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INSIDE WLJ

ASA FEATURE – Look no further for our American Simmental Association feature with special focus on DNA testing, feeding programs and more! **Page 25**

ROLLINS' ROADMAP – Rollins outlines priorities and promises robust support for American farmers. **Page 14**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) have rejected a request by radical environmental groups to increase livestock grazing fees on federal lands. Last week, in letters sent to Western Watersheds Project, Oregon Natural Desert Association, Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and other groups, BLM and USFS said they disagreed with the legal grounds stated in a 2005 petition seeking to increase the animal unit month (AUM) fees for ranchers with federal grazing permits," wrote John Robinson in the Jan. 31, 2011, issue of *WLJ*.

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Formulanone/Flickr

President Donald Trump signed an executive order that will direct Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta water flows to other parts of California. Pictured here, the winding rivers that make up the Delta.

Trump wades into CA's water supply with EO

— Redirects water to where needed

On his first day in office, President Donald Trump signed an executive order (EO) directing federal agencies to increase water flow through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to other parts of California, a move aligned with his inaugural address's mention of wildfires in Los Angeles and the need to address the state's water challenges.

The EO titled "Putting People over Fish: Stopping Radical Environmentalism to Provide Water to Southern California," asks the agencies "to immediately restart" the work of his first administration to divert more water to "other parts of the state for use by the people there who desperately need a reliable water supply."

Background

The Central Valley Project (CVP), managed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and the State Water Project, operated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), are California's two most significant water projects. These projects rely on a Coordinated Operations Agreement (COA) to enhance efficiency, maintain water quality and mitigate environmental impacts.

The COA has been entangled in legal and political disputes for over two decades, with a significant focus on federal Biological Opinions (BiOps) that assess project compliance with the Endangered Species Act, according to the University of California,

See TRUMP WATER on page 20

BLM issues OR, CO sage grouse RODs

— RODs for eight states remaining

The Bureau of Land Management signed records of decision (ROD) in mid-January to update greater sage-grouse management on public lands in Colorado and Oregon. The plan amendments are part of a greater plan introduced in November that includes nearly 65 million acres of public land across 10 states.

BLM said the plan amendments for Oregon and Colorado enhance greater sage-grouse conservation and support western communities, in addition to benefiting more than

See SAGE GROUSE on page 33

South-central OR public lands management plan finalized

— Covers 3.2M acres

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) finalized a management plan for approximately 3.2 million surface acres of public land in Oregon, primarily in Lake and Harney counties. Administered by the Lakeview Field Office, the plan prioritizes protecting wilderness characteristics across significant portions of the area while balancing other resource uses.

The resource management plan (RMP) updates the 2003 Lakeview RMP, incorporating changes from the 2015 and 2019 Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse-approved RMP amendments and records of decision. The amendment addresses managing wilderness characteristics, off-highway vehicles and specific grazing processes, including the Standards for Rangeland Health and voluntary grazing permit relinquishment.

See OREGON RMP on page 16

PERIODICAL : Time Sensitive Priority Handling

Live cattle futures rally over the $200 mark

The cattle market saw record-breaking prices over the week, encouraged by robust consumer demand and holding strong amid wintry temperatures.

Live cattle futures were several dollars higher, finally crossing over that long-awaited $200 mark. The February contract gained $4.50 to close at $201.10, and the April contract gained $3.05 to close at $200.72.

"Thursday's momentum is especially exhilarating as traders are largely making this move on their own as midday boxed beef prices are lower, and the cash cattle market still hasn't seen any significant trade development," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her midday Thursday comments.

Cash trade was limited through Thursday afternoon. Volume totaled a little over 10,000 head. Live steers sold from $201-206, and dressed steers sold for $322.

Cash trade for the week ending Jan. 19 totaled 80,956 head. Live steers averaged $203.72, and dressed steers averaged $322.01.

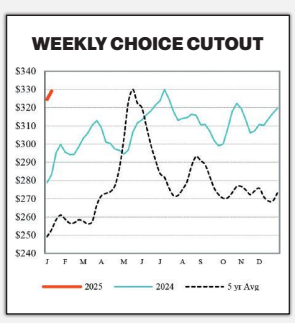
"In the last four weeks, the cash fed cattle market has exploded higher," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday. "December averaged between $194 and $194, and this week traded from $202 to $206."

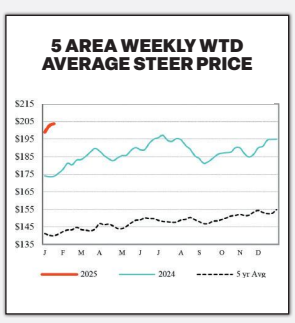
The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of Jan. 13-20 was the following on a live basis:

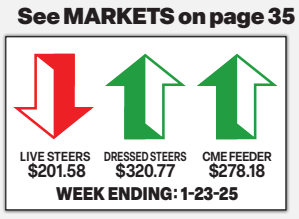
- Negotiated purchases: $203.64.
- Formula net purchases: $202.76.
- Forward contract net purchases: $188.38.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: $203.45.

On a dressed basis:

- Negotiated purchases: $321.97.
- Formula net purchases: $320.63.
- Forward contract net purchases: $303.05.







See MARKETS on page 35

COMMENTS

Markets go crazy



CROW

Cattle markets continued to move higher this last week, and the live cattle futures had enough guts to take the February live cattle contract over $200 for the first time ever. Seems like packers are throwing caution at the wind to obtain fed cattle. I had one report from a rancher that they sold some fed cattle for $221 at the Lanesboro Sales Commission in Minnesota.

Feeder cattle are also stronger with the January feeder cattle contract moving to $278. There were rumors that Mexico would open up for feeder cattle exports to the U.S. soon, but nothing official yet. But with feeder cattle moving to all-time highs and corn on a nice rally to near $5, fed cattle breakevens will be moving much higher, perhaps $220.

It's amazing that after the inauguration of President Donald Trump, the markets have all been green and Americans are bullish on this administration. It's easy to be bullish on Trump after the Biden administration's folly of the last four years—an easy comparison for someone who pays attention.

However, politics will continue as they always have. There is such a dramatic divide in this country, and I think most folks are tired of operating with one hand tied behind their back. Trump and his team will break down the barriers that have held this economy from flourishing. The Green New Deal was holding the world back from economic growth; if you're an ideological activist, you just lost a bunch of your platform. It's the silent majority of Americans that are back in the driver's seat. Perhaps, common sense is here to stay in government.

The Cattle on Feed report due Friday was expected to be uneventful. The average guess for cattle on feed will be below 100%. Marketings were expected to be 1.5% higher than last year with one extra day and placements were expected to be higher. We'll see. The big government report will be the Jan. 31 Cattle inventory report, which is expected to show a dramatic decline in numbers. I'm sure we will all be watching the replacement heifer number with great anticipation.

The beef cutout is holding well after the holiday rib run, and the way this market appears to be setting up, we should have a fairly solid market going forward. Winter typically isn't the best beef demand season, especially for middle meats. The Choice cutout is currently at about $332 and price resistance is at $340. The spring rally will come around April and we should be off the races again. Once you stretch the market and then let a little air out, it always seems to come back with a little more room. It's kind of like a balloon—just don't pop the balloon (my own analogy).

We have an interesting situation developing. The newest large beef packer is about ready to open up. Sustainable Beef in North Platte, NE, will be open by April. They plan on processing 1,500 head a day, and with Walmart as a major partner and one of the largest retail beef sellers, they will have a ready market for Sustainable's boxes. I'm sure it will be touch-and-go for a bit; I just hope they have enough cash on hand to get through this cycle. Good luck folks, I'm rooting for you.

The Ag Center's Cattle Report had some interesting thoughts a week earlier and said, "It has not been good times for the beef plant operations. Small cow kills have created tough competition for fed supplies and cattle owners have stubbornly held cattle for higher prices. Most analysts are estimating $100-150/head losses at the beef plants and few observers believe this will continue forever or even until the national herd is rebuilt. None of the Big Four meat packers are willing to give up market share and most have other operations in the meat or ag sector that can support losses at the beef plants. This leaves the most likely scenario as the closure of one of the independent beef plants.

"Changing and reducing the number of kill slots competing for fed supplies will definitely improve the economics for the remaining plants. The likely recipient of harm will be cattle owners who will lose some of the pricing structure that overcapacity has provided to the entire beef chain. The margins at each level of beef production are constantly changing and the possibility of a closure has traders in the cattle futures wary of the stability of today's prices into the future."

Again, exercise caution and manage your risk. And of course, pray for spring rains. — **PETE CROW**

UNITED WE STAND



with Ashley McDonald

This monthly column highlights the common ground in the livestock industry, uniting us around the issues that impact us all.

It is no secret that the livestock industry distinguishes itself in its ability to find a way to argue about anything. In this world often divided by many segments, there is one topic that unites the livestock industry: the shared commitment to improving rangeland. Despite challenges like drought, invasive species and evolving policies, the benefits of healthier rangelands impact everyone. The path to progress isn't simple—ranching is a dynamic system, requiring continuous adaptation. But those in this industry didn't choose it for ease.

The National Grazing Lands Coalition (NatGLC) is a producer-led nonprofit dedicated to enhancing the health and productivity of all grazing lands, including Western rangelands. By identifying producer challenges and creating tailored resources, NatGLC embraces the reality that ranching has no endpoint. Ranching is diverse, new hurdles will emerge, and old challenges will morph, demanding fresh solutions and persistent effort and collaboration.

The recent ninth National Grazing Lands Conference (9NGLC) in Tucson, AZ, highlighted the producer-driven desire for tools and techniques they can use to improve the lands they manage. From private to federal to tribal lands, packed educational sessions demonstrated this need, as speakers presented technologies and approaches that may be a solution for some operations.

A few key themes came to light:

• There is no one-size-fits-all approach.

From beginning rancher to sixth generation, there are different needs for the operation. Multi-generational operations continue to struggle with transition planning, or the completion of it. Beginning ranchers need networks and mentorship opportunities to grow and learn. Every piece of land is different and therefore management will vary greatly, even operations that are neighboring.

Whether there will be benefits from inclusion of multi-species grazing, finding ways to reduce pests and invasives, or finding ways to access more land to utilize an approach you otherwise couldn't, there are creative ideas being tested for optimizing forage quality and production to overcome challenges or open up new opportunities. We saw an innovative example showcased at 9NGLC where permittees joined together to allow for increased rest/rotation management approach.

Marketing approaches are equally diverse. From direct-to-consumer sales near urban areas to partnerships with small processors, restaurants or retailers, producers must align their goals with the right strategies.

• Efficiency and funding.

Increasing the speed at which important decisions can be made and finding funding opportunities to support implementation was another theme expressed. Whether it was through grazing management technologies, digital recordkeeping or virtual fence, it was apparent producers have a keen interest in understanding how their operations could potentially benefit. However, choosing the right tools requires careful evaluation of each operation's needs and goals.

• The need for research remains critical.

Today, we still don't have a complete understanding of the vast variance across western landscapes. Research is the basis for any change, whether it is your own observation and trial and error, or whether it is a full-fledged land grant university research project. It seems like there is always a lot going on in the research space, but "putting it all together" is still challenging. Interdisciplinary partnerships with researchers will continue to be extremely important, for both individual producers as well as organizations like NatGLC.

• Strong communities fuel healthy rangelands.

Western working lands are the core of their rural economies and enhancing them is in all of our best interests. A thriving community supports healthier lands, and vice versa. Recognizing this connection is essential, as ranching has historically anchored rural life. Collaboration between ranchers and their communities strengthens both, demonstrated continually through brandings across the West.

• Peer-to-peer learning is invaluable.

Producer-led learning remains the most effective way to share knowledge. At 9NGLC, attendees and speakers—primarily producers—shared successes, failures and lessons learned. However, connecting time-strapped producers remains a challenge. Striking a balance between digital platforms like webinars and in-person events is crucial for delivering accessible, relevant information. It is hard to "give up" the time, but it pays dividends in the long run.

I have no doubt, as a fiercely independent lot, we will continue to bicker and disagree about most things. That is natural, we are all different, just like the lands we steward. By focusing on what unites us, we can amplify our collective impact. Whether it is research, adapting to challenges, fighting true and common enemies, the result will be greater by working together. Aristotle said it best: "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts." — **Ashley McDonald, NatGLC executive director**

GUEST OPINION

FIXING THE MARKET

The USDA's recently issued advance notice of proposed rulemaking titled "Price Discovery and Competition in Markets for Fed Cattle" is intended to resolve a very serious and chronic problem in the cattle industry's fed cattle market. That problem is that a super majority of fed cattle have been shifted out of the industry's price discovery market—the cash market—and into alternative marketing arrangements (AMAs).

By far the most common AMAs are agreements known as formula contracts. The way formula contracts work is that the cattle producer enters into a contract to deliver cattle to the packer sometime in the future, but no base price for the cattle is agreed upon at the time the contract is executed. Instead, the base price is ultimately tied to the price discovered in the cash market at or about the time the cattle are actually delivered to the packer in the future.

In other words, cattle producers commit to deliver their slaughter-ready cattle to the packer, but the cattle producer does not know what price he or she will receive until after the cattle are delivered because the price will depend on whatever price is discovered in the cash market when delivery occurs.

Now, if the cash market consists of many buyers and many sellers, then a producer's dependency on the cash market for determining the price he or she will receive when the cattle are delivered sometime in the future under a formula contract is not necessarily a problem. This is because when there are many sellers and many buyers, robust competition is expected to result in discovering a fair market value for the cattle.

But in today's marketplace, there are not many sellers and many buyers. Instead, there are only four packers that purchase over 80% of the cattle marketed by the 25,000 feedlots that remain in business in our U.S. cattle industry. So, today's fed cattle market is one that has many sellers but only a handful of buyers.

To make matters worse, as the volume of cattle is shifted out of the cash market and into formula contracts, the cash market becomes ultrathin and subject to manipulation, and with only four dominant packers purchasing cattle in the cash market, there simply isn't enough competition to ensure that the price of cattle discovered in the cash market reflects the fair market value of cattle.

What this means is that the base price for the super majority of cattle purchased by the packers under formula contracts is now tied to a cash market that is not only subject to manipulation, but it's also too thin to establish a fair market value for cattle. As a general rule, thin cash markets result in lower cattle prices.

So, what do we do? How do we ensure that the price of fed cattle sold to the packers is a competitive price reflecting the fair market value of cattle? This is an important question because the price of those fed cattle ultimately translates to the prices that cow/calf producers, backgrounders, and stockers receive for their lighter weight cattle.

And the question of how to fix this problem is precisely the reason the USDA proposed rulemaking. Its purpose is to solicit ideas from the public regarding the best way to reinstate robust competition into what has become a highly dysfunctional fed cattle market. This is by no means a new challenge. Beginning in 2020, a bill was introduced to address this problem by requiring each packing plants owned by the largest packers to purchase at least half their cattle in the price discovering cash market, and to slaughter those cattle within 14 days, hence the moniker the "50/14 bill."

But the dominant beef packing lobby rallied against the measure arguing it would be too disruptive if each individual packing plant had to compete in the competitive cash market for half of their cattle needs, especially in regions like the Texas/Oklahoma/New Mexico region, where the volume in the cash market had shrunk to less than 3% of overall cattle sales.

Fixing the fed cattle market so it can once again reflect fair market conditions and not be vulnerable to manipulation and other price distorting anticompetitive practices is one of Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund USA's (R-CALF USA) highest priorities for 2025. — **Bill Bullard, CEO of R-CALF USA**

WLJ

Letters to the editor: Letters for publication must be no longer than 675 words and must include the writer's name, location and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published. Letters may be shortened for space requirements. Obituaries must be no longer than 700 words. Send a letter to the editor or obituary by emailing editorial@wlj.net or mailing to Western Livestock Journal, Attn: Editorial Dept., 6021 S Syracuse Way, Ste #103, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

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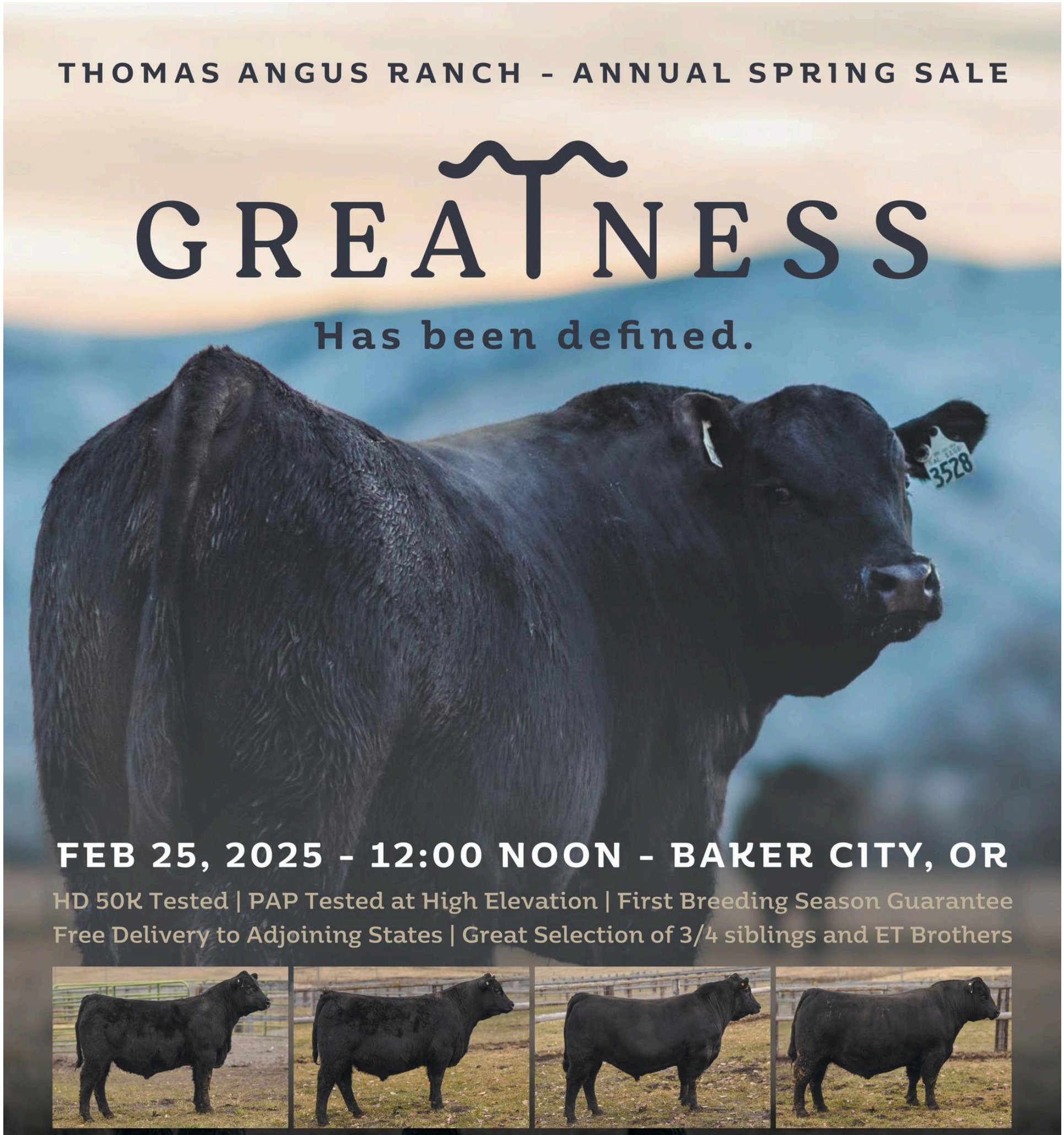

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THOMAS SALVATION 4087 | AAA# 21008938
SG Salvation x Poss Rawhide

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	$B	$C
7	2.3	82	139	20	1.12	1.04	211	329

THOMAS SALVATION 4068 | AAA# 21117001
SG Salvation x Poss Maverick

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	$B	$C
1	3.2	82	139	24	1.42	1.13	223	352

THOMAS FIREBALL 3596 | AAA# 21000976
GB Fireball 672 x Thomas Xpansion 5810

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	$B	$C
8	2	73	131	25	1.43	1.51	231	353

THOMAS WHITEWATER 3489 | AAA# 20850327
HCC Whitewater 9010 x Poss Rawhide

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	$B	$C
8	-0.7	72	132	32	1.33	1.08	196	305



THOMAS WHITEWATER 3493 | AAA# 20993119
HCC Whitewater 9010 x GB Fireball 672

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	$B	$C
12	-1.2	65	120	22	1.43	1.36	216	352

THOMAS ALTERNATIVE 31004 | AAA# 20929329
Baldridge Alternative E125 x G A R Sure Fire

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	$B	$C
7	2	67	116	23	1.15	.86	180	282

THOMAS ICONIC 3643 | AAA# 21001768
DB Iconic G95 x A A R Ten X 7008 S A

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	$B	$C
9	-0.3	65	125	30	1.05	.54	180	280

THOMAS CLARITY 3488 | AAA# 20858729
Connealy Clarity x Poss Maverick

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	$B	$C
7	2	84	134	34	1.85	.66	210	358

PAP Score of 36 at 8000 + feet.

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BOOTH'S

Cherry Creek ANGUS

52ND ANNUAL

Progress Through Performance Bull Sale

Thursday, February 13, 2025

At the ranch in Veteran, WY

Lunch: Noon • Sale Time: 1 p.m.

Offering 130 Bulls

110 OF THE BULLS HAVE BEEN PAP TESTED BY DR. TIM HOLT AFTER SPENDING THE SUMMER AT 8,000' IN WALDEN, CO



Cherry Crk Blue Collar L114S

AAA 21006918
CED 8 BW 1.8 WW 84 YW 141 $C 271
Actual BW 79 lbs WR 117 PAP 39

Lead off bull of the sale. Very smooth made calving ease son by Blue Collar that posted an outstanding 117 weaning ratio and superb PAP score!

Cherry Crk Skyline L38 S

AAA 21006958
CED 6 BW .6 WW 80 YW 149 $C 314
Actual BW 83 lbs WWR 99 PAP 40

Mating two of the most popular bulls here at Cherry Creek in Skyline and Blue Collar. Outstanding carcass bull out of a first calf Blue Collar heifer.





Cherry Crk Alternative L190M

AAA 21106497
CED 7 BW 1.6 WW 82 YW 144 $C 284
Actual BW 86 lbs WR 111 PAP 41

Heavy muscled son of Baldridge Alternative and a moderate framed Musgrave Aviator daughter. Lots of performance with weaning and yearling ratios of 111.

Cherry Crk Exclusive L123M

AAA 21106485
CED 6 BW 1.7 WW 73 YW 135 $C 275
Actual BW 82 lbs WR 116 PAP 41

Very stout, high performing Musgrave Exclusive son. Individual performance of 116 weaning ratio and 113 yearling ratio. Growth bull that will do well in high elevation.



Our 2025 Sires Include:

Cherry Crk Blue Collar G275 • Cherry Crk Skyline G313
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LEGAL LEDGER

CO releases 15 wolves on Western Slope

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) concluded on Jan. 18 its second round of gray wolf releases in the state. Over the course of six days, seven male and eight female wolves were captured in British Columbia, Canada and released in Colorado's Eagle and Pitkin counties. The agency also released five wolves from the original Copper Creek Pack. No further releases are planned for the 2024-25 capture season, but there are three to five more remaining release seasons. "Because of the safety risk and security needs of our staff and the animals, CPW did not share wolf release details while the operation was underway," the agency said. CPW reiterated that captured wolves did not overlap with areas where livestock was present.

FTC sues Deere over right to repair

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Illinois and Minnesota attorneys general in mid-January filed suit against Deere & Co. over the company's high cost and restrictive repair practices. "The FTC's action today seeks to ensure that farmers across America are free to repair their own equipment or use repair shops of their choice—lowering costs, preventing ruinous delays, and promoting fair competition for independent repair shops," said FTC Chair Lina M. Khan. The FTC said Deere's monopoly practices have made it difficult for farmers to repair their own equipment or use local independent repair shops. The suit seeks to require Deere to make access available to its Service ADVISOR repair tool and any other repair resources available to authorized dealers.

Bill seeks to improve forest management

Reps. Bruce Westerman (R-AR-04) and Rep. Scott Peters (D-CA-50) reintroduced the Fix Our Forests Act, which intends to address forest health management and reduce wildfire risk. The bill has the broad support of industry groups. A letter penned by a coalition of agricultural groups, including the American Farm Bureau Federation and California Farm Bureau Federation, said resources in the bill are "crucial to help control and reduce the severity of wildfires to enhance air quality, wildlife habitat and more."

CA withdraws diesel truck regs

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) withdrew its request to the Environmental Protection Agency seeking to require commercial truckers to transition to zero-emissions vehicles. "The withdrawal is an important step given the uncertainty presented by the incoming administration that previously attacked California's programs to protect public health and the climate and has said will continue to oppose those programs," CARB Chair Liane Randolph said in a statement. The rule would have phased out the sale of new diesel-powered semi-trucks and buses by 2036.

New Horse Protection Act on pause

Last May, the USDA published new Horse Protection Act rules to be implemented in February. Industry groups, including industry nonprofit Western Justice, call the new rules an overreach and say the new language will impact the personal privacy of citizens in the horse industry, every breed of horse and every sector of horse events. The revised Horse Protection Act would mandate that the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service could "screen, train and authorize qualified persons for appointment by the management of any horse show, horse exhibition, or horse sale or auction to detect and diagnose soring at such events." Sored horses would not be allowed to participate in nearly any equine activity. Sore muscles from a training session or an incorrectly fitted bell boot could be attributed to intentional soring under the new rules. For now, the rules are stayed for at least 60 days after President Donald Trump signed an executive order to impose a regulatory freeze on rules that have not yet taken effect until they are reviewed.

Germany says it's clear of more FMD cases

German Agriculture Minister Cem Oezdemir said the country has had no new cases of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) since the initial case reported Jan. 10 in a herd of water buffalo. In an interview on a German radio station, Oezdemir said the country will continue its efforts to contain the disease and win back the trust of companies that placed import restrictions on the country's ag products, according to a Reuters report. Authorities continue to test animals on farms in the Brandenburg region where the initial case was reported.

Costco Teamsters vote to authorize strike

Costco Teamsters voted by an 85% margin to authorize a strike across the country. The union said the looming strike is a result of Costco's "continued failure to bargain constructively and refusal to present a fair contract offer that reflects the company's record-breaking profits." The Costco Teamsters National Master Agreement, which covers more than 18,000 Costco workers, expires Jan. 31. "From day one, we've told Costco that our members won't work a day past January 31 without a historic, industry-leading agreement," said Teamsters General President Sean M. O'Brien.

Van Dyke Angus Ranch
Cattleman's Advantage
Bull Sale
February 20, 2025
12:30 pm MST • Manhattan, Montana

Selling 130 Yearling & 25 Coming Two Year Old Angus Bulls

50 bred heifers from Moore Livestock
Due to calve May 12 to June 15. Bred to VDAR bulls.



VDAR SHADOW 2004 20991809

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Milk	$W	$F
+9	-2.0	+48	+78	-.14	+27	+50	+68

sire N Bar Shadow X4124 *MGS* V D A R Cedar Wind 8111



VDAR BLACK MASS 2214 20963132

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Milk	$W	$F
+9	+0.4	+52	+92	+.83	+25	+51	+86

sire B Bar Black Mass 3045 *MGS* V D A R Sonny Boy 1194



VDAR TWENTY TWENTY 2524 20960769

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Milk	$W	$F
+2	+3.0	+44	+83	+.69	+27	+38	+77

sire VDAR Twenty Twenty 2020 *MGS* HA Windfall 6011



VDAR KAWLIGA 1124 20900025

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Milk	$W	$F
+7	-0.4	+73	+119	+1.01	+33	+86	+82

sire VDAR Kawliga 2141 *MGS* Sitz Resilient 10208



VDAR COALITION 1174 20907041

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Milk	$W	$F
+15	-1.3	+52	+96	+1.51	+32	+62	+67

sire U-2 Coalition 206C *MGS* V D A R Cedar Wind 5126



VDAR XXP 1334 20900040

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Milk	$W	$F
+0	+4.0	+76	+131	+1.36	+28	+62	+103

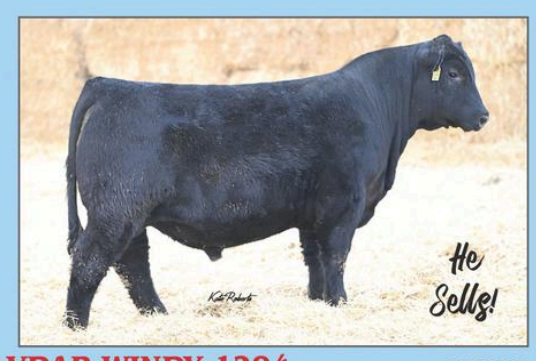
sire VDAR 4321 XXP 5629 *MGS* V D A R Stout 6287



VDAR COALITION 1114 20900024

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Milk	$W	$F
+11	+0.4	+69	+124	+1.64	+29	+71	+80

sire U-2 Coalition 206C *MGS* Koupal Juneau 797



VDAR WINDY 1294 20951512

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Milk	$W	$F
+11	+0.6	+65	+113	+1.85	+22	+58	+68

sire CFF 79 Windy 8423 *MGS* V D A R Hero 7072



VDAR BLACK MASS 1614 20937944

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Milk	$W	$F
+12	-1.6	+55	+86	+1.41	+33	+70	+54

sire B Bar Black Mass 3045 *MGS* V D A R Cedar Wind 5126



VDAR BLACK MASS 2054 20963109

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Milk	$W	$F
+8	+0.2	+51	+85	+1.42	+24	+53	+47

sire B Bar Black Mass 3045 *MGS* VDAR Gallatin 7586



VDAR TWENTY TWENTY 2074 20960754

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Milk	$W	$F
+4	+2.8	+71	+122	+.98	+29	+62	+88

sire VDAR Twenty Twenty 2020 *MGS* VDAR Gallatin 7586



VDAR SONNY BOY 2324 20960759

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Milk	$W	$F
+9	+1.1	+60	+108	+.14	+31	+62	+102

sire V D A R Sonny Boy 1194 *MGS* DFA Hero 6017

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Trump appoints new USDA staff members

The Trump administration has made some staff announcements at USDA, including an acting secretary for the department while waiting for the Senate confirmation vote of Brooke Rollins.

The confirmation hearing for Brooke Rollins, President Donald Trump's nominee for Agriculture secretary, was set for Jan. 23 by the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, ahead of *WLJ* press time. A total of 427 agricultural groups co-signed a letter backing Rollins' nomination.

A hearing date has not been set for Judge Stephen Vaden, Trump's nominee for deputy USDA secretary and former general counsel for the department.

USDA also announced the following appointees:

Kailee Tkacz Buller was named as chief of staff at USDA. Buller had been the president & CEO of the National Oilseed Processors Association and the Edible Oil Producers Association. Buller also had previously served as chief of staff for the deputy USDA secretary in the first Trump administration. Buller holds a Bachelor of Arts in political science from the University at Buffalo.

Buller's appointment also will likely help USDA push back against Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s desire to ban oilseeds for cooking food, one of several goals Kennedy would like to see for food and agriculture. Kennedy is Trump's nominee for secretary of Health and Human Services. His nomination hearing hasn't been scheduled.

Preston Parry was appointed as deputy chief of staff at USDA. Preston most recently served as strategic assistant to Rollins at the America First Policy Institute. During the first Trump administration, he also was the executive assistant to the director of the Domestic Policy Council under Rollins. A native of Tucson, AZ, Preston holds a degree in political science from Utah Valley University.

Jennifer Tiller was named as chief of staff to the deputy secretary and senior advisor to the secretary for Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services. Tiller served as the deputy staff director for the House Committee on Agriculture and holds graduate degrees from Marist College and Syracuse University.

Ralph Linden was appointed as principal deputy general counsel for USDA. Linden served in various capacities in the Office of the General Counsel from 1982 until 2021, including serving as an acting deputy general counsel during the first Trump administration. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame School of Law.

Audra Weeks was named as deputy director of communications for USDA. Weeks previously served in the first Trump administration as deputy press secretary at USDA before joining the national press team for Trump's 2020 re-election campaign. Weeks later served as press secretary to Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS) and most recently specialized in crisis and issues management for food and agricultural clients in the private sector.

She holds a Bachelor of Science in agricultural education and communication from the University of Florida, a Master of Science in agricultural economics from Purdue University and a Master of Business Administration from Indiana University.

Dominic Restuccia was appointed as White House liaison for USDA. Restuccia previously served as a legislative assistant for Rep. Mike Bishop (R-MI-08) and Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT). Restuccia is from Michigan and is a graduate of Hillsdale College.

Trump's transition team also had named a slate of undersecretary nominees: Richard Fordyce as Agriculture undersecretary for farm production and conservation, Dudley Hoskins as undersecretary for marketing and regulatory programs, Luke Lindberg as undersecretary for trade and foreign agricultural affairs, and Michael Boren as undersecretary for natural resources and environment. — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**



DOE action could affect NM landowners

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) initiated the establishment of a 5- to 15-mile-wide energy corridor which severely impact the property rights of landowners in eastern New Mexico, according to the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association (NMCGA).

The DOE has already completed phases one and two of the project called National Interest Electric Transmission Corridors (NIETC) and is in the comment phase of Phase Three, which cuts a 5- to 15-mile-wide swath through some of eastern New Mexico's prime agricultural country and impacts several towns.

During a webinar presentation on Jan. 15, DOE representatives only outlined their plans for Phase Four, which documents and defines the human and environmental impact. Subsequent environmental impact statements, if deemed necessary by the DOE, would be implemented. Potential objections were not addressed.

The questionable need for these transmission corridors, as documented by a publication of Landmark Resource Firm, is needed to unlock $2 billion in financing designated in the current Infrastructure Act. This program would allow the DOE to enter into public-private partnerships to develop transmission projects within the NIETCs.

The guidelines establishing the NIETCs indicate a "national interest" policy that provides eminent domain action available if landowners do not reach a satisfactory agreement with transmission line developers. The landowner options would be to either sell/lease their property to developers or face taking by the eminent domain process.

The order establishing the corridor implementation does not differentiate between the various types of electricity. It leaves the type open ended which could include wind, solar, hydroelectric and the necessary support such as battery storage, waste disposal and large facilities.

This action directly affects seven counties in New Mexico. Those are Otero, Eddy, Roosevelt, Curry, Lea, Quay and Union counties. The county commissioners in several of the affected counties have held informational meetings with more planned. The consensus at the present meetings is that the county commissioners need to establish a united front to fight the project.

Additionally, county residents need to contact their county commissioners voicing their standing on the proposed NIETC corridors. Contact phone and email addresses for the county commissioners are listed on the affected county websites. Contacts for state representatives and state senators are on the New Mexico Legislature website.

The NMCGA is developing fact sheets on the impacts of the NIETC and will make them available to anyone who calls their office at 505-247-0584. The fact sheet will be mailed or emailed. The staff encourages callers to share their concerns, comments and ideas for addressing the issue.

Information on submitting factual comments to the Federal Register by the Feb. 14 deadline will be available soon. Comments must be included in the Federal Register in order to be used in any possible litigation.

