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INSIDE WLJ

RED ANGUS

RAAA FEATURE – This week's breed specific special section features the Red Angus Association of America. Jump inside to find everything from producer profiles to Red Angus Foundation updates. **Page 33**

RED BLUFF RECAP – Don't miss the Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale recap inside, including sale reports, champions and a special look at B.J. Macfarlane. **Page 12**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY
"Increased confidence in the stability of the livestock business is apparent in view of the broad demand for stocker and feeder cattle, and the efforts of range men to rebuild their breeding herds. There has never been a period when demand for replacement stock was so far ahead of available supplies than has been the case during the past several weeks," wrote Nelson Crow in the February 1950 WLJ issue.

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Court upholds Gila feral cattle removal

—Rules against cattle group

A federal judge has ruled against

livestock groups' attempt to halt the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) shooting of feral cattle in a New Mexico forest.

In a Jan. 29 ruling, the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico upheld the federal agency's decision to remove cattle from the Gila

Wilderness, one of the largest swaths of public land in the Southwest. In February 2022 and 2023, the USFS initiated an aerial shooting operation to cull feral cattle in the Gila National Forest, claiming concerns over environmental degradation and threats to wildlife habitats and public safety.

"The feral cattle in the Gila Wilderness have been aggressive towards wilderness visitors, graze year-round, and trample stream banks and springs, causing erosion and sedimentation," said Camille Howes, Gila National Forest supervisor. "This action will help restore the wilderness character of the Gila Wilderness enjoyed by visitors from across the country."

The agency killed a little over 80 head of cattle in aerial shootings by helicopter. The agency said operations were concluded in March 2023 and has not again notified of plans to conduct additional shooting operations.

The New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association (NMCGA), along with private ranchers and the Humane Farming Association, filed suit



Gila National Forest

A district court has ruled in favor of the U.S. Forest Service's decision to shoot feral cattle in a national forest. Pictured here, the Gila National Forest in New Mexico.

See GILA CATTLE on page 47

USMEF: Beef exports made important strides in 2024

—Pork, lamb make gains

Despite facing significant challenges, U.S. beef exports made important strides over the past year, according to the U.S. Meat Export Federation's (USMEF) annual report. From January through November, export value climbed 5% year over year to \$9.56 billion, even as volume slightly dipped to 1.18 million metric tons, down 1%.

"Buying power in our largest markets, Korea and Japan, was impeded by weak currencies and persistent inflation, which continued to weigh on the post-COVID recovery of the foodservice sector," Dan Halstrom, president and CEO of USMEF, said in the report. "But demand for U.S. beef thrived in Mexico, with export value reaching its highest level since 2009. Beef exports also rebounded to the Middle East and were record-large for the second consecutive year to

Central America and the Dominican Republic."

Beef exports

According to the annual report, U.S. beef exports to Mexico saw significant growth in 2024, with shipments through November rising 12% year over year to 211,920 metric tons (mt). Export value climbed 14% to \$1.23 billion. While a strong peso bolstered demand in the first half of the year, interest in U.S. beef remained resilient even as it weakened, losing 20% of its value against the U.S. dollar since late May.

Japan remained the top volume destination for U.S. beef in 2024 despite ongoing challenges posed by a weak yen. January-November exports held steady at 224,102 mt, with value increasing 4% to \$1.73 billion. USMEF attributes this

See USMEF REPORT on page 27

Colorado AG vows to fight NE's attempt to seize land

—Buyouts for Perkins Canal

Colorado's attorney general firmly committed to supporting northeastern Colorado county commissioners in their battle against Nebraska's attempt to seize land for the Perkins County Canal Project.

In a Jan. 25 letter to Sedgwick County commissioners, Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser confirmed that Nebraska's Department of Natural Resources had sent condemnation notices to six landowners. According to Nebraska Public Media (NPM), the department offered \$1.4 million for roughly 650 acres. Weiser pledged to defend Colorado's rights under the South Platte River Compact if Nebraska took legal action to seize the land.

"Not only will this project provide little to no benefit to Nebraska,"

Weiser wrote, "but also that if Nebraska continues down this path, the State of Colorado is prepared to defend its rights ... including going to court if necessary."

While Weiser's office represents Colorado as a whole, he urged affected landowners to seek their own legal counsel for guidance on condemnation proceedings. He also called on county officials to inform him of any further communications from Nebraska.

"The Department of Law/Attorney General's Office will remain focused on this issue to protect Colorado," he wrote, adding that his office is working with the Colorado General Assembly and may seek additional resources to strengthen the state's legal position.

"We are in a new chapter, there has been a shift," Weiser told The Colorado Sun. "I had hoped it

would never come to this, but as it happens, we're no longer in the hypothetical, 'What might they do, I hope they don't do this' world. We've moved into 'They're really doing this.'"

In 2022, then-Gov. Pete Ricketts (R) proposed a \$500 million plan to construct a canal diverting water from the South Platte River, citing Nebraska's rights under the 1923 South Platte River Compact. The compact was designed to ensure that water flows from Colorado reached Nebraska. It mandates restrictions on upstream diversions in Colorado when river flows drop below 120 cubic feet per second near Julesburg, CO, from April 1 to Oct. 15. Outside of that timeframe, Colorado retains complete control of the river's water.

See CANAL FIGHT on page 19

Market takes a nosedive over the week

The cattle market took a dip over the week with concerns over feeder numbers once USDA reopens the border to Mexican live cattle exports, along with news of a new strain of avian influenza developing in a California dairy.

Live cattle futures were lower over the week. The February contract lost about \$4 to close at \$204.47, and the April contract lost about \$5 to close at \$201.

"In the last week, live cattle futures have fallen over \$11 per cwt from all-time highs, creating a concern that traders are now searching for a sense of market support, which, after Thursday's moves, could be hard to solidify in the near future," ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, wrote in her Thursday midday comments.

"The continued shift lower in cash cattle prices and beef values is adding to the overall futures market weakness," she added.

Cash trade through Thursday totaled about 33,668 head. Live steers sold from \$204-208, and dressed steers sold from \$325-333.

Cash trade for the week ending Feb. 2 was 58,816 head.

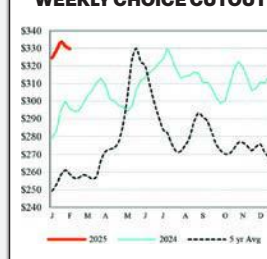
Live steers averaged \$209.60, and dressed steers averaged \$329.26.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 476,000 head. Total slaughter for the week ending Jan. 31 is estimated at 600,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Jan. 25 was 593,858 head. The average steer dressed weight was 948 lbs., 6 lbs. below a week earlier.

Boxed beef prices were lower over the week. The Choice cutout lost about \$4 to close at \$323.98, and the Select cutout lost about a dollar to close at \$314.77.

Time Sensitive
Priority Handling
PERIODICAL:

WEEKLY CHOICE CUTOUT



5 AREA WEEKLY WTD AVERAGE STEER PRICE



Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures
See MARKETS on page 48

↓	↑	↓
LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$207.16	\$326.96	\$279.03
WEEK ENDING: 2-6-25		

COMMENTS

Down in numbers, up in quality

While the country is buzzing every single day with new records for all classes of cattle, by no means was anyone surprised by the latest annual Cattle inventory report. It's still very frustrating we couldn't have a report during the summer months as we've had in the past several years, but the January report was a "look and move on" release.



IPSEN

This being said, the national cow herd is down an additional 1% over last year's published numbers. Estimated at 27.9 million beef cows, the national cow herd is still declining. For reference, the 2020 report estimated the herd size at 31.3 million beef cows, a 3.4 million decrease in five years showing an annual decrease of 680,000 cows each year. This really isn't newsworthy since it's been reported on so heavily over the last several years. The latest data shows the cow herd being the smallest size in 64 years.

The calf crop size followed suit, down slightly, but the point to remember is the added poundage of carcass weights the previous calf crop is producing. While placements have held somewhat steady through these mind-boggling herd size decrease trends, beef production has been offset with carcass weights increasing, which has bumped up overall beef production by almost 2%. The genetic packages that are being sent off to the feedyards are so commendable and is the focal point that sticks out in my mind. For reference, carcass weights from the 1960s have increased by over 260 pounds. They've jumped almost 25 lbs. in the last year alone.

The cow-calf sector has been so resilient and adaptive to market signals. We all remember what cattle looked like in the '80s, and they don't compare in any form to the cattle being raised today, and this holds true when the hide is pulled. In my opinion, cattle perform, convert and grade on a scale that isn't comparable to the products being raised just a few decades ago. This is why the conversation is surfacing about revamping the grading system.

From my perspective, market signals being sent downward from the packer and consumer level have told the producer to raise cattle that meet a different standard. When larger ribeyes were needed, breeders produced cattle that had bigger ribeyes. When the larger ribeyes didn't support marbling density, the message was sent for carcasses to hold more marbling. While ribeye size and marbling were traditionally antagonistic traits, today's cattle are quite the opposite. Rarely do you find cattle leaning drastically one way or the other and those cattle are becoming a thing of the past. On top of this, yield grade scores of 4 or higher have continually decreased. So, larger ribeyes with added marbling without the extra fat cover have become the carcass norm, all while producers have added muscle, performance and conversion while reducing overall frame and skeleton.

Clearly, I think of the cow-calf producer as extraordinary in their abilities. Do you remember milking out bad-uddered cows in a snowstorm? Many of us do. Today, most of us don't touch an udder, assist calves very rarely and continue to build a cow herd that carries functional traits that make management a much easier task. I say this knowing there are always chores to do and cows needing assistance during the heart of calving season, but the frequency is much, much less.

In a conversation last week during the National Cattlemen's Beef Association convention, I had the opportunity to speak to a cattle buyer who handles several hundred thousand head each year. In this, he revealed to me the emphasis they are now placing on genetics that cattle have. By tracking the performance of the cattle they buy, genetic makeup is now being looked at as a major risk management tool. Genetics, according to him, are more important to them than they ever have before.

The genetic component is also becoming the story that is following the cattle and the story that is being relayed to the consumer. On top of value-added programs, genetics is a key component and will continue to be looked at with more and more scrutiny.

Right now, the heifer calf crop that is being fed out and was not retained by the rancher has continued to show that the production level is still being driven by input costs and financial incentive to sell a higher valued feeder calf. The economic pressure to sell heifer calves still outweighs retention, which means retention still isn't fully on the mind of producers. While the bred female market has taken a jump in value this fall, the number of females going back into the production system's needle hasn't moved. The national cowherd is taking a much slower approach to retention, and with economic pressure remains high, this will continue to curb replacement heifer retention. This will continue to drive a replacement heifer that carries a genetic punch that sets up the producer for continued marketability and reward. — **LOGAN IPSEN**

GUEST OPINION

The most recent USDA data show that total beef imports during the 2024 period January through November were up 24% compared to the same period in 2023. The largest surges in imports this last year came from three countries: Australian beef imports were up 67%, Brazilian beef imports were up 60% and Uruguayan beef imports were up 76%.

The U.S. has free trade agreements with Australia and Mexico and Canada, so beef from these countries can enter the U.S. with zero tariffs and with no quantity limits.

But the U.S. has both tariffs and quantity limits for imported beef entering from Brazil and Uruguay.

The tariffs that beef from Brazil and Uruguay are subject to are minimal, amounting to only about 2 cents per pound, so these tariffs alone are ineffective at discouraging large quantities of imports from these countries.

However, both Brazil and Uruguay are subject to a U.S. tariff rate quota that is supposed to discourage large quantities of imports that can displace domestic beef production.

Uruguay is subject to a tariff rate quota of about 44 million pounds and Brazil is among a group of countries that together share a tariff rate quota of about 143 million lbs. Now these tariff rate quota levels are supposed to discourage unlimited imports because any beef imported above these quantity limits is subject to the over quota tariff rate of 26.4%.

So, using Uruguay as the example, importers in the U.S. can import 44 million lbs. of Uruguayan beef for only 2 cents per pound, but if they import more than 44 million lbs., they have to pay a tariff of 26.4% of the value of all the beef imported above the 44 million-lb. limit. The purpose of the 26.4% over quota tariff rate is to ensure that imports from Uruguay do not undercut our domestic beef production in such volumes as to harm our industry.

During the first 11 months of 2024, importers had already brought in about 284 million lbs. of Uruguayan beef, which is 240 million lbs. more than what the U.S. had established as an equitable limit for Uruguayan imports. Thus, importers have exceeded the tariff rate quota for Uruguayan beef imports by a factor of over five.

During the same period in 2024, Brazilian imports exceeded the tariff rate quota that Brazil is subject to by over half a billion lbs. Thus, importers have exceeded the tariff rate quota for Brazil-

ian beef imports by a factor of almost four.

And remember, this is only for the first 11 months of 2024 as the entire year's data is not yet available from the USDA.

There are several truths that we can glean from simply analyzing these numbers: First, is that the 26.4% over quota tariff rate is way too low to serve its function of discouraging the importation of lower-cost beef above the level deemed necessary to protect our domestic beef supply chain.

Second, is that importers are trying to capture more of the U.S. domestic beef market. And third, the U.S. has failed to update its beef tariff rate quota system despite the fact that both Uruguay and Brazil have exceeded their respective tariff rate quotas for many years.

And while imports are soaring to new record levels, exports are not, leaving the U.S. with a mounting beef trade deficit, which is even worse as we're not even considering the beef derived from imported cattle in this discussion.

During the 2023 calendar year, we had a beef trade deficit of about 687 million lbs. But during just the first 11 months of 2024, that deficit has ballooned to nearly 1.5 billion lbs.

So, what is the risk to our domestic beef supply chain from not putting meaningful limits on lower-cost imports?

Obviously, if importers are allowed to capture more and more of our domestic beef market with lower-cost imports, those imports will displace domestic beef production, and more and more U.S. cattle producers will exit the industry and America's dependency on imported beef will likewise grow.

The latest agriculture census shows we've lost about 107,000 beef cattle operations between 2017 and 2022, and that trend will most likely continue if meaningful steps to limit imports are not taken soon.

Just look at what's happened to our U.S. sheep industry that has been subjected to unlimited imports for several years. Imported lamb meat from Australia skyrocketed, thousands of domestic sheep producers went out of business, domestic lamb production fell, and now imports have captured about 70% of our domestic lamb meat market.

I hope we can learn from our mistakes before it's too late for both our cattle and sheep industries. — **Bill Bullard, Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America CEO**

GUEST OPINION

THE IMPORTANCE OF AN INDEPENDENT FEDERAL RESERVE

Like the '20s of the 21st century, the '70s of the 20th century had an inflation problem. The problem persisted throughout the decade; indeed, it worsened. That was in significant part because early in the decade the Federal Reserve Board chair let himself be pushed around by the U.S. president.

Arthur Burns, the Federal Reserve Board chair under President Richard Nixon, gave into pressure from Nixon to cut interest rates and inflation worsened. Jerome Powell, the current Fed chair, is determined to cut in response to favorable data, not presidential demands. Avoiding it will require all the political skill and courage he can muster.

Through much of 1971, Fed chair Arthur Burns was telling Nixon that lowering interest rates in an inflationary economy was a mistake. Nixon persisted for an understandable though perhaps mistaken political reason.

For in addition to inflation the U.S. in the '70s had an uncomfortably high 6% unemployment rate. Nixon was pushing Burns to loosen monetary policy because, anticipating 1972, he judged unemployment a greater danger to his reelection than inflation. When Nixon finally threatened legislation to trim the Fed's independence, Burns folded.

Today the Fed's independence is back in the crosshairs. President Donald Trump lost patience with Fed Chair Jerome Powell not long after appointing him in 2018. He blasted him again the other day.

During a virtual session of the recent Davos forum, the president said he would demand lower interest rates. In a campaign appearance last year, he said the president should have a say on interest rates. Earlier last year some of his advisors prepared plans to put the Fed more under the executive branch's control.

As I noted in a post about those plans last May, every president wants low interest rates. Fearing financial market pushback, most however seethe in silence when the Fed doesn't give them what they want. Others, Nixon most famously, try to pressure the Fed.

The problem with this is that there are times when high interest rates are the painful medicine the economy needs. Without them, inflation can spin out of control, as it did in the '70s. Prolonged inflation can wreak havoc on an economy.

While high interest rates don't win public favor, neither does inflation, which probably cost the Democrats the last election. But the ill effects of inflation might be felt on some other politician's watch, the politician hopes. To the politician, high interest rates

and the economic slowdown they bring risk losing the next election.

And that's why Congress took interest-rate decisions out of the hands of politicians and created a relatively independent Federal Reserve Board. It's easier to make the unpopular decision to raise rates if you have a 14-year term as a Fed governor or are president of a regional Federal Reserve bank. Independence doesn't guarantee mistakes won't be made. It just increases the odds that if they're made, they'll be errors of economic judgment and not attempts to cull favor with voters.

The Fed's independence isn't absolute. Congress could pass legislation undoing it. The president appoints the governors and the Senate approves them. The Fed chair testifies regularly before Congressional committees and answers questions.

But having long terms and being removable only for cause, the governors do have a considerable measure of independence. Like any Fed chair, current chair Powell wants to keep it that way. During his six years as chair, Powell has proved politically astute in dealing with Congress.

Doing the same with this president will prove more challenging. At their January meeting, the seven governors and five Federal Reserve Bank presidents who sit on the rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) didn't give the president what he said he'd demand. Having lowered their benchmark interest rate a full percentage point since last September, the FOMC voted this time to keep rates unchanged.

At his post-meeting press conference, Powell said the Fed wants to see more progress in reducing inflation toward the Fed's 2% goal before cutting again. To questions about the president's comment that he would demand lower rates, Powell gave uncombative answers.

"I'm not going to have any response or comment whatsoever on what the president said. It's not appropriate for me to do so," Powell said. "The public should be confident that we will continue to do our work as we always have, focusing on using our tools to achieve our goals"—stable prices and maximum employment.

He said the Fed would continue to make its decisions by studying and analyzing economic data. "Don't look for us to do anything else."

Whether keeping his head down will work for Powell remains to be seen. — **Urban Lehner, DTN editor emeritus**

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Budget projections show minimal returns

NDSU Crop Budget Projections Show Minimal Returns for 2025 the North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension projected crop budgets for 2025 are available for the state's farmers, says Ron Haugen, NDSU Extension farm management specialist. The projected profits vary by region and crop.

izer cost will be somewhat higher than 2024.

"This year in most regions and for most crops the projected profitability is low or negative," Haugen shares. "Costs, as a total, are somewhat higher, but lower commodity prices are the main contributor to the lower profitability," he said.

"Chemical expenses are

"Costs, as a total, are somewhat higher, but lower commodity prices are the main contributor to the lower profitability."

—Ron Haugen

"In general terms, these budgets are guides for large multicounty regions," says Haugen. "Returns and costs can vary considerably between producers within a region. Also, the budgets estimate returns to labor and management with no consideration of price and yield variability or risk. A perfect comparison of crops is not achieved because different levels of labor, management and risk exist," he said.

