooden Shoe Farms, Bull Sale, Blackfoot, ID
Feb. 18 – Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Feb. 25 – Jamison Herefords, Bull Sale, Quinter, KS
Feb. 28 – Colyer Herefords, Bull Sale, Bruneau, ID
Mar. 1 – Ipsen Cattle, Online Bull Sale
Mar. 3 – NW Hereford Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR

LIM-FLEX

Feb. 26 – Sutphin Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Lamar, CO

RED ANGUS

Feb. 4 – TJS Red Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY

Feb. 5 – Leachman Cattle, Topline Bull Sale, Orland, CA
Feb. 16 – Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 21 – Frank Cattle, Bull Sale, Chappell, NE
Feb. 25 – Calvo Red Angus, Bull Sale, Bassett, NE
Feb. 26 – Sutphin Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Lamar, CO
Mar. 1 – Sandhills Red Angus, Bull and Female Sale, Sidney, MT
Mar. 2 – Dille Red Angus, Production Sale, Buhl, ID
Mar. 3 – Bieber Red Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Leola, SD
Mar. 4 – Sutherlin Farms, Production Sale, Stevensville, MT

SALERS

Feb. 14 – Big Sky Salers, Bull Sale, Dickinson, ND

SIMANGUS

Jan. 31 – APEX Cattle, Production Sale, Dannebrog, NE
Feb. 18 – Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Feb. 21 – Bulls of the Big Sky, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Feb. 21 – Eagle Pass Ranch, Bull Sale, Highmore, SD
Feb. 23 – Price Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Echo, OR
Feb. 25 – Diamond Peak Cattle, Bull Sale, La Junta, CO
Feb. 26 – Sutphin Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Lamar, CO
Mar. 1 – Barker Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Burley, ID
Mar. 3 – Kearns Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Rushville, NE

SIMMENTAL

Jan. 29 – Nichols Farms, Bull Sale, Bridgewater, IA
Feb. 5 – Prickly Pear Simmental, Bull Sale, Helena, MT
Feb. 7 – Gateway Simmental, Bull Sale, Lewistown, MT
Feb. 10 – Lassle Simmental, Bull Sale, Glendive, MT
Feb. 21 – Bulls of the Big Sky, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Mar. 1 – Barker Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Burley, ID
Mar. 3 – Kearns Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Rushville, NE

SOUTH DEVON

Jan. 29 – Nichols Farms, Bull Sale, Bridgewater, IA

COMMERCIAL

Jan. 27 – Western Video Market, Replacement Female Sale, Red Bluff, CA
Feb. 1 – PAYS Blue Ribbon Cow Sale, Billings, MT
Feb. 2 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Special Feeder Sale, Galt, CA
Mar. 2 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Special Feeder Sale, Galt, CA

HORSE

Jan. 28 – Red Bluff Gelding Sale, Red Bluff, CA
Mar. 4 – Winnemucca Ranch Rodeo, Horse Sale, Winnemucca, NV

DOG

Jan. 28 – Red Bluff Stock Dog Sale, Red Bluff, CA

Montana Performance Bull Co-op™

with

BASIN ANGUS · RANCH

Selling 200 Bulls

Herd Bull quality in volume

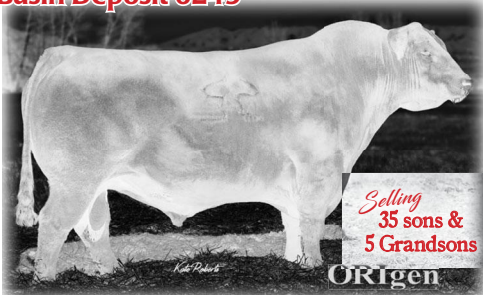
Annual Bull Sale

Large Groups of Half Brothers

Friday • **March 18, 2022** • 1:00 pm

at the Midland Bull Test Sale Facility, Columbus, MT

Basin Deposit 6249



Powerful growth with added muscle and marbling.

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+5	+2.8	+89	+144	+15.6	+9	+24
CW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C	
+68	+1.37	+58	+77	+180	+310	

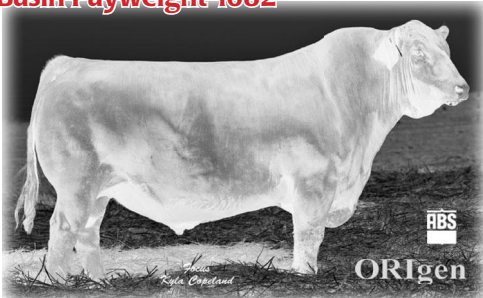
SydGen Enhance



Strong EPD profile, and an outcross to our programs.