The NMCGA strongly urges landowners to talk to neighbors, commissioners and legislators about this urgent issue. The organization strongly urges elected officials and citizens to insist that DOE representatives face the people affected and answer questions. — **NMCGA**

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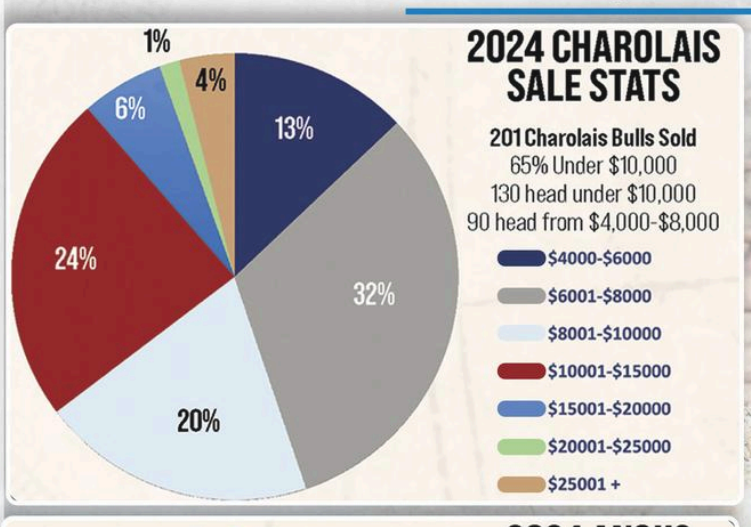

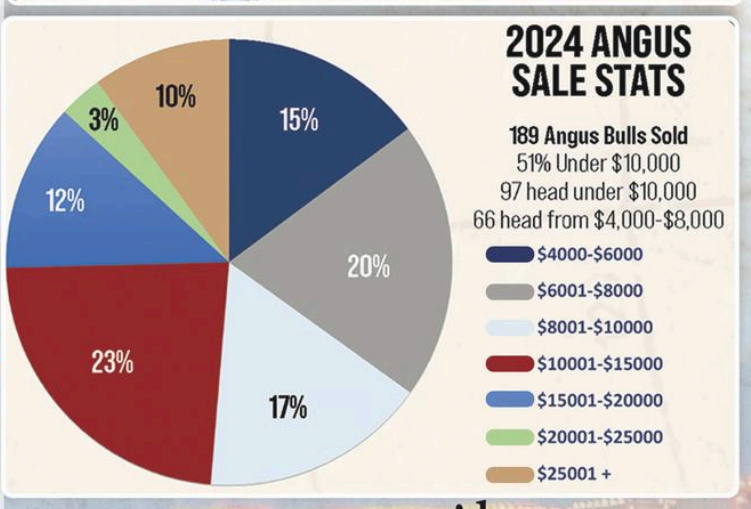



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Improving genetics for a better cow herd

Improving fertility in cows involves leveraging genetic selection and advanced genomic tools to enhance reproductive performance.

But genetic potential is only half the battle. Environment is the other half, said University of Missouri (MU) Extension state beef genetics specialist Jamie Courter at the recent Missouri Livestock Symposium in Kirksville, MO.

"Fertility is a lowly heritable trait and, therefore, a lot of environmental factors can negatively impact a female with otherwise high genetic merit," Courter said.

An animal's phenotype, or the traits seen, is a combination of their genotype (genetic merit) and the environment in which they are raised. Environmental factors can include both Mother Nature as well as management decisions on the farm, she said.

"We can take females with poor genetics for fertility and manage them in a way that increases their likelihood of becoming pregnant," Courter said. "Similarly, we can take females with excellent genetics for fertility and decrease their likelihood of becoming pregnant through poor management. When it comes to building better female cows, the goal should be to match their genetics to the environment."

Because fertility is a lowly heritable trait, it is often more beneficial to focus on traits with higher heritability. When producers ask for increased fertility, they want more cows bred per year and therefore more calves weaned. There are many other traits with higher heritability that can result in the same outcome, she said.

To match genetics to the environment, the first step is to define a breeding objective. The most important question to ask yourself when creating a breeding objective is: "What is the biggest revenue generation on my operation?"

- Do you sell calves at weaning (is weaning weight important)?
- Do you retain ownership and market based on carcass quality?
- Do you sell? There are EPDs/traits that can be selected for in these situations, and many more.

Then follow that with questions such as:

- Are there other traits important to your operation?
- Do you work cattle with your kids or grandkids (is docility important)?
- What is the environment surrounding the cattle? Requirements for females in Missouri, with higher stocking rates and smaller pasture sizes, are different than for females in the Sandhills of Nebraska who need to travel much longer distances.
- What phenotypes are critically important to match these needs—e.g., feet and leg conformation, predator protection, etc.?

EPDs are a key tool in accurately implementing successful breeding programs. They predict the genetic potential of an animal as a parent and estimate the differences in performance traits that can be expected in that animal's offspring.

Courter said EPDs should be seen as an additional tool to help producers make informed decisions that drive their breeding objectives and match cattle to their environment.

There are three non-negotiables when genetically selecting a better cow herd:

1. Mature cow size.

"While I often hear, 'But my larger cows wean heavier calves,' that isn't the right question we should be asking," Courter said. "Instead, we should ask ourselves, 'Are larger cows as efficient as my lighter cows?' To which the answer is a resounding 'No.'"

What resources did you concede to accommodate that larger cow? Cow size directly affects stocking rates. Decreasing mature cow size allows for increased stocking rates and therefore more calves weaned per year. In addition, larger mature-weight cows also take longer to reach puberty, decreasing their likelihood of conceiving in the first 21 days of the breeding season as a heifer.

2. Hair shedding.

Earlier shedding cows tend to wean an older, heavier calf. A female who does not shed her hair in a timely manner doesn't match her environment. She is stressed in some way, be it due to nutrition, heat or health. Females who don't shed their hair early are likely to have lower body condition at breeding due to heat stress during summer and are less likely to become pregnant.

3. Calving ease.

Not a "more is more" type of trait. The goal of selecting for bulls with increased calving ease is to decrease dystocia (difficult or abnormal labor) events. However, stacking increased calving-ease bulls year over year can have detrimental effects on other traits of economic importance.

"The genetic correlation between birth weight and weaning weight is 0.60, meaning that calves born smaller are typically smaller at weaning time," she said. "This doesn't bode well for profitability."

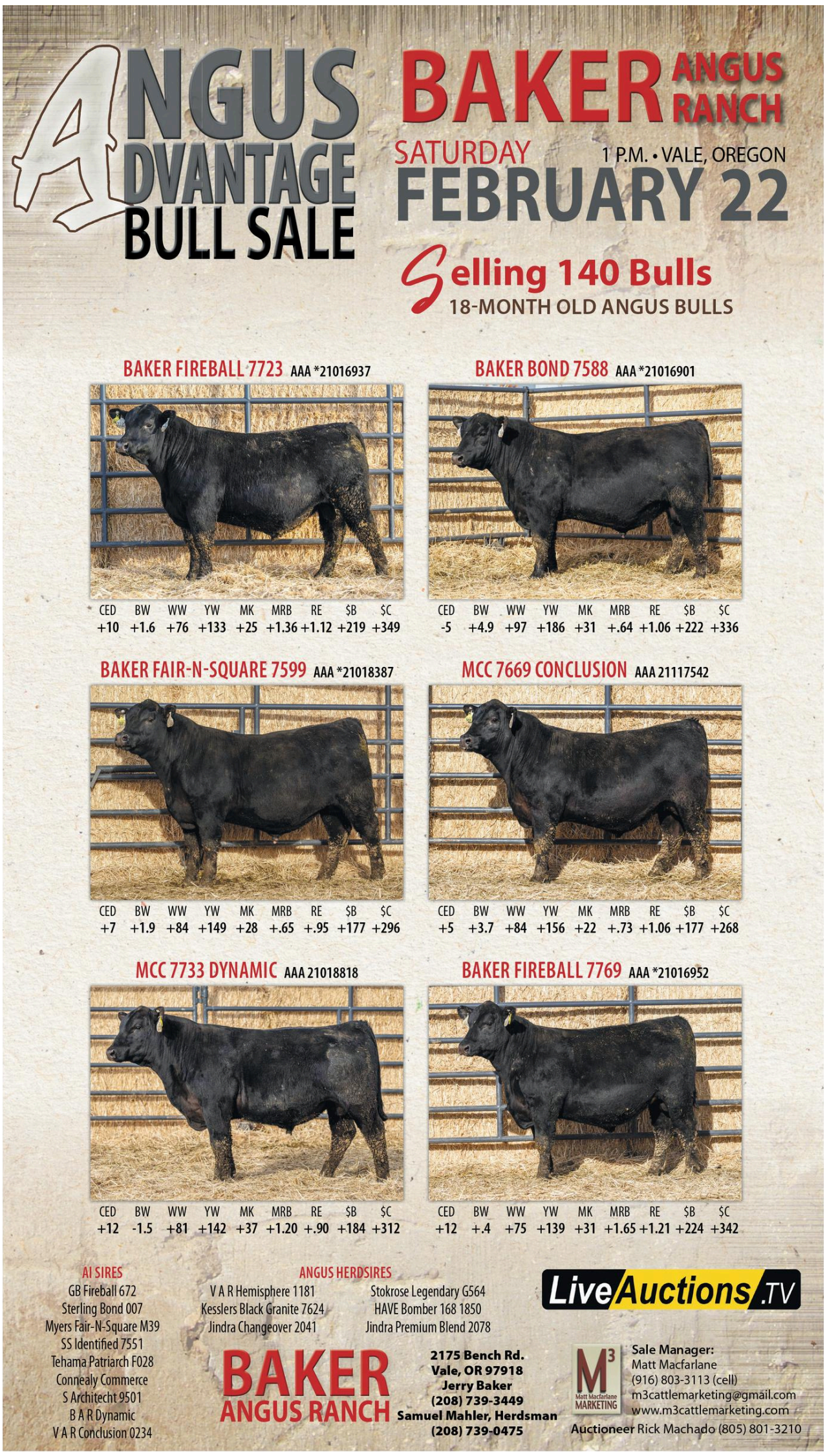
However, the genetic correlation between calving ease and weaning weight is only 0.32, meaning producers can select calving-ease bulls who have heavier calves at birth and therefore are heavier at weaning.

From a producer's perspective, calving ease is a threshold of, "Did I have to intervene or not?" In other words, calving ease is a trait to pay attention to when selecting bulls, especially for heifers.

"However, if calving ease isn't an issue in your herd, it may be worth discussing with myself or a trusted seedstock producer how to best manage those genetics moving forward," Courter said.

At the end of the day, select bulls based on their genetic potential for traits of interest, she said. Use the information available to make educated decisions. Weigh the pros and cons of the bull. Normally, producers need multiple bulls—so balance out one bull's deficit with another's surplus.

"But, before you get frustrated, realize it's not easy. The perfect animal doesn't exist, but we can make better decisions knowing that ahead of time instead of realizing we made the wrong decision 5-7 years down the road." — **MU Extension**



Hay worries this winter

Grass tetany and nitrate poisoning are issues that we typically associate with animals grazing. However, both issues can be a problem in winter when animal diets are limited by what they are fed. Is your herd safe from possible hay worries?

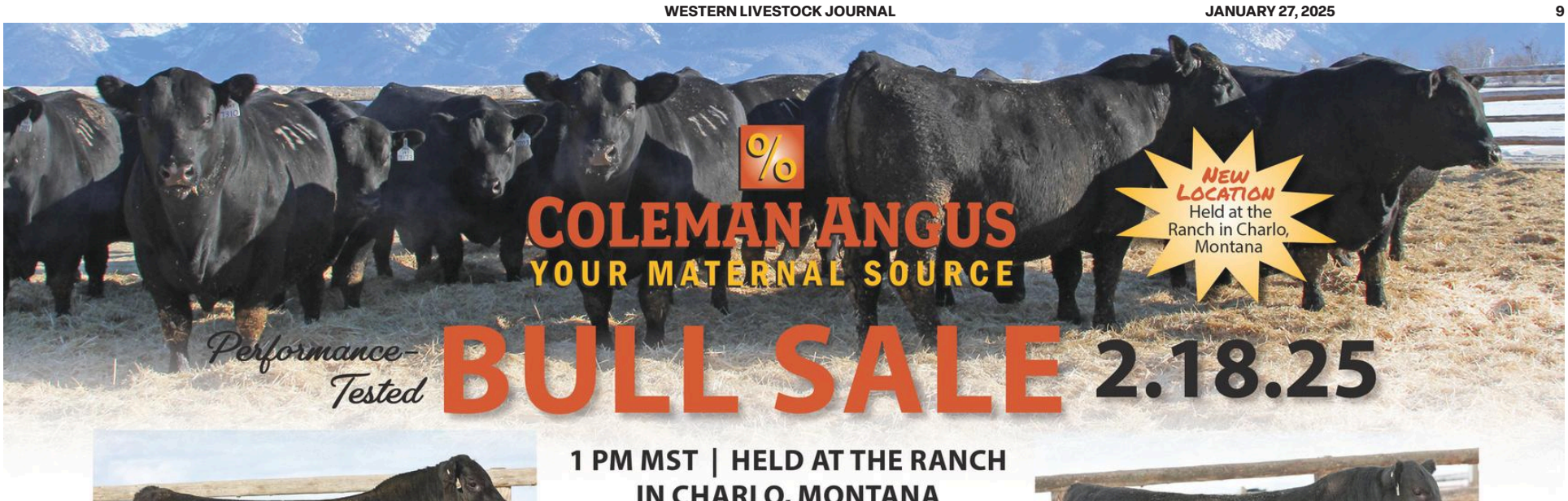
Tetany occurs when an animal's diet doesn't have enough magnesium to meet nutritional needs. Complications with milk production and increased magnesium demand can make this imbalance even worse during lactation.

Grass, alfalfa and cereal grains harvested for hay can all be low in magnesium. Getting a hay test with mineral analysis can easily show if this is an issue we need to worry about. If tests come back showing less than 0.15% magnesium, the hay is deficient. Other mineral interactions that can worsen tetany are low calcium (<0.40%) and high in potassium (>2.5%).

If your test comes back with issues, consider switching over to a high calcium and magnesium mineral. Most options use magnesium oxide, which is bitter tasting and can reduce animal consumption. Consider mixing with a protein or energy supplement or mixing with distillers grain or soybean meal to improve consumption if it's not at target levels (for a 10-13% magnesium mix, this is 4 oz. per head).

Another concern to keep an eye on is nitrates. Forages high in nitrate that were harvested for hay will not see a significant reduction in nitrate levels after curing. Any hay that we suspect being high in nitrate should be tested and if high, fed as a reduced portion of the diet to prevent an issue with toxicity.

Tetany and nitrates in the winter aren't problems that often jump right to a producer's mind, but they can be a serious issue, especially when an animal's diet is limited to what they are fed. Properly testing hay and adjusting mineral and diets to minimize risk can keep your winter hay worries at bay. — **Nebraska Extension**



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COLEMAN RIMROCK 4149
Reg. 21060906 **Sire:** Coleman Rock 7200 **Dam:** Coleman Donna 046 **CED:** 8 BW: 1.8 **WW:** 88 **YW:** 152 **SC:** 1.41 **Milk:** 30 **REA:** .79 **$W:** 89 **$M:** 97 **Act BW:** 78 **Adj WW:** 935



COLEMAN CONCRETE 441
Reg. 21061012 **Sire:** Coleman Rock 7200 **Dam:** Coleman Chloe 9275 **CED:** 6 BW: 2.0 **WW:** 84 **YW:** 147 **SC:** .98 **Milk:** 17 **REA:** .95 **$W:** 67 **$M:** 65 **Act BW:** 84 **Adj WW:** 816



COLEMAN MONUMENT 447
Reg. 21061025 **Sire:** Coleman Rock 7200 **Dam:** Coleman Donna 046 **CED:** 10 BW: -.2 **WW:** 75 **YW:** 122 **SC:** .73 **Milk:** 24 **REA:** .56 **$W:** 81 **$M:** 89 **Act BW:** 78 **Adj WW:** 905



COLEMAN RINGTONE 4377
Reg. 21061000 **Sire:** Coleman Resource 708 **Dam:** Coleman Donna 8241 **CED:** 9 BW: -.8 **WW:** 65 **YW:** 117 **SC:** .12 **Milk:** 21 **REA:** .63 **$W:** 57 **$M:** 65 **Act BW:** 81 **Adj WW:** 787



COLEMAN SEDONA 4209
Reg. 21060934 **Sire:** Coleman Patron 269 **Dam:** Coleman Donna 151 **CED:** 16 BW: -1.6 **WW:** 70 **YW:** 127 **SC:** 1.32 **Milk:** 22 **REA:** .57 **$W:** 65 **$M:** 92 **Act BW:** 65 **Adj WW:** 783



COLEMAN CARLOS 415
Reg. 21060907 **Sire:** South America **Dam:** Coleman Chloe 9275 **CED:** 7 BW: 3.5 **WW:** 91 **YW:** 157 **SC:** 1.26 **Milk:** 11 **REA:** 1.19 **$W:** 64 **$M:** 55 **Act BW:** 95 **Adj WW:** 818



COLEMAN TRIPLE WIDE 4311
Reg. 21060975 **Sire:** Coleman Easy Decision 1539 **Dam:** Coleman Donna 1203 **CED:** 16 BW: -3.1 **WW:** 58 **YW:** 105 **SC:** .23 **Milk:** 12 **REA:** .45 **$W:** 49 **$M:** 88 **Act BW:** 68 **Adj WW:** 773



COLEMAN GRIZZ 4191
Reg. 21060925 **Sire:** South America **Dam:** Coleman Everelda Entense 092 **CED:** 9 **BW:** 1.4 **WW:** 74 **YW:** 119 **SC:** .97 **Milk:** 19 **REA:** .88 **$W:** 75 **$M:** 103 **Act BW:** 84 **Adj WW:** 822



COLEMAN PABLO 423
Reg. 21060943 **Sire:** South America **Dam:** Coleman Chloe 9275 **CED:** 7 BW: 1.4 **WW:** 81 **YW:** 145 **SC:** 1.53 **Milk:** 17 **REA:** 1.11 **$W:** 66 **$M:** 63 **Act BW:** 88 **Adj WW:** 909



COLEMAN CLARK FORK 4293
Reg. 21060967 **Sire:** Coleman Resource 708 **Dam:** Coleman Donna 927 **CED:** 11 BW: -1.6 **WW:** 73 **YW:** 129 **SC:** .80 **Milk:** 17 **REA:** .56 **$W:** 65 **$M:** 85 **Act BW:** 80 **Adj WW:** 8245

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COLEMAN POLAR 425
Reg. 21060951 **Sire:** Coleman Glacier 041 **Dam:** Coleman Chloe 975 **CED:** 11 BW: 1.2 **WW:** 81 **YW:** 144 **SC:** .78 **Milk:** 25 **REA:** .67 **$W:** 80 **$M:** 94 **Act BW:** 82 **Adj WW:** 860

Bill could end presidential national monument designations

Nevada's only Republican in Congress, Rep. Mark Amodei (02), announced plans for legislation that would require congressional approval of all future national monuments in Nevada.

That would mark a major change from current federal laws that allow the president to designate a monument with or without congressional approval under powers granted through the Antiquities Act of 1906.

Since the passage of the Antiquities Act in 1906, 18 presidents—nine Democratic and nine Republican—have established or expanded more than 160 national monuments, according to the Congressional Research Service.

The "Ending Presidential Overreach on Public Lands Act"—sponsored by Amodei and Republican Utah Rep. Celeste Maloy (02)—would strip presidential authority to unilaterally designate national monuments and require congressional approval for future designations.

Western states have "long been burned by executive actions on public lands and monument designations that bypass input from Congress and local governments," said Amodei, whose district covers huge swaths of public land in Northern Nevada.

"I am a firm believer that the best lands policy is generated by the local communities who actually live off of these lands, not Washington bureaucrats," said Amodei in a statement. "This legislation overturns years of a one-sided approach on major land management decisions and ensures Western communities are given a seat at the table for any future monument designations."

In Nevada, the Antiquities Act has spurred the creation of three national monuments since 2015: the Basin and Range National Monument in Nye County, the Gold Butte National Monument, and the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument in Clark County. None of those are in Amodei's congressional district.

Nevada's fourth national monument, the Tule Springs Fossil Bed National Monument, was created by an act of Congress. Together, Nevada's national monuments have conserved more than 153,000 acres of public land from development and extraction.

All four of Nevada's national monuments were created by Democratic presidents.

Nevada's most recent national monument, the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument, was designated last year in March by outgoing President Joe Biden after decades of advocacy by the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe and locals. Nevada's other three national monuments were created by former President Barack Obama.

An ongoing campaign by a coalition of tribes—the Ely Shoshone, Duckwater Shoshone, and the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation—is also pushing for a fifth national monument in White Pine County, which would be in Amodei's district.

This is not the first time Amodei has introduced legislation to upend the Antiquities Act. In 2017, Amodei partnered with former Republican Sen. Dean Heller on the "Nevada Land Sovereignty Act" in response to the creation of Nevada's first national monument by Obama, the Basin and Range National Monument.

Mathilda Miller, director of Native Voters Alliance Nevada, argued that if passed, the bill would threaten Tribal sovereignty and cultural preservation, and urged Congress to reject it.

Miller pointed to broad support for the creation of the recently designated Avi Kwa Ame National Monument as an example of Nevadans' support for public land protections through executive action.

"Congressman Amodei's claims that the Antiquities Act ignores local voices are not only false—they're offensive. The truth is clear: Avi Kwa Ame would not have been protected without an overwhelming wave of local support," Miller said.

Utah's Maloy, cosponsor of the Ending Presidential Overreach on Public Lands Act, argued the bill would "rebalance the powers between Congress and the executive branch and restore transparency and accountability to these designations."

"Presidents have continued to abuse that narrow authority to designate millions of acres of land in Utah and across the West without proper Congressional oversight," Maloy said.

Since its creation, there have been some modifications to the powers of the Antiquities Act. Nearly half a century ago, Congress passed the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, which clarifies that only Congress has the authority to modify or revoke national monument designations.

In recent years, more Republican lawmakers have expressed disapproval of the broad powers of the Antiquities Act. President Donald Trump has sharply criticized past presidents' use of the Antiquities Act, but he's also used the law to create national monuments.

Trump reduced the Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante monuments in southern Utah, which were created by Obama shortly before he left office. The monuments were eventually restored by Biden. Trump also created the Camp Nelson National Monument in Kentucky, a Civil War-era recruitment center for African American Union soldiers.

Nevada Gov. Joe Lombardo (R) criticized the use of the Antiquities Act to create the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument in Clark County shortly after his election, citing "several concerns" about the monument's potential disruption of "rare earth mineral mining projects and long-planned bi-partisan economic development efforts."

"This kind of 'Washington Knows Best' policy might win plaudits from unaccountable special interests, but it's going to cost our state jobs and economic opportunity—all while making land more expensive and more difficult to develop," said Lombardo in response to the Avi Kwa Ame National Monument designation in March.

Conservation groups, however, point to the positive economic and conservation impacts of national parks in the state as a reason to support national monuments in Nevada.

In 2023, park visitors at the Great Basin National Park spent an estimated $15.4 million in local gateway regions, while the Tule Springs Fossil Beds National Monument brought in $4 million in spending from park visitors, according to the National Park Service. — **Jeniffer Solis, Nevada Current**



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 – The Montana Stockgrowers Foundation is accepting applications for its annual Education Heritage Scholarship Program. Scholarships will be awarded to three students in the amounts of one $5,000 scholarship and two $2,500 scholarships. Details: www.mtbeeffoundation.org.

Feb. 1 – The Working Lands Internship Program is designed to offer beginning agriculturalists, natural resource and range specialists, biologists, soils majors or any student looking into natural resources, real-world and hands-on experience implementing the educational tools already gained to a ranching operation. Details: www.mtrangelands.org/internships.

Feb. 3 – Applications are open for the summer 2025 Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association internship programs. Details: tscra.org/leadership-development-foundation.

Feb. 15 – The Montana Stockgrowers Association has opened applications for the 2025 Summer Internship Program. The internship duration will be from May to August. Details: www.mtbeef.org/careers.

Feb. 21 – The 2025 Forrest Bassford Student Award application is now open. The top winner will receive a $1,500 scholarship and a $500 travel award to attend Ag Media Summit. Up to three additional $750 travel scholarships may be awarded. Details: tinyurl.com/574dsswy.

Blue Ribbon II

Stock Cow & Bred Heifers Sale!

Tuesday • February 4, 2025

Expecting 3,000+ Bred Cows and 800+ Bred Heifers!

Early Consignments:

PETERSON—COMPLETE DISPERSION
375 Black Angus and Bwf Bred Cows
(Aprox. 275 coming 4 y/o, 35 coming 5 y/o, 75 older cows)
Calve May/June, bulls turned in August 1st for 60 days.
Bred to Diamond Dot Black Angus bulls. Majority of cows were purchased as replacement heifers from central Montana. Have always calved in June. This year's calves will wean shortly before sale. Cows will be in good condition. Have been on a Spring shot program.

406 LAND & LIVESTOCK
142 Blk/Bwf Coming 3,4,5- Year-Old Bred Cows
Start last week of February for 45 days. Bull bred to Registered Black, Charolais, and Shipwheel bulls. Fully vaccinated with modified live pre-breeding, Cattle Master 5 this Fall, stay Bred VL5. Full free choice mineral, grass maintenance ration.

4K LIVESTOCK ENT. LLC
15 Black Angus Bred Heifers
Start calving March 1. AI bred to Baldridge Movin On.
14 Black Angus Bred Heifers
Start calving March 20 for 30 days. Bull bred to sons of Sitz Resilient
7 Black Angus 3-Year-Old Bred Cows
Start calving April 1 for 30 days.
Bull bred to Architect and Incentive sons. All home raised/one iron, cake broke, and gentle. Years of AI. Ultrasound tested by Dr. Liam Robbins. ViraShield 6 VL5, Scourguard, and poured with Ivermectin. Have been on hay and grass.

AHLGREN, JOHN
82 Red Angus 2- to 11-Year-Old Bred Cows
Start Calving February 23.
Bred to Red Angus & Red Simmental bulls. ViraShield 6 VL5, hay fed, bangs vaccinated, one iron/home raised. Only selling due to lost lease, calves off these cows last Fall weighed 666 lbs in Oct. Great set of cows with good dispositions. Cake broke, salt and mineral free choice all their lives.

BICE
158 Black Angus AI Bred Heifers (no notch)
Calve Feb. 24 to March 2 (277 days).
AI bred to Vermilion Commerce.
68 Black Angus Bred Heifers (1 notch outside)
Calve March 5 to 27. Bred to sons of Vermilion Commerce.
31 Black Angus Bred Heifers (1 notch bottom)
Calve March 28 to April 20. Bred to sons of Vermilion Commerce. All ultrasound tested, ViraShield 6 VL5, MultiMin 90, and poured, 1100 lbs. Reputation heifers.

BAUWENS
23 Bwf Bred Heifers
15 calve Feb. 19. AI bred to Shipwheel Bravado. 8 calve March 1 for 45 days. Bred to LBW Shipwheel Angus bulls. Cattlemaster 5 and Staybred VL5 this Fall. Been on year round mineral program.

CARLSON, GORDON
140 Black Angus AI Bred Heifers
Calve April 1 to 15 (yellow button). Calve April 16 to 30 (one notch). AI bred to Sitz Resilient
60 Black Angus Bred Heifers
Calve May 1 to 20 (2 notches)
Bred to LBW Resilient sons. All Fall shots, poured, 1100 lbs

CAYUSE
87 Black Angus 3-Year-Old to Short Term Bred Cows (mostly younger and solid)
Start calving May 1 to June 10 (no dye mark)
Start calving June 10 to 30 (dye mark)
Bred to Reminisce and Green Mountain Angus bulls. Ultrasound tested. Given Fall shots and Dectomax at ultrasound.

COONEY BROTHERS
31 Black Angus Bred Heifers
Calve April 10th for 25 days.
Bred to Black Angus Heifer bulls. Ultrasound tested. All Fall shots and poured with Dectomax. Will have to rounds of Scourguard and Endovac, and poured with Justify in January.

COW GULCH
85 Black Angus (mostly 3-Year-Olds with a few 4-Year-Old Bred Cows)
Calve March 10th. Bred to higher WW EPD Angus bulls. Preg tested in Oct. and given ViraShield 4 VL5 HB, Safeguard, pour on, and MultiMin. Poured with Clean Up in January. Very nice gentle young cows that are used to being moved with 4 wheelers and horseback.

GEBBERS
100 Black Angus Bred Heifers
24 calve March 5 to 31 (red button).
29 calve April 1 to 20 (orange button).
47 calve April 20 to May 20 (green button).
Bred to LBW Angus Bulls. Fall shots, poured twice, MultiMin, Vit D, Ultrasound tested.
42 Black Angus 3 to 7-Year-Old Bred Cows
Calve April 20 to May 30th. Bred to Angus Bulls. Over ½ will be 3 & 4-years-old, Fall shots and poured.

THE GLENNIE RANCHES
75 Black Angus Mostly 7-Year-Old Bred Cows
Start calving March 1st for 42 days.
Bred to Bobcat and Vermilion Angus bulls.

GLENNIE, NEAL & CARLA
270 Black Angus 3 to 8-Year-Old Bred Cows
Start calving March 5. Bred to Vermilion Angus bulls
Cake broke. Scour Guard, shots Fall of 2024. Weaned 615 lb steer calves, 575 lbs heifer calves on Oct. 10, 2024.
30 Black Angus Bred Heifers
Start calving March 5. Bred to sons of Connealy King Air. Have had 1st Scour Guard shot, will need booster.

LOCKWOOD
30 Blk/Bwf few Red 3- to 6-Year-Old Bred Cows
Calve May/June.

MT LIVESTOCK
15 Red Angus Bred Heifers
Calve Feb./March. Bred to LBW Red Angus bulls

MURNIN, ALBERT
4 Blk/Bwf Short Term Bred Cows
Start Calve Date: 2025-03-20. End Calve Date: 2025-04-10.
Bred To: Homo black sim angus & hereford bulls. Vaccinations: Clean-Up II Pour On, Cattlemaster 4+VL5. Hay Fed.

MURNIN, CHAD & STEPHANIE/ BAR STAR CATTLE
6 Hereford 9- 11-Year-Old Bred Cows
Bred To: Hereford bulls
2 Black Angus 9- 11-Year-Old Bred Cows
Bred To: Homo black Sim-Angus & Hereford bulls. Start Calve Date: 2025-03-07. End Calve Date: 2025-04-15.
8 Red Angus 3- 6-Year-Old Bred Cows
Start Calve Date: 2025-04-01
End Calve Date: 2025-05-15.
Bred To: Homo black Sim-Angus & Hereford bulls. All Cattle Vaccinations: Clean-Up II Pour On, Cattlemaster 4+VL5. Hay Fed.

PATTERSON
87 Black Angus Bred Heifers, 1100 lbs
26 AI'd to start calving Feb. 24. Bred to Select Sires Tahoe. 61 start calving Mar. 1 for 45 days. Bred to Larsen Ranch Angus bulls-Safe in Sound, Poss Rawhide. Gentle, top notch heifers, generations of Larsen Ranch breeding. Top selling NLVA steer calves.

SALMOND RANCH
75 Black Angus Mixed Age Bred Cows
Start calving March 15 to May 15.
Bred to Sitz Angus bulls. ViraShield 6 VL5, Safeguard, Clean Up, bangs vaccinated. Hay fed, one iron/home raised. Freeze branded, consistently wean 600+lb calves mid October with minimal inputs

SARGENT
26 Blk/Bwf 4 to 9-Year-Old Bred Cows
Calve April 25th.
Bred to Angus and Hereford bulls. ViraShield 6 VL5 and poured this Fall. Always have calved at this time frame.

SCHWEND, ROSS & COLE
17 Black Angus Coming 4 to 9-Year-Old Bred Cows
Calve Late May to July.
Bred to Stevenson, Mydland, Winding River, and Hunt Creek Angus bulls. Weaned calves Oct./Nov. Safeguard, Cleanup, Pilishield +C given at preg check in mid-December. ViraShield 6 VL5 HB and fly/lice control in Spring. Crystalix mineral and lick tub program. Mostly home raised with family brands, freeze branded with year born. Only reason for selling is later calvers don't fit into operation.

SHAY, BRENT
13 Blk/Bwf Solid & Short Term Bred Cows
1 Hereford 5-Year-Old Bred Cow. Start calving March 2nd.
Bred to Mydland Angus bulls. Bangs vaccinated, year round mineral program. ViraShield 6 VL5 in Nov.

SIDWELL
65 Bred Heifers
(45 Hereford, 11 Rwf, 9 Bwf)
Start calving April 1st for 45 days.
Bred to LBW Angus bulls. Pre-breeding shots and wormed, Fall pour on. One iron, 30 years of Sidwell breeding.

SITZ
30 Black Angus 3 & 4- Year-Old Bred Cows
Start calving March 1st for 45 days.
Bred to Sitz Angus bulls.

STAHL BROTHERS
24 Black Angus Short Term Bred Cows
Calve March 25.
Bred to Registered Black Angus bulls.
18 Black Angus 3 to 8 Year Old Bred Cows
June calvers.
Bred to Registered Angus bulls. Both groups had ViraShield 6 VL5 and pour on in the Fall

STETSON—AGE DISPERSION
110 Blk/Bwf 6- to 9-Year-Old Bred Cows
(mostly 6,7,8 y/o, 70% bwf)
Start calving March 20th for 60 days, ultrasound tested.
ViraShield 6 VL5, MultiMin and pour on in November.

SWITCHBACK RANCH
245 Black Angus few Bwf Bred Heifers
190 calve April 1 to 30 (no tag). 55 calve May 1 to 30 (white tag).
Bred to Mydland Angus bulls. Ultrasound tested in Nov. and given ViraShield 6 VL5 HB and Dectomax pour on at that time. One iron heifers that originated off the Tranel Ranch and are right on cycle. Were on pasture until Jan. 1st, Rio Max mineral program.

TE RANCH
10 Black Angus Bred Heifers
Calve March 20 to April 30, ultrasound tested(8/28).
Sired & Bred to LBW, low PAP, energy efficient, environmentally friendly, Lucky 7 bulls. Clean Up pour on and Scour Guard 4KC on 12/17. Home raised, one iron, 1050 lbs.

THIEL, LLOYD
20 Black Angus Bred Heifers
Start calving March 5 to April 30th.
Bred to LBW Connealy Black Angus bulls. ViraShield 6, Vision 8, Ivermectin pour on, bangs vaccinated. One iron/home raised.

TOWNSEND RANCH
23 Mixed 4 to 7-Year-Old Bred Cows
Start calving May 15 to June 30.
Bred to high all purpose Index SimAngus bulls. ViraShield 6 VL5, One iron/home raised.

U CROSS RANCH/LANCE JOHNSON
50 Black Angus Bred Heifers
Sorted into 20 day calving groups.
Bred to LBW Black Angus bulls
Dectomax and ViraShield 6 VL5 in Nov.
6 Black Angus Coming 4-Year-Old Bred Cows
May calvers.
Bred to Black Angus bulls. Dectomax and ViraShield 6 Vl5 in November.
9 Black Angus Coming 4-Year-Old Pairs
December born calves, no brands. Dectomax and ViraShield 6 VL5 in Sept.

VERONA CATTLE
43 Black Angus 3-Year-Old Bred Cows (yellow tags)
Start calving April 1, might be a few June calvers.
Bred strictly to Vermilion bulls. Poured and vaccinated last Fall.
7 Black Angus 4 to Solid Mouth Bred Cows
Start calving April 1.
Bred to Angus or Black Optimizer bulls from Skinner.
40 Black/Red Mixed Age Bred Cows
Start calving June 1.
Bred to Skinner bulls.

YEDLICKA RANCH
50 Black Angus Bred Heifers
AI bred to Patriarch Son for Feb. 18th.
Cleaned up with Patriarch sons. Start Feb. 18th for 45 days. Fall shots and 2 rounds of Guardian. Big, Gentle heifers with a lot of AI in their background always some of the very best.

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MT Fish and Wildlife Commission sued over black bear quotas

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission was sued Jan. 17 for allegedly ignoring state open meeting laws when it approved eliminating some black bear hunting quotas in December.

The seven-member commission unanimously agreed at its Dec. 19 meeting to drop a rule that closed black bear hunting in certain hunting districts of northwest Montana if hunters killed more than 37% of the estimated female bear population there. The lawsuit, filed by wildlife and conservation group members from across the state, claims the commissioners failed to publish the proposal before the meeting and then took action on it without proper notice or public comment.

"I personally care a lot about black bears," said Denise Boggs, lead plaintiff in the lawsuit and a former Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) wildlife division employee. "But we are litigating this because the public process and open meeting laws were violated."

During a discussion of "corrections and amendments to black bear, antelope, deer bighorn sheep and boundary descriptions/clarifications" listed on the agenda during the December meeting, Region 2 Commissioner Jeff Burrows of Hamilton proposed the black bear rule change. It had not been included in the published agenda before the meeting, according to the lawsuit.

In the online recording of the meeting, Commission Chair Lesley Robinson said Burrow's proposal was "one the public has not seen, which is perfectly fine. This is completely fine for the amendments to come at the meeting."

Requests for comment to Robinson and Montana FWP spokesman Greg Lemon were not returned.

The change affected FWP Region 1 efforts to sustain black bear populations in northwest Montana. Region 1 Wildlife Manager Neil Anderson told the commissioners in December that hunters were particularly successful in the 2021 and 2022 seasons, killing about 1,500 black bears combined. But through 2023 and 2024, they only took about 900.