"Regarding the 2025 budgets, soil fertility levels for the state are lower than average," says Haugen. "The heavy rains and good crop yield last year contributed to this. The fertilizer prices are flat to down slightly, but the application rate will be higher because of the lower fertility. Thus, the overall fertil-

generally flat. Fuel costs, interest costs and crop insurance premiums are down. Ownership costs and repairs are up. Some specialty crops may show a positive return, but usually have limited contracts and acreages, and also may have higher risk."

These budgets are intended to be used as a guide. Each individual is encouraged to develop their own budgets with their specific estimates. The NDSU Extension budgets are available online at ndsuhq.org/cropbudgets, or by searching online for NDSU Crop Budgets.

Online, a PDF version is available as well as Excel spreadsheets for producers to fill in their own estimates. Hard copies are available at NDSU Extension county offices. — NDSU Extension

Grassland Management School to be held in SD

South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension, the South Dakota Grassland Coalition and partner organizations are inviting landowners, agency staff and the public to attend the 2025 South Dakota Grassland Management School.

SDSU Extension is partnering with the South Dakota Grassland Coalition, Audubon Great Plains, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Natural Resource Conservation Service to host the school, which is on Feb. 11-12 at Cedar Shore Resort near Oacoma, SD.

Registration is required and is \$50 per person, which includes meals on both days. To register, visit the SDSU Extension Events page and search "grasslands". For those interested but unsure they can make it, contact Judge Jessop by Feb. 7 at 605-280-0127 or Judge.Jessop@sdconservation.net to be recorded as a potential walk-in.

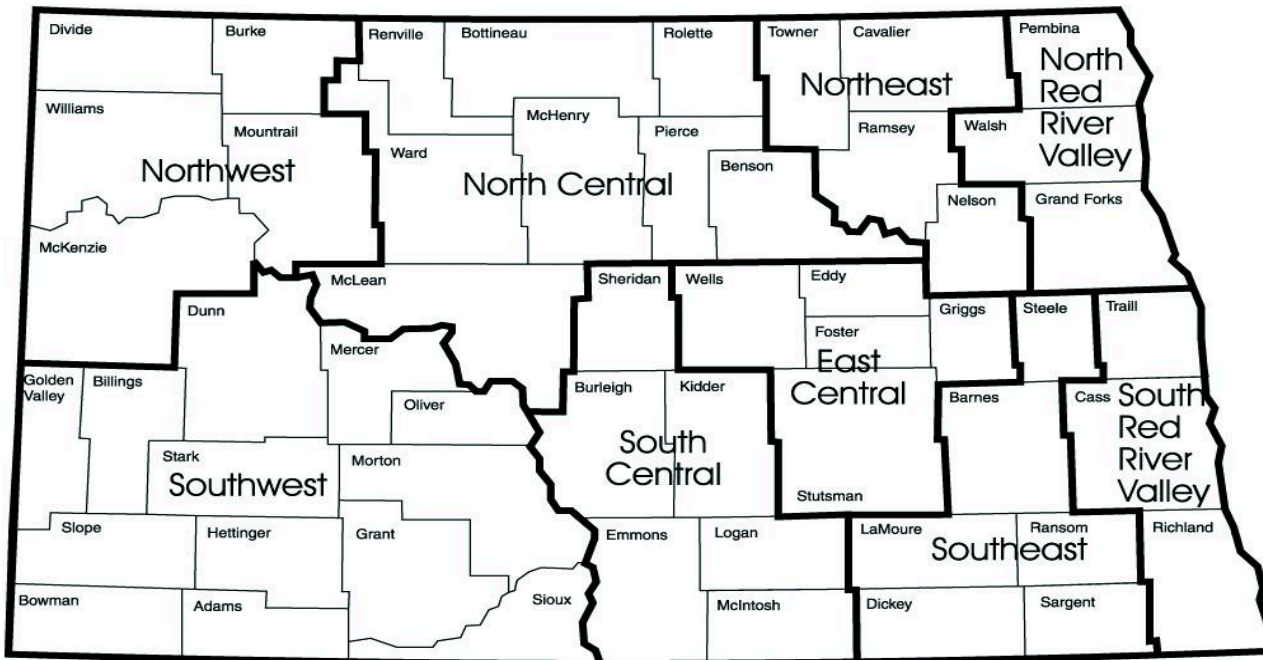
The school will start at 10 a.m. Feb. 11 with a session on customer service designed to help professionals understand how to better serve landowners and for landowners to have a better idea what to expect, includ-

ing input from landowners and professionals.

The event will also feature presentations and open discussions ranging from program coordination, personal grassland restoration projects, the science behind seed mixes, tools and techniques, and a team approach to setting and accomplishing goals.

This school is offered as part of the South Dakota Grassland Coalition's expanded education platform, which also includes the flagship grazing schools and recent prescribed fire schools. Pete Bauman, SDSU Extension Natural Resources and Wildlife field specialist, is excited to return this school to the coalition's education agenda.

"We're really looking forward to this opportunity to serve our grassland community," Bauman said. "We've not offered the classroom portion of this school for some time, and we have received many requests from landowners and agencies to put it on the agenda for 2025. Further, we hope to follow up this classroom portion with several site tours during the growing season." — SDSU Extension



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270 Yearling, PAP-Tested Angus Bulls

300 Open Commercial Replacement Females



Lot 1

SITZ Dignity 712M Reg # 20893453

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Claw	Angle	PAP
5	+3.4	96	164	1.56	0.32	0.39	-3.64
HP	Milk	CW	Marb	REA	\$M	\$C	
17.3	17	83	0.73	1.14	84	332	



Lot 5

SITZ Prefix 725M Reg # 20893463

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Claw	Angle	PAP
13	-2.7	69	121	0.76	0.27	0.34	-3.15
HP	Milk	CW	Marb	REA	\$M	\$C	
19.4	29	50	1.21	0.97	111	338	



Lot 35

SITZ Premium 716M Reg # 20893453

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Claw	Angle	PAP
4	2.4	82	145	1.19	0.40	0.35	-0.22
HP	Milk	CW	Marb	REA	\$M	\$C	
11.1	27	70	1.04	1.23	59	315	



Lot 66

SITZ Leverage 700M Reg # 20912562

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Claw	Angle	PAP
9	-0.2	72	128	0.70	0.40	0.44	0.64
HP	Milk	CW	Marb	REA	\$M	\$C	
16.8	27	58	0.80	0.41	89	272	



Lot 51

SITZ Pilot 514M Reg # 20893318

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Claw	Angle	PAP
10	-0.9	81	140	1.54	0.41	0.54	-0.96
HP	Milk	CW	Marb	REA	\$M	\$C	
22.7	38	61	1.03	1.03	98	320	



Lot 84

SITZ Unity 468M Reg # 20913496

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Claw	Angle	PAP
10	1.4	90	153	1.45	0.26	0.38	-2.18
HP	Milk	CW	Marb	REA	\$M	\$C	
10.5	29	61	0.71	0.75	84	275	

To find out more, visit SitzAngus.com

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Trump pauses Mexico, Canada tariffs for now

President Donald Trump and Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum on Feb. 3 said the U.S. will pause tariffs for one month following an agreement for 10,000 Mexican National Guard troops deploying to the border.

(Editor's note: Shortly before WLJ press time, Trump came to an agreement to also pause tariffs on Canada for 30 days.)

Trump, on social media, posted he had spoken to Sheinbaum and agreed to delay tariffs. "It was a very

friendly conversation where in she agreed to immediately supply 10,000 Mexican Soldiers on the Border separating Mexico and the United States.

"These soldiers will be specifically designated to stop the flow of fentanyl, and illegal migrants into our Country. We further agreed to immediately pause the anticipated tariffs for a one-month period during which we will have negotiations headed by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Secretary of Treasury Scott

Bessent, and Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick, and high-level Representatives of Mexico. I look forward to participating in those negotiations, with President Sheinbaum, as we attempt to achieve a 'deal' between our two Countries."

Sheinbaum's comments, posted on X, also reiterated the same message. "We had a good conversation with President Trump with great respect for our relationship and sovereignty; we reached a series of agreements: 1. Mex-

ico will immediately reinforce the northern border with 10,000 members of the National Guard to prevent drug trafficking from Mexico to the United States, particularly fentanyl. 2. The United States is committed to working to prevent the trafficking of high-powered weapons to Mexico. 3. Our teams will begin working today on two fronts: security and trade. 4. They are pausing tariffs for one month from now."

Mexico is the largest U.S. market for agricultural prod-

ucts right now at nearly \$30 billion expected for 2024. Mexico is the top market for U.S. corn, pork, poultry, dairy and wheat products.

The move reflects how Trump uses the threat of tariffs to extract concessions from other countries. A similar move happened over the past couple of weeks with Colombia over accepting migrants from the U.S.

Canadian tariffs

Canada on Feb. 2 posted a list of U.S. products that would be subject to tariffs as early as Feb. 4. The list of \$30 billion in U.S. products facing retaliatory tariffs from Canada includes a long list of food and agricultural products.

The Canadian government released a list of products to be subject to tariffs in retaliation for Trump's announced 25% tariffs on all Canadian products except energy, which will be subject to 10% tariffs.

Commodity markets and stock markets each opened down in early trading Monday in reaction to the tariff announcements over the weekend.

The Canadian list includes all kinds of agriculture products including poultry, pork, dairy, wheat, barley, rye, oats, rice, sunflowers, canola, sugar products, chocolates, pasta, fruits, vegetables, pasta, soups, wine, beer, distilled liquors, tobacco and wood products. Also included were animal feed supplements and harvesting equipment.

The list did not include beef, which is an \$824 million market. Also not on the list were corn or soybeans, but the U.S. exports only small volumes of those commodities to Canada.

U.S. baked goods, fresh vegetables, fruit, ethanol, processed food, dairy products and pet food are all billion-dollar export products to Canada, USDA data highlights. Canada is the largest export market for U.S. baked goods at \$2.8 billion in sales in 2023. Canada also was the top market for U.S. vegetables at \$1.97 billion. Canada accounts for nearly \$800 million in pork imports and \$500 million in poultry imports from the U.S. as well.

The Canadian announcement said, "These countermeasures are effective immediately and will remain in place until the U.S. eliminates its tariffs against Canada. Canada's countermeasures do not apply to U.S. goods that are in transit to Canada on the day on which they come into force."

The Canadian government also said in a news release it "intends to impose tariffs on an additional list of imported U.S. products, worth \$125 billion. This second list will be made available in the coming days, for a 21-day public comment period prior to implementation.

It will include products such as passenger vehicles, trucks and buses, steel and aluminum products, certain fruits and vegetables, aerospace products, beef, pork, dairy products, and more."

Canadian Minister of Finance and Intergovernmental Affairs Dominic LeBlanc said, "Canada and the U.S. are more than just trading partners. We are highly integrated economies—and this has greatly benefitted both of our countries, for more than 150 years.

"We want to preserve this relationship, but in the face of the unjustified U.S. tariffs against Canadian goods, we are taking action to protect our economy, our workers and our businesses. We will always stand for Canada."

Doug Ford, the premier of Ontario, announced that the Liquor Control Board of Ontario (LCBO) will pull all American products from its shelves starting Feb. 4. Ford said on X the LCBO sells nearly \$1 billion in American alcohol products. "Not anymore."

Also on Feb. 2, The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) wrote Trump urging an exemption on tariffs for Canadian potash and other fertilizers "especially as we approach the critical time of spring planting where nutrient delivery and application are essential for the harvests that fill American's dinner tables with abundant and affordable food."

TFI noted, "The U.S. relies on imports for over 95% of its potash fertilizer needs, with nearly 90% of that coming from Canada. Canada also supplies U.S. growers with over 8% of our nitrogen fertilizer needs, accounting for 25% of U.S. nitrogen fertilizer imports."

Trump signed three executive orders Saturday imposing 25% tariffs on Canada and Mexico and 10% tariffs on China. Trump stated the increase in "illegal aliens and drugs, including deadly fentanyl, constitutes a national emergency under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)."

On social media Sunday morning, Trump said "Canada, Mexico and China, and too many others to name, continue the decades long RIPOFF OF AMERICA, both in regards to TRADE, CRIME AND POISONOUS DRUGS that are allowed to so freely flow into AMERICA."

Trump added, "MAKE YOUR PRODUCT IN THE USA AND THERE ARE NO TARIFFS!" He stated, "THIS WILL BE THE GOLDEN AGE OF AMERICA. WILL THERE BE SOME PAIN? YES, MAYBE (AND MAYBE NOT!)"

In a separate post, Trump said the U.S. spends billions of dollars to subsidize Canada. "There is no reason. We don't need anything they have. We have unlimited Energy, should make our own Cars, and we have more Lumber than we can ever use.

"Without this massive subsidy, Canada ceases to exist as a viable Country. Harsh, but true! Therefore, Canada should become our Cherished 51st State. Much lower taxes, and far better military production for the people of Canada—AND NO TARIFFS!" — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor and Jerry Hagstrom, DTN political correspondent**

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MR Courage 33713



CED +8
BW +21
WW +74
YW +120
Milk +25

AAA 21124716 BD 06/06/2023
BW-78 Adj WW-708 PAP-44 SC-41


MR Stunner 38313



CED +2
BW +2.8
WW +71
YW +125
Milk +31

AAA 21124779 BD 05/28/2023
BW-74 Adj WW-678 PAP-44 SC-42


MR Modify 32693



CED +4
BW +0.7
WW +52
YW +90
Milk +19

AAA 21140259 BD 05/27/2023
BW-76 Adj WW-651 PAP-43 SC-38.5


MR 406 Titus L1



CED +2
BW +3.3
WW +69
YW +131
Milk +24

AAA 20887863 BD 05/17/2023
BW-96 Adj WW-600 PAP-42 SC-42

MR 38 Special 38123



CED +5
BW +1.4
WW +72
YW +117
Milk +30

AAA 21124777 BD 05/28/2023
BW-76 Adj WW-668 PAP-39 SC-42


MR Double 34513



CED +6
BW +0.4
WW +52
YW +108
Milk +27

AAA 21124726 BD 05/24/2023
BW-76 Adj WW-680 PAP-48 SC-39.5


MR Command 36633



CED +7
BW +1.0
WW +58
YW +108
Milk +20

AAA 20234673 BD 06/01/2023
BW-74 Adj WW-628 PAP-39 SC-38.5

MR Modify 10893



Commercial BD 05/17/2023
BW-86 Adj WW-722 PAP-46 SC-40.5

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40 PAP

CED +5
BW -.4
WW +77
YW +136
SW +85

Sire: Sitz Threshold 9901
MGS: Sitz Logo 8148

Lot 4 SD ROYALTY 0023-4178



38 PAP

CED +11
BW -1.0
WW +87
YW +147
SW +91

Sire: SITZ Royalty 1299
MGS: SD Final Answer 5081

Lot 8 SD LOGO 7269-4725



31 PAP

CED +4
BW +1.1
WW +95
YW +174
SW +86

Sire: Sitz Logo 8148
MGS: S A V Renown 3439

Lot 12 SD STEP UP 4017



38 PAP

CED +4
BW +2.9
WW +88
YW +153
SW +67

Sire: EZAR Step Up 9178
MGS: M A R Fortitude 709

Lot 17 SD LOGO 0539-4270



37 PAP

CED +3
BW +2.1
WW +8
YW +155
SW +88

Sire: Sitz Logo 8148
MGS: Jindra Acclaim

Lot 43 SD FINAL ANSWER 4153



38 PAP

CED +2
BW +2.6
WW +79
YW +139
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Sire: SD Final Answer 5081
MGS: S A V Rainfall 6846

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Kennedy warns about ag chemicals, says regenerative practices are needed

In his two days of confirmation hearings before different committees, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said there are clusters of diseases in rural America tied to farm chemicals that require incentives to give farmers an “off-ramp” from intensive chemical agriculture.

Kennedy, who is nominated to be secretary of Health and Human Services, had more discussions about farming practices and agricultural chemicals in his hearings than the new head of EPA and the nominee to lead USDA.

Kennedy testified before the Senate Finance Committee and again in a separate hearing before the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP).

Along with Kennedy’s views on vaccines and a range of other topics, Kennedy was asked about obesity, chronic diseases, chemicals in food, and ultra-processed foods, which fall under the oversight of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is part of HHS. Sen. Bill Cassidy, (R-LA), a physician and chair of the HELP

Committee, told Kennedy he “is totally in agreement” on concerns about ultra-processed foods and obesity.

Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) also noted in her comments to Kennedy, “I am particularly attracted by the focus on chronic diseases.”

Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS) also a physician, asked Kennedy in each hearing to talk about chronic diseases. Kennedy said the country faces an epidemic of chronic diseases, neurological diseases, allergies and obesity.

Genes may have some ties, Kennedy said, but there also is an “environmental toxin” at play.

“Something is poisoning the American people, and we know the primary culprit is our food, our changing food supply—the switch to highly chemical, intensive-processed foods.”

Kennedy noted cereals in Canada and Europe don’t have the dyes and ingredients that the same companies use in the U.S. He said these issues also haven’t been sufficiently studied. “We need to get a handle on this, because if we don’t,

it’s an existential threat.”

Marshall said he also shared Kennedy’s concerns about ultra-processed foods, but when it comes to farmers and ranchers, Marshall said they grow what the market wants them to grow.

Kennedy said he had talked to Sen. Josh Hawley (R-MO) who had indicated his brothers-in-law, who are farmers, have Parkinson’s disease. Kennedy then added, “And that is the kind of cluster we’re seeing across farm country of cancers, autoimmune diseases, obesity, etc. It’s why we now cannot export American food to Europe because the Europeans won’t take our food. That’s not good for farmers.”

Kennedy added, “We’re also destroying our soil because of some of the chemicals that farmers use are destroying the microbiome, and that causes the erosion of the soil. You can’t get water infiltration. Water pools up and washes the soil off.

“Agronomists now estimate that we only have—if we continue doing these processes—only 60 harvests left before our soil is gone. Farmers are using seeds and chemicals that are—long term—are costing them and us.”

Kennedy continued, saying the country needs to support farmers to transition. “I don’t want to regulate farmers. That’s under USDA, but I want to partner with all of my decisions, with USDA and with the farmers, to make sure we don’t lose any more farmers in this country.”

Kennedy then added, “But we also transition. We offer and incentivize transition to regenerative agriculture, to no-till agriculture and to less chemical investment.”

Kennedy said he had met with people in the chemical and fertilizer industry, “and they want the same thing.” He added, “I think we’re on the trajectory to do that, and we need incentives to accelerate that trajectory.”

In his hearing Wednesday, Kennedy said his Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) campaign will not succeed without the support of farmers.

“There is illness all over the farm community and it undoubtedly related to the intensity of chemical pesticides.”

Kennedy added, “Farmers are using seeds and chemicals that are over the long term are costing them and us,” he said, adding, “We need farmers as partners if we are going to make MAHA work.”

Back on the environmental toxins, Kennedy said there should be much more focus on these issues.

“Why aren’t we devoting science to finding out what those toxins are and then eliminating them?”

Marshall said Kansas farmers are selling to Europe and are engaged in “regenerative practices soil health. All of those things are priorities for Kansas farmers.”