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+8	+0.4	+71	+139	+11.5	+10	+32
CW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C	
+63	+1.19	+82	+72	+193	+322	

Basin Payweight 1682



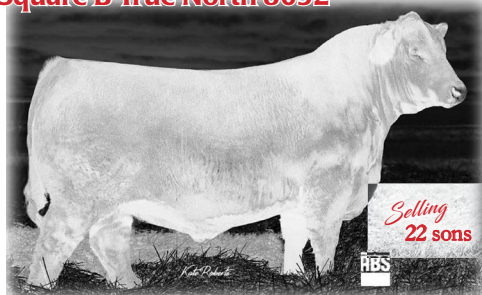
Foundation Herd Sire at Basin Angus. Large influence in this offering through sons and grandsons, and tremendous daughters in our herds.

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+7	+0.6	+66	+118	+8.3	+10	+31
CW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C	
+52	+5.6	+30	+93	+138	+255	

Additional sire groups by:

Basin Broker 9162 • Basin Freedom F361
 Basin High Noon 9079 • Basin Rainmaker 8584
 Benchmark Tender Beef 11'17 • EXAR Rolex 8709B
 GB Fireball 672 • Musgrave Exclusive 1175

Square B True North 8052



Proven calving ease, moderate frame, and attractive phenotype.

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+16	-2.4	+51	+101	+13.1	+12	+32
CW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C	
+19	+0.91	+58	+91	+120	+247	

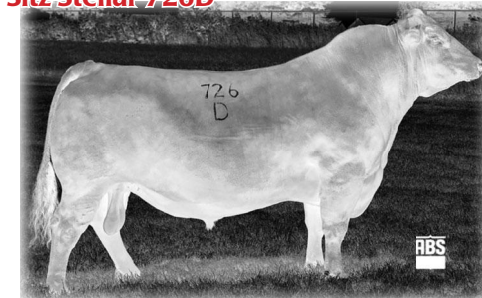
Vermilion Spur E143



Proven calving ease, exceptional length and maternal excellence

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+11	+1.8	+70	+136	+18.9	+13	+38
CW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C	
+55	+0.61	+66	+84	+156	+286	

Sitz Stellar 726D



Proven outcross sire that transmits substance and power.

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+5	-0.2	+73	+131	+9.8	+9	+24
CW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C	
+51	+0.51	+66	+76	+140	+258	

For more information, contact any of the Montana Performance Bull Co-op consignors

Brian Barragree • 406/780-1219

Shane Whiteman • 406/366-0688

Rob Aumüller • 406/321-2470

Doug Stevenson • 406/350-0350



SALE REPORTS

REDLAND ANGUS BULL SALE

Jan. 15, Buffalo, WY
72 Bulls **7,545**
10 Commercial open heifers
 **1,500**
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS: Redland Do It All 1030,

4/15/20 by OCC Do It All 656D; to T i m Grygiel, S D, \$15,000. Redland Emblazon 6 1 4 0, 8/10/20 by Redland Emblazon 702; to Burch Ranch, MT, \$14,000. Redland Emblazon 6270, 8/10/20 by Redland Emblazon 702; to Cass Gebber, WA, \$13,000. Redland Do It All 6100, 8/15/20 by OCC Do It All 656D; to Robert Berger, NE, \$13,000. Redland Tremendous 6340, 8/8/20 by McCumber Tremendous 2008; to Cass Gebber, WA, \$11,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**



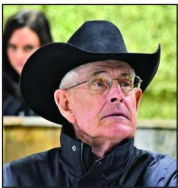
MURNIN

Baldy yearling heifers. . 1,405

Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS—Yearling bulls: UU

Dupuyer 1211J, 2/18/21 by HH Advance 9214G; to Stangel Herefords, Marsland, N E, \$20,000. UU Belgrade 1 1 6 3 J, 2/15/21 by CL 1 Domino 942G; to Stuber Ranch, Bowman, ND, and Hoffman Herefords, Thedford, NE, \$19,500. UU Kingsley 1153J, 2/15/21 by UU Kingsley 7241E; to Harrell Herefords, Baker City, OR, \$17,000. UU Laredo 1232J, 2/19/21 by UU Laredo 8479F; to Jolly Ranch, MO, \$17,000.