Region 1 Commissioner Pat Tabor of Whitefish said hunters were telling him that deer and elk populations were down in northwest Montana and they believed black bears were partly responsible.

"A slight decline in black bears is in order until we get stabilization in ungulates," Tabor said during the December meeting. "I got a tremendous amount of traffic on this. We need to be more aggressive in predator management in Region 1."

Region 3 Commissioner Susan Kirby Brooke of Bozeman added she thought over-large populations of black bears were the reason more residents in Kalispell and Columbia Falls were having bear conflicts at their homes.

"If the population is stable, they wouldn't be coming into neighborhoods," she said. However, FWP staff said those two things were not related.

"The challenges we have managing altercations with bears is largely independent of population size and hunting," FWP game management Bureau Chief Brian Wakeling told the commissioners. "Hunting is not the primary method we use to address human conflict that arises from bear interactions or altercations."

Anderson added that bear-human conflicts in neighborhoods had more to do with food supplies. In dry years when huckleberry crops are small, bears seek out human foods like unsecured garbage, bird feeders and dog food.

"It's a little more complicated than just black bear numbers," Anderson told the commissioners. "All the [residential] development is occurring in the valleys and riparian areas [that bears used to frequent]. People want to live there."

Region 1 wildlife managers suggested the 37% female kill quota in January 2024. The move came in response to the recent extension of black bear hunting seasons, along with new opportunities to chase black bears with hounds. That likely meant more females getting killed, which raised the potential for a population downturn.

"We wanted to use this method for a couple years, and then come back to next year's biennial season-setting with hard quotas, rather than this 37%," Wakeling told the commissioners.

But Tabor, who recently retired from an hunter outfitting and guide company in northwest Montana, said he thought the 37% female kill quota was "uber-conservative," and asked if a limit of 40% or 45% was possible.

Anderson replied that killing 40% of the females in a bear management unit was the expected threshold where populations could start crashing. The 37% point was chosen to avoid reaching that tipping point.

Mike Bader, a Missoula-based wildlife consultant and plaintiff in the lawsuit, said the divergences between what the commissioners proposed and what their FWP staff research showed was part of the reason why the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently declined to delist grizzly bears from the Endangered Species Act. Federally protected grizzlies are often killed in encounters with black-bear hunters, and the USFWS decision cited inadequate state regulatory controls on those hunters as a serious risk to grizzly survival.

"They just don't seem ready to manage the species," Bader said Friday. "They can't just say 'we'll make adjustments and fix it next year.'"

A group of 40 wildlife experts made a similar point in a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Commission after the December meeting.

"This is management based on the whimsy of commissioners rather than on data, analysis and consultation with biologists on the ground," the letter stated. "A particular irony in this case is that FWP recently initiated research to update our understanding of both black bear abundance and elk population dynamics in northwestern Montana. Rather than awaiting the results from FWP staff tasked with providing objective information, the commission moved forward based on some anecdotes they heard and their obvious personal bias against predators."

During a public comment session later in the meeting, several speakers supported removal of the black bear quota. Two hunting outfitters noted it was difficult for hunters in the backcountry to know if their district black bear season had been closed early because the quota had been reached. They also said it was hard to book late-season hunting clients not knowing if the district might be closed before the regular season ended.

Mike Mershon, of the Montana Wildlife Federation, praised a different rule change involving bighorn sheep, but then added a warning about the commission's process.

"These agenda amendments make it difficult to get it out to the public," Mershon said, "so they can respond to developing amendments." — **Robert Chaney, Montana Free Press**



USFS authorizes controversial Crazy Mountains land swap

The Custer Gallatin National Forest recently authorized a controversial land swap involving more than 15 square miles of land in two different south-central Montana mountain ranges.

With the decision, consultants hired by the Yellowstone Club to facilitate the exchange can officially begin the title transfer process, which the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) estimates will be complete "in the near future."

Under the multi-part agreement, the Forest Service will transfer 3,855 acres to landowners in the Crazy Mountains and Gallatin Range. In exchange, 6,110 acres of private land will become public land that the Forest Service will administer.

Custer Gallatin Forest Supervisor Matthew Jedra inherited the proposal from Mary Erickson, who retired from her 16-year post as the Custer Gallatin's supervisor a year ago. In a cover letter about the decision, Jedra acknowledged the "longstanding controversy and complexity of this project," which drew more than 1,000 comments over a 45-day period in 2022.

> *"While no one gets everything they wanted in collaboration, all were committed to the final goal of consolidating large swaths of public land, increasing public access, and respecting private property."*
>
> *— Lorents Grosfield*

Jedra noted that some changes have been made to the deal since the agency issued its preliminary environmental assessment, including "mandatory protections such as conservation easements and deed restrictions for most parcels leaving the federal estate" and "additional protections in the form of right of first refusal."

Another notable change is the Forest Service's acquisition of a square-mile section of land along the southern end of the Crazies, which includes Smeller Lake. That parcel is valued at more than $1 million and is currently owned by Crazy Mountain Ranch, a property that was formerly owned by tobacco giant Altria. In 2021, a developer associated with the Yellowstone Club purchased Crazy Mountain Ranch, known locally as the Marlboro Ranch.

In addition to the Forest Service, the transaction involves five landowners in the Crazy Mountains and one in Madison County—the Yellowstone Club, a luxury ski resort and residential community that has long sought access to Eglise Peak to expand its expert ski terrain. The swap also includes components dealing with trails, trailheads, conservation easements, deed restrictions, and water, grazing and mineral rights.

The Forest Service's decision to authorize the swap drew a mixed reception from groups in the conservation, recreation and public land space. Some expressed appreciation for the inclusion of conservation easements and deed restrictions to limit residential and industrial development. Others said they are "deeply disappointed" with the decision, arguing that some of the lower-elevation properties the Forest Service is trading into private ownership will become more vulnerable to development and that the recreating public will be excluded from more accessible and desirable portions of the range.

Several members of the Crazy Mountain Access Project, a group that the Yellowstone Club convened five years ago to shape and advocate for the swap, celebrated the Forest Service's decision, describing it as a carefully considered compromise. By consolidating the Crazies' checkerboard land—so-called because square-mile sections of private land are interspersed with public land—the swap will alleviate decades of thorny access disputes that have developed around old Forest Service trails that cross through private land swap advocates argued.

Wild Montana federal policy director Maddy Munson said in a statement that while she's appreciative that the Forest Service included some development restrictions, her organization "remains concerned that the consolidation of land around the perimeter of the mountain range lacks sufficient long-term protections against private development that could permanently change the character of the range."

John Sullivan with the Montana chapter of Backcountry Hunters and Anglers took a sharper tone in his assessment of the decision.

"We are deeply disappointed that the Forest Service has caved to big money and their never-ending goal to lock the public out of public land," he wrote in a text to Montana Free Press (MTFP). "Despite overwhelming public opposition from everyday Montanans, the USFS bent the knee to the wealthy and rewarded the illegal actions of landowners who have for years sought private enclaves of extremely valuable public land."

Sullivan went on to criticize the process that led to the Forest Service's consideration of the swap, arguing that it "would not have happened" without the influence of U.S. Sen. Steve Daines (R), who pressured the Forest Service to modify its access position to address landowner concerns, and "individuals involved in the Crazy Mountain Access project faking public support."

Big Timber rancher and Crazy Mountain Access Project member Lorents Grosfield highlighted the proposal's compromises and the collaborative process by which it was developed.

"Most of us involved in the land exchange proposal have been at the table hammering out a solution for years. While no one gets everything they wanted in collaboration, all were committed to the final goal of consolidating large swaths of public land, increasing public access, and respecting private property," Grosfield said in an emailed statement. "I'm encouraged to see my neighbors in the Crazy Mountains and the Forest Service come together to solve a challenge as great as checkerboarded land."

Erica Lighthiser, a member of Crazy Mountain Access Project who co-directs Park County Environmental Council, wrote to MTFP in an email that the exchange is a "meaningful step forward for conservation."

"While we would have liked to see conservation easements to limit industrial, commercial and residential development on all lands leaving federal ownership, the Forest Service and local landowners listened to our concerns about the potential development risk and agreed to stronger deed restrictions," Lighthiser said.

Yellowstone Club representative Mike DuCuennois said the exchange is "a huge step forward to secure permanent public access and further consolidate public lands in the Crazy Mountains," a likely reference to a smaller swap the Forest Service authorized in 2021.

According to a Forest Service webpage devoted to the project, the agency is tentatively planning to implement the swap next month. — **Amanda Eggert, MTFP**



Brooke Rollins' top USDA priorities if confirmed

Brooke Rollins, President Donald Trump's nominee for Agriculture secretary, laid out some key priorities to senators on Jan. 23. Those include quickly getting economic and disaster aid out to farmers, dealing with current animal disease outbreaks, developing a new farm bill and revitalizing the massive department she is about to lead.

The Senate Agriculture Committee was set to hold Rollins' confirmation hearing Thursday morning, ahead of *WLJ* press time. The president's transition team on Thursday released a select portion of Rollins' opening statement before the committee.

Rollins, 52, is an attorney who served on Trump's Economic Advisory Council in his first term and became a close adviser to the president. She is also founder and CEO of the America First Policy Institute (AFPI), which advocates for Trump's agenda on areas such as energy, foreign policy and border security. A native of Glen Rose, TX, Rollins is a graduate of Texas A&M University.

Rollins' influence with Trump was highlighted in a Politico profile last October that stated Rollins became "the driving force behind the Trump transition effort."

Recently, a collection of 427 agricultural groups and businesses wrote to committee members, declaring their support for Rollins and pressing for the Senate to "promptly confirm" her to the secretary post.

In her statement to the committee, Rollins thanked Trump for his faith in her.

"His confidence fuels my determination to deliver, and he inspires me through what he's done, and will do, for our great country, including U.S. agriculture," Rollins said.

Rollins also said she had met or spoken with every member of the Senate Agriculture Committee from both parties.

"It is clear we all agree farmers and ranchers are the cornerstone of our nation's communities; they are stewards of the land—the original conservationists—and they are foundational to American life," she said. "Yet, the demands of American agriculture and the stakes our farmers take have never been higher. When farmers prosper, rural America prospers, and I commit to you today, if confirmed, that I will do everything within my ability to make sure our farmers, ranchers and rural communities thrive."

Four priorities

Rollins highlighted four issues she faces once confirmed:

• "First, we must ensure the disaster and economic assistance authorized by Congress is deployed as quickly and efficiently as possible."

Congress passed $10 billion in economic assistance to commodity producers in late December that included language requiring USDA to issue those checks by mid-March. With USDA in transition, no official details have been released. That same package also included nearly $21 billion for aid from natural disasters over the past two years. USDA will need to determine how those funds will be disbursed as well.

• Second, Rollins said USDA staff and stakeholders need "to immediately and comprehensively get a handle on the state of animal disease outbreaks, including H5N1 and New World screwworm, and do everything possible to eradicate them."

H5N1 has been a leading factor in driving up the cost of eggs for consumers as tens of millions of chickens have been depopulated, hitting egg-producing states such as Iowa hard. Since last March, 930 dairies—including more than 700 in California alone—also have faced outbreaks. The range of cases with bird flu, including wild birds, has also led to 66 human cases, including an elderly man in Louisiana who died after being exposed through a backyard flock.

Cattle imports from Mexico also have been banned since late November because of New World screwworm cases reported in that country.

• Rollins also said she looks forward to working with the House and Senate to pass a new farm bill "that provides the certainty and predictability our farm families need."

Congress has been relying on farm bill extensions since October 2023. Funding a stronger safety net for farmers will be a challenge with pressures to cut spending throughout the federal government. Republicans in the House also are eying cuts to nutrition programs as possible reconciliation offsets for a tax-cut package. That will turn away Democrats who are needed to pass a farm bill through either chamber.

• Fourth, Rollins said, "We must immediately reconstitute, rebuild, and revivify the United States Department of Agriculture, responding to the clear needs and desires of the American people as set forth so well by the president of the United States across this historic week."

Rollins will take over a department with more than 100,000 people and a $213 billion budget, with more than 3,000 county offices. USDA is responsible not just for the farm safety net, but also the country's main nutrition support programs, food safety, conservation programs, research, rural housing and agricultural trade.

Rollins also stressed the importance of rural development and trade.

"This includes exploring improvements to the department's rural development programs, demanding strong and steady domestic and export markets for our beautiful agricultural bounty, eliminating burdensome and costly regulations that hamper innovation, ensuring nutrition programs are efficient and effective, and putting in the work to make sure we have a healthy and prepared next generation of farmers, ranchers, and entrepreneurs for the next century of American greatness."

Supporters, critics

In calling for her confirmation, the 427 farm groups that support Rollins pointed to her experiences from 4-H and FFA and her work on rural policies while serving as an adviser to then-Texas Gov. Rick Perry (R). The farm groups also noted the value of her relationship to Trump.

Some of the strongest criticisms against Rollins come from the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS), which stated Rollins doesn't have a history of focusing on farm policy. UCS also pointed out Rollins questions whether greenhouse gas emissions are a driver of global climate change. Rollins had said in a 2018 event that "we know the research of (carbon dioxide) being a pollutant is just not valid."

Rollins also has drawn some criticism about policy stances taken by the Texas Public Policy Foundation when she was president and CEO of the foundation from 2003-18. During her tenure, the Texas Public Policy Foundation also issued policy papers critical of ethanol as an alternative fuel. The papers stated ethanol was harmful to global food security and called for Congress to reverse policies on ethanol.

Still, biofuel groups, including Growth Energy and the Renewable Fuels Association, signed the letter backing Rollins' confirmation, along with the National Corn Growers Association and several state affiliates.

The Houston Chronicle also reported in December that the Texas Public Policy Foundation also published a report on "corporate welfare" that called for the elimination of a state loan program for farmers, though the group's request to drop the loan program was never acted upon.

It's unclear how fast Rollins' nomination could move out of committee or whether Senate Democrats will press for a long debate before the confirmation vote. — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**



Research shows impact of private land conservation

In the vast grasslands of the northern Great Plains, ranchers have long been the silent stewards of some of America's most fragile ecosystems. These are people who understand the land in a way few others do—people whose hands are calloused from years of hard work, and whose education often comes from the very soil they nurture.

A Polaris UTV serves as steed as Leo Barthelmess ushers cattle to the next pasture on his south Phillips County, MT, ranch. Meanwhile, buzzwords are thrown around a college campus six-and-a-half hours away in Missoula: resiliency, sustainability, conservation, preservation.

And he thinks he's just ranching.

Finely attuned to the intricacies of grazing management, Barthelmess approaches his work with a deep respect for the land. Rest this. Graze that. Notice what the grass is telling you. Only now are we coming to fully appreciate just how much good his decisions are doing—not only for his own land but for the health of the surrounding public lands as well. This ripple effect of working lands conservation, embraced by regional ranchers like Barthelmess, is being celebrated on a broader scale, highlighting their vital role in sustaining the wider landscape.

The discussion in Missoula expands to include researchers from Colorado and Wyoming. Data begins to emerge, quantifying the profound impact. Just released, a new peer-revied article reveals that long-term conservation on private ranchlands doesn't just benefit those specific areas; it indirectly preserves core sagebrush habitats at a scale nearly four times larger than the private lands themselves.

This synergy between private and public conservation highlights the ranchers' crucial role. They are not just caretakers of their land; they are grassland guardians for the broader landscape.

Maybe it's more than "just" ranching.

Sometimes formally entered into as conservation easements, sometimes casually carried out as steadfast ranch legacy, long-term conservation continues to complement ranching seamlessly. It's a dance that, when done well, is so mutually beneficial it's striking the two words can sometimes be used at odds with one another.

On the formal end of the scale, ranchers like Dale Veseth see conservation easements not just as a financial tool but as a way to ensure the survival of the ecosystems that sustain their way of life. A conservation easement is a voluntary, legally binding agreement between a landowner and a government agency or qualified organization that limits how much and what kind of development can happen on a property in the future.

In south Phillips County, where Veseth's legacy lies, the purpose of such an agreement is typically to keep intact grasslands in grass and ward off the turning over of the soil into farm ground. Research from University of Montana in 2016 found that 96% of active sage grouse leks are located in landscapes with less than 15% of cropland.

"It's about more than just today," Veseth says. "We're thinking generations ahead, making sure this land is here for those who come after us."

Meanwhile, the group of researchers becomes authors, publishing findings that affirm what he has known for years: Stewardship on private land starts the ripple, and public land feels its beneficial wake. By the numbers, this new study shows 80% of the conservation benefit manifests not on the land beneath privately held easements, but on public lands adjacent to them.

Acknowledging the mix of public and private land within his ranch's geography, Barthelmess echoes the care given to the land.

"Ownership is not the key," Barthelmess says. "It's the stewardship of the landscape that's more important than ownership."

While not taking part in any formal easements, Barthelmess is a known advocate for making the cow work for you in a grass system, increasing forage for livestock and wildlife alike. It's a legacy mindset he shares with his family.

He knows it's more than just ranching.

Barthelmess and Veseth are leaders in a movement that goes beyond the boundaries of their own land. As president and vice president of the Ranchers Stewardship Alliance, they are at the helm of a rancher-led organization dedicated to sustaining the northern Great Plains through collaboration, education and innovation. The alliance fosters a unique partnership between ranchers and conservationists, proving that healthy ecosystems and productive ranches can thrive together. It's a commitment to future generations, both human and wild.

What they do is far more than land management. By nurturing native grasslands and sagebrush habitats, these ranchers are building biodiversity, protecting soil health, and ensuring the survival of wildlife species that depend on these ecosystems. Their stewardship creates ripples that benefit not only their land but the entire northern Great Plains.

The beauty of these wide-open spaces is undeniable. But behind that beauty is an often unseen dedication to conservation—ranchers working tirelessly to protect and preserve the very heart of this landscape. They aren't just ranching; they are preserving a legacy, ensuring that this land, and all it holds, endures for future generations. — **Haylie Shipp for the Ranchers Stewardship Alliance**



Ranchers Stewardship Alliance

New research emphasizes the positive role ranchers play in conserving not only their private land, but the public land around them.



Precision ag new frontier: Crop digital twins

Crop farmers in South Texas are witnessing the future of agriculture unfold with the advent of digital-twin technology. Spearheaded by Texas A&M AgriLife Research, this cutting-edge approach combines remote sensing, big data and artificial intelligence to simulate and predict real-world crop production scenarios.

Juan Landivar, Ph.D., director of the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Corpus Christi, leads a multidisciplinary team of experts, including agronomists, computer engineers, electrical engineers and civil engineers.

He recently shared their findings at the Texas Plant Protection Association Conference, emphasizing this technology's transformative potential. Their methods and results have been published in the peer-reviewed journal Computers and Electronics in Agriculture.

The birth of an idea

The concept of digital-twin technology in agriculture emerged from a conversation six years ago between Landivar and his then-colleague Jinha Jung, Ph.D., now an associate professor at Purdue University.

"We were returning from a meeting when the idea clicked," Landivar recalled. "I couldn't sleep that night. By 3 a.m., I was texting Jinha, realizing the vast opportunities this technology could unlock for agriculture."

This sparked a series of trials on a 200-acre farm in South Texas, cultivating cotton and sorghum, which have showcased the technology's promise. Using drones, the team gathered over 250,000 data points in a single season, measuring canopy cover, plant height and vegetation indices via normalized difference vegetation index.

The challenge then became how to interpret this massive data trove.

Power of AI

"That's where our AI-powered web-based modeling comes in," Landivar said. "It translates complex datasets into actionable insights for farmers, helping with decisions on yield prediction, biomass estimation, crop termination and irrigation scheduling."

One notable success involved advising a farmer to prepare for harvest earlier than expected. In the 2024 cotton crop, AI modeling accurately predicted optimal harvest preparation as early as June 18.

"The farmer said 'No way. I usually defoliate in July,'" Landivar recalled, "but field observations on June 24 confirmed the model's accuracy."

"Somewhere along there, they had several inches of rain and delayed defoliation," he said. "But while waiting for the soil to dry, heavy rains from an approaching hurricane came through and dropped another 4 inches. Harvest wasn't until late July, losing quality and about $70 per acre in potential profit."

Benefits for farmers

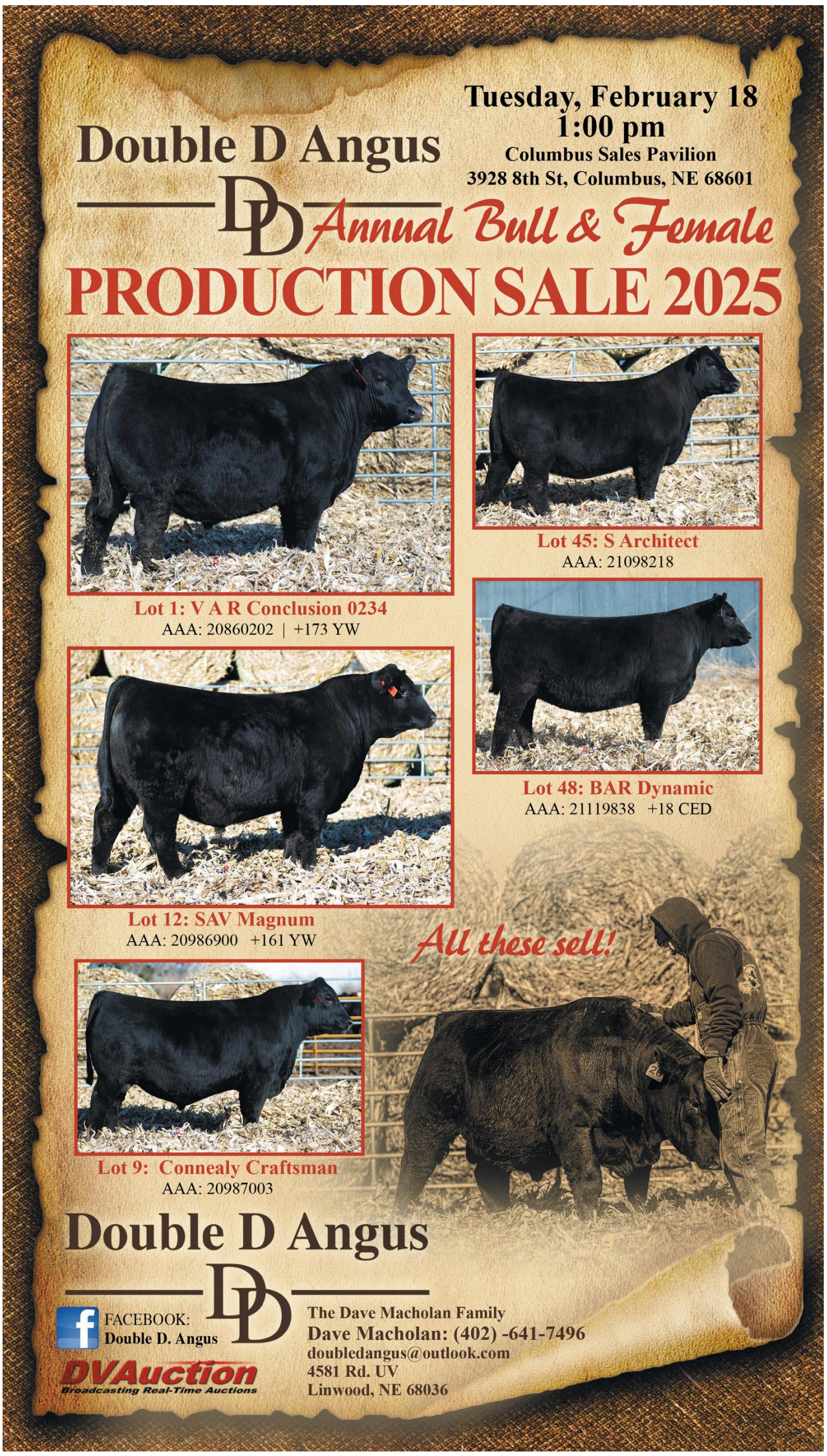
Digital-twin technology is ushering in an era of prescriptive agriculture, where decisions are data-driven rather than guesswork. For instance, early yield forecasts—available six to eight weeks before harvest—can aid financial planning and market strategies.

"This precision saves costs and maximizes harvest potential," Landivar said. "It also supports sustainability goals, like estimating biomass for carbon credit markets."

The affordability of advanced tools like multispectral cameras has accelerated data collection and analysis, making technologies that once seemed out of reach more accessible.

"We've come a long way," Landivar said. "What used to be a luxury is now a necessity for modern farming."

As this technology evolves, it holds immense promise for agriculture worldwide, Landivar said. By empowering farmers with real-time insights and predictive analytics, digital twins are not just recreating crops — they are reshaping the future of farming. — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**



BLM plan limits off highway vehicle use

OREGON RMP
(from page 1)

BLM analyzed a range of approaches, including a no-action alternative and five action alternatives, in the draft RMP/draft environmental impact statement (EIS). According to BLM, feedback from the public, local Tribes and other stakeholders led to the creation of Alternative F, which combined elements of the action alternatives to refine resource management strategies.

The preferred approach will safeguard wilderness features on about 415,679 acres (13% of the planning area), the agency said. This will include managing eight entire units and parts of seven others as Category C units, emphasizing wilderness preservation over multiple uses. Another 738,665 acres will balance wilderness characteristics with other resources, while 495,332 acres will prioritize multiple uses over wilderness protection.

Livestock grazing generally follows existing management guidelines outlined in previous land use plans. Grazing will continue where compatible, with adjustments made as needed based on rangeland health assessments. BLM emphasized its commitment to ensuring sustainable grazing practices and addressing rangeland health issues even when grazing is not the primary cause of degradation.

BLM stated these actions may include adjustments to grazing management to ensure progress toward rangeland health goals. Additionally, the BLM will not permit animal unit month increases without an updated land health assessment to prevent adverse impacts on other resources.

Voluntary relinquishment of grazing permits will follow current BLM policy, with site-specific evaluations to determine the compatibility of grazing with other resource considerations. If compatible, BLM said the area may remain available for grazing, potentially as a reserve common allotment or under a new permit. The agency said this approach balances resource needs and reinforces the BLM's commitment to multiple-use management.

Under the management plan, off-highway vehicle (OHV) use would be limited, reducing the area open to cross-country travel to 397,671 acres. Public support for limiting OHV use came from diverse stakeholders, including the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and livestock permittees. While most areas are now designated as OHV-limited, recreation sites like the Christmas Valley Sand Dunes remain open due to historical use and minimal resource conflicts. Additionally, 476 acres were newly designated as closed to protect the Foskett speckled dace habitat and ensure safety around Alkali Lake's chemical waste site, bringing the total closed OHV acreage to 11,285. BLM said this balanced approach preserves recreation opportunities while addressing ecological and safety concerns.

The plan takes effect immediately. A copy of the amendment can be viewed at tinyurl.com/3z32hyej. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing editor**

WY Freedom Caucus sides with private property restrictions

Dalton Banks stood on the House floor Jan. 20 and argued his proposal isn't a taking of private property owners' rights and liberties, as some of legislative colleagues claimed.

At issue was House Bill 118, "Limitations on net land gains for the federal government," legislation that would prohibit land deals in Wyoming that result in a net-gain of acreage for the federal government. An amendment brought Monday to the House floor would have exempted private landowners from the new regulation, preserving their rights to sell their property to whomever they see fit.

Banks, a Republican and Big Horn County rancher, didn't like the change—nor how his bill was being characterized.

"We're not limiting who you can sell to," Banks told his fellow lawmakers. "We are limiting the federal government … we're limiting their right to purchase. That's what we're doing under [this bill]."

Under the U.S. Constitution's Supremacy Clause, federal law supersedes state laws.

The federal government regularly acquires land within Wyoming's borders. House Bill 118 was catalyzed in part by Wyoming's controversial, yet celebrated sale of the Kelly Parcel, a $100 million deal that resulted in 640 more acres being tacked onto Grand Teton National Park—a 0.2% expansion of that federally owned and administered tourist destination.

The bringer of the amendment, Rep. Karlee Provenza, a Laramie Democrat, argued that without the change House Bill 118 could threaten to devalue private property.

"You're infringing on individual rights to do what they want with their land," Provenza said. "Especially … when that land is surrounded by or next to other public land parcels."

Their land, their rights?

Speaking in support of the amendment, Rep. Steve Harshman, a Casper Republican, got away from hypotheticals and alluded to a Natrona County ranchers' sale of 35,670 acres to a conservation buyer. The land, in turn, was conveyed to the Bureau of Land Management, creating better public access to 8.8 miles of the North Platte River—and a world-class trout fishery.

"Those people that sold that land, it was their land—it was their right," Harshman said.

A bill confined to restricting the sale of state lands to the federal government is "fine," the former House speaker said. "But boy," Harshman said, "infringing on private property rights, that gives me pause."

Rep. Andrew Byron (R-22), a real estate agent, saw it similarly. The issue, the Teton/Lincoln County Republican said, "goes right to the core."

"We're expanding the greenbook to tell our neighbors and our friends and our constituents what they can and cannot do with [their] land," Byron said.

Members of the House who are in or aligned with the Wyoming Freedom Caucus disagreed. Rep. Ken Pendergraft (R-Sheridan) argued that it's appropriate, at times, to restrict private property rights, such as when landowners' seek to sell their land to an "enemy" of the United States.

Adopting limits

"In my view, [they] should be curtailed at certain points," Pendergraft said. "I don't have a right as a private landlord to do everything that I want to do on my private land."

Provenza's amendment failed, 25-34. The faction of the GOP that typically votes with the newly empowered Freedom Caucus carried the vote to retain the legislation's restrictions for private property.

House Bill 118 requires one more reading in the Wyoming House of Representatives. If it survives that hurdle, the legislation will head to the Wyoming Senate for consideration. — **Mike Koshmrl, WyoFile**

69th MT Legislature kicks off considering ag measures

On Jan. 6, legislators, lobbyists and members of the public converged in Helena, MT, to start the work of the people. The first week of Montana's 69th Legislative Session was off to a rocky start with the Senate in a stand-off over their governing rules.

For the first two weeks, Montana Farm Bureau Federation's (MFBF) Legislative Team was hard at work lobbying on their members' behalf. Already, its lobbyists took a stance on six bills with the potential to follow many more as there are more than 4,300 bill draft requests looming.

To kick off the 2025 legislative session, the first bill that MFBF took a supportive stance on was House Bill (HB) 119: To establish a Montana Cattle Committee sponsored by Rep. Brandon Ler (R-33).

This bill was brought forward to create a Montana Cattle Committee, which in turn will create a process for beef producers to take a referendum vote on the establishment of a program much like the current Montana Wheat and Barley Committee.

It will offer education to producers and consumers, Montana beef promotion and research, and the potential for expanding beef markets and creating a long-lasting legacy for Montana beef.

With this committee's establishment, an optional secondary beef checkoff will also be created to fund the program, a subject that has been on the minds of Montana cattle ranchers since the last session.

During the MFBF Convention, members passed policy to support the creation of such a committee. MFBF testified in support of the hearing, and many of its members, including District 1 Director J.M. Peck, made the trek to Helena to offer their support.

The House Agriculture Committee was considering a few amendments to the bill and was expected to take executive action soon.

Water policy flowed into the Senate Natural Resource Committee during the second week of session, with three bills that MFBF supported. Senate Bill (SB) 55: An act providing legislative intent regarding streamflow information sponsored by Sen. Wilis Curdy (D-49) and SB 61: An act providing policy consideration for measuring stream flow sponsored by Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R-09) both provide clarity around the use and intent for measuring streamflow.

These two bills go hand in hand to ensure that viable, timely streamflow information is collected for effective management of water for water users, especially agricultural irrigators. SB 55 was also written to help support the state's effort in securing funding for stream gauges that United States Geological Survey recently reduced funding for.

SB 76: Revise laws related to preliminary determinations for water right permits or changes in appropriations sponsored by Sen. Sue Vinton (R-20) was the third bill that MFBF supported. This bill offered a few small "clean up" type amendments to legislation that passed during the last session. This legislation helps simplify the water rights change process by clarifying timelines for the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC).

All three bills passed the Senate Natural Resources Committee and will go on to further legislative action.

In the vein of simplification, at the request of DNRC Rep. Randyn Gregg (R-78) brought HB 80: Provide cash lease-only bidding for ag leases, which changes the competitive bidding process for agriculture leases on state land. Under this law, competitive bids for ag leases will be bid exclusively on a cash basis.

For clarity, agriculture leases are the farmed or cropped parcels managed by DNRC and have traditionally been bid on a crop share basis, although cash bids are allowed.

Many farmers have already transitioned to cash leases because the crop share bidding is very complicated and difficult. This bill will modernize the process, benefiting farmers and the School Trust. MFBF supported this bill.

Lastly, MFBF supported the introduction of HB 130: Revise state wildland fire policy and funding sponsored by Rep. Llew Jones (R-18) to the House Natural Resources Committee. This bill helps in recognizing that the state and local fire agencies have the authority to bill a federal fire protection agency for costs incurred in fire suppression.

It also allows the state to provide initial response to fires on lands that are within five miles of areas the DNRC or county fire response teams responsibilities. MFBF's stance on this bill highlights its members' support of aggressive initial attack to stop wildfires, and this bill will encourage more of that. — **Karli Johnson and Nicole Rolf, MFBF**



USFS seeking public input on Flathead River plan

When Greg Schartz first began horse packing into the remote wilderness along the South Fork of the Flathead River, it was still the type of wild country where you would go days without seeing another soul. But 35 years and more than 60 trips later, that has changed.

That change was exemplified by a trip last summer over the Fourth of July weekend when he encountered approximately 70 people camping along the banks and a river that looked more like a "bumper-car derby" than a protected wild and scenic waterway.

"It's a disaster," he said. "The resource just cannot handle that type of use."

Experiences like that are why Schartz is enthusiastically participating in an ongoing public comment period that will shape the river management plan for all three forks of the Flathead River. The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) last released a comprehensive management plan for the three forks of the designated Flathead River in 1980.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act of 1968 established a nationwide system of "outstanding" free-flowing rivers nationwide. Since then, 228 rivers in 41 states and Puerto Rico have been added to the list. The North, Middle and South Forks of the Flathead River were added in 1976 under the management of the USFS. The 1980 river plan has served as a guide for management decisions for 45 years, along with a Recreation Management Direction created in 1986.

The effort to revise the comprehensive river management plan dates back to 2017, but it was delayed due to the pandemic, funding shortfalls and a staff shortage. As a result, the Forest Service did not meet a target of late 2024 to get a draft released to the public. Instead, on Jan. 6, it released a proposed action document that gave an overview of the river system and the desired conditions for which it would be managed. That document is expected to form the core of a draft plan released later this year.

The action document is not even a draft, but it does offer several insights into how the Forest Service hopes to address ever-increasing recreational usage on the three stems of the river.

While skyrocketing visitation to nearby Glacier National Park has made headlines in recent years, the nearby rivers are also experiencing an enormous increase in use. Perhaps there's no better example of that use than the area around Blankenship Bridge, where the Middle and North forks of the river converge just north of Coram. In summer, the river and shore become a beehive of activity with what seems like a never-ending parade of boat traffic.

As one Forest Service official once said, "It's become like Daytona Beach over spring break." The most memorable example of the absurdity came in 2021 when a school bus-turned-camper got stuck in the river.

The action document does not suggest that a management plan would enact limits on how many people could use each section of the river, but it does list a specific capacity that, if exceeded, would start to have a negative impact on the river. For example, it states the top capacity for the North Fork between the Canadian border and Polebridge is 180 people per day. On the other end of the spectrum, the Middle Fork from West Glacier to the confluence with South Fork at Hungry Horse can handle 1,280 people per day.

The document also provides a list of potential actions the final plan could take. For example, the Forest Service is considering enacting a permit program on the river, although it would not limit how many permits it issues. The program would be implemented in phases over different sections of the river, starting with the South and Middle forks. Also under consideration is a prohibition of motor vehicles camping on gravel bars (perhaps trying to ensure another bus doesn't get stuck in the river). The Forest Service might also limit group sizes on the river to a maximum of 50 people. The full document with all of the potential actions can be reviewed online.

The Forest Service is now accepting comments on the document, which can be submitted online or hand-delivered to the Hungry Horse-Glacier View Ranger Station in Hungry Horse or the Forest Supervisor's Office in Kalispell. — **Justin Franz, Montana Free Press**

K-State's Cattlemen's Day scheduled for March 7

Kansas State (K-State) University's Animal Sciences and Industry (ASI) Department will host Cattlemen's Day 2025 on March 7 at the National Guard Armory in Manhattan, KS. Highlights of this year's event will be presentations by Allison Van Enennaam, Glynn Tonsor and Dale Woerner.