“Many of us are doing those things already. We just need it to be more widespread.”

It should be noted the Biden administration spent \$3.1 billion to promote climate-smart practices, which included incentives to help farmers convert to no-till production, grow cover crops and reduce chemical inputs. The Inflation Reduction Act also included \$19.5 billion to beef up USDA conservation programs long-term in a similar vein.

In the Senate Finance Committee hearing Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) told Kennedy to stick to oversight of food instead of farm production.

“I expect you to leave agricultural practice regulations to the proper agencies, and for the most part that is USDA and EPA,” Grassley said.

There was no discussion about oversight of agricultural chemicals during the confirmation hearing for Lee Zeldin, the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) new administrator.

Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee also did not ask Brooke Rollins about farm chemicals or how she would work with Kennedy when it comes to chemicals in food products.

During Rollins’ hearing, Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) raised concerns about childhood obesity and tied it to the need for healthier school lunches. Booker told Rollins, “60% of children’s calories come from ultra-processed foods. Many of them have unhealthy levels of salt and added sugar.”

Rollins said she believes “this is a crisis” and pointed to Kennedy raising that issue as part of Trump’s campaign. “I am encouraged that it is now a priority and look forward to working on it with everyone.”

Sen. Peter Welch (D-VT) was the only senator to bring up “regenerative agriculture” during Rollins hearing as well.

Welch told Rollins, “So without having the climate discussion, I want to make certain that I can have some confidence that our farmers who are adopting regenerative agriculture practices organic agriculture, are doing things that, by all estimations, make for good, healthy crops, but also reduce carbon emissions that will continue to make that possible, and they’ll get paid to do it, not just be passed through regulations to bear the burden.” — Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor



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CW	MARB	RE	\$M	\$W	\$F	\$G	\$B	\$C
+50	+1.51	+1.7	+45	+68	+83	+83	+166	+260



3166 Myers Fair-N-Square M39 x SD Tripwire A689
AAA 21145831 BD: 09-13-2023

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	DOC	PAP	HP	MILK
+6	+1.0	+83	+143	+2.8	+22	+2.0	+13.2	+25
CW	MARB	RE	\$M	\$W	\$F	\$G	\$B	\$C
+56	+0.84	+0.44	+69	+81	+101	+56	+157	+273



3194 GB Fireball 672 x 3String Prophet 80492
AAA 21145766 BD: 09-15-2023

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	DOC	PAP	HP	MILK
+10	+5	+85	+138	+3.2	+17	-.47	+12.5	+25
CW	MARB	RE	\$M	\$W	\$F	\$G	\$B	\$C
+70	+1.58	+1.37	+72	+86	+109	+106	+215	+351



3193 HCC Whitewater 9010 x Connealy Consensus 7229
AAA 21145700 BD: 09-14-2023

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	DOC	PAP	HP	MILK
+10	-1	+60	+103	-.09	+20	+1.72	+5.2	+22
CW	MARB	RE	\$M	\$W	\$F	\$G	\$B	\$C
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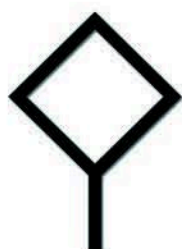


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MGS: 3C PASQUE Y1539 B **SIMANGUS**

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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**

EGL CAPTIVATE 624L



SIRE: ROCKIN H CAPTIVATE J75 **DOB:** 5/21/23
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Biofuels policy questions left open with new leaders

Biofuels industry officials said they still are trying to get a read on how a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) led by Lee Zeldin will approach the big-ticket issues for biofuels producers and farmers.

That includes the need to set already-late Renewable Fuel Standard volumes for 2026 and perhaps multiple years, as well as potentially taking steps to make permanent year-round national sales of E15—although that may be up to Congress. In addition, the future of

the 45Z Clean Fuels Production tax credit still remains foggy.

Perhaps the biggest question mark is whether Congress will be willing to tackle E15 in upcoming budget bills this spring.

Speaking at the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association summit in Altoona, IA, biofuels industry officials weighed in on what's next in the biofuels policy arena.

At the end of 2024, national year-round E15 was included in a large federal government funding pack-

age—only to later be removed in a final bill passed and signed into law.

Anthony Reed, a partner at FGS Global, a strategic advisory and communications consultant company that works with agriculture and biofuels groups, said during the summit that he expects Congress to revisit E15 soon.

There is talk about Congress considering two funding bills by March. Reed said there is bipartisan support in Washington, including the White House, to do

something about E15 once and for all, perhaps as part of one of those bills.

Reed said E15 was a "victim of procedure" during the reconciliation funding debate at the end of last year. Congress removed all items that had nothing to do with funding the government, including year-round E15.

"Everything that had no impact on funding was stripped out," Reed said, hoping the industry would have "another bite at the apple" in March.

Eight Midwest states including Ohio, Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, South Dakota and Wisconsin requested the EPA to make year-round E15 sales permanent in their states. The rule finalized by EPA was delayed to April 2025. In addition, Ohio Republican Gov. Mike DeWine asked the Trump administration to delay implementation,

Because a new Trump administration executive order declares an energy emergency and mentions granting another waiver to allow E15 sales to continue nationally during the summer, Reed said it may show what the Trump EPA is thinking about the states' request.

Reed said the administration may be "inclined to delay" the implementation of the E15 rule for the states for another year.

Monte Shaw, executive director of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, said the downturn in agriculture comes from lower demand for ag products such as corn.

Allowing permanent year-round E15 sales across the country, he said, would boost the ag economy.

"I don't really want to spend more time talking about the need to hold the line on an eight-state solution," Shaw said.

"Congress should pass a permanent E15 fix, and they should do it without further delay. At a time when the ethanol industry, ag industry, fuel retailers, and yes, even the American Petroleum Institute all agree on this issue, it just shouldn't be this hard to get it done."

Shaw said he has heard that Speaker of the House Mike Johnson (R-LA-04) "promised" he would "get an E15 fix" in the next funding package.

Recent press reports indicate the U.S. Senate wants to take up spending legislation in two separate bills, but there's concern about whether the House could pass two spending bills with just a slim three-member Republican majority.

Kevin Studer, vice president of government relations for the Iowa Corn Growers Association, said there is a "sentiment out there" that the Trump administration wants to get E15 "behind them and move on."

for biomass-based diesel, the multi-year so-called set rule that included volumes for 2023 through 2025 came up short as the industry produced volumes above the RFS.

Rehagen said agency officials have admitted to the group that volumes were not set high enough. Either way, industry officials have indicated they want the EPA to set volumes for multiple years at a time.

"We've had EPA get it wrong on a year-to-year basis," Rehagen said. "To get as many as three years in a row is dampening our confidence. The industry wants a vision of growth."

Shaw said he would lean toward EPA setting volumes for two years instead of three in a single proposal because "if they get it wrong, then the certainty is it will be bad for three years."

No matter EPA's decision on the RFS going forward, industry leaders said the new Trump administration needs to be up front about what it has planned for small-refinery exemptions (SRE).

"The timing on the SRE policy is really important to understand before we get a multi-year RFS," Reed said.

Currently there are 139 small-refinery exemption requests pending. During the first Trump administration, the EPA would finalize RFS volumes, only to follow up with large numbers of exemptions.

By the time Trump left office, Reed said the president "came to a very good understanding" of how RFS volumes work and why waivers hurt the biofuels industry.

"RVOs (renewable volume obligations) were meaningless because of SREs," Reed said.

Biodiesel and renewable diesel producers across the country have been slowing or shutting down production, because of what industry officials say is a lack of clarity on the new 45Z Clean Fuels Production tax credit.

The biodiesel blenders tax credit of \$1 per gallon expired at the end of 2024, as the industry is making a transition to the 45Z.

On the way out, the Biden administration provided some guidance on 45Z, although many key details are still missing.

"The vagueness of the guidance has everyone a bit unsettled," Rehagen said.

The industry has done some calculations based on what the Biden administration released.

"Early on calculations show biodiesel and renewable diesel producers are not even getting \$1 per gallon with 45Z," Rehagen said.

Depending on the feedstocks used, he said, producers would be getting anywhere from 30 to 60 cents per gallon.

"There needs to be a formal rule finalized," Rehagen said. "There is a lack of clarity." — **Todd Neeley, DTN environmental editor**



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USDA survey shows 86% of producers are small family farms

— 96% owned by families

Farms in the U.S. encompass a wide range of operations, but the latest USDA Agricultural Resource Management Survey shows that 86% are small family farms operating on 41% of the nation's agricultural land and contributing 17% of total production value.

The 2023 USDA report analyzed data from approximately 14,700 farms, classifying them as family or nonfamily based on ownership. Family farms, primarily owned by operators and their relatives, are categorized by gross cash farm income (GCFI) and operator roles:

Small family farms (GCFI under \$350,000):

- Retirement farms: Operated by individuals retired from full-time farming but continuing small-scale operations.

- Off-farm-occupation farms: Run by operators with primary jobs outside farming.

- Farming-occupation farms: Led by operators identifying farming as their primary profession, further divided into low-sales (GCFI < \$150,000) and moderate-sales (GCFI \$150,000-349,999).

Midsize family farms: (GCFI \$350,000-999,999).

Large-scale family farms: These include large farms (GCFI \$1-4.9 million) and very large farms (GCFI \$5 million-plus).

Nonfamily farms, by contrast, include operations owned by unrelated individuals or corporations, or managed by hired professionals.

Farms and production

According to the survey, in 2023, large-scale family farms were a dominant force in U.S. agriculture, producing 48% of the total value of agricultural output while managing 31% of the nation's farmland. USDA said these farms led in the production of cash grains and soybeans (52%), cotton (71%), dairy (77%) and specialty crops (59%). Midsize family farms, by comparison, ac-

counted for 18% of agricultural land and total production value.

Despite their smaller scale, small family farms contributed significantly to specific sectors. The survey said they produced 45% of the nation's hay and 46% of poultry and egg output, much of which is contracted production, where farmers are paid a fee for raising poultry or managing egg operations. These farms also accounted for 22% of the value of beef production, often focusing on cow-calf operations, while large-scale family farms, which contributed 39% of beef production, typically operated feedlots.

In total, the survey found that family farms represented 96% of all U.S. farms and generated 83% of the country's agricultural output.

The survey found that nonfamily farms, which made up 4% of all U.S. farms in 2023, increased their contribution to the agricultural sector. They now account for 17% of the total value of production, up from 11% in 2022. Their production ranged from 8% of the total value for hay to 28% for specialty crops. Notably, the share of beef production by nonfamily farms rose sharply, from 11% in 2022 to 26% in 2023, underscoring their expanding role in U.S. agriculture.

Financial performance

According to the USDA survey, the agriculture sector demonstrated robust financial performance in 2023, with net cash income exceeding the inflation-adjusted 10-year average by 11%. However, financial outcomes varied widely across farm types, with small family farms and nonfamily farms facing significant challenges. Depending on their type, 52% and 85% of small family farms and 53% of nonfamily farms operated in the high-risk zone, defined as an operating profit margin (OPM) below 10%.

In contrast, USDA said midsize, large and very large family farms showed stronger fi-

ancial stability. The survey revealed that 37% of midsize farms and 42% of large and very large farms operated in the low-risk zone, with OPMs of at least 25%. With OPMs between 10% and 25%, medium-risk farms ranged from 4% among low-sales family farms to 29% among very large family farms.

The USDA survey showed participation in federal crop insurance programs also increased in 2023, with 16% of farms enrolled, up from 14% in 2022. Row crop farms led participation at 66%, while specialty crop and livestock farms lagged at 17% and 12%, respec-

tively. Midsize and large-scale family farms accounted for 42% of participants, managing 67% of harvested cropland and receiving the same share of indemnity payments. Nonfamily farms saw a notable increase in program engagement, receiving 18% of indemnities in 2023, compared to 8% the previous year.

Household performance

In 2023, the median total income for U.S. family farm households reached \$97,984, surpassing the median income of all U.S. households

(\$80,610) and the inflation-adjusted 10-year average of \$95,025, according to USDA data.

Income levels varied widely across farm types, with households operating very large family farms earning a median of over \$1.02 million annually, while low-sales family farms reported a median income of \$58,300. Both low-sales and retirement farm households fell below the median income for all U.S. households and households with self-employment income (\$104,949).

USDA reported average farm incomes of -\$3,700 for off-farm occupation house-

holds and -\$5,700 for low-sales households in 2023. Most U.S. farm households (85%) relied on off-farm income as their primary source, using it to offset farm expenses when necessary. The reliance on off-farm income decreased as farm size increased, with fewer large family farms depending on outside earnings. However, even among very large family farm households, 11% reported earning more than half their income from off-farm sources, highlighting the diverse financial dynamics within U.S. agriculture. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

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NDSU to host horse management webinar

Horse owners, stable managers and equine enthusiasts will have the opportunity to learn management strategies and ask questions during a webinar series North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension is hosting at noon on March 12, 19 and 26. Topics will include breeding management of mares in Northern climates, foaling and foal management in Northern climates and managing horses on small acreages in North Dakota.

"The goal of these webinars is to empower our equine owners in North Dakota to confidently apply what we share to their breeding and foaling experience as well as management of facilities and small land bases," said Mary Keena, Extension livestock environmental management

specialist at NDSU's Carrington Research Extension Center.

"Northern climates present unique management situations for our animals, land and facilities," said Paige Brummund, NDSU Extension's agriculture and natural resources agent in Ward County.

"We experience extreme cold, mud, freeze-thaw cycles, high winds, drought and sometimes a lack of available land. Understanding various animal and facility management strategies when it comes needs and comforts of our horses can lead to a more pleasurable ownership experience."

The webinar presenters are Keena and Brummund. Visit ndsu.ag/horsewebinar25 to register for the webinars. — **NDSU Extension**

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Important tips for feeding cattle in winter

Winter is upon us, and for cattle producers, the wind and precipitation can make feeding cattle a challenge. Add the fact that most herds calve this time of year, meaning that cows' nutritional needs are at their highest. Feeding cattle in winter can become a real chore!

Feeding cattle in winter is critical to management, especially in regions where forage quality declines significantly during colder months. Proper nutrition during this period ensures cattle health, productivity and reproductive performance. However, low-quality

forage alone often cannot meet the nutritional demands of cattle during winter.

Winter months mean challenges—everything from lower forage availability to reduced quality. Native pastures, crop residues and conserved forages such as hay are common feed sources during this time. However, their nutritional value often fades due to maturity at harvest, prolonged storage or exposure to adverse weather conditions.

Low-quality forage typically contains higher fiber content and lower concentrations of

digestible nutrients such as protein and energy. This reduction impacts rumen function and limits the ability of cattle to extract nutrients. Forage with a crude protein content below 7% may not provide sufficient nitrogen for the rumen microbes to thrive. As a result, forage intake and digestion rates decrease, further compounding the nutrient deficit.

Optimize feeding cattle in winter

Test hay and silage for nutri-

tional content, including protein, energy and mineral levels. Supplement poor-quality forage with grain, protein blocks or balanced feeds to meet the cattle's dietary needs. At BioZyme, makers of VitaFerm, we offer our customers complimentary hay testing services so they know the nutritional value of their hay. Once our nutritionists receive the hay analysis, they can work with the producer to determine the best supplementation program.

Cattle require more energy to maintain body temperature

in cold weather. Provide higher-energy feed such as corn or other grains to ensure they maintain their body condition. Protein for cattle is essential for growth, reproduction and milk production. Include protein-rich feeds like alfalfa, soybean meal or commercial supplements if forage protein levels are insufficient.

Dehydration can occur even in winter. Prevent water from freezing by using heated waterers or regularly breaking the ice. Water intake and appetite are directly correlated, and cattle consume less feed if water intake is inadequate.

Maintain a regular feeding schedule to support rumen health and digestion. Feed cattle during the warmest part of the day to minimize stress from cold temperatures.

Monitor the body condition of your cattle regularly. Thin animals may need additional feed to regain weight, while over-conditioned cattle should have adjusted rations to prevent metabolic issues.

Protect cattle from harsh weather by providing shelter or windbreaks. Reduced exposure to cold winds decreases their energy requirements. If the ground is frozen or mud exists, consider bedding the ground with stalks or straw to give the cattle relief from wet or frozen ground.

Following these tips can keep your herd healthy and productive throughout the winter. Proper nutrition and care are key to maintaining

herd performance and profitability.

More volatile fatty acid production provides the extra energy needed for thermoregulation, which will also help keep her warm in the cold winter months.

"Amaferm can help unlock the nutritional value of all types of forages. Amaferm goes beyond stimulating the growth of beneficial rumen bacteria and can also promote rumen fungal growth and enzymatic activity. This increases fiber digestibility and volatile fatty acid production by 17% and 16%, respectively. As such, more energy becomes available to your cows, leading to more performance," said Chris Cassady, Ph.D., BioZyme beef technical sales manager.

Amaferm also helps your feedstuffs and forages go further, helping decrease the overall cost.

"Research proves that cattle fed Amaferm synthesize 143 more grams of microbial protein each day. That's enough protein equivalent to a pound of supplemented soybean meal available for the cow or heifer," Cassady said. "Additional protein from Amaferm in a year-round supplemental program helps producers reduce the need for additional protein up to 40% annually, a huge continuous savings on feed costs."

Providing supplements for your herd at critical times is an important part of feeding cattle in winter. — **Biozyme**

Taking stock of feed resources

In Nebraska, February is typically the halfway mark through winter. As we move toward the later half of the season, now may be a good time to take stock of feed resources.

How is your hay stockpile looking at this point in the winter? We really want to avoid having to purchase more this late in the game to make it to spring, but if that is the case, how can we avoid it next year? If we decide to raise our own, annual forages can provide a quick yield. If this problem keeps occurring, maybe expanding grass or alfalfa acres is worth consideration. Of course we need to keep an eye on the forecast. If irrigation isn't an option, forage plans require adequate precipitation to happen.

Speaking of perennial fields, how did they yield last year? Is it time to renovate grass or alfalfa hayground? If we need to tear out an old alfalfa stand to give a year's rest before a new seeding, we need to start planning now. Even planning to interseeding a grass field with legumes should happen quickly.

Maybe a full renovation isn't

needed, but some fertilization to boost yield would help. Plan for soil sampling if it hasn't already been done in the fall and figure out timing of applications now. Remember not all plants grow at the same time of year, so the timing of fertilizer needs to be matched with your predominant species.

Finally, it's worth looking at the overall financial standing of your forage operation. Is new equipment needed? Can the costs be justified? We might even weigh the pros and cons of producing hay ourselves vs. buying it or having it custom harvested. This isn't limited to the balance sheet, but labor, scheduling, and quality of forage all need to be considered.

While we might not appreciate the hardships, winter brings time to take stock of our current operations and plan for the future. Looking at current hay stocks, last year's yields, and weighing out all options available may not be a task we look forward to, but it can make a huge difference in success for the upcoming year. — **Ben Beckman, Nebraska Extension**



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COMING EVENTS

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

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.