2-year-old bulls: UU Commander 0582H, 4/21/20 by UU Commander 8348F; to Jolly Ranch, MO, \$22,000. UU Hulett 0145H, 2/12/20 by CL 1 Domino 6197D; to JLB Ranch, KS, \$16,500. UU Kingsley 0121H, 2/11/20 by UU Kingsley 7241E; to Double U Ranch, Red Deer, Alberta, CA, \$16,500. UU Trident 0396H, 3/3/20 by CL 1 Domino 883F; to Ratjen Ranch, TX, \$16,500. UU Bakken 0096H, 2/10/20 by SR Bakken 0096H; to JLB Ranch, KS, \$15,500. — **JIM GIES**



GIES

VAN NEWKIRK HEREFORDS

Jan. 17, Oshkosh, NE
142 Coming 2-year-old Hereford bulls **11,540**
71 Yearling Hereford bulls **9,697**
80 Yearling commercial Hereford heifers **1,598**
3 Loads commercial Black



GENETIC EDGE BULL SALE

Saturday, March 12, 2022 • 11 a.m.

Idaho Falls, Idaho

OFFERING 520 BULLS *All Bulls PAP Tested*



+*19979833

RIVERBEND PLUS ONE H1407 7/21/2020

Sire: E&B Plus One • Dam: EXAR Blackbird 7846

MGS: VAR Discovery 2240

CED +8, BW +1.4, WW +79, YW +140, Milk +34, PAP +2.52

CW +72, MB +1.23, RE +.84, Fat +.020

\$M +73, \$W +91, \$F +117, \$G +78, \$B +195, \$C +326



+*19978396

RIVERBEND POWER PLAY H2150 7/11/2020

Sire: VAR Power Play 7018 • Dam: MHA Sunrise of Rita2G14 6999

MGS: GAR Sunrise

CED +8, BW +1.9, WW +91, YW +159, Milk +26, PAP +1.25

CW +69, MB ++1.22, RE +.85, Fat +.007

\$M +69, \$W +93, \$F +112, \$G +79, \$B +191, \$C +317



+*19963012

RIVERBEND RELEVANCE H265 9/10/2020

Sire: Woodhill Relevance • Dam: Daltons Lucy 7245

MGS: GAR Anticipation

CED +5, BW +2.4, WW +97, YW +169, Milk +29, PAP +1.85

CW +82, MB +1.33, RE +1.52, Fat +.017

\$M +61, \$W +100, \$F +129, \$G +92, \$B +221, \$C +348



*20054641

RIVERBEND ENFORCER 0523 7/26/2020

Sire: SS Enforcer E812 • Dam: Spruce Mtn Rita 6523

MGS: VAR Discovery 2240

CED +8, BW +1.0, WW +80, YW +148, Milk +31, PAP +4.93

CW +69, MB +.90, RE +1.33, Fat -.032

\$M +76, \$W +91, \$F +126, \$G +74, \$B +200, \$C +335



+*19962960

RIVERBEND RENO H194 8/19/2020

Sire: Spring Cove Reno 4021 • Dam: Baldridge Isabel E071

MGS: Connealy Confidence Plus

CED +9, BW +1.3, WW +77, YW +135, Milk +32, PAP +3.33

CW +54, MB +1.05, RE +1.05, Fat -.009

\$M +102, \$W +92, \$F +90, \$G +75, \$B +166, \$C +317



+*19842730

RIVERBEND BEST BUY H1608 9/9/2020

Sire: VAR Best Buy 8577 • Dam: Black Gold Rita K6009

MGS: VAR Discovery 2240

CED +7, BW -.8, WW +71, YW +132, Milk +33, PAP +5.44

CW +55, MB +1.47, RE +.93, Fat -.014

\$M +69, \$W +85, \$F +102, \$G +93, \$B +195, \$C +322



2880 N 55 W • IDAHO FALLS, IDAHO 83402 • 208-528-6635

Frank and Belinda VanderSloot | Owners

Rhett Jacobs | General Manager | 208-681-9841

Dale Meek | Purebred Operations Manager | 208-681-9840

Jason Ward | Director of Cattle Operations | 406-660-1362

Chris Howell | Director of Customer Service | 208-681-9821

Andrea Bradley | Director of Marketing | 607-379-1553

CALL 208-528-6635 OR E-MAIL BULLS@RIVERBENDRANCH.US

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