The program begins at 9 a.m. Van Enennaam, University of California, Davis Extension specialist, will discuss "Genetic Modifications in Livestock." Tonsor, K-State agriculture economics professor, will give a beef industry economic outlook.

"We're excited to announce our 112th KSU Cattlemen's Day program," said A.J. Tarpoff, K-State associate professor and Cattlemen's Day co-chairman. "With the demolition of Weber Arena we are moving the event off campus for one year with plans to host the 2026 event in the Bilbrey Family Event Center. Our goal with Cattlemen's Day is to share the latest information and research with attendees to better prepare them for management decisions in the upcoming year."

The day starts at 8 a.m. with registration, refreshments, sponsored by Lallemand Animal Nutrition, educational exhibits and a commercial trade show.

Tarpoff added, "This year we have numerous participants signed up for our allied industry trade show. Although the trade show will look a little different not hosted in Weber Arena, it will continue to provide a forum for the attendees to observe what's new in the beef industry and network with key industry leaders."

Lunch will be smoked brisket sponsored by U.S. Premium Beef and trade show exhibitors. Cajun-spiced catfish will also be available. Call Hall Ice Cream will also be served sponsored by Huvepharma.

The afternoon program will include Woerner, Texas Tech University Cargill endowed professor, who will discuss what is new in yield grade technology. K-State ASI graduate students will wrap up the program sharing a research round-up.

The cost to attend Cattlemen's Day 2025 is $25 if paid by Feb. 21 or $35 at the door. There is no charge for students who pre-register. For more information and online registration, visit KSUBeef.org.

The 48th Annual Legacy Bull & Female Sale will begin at 4 p.m. at the Stanley Stout Center (2200 Denison Ave). Visit asi.ksu.edu/legacysale to learn more about this year's offering and to request a sale catalog.

On March 6, the evening before Cattlemen's Day, Richard Porter will be honored as the Stockman of the Year at the Annual Stockmen's Dinner at 6 p.m. at the Stanley Stout Center. Separate registration is required for the dinner. Information can be found online at asi.ksu.edu/stockmensdinner. — **K-State Research and Extension**

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STORY SHORTS

USDA adds states to milk testing program

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service expanded the National Milk Testing Strategy (NMTS) to include six additional states, bringing the total to 36 since its December launch. This program now covers bulk milk tank samples from two-thirds of the nation's dairy herds, representing nearly 75% of U.S. milk production. The NMTS enhances H5N1 monitoring through a five-stage framework. Currently, 17 states are in Stage 2 with active bulk tank sampling, while California, Michigan and Nevada (Stage 3) have rapid response measures. Mississippi reached Stage 4, signifying no virus presence and continues sampling to confirm this status.

OR college launches butcher program

Blue Mountain Community College, in partnership with the Northwest Meat Processors Association, launched the Master Butcher Certificate Program. Designed for aspiring butchers, those expanding their skills or entrepreneurs, the program covers humane animal slaughter, carcass dressing, muscle identification and butchery of key livestock species. The three-level program begins in March with Level 1: Basic Butchery, offered in a 12-week hybrid format. Levels 2 and 3 focus on Food Safety and Meat Entrepreneurship. Applications are open until Feb. 10. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/4asuecrm.

FSIS issues Boar's Head listeria report

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) issued its final report detailing the Boar's Head listeria outbreak in 2024 and oversight of ready-to-eat facilities. The report details a severe incident involving liverwurst produced at the company's Virginia facility. The outbreak, which occurred between May and November 2024, resulted in 61 cases across 19 states, leading to 60 hospitalizations and 10 deaths. Investigations linked the outbreak to inadequate sanitation practices, including product residue, condensation and structural issues. Over 7 million pounds of ready-to-eat meat products were recalled, and the facility was permanently closed. FSIS emphasized improved regulatory measures, inspector training and long-term policy revisions to prevent future outbreaks.

NFWF announces regenerative ag grants

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) announced $14.7 million in grants across 27 projects to enhance voluntary conservation on farms and ranches in 21 states, spanning the Midwest to western grasslands. With $7 million in matching contributions, the total impact reaches $21.7 million. Grants support field professionals collaborating with agricultural producers to implement sustainable practices, including cover crops, grazing management and riparian habitat restoration. Projects focus on areas like the Great Lakes Basin and Great Plains, expanding into western grazing lands to sustain grasslands and shrublands while improving conservation on over 700,000 acres.

Funding for bison production, marketing

USDA announced up to $2 million in funding through the Bison Production and Marketing Grant Program. This initiative aims to boost bison production and marketing in the U.S. by fostering business development, resource innovation and solutions for industry challenges. The program encourages partnerships among industry groups, minimizes redundant efforts and emphasizes measurable benefits for producers. Priority is given to national nonprofits and Tribal organizations with bison expertise. Applications are due by March 26 via grants.gov.

NRCS Oregon announces CSP funding

USDA announced the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) application deadline for fiscal year 2025 funding is Feb. 28. Administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), CSP supports farmers, ranchers and forest landowners in enhancing conservation efforts while maintaining agricultural productivity. The program benefits include improved crop yields, reduced inputs, better wildlife habitats and increased resilience to weather extremes. Applications are accepted year-round, but those submitted by the deadline receive priority. For more information on the Oregon CSP, visit your local USDA service center or contact Abby Fox at Abby.Fox@usda.gov.

Chipotle invests in aquatic plant-based feed

Chipotle Mexican Grill announced minority investments into two companies, Plantible and CH4 Global, through its Cultivate Next initiative for sustainable food and climate solutions. Plantible utilizes duckweed, a fast-growing aquatic plant, to produce what it calls Rubi Protein, a plant-based alternative intended to mimic the taste and texture of animal proteins while replacing synthetic ingredients. CH4 Global produces an Asparagopsis seaweed product, which the company said can reduce livestock methane emissions by up to 90%. CH4 Global said its product not only reduces methane emissions but also reduces the energy loss associated with methane production in the rumen.

$41M investment made in ecosystem health

The Department of the Interior announced on Jan. 7 the availability of over $41 million from the Biden administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for 21 projects addressing drought and climate impacts. Funded through Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program, projects span 11 states. Initiatives focus on water conservation, infrastructure improvements, fish habitat restoration and nature-based solutions. These efforts aim to enhance ecosystem health, restore rivers and watersheds, and support communities by bolstering resilience against climate challenges while promoting sustainable water management.

WY confirms first case of CWD inside an elk feedground

Wyoming wildlife managers on Jan. 15 reported an unwelcome first: The infectious prions that cause always-lethal chronic wasting disease (CWD) have been detected within the boundaries of an elk feedground.

The detection occurred at the base of the Wind River Range at the Scab Creek Feedground, about 15 miles east of Pinedale and within elk hunt area 98. A cow elk that tested positive for the degenerative neurological disease was found dead at the end of December.

"This is the third documented case of CWD in the hunt area and the first confirmed case of an elk testing positive on a feedground," Wyoming Game and Fish Department officials stated in a notice alerting the public.

None of the state agency's personnel were able to be reached for an interview on short notice Wednesday afternoon.

The Scab Creek Feedground is located on Bureau of Land Management property. The feedground's population goal is 500 elk, though closer to 800 animals gathered at the site during two recent winters, according to Game and Fish's recently completed elk feedground management plan.

Although it's been known to occur in southeast Wyoming elk since 1986, CWD is in the early stages of making inroads into Northwest Wyoming's feedground region. The deadly malady was first found in the Jackson Herd in 2020, but since then it's spread to the Pinedale, Piney, and, just recently, the Fall Creek herds.

Although the incurable disease currently occurs at trace levels in feedground elk, that's not expected to last. Scientific projections for CWD's effects on elk populations are grim, especially if elk feeding continues. Just recently, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) researchers completed an analysis that predicts the Jackson Elk Herd will decline by more than half if feeding continues on the National Elk Refuge.

Projections for the future of elk herds attending state-run feedgrounds are also dismal, especially if feeding continues. Continued feeding of the Afton, Fall Creek, Piney, Pinedale and Upper Green River herds would lop those populations nearly in half, while contributing to CWD prevalence rates above 40%, according to 2023 USGS research.

Wyoming Game and Fish's management plan does not demand reforms to elk feedgrounds as a result of CWD. The door, however, is open to changes or closures that will be prescribed through tertiary "feedground management action plans" that will be developed for two herds per year over the next three years.

In 2025, the Jackson and Pinedale elk herds will be reviewed—the latter of which includes the Scab Creek Feedground.

Part of the insidious nature of CWD is that its vector—highly infectious misfolded proteins called prions—can live outside of animal hosts in soil and even absorb into grass.

"Prions are known to bind to many soil types, and when bound to bentonite clay, infectivity is increased," Wyoming's feedground management plan states. "To limit the bioavailability of prions in the environment to cervids, substrate conversions of feeding areas should be considered." — **Mike Koshmrl, WyoFile**

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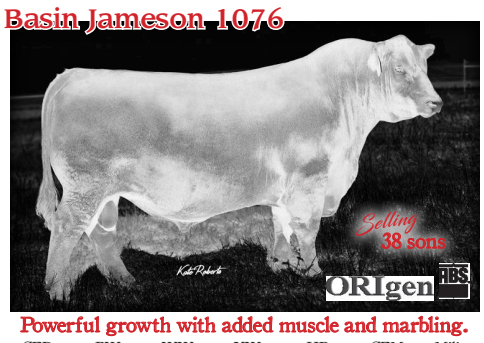
at the Midland Bull Test Sale Facility, Columbus, MT

Basin Jameson 1076

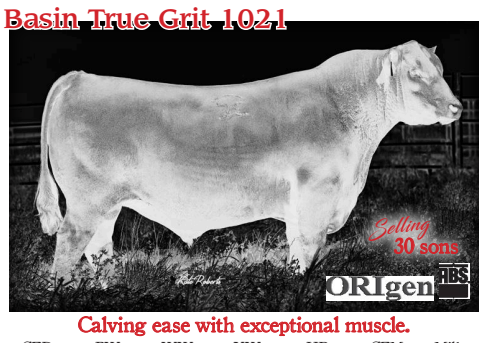


Powerful growth with added muscle and marbling.

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+9	+2.2	+112	+177	+12.0	+9	+27

CW	Marb	RE	$M	$B	$C
+90	+1.68	+.85	+92	+222	+380

Basin True Grit 1021



Calving ease with exceptional muscle.

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+10	-1.7	+64	+120	+14.9	+13	+35

CW	Marb	RE	$M	$B	$C
+53	+1.24	+1.08	+67	+190	+313

Basin Keystone 2021

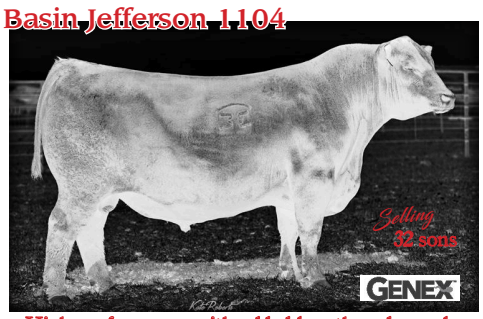


Moderate framed, calving ease bull with outstanding performance.

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+7	+0.9	+81	+148	+12.9	+15	+32

CW	Marb	RE	$M	$B	$C
+67	+1.67	+1.03	+85	+223	+374

Basin Jefferson 1104



High performance with added length and muscle.

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+1	+3.4	+82	+141	+16.9	+13	+24

CW	Marb	RE	$M	$B	$C
+58	+1.08	+.57	+84	+175	+311

FHCC Foundation 1558



Excels for growth, maternal traits and foot quality.

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+17	-0.6	+78	+136	+14.7	+18	+21

CW	Marb	RE	$M	$B	$C
+80	+1.55	+1.01	+83	+243	+398

SITZ Incentive 704H



Outcross sire that excels for performance, foot quality and PAP.

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+8	+0.5	+75	+125	+14.6	+9	+24

CW	Marb	RE	$M	$B	$C
+56	+.88	+.51	+93	+156	+295

Additional sire groups by:

A A R Justified K012 • Basin Klondike 2505
Basin Kash Deposit 2138
Boyd Bluegrass 1203 • RSA True Balance 1311
Virginia Tech Statesman

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Brian Barragree • 406/780-1219
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One-third of the farm share of the food dollar went to non-ag

In 2023, farm establishments received 15.9 cents per dollar spent by consumers on domestically produced food for the sale of farm commodities. However, this amount, called the farm share, does not all remain on the farm.

Farm commodity production requires many inputs from nonfarm establishments. Some inputs, such as fertilizer, seed and equipment, are supplied by establishments in the agribusiness industry group. These inputs to farm commodity production cost 1.6 cents per dollar spent on food in 2023.

Inputs from nonagricultural industry groups, such as energy and transportation, are also used on the farm and throughout the food supply chain. In 2023, the cost of these inputs at the farm level was 5.2 cents per dollar spent on food. The remaining 9.1 cents from the farm share are for farm production, which is equal to the value added by farm establishments through their use of labor, equipment, and materials.

The remaining 84.1 cents per dollar spent on food in 2023 went to industries to get food to various points of purchase after it left the farm. This portion is called the marketing share. — **USDA Economic Research Service**



Water district applauds president's water EO

TRUMP WATER
(from page 1)

Davis' Center for Watershed Studies.

Following a challenge to the 2004 BiOps, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service issued updated BiOps in 2008 and 2009. In response to a 2016 request to revise the COA, new BiOps were issued in 2019, enabling BOR to operate under a revised COA in 2020. This led to lawsuits from the state and other groups, resulting in interim operations under a court-approved agreement while the Biden administration developed revised COA terms and BiOps.

In December, California and federal water officials approved new rules for operating the Central Valley and State Water projects. These rules introduced a framework for balancing water management with environmental protections.

According to the record of decision, the plan enhances Shasta Reservoir operations to protect the coldwater pool during multi-year droughts and reduce temperature-related mortality of winter-run Chinook salmon. It also includes measures to minimize harm to Delta smelt, such as controlling reverse flows in the south Delta, addressing turbidity levels and implementing supplementation efforts to counter survival challenges caused by low fish populations.

However, the EO stated that to protect the smelt, an "enormous water supply flows wastefully into the Pacific Ocean."

Reactions

According to CalMatters—a nonprofit and nonpartisan news organization—Karla Nemeth, director of the California Department of Water Resources, has criticized the potential return to earlier Trump-era water rules. She warns that this move "has the potential to harm Central Valley farms and Southern California communities that depend upon water delivered from the Delta, and it will do nothing to improve current water supplies in the Los Angeles basin."

Restore the Delta, an environmental group based in Stockton, has pushed back against Trump's claim that river water flowing to the sea is wasted. The group argues that such water "sustains the largest estuary on the West Coast—a vital resource for California's economy, recreational and commercial fishing industries, Delta farmers, local businesses, and millions of residents who depend on clean, safe water."

The Westlands Water District, which represents a significant farming region in parts of Kings and Fresno counties in the San Joaquin Valley, welcomed the president's order.

"We are grateful to see that the water supply issues facing California are a priority of the Trump Administration," said Allison Febbo, the district's general manager, in a statement.

LA wildfires

The order comes after Trump said in his inaugural address that the wildfires in Los Angeles "still tragically burn."

"They're raging through the houses and communities, even affecting some of the wealthiest and most powerful individuals in our country—some of whom are sitting here right now," Trump said. "They don't have a home any longer. But we can't let this happen. Everyone is unable to do anything about it. That's going to change."

The EO emphasizes that the recent deadly and historically destructive wildfires in Southern California highlight the urgent need for a reliable water supply and effective vegetation management practices, underscoring the importance of immediately reimplementing the plan.

While firefighters continue to make progress in controlling the blazes, Trump initially criticized the response, writing on Truth Social that Newsom should "open up the water main" and allow "beautiful, clean, freshwater to flow into California."

The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) reported on Jan. 22 that the Eaton Fire had burned 14,021 acres and was 91% contained, and the Palisades Fire burned 23,448 acres and was 68% contained.

Gov. Gavin Newsom (D), in reply to several orders issued relating to climate initiatives, said, "If you don't believe in science, believe your own damn eyes," followed by photographs of firefighting efforts.

According to the EO, the secretary of Commerce and the secretary of the Interior must report on the progress of implementing the memorandum's policies within 90 days and provide recommendations for future implementation. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing editor**





Broberg's Gunslinger L24 | M1002894
Sire: CCC 2B Gunslinger 9030 P
MGS: Schurr Thing 626J

	CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	REA	MARB	TSI
	16.2	-2.5	70	126	36	0.8	0.15	284
%	15	30	25	25	3	35	45	20



Broberg's Resource L26 | M1002892
Sire: CCC WC Resource 417 P
MGS: Schurr Thing 626J

	CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	REA	MARB	TSI
	6.8	1.8	74	123	29	0.76	0.23	262
%	90	95	15	30	20	40	20	60



Broberg's Riptide L28 | M1002907
Sire: SCC Riptide 19H
MGS: HCR Jockey 8055 PLD

	CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	REA	MARB	TSI
	15.7	-2.6	67	119	37	0.65	0.11	263
%	15	25	30	35	3	65	60	60



Broberg's Redemption L132 | M1002879
Sire: CCC WC Redemption 7143 PLD ET
MGS: SAT Gridmaker 6306 P ET

	CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	REA	MARB	TSI
	10.5	-0.1	65	116	26	0.84	0.29	274
%	60	70	40	45	40	25	8	35



Broberg's Redemption L221 | M1002878
Sire: CCC WC Redemption 7143 PLD ET
MGS: SAT Gridmaker 6306 P ET

	CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	REA	MARB	TSI
	10.9	-0.5	70	121	30	0.85	0.29	271
%	55	65	25	30	20	25	8	40



Broberg's Redemption L326 | M1002842
Sire: CCC WC Redemption 7143 PLD ET
MGS: WC Beretta 2002 P ET

	CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	REA	MARB	TSI
	6.1	2.2	76	125	28	0.85	0.16	255
%	90	100	10	25	25	25	40	80

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TILDEN NEBRASKA
BrobergCharolais.com

Loren and Bev
Loren: 402-750-1967
lorenbroberg@icloud.com
Brent and Marykae
Brent: 402-640-8645
brentbroberg@yahoo.com

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Sale Management
CK SALES & MARKETING
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Preparing for the spring calving season

Inventor Alexander Graham Bell once said, "Before anything else, preparation is the key to success."

When it comes to having a successful calving season, Kansas State (K-State) University Beef Cattle Institute experts say now is the time to make those preparations. This was the topic of a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast.

"The first step is to make sure the cows will be calving in a clean, dry environment," K-State veterinarian Bob Larson said. "I prefer to calve on grass and out of the mud, which means the calving pastures are different than the winter feeding area."

Because he likes to calve cows on pasture, Larson said he makes sure the fences are secure and there is water readily available.

Next, he makes sure his calving kit is ready in case a cow needs help in delivering her calf.

"Along with having a clean area to catch the cows that need assistance, I make sure I have calving chains or straps, lube, clean plastic sleeves, and the veterinarian's phone number," Larson said. "Oftentimes, the first group to calve is the heifers and they are the ones who are more likely to need help."

Also in the third trimester, beef cattle nutritionist Phillip Lancaster recommends evaluating the body condition of the cows and offering supplements to underweight cows.



K-State Research and Extension

"At this production stage, we want cows to be at a body condition score of five or six because once they calve and are lactating it is difficult for them to add weight," Lancaster said. "We don't want them to be too thin going into the breeding season after calving, so it is important to get them in the right body condition before calving."

Another planning tip relates to colostrum management.

"I prefer to use actual colostrum collected in the herd rather than a colostrum supplement," K-State veterinarian Brian Lubbers said. "If you can collect extra colostrum from one of the early calving cows and freeze it for future use, that is the best option."

Larson agreed but acknowledged milking beef cows who have just calved can be challenging, and for that reason, he also recommends having powdered colostrum on hand.

"In a normal calving situation, colostrum supplementation is not needed; however, if the cow had a c-section or a difficult birth, we may need to provide that to the calf," Larson said. "Don't wait until you are in an emergency situation. It is better to have those products stockpiled and ready to use when needed." — **K-State Research and Extension**

Contracting a red meat allergy from ticks



K-State Research and Extension

The Lone Star tick is a primary cause of alpha-gal syndrome, a red meat allergy in humans.

Kansas State (K-State) University researchers and extension specialists have teamed up on a project to help alleviate the negative impacts of an allergy to red meat that affects a growing number of people.

K-State Research and Extension nutrition and wellness specialist Priscilla Brenes said alpha-gal syndrome (AGS)—the term used to describe patients who develop an allergic reaction to dietary red meats and mammalian related products—is becoming more common across Kansas, especially in rural areas.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, AGS can occur after a tick bite. A primary culprit is the Lone Star tick, which is more prevalent in southern, eastern and central states.

Symptoms occur after people eat red meat or are exposed to other products made from mammals, and may include:

- Hives or itchy rash.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Severe stomach pain.
- Heartburn or indigestion.
- Diarrhea.
- Cough, shortness of breath, or difficulty breathing.
- A drop in blood pressure.
- Swelling of the lips, throat, tongue or eyelids.
- Dizziness or faintness.

In late 2024, Brenes surveyed extension agents in Kansas to gauge their awareness of AGS.

"The majority of those who responded indicated that there is not enough information available regarding AGS," she said. "They want to know more about this topic so that they can educate the people in their communities."

Michael Chao, a meat scientist at K-State University, said part of that process includes helping people understand how they can reintroduce red meat into their diet. A report from the Yale School of Medicine indicates that the levels of antibodies that cause the allergic reaction decline over time, and some people are again able to eat red meat without an allergic reaction.

Using mice models similar to humans, Chao is conducting research to test the reaction of numerous meat products—hot dogs, steak, jerky and others—in those who are affected by AGS.

"In this way, we can find a better relationship between eating red meat and humans' response to it," Chao said. "Our hope is that we can use that information to help people reintroduce red meat into their diet when they're ready for it."

K-State entomologist Yoonseong Park said that while the Lone Star tick is the main culprit in causing AGS in humans, studies indicate that less than 10% of those bitten by that tick actually develop the allergic reaction to red meat.

He adds that like any allergy, people may have varying levels of sensitivity to the allergen: "Some people are not very sensitive," he said, "and might be able to eat some levels of red meat."

However, anyone who suspects they have developed an allergic reaction to AGS—and especially those who have become highly sensitive to red meat and related products—should consult with a physician. In extreme cases, the allergen could cause death in AGS patients.

"I'm an entomologist, and so my advice to people who want to avoid this allergen is to just not be bitten by ticks," said Park, noting that Lone Star tick activity picks up in Kansas in April and early spring.

Brenes said the state's extension service will be conducting another survey of consumers, this time encouraging residents in the state's 105 counties to participate. Those who participate in the survey will receive a financial incentive, she said. — **K-State Research and Extension**



Lame duck Congress ended without NV mine permitting reform bill

A bipartisan effort to give mining companies more legal rights to federal lands and speed up the permitting process did not make it past a contentious five-week lame duck session, dashing hopes to reverse a major court ruling adopting a stricter interpretation of federal mining law, at least for the time being.

In the final weeks of the 118th Congress, before the 119th was sworn in early this month, the Energy Permitting Reform Act of 2024—a mining reform package shepherded by former independent U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin—fell apart despite a strong bipartisan desire to implement permitting reform.

"It's a shame that our country is losing this monumental opportunity to advance the commonsense, bipartisan permitting reform bill that has strong support in the United States Senate," said Manchin, in a statement last month.

Manchin, who spent more than a year crafting the bill, blamed its failure to advance on Speaker Mike Johnson and Republican House leadership who stalled the bill after House priorities "were watered down or ignored," said House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman Republican Rep. Bruce Westerman (R-AR-04) in a statement.

Westerman had been pushing to add his legislation to reform the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the bedrock environmental law that requires reviews of federal projects.

The bill made it out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee in December with support from Manchin, the committee chair at the time, and the ranking Republican on the panel, Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming.

"Sens. Manchin and Barrasso's bill, which only passed out of committee and not the full Senate, addressed some reforms but needed the House NEPA provisions to strengthen it," Westerman said in a statement on the bill's demise.

The permitting reform bill had also included provisions from the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act—a bill pushed by Nevada's lone congressional Republican. That legislation was explicitly crafted to reverse a legal precedent created by a consequential 2022 appeals court decision that restricted mining companies' right to dump mining waste on federal land.

Western legislators have led the effort to reverse the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals "Rosemont decision" which found that the federal government erred when it approved the Rosemont Copper Company's plan to dump mining waste on federal land where the company could not prove they had a valid mineral claim.

Although the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act passed the House, where Rep. Mark Amodei (R-NV-02) was its sponsor, in May, it failed to pass in the Senate, so will need to be reintroduced in the current Congress.

Amodei's office indicated he plans to reintroduce the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act in the current Congress in order to reverse the Rosemont decision.

Although Republicans gained control of the Senate in last year's elections, any mining reform introduced in the new Senate will still need a 60-vote threshold to move forward, which means passage could still be difficult, even given the support of Nevada's Democratic Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen.

In a statement, Cortez Masto said she would continue to push for permitting reform and the Mining Regulatory Clarity Act in the Senate.

Westerman and California Rep. Scott Peters (D-50) have also signaled plans to put together their own permitting reform legislation that centers on House priorities next Congress.

In addition to reversing the Rosemont decision, the bill would have also shortened the timeline for judicial review of energy and mineral permitting projects while accelerating federal decision-making for leasing of energy projects on federal lands.

Several mining developers in Nevada have had to grapple with the aftermath of the Rosemont decision in 2022. The decision essentially banned a long-standing practice permitted by the Bureau of Land Management in an industry that has not faced major policy shifts in decades.

Prior to the federal appeals court decision, mining companies used neighboring federal lands without valuable mineral deposits for mining related purposes—such as waste rock disposal or running power lines—without issue for decades.

Failure to pass legislation addressing the Rosemont decision will likely also add more uncertainty to the state's many proposed lithium mines in particular, after President Donald Trump's vow to claw back unspent Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding that has been tapped to help finance the lithium mining industry.

Several Republicans have said they are open to curtailing the Department of Energy's (DOE) Loan Programs Office, which has committed about $37 billion in loans or loan guarantees for energy and mining projects under the Biden administration.

The Inflation Reduction Act has awarded billions in funding for Nevada mining projects. In October, the DOE loans program finalized a $2.3 billion loan to Lithium Americas for its Thacker Pass mine in Nevada. Two other DOE loans for Nevada clean energy transition projects are still in the conditional stage—a $700 million loan for Ioneer's Rhyolite Ridge lithium mine, and $2 billion in financing for Redwood Materials' battery component recycling and production facility.

Ioneer and Redwood Materials' did not respond to requests for comment on the fate of their conditional loans.

The Rosemont decision followed the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act in 2022, which included provisions to incentivize mining companies to develop mining projects for critical minerals through the Advanced Manufacturing Production Credit. Many of the critical minerals designated by the Biden administration, such as zinc, manganese, and lithium, are integral to electric vehicle batteries and the renewable energy transition.

But the future of those credits is also uncertain under a Trump administration. Republicans have also vowed to cut the deficit while also extending the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. To offset costs, IRA tax incentives, including manufacturing credits, could be on the chopping block.

Significant clean energy investments in Republican-leaning states, could make outright repeal of the IRA unlikely, however, a Republican controlled White House and Congress could use the Congressional Review Act to review and potentially overturn regulations issued by federal agencies including the Advance Manufacturing Production Credit, according to the analysts at the Brookings Institution. — **Jeniffer Solis, Nevada Current**



Cargill settles turkey price-fixing case

Cargill Inc. has reached a $32.5 million settlement in a broad class-action lawsuit over price-fixing in turkey production.

The potential settlement comes in a case led by a collection of companies that buy large volumes of turkey products. They filed a lawsuit initially in 2019 against major turkey producers, which also includes a range of companies such as Butterball, Hillshire Brands, Hormel, Kraft Foods, Jennie-O Turkey, Perdue Farms and Prestage Farms. The lawsuit alleges turkey processor conspired as part of an illegal price-fixing scheme by exchanging information to reduce supplies or suppress competition.

The turkey case is one of multiple lawsuits over the poultry and pork industry's use of Indiana-based Agri Stats, which is also a defendant in the case. The lawsuits, which includes litigation against Agri Stats by the Department of Justice, allege companies were able to use Agri Stats reports to adjust their prices and production based on reports filed by competitors and compiled by Agri Stats.

The plaintiffs filed a motion in the U.S. District Court for Northern Illinois asking the judge to approve the Cargill settlement. The settlement will go through a process over the next six months before reaching final approval.

The proposed settlement states, "Cargill has agreed to provide meaningful cooperation," which will assist plaintiffs in their claims against other major turkey processors that have not settled claims.

Along with a $4.6 million settlement from Tyson in 2022, the total settlements would reach $37.13 million.

The settlement values were based on market share. Tyson's share of the turkey market is roughly 4-5% while Cargill's share is in the 20-21% range.

Cargill did not respond to a request for comment about the settlement. — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

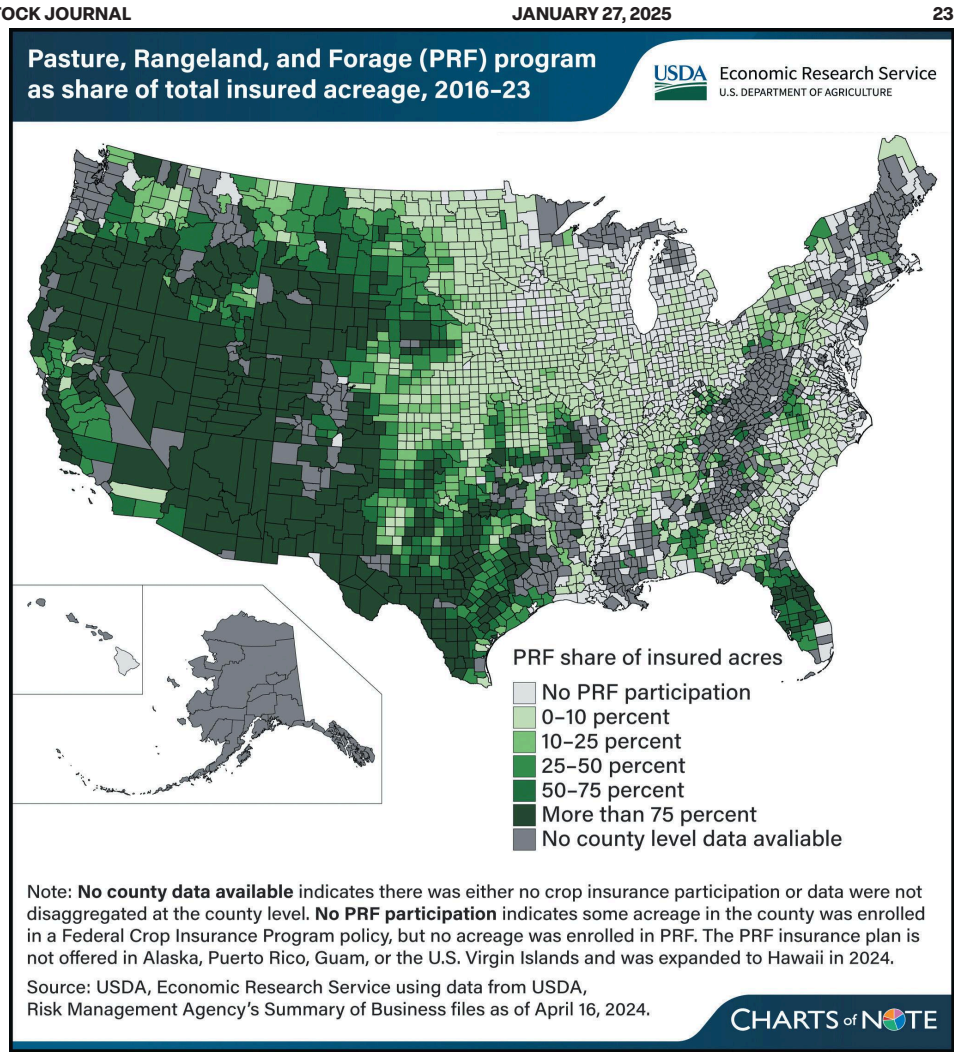
PRF represents majority of insured acreage in West

The Pasture, Rangeland, and Forage Insurance (PRF) Plan, offered as part of the Federal Crop Insurance Program (FCIP), acts as a risk management tool for livestock producers.

Under the plan, USDA tracks average precipitation levels within geographic grids and makes payments to enrolled producers within a grid if precipitation drops below historical average levels.

The plan's coverage is intended to protect producers from potential financial losses resulting from a reduction in grazable forage. Introduced as a pilot program in 2007 for select states, the plan was expanded to the entire contiguous U.S. by 2016. Since then, participation has grown each year, with enrollment rising from 44 million acres in the 2016 crop year to 278 million acres in the 2023 crop year.

Enrollment is concentrated in areas with large amounts of forage and grazing land, and for many counties in the western U.S., the forage plan represents a majority of FCIP insured acreage. In more than half of the counties in Arizona, Wyoming, Utah, New Mexico, Nevada, Oregon, Texas and Idaho, it represents the majority of FCIP participation when measured by insured acreage. Among eastern states, Florida stands out, with the forage plan accounting for the majority of insured acreage in 29 out of 67 counties. — **USDA Economic Research Service**



IAMP opens second round of producer applications

A University of Idaho-led program offering technical and financial assistance to Idaho farmers and ranchers who adopt climate-smart agricultural practices has opened for a second enrollment period, prioritizing producers in the state's southern and eastern regions.

The current application period for the Innovative Agriculture and Marketing Partnership (IAMP) is open through Feb. 21. Producers may apply by visiting iamp.uidaho.edu and clicking on the "participant application" link. The process should take 10 to 25 minutes to complete. An instructional YouTube video guiding applicants through the process is also linked to the page.

IAMP represents the largest grant award in University of Idaho's (U of I) history, offering more than $31 million in financial incentives to Idaho producers who implement designated climate-smart practices. Annual incentives range from $38 to $74 per acre or $1 per head per day for grazing cover crops on enrolled acreage.

IAMP is a statewide project focused on reducing climate impact within the production of Idaho's top commodities—including potatoes, sugar beets, wheat, barley, hops, chickpeas and beef—while also seeking to create marketing opportunities for sustainably raised food.

The program received heavy interest among northern Idaho wheat growers during the initial signup period last fall, and IAMP officials will emphasize enrolling southern and eastern Idaho projects involving potatoes and sugar beets during this round of applications. IAMP prioritizes acreage enrollments to maximize producer, practice, regional and commodity diversity.

The first large-scale enrollment of producers implementing climate-smart practices will commence this spring. Producers who registered during the initial signup round needn't take any action during the current round.

"I'm optimistic we can make a big impact on changing agriculture in Idaho," said Erin Brooks, IAMP co-director and professor in the Department of Soil and Water Systems. "I see a potential transformation that could happen over the next five years, and IAMP could be the key catalyst."

The application form will invite producers to identify their preferences among a list of IAMP partner organizations to advise and guide them throughout the program, including county soil conservation districts, The Nature Conservancy, Desert Mountain Grass-Fed Beef and the Nimiipuu (Nez Perce) and Schitsu'umsh (Coeur d'Alene) tribes.

IAMP will enroll more than 200 farms, with at least 30% of participants representing underserved populations. The program aims to prevent 31,000 to 70,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents from entering the atmosphere annually while replenishing cropland soil carbon.

Throughout last summer, a team of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers from U of I took greenhouse gas measurements and sampled soil carbon from plots with IAMP-approved practices at university research and extension centers. The data will help guide program estimates on climate and soil benefits.

Questions about IAMP may be submitted by emailing iamp@uidaho.edu.

The IAMP is funded with a five-year, $59 million grant through the UUSDA's Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program. The total project funding is $59,240,577, of which 99.84% is the federal share. — **U of I Extension**

COMING EVENTS

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

Feb. 4-6 – The National Cattlemen's Beef Association Convention will be held in San Antonio, TX, at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Registration details and more: convention.ncba.org.

Feb. 9-13 – The Society for Range Management will hold its 78th Annual Meeting in Spokane, WA. Details: rangelands.org/annual-meeting-2025.

April 11-13 – Registration is open for the 2025 Cattle Raisers Convention & Expo taking place in downtown Fort Worth, TX. Details: cattleraisersconvention.com.