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LOT 99



AHA 44509761
DOB: 08.27.23
CED 1.00
BW 2.3
WW 76
YW 117
MM 45
REA 0.80
MARB 0.62
CHB 193

C 8140 BARRACUDA 3352 ET

This one is in elite company when it comes to \$CHB and IMF. His dam 8140 is a full sister to Guardians mother and they have the ability to pass so much carcass quality to offspring while still maintaining maternal excellence. This horned bull should be in high demand.

LOT 61



AHA 44559388
DOB: 01.20.24
CED 11.40
BW 0.5
WW 64
YW 98
MM 31
REA 0.88
MARB 0.53
CHB 169

C VALS CUDA 4162

One of the best options in the offering for a double digit calving ease sire but still has the carcass numbers to put out a great set of feeding cattle. He is out of a first calf heifer that goes back to the Bailee cow family. Moderate sized, dark red and has lots of rib shape and muscle shape.

LOT 69



AHA 44559411
DOB: 01.02.24
CED -0.30
BW 3.7
WW 77
YW 121
MM 31
REA 1.08
MARB 0.14
CHB 1.62

C SHERMAN 4189

This Sherman son should be on everyone's short list. The nice thing about him is both young and old cattlemen can appreciate this kind. He is dark red and smooth made with just the right amount of size and shape. He was named Reserve Champion overall bull in Reno and we feel he will be the kind for the long haul.

LOT 71



AHA 44559417
DOB: 01.02.24
CED 6.00
BW 1.2
WW 63
YW 98
MM 31
REA 0.72
MARB 0.28
CHB 157

C 8019 SHERMAN 4196 ET

Without question this will be a pen bull for Denver and one that will have many fans. He has the body and build that we are looking for and a cow family behind him that makes him so easy to tie to and use hard as a herd sire. We feel this is one of the best Sherman sons available and some outcross genetics.

LOT 73



AHA 44559421
DOB: 02.20.24
CED 1.80
BW 3.1
WW 63
YW 93
MM 31
REA 0.60
MARB 0.63
CHB 177

C 1101 ARLO 4201 ET

One of 3 full brothers in this offering sired by Arlo and out of the high selling female 1101 to GKB cattle in Texas. Some of his brothers have slightly better genomics but we feel this ones phenotype is the best. She is one if the breeds highest CHB cows that goes back to 8140 who is Bell Heirs full sister. Dark red and lots of pigment for generations.

LOT 74



AHA 44559422
DOB: 01.04.24
CED 6.20
BW 0.2
WW 68
YW 110
MM 28
REA 1.00
MARB 0.49
CHB 193

C 79H SHERMAN 4202 ET

This will be a pen bull for Denver and he will anchor a strong set that have not only the phenotype and look but also the EPD values that are in demand. Study his calving ease and birth values but then he is able to tickle a 200 \$CHB. He is dark red and has the ability to enhance any breeding program and take it to the next level.

LOT 98



AHA 44509754
DOB: 08.23.23
CED 4.60
BW 3.2
WW 69
YW 113
MM 25
REA 0.50
MARB 0.42
CHB 172

C 8019 GUARDIAN 3343 ET

This Guardian son comes from a long line of great cow families being out of donor dam 8019. She is also the mother of a previous high selling bull Key West who is producing great females. Not only does he have the maternal package but he also is in the top 2% of the breed for \$CHB and top 4% for IMF.

LOT 183



AHA 20959744
DOB: 01.17.24
BW 2.2
WW 85
YW 141
SC 1.46
CEM 7.00
MILK 4
\$W 83
\$F 110
\$G 60
\$B 170
\$C 307

C REPUBLIC LAD 4165

This herd sire rises to the top of his contemporary group and is a true representation of the quality of the Republic sired cattle. He is out of a first calf heifer who is now a donor dam after weaning this bull with a 121 ratio. His EPD profile is so balanced where maternal and carcass traits are both combined into a phenotypic package that makes him so easy to find in a pen.

LOT 192



AHA 20772272
DOB: 08.17.23
BW -1.1
WW 85
YW 151
SC 0.61
CEM 14.00
MILK 33
\$W 93
\$F 101
\$G 82
\$B 184
\$C 352

CCC 0166 CRAFTSMAN 3223 ET

This one is a true genetic powerhouse on paper with jaw dropping indexes for both maternal and carcass quality. He has the highest combined value of any bull in the offering and is out of our strongest cow families. Tess 0166 has made a name for herself at a young age as she was also the donor dam of the high selling bull in the 2024 sale and the high selling Angus female in the fall sale.



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Another successful year for the annual Red Bluff events

The 84th annual Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale, held from Jan. 21-25 in Red Bluff, CA, continued its tradition of showcasing premier livestock and attracting Western attendees from across the western U.S. This year's event featured a series of auctions, competitions and social gatherings that highlighted the best in the ranching industry.

The bull sale, a cornerstone of the event, took place on Jan. 25. A total of 282 bulls representing 10 different breeds, including Angus, Balancer, Hereford and Polled Hereford, were presented to a large audience of buyers and enthusiasts. The sale achieved an impressive average price of \$7,811 per bull, a true testament of the high quality of breeding bulls of-

fered. On Jan. 24, the gelding sale featured 38 geldings, 13 mares, and 13 two-year-olds, attracting significant interest from attendees. The total sales amounted to \$1,177,250, with an average price of \$18,395 per horse. This reflects the event's reputation for offering top-tier ranch horses that meet the rigorous standards set by the long-

standing organizing committee. The stock dog sale also took place on Jan. 24, with 16 dogs showcased in three rounds of competition. These working dogs are essential partners in ranching operations, and their inclusion in the sale highlights the comprehensive nature of the event. Western Video Market

held their annual January online feeder sale in conjunction with the Red Bluff replacement female section on Jan. 23, offering over 20,000 head. There was huge market support on feeders, concluding with the best female sale to date. Fall pairs ranged from \$3,700-4,100. All spring-bred cattle sold for over \$3,000. One set of spring-delivered fall bred heifers set the mark at \$4,100 per head.

bull riding and ranch bronc riding competitions, drawing large crowds and adding an exciting finale to the sale.

Quality and tradition

Since its inception in 1941, the Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale has maintained a steadfast commitment to quality and excellence. The event has evolved into a premier destination for those in the ranching industry, offering not only top-tier livestock but also serving as a significant social gathering. The dedication of the organizing committee, composed of local ranchers and cattlemen, ensures that the event upholds its esteemed reputation year after year.

Beyond the sales and competitions, the event hosted one of the largest trade shows in the western U.S. Vendors from around the nation offered a diverse array of products, including agricultural equipment, handcrafted leatherwork, Western apparel, jewelry and home decor. The week was also filled with seminars, clinics, dinners and ample opportunities for networking and socializing within the ranching community.

The 2025 Red Bluff Bull & Gelding Sale successfully continued its legacy of excellence, providing a platform for showcasing superior livestock, facilitating valuable industry connections and celebrating the rich traditions of the western ranching community. — **Jared Patterson**, **WLJ** field representative

Concluding the week's activities, the Red Bluff Bucking Battle provided thrilling entertainment for attendees. This event featured top-tier

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Crystal Amen Photography
Carrying in the flag for the opening of the Red Bluff Bucking Battle.



Crystal Amen Photography
A contestant vies to beat the buzzer during the saddle bronc riding at the Red Bluff Bucking Battle.

RED BLUFF

THE VIEWPOINT

with BJ Macfarlane

This exclusive column found only in WLJ features unique perspectives from some of the nation's top producers, marketers, animal health experts, economists and more.

For more than eight decades, the Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale has served as the defining Western event in the West, drawing some of the best cattle, horses and stock dogs in the region. The weeklong shows and sales are testament to the resilience of the Western lifestyle, where quality stock, hard-earned reputations and deep-rooted traditions come together under the legendary "Red Bluff standard."

At the helm of it all is sale manager B.J. Macfarlane.

B.J. has served in his capacity since the fall of 2021. With a fourth successful event now behind him and a well-earned break on the horizon, B.J. sat down with *WLJ* to reflect on the 2025 Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale.

"The economic impact it has for Red Bluff and Northern California is extravagant," he told *WLJ*. He emphasized that the event wouldn't be possible without the tireless dedication and countless hours put in by the staff, volunteers and sponsors. "I respect that they put the hours in to make sure this happens," B.J. said.

This year marked the 84th annual bull sale, 63rd gelding sale and 47th stock dog sale. The legacy of the Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale began in 1941 when a small group of local ranchers and a farm advisor started what was originally a Hereford sale. The sale remained focused on Herefords for many years until the addition of Shorthorn and, eventually, Angus. Today, the sale is primarily Angus but includes bulls from 10 different breeds.

"We've just followed the trend, adapting to what's shaping the industry and catering to the crowd that attends the sale," B.J. said.

In addition to horse and dog sales, the event has grown to include something for everyone. The week includes seminars, clinics, competitions, dinners and dancing, and for those looking to do a little shopping, one of the largest trade shows in the West.

"If it has anything to do with the Western lifestyle, whether you want a coat, a halter for your horse, your hat shaped or Western furniture, we have something for everybody at the trade show," B.J. said.

The beginning of the week starts with a buyer and consignor dinner on Wednesday night, where 600-800 locals and far-wide visitors gather for fellowship, good food and live entertainment. Over the next few days are stock shows and trials, dinners and sales—including the Western Video Market video sale, a partnership that B.J. said has contributed to the event's growth over the past two decades. The end of the week concludes with the Red Bluff Bucking Battle, where spectators can watch bull riding, bronc riding and even wild pony riding from young cowboys and cowgirls in the making.

The weeklong event is a family affair that appeals to all, which B.J. credits as the reason for attracting more than 30,000-35,000 people through the doors.

The Red Bluff standard

While there are plenty of activities during the week to keep you busy, the heart of the event remains the bull, horse and stock dog sales. Originally established to serve local ranchers and offer opportunities to prove and improve their genetics, the Red Bluff event continues to do just that.

The Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale is made possible by dedicated sale committee and advisory committee members, some of whose members also take on the important task of serving on the sifting committees. These committee members are deeply rooted in the industry, many of them second- and third-generation cattlemen who are committed to carrying on the legacy of those who came before them.

"These committees are for the betterment," B.J. said. "That's the reason I'm in this position—everyone on those committees I respect." As a previous consignor himself for nearly 20 years, he added, "I've respected them as cattlemen and the way they ran their operations."

To be eligible for sale, animals must prove they have what it takes to meet the Red Bluff standard—an iconic benchmark of quality and performance. Whether vying for the bull, horse or dog sale ring, each animal is thoroughly evaluated by the sifting committee to ensure they meet the Red Bluff standard.

Bulls first undergo evaluation by a sifting committee and a veterinarian to assess their soundness and functionality. They then advance to the grading ring, where graders apply Beef Improvement Federation standards to determine a bull's overall merit. In this stage, a bull may be sifted out based on quality, regardless of its functionality.

Geldings are rigorously evaluated for soundness and usefulness by a committee that includes five veterinarians assessing for lameness.

"We have several contests now for these saddle horses to compete in," B.J. said. "Cutting, breakaway, calf branding ... There's several events that these horses can compete in."

Dogs are also thoroughly evaluated and worked three separate times. With only 20 spots available in the sale, the competition is fierce to make it to the final selection.

"At any point in those workings, the dogs can be sifted if they're not up the standards," B.J. said. "They have to be well above average every time to make the sale."

Sale results

While expectations were high for a strong bull sale this year given the current market, B.J. didn't anticipate such a significant jump. The sale surpassed even the best in Red Bluff's history, with 282 bulls averaging \$7,800.

"It's a tribute to our consignors that they've upped the an-



Courtesy photo
B.J. Macfarlane with his wife, Melissa, and daughters, Addison, Ellis and Maddox.

te," B.J. said. "Because of the standards we've set, if they don't bring ones good enough, they're not even going to make it to the sale ring."

He added, "Our consignors have done their homework on their own herds and bought better bulls, in my opinion, the

last six or eight years and they got heavily rewarded this year."

The gelding sale—which now also includes mares—and the stock dog sale also saw strong and consistent sales, falling just short of last year's records.

"It was still a good sale, but

last year we kind of knocked the doors off in the gelding sale," B.J. said. "So, it's been hard to beat that one."

Future visions

Heading into the 85th annual bull sale, 64th gelding sale and 48th stock dog sale, B.J. said he'd like to see more youth involvement at the levels seen before COVID-19. "It used to be huge on Thursdays for the FFA chapters to come by the droves through there," he said. "This year I started seeing a few more of them come back."

The Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale is dedicated to the local youth, recognizing their important role as the future of the industry. For the past 20 years, the annual Youth Fund Drawing has supported youth community and agriculture-related events. This year, Elwood Ranches generously donated a Kubota Sidekick to be raffled off, with all proceeds benefiting

youth programs.

"We also help some sports teams locally, some jackpot shows and junior beef associations and shows throughout the western U.S.," B.J. said. "They're going to be our leaders, so we help them out greatly in terms of scholarships and anything we can do to help out."

B.J. emphasized the strong sense of community that runs through the local region and the event itself. "If you're part of the Red Bluff Bull Sale, you have lots of friends," he said.

With another successful event behind them, the committees will meet in the upcoming weeks to recap the event and make any necessary updates for the future. But as B.J. put it, "If it's not broke, there's no reason to fix it."

Be sure to put the 2026 Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale on your calendars for Jan. 27-31, 2026! — Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor

RED BLUFF

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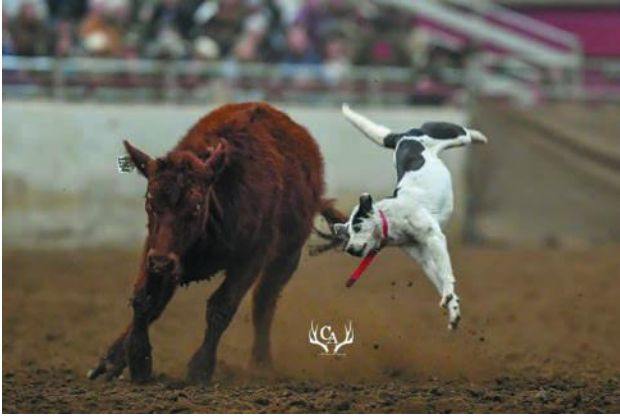
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RED BLUFF

SALE REPORTS



Crystal Amen Photography
A stock dog competes in a trial to prove its worth under the Red Bluff standard.



Crystal Amen Photography
Jan Handtmann's Sheriffs In Town, champion stock horse and champion cow horse, ridden by Jim Berrett.

RED BLUFF GELDING SALE Jan. 24, Red Bluff, CA

38 Ranch

geldings \$21,605

13 Mares 19,269

132-Year-olds 8,135

Auctioneers: Rick

Machado & Trent Stewart

TOPS—2-Year-old:

Metallic Bambalam,

3/27/2023 by Metallic

Cattack; to Tom Buckingham,

Bruneau, ID, \$15,000. **Mares:**

Reys Metallic Surprise,

2/22/2019 by Metallic Cat; to

Lissa Miller, Oakville, CA,

\$36,000. Famous Lil Squirt 37,

6/16/2019 by Olenas Holey

Sox; to Kirsten Gobel, Willows,

CA, \$26,000. Hollywood Hottie,

3/25/2021 by Smart In

Hollywood; to Susie Hunt,

Hydesville, CA, \$26,000.

Ranch geldings: Evening Nus

Special, 5/17/2019 by Evening

Special; to Coffee Creek

Ranch, Ferndale, CA, \$45,000.

Que Janaisa player, 6/8/2020

by Cats Merada; to Alexander

Hunt, Davis, CA, \$45,000.

Felynx The Cat, 2/12/2018 by

Metallic Red Cat; to Curt

Hubbard, Bonanza, CA,

\$36,000. Gimme Jo Vintage,

4/10/2020 by One Fine

Vintage; to Clifford Swisher,

Walnut Creek, CA, \$36,000. I

Needa Reyz, 4/23/2019 by

Reyzin The Cash; to Jared

Roen, Red Bluff, CA, \$35,000.

Sheriffs In Town, 4/28/2018 by

Woody Be Tuff; to CH Ranch,

Red Bluff, CA, \$34,000. —

JARED PATTERSON

Red Bluff committee opened up sale consignments for the first time to mares. This decision has proven worthwhile as the last two years have brought in a very prestigious group of mares. Buyers have appreciated the flexibility a mare brings to the table. They can continue to use the mares on the ranch or in the arena, but now they carry the added flexibility of being able to enter reproduction as broodmare prospects moving forward. This year, the second high-selling horse was an outstanding mare by Metallic Cat that was highlighted by a 5-year-old pilot who really put on a great display. This mare could spin, slide, pivot, and respond all while safely carrying the precious cargo in Wels McFann of Red Bluff, CA.

The horse market has been propped up significantly over the last several years. Supply and demand have played a major role in this. The number of mares bred over a decade-long dip in production has created a shortage of horses available that are finished and ready for work type of horse. This is where Red Bluff has been able to maintain strong sales, and this year continued that trend. This year has seen the first sign of the middle of the market softening up slightly. This isn't just a Red Bluff scenario, but industry wide.

The 63rd annual Red Bluff Gelding Sale was one that continues to drive the trends of an outstanding equine market for high-quality horses. As the dust settles from a week of evaluation and competition and champions are crowned, a crowd that will compete with one of the largest to attend an animal auction descends on the annual event. As sale time draws closer, there's a buzz of anxiety and excitement. The introduction is made and the national anthem roars across the speakers. This year, local cowgirl Mahlon Owens gave a rendition that brought chills to the entire audience. It truly set the stage and horses began selling.

Every gelding, mare and two-year-old is strictly evaluated by judges for various purposes depending on consignor's entries. They can enter these geldings in stock horse, snaffle bit, cutting or roping. Select horses are pulled out for the conformation evaluation and the committee selects a favorite horse to be named the Craig Owens Ideal Ranch Horse. Furthermore, committee members of sifters and graders evaluate the geldings for soundness and blemishes. Veterinarians evaluate each horse for health and wellbeing. By the time the sale happens, these geldings have been looked over from every angle. This is why Red Bluff is so trusted in the West for good all-around ranch horses.

Throughout the week, the sifting and grading committee has the authority to sift horses at any time. It is their duty to ensure only the highest quality horses are sold. Last year, the

The American Quarter Horse Association has reported double digit growth for several years in a row, which is now just showing up in the auction setting. Buyers are being given more options to choose from and the result is that high-quality horses are bringing as much or more than they ever have, while middle quality or lower horses are becoming recessed in their value. The offering at Red Bluff held a high standard throughout the sale, and the strong sale average of over \$21,009 per head showed the respect these sale consignments carry.

Congratulations are in order for the entire committee and volunteers for this sale. This is an enormous undertaking and an event that has become a staple in the West for several decades. Maintaining a standard of quality has helped drive this sale to becoming a steadfast and consistently successful sale. For full results, go to www.RedBluffBullSale.com.

RED BLUFF STOCK DOG SALE

Jan. 24, Red Bluff, CA

16 Stock dogs \$10,984

Auctioneer: Trent Stewart

TOPS: JGRusty, 2/14/2023

by Booker Ben ABC; to Pat

Fulton Ranches, BaySide, CA,

\$23,000. RC5 Mimi,

9/22/2022 by SJEddie ABC;

to Elwood Ranches,

Montague, CA, \$16,000.