The benefits of feeding ionophores to beef cows

Forage and supplemental feed costs have the most influence on profitability of cow-calf operations. Feed and pasture have been estimated to be 68% of variable costs and 47% of total costs of maintaining a cowherd. An economic analysis by Kansas State University showed that the top one-third of producers in profitability had 39% lower feed and pasture cost than low-profit producers.

Ionophores are a class of antibiotics that shift rumen microbial populations to increase energetic efficiency and reduce production of waste molecules such as methane. These feed additives are used extensively in the stocker and finishing production segments of the beef industry but their use of ionophores in the cow-calf industry has lagged.

The ionophore monensin (marketed as Rumensin) was approved for use in replacement beef and dairy heifers in 1983 and for beef cows in 1988. In finishing cattle, ionophores decrease feed intake by 5% while increasing gains by 1.5% and feed efficiency by 7%.

For developing replacement heifers, similar to growing and finishing cattle, monensin increased average daily gain, decreased feed intake and improved feed efficiency. The reproductive effects were impressive, showing decreased age at first puberty and the percentage of heifers cycling before the breeding season without affecting weight at puberty.

Even though early puberty and cyclic activity of heifers is often positively correlated with earlier conception, this analysis did not find differences in first service or AI pregnancy rates or total pregnancy rates for heifers.

For mature cows, bodyweight and body condition score changes were not affected by feeding monensin. Monensin significantly decreased forage intake and increased milk production in a limited number of experiments. Monensin also decreased the days to estrus post-calving and increased the number of cows showing estrus before breeding. As with replacement heifers, there was no difference in pregnancy in this analysis.

This data supports using monensin to help push anestrous cattle to start cycling before breeding that would otherwise be late breeders or open. Calculation of energetics from feed intake and performance data show feeding monensin increased dietary energy by 4.7%. The combination of reduced feed intake, increased milk production, and earlier estrus activity has the potential to have long-term positive impacts on cowherd efficiency. — **Paul Beck, Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension beef cattle nutrition specialist**

Summary of the Effects of Feeding Monensin to Developing Replacement Heifers and Mature Beef Cows.

Item	Replacement Heifers	Mature Cows
Bodyweight change	+5%	No difference
Body condition change	-	No difference
Feed Intake	-4.3%	-7.8%
Feed efficiency	+14%	-
Age at Puberty	-8.9 days	-
Weight at Puberty	No difference	-
Cycling before breeding	+16%	+19%
Days Anestrus before breeding	-	-18 days
Pregnancy percentage	No difference	No difference
Calf Birth Weight	-	+5 pounds
Milk production	-	+5.4%

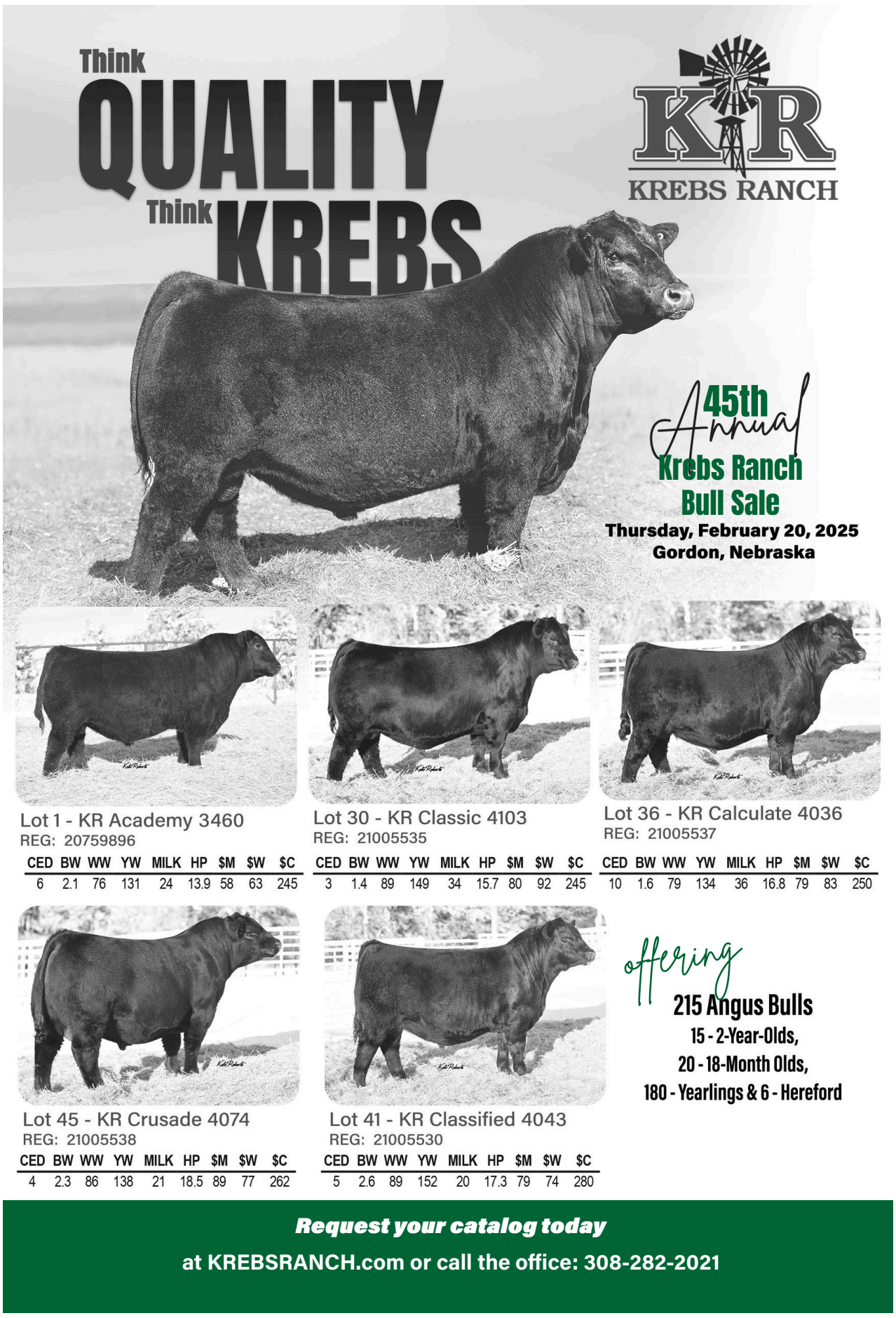
1099 tax forms for ag producers

Farmers and ranchers regularly pay for services from individuals who are not their full-time employees. Typical compensation includes wages or other payments to self-employed workers and contractors, and rent paid to landowners.

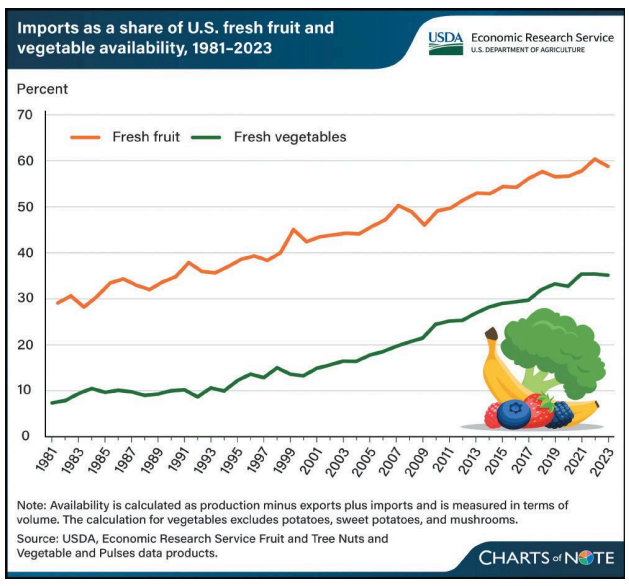
Under IRS regulations, a 1099 form should be issued to certain non-employees who perform services and are paid over $600 in a calendar year.

Reporting this information to the IRS helps ensure the receiver pays appropriate taxes on the income. This requirement can be broken down into three elements: (1) $600 or more paid during the calendar year; (2) to someone who is an individual, LLC, partnership or trust; and (3) for services.

These forms are sent early in the calendar year, so recipients have adequate time for tax preparation. For additional information about this topic and more you can go to cap.unl.edu. — **Shannon Sand, Nebraska Extension**



US fresh produce stocks rely on foreign imports



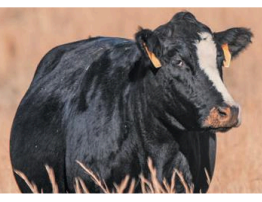
Imports play an increasingly important role in ensuring that fresh fruit and vegetables are available year-round in the U.S. Since the 2008 completion of the transition to tariff- and quota-free trade among Mexico, Canada and the U.S. under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), U.S. fresh fruit and vegetable imports have increased with few interruptions.

From 2007 to 2023, the percent of U.S. fresh fruit and vegetable availability supplied by imports grew from 50% to 59% for fresh fruit and from 20% to 35% for fresh vegetables (excluding potatoes, sweet potatoes and mushrooms).

The import share increased by more than 20 percentage points during this period for 10 crops: asparagus, avocados, bell peppers, blueberries, broccoli, cauliflower, cucumbers, raspberries, snap beans and tomatoes.

A year-to-year decline in blueberry and orange imports contributed to a decline in imports' share of fresh fruit availability from 2022 to 2023. The United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, implemented on July 1, 2020, continues NAFTA's market access provisions for fruit and vegetables.

In 2023, Mexico and Canada supplied 51% and 2%, respectively, of U.S. fresh fruit imports, and 69% and 20%, respectively, of U.S. fresh vegetable imports in terms of value. — **USDA Economic Research Service**



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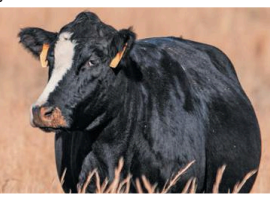

Yield grade challenges, potential solutions and the value of tallow

At Fall Focus 2024, Dr. Ty Lawrence with West Texas A&M University presented about the history of the yield grading system, current challenges and potential solutions. He also discussed tallow values, challenging the idea that packers want fatter cattle because of the added product. Market pressure for heavier finishing cattle affects decision-making throughout the system, down to seedstock producers and commercial cow-calf producers.

Yield grades, which estimate the percentage of expected cutability from a carcass, became an industry practice in the 1950s. Before that point, carcasses were only graded based on quality. Yield grading has been adjusted since that time, in an attempt to narrow down the actual percentage of meat that ends up being boxed and sold to the consumer.

In response to industry shifts, a yield grade equation was developed, based on a study evaluating 162 carcasses. Researchers studied the measurements of each carcass, which varied widely in size and fatness, to determine common factors affecting yield. It was determined that backfat, kidney, pelvic and heart fat, carcass weight, and ribeye area were important in predicting the percentage of a carcass that would be highly trimmed rib, loin, round and chuck. The equation left out brisket, plate, flank and ground cuts.

In 1962, a proposal was initiated to evaluate the yield grade equation, and to challenge whether the system was benefiting the industry. In 1965, yield grading started, as did ribbing (the process of cutting through the backbone of the side of beef between the 12th and 13th rib) as a part of quality grading.

Before 1967, beef was either sold as a whole carcass, in halves, or quarters, and shifted to the current boxed beef model. Since that time, the system has shifted with industry pressure. In 2009, camera grading became an option, developed to keep up with the demand of large processors.

Lawrence explained that yield and quality grading methods vary greatly across packing plants today. One may have real people doing both yield and quality grading. Another plant may utilize both human and camera grading.

"Today, we have a tremendous variability in how things actually get done," Lawrence explained. "The variety of what happens is not consistent within an individual plant, or within a company day after day."

For cattle sold on the grid, yield grade is important to the carcass value. A Yield Grade 1 animal is the most desirable, and any animals grading above that (2-5) are trimmed to match. Yield Grade 4 and 5 animals are discounted, often heavily, because of the excessive fat that has to be trimmed off the carcass before being cut and boxed.

Lawrence explained that backfat is 73% of the yield grade equation. "When I'm teaching live animal evaluation to students, I tell them that if they can predict the backfat correctly, they can get the yield grade right," he said.

Cattle have changed dramatically since yield grading became standard, which Lawrence demonstrated using photographs. He also discussed how much feeding technology has improved over this time, including the use of implants, and steam-flaked corn. Lawrence also discussed how much carcass size has increased, predicting that the trend will continue into the future. "Cattle are much bigger every year," he explained.

> "The variety of what happens is not consistent within an individual plant, or within a company day after day."
>
> — Ty Lawrence

"In my lifetime, carcasses will likely exceed 1,500 pounds."

These larger carcass weights present challenges with the current yield grade system, assuming that the cattle researched to develop it were much smaller live, and on the rail. Camera evaluation is another issue.

"The camera is programmed to take the leanest measurement. So, if there's a hide hole or a fat tear, the camera automatically takes the leanest option and you get data back on that animal when in reality, the other side was the truest value of backfat. Cattle are always fatter than the camera's interpretation," Lawrence explained.

This hole in the system has an effect beyond the packing plant. "The camera is programmed to choose the leanest side, which is in favor of the animal, but if you're trying to make genetic improvement or selection, you're getting underfinished data," Lawrence added.

The current system also presents challenges with beef-on-dairy. "If we apply it to a dairy-type animal, it predicts absolutely 0% of the variation in red meat yield. The primary reason is that selection pressure for dairy cattle has been pushed to put fat reserves internally—around the stomach, intestines, kidneys, throughout the pelvic cavity and around the heart," Lawrence shared.

Dairy cattle that appear to be thin, with visible hips for example, are often quite fat. In beef-on-dairy feeder cattle, these genetics affect how the animals carry fat, and ultimately, the yield grade they receive.

Marbling, and the consumer demand for more prime grade beef, also presents challenges to the current system. "If you want marbling in one spot in the ribeye to improve the grading outcome of that animal, the reality is that they get fatter everywhere else," Lawrence said.

Tallow, or beef fat, is a by-product of finished cattle, which can be utilized in a number of ways. Tallow has a variety of uses, from cooking to lubrication and biodiesel; tallow-based skincare is currently popular. Some tallow, cut early in the process, is indelible, and is frequently used for biodiesel. Edible tallow, which is cut after the USDA has inspected a carcass, goes into soap, lotion, food, etc.

While tallow is a byproduct that can be sold, Lawrence clarified that packers are not demanding fatter cattle just for the sake of selling more fat. "They're not making cattle fatter to hit tallow outcomes. They're making cattle fatter to hit quality outcomes," he said.

Lawrence shared that a committee sponsored by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association is working to tackle the issues with the current grading system, and is weighing the pros and cons of either starting from the ground up with a new system, or tweaking the current system to better serve the current beef industry environment. — **Lilly Platts, American Simmental Association**

2025 AJSA National Classic to be held in WI

The American Simmental Association (ASA) Board of Trustees met in Amarillo, TX, Aug. 24-27, voting to hold the 2025 American Junior Simmental Association (AJSA) National Classic in Madison, WI. The event will be held July 6-12.

The AJSA National Classic draws youth from across the country to compete in cattle shows, educational competitions and more. Due to an unanticipated scheduling conflict between the AJSA and the National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) events, the ASA Board of Trustees chose to move the 2025 show to Madison, and hold the 2026 show in Grand Island, NE.

A large portion of AJSA members is also involved in the NJAA, and based on member feedback, the ASA Board of Trustees felt it necessary to ensure youth have the opportunity to participate in both events.

The 2026 AJSA National Classic will be held in Grand Island, and the ASA and AJSA staff are excited to be working with the Grand Island organizers again. The exact dates will be determined in the future.

Send any questions to Mia Bayer at mbayer@simmgene.com, or Greg Burden at greg.gbcattle@gmail.com. — **ASA**



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[a]USMARC, Zimmerman, M., et al., "Breed and heterotic effects for mature weight in beef cattle." J. of Anim. Sci., Vol. 99, 2021. Adjusted for sire sampling. Angus was the heaviest at maturity among the 16 breeds evaluated. Solutions are deviations from Angus. YW EPDs were extracted from genetic evaluations conducted in 2019. Estimate of MWT differences at 6 years of age. The study considered 108,857 weight records from 5,156 crossbred cows sired by 787 bulls. [b]Effect of sire breed group on carcass value of feedlot cattle harvested through Tri-County Steer Carcass Futurity Cooperative, Lewis, Iowa, 2001 to 2016. Oddy, R. & Ring, M. (March 2021). Kansas State University, Relationships Among Sire Breed Groups, Calf Sex and Year Group on Carcass Traits. Breeds represented in the English-sired group: Angus, Red Angus, South Devon, Hereford and Shorthorn.

Ranch/Sale	City	Phone
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Bromenshenk Farms	Billings, MT	406-656-7173
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Donsbach Lazy 3L Ranch	Miles City, MT	406-853-2828
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Fauth Ranch Simmentals	Lavina, MT	406-860-9351
Finke Simmentals	Berthold, ND	701-453-3105
Forseth Livestock LLC	Fairfield, MT	406-590-7984
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Genie Genetics	Roy, MT	559-696-4941
Kate Koch	Molt, MT	406-580-7458
Koch Cattle	Roberts, MT	406-860-0659
Laird Simmentals	Philipsburg, MT	208-608-3210
Lassle Simmentals	Glendive, MT	406-486-5584
Little Bitterroot Ranch	Hot Springs, MT	406-741-2523
Little Bitterroot River Simmental	Hot Springs, MT	406-270-2268
Miller Simmental	Gildford, MT	406-376-3109
Nelson Livestock Company	Wibaux, MT	406-588-3371
Rolling Hills Ranch	Polson, MT	406-239-7483
Rymo Cattle Co	Bonners Ferry, ID	208-660-2726
Stroh Cattle Company	Glendive, MT	406-941-0670
Table Rock Ranch	Ririe, ID	605-595-3726
Walking 5 Ranch	Broadview, MT	406-667-2251
Wight Ranches	Hall, MT	406-241-9578
Wolenetz Ranch	Baker, MT	406-975-6334

Plan to attend Montana's Choice Sale, the following events, or contact Montana Simmental Association members to see what they have to offer you!

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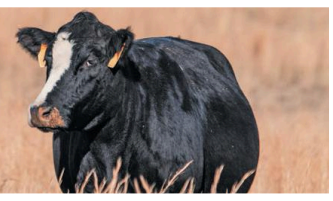


ASA partners with Neogen to offer DNA testing at show

The American Simmental Association (ASA) and International Genetic Solutions (IGS) maintain a steadfast commitment to utilizing and improving the science and technology available to producers. DNA testing has become standard practice for many seedstock producers, and thanks to an initiative by the ASA Board of Trustees, is now a tool the next generation knows about.

In collaboration with Neogen Inc., all animals exhibited at the 2024 American Junior Simmental Association (AJSA) National Classic in Tulsa, OK, were eligible for a complimentary GGP100K (high-density) genomic test, which includes parentage verification. The initiative was designed to educate junior members on the importance and value of DNA testing in the beef industry, as well as stimulate the collection of valuable genomic information. As a result, over 400 DNA samples were collected.

On July 11, 2024, AJSA members and their parents gathered for a DNA collection demonstration. Representatives from Neogen and ASA shared about the benefits of DNA testing, and demonstrated on live animals how DNA samples are collected. Neogen provided all of the tissue sampling units (TSU) and hair cards used to collect samples.

Following the demonstration, ASA staff teamed up with the ASA Board of Trustees to travel through the barns, asking AJSA members if they would like to have their animals tested. Making sure AJSA members and their parents were aware of the free testing and collecting samples was the goal, but beyond that, it allowed young members to meet and talk with ASA leadership.

Lane Giess, ASA geneticist, helped gather samples. "It was great to see ASA staff, trustees and members working together to educate juniors and help them understand the utility of science in the beef business," he shared.

Each sample tested will return valuable genomic information to AJSA members, verifying the parentage of their animals, and accelerating their genetic knowledge. A genomic test is the equivalent of having at least 25 actual progeny records for growth traits, and 10 for terminal traits. This data will help young producers make breeding decisions, and will also have a positive impact on the entire population.



ASA

Exhibitors at the National Classic were given the opportunity to receive a high-density genomic test on animals entered in the show.

"Animals that receive genomically enhanced prediction drastically improve the accuracy of their expected progeny differences (EPD) values, which in show cattle is generally a challenge due to smaller contemporary groups and fewer registered progeny," Giess explained.

Additionally, the testing includes parent verification. An inherent challenge in animal breeding is assigning a sire to progeny, especially when artificial insemination and natural service breeding are used in tandem, or multiple sires are used in a single breeding pasture. The reality is that mistakes happen and there can be discrepancies between the listed sire/dam and the actual sire/dam of an animal, and through DNA testing, parentage can be confirmed if parents themselves are genomically tested.

The ASA requires that any donor female or AI sire must be genomically tested with at least a 100K high-density DNA test for any progeny to be registered. This improves the integrity of the registry, and in the case of the National Classic, improves the integrity of the show. This means that every animal tested through the DNA collection event at the National Classic will also be certified as either an AI sire or donor dam.

Chris Ivie, chairman of the ASA Board of Trustees, was in the barn, talking with AJSA families and collecting DNA samples. Introducing young people to technology like TSU sampling was an important part of the initiative. "Once people saw how simple it is to collect a TSU, they were on board," he shared.

Interacting with AJSA families was a highlight for Ivie. "I have been a part of many events, and I've never seen the engagement that was on display. Every exhibitor and their families had the opportunity to interact with trustees and staff members," he shared. "They had opportunities to ask us anything they wanted to, and we were able to explain the DNA process and answer their questions."

Giess echoed this, pointing out that over half of the animals entered at the National Classic were sampled.

"To say the DNA collection event was a success would be an understatement. Almost 60% of all animals at the show were enrolled in the program, and the ability to go down the aisles, visit with juniors and their families one-on-one and talk about science was incredible," he concluded. "The DNA collection program was met with a ton of enthusiasm and the reception confirms that the ASA is truly the 'Science Breed.'" — **ASA**

AJSA members will receive digital issues

ASA Publication, Inc. aims to serve each member in the best way possible, ensuring that the educational material, news, American Simmental Association (ASA) updates, and other relevant content reaches everyone.

Recognizing that digital communication allows access to information anytime, anywhere, and is the preference for many young individuals in the beef industry, the ASA Board of Trustees passed a resolution that will allow more effective communication with junior members.

What does this mean? Beginning with the February 2025 Register, all American Junior Simmental Association (AJSA) members will automatically receive a digital version of each issue. Here's what you need to know:

- Digital access anytime, anywhere. Junior members can enjoy the convenience of accessing the Register online, ensuring they're always in the loop with the latest content.
- Email notifications: Email alerts will be received each time a new issue is released, guiding junior members to the online version.
- Social media access: The Register will also be available through AJSA's social media channels, providing another convenient platform for junior members to access and engage with the Association's happenings.
- Easy magazine preferences: Prefer a hard copy? No problem. Junior members can easily update their magazine preferences by visiting Herdbook.org, navigating to "My Account," "Update Account," and selecting "Request Paper Magazine."

We encourage AJSA members who prefer a hard copy to update their account settings now. This ensures those members will continue to receive hard copies of the Register without interruption. New junior members will have the ability to select their magazine preferences when completing the junior membership application.

The Register and SimTalk, including years of back issues, are also available for viewing at simmental.org. Like junior memberships, each adult membership also receives the Register, which is mailed nine times annually. Due to the family nature of the cattle business, some households may receive multiple paper copies of the Register. If you wish to receive fewer copies, please email register@simmgene.com with the request.

To opt-in to receiving hard copies of the Register, follow these steps.

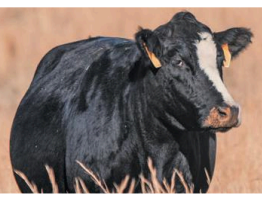
Step 1: Log into your Herdbook account.

Step 2: In the "My Account" tab, click "Update Account."

Step 3: Check the "Request Paper Magazine" box if you wish to receive hard copies of the Register.

Step 4: Click "Next" and lastly, "Final Submit." — **ASA**





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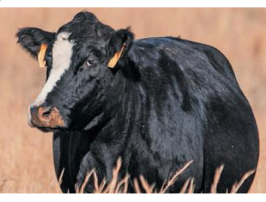

Utilizing DNA testing, genomics to select replacement females

Have your commercial customers asked you about utilizing DNA testing and genomics to help in the selection of replacement females? What are their options and how do they compare in terms of offerings and cost?

Being able to identify replacement heifers with greater precision should be a top priority of commercial cattle producers. There are many economically relevant traits that simply can't be observed with your eye, and even heifers that are sired by your best bull may inherit some poor genetics. Traits such as mature cow size, longevity, fertility, growth, and terminal merit are all traits that are greatly influenced by an animal's genetics, and in an industry with thin margins, developing heifers with poor genetics for these traits can have lasting financial repercussions.

However, for many years, genetic improvement for commercial herds was generally limited to selecting a superior bull from a seedstock provider and hoping that the progeny he sired were more genetically advanced than the average of your cow herd. We've seen over the years that genetic progress in the beef business is slow, especially if the genetically superior bull you purchased turned out to be a "dud."

Improvements in statistical methods, computing power, and integration of genomic information from DNA has greatly improved the precision of genetic evaluations so that when you do make a bull buying decision you can have greater confidence that bull will produce as expected.

The utility of genomic testing is a complete gamechanger to the beef business because of the vast amount of information it provides on an animal before they ever have progeny, and is the reason why no commercial producer should be buying yearling bulls unless they are genotyped. Over the past decade, genomic technology has been improved and leveraged to greatly benefit the seedstock industry, but these products have even started to bleed over into the commercial sector.



ASA

DNA testing technology has revolutionized animal selection, and with tools like tissue sampling units, completing the process is easier than ever.

So, the original question was "How can I utilize DNA testing to better select replacement females?" The first answer is to buy genetically superior, genomically enhanced (GE) EPD bulls. But that answer lacks the precision we mentioned earlier, so the second answer is to also incorporate commercial DNA testing and genetic evaluation into your breeding program.

Yes, there are numerous commercially available products that provide opportunities for genomic improvement in commercial cow herds. This article will focus on three prominent commercial genetic evaluation programs: the Zoetis INHERIT Select, the Neogen IGENITY Beef and the American Simmental Association (ASA) Cow Herd DNA Roundup (CHR) and Calf Crop Genomics (CCG) programs.

Each program is slightly different but can drastically improve your understanding of genetic merit among your cow herd and replacement females and allow you to be more informed in your selection and breeding decisions, better benchmark your herd's genetic strengths and weaknesses, and identify your effective sires through parentage discovery.

Before we get into each of the products, let's first address the big question: How can genomic testing typically catered for seedstock production be used in commercial herds? The answer is relatively simple. Genomic testing uses a system of identifying high-impact genes for economically relevant traits and variations in the genetic code at those genes, allowing scientists to determine if a specific gene variation is shown to have greater performance than an alternate variation. We call these additive effects, and when you combine all of the high-impact genes for a single economically relevant trait you can start to paint a picture for how an animal's DNA makeup will translate to their actual performance.

All of these genomic tests are backed by millions of data points on straightbred and crossbred animals, so that the genes involved in these DNA products are known locations across breeds. This means that regardless of the breed composition of your cow herd, you can have accurate and reliable multi-breed genetic insights.

The Zoetis INHERIT Select and the Neogen IGENITY Beef products are perhaps the two most similar, as both products are based in providing molecular breeding values and percentile ranks based on an individual animal's genomic makeup. Both products are easy and simple to use and only require a commercial operator to collect a DNA sample on their animals and send it to the respective lab where results will be processed in a few short weeks.

Users will receive a report outlining the relative breeding value, and percentile rank for a number of economically relevant traits on each animal tested. The Neogen IGENITY Beef product costs $30 each, and includes 17 maternal, performance, and carcass traits, and also verifies parentage. The IGENITY Beef dashboard where results are displayed allow you to develop your own custom indexes from those traits provided so you can effectively identify females that have balanced trait superiority.

The Zoetis INHERIT product promotes various discounted prices with pricing for heifers as low as $14 per test and as low as $29 per test for cows. The Zoetis INHERIT product includes GE-EPD on 20 traits that are updated weekly, including growth, feed to gain, mature cow weight, carcass traits, and cow fertility. Both tests also include the option for add-on tests that could identify homozygosity for polled and coat color.

Of course, there are trade-offs between these products and it is also worth mentioning that commercial cattle genomic testing is still in its relative infancy compared to the seedstock industry. A commercial genomic test like those provided by Neogen and Zoetis undoubtedly provides greater granularity for identifying genetic merit compared to using your eye, but like any genetic prediction, there is still some level of prediction error, and test results may not be wholly indicative of an animal's true genetic merit.

If you want to gain greater accuracy and more precise genetic predictions, it is worth considering collecting and leveraging phenotypic and pedigree data into a genetic evaluation that uses genomic information in tandem with actual data. This is where the ASA Cow Herd DNA Roundup and Calf Crop Genomics programs can provide solutions for commercial operators who collect phenotypic data such as birth weights, weaning weights, or even individual carcass data.

The Cow Herd DNA Roundup and Calf Crop Genomics programs allow commercial operators to pair those information sources with low-cost genotyping in a multi-breed genetic evaluation that can provide additional accuracy and predictive power. These programs encourage users to enroll their entire cow herd or calf crop in the ASA Total Herd Enrollment (THE) commercial option, which costs $7.50 per cow, or a flat fee of $500 (regardless of herd size) if you only want GE-EPD returned on females.

The DNA test costs $25 dollars (if you test >90% of herd size) with opportunities to receive credits back if you report data such as weaning and yearling weight, mature cow weight, and body condition score. In return you will receive GE-EPD on 16 economically relevant traits and two selection indexes, along with percentile ranks and prediction accuracies. In these programs you are using the same tools as your seedstock provider to make decisions. Naturally, both programs also come with trade-offs as they are the most data-intensive and demanding of the programs discussed in this article. Users must have sire awareness for this program to be successful, and parentage of females through DNA is a top priority.

Ultimately, the beef business is evolving, and precision tools such as genomic testing to identify genetically superior animals in commercial cow herds are becoming more widely available and incredibly powerful in the information they provide. This article is meant to serve as an introduction to which tools are available to you and provide a fair comparison of each. For additional information visit each of the respective providers' websites, and if you have further questions, contact lgiess@simmgene.com. —

Lane Giess, ASA geneticist



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Adding value to feeder calves

Customers are a seedstock producer's No. 1 priority. From listening to their feedback to staying up to date on trends in the beef industry, breeders are tasked with making sure the genetics they produce are going to make their customers money, and help them improve their cow herds long-term.

The nature of the cattle business makes it difficult to ensure that this added genetic value is rewarded when feeder calves are sold. The Feeder Profit Calculator (FPC) and Genetic Merit Pricing Task Force go hand-in-hand in helping seedstock producers give their customers tools, and in promoting the use of quantitative genetic merit in feeder calf marketing.

Dr. Ken Odde recently teamed up with the American Simmental Association's (ASA) Chip Kemp and Eichacker Simmentals to share about these important tools. Odde, who works as a SimSpecialist for ASA, is also a longtime producer and professor emeritus at Kansas State University. He has a deep knowledge of both genetics and the nature of raising and marketing feeder calves.

Odde recently signed on to be the lead facilitator for the Genetic Merit Pricing Task Force. This industry-wide effort is a collection of breed associations, professionals ranging from scientists to feeders, and individual producers. ASA joined the task force, and has provided funding for the effort.

The overarching goal of the Genetic Merit Pricing Task Force is to increase the percentage of feeder cattle marketed using quantitative genetic information. Traditionally, this information is not shared with potential buyers. Genetics are a solid indicator of how a calf is going to perform after weaning; heterosis, growth, and marbling for example, are reliable predictors of how healthy and profitable an animal will be.

Producers, who invest significant time and money into producing these high-quality animals, and buyers, who are taking on the risk of getting an animal to finish, can both benefit financially if value is placed on genetic merit.

The FPC takes into account measures that add genetic merit to an animal and calculates the added value those animals should garner at weaning. Pedigree information and health protocol are important pieces, and the FPC uses this genetic information to evaluate potential performance. The producer then receives a certificate, which can be taken to the sale barn, added as a supplement at video auction, or handed directly to a buyer.

Spreading the word

These tools are only valuable if producers know about them, which was a goal of the gathering at Eichacker Simmentals. Odde and Eichacker took the time to meet with a representative at Mitchell Livestock Marketing before the event, getting insight from the marketing side, and working to better understand how to spread the word about tools like the FPC.

Eichacker owns and operates a seedstock business alongside his family. A large part of their business is focused on selling SimGenetics bulls to commercial producers. Eichacker shared, "The FPC is a great tool, but if the day a commercial guy goes to sell these calves, the sale barn isn't on the same page with you bringing in the FPC certificate, you wasted your time. They're not going to recognize the genetic merit of your calves at the auction block."

Eichacker and Odde saw an opportunity to spread the word about these valuable tools. "We decided that we need to start telling the story. If you tell it and put the word out, pretty soon more people will know about it. It will start resonating with them," Eichacker said.

Odde shared about the Genetic Merit Pricing Task Force, and Kemp gave a presentation to the 60 producers in attendance about the FPC. Tim Clark, a member of the ASA Board of Trustees, was in attendance, and helped spread the word about the event. "It was very well attended, by both seedstock producers and commercial cow-calf producers. It was a good balance of both," Clark shared. "Chip and Dr. Odde both did a tremendous job presenting."

ASA SimSpecalists like Odde are available across the country to help facilitate educational events and spread the word about valuable tools like the FPC. For more information, please visit simmental.org. To learn more about the Genetic Merit Pricing Task force, check out the Late Fall issue of SimTalk in print, or online at simmental.org. — **Lilly Platts, ASA**



Balancing phenotype and genomic data

With advancements in genomic technology, do I still need to turn in birth weight, weaning weight and yearling weight data, and other phenotypes on my herd?

In the age of genomic testing and genomically enhanced EPD, do we really need to collect phenotypes? This is a question that is asked of me from time to time, and it is a good one. For those who are wanting a summary, the answer is yes. The collection of phenotypic information is still necessary and arguably more necessary than prior to the incorporation of genomics into single-step genetic evaluations.

To show an example in terms of EPD prediction and impact of genomics, some statistics were pulled from the International Genetic Solutions (IGS) database to compare the average accuracy based on the amount of information included in the genetic evaluation. For this analysis weaning weight (WW) will be used as the example trait. The following table displays the effect on the WW EPD accuracy of non-parent animals with various combinations of data available to the evaluation:

Data Available on Non-Parent Animal	Average WW EPD Accuracy
Pedigree information only	0.14
Pedigree and individual phenotype information only	0.25
Pedigree information and a genomic test (NO phenotypes)	0.41
Pedigree information, genomic test, and phenotype information	0.44

This illustrates that as data is added to the prediction of non-parent animals, the accuracy of the EPD increases. However, the question becomes that, without a phenotype, an animal with genomics has a higher accuracy than an animal with only a phenotype recorded. This tradeoff is largely the reason for the misunderstanding that the genetic evaluation is at a point where phenotypes are not required. However, previous studies have shown that if we do not continue to supply the evaluation with both genomic and phenotypic information, the accuracy of the genomic portion of the EPD calculation quickly diminishes.

The ability of genomic data to predict and improve EPD accuracy is dependent on the amount of the variation that can be explained by the markers included in the model.

In terms of genetic prediction, the types of variation that are most important are phenotypic and genetic variation. Phenotypic variation is the amount of variation that is seen in the measurements that are collected on animals or the total amount of variation. This variation is influenced by not only the genetics of the animal, but also the environment that the animal experiences.

When it comes to genetic prediction and genetic improvement, the amount of variation that can be explained due to differences in genetics that can be inherited is known as additive genetic variation. The important distinction here is that we want to focus on the genetics that can be inherited from one generation to the next.

In terms of genomics being the only source of data used for genetic prediction, then the genotype would be required to account for 100% of the genetic variance of the trait. While genotypes can account for a certain portion of the variation in each trait, the ability of genotype information to account for all genetic variation has not been achieved in any trait. Also, the amount of variation that the genotype can account for does improve over time as more animals have both genotypes and phenotypes included in the evaluation.

There are situations where the ability to get genetic predictions for a trait is solely through genomic data. These situations are when collection of phenotypes is extremely cost prohibitive. Therefore, the only tangible way to be able to create predictions is through collection of the phenotypes on a subset of animals with genomic data and identify what genomic markers are most influential and their effect. Then this can be applied to a larger group of animals.

Inclusion of genomic information into EPD calculations does improve EPD accuracy, especially on young, non-parent animals. The inclusion of both phenotype and genotype information on animals leads to the maximum accuracy at a young age to make selection decisions. On a larger scale, the more animals that have the maximum amount of information the more accurate predictions will be for all animals included in a genetic evaluation. — **Ryan Boldt, IGS lead geneticist**

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An examination of the validity of the Milk EPD

The Milk EPD is used by many producers in selection and breeding decisions. How is the EPD calculated, and how accurate is it? High-producing cows don't always possess a top-end Milk EPD, and the opposite scenario is sometimes true. Why? A cow's milk production ability may be very different from the genes she possesses for the trait.

Over the last several years I have fielded too many calls to count from breeders feeling that Milk EPD do not do justice in gauging their herd's genetic milking ability. Though you may not be one of the many breeders who have voiced reservations about Milk EPD to me directly, I suspect you may have had qualms with them from time to time.



A calf nursing at McDonald Farms, Blacksburg, VA.

Nancy Shirley

In talking with people of other breeds, this sentiment is not unique to Simmental breeders. Though many breeders may question the validity of milk EPD, they are without a doubt the best predictor we have of animals' genetic level for milk. That said, when we scrutinize the situation, breeders' skepticism about Milk EPD is understandable. In the following paragraphs I will explain why EPD gauge genetic level for milk as accurately as possible and offer up my opinions as to why breeders often question their validity.

To understand a widely held belief, it usually helps to get at the root of it. What is at the core of breeders' misgivings about Milk EPD? From my experience, breeders seldom question Milk EPD on sires—rather, doubt tends to permeate when cows in their herd wean big calves yet have lower-percentile Milk EPD. On the surface, their skepticism seems justified. It just seems logical that high-producing cows should have upper-end Milk EPD. It turns out there are solid reasons why a top-producing cow does not necessarily possess genes for high levels of milk production—and, therefore, should not have high-level Milk EPD.

To gain some perspective, let's take a look at factors affecting the measurement we use to gauge milking ability: weaning weights. Obviously, we do not have the latitude to measure milk directly, as does the dairy industry. Even if we could, the trait we are concerned with in the beef business is the pounds of weaned calf expected from a cow due to the genes she possesses for milk and mothering ability, which we can compute using weaning weights.

From a cow's genetic perspective, the weaning weight of her calf is affected by her own milk genes and half of her weaning weight genes (the calf carries half of her genes). This fact is the reason Maternal Weaning Weight EPD is calculated as Milk EPD plus 1/2 Weaning Weight EPD. Beyond that, there are non-genetic factors affecting the calf's weaning weight, such as age of its dam, stocking rate, weather, creep feed and many other non-genetic effects we are not able to distinguish.

Due to the myriad of factors affecting weaning weight, using actual and/or adjusted weaning weights and/or ratios will not serve us well in predicting an animal's genetic value for milk production. One glaring shortcoming of these statistics is that they do not partition weaning weight into separate growth and milk components—an obvious requisite for assessing milk genetics. Beside that monumental failing, weights and ratios do little to nothing when it comes to sifting through the non-genetic influences on weaning weight, and they ignore information on relatives.

Because the methodology used to calculate the EPD (Best Linear Unbiased Prediction or BLUP) allows us to parse weaning weight by the factors that impact it, EPD permit us to zero in on an animal's genetics for milk, independent of all the other factors. This is accomplished by leveraging the sophisticated statistical techniques of BLUP on the 6 million-plus weaning weights in our database.

These features make EPD vastly superior to other methods of gauging milk genetics. After extolling the virtues of EPD, how is it that we can have cows that wean heavy calves with poor Milk EPD (and vice versa)? One obvious reason is that these cows may be weaning heavy calves via exceptional growth genes they pass to their calves.

Just look through the American Simmental Association's database and you will find plenty of animals that have low Milk EPD but high Maternal Weaning Weight EPD due to their extreme growth.

Remember, Maternal Weaning Weight EPD = Milk EPD plus 1/2 Weaning Weight.

A typical retort to this assertion is "How could the calf express exceptional growth if the cow did not give loads of milk?" Though high levels of milk certainly help a calf express its growth potential, a calf gets a significant amount of its nutrients from sources other than milk, particularly after the first few months.

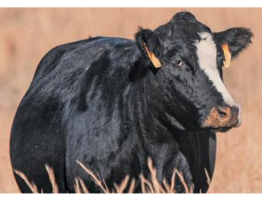
Another plausible cause for a heavy weaning calf out of a low Milk EPD cow is simply that she produced lots of milk. In these circumstances, our genetic evaluation is telling us that the reason for the souped-up milk production is likely non-genetic in nature. This is a big pill to swallow, as we tend to assume that a heavy milking cow must be genetically outstanding for milk production; however, since milk production is only low to moderately heritable we should not be surprised to have heavy milking cows that are below average genetically, and vice versa (see the Note below.)

From a genetic evaluation standpoint, milk's meager heritability means that it takes more data to move Milk EPD and improve accuracies than it does with more heritable traits (e.g., growth and carcass). Since a cow is quite limited in the number of calves she can have naturally, unless she has numerous daughters (typically only possible for donor cows) and they have many calves, or her sire or maternal grandsire change dramatically for milk, a colossal shift in her milk EPD from where she starts is not in the cards. A big jump in accuracy is just as unlikely.

These limitations do not in any way imply fault with EPD; the limitations are simply a function of biology. Low heritability and small numbers of offspring are not conducive to accurate estimation. Always keep in mind, however, even though a cow's Milk EPD may not be highly accurate, research has clearly shown that they are far and away the most accurate estimate of her genetic merit for milk. — **Dr. Wade Shafer**

(Note: In our population we have estimated the heritability of milk to be 16%. This means 84% [100% – 16%] of the differences in milk production between cows during a lactation are due to non-genetic factors—and that is after we remove differences due to age and contemporary group [i.e., herd, pasture].

Given these circumstances, it is easy to see that a cow's milk production ability may be very different from the genes she possesses for the trait.)



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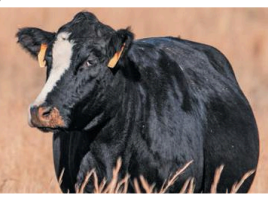

Considering the consumer's wants and trends

What does the consumer want, and how can the industry respond to demand?

Consumer demand, purchasing habits, and understanding the factors that go into a person's decision to purchase (or not purchase) beef is the ultimate consideration at the end of the beef production system. Knowing what the consumer wants, and following trends, can help inform many decisions throughout the beef system.

Bryon Wiegand is currently a professor of animal science at the University of Missouri. He has a broad range of teaching and research experience in meat sciences, and shared about consumer demand during the 2024 Fall Focus Educational Symposium.

Wiegand opened by saying, "I think today you'll find that beef producers have some things to be very happy about. We're very competitive in this space, in terms of protein. I think we also have some challenges, and we should not get complacent as beef producers."

The U.S. consumes a significant amount of beef, and as Wiegand explained, situations like the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrate that when people are faced with feeding themselves during times of unrest, they are going to reach for animal proteins. Chicken is the most consumed protein in the U.S., followed by beef.

Wiegand discussed alternative proteins, which were making headway in the market until recently. "Quite frankly, the alternative protein market is getting crushed in the economy right now," he said.

Beef stands apart from other proteins because of the focus on consistency, and measurable quality. Looking at the history of beef demand, Wiegand pointed to the period through the late 1990s when consumers demanded that beef be more tender. The industry responded, and today most beef, across quality grades, is tender when cooked correctly.

Quality grades have also improved steadily over the last 20 years. According to the USDA, in 2000, 3.3% of beef cattle graded prime; in 2010 that number had climbed to 10.5%. As cattle continue to be fatter at finish and genetics improve, this trend is expected to continue.

When evaluating the factors that consumers care about the most, Wiegand shared that data shows price, freshness and taste as top priorities for many. One of the more difficult priorities to evaluate is how social values affect consumer behavior. Wiegand explained that animal welfare is an increasingly important issue for consumers, especially as social media makes it easier for information—true or false—to be shared. However, data shows that social media and other factors might actually be overemphasizing the importance to consumers, compared to other factors like cost.

"At the end of the day, consumers care about what it costs, what it tastes like, and they don't seem to be upset about how we're making it," he said. "A big portion of consumers have a positive perception of beef as a food item."

Beef prices are currently high, which is a concern for both producers and consumers. Wiegand posed the question of how long consumers will be willing to continue to buy beef if the price continues to go up. So far, consumers have continued purchasing beef.

"The consumer has stayed with us, and we should feel good about that," Wiegand said, sharing data comparing price with the amount of beef purchased from September of 2019 to June of 2022.

E-commerce and direct-to-consumer marketing has changed consumer behavior. Wiegand represents small processors in Missouri, and has had conversations with many producers who are interested in building their finished beef business. For some time, these businesses were challenged by having high demand for premium cuts, like steaks, and lower demand for middle cuts, which are generally ground into hamburger.

Wiegand explained that because of lower supply and stronger demand, that has been less of an issue. When grocery prices are high, consumers are more likely to reach for lower-priced products.

Wiegand also discussed how cow inventory affects the industry's ability to meet consumer demand. Historically, when demand and price are strong, any gaps in the market are filled with fat open cows and cull bulls. The current cow inventory is low, but market weights are up, and consumer demand continues to be met. "We are, for the most part, meeting the demand of our consumer," he said.

Beef producers are constantly faced with volatility, from the weather to feed prices, which Wiegand also discussed. Land price and availability is another major factor—farming, development, and conservation programs often entice landowners to move away from grazing, which ultimately makes it more difficult for new producers, and for existing producers who want to expand their herd. New farming technology has made it easier, and more profitable, for land to be tilled.



ASA

Understanding what the customer will reach for at the grocery store informs many decisions throughout the beef supply chain.

"If we're in the business today, we're probably not going to see a huge cow herd rebuild. That's good for those of us who are still in the game, because we'll see consumer demand hang in there with us," he said.

The economy as a whole affects producers and consumers. Currently, interest rates are high, cash deposits are down, and credit card debt is up. Wiegand shared that this environment, and the general tightening of budgets, hasn't affected beef consumption notably, but that the industry is going to have to wait and see how it ultimately shakes out.

"We should feel good about where we're at. We should also be a little cautious about the consumer's ability to stay with us. I think we're going to feel a bit of a squeeze, but you should feel good about what you're producing," Wiegand concluded. — **Lilly Platts, ASA**

DeClerck to serve as next executive vice president

Dr. Jon DeClerck has been selected as the next American Simmental Association (ASA) executive vice president (EVP). DeClerck will assume the position of EVP on July 1. Dr. Wade Shafer will continue serving as ASA EVP until his official retirement on June 30.

DeClerck is a forward-thinking leader with extensive experience in the cattle industry and a lifelong passion for advancing animal science. Holding a Ph.D. in ruminant nutrition from Texas Tech University, he has excelled in technical consulting, education and research. As a technical consultant for Purina Animal Nutrition, DeClerck has advised stakeholders across the beef production cycle in New Mexico, Texas and Louisiana, combining innovative research with practical solutions to help producers maximize profitability.

Previously, he served as a lecturer and livestock judging coach at Texas Tech and Iowa State University, mentoring students and leading multiple national champion livestock and meat evaluation teams. DeClerck has been recognized as a national champion team coach and is the recipient of numerous industry awards.

Raised on a diversified farm near Aledo, IL, featuring a Simmental and commercial cow herd, DeClerck has a deep connection to the breed. A lifelong advocate for Simmental cattle, he is committed to serving the membership and advancing the scientific innovation and growth that have long defined ASA.

Chris Ivie, chairman of the ASA Board of Trustees, shared, "On behalf of the American Simmental Association Board of Trustees we would like to welcome Dr. Jon DeClerck as our next executive vice president. He will work closely with Dr. Wade Shafer over the next six months; we look forward to working with Dr. DeClerck to continue the unprecedented success and growth we are experiencing here at the ASA." — **ASA**

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Fall Focus tours showcase industry hub

Over one-third of U.S. beef is finished in the Texas Panhandle, making it a fitting destination for ASA's 2024 Fall Focus event. SimGenetics breeders, the American Simmental Association (ASA) Board of Trustees, staff and beef industry professionals gathered in Amarillo to learn about feeding, processing and evaluating beef, as well as larger industry issues.

Aug. 23 kicked off with a visit to the West Texas A&M University research feedlot. Dr. John Richeson, professor of animal science, and Dr. Kendall Samuelson, associate professor of animal science, shared about the feedlot setup, the various research projects that take place at the facility, challenges facing producers in the region, and nutrition.

The primary goal of the research feedlot is to replicate the standard process of large facilities for research and teaching. Currently, the facility is primarily filled with cattle that are close to being finished, and newly received high-risk cattle. One area of research Richeson and Samuelson discussed is improving the nutrition and environment for high-risk cattle entering the feedlot. High-risk cattle may be small or weaned early, not preconditioned, stressed, or facing any number of factors making them more susceptible to disease in the feedlot.

Samuelson's primary focus is on beef cattle nutrition, and she shared about the most common feedstuffs available in the Panhandle region, the feed rations she is seeing success with, and other factors that affect cost and efficiency in the feedlot.

The group got back in the vans to head to the West Texas A&M campus, just a few miles up the road from the feedlot. Dr. Tommy Perkins, associate professor of animal science, presented about ultrasound technology, grading, the discrepancies between ultrasound and actual carcass data, and other factors that can affect the data producers receive on their finished product.

One example focused on the importance of measuring ribeye area in the correct location and how easy it can be to make a mistake, emphasizing the importance of educating meat cutters on proper methods. He also shared various ultrasound images using different technologies, and explained the methods for identifying and measuring carcass traits.

Richeson and Samuelson rejoined the group, along with Brandon Ford, associate director of cattle procurement at Tyson, for a panel discussion, answering the group's questions about beef finishing and processing.

After lunch, the group split up to tour the Caviness Meat Science and Innovation Center, and the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum. Dr. Trent Schwartz, assistant professor of animal science, led the group through the university's newly constructed, state-of-the-art meat processing facility.

From well-thought-out cattle handling pens, to a space for students to experiment with meat curing methods, the facility gives students the opportunity to learn about each aspect of harvesting and processing meat. The final room is a retail space, where the public can purchase packaged products. The Panhandle Plains Historical Museum took visitors through the history of the area, from artifacts to art.

The tour ended with a beef tasting/sensory panel led by Dr. Ty Lawrence, professor of animal science and director of the Beef Carcass Research Center. After explaining the factors that affect beef texture, flavor, and tenderness, Lawrence and graduate students handed out a group of prepared beef samples. After everyone tasted each sample, individual votes were collected on the quality of the beef, ranging from worst to best. After votes were collected, Lawrence revealed the cut of beef, and how it was prepared. From properly cooked tenderloin to microwaved strip steak, the samples demonstrated that the method and doneness of meat is paramount; even the best cut of meat can be ruined if not prepared correctly.

The day ended with an evening at Hodgetown Stadium, for dinner and a baseball game where the Amarillo Sod Poodles played the Corpus Christi Hooks. After a long game it looked like the Hooks had the win, but the Sod Poodles rallied at the bottom of the ninth to claim victory.

The day was filled with opportunities for attendees to learn about every aspect of getting finished beef onto consumers' plates, from feed rations to preparing the final product. — **Lilly Platts, ASA**



ASA

Attendees gather at ASA's 2024 Fall Focus event.



DMI EPD released in research release format

An EPD for Dry Matter Intake (DMI) and an economic subindex have been released by the American Simmental Association (ASA) in a research release format. The purpose of these traits is to help breeders better characterize terminal performance by evaluating genetic differences for feed intake and the profitability potential associated with growth relative to intake.

The International Genetic Solutions (IGS) science team is committed to the development of genetic tools that aid breeders in making commercially relevant selection decisions. Being able to identify animals with genetics for more efficient growth relative to feed intake is an industry-wide concern.

Feed intake records submitted to IGS partner breed organizations and the existing growth records database were used to develop the DMI EPD and an economic subindex that weighs an animal's growth potential with respect to its intake to provide a snapshot of that animal's profitability potential in the feedlot growing phase (growth relative to intake).

The DMI EPD is expressed as the difference in pounds of daily dry matter intake. A lower EPD is more desirable, as this is representative of the genetic potential for progeny to consume less feed. For example:

- Bull A = 1.00 DMI EPD.
- Bull B = 0.00 DMI EPD.

You would expect progeny from Bull B to eat 1 pound less daily dry matter of feed compared to progeny from Bull A.

The economic subindex is expressed as the difference in daily profitability of animals in the feedlot based on their combination of DMI and ADG (Average Daily Gain) EPD. ADG is positively weighted by the value of a pound of gain, and DMI is negatively weighted by the cost of a pound of dry matter.

The result of the DMI/ADG Subindex is already factored into both $API and $TI, meaning we already factor the relationship of value of gain to the cost of intake in $API and $TI; however, we are beta testing the merit of publishing a subindex that focuses solely on profit differences due to the genetic levels an animal possesses for gain and intake. For example:

- Bull A = $0.10 subindex value.
- Bull B = $0.00 subindex value.

You would expect progeny from Bull A to be $0.10 more profitable per day than progeny from Bull B due to a combination of feed requirements and growth potential.

As research EPD, these will not be evaluated weekly nor published on an animal page on Herdbook.org. It is important to acknowledge that development of both metrics into a weekly genetic evaluation is still under development and may take some time.

ASA encourages membership to submit feed intake records on their animals to ASA staff. Reporting feed intake data will greatly help bolster the genetic evaluation, improve prediction accuracy, and help to accelerate the launch of DMI into a weekly genetic evaluation. Individual feed intake records are often taken post-weaning or around yearling age.

Membership is encouraged to evaluate DMI and DMI/ADG subindex predictions and compare with their expectations. Please remember that DMI is already incorporated in $API and $TI. That said, the new DMI EPD will be more accurate, particularly on animals with genotypes and/or feed intake phenotypes on multiple progeny. Members who have any questions, or those who have submitted feed intake data and would like a full download of EPD on their animals, should contact Lane Giess, ASA geneticist, at lgiess@simmgene.com. — **ASA**

NE ag college aids in planting FFA seed in CO school

Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture (NCTA), located in Curtis, NE, has long been recognized for its commitment to the agricultural industry by offering only ag-based majors and certifications. Additionally, the college boasts a nationally ranked veterinary tech program. Now, the school may add inspiring the formation of an FFA chapter to its glowing resume.

Last spring, NCTA's Colorado-based admissions recruiter visited Ellicott High School, a rural district with an enrollment of approximately 270 students in grades 9-12, located 15 miles east of Colorado Springs. While the recruiter generated student interest in NCTA, the cogs were turning in Kathleen Baca's mind. Ellicott hired Baca three years prior as a high school science teacher whose focus was teaching physical science despite holding a biology degree. Baca's children were enrolled in various livestock projects in the local 4-H club and Baca felt that agriculture classes might be compatible with Ellicott's curriculum.

"I had this livestock background with my kids being in 4-H," explained Baca. "I wanted to bring that 4-H experience into the classroom because of the growth and career connections that 4-H offers." Couple that idea with an introductory animal science "feeler" class that Baca offered to interested seniors, and the entire ag concept began evolving. However, Baca wasn't sure how to further pursue the idea, until the NCTA recruiter mentioned an Ag Teachers Bootcamp offered in June on the Curtis campus. Baca pitched the Bootcamp idea to the Ellicott administration and things began taking shape.

"After I attended the Ag Bootcamp, I had direction for offering the high school ag classes," Baca explained. "That Bootcamp 100% solidified my idea of adding ag classes to Ellicott's curriculum. I learned so much content at Ag Bootcamp," she continued. "And I experienced so many hands-on activities to bring back to the classroom. We were just loaded with content and given all the visual aids of each session to incorporate into our classrooms."

Baca found the "couch conversations," held each evening at the Bootcamp, to be equally as effective. "We talked about FFA and its importance in our schools," said Baca. "And being able to talk to other FFA teachers was so advantageous." Baca returned to Ellicott with a rejuvenated desire to not only offer an expanded ag curriculum, but to also create an FFA chapter at the school.

"Three or four years ago, I looked into FFA by talking to other Colorado school districts," said Jeffrey Zick, Ellicott High School principal. "A common theme emerged from each conversation. School leaders told me that successful programming was extremely teacher-dependent. A dedicated teacher makes a great program."

Zick credits Baca's enthusiasm for initiating Ellicott's program. "Mrs. Baca has really been self-driven throughout the process," said Zick. "It started last year when we decided to add an Intro to Animal Science class. High interest led us to consider expanding the agricultural program. From there, Mrs. Baca deserves all the credit."

Last fall, Ellicott added an Intro to Ag class to its CTE curriculum and interest has spiked. Baca added that both classes must be offered as CTE requirements, of which FFA is a component.

Meanwhile, Baca began working on Ellicott's FFA chapter certification, which is no easy task. "I'm an impatient person," admitted Baca. "I kept putting a bug in state FFA's ear, wanting to know where we were at and what progress was being made." Finally, the school received notification that it was officially chartered on Nov. 6.

Baca laughs when thinking about the timing of the chartering. "That's a busy time of year with the holidays coming up," she said. "We hit the ground running."

Ellicott's five FFA members and their advisor have immersed themselves with projects since the chapter's inception and more events are planned throughout this semester. "We want to involve the community in everything we do," said Baca. "We're hoping to recruit more members. I'm most excited about getting the students doing things. I just need to learn more."

One of those learning opportunities occurs this May. The school was one of 34 applicants selected to participate in the fiscal year 24 Innovations in CTE Grant for Veterinary Science. The two-day professional development workshop will be hosted by the Denver Animal Shelter. All participants will be provided with the materials and supplies to effectively teach within the veterinary science pathway.

Ellicott's Principal Zick has no doubts the school's FFA program will flourish. "I know Mrs. Baca can make our program a great opportunity for kids," said Zick. "I anticipate quick growth due to high student interest and quality instruction." — **Jean Meinzer, Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture**

Sage grouse plans still in works in five states

SAGE GROUSE
(from page 1)

350 other wildlife species.

The Public Lands Council (PLC) said in a Weekly Roundup e-newsletter that the agency's inability to finalize the eight other states' plans and RODs was expected and "hampered by the significant issues left to resolve after protest periods and issues raised in the governors' consistency reviews, which were submitted earlier this month."

BLM said the Oregon and Colorado governors did not identify any inconsistencies with the plans in their states, or they were resolved, but the agency made "minor changes" from the proposed resource management plan to resolve potential inconsistencies raised by other states. The changes included clarifying that priority habitat management areas with limited exceptions are identified only as priority habitat management areas.

North Dakota, South Dakota and California did not submit any administrative protests or identify any inconsistencies, so BLM completed the administrative process for finalizing the states' plans and is prepared to issue RODs. BLM continues to work with Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah and Wyoming to finalize decisions.

Until new RODs are signed with the remaining eight states, BLM will continue to manage greater sage-grouse habitat on those states' public lands under the 2015 Greater Sage-Grouse Resource Management Plan. The amendments will affect 77 resource management plans in the 10 western states.

"The BLM looks forward to reaching similar decisions in the remaining states so that the agency is better able to effectively respond to changing conditions and ensure the viability of sage-grouse populations into the future," said BLM Principal Deputy Director Nada Wolff Culver.

Reactions

The PLC led comments on the proposed plan amendments in 2024 and said it continues to work with states and partners to make sure the amendments are not overly burdensome on grazing.

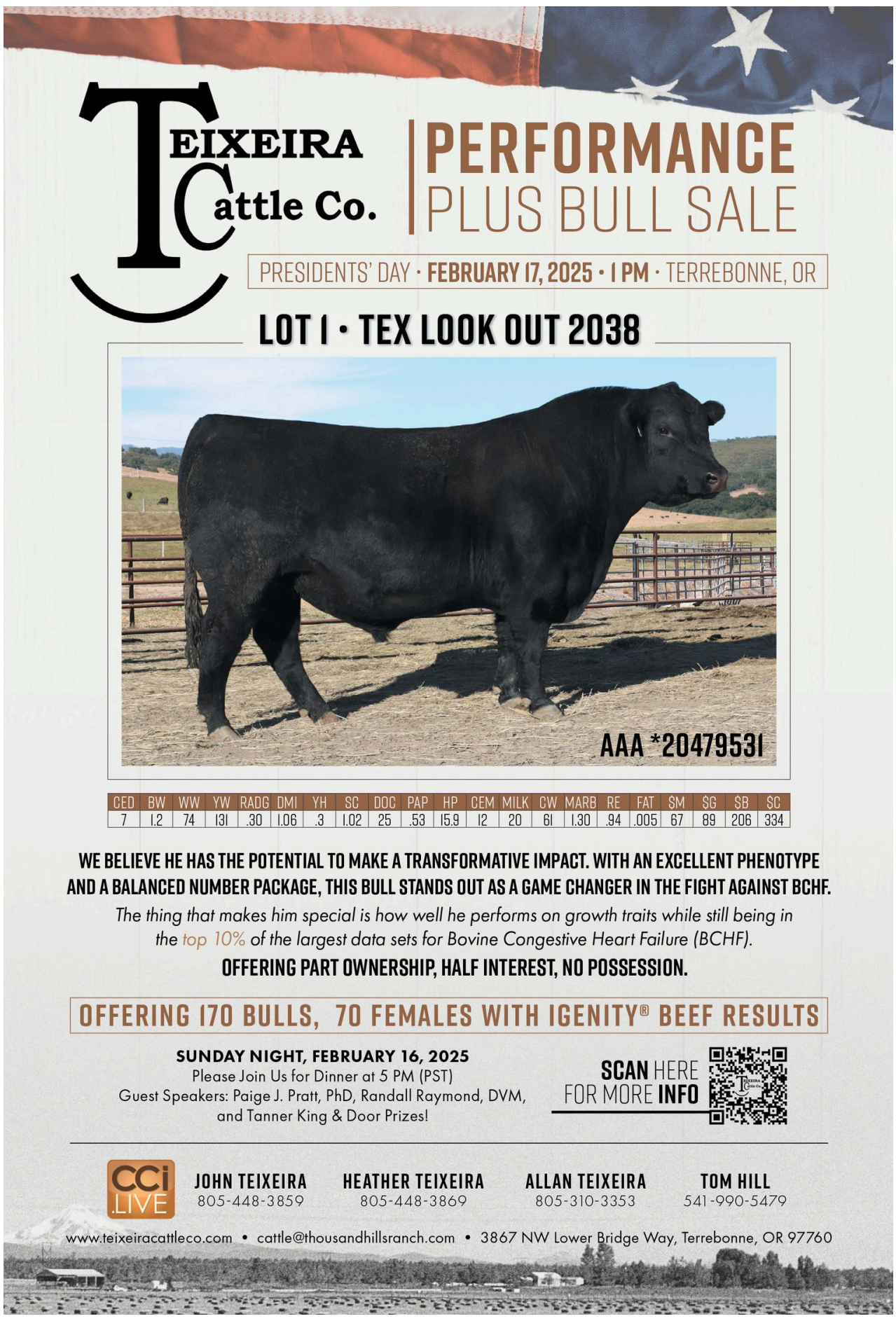
"This work resulted in the culmination of a 10-year study demonstrating that grazing is not only not harmful to sage grouse habitat, but is a key benefit to the insects that sustain sage grouse chicks in the early days," the group said in its newsletter.

PLC said it will work with the Trump administration and states with outstanding RODs to ensure BLM's final plan is supported and consistent with state plans.

Opponents of the amendments contend that the sage grouse plans will lock away 65 million acres. "With less than a week remaining, the Biden administration has taken another action detrimental to land management in the West," said Congressional Western Caucus Chairman Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-01) in a statement. "BLM's sage-grouse management announcement undermines rural economies and impacts land uses such as grazing and energy production on millions of acres across western states."

Environmental groups were disappointed in habitat management changes. "Notably, BLM opted to discard a habitat management zone that was included in the proposed amendments and that would have provided the strongest level of protection to exceptionally important habitats (over 4 million acres rangewide)," said Defenders of Wildlife in a news release.

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership said completion of plans in Oregon and Colorado is a great step forward. "The completion of plans in Colorado and Oregon is great progress toward ending the cycle of planning so that agency staff and resources can move back to where it needs to be—on species and land management to benefit the sagebrush ecosystem and western communities that rely on it," said Madeleine West, vice president of western conservation for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, in a statement. — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**



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: 1/23/2025		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	201.58	▼	202.23	173.99
CME Feeder Index	278.18	▲	278.04	230.68
Boxed Beef Average	330.96	▼	333.41	298.68
Average Dressed Steers	320.77	▲	320.00	N/A
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,441	▲	1,435	1,408
Weekly Slaughter**	603,000	▲	589,000	617,000
Weekly Beef Production***	527.0	▲	512.1	523.8
Hide/Offal Value	11.45	▲	11.36	11.62
Corn Price	4.94	▲	4.79	4.52

*Average weight for previous week. **Total slaughter for previous week. ***Estimated year-to-date figure in million pounds for previous week.

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef

WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads	COMPREHENSIVE Price	PRIME Loads	PRIME Price	BRANDED Loads	BRANDED Price	CHOICE Loads	CHOICE Price	SELECT Loads	SELECT Price	UNGRADED Loads	UNGRADED Price
January 17	7,179	330.37	280	387.13	1,332	335.99	2,262	326.65	746	311.07	2,558	299.79
January 10	6,690	323.45	223	381.89	1,173	329.73	2,022	321.90	746	299.97	2,525	288.35
January 3	5,840	319.22	198	375.86	1,061	326.23	1,671	319.32	644	291.06	2,266	276.12
December 27	5,017	316.19	151	373.59	913	322.46	1,458	314.50	512	287.61	1,983	271.35

Cutouts — FED BOXED BEEF

DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
Jan. 23	330.96	317.21	282.19	112.21	367.57
Jan. 22	332.02	317.99	280.99	115.75	357.20
Jan. 21	332.05	319.55	277.63	114.42	N/A
Jan. 20	333.16	319.44	277.08	118.66	351.12
Jan. 17	333.69	319.83	278.06	115.48	352.96

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle

	1/17	1/20	1/21	1/22	1/23	High*	Low*
Feb.	19675	19788	19768	20015	20145	20145	16853
Apr.	19750	19860	19825	19988	20090	20090	16668
Jun.	19220	19323	19290	19503	19603	19603	17005
Aug.	18948	19025	19013	19235	19333	19490	18068

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle

	1/17	1/20	1/21	1/22	1/23	High*	Low*
Jan.	27350	27390	27480	27758	27785	27785	21920
Mar.	26805	26910	26990	27368	27465	27465	22268
Apr.	26813	26908	26930	27163	27278	27278	22460
May	26725	26818	26790	26970	27083	27083	24118

*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	3,690	1,454	201.58
Live FOB Heifer	2,063	1,322	201.61
Dressed Del Steer	456	949	320.77
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	5,653	1,448	202.23
Live FOB Heifer	2,238	1,343	201.43
Dressed Del Steer	308	963	320.00
Dressed Del Heifer	275	871	325.00
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	4,210	1,422	173.99
Live FOB Heifer	4,110	1,305	174.00
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: JANUARY 19, 2025

	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	19,589	5,736
Formula	277,071	2,657
Negotiated Cash	70,310	97
Negotiated Grid	44,713	2,572
Packer Owned	8,779	N/A
Total	**420,462**	**11,062**

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,983
Jan. '25	122,344	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,208
Feb. '25	123,206	Formula sales	3,918
Mar. '25	146,683	Forward contract sales	69
Apr. '25	180,687	Domestic sales	6,126
May '25	91,615	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	185.43	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	182.51	N/A
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	184.94	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	183.40	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	112.21	N/A

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Thursday, January 21, 2024

Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	N/A	N/A	308.48
601-700 lbs	318.63	N/A	287.05
701-800 lbs	285.87	N/A	272.99
801-900 lbs	260.05	N/A	251.24
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	336.61	N/A	266.52
501-600 lbs	312.06	N/A	253.19
601-700 lbs	279.16	N/A	252.73
701-800 lbs	251.65	N/A	237.11

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
	1/13/2024	1/6/2024		
Feeders	0	0	0	50,948

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

January 16, 2024

Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary

Receipts EST: N/A **Week Ago EST: N/A** **Year Ago Act: 5,650**

Santa Teresa, NM - N/A		Douglas, AZ - N/A	
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2		**Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2**	
300-400 lbs	N/A	300-400 lbs	N/A
400-500 lbs	N/A	400-500 lbs	N/A
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	N/A
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2		**Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2**	
300-400 lbs	N/A	300-400 lbs	N/A
400-500 lbs	N/A	400-500 lbs	N/A
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	N/A

(slide 10 cents on steers and heifers basis 300 lbs. All sales fob port of entry.)