Wayland, 4/21/2021 by

UHTRED ABC; to John Scott,

Grants Pass, OR, \$16,000.

BUTCH, 10/19/2022 by Row

Duece ABC; to Ty Thomas, NV,

\$14,000. JBC Drover,

4/28/2021 by Lonerider

Boogie ABC; to Rob Brawner,

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OX SOUTH DAKOTA 3174



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OX OUTRIDER 3914



REG 21117789

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REG 21122433

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REG 21158137

OX VINDICATOR 4110



REG 21117749

OX VINDICATOR 4132



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REG 21122797

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REG 21117756

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SALE REPORTS



NE, \$14,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

The Red Bluff Stock Dog Sale is a must-attend event every year. This event makes for a packed Don Smith Pavilion with standing room only. The atmosphere in the building creates that butterfly feeling and it truly is electric. Spectators, buyers and consignors sit on the edge of their seat to see true price discovery on their favorite dog through competition.

Dogs are entered into a three-trial competition where qualified judges score each dog's every move. They are graded on how they obey the handler's commands, control the cattle, how they apply and release pressure on the cattle, and how they maneuver the course plus various other traits the judges are looking for. Many times, a single point is the difference between one placing and the next.

The trials are always action-packed. A full audience of hundreds of people attend each trial waiting to see which dog will surface to the top. The first and last trials are held in an outdoor venue, which consists of a four-acre paneled off area next to the fairgrounds. A group of five yearling cattle are let loose and pushed to the far end of the pasture. The dog is then sent by the handler to fetch the cattle and bring them back with the intention of driving them through an open set of panels that resemble a fence line gate.

From there, the cattle need to be controlled and driven again before ending up at an open stock trailer where the dog pushes the cattle on board. The handler is only able to shadow and is discounted for assisting the dog. Many times, the full course isn't completed, but shows how the dogs handle, obey, work and control.

The second trial is set

indoors inside an arena on the fairgrounds. This trial is much like the outdoor trials except the cattle need to end up in a pen rather than a trailer. The cattle don't have as far to get away from the dogs and dogs are able to show their intricate techniques and handling.

This year saw a very strong group of dogs, but in particular one leader from the first round. Jaime Gonzalez from Klamath Falls, OR, brought us JGRusty a 2023 red and white male who won all three rounds and set the mark with being this year's champion and high-selling stock dog. Long time stock dog consigning family VanOrnum brought two dogs to Red Bluff; this would be the same family who sold the record-selling dog last year for \$50,000. They came to compete and RC5 Mimi had an extremely close second and third round to be crowned the reserve champion and was purchased by a repeat Northern California buyer, Elwood Ranch.

Congrats to all the consignors and committee members that work tirelessly to keep this sale at the top of its industry. Without the commitment of the committee, the consignors and the buyers that support this sale, we wouldn't have much to enjoy.

RED BLUFF BULL SALE Jan. 25, Red Bluff, CA

10 Polled Hereford bulls	.....\$9,350
10 Balancer bulls	.... 8,100
199 Angus bulls	.... 8,080
5 Red Angus bulls	..... 7,500
13 Hereford bulls	..... 7,442
25 SimAngus bulls	..... 7,360
1 Simmental bull	.... 6,250
15 Charolais bulls	..... 4,933
2 Shorthorn bulls	..... 4,875
1 Maine bull	..... 4,500

Auctioneers: Rick Machado, Trent Stewart, Eric Duarte & Max Olvera TOPS—Angus bull:

Westwind GLI Ambassador 344, by Virginia Tech Statesmen; to Jessica Sanders, American Canyon, CA, \$15,000. **Balancer bull:** MR Ninejay 01L, 1/7/2023 by MR Bruce 09J; to John Langum, Redding, CA, \$13,000. **Hereford bulls:** CJB WSF 45C Victor 2311 ET, 1/1/2023 by Innisfail WHR X651/723 4013 ET; to El-Sur Ranch, Monterey, CA, \$20,000. M9479059 IceMan 322, 2/1/2023 by PERKS BH 5017 Sensation 9059 ET; to El-Sur Ranch, Monterey, CA, \$12,500. TMB WSF Newt 2304, 2/24/2023 by Churchill Majestic 903G; to El-Sur Ranch, Monterey, CA, \$14,000. M51622296 Goose 340 ET, 3/5/2023 by UPS Sensation 2296 ET; to Jess Ranch, Lone, CA, and John Oneto, Lone, CA, \$13,000. **SimAngus bull:** LS Awesome 01, 3/19/2023 by JHW PLG Powerpoint; to Dittmer Ranch, Fairfield, CA, \$16,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

"Where the best in the West meet and compete." Red Bluff's Bull Sale motto is so true and accurate when you think about the quality consignment of bulls brought to this prestigious event and the enormous bidding activity seen to procure turnout bulls. There is no doubt that the quality of bulls brought to this year's sale was as deep and consistent as they've seen for years. Several committee members made the comment that this was the least numbered low-grading 87 bulls they've ever offered at Red Bluff.

The consignors of the Red Bluff Bull Sale have remained consistent for many years. There is a core group of cattlemen and cattlemen that bring bulls each year that

buyers have come to know and expect their superb quality. Commercial ranchers around California, Oregon, Idaho and Nevada gather for the sale and many cattlemen purchase their year's bull battery at this sale. In an age where consignment sales are known to struggle, this sale continues to bring uniform quality, pedigrees and consistency so these ranchers can assemble a group of bulls that add value to their calf crops. These bulls truly do come with a committee of rancher's approval commonly known as the "Red Bluff standard."

The bulls are sifted and graded stringently throughout the week. There is a sifting committee studying

soundness, structure and overall quality. If the bull doesn't meet their expectations, the bull is immediately sifted before it ever has the chance to reach the grading committee. Once the bull passes the sifting process, it continues to the show ring where it is judged in classes with its contemporaries and the classes are given a number grade. This number is then used in the selling order. Keeping the quality at a high level has helped build the reputation a Red Bluff bull carries and has driven the success of this sale.

This year's unbelievable sale was one that stay with us for years. There was remarkable quality, outstanding activity, a

huge audience and sale results that will take the air out of you. Almost a \$1,700 increase was noted over last year's record average event. I just want to thank all the consignors, buyers and committee members that make this event one of the special weeks of the year. A huge thank you also goes to Crystal Amen Photography and her generosity to allow WLJ to share her fantastic photos.

Bull Sifting Committee: Mac McGiffin, Red Bluff, CA; Matt Owens, Red Bluff, CA; and Bryan Owens, Red Bluff, CA

Bull Grading Committee: Mark Bidwell, Hat Creek, CA; Lane Russ, Ferndale, CA; and Joe Clarot, Modesto, CA.



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2025 CHAMPIONS

The 2025 Red Bluff Bull and Gelding Sale champions



Photos By Tracy

Photos by Tracy

The supreme champion and champion polled Hereford bull, CJB WSF 45C Victor 2311 ET, consigned by Wooden Shoe Farms, Steve and Alicia Billman, Blackfoot, ID.



Photos by Tracy

Photos by Tracy

The reserve supreme champion and champion horned Hereford bull, M 947 9059 Ice Man 322, consigned by Morrell Ranches, Barry and Carrie Morrell, Willows, CA.

It takes more than a week of competition to become a champion at Red Bluff. Months of preparation, training, feeding and care go into each and every consignment. Whether it's a bull, a dog or a horse, every consignment must

have planning and daily work put in to reach the top. It's an honor to consign a champion and it's a huge reward when they're sold.

Red Bluff has taken on its own identity. It's a community, a go-to event. It's

become more than a show and sale, it's become a remarkable marketing platform to connect livestock buyers and sellers together, build on industry networking and kindle friendship that last a lifetime.

When a person takes a

step back and looks at the history this event has, it's hard not to appreciate all the champions that have come through the rings. It's often said that this year's sale is what will determine next year's sale. Unhappy customers and

consignors don't equal successive quality sales. Year after year, by holding the standards so high, the Red Bluff committees are setting in place a standard that ensures buyers of these animals receive the quality they are expecting

to buy. This mindset has created an atmosphere which keeps competition at an extremely high level.

This culture of competition is instilled in these consignors. Many of these consignors have been bringing animals to Red

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\$B +137

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MARB +.37 RE +1.04 \$W +72 \$F +97 \$M +83
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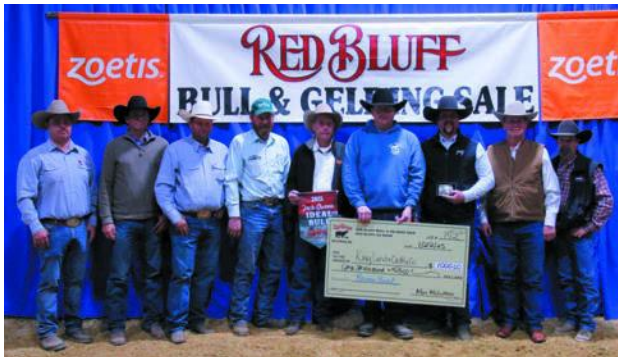
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2025 CHAMPIONS



Crystal Amen Photography

King Farms Land & Livestock, Malin, OR, Consignment of the Year.



Photos by Tracy

The Jack Owens Ideal Range Bull, Kings Virtue 317, was consigned by King Farms Land & Livestock, Robyn King, Merrill, OR.



Crystal Amen Photography

The 2025 champion stock dog, JG Rusty, consigned by Jaime Gonzalez, Klamath Falls, OR. Purchased by Pat Fulton Ranches.

Bluff for years—some as many as 50 years! They understand what it takes to bring quality year in and year out. New consignors are pushed to bring their best and the bar of competition continues to raise. It is exciting, yet humbling, to think about what the future holds for these events.

Below is a list of the champions that were selected at this year's event. Everyone who consigned, not just these champions, deserve huge congratulations because every animal contributes to the overall success.

If you'd like to learn more about Red Bluff, go to www.RedBluffBullSale.com to watch videos and check in for next year's dates.

Champion Halter Bulls

Supreme Champion and Champion Polled Hereford: Wooden Shoe Farms, Blackfoot, ID.

Reserve Supreme Champion and Champion Hereford: Morrell Ranches, Willows, CA.

Champion Calving Ease & Angus Calving Ease: Kool Breeze Livestock, Adin, CA.

Champion Angus: HAVE Angus, Wilton, CA.

Champion Charolais: University of Idaho, Moscow, ID.

Champion AOB and SimAngus: Cole Cattle Co., Bonanza, OR.

Champion Balancer: Louie's Cattle Service, Burns, OR.

Champion Shorthorn: Cardey Ranches, Turlock, CA.

Champion Maine Anjou: Brocco Show Cattle, Petaluma, CA.

Champion Red Angus: Kool Breeze Livestock, Adin, CA.

Champion Simmental: Hinton Ranch, Klamath Falls, OR.

Champion Range Bulls

Overall Range Ready and Champion Hereford: Morrell Ranches, Willows, CA.

Reserve Champion Range Ready and Champion Angus: Westwind Ranch Angus, Oroville, CA.

Champion Range Ready Angus Calving Ease: Imbach/Davis/LCS, Burns, OR.

Champion Balancer: Cardey Ranches, Turlock, CA.

Champion Charolais: Romans Ranches, Harper, OR.

Champion SimAngus: T & S Livestock, Gerber, CA.

Ideal Jack Owens Bull: King Farms Land & Cattle, Malin, OR.

Overall Consignment of the Year: King Farms Land & Cattle, Malin, OR

Champion Geldings

Champion Cow Horse and Stock Horse: Jan Handtmann, Santa Ynez, CA.

Champion Cutting Horse: Charles Mills, Cromberg, CA.

Champion Snaffle Bit: Mary Aronson, Wilton, CA.

Champion Conformation: Ross Hansen, Tenino, WA.

Champion Head Horse: Rick Morgan, Exeter, CA.

Champion Heel Horse: Asher Freeman, Spring Creek, NV.

Champion Conformation Mare: Shad Platt, Orland, CA.

Craig Owens Ideal Ranch Horse: Charles Mills, Cromberg, CA.

Champion Stock Dog

JG Rusty, Jaime Gonzalez, Klamath Falls, OR.



Crystal Amen Photography

Scholarship winners of the Andy Peek Livestock Endowed Scholarship Fund.

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RIVERBEND BOUGIE M207

LOT 1

Sire: BNWZ Bougie 1588 • Dam: Vintage Blackbird 7480
MGS: TEX Playbook 5437

RIVERBEND TRUE BALANCE L1686

LOT 126

Sire: RSA True Balance 1311 • Dam: Spruce Mtn Rita 1597
MGS: SG Salvation

RIVERBEND CRAFTSMAN L672

LOT 18

Sire: Connealy Craftsman • Dam: Chair Rock Sure Fire 6095
MGS: GAR Sure Fire

CED +7
BW +2.3
WW +85
YW +149
Milk +27
PAP +1.22
CW +85
MB +1.02
RE +1.41
Fat +0
\$AxH +223
\$AxJ +219
SM +95
SW +82
SF +128
SG +80
SB +209
SC +366

*+20939077
BD: 1-27-2024

RIVERBEND TRUE BALANCE L1686

LOT 126

Sire: RSA True Balance 1311 • Dam: Spruce Mtn Rita 1597
MGS: SG Salvation

RIVERBEND CRAFTSMAN L672

LOT 18

Sire: Connealy Craftsman • Dam: Chair Rock Sure Fire 6095
MGS: GAR Sure Fire

CED +11
BW +3.0
WW +97
YW +172
Milk +20
PAP +.06
CW +95
MB +1.70
RE +1.38
Fat +.034
\$AxH +293
\$AxJ +291
SM +71
SW +79
SF +145
SG +110
SB +255
SC +402

*20932858
BD: 11-5-2023

RIVERBEND CRAFTSMAN L672

LOT 18

Sire: Connealy Craftsman • Dam: Chair Rock Sure Fire 6095
MGS: GAR Sure Fire

CED +8
BW +3
WW +80
YW +143
Milk +40
PAP +1.23
CW +58
MB +1.57
RE +.77
Fat +.046
\$AxH +196
\$AxJ +190
SM +72
SW +88
SF +90
SG +96
SB +186
SC +313

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BD: 4-1-2023

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SALE REPORTS

KLAMATH BULL AND HEIFER SALE
Feb. 1, Klamath Falls, OR
12 SimAngus bulls \$7,079
54 Angus bulls 6,801
7 LimFlex bulls 5,821
2 Simmental bulls 5,750
7 Red Angus bulls 5,607
8 Hereford bulls 4,563
1 ChiAngus bull 4,500
7 Charolais bulls 4,393
1 Shorthorn bull ... 3,500
14 Commercial open heifers 3,664
Auctioneer: Eric Duarte
TOPS—Angus bulls: Bar-

N-Bar H825 3069, 11/12/2023 by Tehama Patriarch H825; to Starlight Angus, Klamath Falls, OR, \$10,250. CIC Safe & Sound 214L, 2/14/2023 by HF Safe & Sound 019; to Porterfield Ranch, Klamath Falls, OR, \$10,000. RCL Brigade 568, 12/12/2023 by Deer Valley Brigade 81247; to Pete's Valley Ranch, Klamath Falls, OR, \$9,250. ADS REGIMENT 367, 10/14/2023 by Wilks Regiment 9035; to Di-Rich Ranch, Dorris, CA, \$9,000. **SimAngus bull:** Ayres Game Time 640L, 8/6/2023 by KLER Mr Game On 052H; to Tracy Kammeyer, Eagle Point, OR, \$9,000. — **JARED**

PATTERSON
RIDDER HEREFORD RANCH BULL SALE
Jan. 30, Callaway, NE
11 Yearling bulls \$9,000
68 2-Year-old bulls 7,485
55 Open heifers 2,782
Auctioneer: Lander Nicodemus
TOPS—Yearling bulls: R 2126 North Star 79M, 3/27/2024 by CL 1 Domino 2126K; to Knippling, SD, \$14,000. R 20J North Star 19M, 3/5/2024 by YV 234F Mr Forty Creek ET 20J; to Shawn Weishaar, SD, \$12,500. **2-Year-old bulls:** R

9102G North Star 81L, 3/26/2023 by BCC L1 Advanced 9102GET; to Crow Creek, NE, \$13,250. R 9102G North Star 19L, 3/4/2023 by BCC L1 Advanced 9102GET; to Struempler Ranch, NE, \$13,000. R 0140H North Star 44L, 3/13/2023 by CL 1 Domino 0140H; to Double E, NE, \$13,000. **Open heifer:** R Starlette 471, 4/1/2024 by CL 1 Domino 2126K 1ET; to B Bar, TX, \$3,800. — **TY GROSHANS**

UPSTREAM RANCH PRODUCTION SALE
Feb. 1, Taylor, NE
6 Angus 2-year-old bulls \$9,750

7 Red Angus 2-year-old bulls 8,107
8 Angus older bulls 8,093
193 Hereford older bulls 7,404
146 Hereford 2-year-old bulls 6,707
4 Hereford fall bred heifers 10,250
43 Hereford spring bred heifers 6,325
2 Red Angus spring bred heifers 5,750

Auctioneers: Lynn Weishaar & Seth Weishaar

TOPS—Angus 2-year-old bull: UPSExponential 308ET, 5/10/2023 by K C F Bennett Exponential; to A & B Cattle, Bassett, NE, \$17,500. **Older bulls:** UPS Red Cloud 3882 ET, 10/19/2023 by Churchill Red Cloud 0376H ET; to Mayo Ridge Ranch, Scott City, KS, Jensen Bros., Courtland, KS, and Fawcett's Elm Creek, Ree Heights, SD, \$50,000. UPS Red Cloud 3892 ET, 10/25/2023 by Churchill Red Cloud 0376H ET; to Mark Landgren, Bartlett, NE, \$28,000. UPS Kingdom 3604, 9/5/2023 by Churchill Kingdom 128JET; to Rausch Herefords, Hoven, SD, \$27,000. UPS Houston 3914 ET, 10/26/2023 by SHF Houston D287 H086; to Don Kracke, DeWitt, NE, \$20,000. UPS Red Cloud 3888 ET, 10/25/2023 by Churchill Red Cloud 0376H ET; to Brian Lenneman, Franklin, NE, \$18,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

BEARTOOTH ANGUS BULL SALE

Feb. 1, Billings, MT
48 2-Year-olds ... \$5,953
39 Yearling bulls ... 5,141
Auctioneer: Ty Thompson
Sale Manager: Genetic Pathways