Selected Auctions — Week Ending January 23, 2025

Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2

DATE / MARKET		200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS / SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS / REPLACEMENTS	
No report available Blackfoot, ID											NORTHWEST
No report available Burley, ID											
No report available Emmett, ID											
January 18 Eugene, OR	665		280-345* 330-351*	330-345* 290-326*	290-341* 240-292*	200-242*	190-235* 190-233*		120-132 130-154	500-2,300	
January 20 Madras, OR	839		360-377 330-350	340-373 325-354	300-337 285-327	279-314 266-296	267-291 264-278	250-269	108-125 125-150		
January 15 Vale, OR	3,615		350-393 310-382	324-387 290-386	300-354 275-335	280-326 260-296	265-304.50 245-275	240-272.50 221-250	98-124 125-145		
January 21 Davenport, WA	80	347.83		225-250	262.50	232.50	210	150-183	120-138.50 111-230		
January 16 Toppenish, WA	1,165			365* 250*					120.50-135 136-140		
January 16 Orland, CA	3,214			275-385 255-385	250-355 235-310	230-307 210-285	210-278 190-267	200-269 180-230	115-142 110-151	2,200-3,300 1,500-2,200	FARWEST
No report available Escalon, CA											
January 20 Famoso, CA	446		280-340 250-292	280-320 250-280	275-312 250-260	250-300 225-260	225-254	200-229 210-250	120-160 125-143		
January 22 Galt, CA	910			350-400 270-350	300-350 255-285	275-300 225-260	240-277		80-136 120-170	2,500-3,350	
No report available Turlock, CA											
No report available Salina, UT											
January 21 Iowa	22,819		357-430 317-377.50	335-407.50 297-371	305-387 265-343	275-353.50 250-311	262.50-318.75 230-293.50	195.50-300 188-268	107-195 124-189		NORTH CENTRAL
January 21 Miles City, MT	1,558		425 380	379.50-421 347-350	331-370.50 312-335.75	287-326.50 286-299.50	257.50		99-139 110-152	1,850-3,100	
No report available Bassett, NE											
January 18 Ericson, NE	5,485		417.50-442.50 375-430	370-392.50 337.50-385	318-379 291.50-346	290-346 271.50-303	273-298 258.50-321.50	264.75-282.50 240-253.50			
January 21 Imperial, NE	746		333	382.50-385 335-347	307-341	265 316-336	275 250.75	265.25			
January 15 Kearney, NE	5,500		418-429	365-409 335-384	338-377.50 294-348	294-328 270-302	282-306.50 258-273.50	245.50-281 245-253.25	120-144 138-160		
January 17 Lexington, NE	4,438		392.50 381-410	363-401 322-395	327-393 304-325	300-344 270-311	271-294.50 260.50-277	243-275.50 212.50-241			
January 16 Ogallala, NE	8,479		455-487.50 385-420	392.50-457.50 357-417.50	365-407 313.50-360.50	303.50-340 279.50-317.50	277.50-310 260-282	267-281 237.50			
January 16 Valentine, NE	5,055		467-512.50 410	399-430 334-368	350-395 324-363	317-360.50 304-320	280-320 262.50-312	257			
January 17 Herreid, SD	3,684		398-421	383-415 333-376	334.50-368 310-341	299-336 280-315	281.50-314 239.50-273.50	249.75-285.25 239-256			
January 22 Torrington, WY	3,791		425-449 385-400	380-444 366-381	335-395 308-349	308-340 275-311	280-308 259-280	276 229-237			
January 16 Willcox, AZ	2,419	405-467.50 340.50-400	425-470 342-397.50	365-440 310-342.50	335-362.50 278-297.50	286.50-321 248-275			90-125 122-134	2,600 1,900-1,925	SOUTH CENTRAL
January 21 Colorado	18,951	415-495 390	410-498 340-421	345-472.50 313-394	299-381 284-338	267.50-331 241-302	246-300 230-268	216-270.50 185-243	80-176 115-192.50	1,325-3,000 825-3,300	
January 15 La Junta, CO	2,732		417.50-490 365-415	375-437.50 315-375	309-375 284-330	275-327 255-287.50	249-280 233.50-253.50	245-251 216-236	120-141 146-163		
January 20 Loma, CO	1,554		385-425 360-400	355-410 345-380	320-360 300-345	290-320 265-295	265-295 240-290	210-265 190-240	120-140 140-170		
January 22 Dodge City, KS	1,912			380-403 310-340	326.50-354 283-326	295-321 251-293	266-300.50 251-269	234-278.50 225-251	115-138 149-159	1,475-2,450	
January 16 Pratt, KS	4,607		380-392.50 302-322.50	312.50-432.50 287.50-416	301-372.50 278-316	277-318 257-283.50	254.50-298 235-260	238-280 218-246	112-141 126-158	1,400-2,550	
January 16 Salina, KS	4,866		415-445 330	385-415 337-354	330-372 298-334	289-334 261-288	256-307.50 244-264.50	242-270 223-248.50			
January 23 Clovis, NM	1,333	400-404	412-490 275-402	355-436 302-370	275-358 272.50-354	250-330 248-276	238-269 235-262	207-249.50 202-226	109-150 135-154	875-2,500	
January 15 El Reno, OK	11,119	400	440 389	335-415 290-347.50	295-380 280-320	266-330 251-290	267.50-287.50 251-260	235.50-270.50 210-252.50			
January 21 McAlester, OK	690		440-493 355-383	353-420 315-350	325-350 275-300	270-287 213-235	248-259 220	234	113-136 155-166	1,800 1,400-2,550	
January 20 Oklahoma City, OK	7,500	485	422.50-445 366-395	370-427.50 317-358	336-377 290-333	291-337 257-289	260-297 248.50-255	243-274 221-244.50			
January 17 Cuero, TX	1,826	395-455 330-435	372-450 330-402	317-445 288-405	294-370 258-316	278-324 234-290	246-270 214-235		113-146 130-160	2,300 1,600-2,300	
January 16 Dalhart, TX	4,147		390-447 350-408	341-430 301-360	302-348 265-310	269.50-322 258.50-310	265-281 238-261	204.50-273 223-242.50	105-139 150-160		
January 16 San Angelo, TX	1,582	390-400 380	380-390 400	357.50-370 309-312.50	320-334 280-306	284-297.50	254-265 230-234		118-135 121-161	1,925 1,150-1,975	
January 16 Tulia, TX	1,415		357	370-372 305-335	302-328 272-307	255-310 245-275	248.50-270.50 225-244	238-257 236-236.50	120		
January 17 Alabama	8,325	400-475 340-405	350-435 315-375	313-385 290-350	273-342 250-297	255-300 235-270	242-272 220-250	251-267 192-219	115-168 132-179	1,125-3,250 825-2,600	EAST
January 20 Lexington, KY	572	330*	380-416* 337.50-365*	365-420* 308-360*	323-354* 270-301*	279-331.50* 234-290*	250-276* 217.50-232*	178-249* 216-218*	123-154 155-173	1,525-2,700	
January 20 Joplin, MO	13,000	445	410-470 360-400	375-435 310-375	320-385 279-342	283-332 256-288	264-284 242-264	241-274 234.50-247			
January 21 Tennessee	9,927	350-500 300-355	340-415 272.50-370	300-414 255-349.75	272-356 237.50-312	247.50-315 222.50-273	225-288 200-254.25	200-263 170-236.50	109-159 130-212	1,575-2,750 980-2,400	
January 21 Virginia	3,406		332.50-360 250-335	300-400 229-312.50	240-330 190-279	243-325 185-268	165-272 198-232	199-246 165-214			
CANADA											
January 22 Lethbridge, Alberta				532-571	448-530 432-455	436-487 386-427	407-441 382-401	383-401 364-388	175-192 206-213		

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Cattle and beef markets charge into 2025

Cattle and beef markets rocketed out of the gate coming into 2025. With no post-holiday wavering, all cattle and beef markets moved higher in the first half of January—setting new record price levels to start the new year. This continues the trend of the last three years. Cattle prices began to move higher after 2021 and increased more sharply in 2023-24.

In Oklahoma auctions, for the week ending Jan. 17, the price of 500-pound steers (M/L, #1) was $361.88/cwt, up 18.1% year over year and up 111.1% from the same week four years ago in 2021.

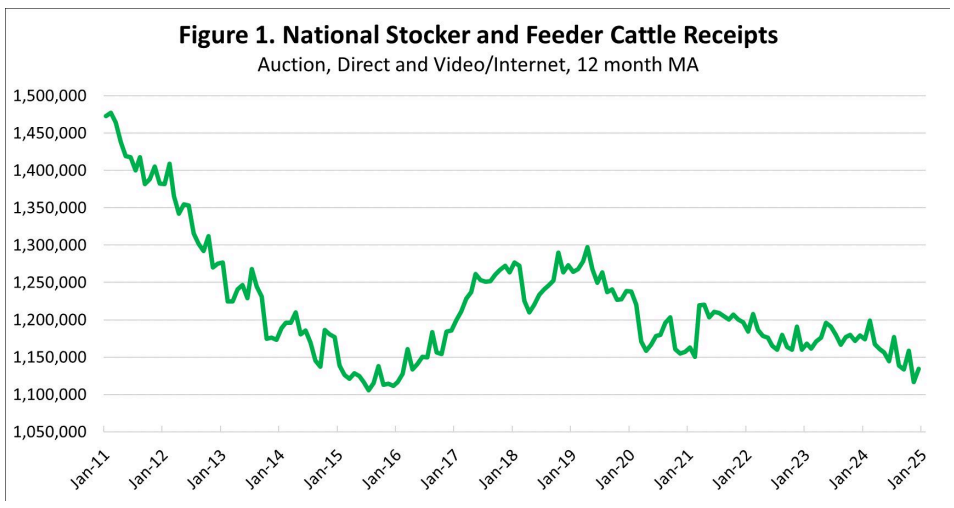
For 800-lb. steers, the price was $269.07/cwt, up 21% year over year and up 105.1% in the last four years. The U.S. calf crop peaked cyclically in 2018 at 36.3 million head and decreased for the last six years to a projected 33.1 million head in 2024. Figure 1 shows the average volume of stocker and feeder receipts including the general downtrend since the recent peak in early 2019 and indicates a continued tightening of cattle numbers.

The five-market fed steer live price was $203.56/cwt for the week ending Jan. 17, up 17.3% from one year ago and up 85.9% from January 2021. Daily five-market fed steer prices hit $200/cwt for the first time ever on Jan. 7 and reached as high as $205.37/cwt on Jan. 15. Higher fed prices are expected ahead.

The Oklahoma price of average dressing boning cull cows was $124.31/cwt the week ending Jan. 17, up 21.1% from one year ago and up 149.5% from the same week in 2021. Cull cow prices ranged from $136.82/cwt for high dressing breaker cows to $110.09/cwt for low dressing lean cows.

The weekly Choice boxed beef price for mid-January was $333.51/cwt, up 17.7% year over year and up 58.2% over 2021 levels. The rib primal price for the week ending Jan. 17 was $508.06/cwt, up 2.4% year over year and up 50.2% from the same week in 2021. The latest loin primal price was $393.99/cwt, up 4.9% over last year and up 49.7% from 2021. The end meats are stronger relative to the middle meats, with the chuck primal price at $303.91/cwt, up 33.2% year over year and up 60.5% since 2021. The round primal price currently is $302.66/cwt, up 36.1% from one year ago and up 65.9% from 2021.

The strong cattle and beef price trend coming into 2025 is expected to continue as cattle inventories and beef supplies tighten further in the coming months. However, while cattle and beef markets are very strong internally, external shocks from political uncertainty along with U.S. and global macroeconomic jitters may cause short-term shocks and short-lived market setbacks. Volatility is likely to accompany a bullish market expectation. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**



Boxed beef prices dip a few dollars lower

MARKETS
(from page 1)

• Negotiated grid net purchases: $317.52.

Slaughter through Thursday was about 486,000 head, compared to 488,000 head a week earlier. Total slaughter for a week earlier was estimated at 603,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Jan. 11 was 591,422 head. The average steer dressed weight was 962 lbs., 3 lbs. above a week earlier.

Boxed beef prices trended lower over the week. The Choice cutout lost $2.45 to close at $330.96, and the Select cutout lost $2.17 to close at $317.21.

Stewart said boxed beef prices need to "remain a top priority in monitoring in the days to come because if demand weakens, some of the market's momentum will inevitability dissipate."

Fish echoed Stewart's sentiments. "The much anticipated USDA Cattle inventory report on Jan. 31 will show inventory down only 0.5%. Make no mistake, this bull market owes everything to consumer beef demand," she said. "And with wholesale beef prices record high to start 2025, retail beef price hikes are on the way next."

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures were several dollars higher over the week. The January contract gained $3.62 to close at $277, and the March contract gained $6.35 to close at $274.07.

"Aside from the technical support which the market is currently receiving, it's also helpful that feeder cattle demand remains incredible in the countryside," Stewart said.

She continued that although much of the Midwest and South are dealing with extremely cold weather, buyer demand hasn't weakened whatsoever.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index closed at $278.18, higher by 14 cents.

Corn futures continue to gain momentum, nearly reaching the $5 mark. The March contract gained 15 cents to close at $4.89, and the May contract gained 16 cents to close at $4.99.

Iowa: Russell Livestock in Russell sold 3,992 head on Monday. Compared to the previous auction, steers over 550 lbs. sold mostly $3-20 lower, while steers less than 550 lbs. sold with a higher undertone. Heifers sold mostly $8-24 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 718 lbs. sold between $279-305.25, averaging $294.69.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 13,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold steady with feeder heifers selling from $2 lower to $6 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 770 lbs. sold from $264-276.50, averaging $269.03.

Montana: Miles City Livestock Commission in Miles City sold 813 head on Tuesday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers under 550 lbs. sold mostly $10-20 lower in a narrow comparison. Steers over 550 lbs. sold steady. Heifer calves sold steady in a narrow comparison, except 600-649 lbs. heifers sold mostly $4-8 higher. A group of steers averaging 630 lbs. sold for $314-326.50, averaging $323.67.

Nebraska: Huss Livestock in Kearney sold 3,427 head on Wednesday. Compared to the last auction, steers under 800 lbs. sold unevenly and steers 800-900 lbs. sold $3 higher. Heifers under 700 lbs. sold unevenly and over 700 lbs. sold $3 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 722 lbs. sold for $292-307.75, averaging $302.02.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 7,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers over 700 lbs. sold $2-4 lower and under 700 lbs. sold $104 higher. Feeder heifers sold $3-7 lower. Steer calves sold steady to $4 higher. Heifer calves sold $2-7 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 770 lbs. sold from $262-273, averaging $270.31.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Livestock in Worthing sold 6,306 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers and heifers traded unevenly steady. Benchmark steers averaging 776 lbs. sold for $270-291, averaging $283.30. — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

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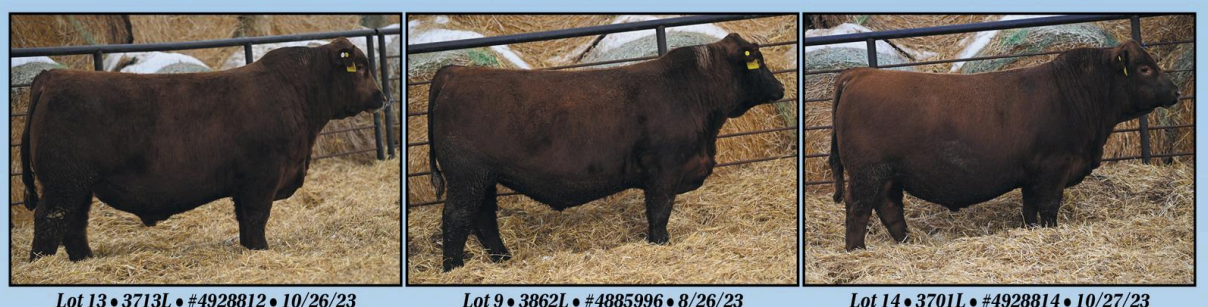
Lot 10 • 3865L • #4886000 • 8/27/23
CONFIDENCE X PREMIER X IMPRESSIVE
141PRO, 38HB, 103GM, 17CED, -4.8BW, 81WW, 131YW, 26MILK, 11HP, 10CEM, 15ST, 1.00MB, 0.39RE, $20,020$P, 102R
Superior Outcross genetics and elite phenotype!



Lot 19 • 3229L • #4848684 • 9/9/23
PRIME PLUS X ORACLE X PLATINUM
123PRO, 43HB, 79GM, 13CED, -1.3BW, 83WW, 126YW, 30MILK, 12HP, 8CEM, 13ST, 1.01MB, 0.24RE, $20,0962$P, 91R
Got Marbling? Check this bull out!

Lot 1 • 3204L • #4848634 • 9/3/23
MAGICIAN X FANTASTIC X GENUINE
156PRO, 40HB, 116GM, 14CED, -4.2BW, 82WW, 137YW, 32MILK, 12HP, 9CEM, 12ST, 1.16MB, 0.78RE, $27,386$P, 118R
Big Time $Profit Prospect!!!

Lot 33 • 3225L • #4848676 • 9/8/23
PRIME PLUS X ORACLE X PLATINUM
142PRO, 72HB, 70GM, 15CED, -3.2BW, 77WW, 118YW, 30MILK, 12HP, 9CEM, 18ST, 1.01MB, 0.41RE, $24,303$P, 127R
Marbling, Calving Ease and Profit!



Lot 13 • 3713L • #4928812 • 10/26/23
JUMPSTART X REDEMPTION X GOLDEN ERA
108PRO, 62HB, 46GM, 15CED, -2.0BW, 84WW, 136YW, 27MILK, 15HP, 9CEM, 15ST, 0.35MB, 0.30RE, $18,788$P, 102R
One of the first Jumpstart sons to sell!

Lot 9 • 3862L • #4885996 • 8/26/23
IDENTITY X PREMIER X IMPRESSIVE
158PRO, 91HB, 67GM, 18CED, -3.3BW, 90WW, 141YW, 29MILK, 15HP, 13CEM, 18ST, 0.62MB, 0.23RE, $14,215$P, 59R
Rare Identiy Son from the Della Cow Family!

Lot 14 • 3701L • #4928814 • 10/27/23
JUMPSTART X EDGE X CHATEAU
92PRO, 42HB, 50GM, 14CED, -2.1BW, 76WW, 123YW, 27MILK, 13HP, 9CEM, 13ST, 0.49MB, 0.32RE, $17,933$P, 72R
Jump Start Your Cowherd!

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Calving and cow nutrition in extreme cold

Calving during the winter months can present some unique challenges.

Cold and/or wet weather, higher birth weights, fewer hours of daylight and in most herds this is the time of year when we, as producers, are the primary source of nutrition provided in the form of harvested forage and supplemental feeds.

What can we do to make calving in the late winter months as problem-free as possible? GET PREPARED!

Calving kit and facilities

Prior to calving season it is important to take inventory of our facilities. Our working pens, chutes and alleyways need to be in good working order. If we have a calving barn or indoor facility remember to check cameras, batteries and light bulbs. We want all facilities ready before we find ourselves assisting that first-calf heifer in the calving process.

To be fully prepared, have the following list of supplies in a cooler, bucket or tool box:

- Colostrum, teat cannula and feeding bottle.
- Flashlight and batteries.
- Obstetrics (OB) sleeves.
- Non-detergent lubricant.
- Antiseptic.
- OB chains and calf puller.
- Paper towels.
- Rope halter.
- Large cloth towel.

Also, understand the three stages of bovine parturition. It's important to know what to expect when a cow or heifer goes into labor in order to know when and how to provide assistance.

Regarding colostrum, sooner is better. If you come upon a newborn calf and are not certain it has adequately nursed, administer colostrum via tube feeder as soon as possible. Ensuring an adequate amount of colostrum is ingested by newborns is cost effective.

Nutritional requirements

Cold, wet weather drives up cow nutritional requirements and cows should be fed accordingly. The Mesonet Cattle Comfort Advisor is an excellent tool for monitoring weather conditions and the impact they have on cattle.

According to the Mesonet Cattle Comfort Advisor, cow energy requirements increase 1% for each degree the Cattle Comfort Index is below 32 F.

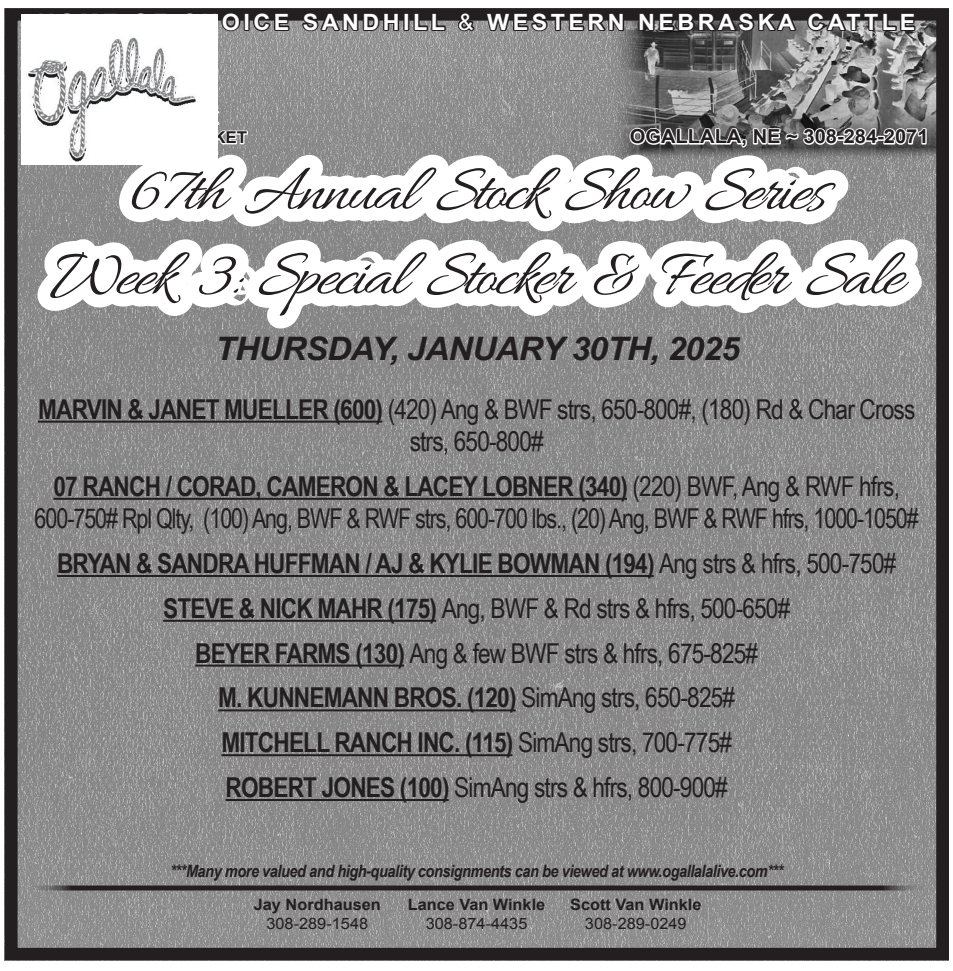
This energy need will double to 2% if the animal is wet to the skin. For newborn calves, consider that in the birth process they are leaving the cozy environment of their mother's womb at a temperature of 101-102 F and hitting the ground at temperatures as much as 100 degrees F colder.

Add in rain, snow, muddy ground or high winds and the situation can be catastrophic for newborns. While nature equips calves with a limited amount of brown adipose tissue which is burned internally to create heat for survival, extreme cold can overwhelm the ability to create enough internal heat and hypothermia can occur.

Calves suffering from hypothermia are more susceptible to naval infections, pneumonia and scours.

Best management practices for cold weather calving include:

- Provide adequate wind breaks, shelter and bedding so cows can separate and calve in a warmer, drier, protected environment.
- Plan ahead to provide the additional protein and energy needs of cows during the final trimester of pregnancy and the beginning of lactation.
- Sort first-calf heifers from cows and manage accordingly. Heifers are inexperienced and more likely to need a higher level of attention during calving and the initial stages of claiming and raising a calf. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**



Preempting African swine fever in Texas with research

As feral hog populations increase in Texas and the U.S., they create desirable conditions for disease-carrying ticks and increase the risk for an outbreak of African swine fever virus (ASFV).

To ensure the devastating ASFV stays out of Texas and the southern U.S., a multi-institution research project led by Texas A&M AgriLife Research will assess the potential, or vector competency, of a southern Ornithodoros turicata tick to transmit the disease.

The nearly $1.5 million project is supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology Directorate through Cross-Border Threat Screening and Supply Chain Defense (CBTS), a DHS Center of Excellence within AgriLife Research.

Results from the project will fill critical knowledge gaps in the vector competency of ticks in the U.S. It will be an early key step toward research-based solutions that keep Texas and the southern U.S. free of ASFV.

The team will evaluate the biology and transmissibility of different ASFV strains and genotypes in ticks. They will determine the ability of other species to host or spread ASFV from ticks in the U.S.

Preempting an outbreak

ASFV, as its name suggests, is a tick-borne DNA virus originating in Africa, where Ornithodoros moubata ticks persist in a continuous cycle with wild warthogs.

In Texas, unique challenges come from a host of issues: the presence of potential tick vectors, the expanding feral swine population, expansive suitable habitat for ticks and feral swine, commercial swine operations and the U.S. border with Mexico among others.

The USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service estimates that an ASFV outbreak in the U.S. would devastate the U.S. pork industry with a 50% drop in hog prices, a halt in pork and pork product exports, as well as significant job losses and culling of the animals.

In Texas, according to the Texas Pork Producers Association, feral pigs outnumber domestic swine at least 3-to-1.

Adult ticks have been documented to live for years between feedings. Several species of Ornithodoros ticks in North America have demonstrated African swine fever transmission to swine in laboratory settings.

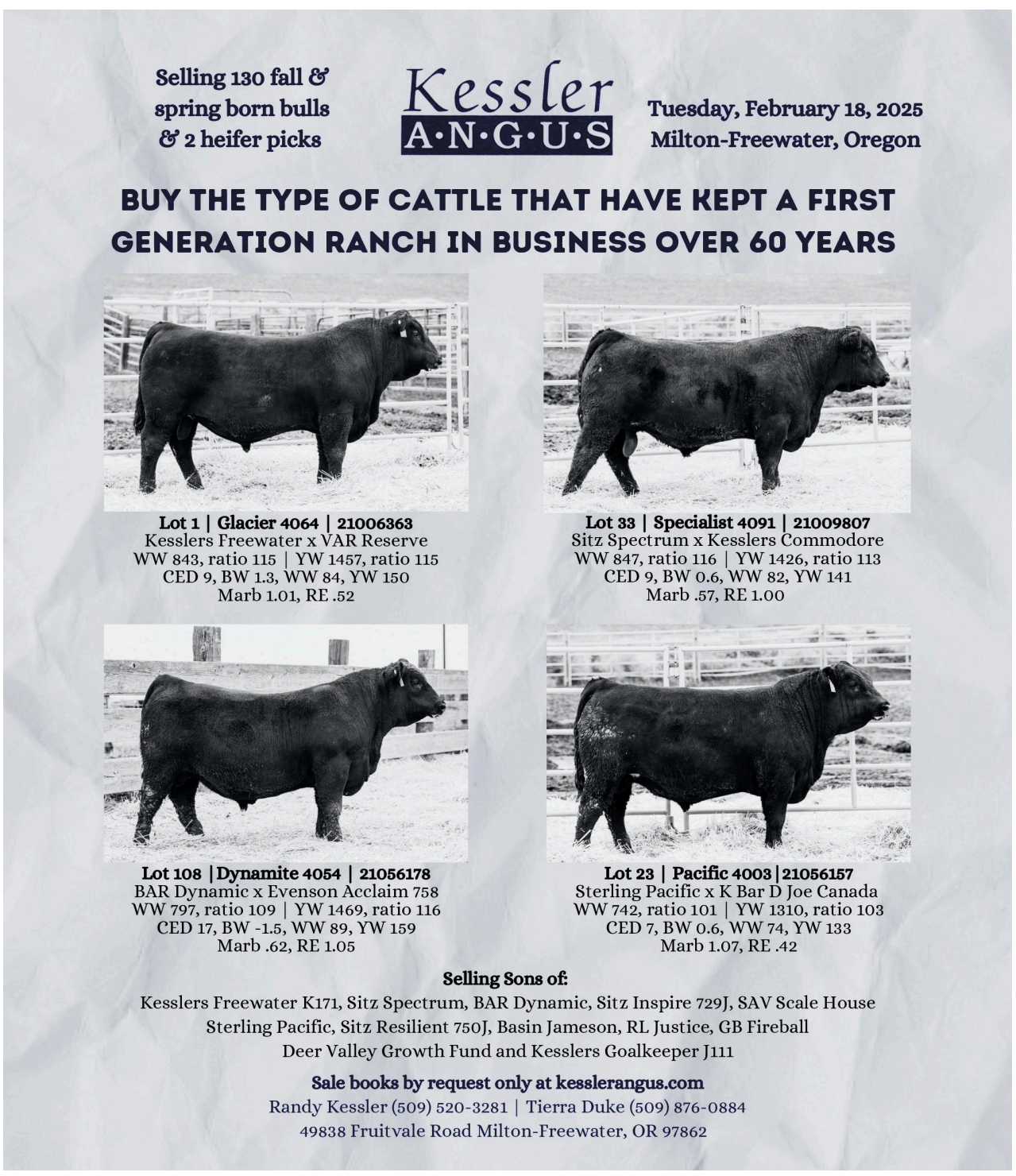
"Leading-edge discoveries and innovation will be the keys to staying ahead of ASFV for Texas and the Southern U.S.," said Heather Manley Lillibridge, Ph.D., executive director of CBTS. "Collaborations across multiple institutions provide us with the resources and expertise for continued success." — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

Assessing tick vector competency

"These ticks are in several southern states and are common in Texas," said Meriam Saleh, Ph.D., clinical assistant professor in the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. Saleh is the project's principal investigator.

"Laboratory studies using a subspecies of these ticks, which originated in Florida, demonstrated high vector competency for ASFV to pigs," she said. "Our research aims to confirm whether the Texas ticks carry the same ability to transmit the disease."

Dee Ellis, DVM, AgriLife Research veterinarian within the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Entomology., and Scott Kenney, Ph.D., of Ohio State University, join Saleh as co-principal investigators.



How ag value chains can promote climate-smart ag

A newly published policy forum article in the journal Science from Michigan State University (MSU) Distinguished Professor Thomas Reardon details how leveraging agricultural value chains can help farmers implement climate-smart practices.

The article was coauthored by Jo Swinnen, director general of the International Food Policy Research Institute, and Loraine Ronchi, global lead for Science, Knowledge and Innovation in Agriculture and Food of the World Bank Group.

Reardon is an economist in the MSU Department of Agricultural, Food and Resource Economics whose work is supported in part by MSU AgBioResearch. He is a world-renowned expert on the transformation of agricultural and food value chains and how they affect food industry business strategies, farms, employment and nutrition.

In the article, the authors highlighted several aspects of agrifood value chains (AVCs), which they refer to as systems that move food from "farm to fork"—agriculture upstream to post-farmgate segments such as food distributors and processors to consumers.

The authors note that agrifood systems in general, and AVCs in particular, have been for decades at the margins of the world debate on mitigating climate challenges. The 2023 United Nations Climate Change Conference (Conference of Parties 28, or COP28) changed that by highlighting the central role of agrifood systems in fueling climate change via greenhouse gas emissions and other problems.

The COP28 issued a declaration signed by 160 country leaders called the Emirates Declaration on Sustainable Agriculture, Resilient Food Systems and Climate Action.

"Despite the recent attention to agriculture and agrifood systems as a climate problem, there is widespread pessimism in international circles about agriculture becoming part of the solution," Reardon said.

"There is a generalized fear that millions of small- and medium-sized farms that form the greater part of world agriculture will have the incentives and capacity to change their farming practices, even if governments enact regulations and world conferences make declarations," he said.

Because of this, the focus of hope and action for climate change mitigation has been on non-agriculture sectors that are more concentrated, with large-scale actors such as transport and energy, that can be regulated more feasibly.

Reardon said the central point of the article is that AVCs can be harnessed to help—in terms of incentivizing and capacitating—small and medium farmers to adopt climate-smart practices.

"This point has two dimensions," Reardon said. "On the one hand, both large food companies and small and medium companies worldwide have the tools to help farms. For years companies have worked with small and medium farms, providing them with incentives and capacity building such as credit, training and information to supply what the companies want.

"In the past the latter has been focused on consistency of supply volumes, on product quality and on food safety," he continued. "We note that companies already do and can do much more providing this same kind of help to farms to shift to climate-smart practices."

On the other hand, the authors contend that companies have business motivations to apply their tools of trade to help farmers to be climate smart. A relatively minor motivation is to meet requirements of rich-country markets where climate-conscious consumers and regulations reward companies to do this. But on a global scale, that market is small.

Much larger is the overall food market in both the Global South (low- and middle-income countries), as well as in richer countries where consistent supply of food at affordable prices is important not just to the vast majority of consumers but to the food companies.

The authors argue that it is not necessary for companies to work with their farmer-suppliers because the companies have explicit climate goals but because the companies have product volume and cost goals.

"Companies want dairy farmers to control methane emissions because that actually increases cows' milk yields and lowers dairy costs," Reardon said. "They want fruit producers to control water use because that lowers overall product costs. They want their farmers to use efficient irrigation systems for the same reasons.

"And because they have the tools to sway and help farmers, these companies in AVCs can be important actors," he said. "For example, a global company operating in California rewards growers for implementing drip irrigation in tomato production to improve water-use efficiency."

The article emphasizes that universities and national and international agricultural research institutes have a crucial role to play in supplying applied science solutions to help farmers comply with climate-smart practice requirements of companies in the AVCs.

They can make the technologies farmers use more affordable and in line with climate-smart practices such as breeding climate-resilient crop varieties and forages that increase efficiency of feeds and reduce greenhouse gases, inventing techniques that reduce erosion and increase flood control, and much more. — **MSU Extension**

Resources on reducing impacts of wildfire

With exceptionally dry conditions persisting in many parts of California, residents should double their efforts to prepare homes, families, businesses and communities for potential wildfire and smoke impacts, according to University of California (UC) fire experts.

"Even as firefighters make progress in containing the Los Angeles-area fires, communities must continue to be vigilant across Southern California and other regions that are experiencing this historically dry 'wet season,'" said Lenya Quinn-Davidson, director of UC Agriculture and Natural Resources' (UC ANR) Fire Network.

The Fire Network is a team of UC Cooperative Extension fire and natural resource advisors, specialists and staff who deliver fire-related research, outreach, and support for communities across the state.

The experts have assembled a website with a wide range of relevant resources at ucanr.edu/fire. Quinn-Davidson said the "Wildfire Preparedness" page contains essential information on how to protect homes and property from fire.

"There are many small but significant tasks that people can complete to shore up potential danger spots and minimize fire damage," she emphasized.

Six things to do before evacuating

For communities where evacuation warnings have been issued, Quinn-Davidson and other members of the Fire Network urge residents to do six key things in advance of an actual evacuation order.

- Close windows, fireplace screens, pet doors and skylights.
- Move inside patio cushions, brooms and door mats; tie open wooden gates that attach to the house or deck to prevent a fire from traveling from the fence to the house.
- Relocate any propane tanks away from the home.
- Stage buckets of water and garden hoses in visible locations.
- Dress for evacuation: long sleeve cotton clothes, sturdy shoes, hat and face protection and leather gloves.
- Put your "go-bag" in your vehicle and share your evacuation plans with out-of-area family or friends.

The UC ANR Fire Network website also includes downloadable checklists for your go-bag and for a host of important pre-evacuation tasks for your household, property, pets and livestock.

"These actions can make a tremendous difference when preparing for wildfire, even just hours before evacuation," Quinn-Davidson said.

Take precautions

During wildfire events, smoke from nearby fires can blanket nearby areas. A primer on harmful health effects, a list of tips for reducing smoke exposure, and other resources and links can be found on the UC ANR Fire Network site.

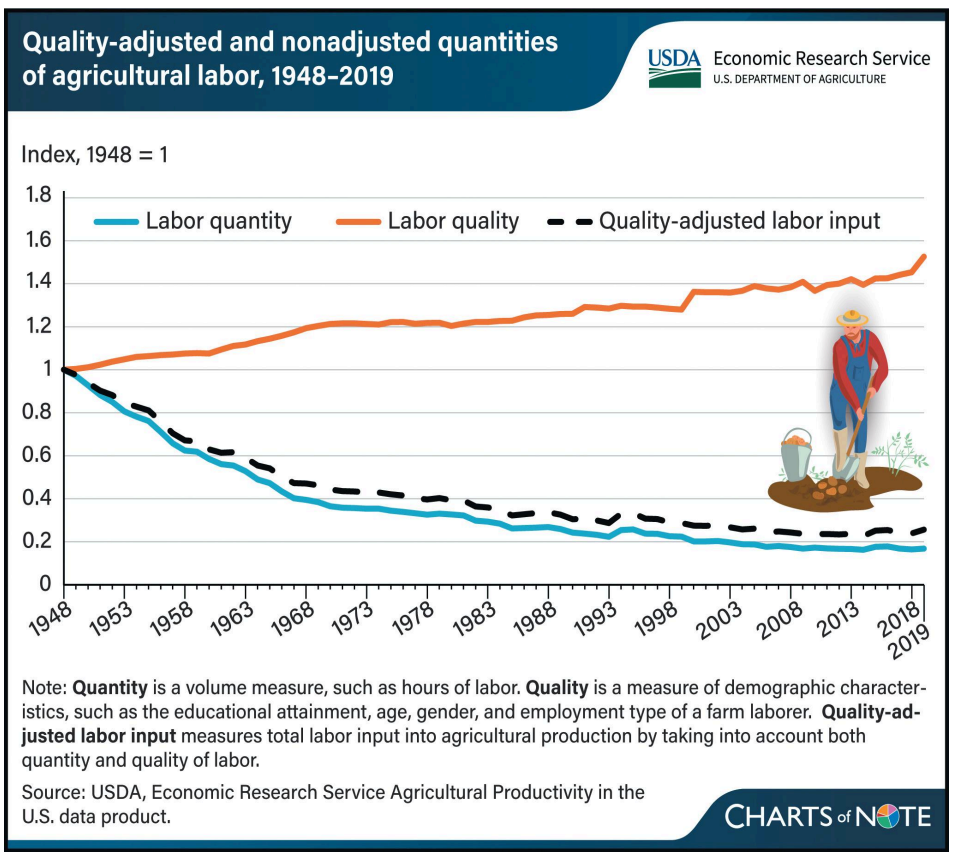
"It's important to monitor your local air quality so you can mitigate smoke impacts," said Katie Low, statewide coordinator for UC ANR's Fire Network. "One go-to resource is fire.airnow.gov. If the AQI—Air Quality Index—is high, I would limit my outdoor activity, wear an N95 mask if I do go outside, and run my air purifier."

A wildfire can also contaminate drinking water to an extent beyond what boiling can remedy; residents should check with their local water department or district for any advisories.

Another useful tool is the crowd-sourced #FireMappers fire activity map—powered by the National Alliance for Public Safety GIS Foundation, GISCorps, and CEDR Digital—accessible through the UC ANR Fire Network site. — **UC ANR**



Quantity of ag labor has declined over time



Over time, the quantity of labor used in agriculture, such as the number of hours worked, has declined, and the quality of labor (measured as a combination of education, age, sex and employment type) has increased.

USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) researchers measure agricultural labor with both quality and quantity measures as part of tracking the productivity of the industry. The volume-based quantity of labor used in agriculture has declined since 1948 partly because farmers have substituted other inputs, such as machinery and technology, for labor.

At the same time, quality-related worker characteristics have changed. For instance, today's agricultural workers have higher education levels than in the past, and they are accomplishing more per hour.

According to ERS estimates, from 1948 to 2019, labor quantity declined by 83%, and labor quality increased 53%.