TOPS—2-year-old bulls: Beartooth Executive L103, 5/10/2023 by T/D Executive 9604; to Adam's Angus, Brigham City, UT, \$15,000. Beartooth Barricade L106, 5/11/2023 by Sitz Barricade 632F; to Abernathy Ranches, Lander, WY, \$13,000. Beartooth Atlantis L107, 5/14/2023 by Square B Atlantis 8060; to Brett Maxwell, Lewistown, MT, \$10,000. Beartooth Atlantis L108, 5/15/2023 by Square B Atlantis 8060; to Marty & Tina Graham, Rozet, WY, \$10,000. **Yearling bulls:** Beartooth Prolific 4111, 1/13/2024 by Ellingson Prolific; to Bootheel 7 Ranch, Lusk, WY, \$11,500. Beartooth Jordan M30, 1/12/2024 by Baldrige Jordan; to Rooney Angus, White Sulphur Springs, MT, \$10,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

Quinn, SD, \$57,500. Ellingson Statement 4036, 2/10/2024 by Ellingson Statement; to Genex CRI, Shawano, WI, and Hoffman Ranch, Thedford, NE, \$50,000. Ellingson Pilot 3804, 8/1/2023 by Bear Mtn Pilot 1520; to ABS Global, DeForest, WI, \$50,000. Ellingson Hi Range 4034, 2/10/2024 by Ellingson Hi-Range; to Katus X7 Ranch, SD, \$45,000. Ellingson Prolific 4478, 3/13/2024 by Ellingson Prolific; to Benoit Angus Ranch, Esbon, KS, \$30,000. Ellingson Prolific 4202, 2/22/2024 by Ellingson Prolific; to Wagner Ranches, Brandon, MN, \$30,000. Ellingson Riverside 4376, 3/6/2024 by Vermillion Riverside; to B&D Hereford and Angus, KS, \$30,000. **Bred heifers:** EA Emblynette 3232, 2/24/2023 by Ellingson Prolific bred to Ellingson Reckoning or Ellingson Stetson; to Dubas Cattle Co., Fullerton, NE, \$26,000. EA Queen 3795, 3/1/2023 by Ellingson Profound 8155 bred to Ellingson Reckoning or Ellingson Stetson; to Erdmann Angus, SD, \$25,000. EA Evergreen 3206, 2/22/2023 by Ellingson Badlands 0285 bred to Ellingson Reckoning or Ellingson Stetson; to Rumor Has It Farms, Paris, KY, \$24,000. EA Lassie 3003, 2/9/2023 by Ellingson Prolific bred to Ellingson Reckoning or Ellingson Stetson I; to Hallstrand Angus, Prentice, WI, \$20,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

FREY ANGUS RANCH PRODUCTION SALE

Feb. 2, Granville, ND
97 Angus bulls \$8,123
22 Angus bred heifers 5,227
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins & Greg Goggins

TOPS: FAR Believer 4039, 1/29/2024 by Freys Home Town Believer; to Darin Thorstenson, Selby, SD, \$30,000. FAR Craftsman 4037, 1/29/2024 by Connealy Craftsman; to Diamond J Angus, Mandan, ND, \$29,000. FAR Craftsman 4056, 2/2/2024 by Connealy Craftsman; to LBS Angus, Fortuna, ND, \$22,000. FAR Believer 4012, 1/23/2024 by Freys Home Town Believer; to Brian Goven, Mercer, ND, \$19,000. FAR Commerce 4098, 2/13/2024 by Connealy Commerce; to Lennick Ranch, New Salem, ND, \$17,000. FAR Believer 4066, 2/4/2024 by Freys Home Town Believer; to LBS Angus, Fortuna, ND, \$17,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

ELLINGSON ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE
Feb. 1, St Anthony, ND

354 Angus bulls \$13,968
29 Angus bred heifers 12,189
243 Commercial bred heifers 3,676
574 Commercial open heifers 2,390
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins and Greg Goggins
Sale Manager: Rance Long

TOPS—Bulls: Ellingson Bold 4070, 2/12/2024 by Ellingson Bold; to ABS Global, DeForest, WI, \$110,000. Ellingson Badlands 4453, 3/11/2024 by Ellingson Badlands 0285; to Belvin Angus, Innisfail, AB, \$85,000. Ellingson Bold 4047, 2/11/2024 by Ellingson Bold; to Fortune Rafter U Cross,

GATEWAY SIMMENTAL BULL SALE

Feb. 3, Lewistown, MT
225 Simmental bulls \$8,634
Auctioneer: Ty Thompson
Sale Manager: Allied Genetic Resources

TOPS: 655M, 2/21/2024 by GW High Ball 102H; to Sunflower Genetics, Maple Hill, KS, and Bridle Bit Simmentals, Walsh, CO, \$40,000. 760M, 2/24/2024 by GW High Ball 102H; to SRF Simmental, Berthold, ND, \$20,000. 534M, 2/16/2024 by GW Jailbreak 555J; to Gondeiro Ranch, Belt, MT, \$17,000. 794M, 2/25/2024 by GW High Ball 102H; to Teeter Ranch, Eureka, KS, \$15,500. 511M, 2/15/2024 by GW High Ball 102H; to Steve Hertle, Moore, MT, \$15,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**


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Tattoo: 027M
 ASA#: 4393084
 Sire: CDI/NF HONOR GUARD 267H
 MGS: HILB HES A CHARMER F201B

CE	BW	WW	YW	API	TI
16.4	0.7	85.4	131.3	150	87.5



Tattoo: 010M
 ASA#: 4393049
 Sire: SCHOOLEY KASH 964K
 MGS: ELLINGSON LEGACY M229

CE	BW	WW	YW	API	TI
14.3	-0.4	72	115.5	147.9	80.7



Tattoo: 312L
 ASA#: 4243953
 Sire: RAML RAPTOR 9693G
 MGS: HOOK'S EAGLE 6E

CE	BW	WW	YW	API	TI
15.3	-1.3	81.1	134	132.8	85.1

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Jared 307-272-4009 | Wendy 406-690-3369

Herd bulls and the value of genetic potential

The spring 2025 bull sale season is underway. One economically important objective of the breeding season is to get cows bred to bulls with the highest possible genetic values. With more information available ever before, cow-calf producers need to evaluate this volume of information from their own unique perspective. How is this accomplished? Answer the following questions:

1. How and when do you

intend to market your calf crop? At weaning, as yearlings, as fed cattle, as bred heifers or open replacement females?

2. To what type females will you be mating the bull? This will help determine the degree of selection pressure to apply to calving ease.

3. Will you be selecting herd replacements from the resulting heifers?

Most sale books will include individual perfor-

mance of the bulls for as many as 20 traits, and bio-economic indices. These include multiple genetic predictors of calving ease, several traits that would be considered as maternal performance, growth at different ages, feed intake and feed efficiency. In addition, several traits indicating carcass merit such as marbling, ribeye size, external fat thickness and carcass weight. A bio-economic index is a genetic value derived from assign-

ing an economic weighting to several EPDs based on their anticipated value at a specific marketing endpoint.

Bulls are a significant cost to an operation. With proper selection goals and investing wisely, bulls have the potential for high economic returns. While the most expensive bull may not be the best fit for your operation, there is a correlation between bull sale price and the genetic potential transmitted to

calves.

Over the past three years, CattleFax survey participants indicate that for every additional \$2,500 spent on a bull, the average calf price increased by \$82 per head. Assuming a bull sires 100 calves over his lifetime of service, that is a return of \$8,200. Furthermore, there is data from multiple sources that supports the belief that superior genetics adds value to an operation's bottom line.

We are part of an indus-

try in which buyers of cattle (at any age or type) are increasingly willing to pay for documented genetic potential. Determine the traits that stand out as more economically relevant to your marketing plan when deciding how to invest your bull buying dollar. Purchasing bulls offering strong genetic values can and will pay off for your operation. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

Pillen: Project could be abandoned if costly

CANAL FIGHT (from page 1)

The compact also grants Nebraska the authority to build and operate canals in Colorado, using eminent domain if necessary. The Perkins County Canal, partially constructed in the 1890s before being abandoned, is central to Nebraska's renewed efforts. Ricketts' plan was spurred by a report from Colorado officials identifying nearly \$10 billion in future water projects in the South Platte Basin, where the population is expected to grow by up to 70% by 2050.

tially proposed funding the canal with \$400 million from the state's Cash Reserve Fund and \$100 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds, the legislature's Appropriations Committee approved only \$53.5 million from the cash reserve. By spring 2023, the Nebraska Legislature approved an additional \$574.5 million in funding to acquire land and move forward with construction.

A January 2023 update from the DNR states the department is actively exploring property options along the proposed route of the Perkins County Ca-

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

—Pete Ricketts

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

In response, Colorado Gov. Jared Polis (D) vowed to "protect and aggressively assert Colorado's rights under all existing water compacts," arguing that Nebraska's interpretation of Colorado's water planning efforts was a "misunderstanding" and that the projects listed were not formally approved.

In April 2022, Ricketts signed Legislative Bill (LB) 1015, the Perkins County Canal Project Act, into law, granting Nebraska's Department of Natural Resources (DNR) the authority to develop, construct, and manage the project in accordance with the South Platte River Compact. While the bill does not specify funding or the canal's exact route, it empowers the DNR to acquire land—including through eminent domain—contract for services and seek grants and other financial support for the project.

Although Ricketts ini-

nal, engaging with approximately 30 landowners in Colorado. DNR also said the current cost estimates for the canal range between \$567 million and \$628 million. While the department has general authority to construct the canal, the \$53.5 million currently appropriated may only be used for securing land options, not outright purchases. Given the response to the department's offers, officials argue this funding restriction must be lifted.

According to NPM, in December 2023, Ray Hendrix of Holyoke, CO, sold just under 90 acres of land to the department for just under \$90,000.

NPM reported that Nebraska Gov. Jim Pillen (R) signaled in May 2024 that he would abandon the Perkins County Canal project if legal costs became too excessive. Speaking at a town hall meeting, he acknowledged the potential financial burden of litigation, stating, "If it gets tied up and lawyers start taking it all, I would go to the Unicameral and abandon it." — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

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4022 AAA 21110360



ANGUS

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	\$M	\$C
8	.3	80	146	14	.76	55	272

Connealy Emerald x Tehama Patriarch F028
Standout heifer bull with tremendous rib, volume and thickness.

4211 AAA 21112343



ANGUS

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	\$M	\$C
9	.5	81	147	27	1.02	103	322

Sitz Resilient 10208 x Deer Valley Old Hickory
A real complete and quiet Sitz Resilient son with an outstanding look of quality. You will keep every daughter.

458 RAAA 4933476

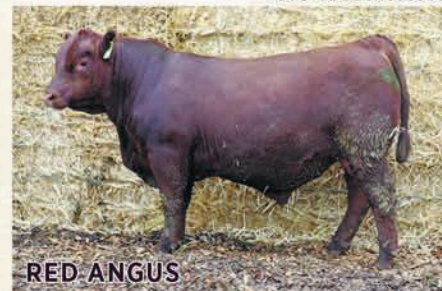


RED ANGUS

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	HB	GM
14	-2.1	78	130	26	0.68	84	76

Bieber CL Energize F121 x TJS Blockbuster D092
Bold made, big-ribbed and heavy muscled with added growth, marbling and REA.

457 RAAA 4933508



RED ANGUS

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	HB	GM
16	-3.5	71	115	29	.49	88	86

Bieber CL Energize F121 x 9 Mile Great Basin 7972
High quality phenotype and outstanding EPDs across the board.

4056 ASA 4451405



SIMANGUS

CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	\$API	\$TI
14.7	-1.1	84.5	147.2	19.9	.52	141.6	88.9

Spring Cove Compound x CCR Santa Fe 9349Z
Balance, Eye-Appeal and quality phenotype along with strong genetic profile across the board!

4163 ASA 4451352



SIMANGUS

CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	\$API	\$TI
18.1	-5.0	70.2	114.2	33.0	.56	157.7	87.7

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CattleFax forecasts continued strong demand, high prices

The popular CattleFax Outlook Seminar, held as part of CattleCon2025 in San Antonio, TX, shared expert market and weather analysis.

The U.S. beef industry is poised for another year of strong market performance, driven by tight cattle supplies and robust consumer demand. As the beef cow herd enters a stabilization phase following years of contraction, the resulting supply constraints have shifted market leverage decisively in favor of cattle producers.

Weather conditions will remain a critical factor influencing grazing availability, herd expansion and cattle prices. Meteorologist Matt Makens said La Niña this winter brings rather volatile weather changes across North America with the

majority of weather extremes affecting those in the Central to Eastern U.S. For Mexico and the Southwestern U.S., producers will see drought relief increase as it has nationwide since June.

"Drought will likely increase across the western U.S. this spring and into the Pacific Northwest, northern Plains and Canadian Prairies through this summer. To watch will be the North American monsoon and how much drought relief it can provide to Mexico, the Southwest, and parts of the Plains," he said. "Current data show the monsoon is likely to produce more moisture this year than last. A strong enough monsoon can decrease precipitation across the central Corn Belt, watch July closely. Late in the year, the focus turns

to the development of La Niña or El Niño."

Shifting the discussion to an outlook on the economy, energy and feed grains, Troy Bockelmann, CattleFax director of protein and grain analysis, noted that inflation eased in 2024, ending the year at 2.9%, a significant drop from the 9% peak in 2022 but still above the Federal Reserve's 2% target. To address this, the Fed cut interest rates three times in the latter half of the year, bringing the Prime bank loan rate to 7.5%.

The labor market remained strong, with unemployment briefly rising midyear before falling to 4.1% as job creation outpaced expectations. Combined with solid consumer spending and wage growth, the U.S. economy is expected to see healthy GDP growth of 2 to

2.5% in 2025.

"The Federal Reserve's rate cuts helped stabilize inflation and support economic growth, but we're still above target," Bockelmann said. "Despite economic headwinds, consumer confidence and spending have remained resilient. However, lingering inflation and potential trade uncertainties may limit the extent of further interest rate cuts this year and inflation remains a key factor to watch in 2025."

CattleFax shared that national Dec. 1 on-farm hay stocks were up 6.3% from a year-ago at 81.5 million tons with hay prices averaging \$175/ton in 2024. Corn stocks-to-use at just over 10% and should support the spot market towards \$5.00/bu. with a yearly average spot future price of

\$4.40/bu. expected.

"An increase in corn supply for the new crop year is expected as smaller beginning stocks are offset by larger production levels due to corn regaining acres from soybeans. Stocks-to-use have the potential to be above 13 percent which implies a price range of \$3.75 to \$5.15/bu. for the 2025 market year," Bockelmann said. "There is a strong correlation between corn stocks-to-use and hay, and we expect hay prices to follow corn and trend a bit higher in the coming year."

On the energy front, he noted, for 2025, not much will change. Average crude oil prices are expected to be near steady with 2024 though risk remains for a reduced U.S. market share of global product due to potential trade policy impacts. He also expects ethanol production to continue to stay strong.

Kevin Good, vice president of market analysis at CattleFax, reported that U.S. beef cow herd is expected to see the cycle low to start 2025 at 28 million head, 150,000 head below last year and 3.5 million head from the 2019 cycle highs.

"We expect cow and bull slaughter to continue declining in 2025, with overall numbers down by about 300,000 head to 5.9 million head total. Feeder cattle and calf supplies outside of feedyards will also shrink by roughly 150,000 head, while cattle on feed inventories are starting the year slightly below 2024 levels at 11.9 million head," he said. "With a tighter feeder cattle supply, placement pace will be more constrained, leading to a projected 700,000-head drop in commercial fed slaughter to 24.9 million. After modest growth in 2024, beef production is expected to decline by about 600 million pounds to 26.3 billion in 2025, ultimately reducing net beef supply per person by 0.8 pounds."

Beef prices continued their upward trend in 2024, averaging \$8.01/lb., the second-highest demand level in history. While demand may ease slightly in 2025, retail prices are still expected to rise to an average of \$8.25/lb. Wholesale prices will follow suit, with the cutout price projected to reach \$320/cwt.

"Retail and wholesale margins are historically thin, making strong consumer demand essential to maintaining higher price levels," said Good. "While opportunities for further leverage gains are limited, the market remains favorable for producers."

Inflation remained moderate in 2024, but high consumer debt, elevated interest rates, and competition from more affordable protein options could impact purchasing decisions. However, foodservice demand showed resilience, ending the year stronger as same-store sales and customer traffic improved.

"Despite economic pressures, consumers continue to pay premiums for higher-quality beef," Good added. "Choice grade or better remains in high

demand, reinforcing the strength of the premium beef market."

Turning to global protein demand, Good noted that the outlook for animal proteins remains strong, although U.S. beef exports are projected to decline by 5% in 2025 due to reduced production and higher prices. Conversely, U.S. beef imports are expected to grow as lean beef supplies tighten.

"The global outlook is currently an interesting scenario as trade policy developments, including potential tariffs, could pose risks to international markets. While growth is expected this year, it may be limited to global competition supply constraints and an uncertain tariff environment," Good said.

Mike Murphy, CattleFax chief operating officer, forecasted the average 2025 fed steer price at \$198/cwt., up \$12/cwt. from 2024. All cattle classes are expected to trade higher, and prices are expected to continue to trend upward. The 800-lb. steer price is expected to average \$270/cwt., and the 550-lb. steer price is expected to average \$340/cwt. Utility cows are expected to average \$140/cwt., with bred cows at an average of \$3,200/cwt.

"While the cyclical upswing in cattle prices is expected to persist, the industry must prepare for market volatility and potential risks. Producers are encouraged to adopt risk management strategies and closely monitor developments in trade policy, drought conditions, and consumer demand," Murphy said.

2025 USDA All-Fresh Retail Beef prices are expected to average \$8.25/lb., which will continue the balancing act for retail between high prices and reduced supply. Murphy noted that the key is to avoid setting prices too high, especially in light of competition from more affordable proteins.

Randy Blach, CattleFax chief executive officer, concluded the session with an overall positive outlook, and noted that strong margins in the cow-calf sector have set the stage for cow herd expansion to begin, with heifer retention likely back near a more normal pace, relative to minimal retention in recent years. Drought and pasture conditions are now the key factors influencing the rate of expansion with a slower herd rebuild anticipated compared to the last cycle. This more measured expansion pace implies a positive outlook for producer returns over the next several years. Strong consumer demand also remains a bright spot for the industry.

"We have to remember where we came from," Blach said. "Continued improvements in quality and meeting consumer expectations with a safe, nutritious product and a consistently good eating experience have had tremendous impacts on moving the needle for this industry. We're moving in the right direction, and we need to keep paying attention to that signal." — NCBA

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2025 Beef Quality Assurance Award winners announced

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) announced the winners of the 2025 Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Awards, sponsored by Cargill, Sam's Club and Certified Angus Beef. The BQA Awards annually recognize outstanding beef and dairy producers, marketers, and educators that best demonstrate animal care and handling principles as part of day-to-day activities.

"BQA Award winners not only incorporate BQA best management practices into their operations, but they also share the benefits of the program with their peers," said Josh White, senior executive director of producer education and sustainability at NCBA. "Their commitment to quality and animal care transcends their physical locations."

Introducing the 2025 BQA Award winners:

2025 BQA Cow-Calf Award

Parker Ranch, Hawaii

Long before the term "sustainability" became part of the daily vernacular, the Hawaiian people understood what it meant to be "pono" or in right relationship with nature. Parker Ranch has embraced the BQA stewardship principles as they represent the same commitment to the land, the animals, and the people. They demonstrate

a shared responsibility to raise animals in a way that respects natural resources and ensures cattle health and well-being, beef quality and food safety.

2025 BQA Dairy FARM Award

VanBedaf Dairy, North Dakota

Employee training and established operating procedures ensure continuous management practices are maintained for the cattle at VanBedaf Dairy. The dairy has hosted Curt Pate to train employees and neighbors wanting to improve their cattle handling skills. All staff employed by the dairy are required to sign a letter of commitment to cow care. This is a pledge to treat the animals in the most humane way to ensure cow quality of life and consumer trust.

2025 BQA Feedyard Award

Grimmius Feeder, California

Grimmius Cattle Company often retains ownership and thus responsibility for cattle throughout their entire lives. This creates an opportunity to apply comprehensive BQA guidelines and partner with others within the industry who also follow BQA principles. BQA guidelines build the framework for their practices and policies

from animal welfare to employee safety. All 800 full-time employees at Grimmius are BQA certified as well as partner feedyards and all individuals that are shipping loads out of Grimmius ranches. Additionally, all haulers that Grimmius contracts with are BQA Transportation certified.

2025 BQA Marketer Award

Producers Livestock Market, Utah

Producers Livestock implements BQA principles that focus on proper doctoring of cattle that come

through the facility. The marketing cooperative is committed to traceability and transparency, ensuring that cattle meet stringent requirements for health, handling, and quality. They also have established animal handling practices based on BQA guidelines and they share information about BQA with producers beyond Utah to those in other western states.

2025 BQA Educator Award

Dr. Keith Belk, Colorado

Dr. Belk's efforts to im-

prove beef quality and safety are backed by his ability to help cattle producers understand beef safety and product quality and intentional dissemination of research, particularly to producers at the ranch and feedlot, which maps opportunities to improve meat quality and recapture value through the beef supply chain. His research, teaching and outreach efforts have contributed to marked improvements in the beef supply during his decades of work in this field. One of his most valuable contributions is his visionary involvement and leadership

with the National Beef Quality Audit research since its inception.

Award winners are selected by a committee comprised of BQA certified representatives from universities, state beef councils, sponsors and affiliated groups, who assess nominations based on their demonstrated commitment to BQA practices, their service as leaders in the beef industry and their dedication to promoting the BQA message to grow consumer confidence. For more information about each of the award winners, visit www.bqa.org. — NCBA

NCBA seeks interns for summer 2025

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) announced applications for two internship opportunities available summer 2025, a public policy internship based in Washington, D.C. and a meetings and events internship based in Centennial, CO.

"Our interns perform critical work, and they have the opportunity to learn about how NCBA is at the forefront of defending America's cattle producers and their legacy," said NCBA President Buck Wehrbein. "If you want to advocate for farmers and ranchers in Washington or support the critical events that help us advance the beef industry, I encourage you to apply for internships at NCBA."

The public policy internship is held in conjunction with the Public Lands Council (PLC) and interns will have the opportunity to work on government ad-

vocacy projects that advance NCBA's and PLC's policy priorities. Interns will participate in research, monitor federal regulations and congressional activity, and participate in meetings with policy stakeholders.

The meetings and events internship will give students an opportunity to learn about managing public events including logistics, marketing, venue coordination, and budgeting. Meetings and events interns will assist in the planning of NCBA's annual Summer Business Meeting and CattleCon.

Both internships will run from May 19 through Aug. 15. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0, be junior or senior undergraduate students or graduate students, and be available for the duration of the internship. For more information and to complete an application, please visit ncba.org. — NCBA

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G229M | ASA: 4392276
SIRE: MR SR 71 RIGHT NOW E1538
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G303M | ASA: 4392049
SIRE: KCC1 COUNTERTIME 872H
DAM: KCC1 GWEN 9073G
MGS: RUBY SWC BATTLE CRY 431B

This bold ribbed, easy keeping ¾ Simmental herd sire prospect is backed by a maternal sister to KR Casino 6243! He ranks in the top 15% of the breed for WW and YW.



Y063M | ASA: 4392134
SIRE: LCDR DILIGENCE 215J
DAM: W/C MISS WERNING 983G
MGS: RUBYS TURNPIKE 771E

This curve bending Purebred Simmental herd sire prospect checks all of the boxes! He ranks among the top 1% of the breed for CW, top 2% WW, top 3% YW, top 5% REA, and top 10% ADG and TI.



MISS MCC-R852L | ASA: 4232708
SIRE: SO REMEDY 7F
DAM: W/C MISS WERNING 8111F
MGS: W/C BANKROLL 811D

Due to calve 3/1/25 with a heifer calf sired by Crouch Congress!



MISS MCC-R856L | ASA: 4232657
SIRE: WHF/JS/CCS DOUBLE UP G365
DAM: MISS MCC-B233
MGS: ZKCC CHOPPER 844U

Due to calve 3/1/25 with a heifer calf sired by MR W/C Trifecta 975!!



MISS MCC-B894L | ASA: 4232674
SIRE: SCHIEFELBEIN GOAT 271
DAM: W/C ANGEL 0102H
MGS: RUBYS TURNPIKE 771E

Due to calve 3/1/25 to KBHR Global J138!

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NCBA Announces 2025 policy priorities

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association's (NCBA) Executive Committee approved the organization's policy priorities at CattleCon 2025. This year the focus will be on engaging with the Trump Administration and Congress to expand opportunities for producer profitability.

"NCBA will continue advocating for passage of a long-term farm bill and pushing to extend the critical tax provisions in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, that expire at the end of the year. We will also be continuing to fight for more flexibility for grazing and voluntary conservation work that is vital to preventing catastrophic wildfires that have been raging across the country," said NCBA President and Nebraska cattleman Buck Wehrbein. "Over the past few years producers have been increasingly squeezed by oner-

ous regulatory burdens, including unscientific Endangered Species Act listings and the rapidly changing enforcement of the Corporate Transparency Act.

"This government overreach has prevented meaningful conservation efforts, leaving America's treasured natural resources in worse condition and has left cattle producers in a position of great uncertainty, with soaring legal and accounting bills. NCBA is laser-focused on advancing federal policies that will help improve the general business climate and give producers more opportunities moving forward to increase the profitability of their operations."

Some of NCBA's 2025 policy priorities include:

- Work to retain core wins in the 2024 House Agriculture Committee-passed farm bill.
- Preserve family farms and

ranches for future generations by advocating for essential tax relief for cattle producers.

- Fight for meaningful long-term relief from the burden-

some reporting requirements of the Corporate Transparency Act.

- Enhance wildfire prevention utilizing targeted grazing,

controlled burns, and forest management practices to protect grazing lands.

- Keep working lands working by protecting family farms

from undue regulatory burdens under the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and many other key regulations. — NCBA

Coffman wins 2024 Advocate of the Year

From Temple, TX, Emma Coffman has been selected by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, as the 2024 Advocate of the Year. The award recognizes Coffman for her creative use of storytelling across social media platforms, along with breaking down barriers as a first-generation cattle rancher.

After earning her bachelor's degree in animal science from Texas A&M University, Coffman pursued diverse opportunities in agriculture, including cattle ranching in Australia,

before returning to Texas to begin her professional career. With both classroom and real-world experience, Coffman has a wealth of knowledge to share on her social media platforms where she addresses misconceptions of the beef industry and utilizes her background as a first-generation agriculturalist to connect with consumers.

"As a first-generation agriculturalist, what I initially saw as my biggest disadvantage has turned out to be the greatest blessing the Lord could have given me," said Coffman.

"It has provided me with the unique opportunity to break down complex topics and present them in ways that are more relatable and understandable to everyday consumers."

As a modern-day influencer, Coffman has a knack for creating approachable and educational social media content that bridges the gap between consumers and producers. With more than 80,000 followers across social media platforms, Coffman uses her platform to educate viewers about sustainable and innovative ways farmers and ranchers care for their animals and produce high-quality beef.

"My purpose in advocating for beef is to empower people to make informed decisions based on knowledge. I want consumers to choose American beef confidently, understanding that it not only provides nutritious, sustainable protein but also helps support

the hardworking families behind it."

Along with sharing beef facts and ranching stories, Coffman's passion goes beyond simply reaching consumers. She also strives to inspire the next generation of ranchers through sharing stories that will motivate and guide them as they build their operations. Coffman also works to encourage producers and industry stakeholders to join the conversation to help grow consumer trust in the beef industry and establish a firm foundation for future beef advocates to flourish.

"Through advocacy work, ranchers and industry stakeholders ensure that the hard work, dedication, and positive impact of beef production are recognized and valued. It is not just about protecting the industry—it is about ensuring a strong future for agriculture and the generations to come." — Beef Checkoff

Cattle producers head to San Antonio

Thousands of cattle producers, industry partners and stakeholders attended CattleCon 2025 in San Antonio, TX, for business meetings, educational sessions, networking and a little Texas sun and fun.

Buzz Brainard, host of Music Row Happy Hour, returned as emcee to kick things off along with Opening General Session speaker Lieutenant Colonel Dan Rooney. A decorated F-16 fighter pilot, professional golfer, philanthropist and bestselling author, Rooney is called to "inspire people to help people." Rooney is best known for founding the Folds of Honor, a leading non-profit organization that provides educational scholarships for children and spouses of fallen or disabled military service members and first responders.

Wednesday morning began with celebrating the 2025 Beef Quality Assurance Award winners, announcing the 2024 Environmental Stewardship Award Program National winner and recognizing W.D. Farr Scholarship recipients. This special general session will also be impactful for those looking to transition their business to the next generation or new ownership; Dr. Shannon Ferrell examined generational changes shaping the world today including remote work and shifts in wealth creation.


Also on Wednesday, the Sustainability Forum included a panel of industry experts discussing building operation resilience through adoption of written grazing management plans. Grazing management

plans (GMPs) build resilience by establishing a baseline for observing and managing land, cattle and finances while enabling producers to make informed decisions about operational goals. Panelists will provide insights into the application of GMPs for production, drivers of adoption, socioeconomic factors and supply chain opportunities.

The final day began with CattleFAX conducting their U.S. & Global Protein and Grain Outlook Session. Randy Blach, the team at CattleFAX and meteorologist Matt Makens discussed what 2025 and beyond might look like for the cattle industry.

Throughout CattleCon, the 32nd annual Cattlemen's College included educational sessions with industry leaders tackling innovative topics. Other highlights include a D.C. Issues update, Today's Beef Consumer market research update and Beef Industry Forum. The Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame banquet and Environmental Stewardship Award Program reception recognized leaders for their achievements, and there were more than nine acres of displays, exhibitors and education in the NCBA Trade Show.

In addition, producers were hard at work guiding both NCBA policy and Beef Checkoff programs. Annual meetings of the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, the Cattlemen's Beef Board, American National Cattle-Women, CattleFAX and National Cattlemen's Foundation also took place. — NCBA



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Kansas ranch honored with Environmental Stewardship Award

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) announced that Downey Ranch in Wamego, KS, is the 2024 Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) National winner. The award, which annually recognizes the outstanding stewardship practices and conservation achievements of cattle producers, was presented to Barb Downey and her husband, Joe Carpenter, during CattleCon 2025 in San Antonio, TX.

"We are stewards of the land; we've been entrusted with it, and we want to make sure what you see today continues on," said Downey. "What we do every day in some way, shape or form is in service to that mission."

Located in the heart of the Kansas Flint Hills, Downey Ranch is a commercial cow-calf operation committed to stewardship. Owners Joe Carpenter and Barb Downey have incorporated numerous grazing management techniques to enhance rangeland health, minimize the need for harvested forages and meet the nutritional needs of their cattle with little supplemental feed.

In addition to extensive use of rotational grazing,

they utilize a novel bale grazing program to help cover winter feed needs. Downey Ranch utilizes prescribed burning to enhance the mix of grass species in their pastures as well as control woody encroachment.

The family has also integrated new technology to enhance cattle well-being, improve land management and reduce labor needs. In addition to incorporating these resource management practices on their ranch, Barb and Joe are willing to share their experiences with others. Downey Ranch hosts multiple tours for industry groups, students and other stakeholders.

"If our grasslands, our cattle and our ranch are thriving, then our family thrives, and that is the foundation for everything we have built," Downey said. "The land is sometimes hard for a rancher to talk about because it is part of you, it's just who you are, your soul. We've given our lives to it so our kids can continue on."

Established in 1991, ESAP identifies outstanding land stewards in the cattle industry. Each year, regional award winners are recognized, and one is honored as the national

winner.

"Conservation practices of cattle farmers and ranchers across the country help to preserve natural resources and provide wildlife habitat," said NCBA President Mark Eisele. "The stewardship efforts of Downey Ranch and other ESAP winners confirm our industry's commitment to protecting the land and water for future generations."

2024 Regional Winners

Region I: Angus Glen Farms LLC, Watkins Glen, NY.

Region II: Kempfer Cattle Company, Deer Park, FL.

Region III: Little Timber

Farms, Blackduck, MN.

Region IV: Blue Ranch, Moore County, TX.

Region V: LeValley Ranch, Hotchkiss, CO.

Region VI: Cottonwood Ranch, Wells, NV.

Region VII: Downey Ranch, Wamego, KS.

Previous National ESAP honorees:

2023: G Bar C Ranch, Texas.

2022: Carter Cattle Company LLC, Alabama.

2021: JY Ferry & Son, Inc., Utah.

2020: Beatty Canyon Ranch, Colorado.

2019: Blackbeard's Ranch, Florida.

ESAP is generously sponsored by companies and federal agencies who share the cattle industry's commitment to caring for



NCBA
Barb Downey and Joe Carpenter, Downey Ranch, Wamego, KS.

the environment and protecting natural resources. Sponsors including USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Corteva Agriscience, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service part-

ner with NCBA to promote environmental stewardship throughout the beef supply chain. For more information, visit www.environmentalstewardship.org. — NCBA

2025 Stockmanship & Stewardship announced

During CattleCon 2025 in San Antonio, TX, dates and locations were announced for 2025 Stockmanship & Stewardship events. Event registration will open late spring.

2025 Stockmanship & Stewardship dates and locations:

- June 26-28, Watertown, SD.
- Aug. 13-14, Canyon, TX.
- Sept. 4-6, Springfield, MO.

Stockmanship & Stewardship is a unique educational experience for cattle producers featuring low-stress cattle handling demonstrations, Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) educational sessions, facility design sessions and industry updates. Producers can become BQA certified, network with fellow cattlemen and women, participate in hands-on demonstrations led by animal handling experts including Curt Pate and Dr. Ron Gill, and learn innovative techniques.

Topics including biosecurity and Secure Beef Supply will be discussed, and the Texas program will be feedyard focused and available in Spanish. The program is sponsored by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA),

Neogen, and the Beef Checkoff-funded Beef Quality Assurance program.

"Neogen is dedicated to the advancement of human and animal well-being through science and technology," said Elizabeth Wonsowski, livestock director of marketing at Neogen. "As a leader within the beef industry and proud partner of cattle ranchers and beef production, we recognize the important role that education and resources play in helping the cattle industry continue to grow in a healthy and sustainable way."

"We are proud to support NCBA and the Beef Checkoff through the Stockmanship & Stewardship program. Together, we can fuel a brighter future of global food security."

For more information about Stockmanship & Stewardship, visit www.StockmanshipAndStewardship.org. Cattle producers attending a Stockmanship & Stewardship event are eligible for reimbursement through the Rancher Resilience Grant. To apply for a grant to cover registration and hotel costs, visit www.ncba.org/producers/rancher-resilience-grant. — NCBA

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2024 ESAP regional winners announced

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) recognized seven of the nation's top cattle operations during CattleCon 2025 in San Antonio, TX, as Environmental Stewardship Award Program (ESAP) regional winners for their conservation efforts.

Regional ESAP winners undertake stewardship efforts unique to their environment, landscape and resources.

The 2024 regional winners are:

Region I: Angus Glen Farms LLC, Watkins Glen, NY

Angus Glen Farms is a cow-calf operation in the iconic Finger Lakes Region, an agricultural area which sees more than one million visitors each year. Cattle are used as a tool to improve the soil, forest and forage health. Cattle are moved daily to manage and reduce runoff into nearby Seneca Lake while also promoting

soil health, forage, and tree growth and improving the health of the cattle.

In winter months when grass is not available, they practice bale grazing to reduce soil compaction and improve soil health in needed areas. The Chedzoy family also hosts "pasture walks" educating other producers, conservation professionals and visitors about their stewardship practices.

Region II: Kempfer Cattle Company, Deer Park, FL

Kempfer Cattle Company is a 25,000-acre diversified ranch in central Florida. Since 1898, six generations of the family have implemented stewardship practices to conserve land and water resources. The purebred Brahman and commercial cattle operation also includes a variety of ventures including a sod company and sawmill.

The Kempfer family collects and stores rainwater in stock tanks, which reduces the strain on natural water bodies, particularly during drought conditions. They also prevent overgrazing and soil erosion around rivers and streams, preserving ecological balance and protecting riparian areas. By actively managing and controlling the spread of invasive plants, the ranch preserves biodiversity, protects sensitive ecosystems and maintains the integrity of native plant communities.

Region III: Little Timber Farms, Blackduck, MN

Located in northern Minnesota, Little Timber Farms is owned and operated by fourth-generation farmer Rachel Gray and her family. Over the years, the farm transitioned from dairy and crop production to cow-calf and the current heifer develop-

ment operation. Gray recognized that the nutritious grass would benefit growing heifers through effective rotational grazing, and her family strives to improve the operation through healthier soil and healthier cattle.

The family also takes protecting the Red Lake Watershed seriously as water eventually flows into Hudson Bay. Due to the family's conservation practices, the farm has become a haven for wildlife and waterfowl, and species diversity has increased.

Region IV: Blue Ranch, Moore County, TX

With perennial water flowing and native grasses perfect for rotational grazing, Rex and Susan McCloy saw an opportunity to expand their extensive farming and cattle operation. A decade later, the Blue Ranch just south of Dumas in Moore County, Texas, is a

benchmark for stewardship that yields highly efficient cattle production and a thriving wildlife habitat, while managing constant environmental improvements to the sundry rolling prairie in the northwestern Texas Panhandle.

The McCloy's goals are to achieve the highest levels of environmental, economic and social sustainability through holistic management practices; improve riparian areas to reduce erosion; create higher wildlife populations through improved natural habitats; and promote sustainable grazing practices by advocating at the local level and beyond.

Region V: LeValley Ranch, Hotchkiss, CO

LeValley Ranch in Hotchkiss, CO, is a commercial cattle operation that seamlessly integrates federal and private rangeland to support livestock production, wildlife habitat and range vigor with plant diversity, while also directly connecting to consumers and their community through direct marketing of beef.

For five generations, the LeValley family has been stewards of the land and they achieve their goals through an overall philosophy of land health and management that concentrates on allowing time to rest, grazing moderately, and creating pastures where they are utilized in a different rotation in consecutive years. Diversification has also played a role in the ranch's success with income support from a big game and bird hunting enterprise as well as through involvement in the beef supply chain with Homestead Meats processing facilities and retail store.