Economists also calculate quality-adjusted labor input to take into account both the composition of the workforce as well as the number of hours input used in agricultural production. Quality-adjusted labor use in agricultural production declined by 74%, almost 2% a year. — **USDA ERS**

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Answering questions about pest management

As an agronomist with the Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service, Gordon Jones gets many questions on a variety of topics, including field crops, soil, weeds and irrigation.

When Jones, who is based in central Oregon, has a question about integrated pest management, also known as IPM, one of the first calls he makes is to the Oregon Integrated Pest Management Center.

The Oregon IPM Center is a trusted collaborator with OSU Extension to bring research and tools to professionals and community members alike. Integrated pest management is a science-based approach that combines a variety of techniques to manage pests while minimizing the impacts of pesticides.

"Our main stakeholders are our Extension counterparts, especially at the county level," said Silvia Rondon, who directs the Oregon IPM Center. "These specialists are our connectors."

The Oregon IPM Center, formerly the Integrated Plant Protection Center, was formed in the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences in 1967, and has been conducting research and outreach in state, national and international settings ever since.

The center focuses on discoveries and new thinking related to sustainable agriculture and integrated pest management, Rondon said. OSU Extension connects these discoveries with both commercial agricultural producers and lay audiences.

"There's definitely a very collaborative world inside the Oregon IPM Center," said Cynthia Ocamb, an OSU Extension plant pathologist. "Extension folks tend to have more regular contact with the producer communities. Extension offers programming, like workshops, where we get to know the grower community."

The center provides a home for the Oregon statewide IPM coordinator, who works along IPM coordinators and directors nationwide with the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) to implement integrated pest management practices wherever these are needed.

The center collaborates with both urban and rural communities to research and provide information on agroecology, climate change adaptations, invasive species and pesticide resistance.

"Oregon IPM is a hub of information but also a connector for many groups," Rondon said. "Our clientele can be very diverse. It can be agriculture, homeowners, both urban and rural. We organize our resources into 'IPM Tools for Professionals' and 'IPM at Home.'"

The center newsletter features articles about ongoing research, Extension activities and insights, and links to recent publications related to IPM written or co-authored by OSU staff and faculty.

IPM Tools for Professionals

Extension faculty such as Ocamb and Jones connect commercial producers with these resources and relay their need back to the Oregon IPM Center.

Many producers are also required to complete continuing education credits to maintain their pesticide application license. Oregon IPM Center resources are often used by Extension faculty in those trainings, said Jones.

The Oregon IPM Center provides half a dozen resources for commercial agriculture producers related to pests and pesticides, including:

- Strategic Plans & Pest Loss Assessments.
- Pest Monitoring & Predictive Tools.
- Pesticide Resistance Management.
- Biological Control & Pollinator Health.
- Responding to Invasive Species in the West.

"We want the materials/products we produce to be used," Rondon said. "We need help from Extension to help us promote these tools."

IPM at Home

The Oregon IPM Center also provides resources to other groups less familiar with the acronym "IPM," such as homeowners or landscapers.

"If you are in the agricultural world you have heard of IPM, but in my experience, many people do IPM but might not be labeled an IPM specialists," said Rondon.

Solve Pest Problems, an IPM at Home initiative, is a science-based, easy-to-understand online resource for homeowners and landscapers in the Pacific Northwest. The website helps homeowners diagnose and solve common pest and weed problems, effectively and with lower risk.

OSU Extension Master Gardeners use resources like Solve Pest Problems to make science-based and timely decisions about pests in their areas.

"Master Gardeners are the OSU connection with homeowners in communities," said Ocamb.

The center adds new information and data about pests year-round and is available for homeowners and commercial farmers at no cost. Many of the center's resources are also available in Spanish.

The Oregon IPM Center is funded by the College of Agricultural Sciences, OSU Extension, the USDA-NIFA Crop Protection and Pest Management Program Extension Implementation Program Area, and state and federal grants. — **OSU Extension**

Ranchbot, ORBCOMM providing remote water management solutions

Water is often the most overlooked resource, and yet the most critical to a rancher's operation. Whether they manage hundreds of acres or hundreds of thousands of acres, ranchers are facing rising social and economic pressures and environmental extremes that threaten the health of their livestock and the long-term sustainability of their ranch.

According to the USDA, there are over 700,000 cattle ranches across the U.S., and it's estimated that around 40% of those are in arid or semi-arid environments where water related risks like reduced water availability and decreased groundwater replenishment rates continue to pose a growing threat.

Traditionally, these water sources for livestock are checked manually, often taking hours to drive thousands of miles on rough roads just to access them. Not to mention the significant costs associated with manually checking water: fuel consumption, vehicle wear and tear, infrastructure repair, labor and the ultimate cost of losing valuable livestock if a water source fails without a prompt solution.

Water management is a critical concern and cost for ranchers, according to Andrew Coppin, founder and CEO of Ranchbot, and co-founder and managing director of Farmbot. Things like delayed inspections, water leaks, equipment failure and poor water flow and pressure can all lead to wasted water or a lack of availability of water for livestock.

"With a single head of cattle valued at approximately $1,500, losing even one animal represents a significant avoidable cost for ranchers," said Coppin. "Perhaps more importantly, we found that over 500,000 ranchers and farmers across North America drive to check water sources every day that 95% of the time don't need checking for the 5% of times that they do, such is the criticality of water supply. That's a lot of time, money and effort that could be used to have a more positive impact on their operations."

The solution

Through ORBCOMM satellite IoT communications technology, Ranchbot enables ranchers to check their water anytime, anywhere, regardless of their property's cellular coverage.

"Not only can ranchers see their water availability and check for issues in near real-time," Coppin said. "They can now actuate or shut off water supplies, open or close valves and start or stop generators and pumps—all remotely. They can rest assured the water supply for their livestock is operating properly and know if they have an issue, when they have an issue."

The integration of ORBCOMM satellite IoT modems into Ranchbot products ensures reliable 24/7/365 communications regardless of how remote or dispersed a rancher's water resources may be. It also allows Ranchbot to act as a hub for other connected agricultural applications and solutions, particularly in areas with limited or non-existent cellular coverage.

"Ranchbot leverages ORBCOMM's satellite modems for the low latency and excellent data transmission performance they provide. Two-way communication means water assets can be monitored, managed, and controlled remotely, which is a huge relief for ranchers who have water sources in faraway, hard-to-reach places," Coppin said.

"Integrating ORBCOMM's technology into our own has been easy since it auto-provisions and connects to the satellite network," Coppin continued. "It isn't necessary to send technicians into the field to help deploy our solutions. This all makes Ranchbot a preferred solution for ranchers around the globe."

Results

Ranchbot customers are responsible for managing over 10 million cattle and 15 million sheep. There are over 20,000 sensors in the field on more than 4,000 ranches with over 8,000 users around the world. Some of the ranches supported by Ranchbot span millions of acres.

Deploying the satellite-enabled solutions provides a better quality of life for the ranchers and livestock alike. It's not only the cost and operational benefits, but the confidence that the ranchers' livelihoods are looked after as well.

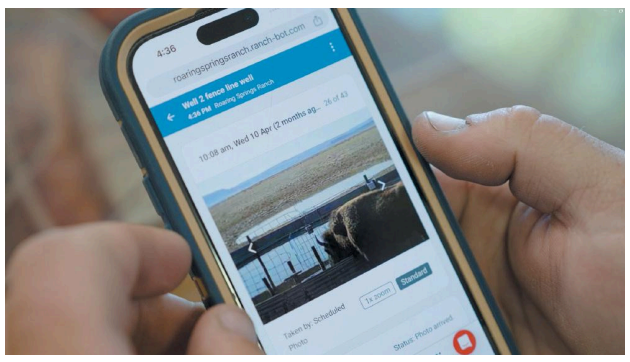
Access to 24/7/365 water data via satellite connected modems from ORBCOMM helps remove the guesswork from a rancher's operation with 24/7/365 insights into their water availability and equipment functionality right from their device.

Based on a survey by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service and Economic Research Service, 97% of U.S. farms and ranches are family owned and operated. Between 52% and 79% of ranches have an operating profit margin (OPM) in the high-risk zone, making them more vulnerable to financial and operational risks.

Being that livestock, water and time are three crucial components to the success of a ranch operation, Ranchbot and ORBCOMM's combined technological solutions help alleviate their water worries. With the hours previously spent checking water, ranchers can now spend their time on more valuable things on and off the ranch.

While saving on fuel, water and equipment wear and tear, ranchers using Ranchbot are simultaneously developing a more sustainable future in beef production. Less time on the road helps reduce carbon emissions. Near real-time alerts on water issues help decrease water waste. Switching pumps and generators off remotely means less run-time, leading to a decrease in electricity costs and carbon footprint for the ranch.

"ORBCOMM allows Ranchbot to make our solutions even more broadly applicable for ranch operations. Even where there is poor or non-existent cellular connectivity, we can provide an always-connected solution," Coppin said.



Ranchbot

A view of the ORBCOMM Ranchbot App.

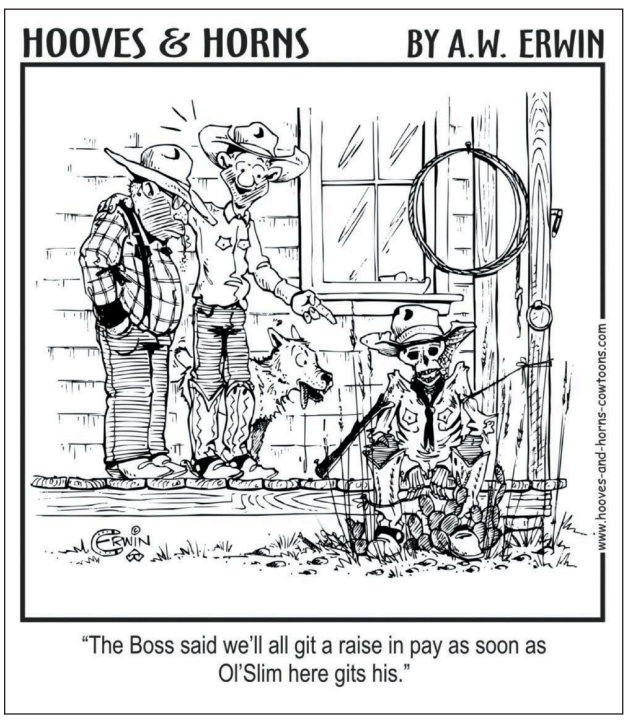
Roaring Springs Ranch

Roaring Springs Ranch was founded in 1872 and still uses largely the same ranching practices that were used over 150 years ago with one major difference: Today, they use satellite-connected IoT solutions to monitor and manage water supplies across the 1.7 million acres of public and private land that make up the ranch.

Erik Davies, farm manager, Roaring Springs Ranch, said, "Ranchbot saved us 30 trips just this spring alone. I bet we've saved close to $150,000.

"It's the first thing I check in the morning. When I wake up, I check the weather, and I check the Ranchbot. Right now, we're running a diesel generator that could shut off any time, from an air bubble in the fuel line for example. I can see right on my phone at any moment whether it's running or not. With the trough monitor there, if it ever reaches full capacity, I can just shut the generator off and save fuel," said Davies.

"On a drought year, just knowing there's water there and that the cattle aren't coming to an empty trough and having to wait until the next day to get a drink—knowing that there's constant water there is very important. But, also, you can start to get an idea of how many cattle are coming to the troughs. I get more text messages from Ranchbot than anyone else. But that's a good thing. I can't ever make the excuse that I didn't know there was a problem. I always know if there's a problem," he said. — **Ranchbot, ORBCOMM**



"The Boss said we'll all git a raise in pay as soon as Ol'Slim here gits his."

RS ANGUS
"In The Black"
ANNUAL BULL & REGISTERED FEMALE SALE
FRIDAY // 1 PM CST // FEB. 28, 2025
Western State Bank Expo Center, Dodge City, KS
The Expo Center is located just south of Dodge City on the west side of Hwy. 283.

SELLING 89 BULLS AND 14 FEMALES
85 Angus Bulls 79 Fall Long Yearling & 6 Yearling Angus Bulls
4 SimAngus Fall Long Yearling Bulls
14 Angus Fall Bred Heifers
180 Commercial Angus open yearling replacement heifers.
Fancy set of heifers that have been enrolled in the AngusLink Program.
VOLUME DISCOUNTS OF 5% ON PURCHASES OF 5 BULLS OR MORE.


RSA TRUE BALANCE 1311
12 Sons & 1 Daughter Sell!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DOB: 09-06-2023 Sire: *RSA True Balance 1311
CED +16 BW -.4 WW +85 YW +148 MILK +29 PAP +2.31
Marb +1.22 REA +1.04 $M +75 $B +201 $C +336


RSA TRUE BALANCE 3316 Reg: *21088375
DOB: 08-27-2023 Sire: *RSA True Balance 1311
CED +9 BW +.7 WW +84 YW +148 MILK +36 PAP +.66
Marb +1.49 REA +1.28 $M +76 $B +240 $C +387


RSA JAMESON 3363 Reg: +*21008279
DOB: 10-12-2023 Sire: *Basin Jameson 1076
CED +9 BW +2.5 WW +103 YW +174 MILK +24 PAP +.40
Marb +1.31 REA +1.42 $M +89 $B +234 $C +392


RSA TRUE BALANCE 3353 Reg: +*21014504
DOB: 10-07-2023 Sire: *RSA True Balance 1311
CED +15 BW -1.0 WW +71 YW +129 MILK +31 PAP +1.40
Marb +1.43 REA +.84 $M +72 $B +231 $C +372


RSA TRUE BALANCE 3356 Reg: +*21014505
DOB: 10-10-2023 Sire: *RSA True Balance 1311
CED +11 BW +1.4 WW +74 YW +130 MILK +25 PAP -.60
Marb +1.43 REA +.95 $M +69 $B +220 $C +354


RSA JAMESON 3346 Reg: *21008273
DOB: 09-20-2023 Sire: *Basin Jameson 1076
CED +7 BW +2.4 WW +104 YW +175 MILK +26 PAP -.48
Marb +1.61 REA +1.10 $M +74 $B +241 $C +387

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43919937

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- Unfortunately, we lost this bull due to injury so his progeny will be harder to find. Don't miss out.

BW	WW	YW	MM	M&G	REA	MARB	BMI$	CHB$
2.7	67	112	27	60	0.53	0.55	537	194



44267825

CHURCHILL GUNSMOKE 111J ET

- This unique pedigree offers some of the best genetics in the breed. This bull is powerful with some thickness and plenty of muscle. Several sons sell!

BW	WW	YW	MM	M&G	REA	MARB	BMI$	CHB$
2.9	68	111	30	64	0.83	0.67	476	181



19145392

MARDA WHITLOCK 857

BW	WW	YW	MM	$W	$F
-1	82	146	31	83	95

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EST. 2014
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- Selling -

70 Yearling Bulls
F1 Baldy
Replacement Heifers
DNA tested, BVD free, semen tested

Lot 3 Skyline Duke



reg #21099616

CED +5 | BW +1.9 | WW +78 | YW +130 | CEM +8 | M +28 | SEN -19 | SM +62 | SW +78 | $B +128 | $C +228

Lot 4 Skyline Dash 407



reg #21099616

CED -2 | BW +3.4 | WW +72 | YW +123 | CEM -5 | M +29 | SEN -20 | SM +49 | SW +67 | $B +89 | $C +164

Lot 55 Skyline Grand Canyon 4103



Top 5% for BW
reg #21117380

CED +9 | BW -1.8 | WW +51 | YW +90 | CEM +8 | M +24 | SEN +7 | SM +84 | SW +57 | $B +110 | $C +227

Lot 8 Skyline Eddy 459



reg #21127404

CED +5 | BW +.6 | WW +53 | YW +95 | CEM 0 | M +33 | SEN 0 | SM +88 | SW +62 | $B +115 | $C +237

Bringing high-tech solutions to farmers



K-State Research and Extension

Clint Brauer

Who is running through my fields and cutting down the weeds? Or maybe I should ask, what is running through my fields and cutting down the weeds?

Today we'll meet a rural entrepreneur who has founded a business producing autonomous robots that use mechanical means to cut down weeds close to the ground on broadacre crops across the Midwest.

It sounds like science fiction, but it's happening in rural Kansas.

Clint Brauer is founder of Greenfield Robotics, which produces these AI-powered farming robots. Brauer is a third-generation farmer who grew up farming with his dad on their place near Cheney.

After graduating from Kansas State (K-State) University, he worked as a technology executive in Los Angeles, CA. During that 14-year career, he was a data systems pioneer at Sony, launched a Sony e-book system in North America and was vice president of marketing for Fox Interactive Media.

When his father developed Parkinson's disease, Brauer moved back to Kansas.

"When he got sick, I started to run the farm—which is still going strong—and around then was when the initial idea for Greenfield Robotics was germinated," Brauer said.

"When my dad passed away from Parkinson's disease, I wanted to create a way to reduce reliance on chemicals in farming, and ultimately remove them altogether," Brauer said.

In 2018, he launched Greenfield Robotics. "We aim to create regenerative, herbicide-free farming solutions through the use of autonomous robots, which are built right here in Kansas," Brauer said.

These robots look like yellow metal boxes on wheels with a short antenna on the top. The chassis is approximately two feet wide and five feet long.

The robots are autonomous and leverage artificial intelligence in the forms of machine vision and learning. The chassis can attach to various types of attachments, such as blades for cutting weeds, and be programmed to go through a field cutting down weeds, for example.

With other modular attachments, these robots can be used to plant cover crops, add nutrients such as sea kelp to crops, and more.

In practice, the robots are deployed by the company, rather than purchased by the farmer. "We deploy the robots, retrieve them when the job is done and handle any potential maintenance," Brauer said.

When used for cutting weeds on broadacre crops, the robots greatly reduce the need for herbicides.

"These robots are capable of navigating between rows of crops like soybeans, cotton and sorghum with less crop damage than a traditional spray rig," Brauer said.

"They cut down weeds close to the ground, with spinning blades attached to the front of each robot, and are capable of running day and night."

Each robot can weed one-half to one acre in an hour. The robots are deployed as a fleet.

"The primary benefit of our technology is that it allows farmers to greatly reduce their reliance on herbicides, which has positive implications for both human health and the environment," Brauer said.

This cutting-edge technology has caught the eyes of others. "These wins helped us get financial backing from major players in the industry, including Chipotle, MKC—a major grain co-op with 11,000 farmers as members—and ILS, one of the nation's largest beef producers," Brauer said.

More advances are ahead. Greenfield Robotics is working with Rock River Laboratories to conduct field trials where the sensors on the robots will detect nutrient deficiencies in crops and provide actionable data to the producer.

"We hope this can revolutionize crop nutrient management," Brauer said. "We continue to develop new services to help write a new chapter in agriculture."

How remarkable to find this high-tech company in Cheney, population 2,181 people. Now, that's rural. — **K-State Research and Extension**

SALE CALENDAR

Sale Calendar is a service to our advertisers. There is a minimum advertising requirement to be eligible to be listed in the Sale Calendar. Contact your fieldman for more information or to have your date added to the Sale Calendar. We will only run auction sale dates or private treaty start dates.

ALL BREEDS

Feb. 1– Klamath Cattlemen's Association, Bull & Heifer Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Feb. 4 – PAYS Blue Ribbon II Sale, Billings, MT
Feb. 15 – Colorado State University, Production Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Mar. 7 – Intermountain Genetic Alliance, Bull Sale, Heber City, UT
Mar. 15 – Iron Lorenzen Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Mar. 19 – Western Breeders Association, Bull Sale, Eltopia, WA

ANGUS

Jan. 27 – Doug Booth Family Angus, Bull Sale, Torrington, WY
Feb. 1 – Ellingson Angus, Production Sale, St. Anthony, ND
Feb. 1 – Beartooth Angus, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Feb. 2 – Frey Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Granville, ND
Feb. 5 – Huwa Cattle, Bull Sale, Roggen, CO
Feb. 6 – Bear Mountain Angus, Bull Sale, Palisade, NE
Feb. 7 – Burgess Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Homedale, ID
Feb. 7 – Poss Angus, Bull Sale, Scotia, NE
Feb. 8 – Schaff Angus Valley, Bull Sale, St. Anthony, ND
Feb. 10 – Skyline Angus, Bull Sale, Stevensville, MT
Feb. 11 – South Mountain Cattle, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 11 – Werning Cattle Co., Production Sale, Emery, SD
Feb. 12 – Meadow Acres Angus, Production Sale, Stanfield, OR
Feb. 12 – Jindra Angus, Production Sale, Clarkson, NE
Feb. 13 – Booth's Cherry Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Veteran, WY
Feb. 14 – Bar KD Ranch, Bull Sale, Alturas, CA
Feb. 14 – Dutch Flat Angus & CX Ranch, Bull Sale, Lewiston, ID
Feb. 14 – Powder River Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Feb. 15 – Great Basin Bull Sale, Fallon, NV
Feb. 15 – Schiefelbein Farms, Bull Sale, Kimball, MN
Feb. 15 – Strommen Ranch Bull Sale, Solen, ND
Feb. 16 – Bruner Angus, Bull Sale, Drake, ND
Feb. 17 – Frank Cattle & Genetics, Bull Sale, Lodgepole, NE
Feb. 17 – Teixeira Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Terrebonne, OR
Feb. 17 – Weaver Ranch, Bull Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Feb. 18 – Double D Angus, Production Sale, Columbus, NE
Feb. 18 – Kessler Angus, Bull Sale, Milton-Freewater, OR
Feb. 19 – Hyline Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Bozeman, MT
Feb. 19 – Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 20 – Krebs Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Gordon, NE
Feb. 20 – Van Dyke Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT
Feb. 21 – Hoffman Ranch, Bull Sale, Thedford, NE
Feb. 22 – 44 Farms, Bull Sale, Cameron, TX
Feb. 22 – Baker Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Feb. 22 – Black Gold Genetics, Bull Sale, Pritchett, CO
Feb. 22 – Lyman Livestock, Bull Sale, Salina, UT
Feb. 23 – Buchanan Angus, Bull Sale, Fort Klamath, OR
Feb. 24 – Circle L Angus, Production Sale, Dillon, MT
Feb. 24 – Colyer Hereford & Angus, Production Sale, Bruneau, ID
Feb. 24 – Reyes/Russell Angus, Bull Sale, Wheatland, WY
Feb. 25 – Barker Cattle Co., Production Sale, Burley, ID
Feb. 25 – Connelly Angus, Production Sale, Valier, MT
Feb. 25 – Haynes Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Ogallala, NE
Feb. 25 – JC Heiken Angus and Sons, Bull Sale, Miles City, MT
Feb. 25 – Thomas Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Baker City, OR
Feb. 26 – Price Cattle Co. & Murdock Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Feb. 26 – TC Ranch, Bull Sale, Franklin, NE
Feb. 28 – Skinner Ranch Seedstock, Bull Sale, Hall, MT
Feb. 28 – Star Gate Cattle, Bull Sale, Twin Falls, ID
Mar. 1 – 3C Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Stevensville, MT
Mar. 1 – Kimm Angus, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT
Mar. 1 – Loya/Wardell Angus, Bull Sale, Platteville, CO
Mar. 1 – Lucky 7 Angus, Bull Sale, Riverton, WY
Mar. 2 – Stevenson Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, White Sulphur Springs, MT
Mar. 3 – Harrell Hereford & Angus, Production Sale, Baker City, OR
Mar. 4 – Allen Brothers Cattle, Bull Sale, North Powder, OR
Mar. 4 – Apex Angus, Bull Sale, Valier, MT
Mar. 4 – Reid Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Brush, CO
Mar. 5 – Ox Bow Ranch, Bull Sale, Wolf Creek, MT
Mar. 5 – Snake River Valley Genetics, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Mar. 6 – Cannon Angus, Bull Sale, Preston, ID
Mar. 6 – Dunn Ranches, Bull Sale, Pierce, CO
Mar. 6 – Split Diamond Ranch, Bull Sale, Dillon, MT
Mar. 7 – Crouthamel Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 7 – Parry Angus, Bull Sale, Sterling, CO
Mar. 8 – Riverbend Ranch, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Mar. 8 – Yardley Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Beaver, UT
Mar. 10 – Dal Porto Livestock, Bull Sale, Purdum, NE
Mar. 10 – Pine Coulee Bulls, Bull Sale, Hardin, MT
Mar. 10 – Spring Cove Ranch, Bull Sale, Bliss, ID
Mar. 11 – Veltkamp Angus, Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT
Mar. 11 – Wagon Wheel Ranch, Bull Sale, Yuma, CO
Mar. 12 – Hornung Livestock, Production Sale, Stratton, CO
Mar. 12 – Sitz Angus, Bull Sale, Dillon, MT
Mar. 13 – Sunny Okanogan Angus, Bull Sale, Omak, WA
Mar. 13 – Wheeler Mountain Ranch, Bull Sale, Whitehall, MT
Mar. 14 – Rollin' Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Mar. 14 – SHB Angus with GPAR, Bull Sale, Rearden, WA
Mar. 14 – Thomson Land & Livestock, Bull Sale, Blackfoot, ID
Mar. 15 – Chundy Land & Cattle, Bull Sale, Imperial, NE
Mar. 15 – Nelson Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Salmon, ID
Mar. 15 – Ward Ranches, Bull Sale, Gardnerville, NV
Mar. 17 – JR & Sackmann, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Mar. 17 – Rancho Casino/ Cox Ranch, Bull Sale, Brewster, NE
Mar. 17 – Whistling Winds Angus, Bull Sale, Hingham, MT
Mar. 18 – 7n7 Ranch, Bull Sale, Enterprise, OR
Mar. 18 – Bartels Angus, Bull Sale, Riverton, NE
Mar. 18 – ELK Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Mar. 19 – Lufkin Cattle Bull Sale, Tendoy, ID
Mar. 20 – Carter Cattle, Bull Sale, Pingree, ID
Mar. 20 – Oft Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Mar. 20 – Western Cattle Source, Bull Sale, Crawford, NE

CHAROLAIS

Feb. 12 – Broberg Charolais, Bull Sale, Tilden, NE
Feb. 18 – V-A-L Charolais Ranch, Bull Sale, Nyssa, OR
Feb. 20 – Small Livestock, Bull Sale, Winnemucca, NE
Mar. 11 – Romans Ranches Charolais, Bull Sale, Westfall, OR

GELBVIEH

Feb. 3 – Taubenheim Gelbvieh, Production Sale, Amherst, NE

HEREFORD

Jan. 28 – Churchill Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT
Jan. 30 – Ridder Hereford Ranch, Bull Sale, Callaway, NE
Feb. 1 – Upstream Hereford Ranch, Production Sale, Taylor, NE
Feb. 5 – Durbin Creek Ranch, Bull Sale, Worland, WY
Feb. 6 – Stroh Hereford Ranch, Bull Sale, Killdeer, ND
Feb. 7 – Elkington Polled Hereford, Bull & Female Sale, Oshkosh, NE
Feb. 14 – Topp Herefords, Bull Sale, Grace City, ND
Feb. 21 – Rees Bros., Bull & Female Sale, Morgan, UT
Feb. 10 – BB Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Connell, WA
Feb. 11 – South Mountain Cattle, Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 14 – Topp Herefords, Bull Sale, Grace City, ND
Feb. 19 – Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 24 – Colyer Hereford & Angus, Production Sale, Bruneau, ID
Mar. 3 – Harrell Hereford & Angus, Production Sale, Baker City, OR
Mar. 4 – Ipsen Cattle, Bull Sale, Online
Mar. 10 – Holden Herefords, Bull Sale, Valier, MT
Mar. 11 – Cooper Hereford Ranch, Bull Sale, Willow Creek, MT
Mar. 12 – Udy Cattle, Production Sale, Rockland, ID
Mar. 20 – Bar Star Herefords, Bull Sale, Musselshell, MT

MAINE ANJOU

Mar. 8 – Yardley Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Beaver, UT

OPTIMIZER

Feb. 28 – Skinner Ranch Seedstock, Bull Sale, Hall, MT

RED ANGUS

Feb. 7 – TJS Red Angus, Production Sale, Buffalo, WY
Feb. 17 – Frank Cattle & Genetics, Bull Sale, Lodgepole, NE
Feb. 19 – Shaw Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Caldwell, ID
Feb. 27 – Dille Red Angus & 3 String Cattle, Bull Sale, Shoshone, ID
Feb. 27 – McCann Red Angus, Bull Sale, Lewiston, ID
Mar. 1 – Redland Red Angus, Bull Sale, Hysham, MT
Mar. 4 – Dille Red Angus Production Sale, Buhl, ID
Mar. 4 – Sandhill Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sidney, MT
Mar. 7 – Sutherlin Farms, Production Sale, Stevensville, MT
Mar. 11 – Loosli Red Angus, Bull Sale, Ashton, ID
Mar. 14 – Leland Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sidney, MT
Mar. 18 – Green Mountain Red Angus, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT

SALERS

Feb. 28 – Skinner Ranch Seedstock, Bull Sale, Hall, MT

SIMANGUS

Jan. 27 – APEX Cattle, Production Sale, Dannebrog, NE
Feb. 13 – Lassle Ranch Simmentals, Bull Sale, Glendive, ND
Feb. 17 – Bulls of the Big Sky, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Feb. 22 – Lyman Livestock, Bull Sale, Salina, UT
Feb. 25 – Barker Cattle Co., Production Sale, Burley, ID
Feb. 26 – Price Cattle Co. & Murdock Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Feb. 28 – Star Gate Cattle, Bull Sale, Twin Falls, ID
Mar. 1 – Trinity Farms, Bull Sale, Ellensburg, WA
Mar. 4 – Allen Brothers Cattle, Bull Sale, North Powder, OR
Mar. 8 – Wishbone Simmental, Bull Sale, Frannie, WY

SIMMENTAL

Jan. 27 – APEX Cattle, Production Sale, Dannebrog, NE
Feb. 13 – Lassle Ranch Simmentals, Bull Sale, Glendive, ND
Feb. 17 – Bulls of the Big Sky, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Feb. 22 – Lyman Livestock, Bull Sale, Salina, UT
Feb. 25 – Barker Cattle Co., Production Sale, Burley, ID
Feb. 26 – Price Cattle Co. & Murdock Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 8 – Wishbone Simmental, Bull Sale, Frannie, WY

HORSE

Mar. 1 – Winnemucca Ranch Rodeo, Horse Sale, Winnemucca, NV



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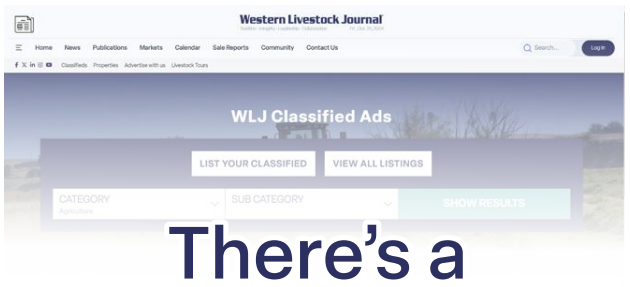

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SALE REPORTS

MATERNAL MERIT BRED HEIFER SALE
Jan. 15, Denver, CO
18 Black white face commercial bred heifers $4,267
14 Red white face commercial bred heifers 4,075
18 Red Angus commercial bred heifers 3,841
26 Angus commercial bred heifers 3,758
12 SimAngus commercial bred heifers 3,700
12 Balancer commercial bred heifers 3,550
Auctioneer: Jason Santamaso
Sale Manager: Bobby Strecker

ANGUS FOUNDATION FEMALE SALE
Jan. 16, Denver, CO
1 Angus bull $52,500
25 Angus total registered females 14,540
12 Angus flushes. 14,125
9 Angus pregnancies. 10,277
36 Angus embryos 1,595
Auctioneer: Dave Mullins
Sale Manager: Matt Macfarlane Marketing
TOPS—Bull: HLC CSI Elevation 100K, 5/2/2022 by SAV Bloodline 9578; to Circle F Farms, Baxley, GA, $52,500. **Bred heifers:** Lot 1 - Pick; to Deer Valley Farm, Fayetteville, TN, $25,000. Frank Forever Lady 3273, 2/18/2023 by LAR Man In Black bred to Bear Mtn North Star; to Oldroyd Angus, Vernal, UT, $24,000. **Embryos:** Lot 36; to Lawson Family Farm, Ewing, VA, $12,600. Lot 5; to RC Cattle, Winchester, KY, $7,200. **Open cow:** Montana Rita 0071, 4/2/2020 by Woodhill Blueprint; to Parry Angus, Sterling, CO, $30,000. **Open heifers:** Lot 8 - Pick; to Lindskov's LT Ranch, Isabel, SD, $48,000. SV 023R Eblinette 4004, 1/19/2024 by Connealy Commerce; to Parker Cattle Co., Twin Falls, ID, $19,000. KLER Jilt M151, 2/1/2024 by Connealy Commerce; to Christopher Kemper, Mauston, WI, $17,000. Lot 4 - Pick; to Jeff Miller, Gracemont, SD, $15,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

KEN HAAS ANGUS BULL SALE
Jan. 21, La Grange, WY
102 Angus bulls $7,852
Auctioneer: Lex Madden
Sale Manager: Genetic Pathways
TOPS: KCH Congress 25, 1/29/2024 by Crouch Congress; $16,000. KCH Congress 2101, 1/29/2024 by Crouch Congress; to Bootheel 7 Ranch, Lusk, WY, $14,500. KCH Acclaim 133, 3/28/2024 by EXAR Acclaim 1209B; to Bootheel 7 Ranch, Lusk, WY, $14,000. KCH Congress 2150, 2/4/2024 by Crouch Congress; to Bootheel 7 Ranch, Lusk, WY, $14,000. KCH Statesman 18, 2/14/2024 by Virginia Tech Statesman; to Crow Valley Ranch, Lusk, WY, $14,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

REDLAND ANGUS BULL SALE
Jan. 18, Buffalo, WY
86 Bulls $8,145
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS: Redland Cow Power 2833, 8/1/2023 by McCumber Cow Power 118; to Tim Burch, MT, $19,000. Redland Tremendous 201, 3/27/2023 by McCumber Tremendous 2008; to Tim Burch, MT, $18,000. Redland Do It All, 7/25/2023 by OCC Do It All 656D; to Neil McQueary, NV, $14,000. Redland Chancellor 2473, 7/20/2023 by OCC Chancellor 767 C; to Armells Creek, MT, $13,000. Redland Do It All 2573, 7/24/2023 by Redland Do It All 2573; to Virgil Huseman, KS, $13,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

CURRANT CREEK ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE
Jan. 20, Roundup, MT
50 Angus bulls. . . $5,280
25 Commercial bred heifers 3,100
25 Commercial open heifers 1,875
Auctioneer: Collin Gibbs
TOPS: CCAR 10 4 M454, 1/31/2024 by Lost Lake 10 4 J281; to 7 Hanging 7 Ranch, Grass Range, MT, $8,750. CCAR 50 Cal M336, 3/20/2024 by Topp 50 Cal 1006; to 7 Hanging 7 Ranch, Grass Range, MT, $7,250. CCAR Blueprint M493, 3/21/2024 by CCAR Blueprint K230; to 7 Hanging 7 Ranch, Grass Range, MT, $7,000. CCAR Blueprint M490, 3/18/2024 by CCAR Blueprint K230; to Wes Stahl, Roundup, MT, $7,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**



Ty Groshans
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40th ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE
President's Day
Monday, February 17, 2025
12:30 p.m. at the ranch north of Fort Collins, CO
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Circle L Gus	76#	+11	-1.2	+59	+101	+17	38	+17	+.22	+.75	+.075
McConnell Altitude 3114	69#	+8	-.3	+60	+104	+21	38	+16	+.58	-.01	+.081
Weavers Final Answer 3100	75#	+9	-1.9	+33	+68	+25	39	+6	+.44	+.01	+.032
Weavers Mountain Man 8213	71#	+11	-2.1	+39	+68	+18	38	+7	+.54	+.30	+.021

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Meadow Acres Bravo 422


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Meadow Acres Resilient 4211


+*21132296 9/17/23
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EGL HOMELAND 883L



SIRE: CLRS HOMELAND 327H **DOB:** 5/15/23
MGS: HOOKS ADMIRAL 33A **SIMANGUS**

XXL FIREMAN 685L



SIRE: EGL FIREMAN 111F **DOB:** 5/21/23
MGS: LCOC FINAL ANSWER G532U **XXL**

EGL COMMANDER 3227



SIRE: EGL COMMANDER C1603 **DOB:** 6/5/23
MGS: PA FORTITUDE 2500 **ANGUS**

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SIRE: ROCKIN H CAPTIVATE J75 **DOB:** 5/21/23
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