Region VI: Cottonwood Ranch, Wells, NV

Cottonwood Ranch is a six-generation cow-calf and horse

operation in Wells, NV. The Smith and Molsbee families are at the forefront of sustainable cattle ranching realizing that wildlife, healthy lands, and livestock can coexist and thrive together through managing both private and public lands as a whole.

The ranch has an extensive history of working with federal and state partners to implement conservation practices and is a leader in utilizing virtual fencing for cattle. Cottonwood Ranch has implemented intensive grazing management strategies on their private land that have created more diverse meadows.

Diversification has also played a role in the ranch's success, with the families expanding their business to include an events venue, hunting operation, veterans retreat and birding and wildlife learning center.

Region VII: Downey Ranch, Wamego, KS

Located in the heart of the Kansas Flint Hills, southwest of Wamego, Downey Ranch is a commercial cow-calf operation committed to stewardship. Owners Joe Carpenter and Barb Downey have incorporated numerous grazing management techniques to enhance rangeland health, minimize the need for harvested forages and meet the nutritional needs of their cattle with little supplemental feed.

In addition to extensive use of rotational grazing, they utilize a novel bale grazing program to help cover winter feed needs. Downey Ranch utilizes prescribed burning to enhance the mix of grass species in their pastures as well as control woody encroachment. The family has also integrated new technology to enhance cattle well-being, improve land management and reduce labor needs. — NCBA

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Lot 1

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	M&G	REA	IMF	SBMI	SCHB
-0.6	3.7	72	114	34	70	0.75	0.45	491	170

H WMS THOMAS COUNTY 1443 ET x CL 1 DOMINETTE 850F

HOFFMAN DOMINO 4265 #44585232



Lot 56

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	M&G	REA	IMF	SBMI	SCHB
0.6	3.5	74	120	31	68	0.63	0.23	366	175

CL 1 DOMINO 267K 1ET x H MISS ENDURE 1175

HOFFMAN NEW STANDARD 4451 #P-44586526



Lot 53

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	M&G	REA	IMF	SBMI	SCHB
2.2	2.7	75	115	37	75	1.05	0.23	460	164

BIRDWELL NEW STANDARD 2912 X H MS BLAZE 8237

HOFFMAN HIGH TIME 3646 #44543647



Lot 180

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	M&G	REA	IMF	SBMI	SCHB
11.7	0.7	68	106	32	66	0.53	0.50	447	159

GERBER HIGH TIME H65 x H AH MS RELEVANT 1917 ET

HOFFMAN RISE ABOVE 4400 #21037635



Lot 250

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	REA	SM	SB	SC
14	-0.1	89	141	28	0.81	0.48	99	152	296

STELLPLUG HOFFMAN RISEABOVE X HOFFMAN QUEEN 218

STELLPLUG PROLIFIC 4494 #21012697



Lot 313

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MRB	REA	SM	SB	SC
9	0.5	105	177	29	0.63	1.28	111	198	367

ELLINGSON PROLIFIC X STELLPLUG RITO LADY 22

SJQC AMICUS BLANTON #5477625



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WATCH AND BID ONLINE



Emerging leaders receive CME Group scholarships

Ten students pursuing careers in the beef industry were awarded \$1,500 scholarships by the National Cattlemen's Foundation (NCF) and recognized during CattleCon 2025 in San Antonio, TX. The CME Group Beef Industry Scholarship program recognizes talented and thoughtful students emerging as industry leaders.

The 2025 CME Group Beef Industry Scholarship recipients are:

- Mattie Flohr of Danville, IN, Oklahoma State University.
- Bennett Gordon of White-wood, SD, Oklahoma State University.
- Mia Jess of Lubbock, TX, Texas Tech University.
- Ty Jones of Scottsville, KY, Oklahoma State University.
- Taylor Lacek of Brookings, SD, South Dakota State University.
- Chase Litton of Boonville, MO, Oklahoma State University.
- Whitney Peck of Fredonia,

KY, University of Kentucky.

- Hailey Rydberg of Essex, IA, University of Northern Iowa.

- Wyatt Stowell of Fox Lake, WI, University of Wisconsin-River Falls.

- Spencer Walahoski of Overton, NE, West Texas A&M University.

"Every year it is a privilege to recognize outstanding students passionate about pursuing careers in the cattle industry," said NCF Chair Dave True. "Thanks to CME Group for making this scholarship possible."

Introduced in 1989 and sponsored by CME Group, the scholarship identifies and encourages talented students who play a vital role in the future of food production. Students studying education, communication, production, research or other areas related to the beef industry are eligible to apply for the annual scholarship program. — National Cattlemen's Beef Association

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NCBA announces 2025-26 policy committee leaders

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) announced the appointment of key cattle industry leaders to serve on the association's policy committees. The policy committees review, discuss, and vote on resolutions brought forward by NCBA members. These grassroots policies become part of NCBA's policy book, which directs advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C.

"What sets NCBA apart

as an organization is our grassroots policy process," said NCBA President Buck Wehrbein, a Nebraska cattle producer. "Our volunteer committee leaders serve an important role by providing a venue for cattle producers from across the country to discuss the critical issues facing our industry and make decisions on how to move forward. I am proud of this highly distinguished group of cattlemen and cattlemom-

en, and I know they will serve the entire cattle industry well."

The new committee leaders include:

Agriculture and Food Policy Committee

- Jeff Schafer, chair (North Dakota).

- Eric Jennings, vice chair (South Dakota).

Cattle Health and Well Being Committee

- Barbara Jackson, chair (Arizona).

- Troy Shelby, DVM, vice chair (Oklahoma).

Federal Lands Committee

- Alisa Ogden, chair (New Mexico).

- Lesley Robinson, vice chair (Montana).

International Trade Committee

- Tony Toso, chair (California).

- Will Mayfield, vice chair (Tennessee).

Live Cattle Marketing Committee

- Mike Drinnin, chair (Nebraska).

- Bruce Mershon, vice chair (Missouri).

Property Rights and Environmental Management Committee

- Barb Cooksley, chair (Nebraska).

- Leroy Startz, vice chair (Texas).

Tax and Credit Committee

- Jeff Magee, chair (Mississippi).

- Thomas Bryant, vice chair (Florida).

Additionally, NCBA made appointments to the

NCBA Political Action Committee (PAC) Committee and the Resolutions Committee. NCBA-PAC is the political arm of the association while the Resolutions Committee provides technical review of policy resolutions moving through other committees. The NCBA-PAC Committee leaders will take office following CattleCon in San Antonio, TX.

Political Action Committee

- Donnie Lawson, chair (Indiana).

- Charlie Swanson, vice chair (Oklahoma).

Resolutions Committee

- Margaret Ann Smith, chair (Virginia).

- Cary King, vice chair (Kentucky).

"NCBA's staff takes our marching orders from our policy book, which is crafted through the grassroots policy process with the oversight of our committee leaders," said NCBA Senior Vice President of Government Affairs Ethan Lane. "NCBA's grassroots policy process helps ensure that this association is advocating for policies that support farms and ranches of all sizes and in every part of the country. We look forward to working with this group of cattle industry leaders as we fight for policies that protect cattle producers from overregulation, increase profitability, and secure our legacy for the next generation."

— NCBA

Graduate students receive scholarships

Conrad Schelkopf of Geneva, NE, and Tyler Thomas of Baker City, OR, have each been awarded a \$15,000 W.D. Farr Scholarship by the National Cattlemen's Foundation (NCF). The annual W.D. Farr Scholarship program recognizes outstanding graduate students for their academic achievements, leadership and commitment to the advancement of the beef industry. The scholarship recipients will be recognized during CattleCon 2025, Feb. 4-6, in San Antonio, TX.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in animal science from Colorado State University (CSU) and a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Kansas State (K-State) University, Schelkopf is continuing his education at K-State, pursuing a Ph.D. in diagnostic medicine and pathobiology. Growing up on a diversified livestock and row crop operation in Nebraska planted Schelkopf's roots deep within the beef industry. From managing a beef cow herd as part of his FFA supervised agriculture experience to spending many hours with his dad in the combine harvesting corn for livestock consumption, cattle have driven his passion within the agriculture industry.

"As a newly graduated veterinarian, I plan to pursue a career focusing on providing practical solutions in cattle health management through all stages of the production cycle," said Schelkopf. "Receiving the W.D. Farr Scholarship enhances my ability to share my research with veterinarians and producers in the field, as well as direct future research initiatives with cattle production and sustainability as driving priorities."

Thomas' interest in cattle production began during childhood on his family ranch in Oregon, and his appreciation for the industry was solidified years later while working across the genetics, cattle feeding

and animal nutrition sectors in the U.S. and abroad. Thomas earned a bachelor's degree in animal science from K-State and a master's degree in animal science from CSU, where he is currently working toward a Ph.D. in animal nutrition. Thomas hopes to further the beef cattle industry by helping producers cater to consumer interests while improving operational profitability.

"I am passionate about helping cattle operations be profitable and sustainable, equipping the next generation of agriculturalists for success and researching solutions to common industry challenges," said Thomas. "This scholarship helps me continue my journey of conducting valuable research, connecting with beef industry professionals and further developing the skills to make a positive impact on the beef cattle industry."

The scholarship, established by NCF in 2007, honors the successful career of the late W.D. Farr. Farr, a third-generation Coloradoan, pioneer rancher, statesman and banker was known for his extraordinary vision. His dedication to improving agriculture, livestock and water development resulted in significant changes in farming methods that have influenced the practices of ranchers and farmers throughout the nation.

Farr was the first president of the NCF and served as president of the American National Cattlemen's Association, which later became the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA). Farr died at age 97 in August 2007.

The NCF advances the future of the beef industry by assisting in the education of the next generation of beef industry professionals. For more information about NCF and the W.D. Farr Scholarship, visit nationalcattlemen.org. — NCBA



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LOT 27 - L341



RAAA 4993281
BAST Franchise H011 x LSF Capital 4099P

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	YG	MARB	RE	HB	GM
14	-3.3	60	96	32	.03	.38	.24	67	47

LOT 1 - 402



Connealy Craftsman x V A R Discovery 2240

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	\$B	\$C
+3	+2.8	+89	+150	+33	+63	+1.44	+98	+189	+326

LOT 32 - M403



RAAA 4828004
Bieber Jumpstart J137 x Haycow Mulberry 183

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	YG	MARB	RE	HB	GM
12	-6	84	140	30	.08	.28	.34	51	50

LOT 2 - 405



J Trademark 1037 x Connealy Confidence Plus

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	\$B	\$C
+7	+1.8	+90	+157	+29	+91	+88	+94	+206	+349

LOT 10 - 492



AAA 20927801
Basin Jameson 1076 x E W A Peyton 642

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	\$B	\$C
+5	+2.8	+118	+192	+22	+93	+1.35	+74	+206	+351

LOT 15 - 463



AAA 20927807
44 Victory E W A Peyton 642

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	\$B	\$C
+17	-2.7	+87	+155	+41	+72	+1.80	+77	+210	+359

LOT 23 - 480



AAA 20985852
H P C A Vision x 3F Epic 4631

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	\$B	\$C
+5	+2.9	+81	+155	+23	+68	+86	+93	+186	+289

LOT 51 - 2409



AAA 21030827
S Architect 9501 x Barstow Cash

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	\$B	\$C
+6	+2.4	+89	+153	+31	+85	+37	+1.43	+175	+315

LOT 17 - M01



AHA 44625560
Pyramid Daybreak 9165 x NJW 73S W18 Hometown 10Y ET

CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	BII	CHB
4.6	2.9	66	105	34	82	.17	.66	467	134

LOT 9 - 419



AAA 20952564
J Trademark 1037 x E W A Peyton 642

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	CW	MARB	RE	\$B	\$C
+8	+7	+92	+153	+25	+63	+82	+74	+162	+311

Keep the cow herd rumen healthy during winter drylot

Stomach churning is a good thing for cows. A cow's stomach churning indicates a healthy rumen system, which is the movement of the rumen and reticulum to mix all the ingested food with rumen fluid and microbes. Additional indicators of a healthy rumen are a bal-

ance of fiber- and starch-digesting bacteria and a neutral pH.

Cow herds across the northern Plains spend the grazing season out on a pasture and range consuming forages with rumen fiber-digesting microbes. Once the grazing season is over, many cow herds

spend the winter months in a drylot. Moving from pasture and range to a drylot is a major diet change and, if done incorrectly, can damage the rumen in a way that a bottle of antacids can't fix.

A management goal for the cow herd during the drylot period should be to

maintain a healthy rumen environment. Once grass returns in the spring and the cow herd is returned to grazing, the rumen is churning and a re-adjusting period back to grazing is not required.

This diet shift can mean changing from forages containing 80% moisture to dry

hay with 15% moisture. Depending on the nutrient content of the hay, a supplement may compensate for any nutrient deficiencies. There is no way of knowing forage nutrient content without forage testing. This means that the cow herd must adjust to the type of forage being consumed and the supplement type, grain (which has high starch content) or co-product (which has high digestible fiber content).

Moving from a high forage to a high concentrate (starch) diet can cause rapid changes in the rumen environment. If a change in diet occurs too quickly, the rumen walls can get damaged. This causes a decrease in rumen pH, a shift in the type of rumen bacteria and a decrease in stomach churning, which can lead to bloat, acidosis or founder. This can happen when a starch supplement is fed beyond 0.5% of body weight daily. This effect can be avoided if a cow is fed highly digestible fiber such as in soybean hulls, corn gluten feed or dried distillers grain.

Another management strategy to control drops in rumen pH is to ensure adequate fiber in the diet. Fiber stimulates cud chewing and saliva production, which buffers a drop in rumen pH. Fiber that supports rumen health is related to particle size and is referred to as "effective fiber" or scratch factor. Many producers will grind or chop hay that has low nutrient content and blend it with a supplement that is fed together as a mixed ration. Effective fiber is reduced, however, if the hay is ground too finely. To maintain effective fiber, a half-inch chop is recommended.

A huge part of maintaining a healthy cow herd is maintaining a healthy rumen. Cows are stressed when their diet is changed. Once the cow herd has transitioned to a drylot, maintain a steady, consistent dry matter feed intake. Ensure there is adequate fiber in the diet to stimulate rumen-churning and cud-chewing and always have ample water supplies available. — NDSU Extension



VIDEO AUCTION

**Superior Livestock Auction
video auction
Jan. 23, Hudson Oaks, TX**

Superior Livestock Auction hosted their video auction live Jan. 23 from the Superior Livestock Auction Studio in Hudson Oaks, TX. Cattle producers sold 45,068 head of calves, yearlings and bred stock, totaling 361 lots from 24 states for this offering. Strong buyer participation from several bidders

throughout the auction resulted in 101 different successful buyers. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through September 2025.

Regions 3/4/5/6 feeder steers and feeder heifers saw moderate to good demand. Lighter-weight steers were fully steady with the last test while heavier steers sold \$3-5 lower. Heifers were steady to \$5 higher. Regions 1/2 feeder steers and heifers were received fully

steady. Regions 1/2 weaned calves and calves on cows were only lightly tested but remained in good demand.

Regions 3/4/5/6 weaned calves and calves on cows were offered in specific geographic regions beginning with Florida/Louisiana/Mississippi; this was the first test of calves on cows coming in summer and early fall and they were met with an aggressive buyer base and saw prices \$20-30 over previous tests in 2024.

Region 3 saw an uneven market on weaned calves lighter weights in condition for wheat pasture were fully steady and calves that were preconditioned with flesh were weak to \$7 lower. Region 4 weaned calves and calves on cows were well received but buyers were cautious on delivery time due to colder weather conditions in that region. Beef-on-dairy crosses were lightly tested but yielded a fully steady trend.



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Once the cow herd has transitioned to a drylot, maintain a steady, consistent dry matter feed intake.

Frost seeding or interseeding legumes

Are you looking to increase production from pastures or hay fields? Frost seeding or interseeding legumes might just work in your operation.

Nitrogen is one of the key ingredients for productive pastures. A way to get more nitrogen in a pasture is to plant legumes. Alfalfa, red or white clovers, birdsfoot trefoil and other legumes all fix atmospheric nitrogen and can reduce nitrogen costs. These legumes are also very high in forage quality.

Not all pastures are good candidates for adding legumes, however. First, legumes need adequate phosphorus and a pH usually above 6 while some prefer a pH closer to 7. Frost seeding is a method where legume seed is simply broadcast in winter to allow the natural freezing and thawing of the ground to plant the seed for you.

Because frost seeding requires seed to be close to

the soil surface after broadcasting, snow-free or very little snow is preferred. Frost seeding success can vary and while frost seeding is easier to do, drilling is almost always a better option if the pasture conditions allow it. Interseeding with a no-till drill better ensures seed placement and seed to soil contact.

Lastly, heavy flash grazing several times in the spring will reduce the competition from existing grasses and help establishment of legume seedlings. Once the grass is 3 to 4 inches taller than the seedlings, graze quickly until the grass is grazed down to the height of the legume seedlings.

Legumes can help reduce fertilizer cost and create higher quality pastures and hay. Frost seeding or no-till drill interseeding are two approaches that might work to establish legumes in your operation. — Jerry Volesky, Nebraska Extension

Industry feels optimistic for red meat's future

USMEF REPORT (from page 1)

stability in part to record levels of tourism, which helped sustain demand. Other key markets showed mixed results—exports to South Korea, the leading value destination, increased 5% in value to \$2.01 billion despite a 7% volume decline, while shipments to China/Hong Kong dropped

7% in volume and 3% in value to \$1.81 billion. However, USMEF noted renewed momentum in China/Hong Kong during the fourth quarter.

In Central America, the report states that larger shipments to Guatemala and Panama drove a 5% increase in volume to 20,072 mt, with value up 9% to \$147.1 million. The Caribbean market also experienced strong gains, led

by increased demand in the Dominican Republic, Cuba, and Trinidad and Tobago. Beef exports to the region reached 29,655 mt, up 21% from the previous year, while export value rose 12% to \$255.7 million. According to USMEF, growth in the Dominican Republic was driven by higher demand for muscle cuts, while Trinidad and Tobago saw increased purchases of variety meats.

The Middle East saw a 25% surge in exports, led by demand for variety meats in Egypt and muscle cuts in Kuwait, though trade with the United Arab Emirates slowed due to halal certification issues.

Pork, lamb exports

U.S. pork exports are on track to set new records in both volume and value in 2024, according to USMEF.

“What makes this even more remarkable is that the previous (2020) volume record was driven in part by

unprecedented demand from China, which was still recovering from widespread African swine fever outbreaks,” Halstrom said. “A few years later, despite China’s demand for imported pork declining significantly, the U.S. pork industry is reaching new heights internationally by focusing on market diversification and promotion of underutilized cuts.”

Through November, exports climbed 5% year over year to 2.76 million metric tons, valued at \$7.85 billion, a 6% increase. Projections indicate total exports will surpass 3 million mt for the first time, breaking the previous volume record of 2.98 million mt set in 2020, while also exceeding the 2023 value record of \$8.16 billion. Mexico remains the top market, with exports reaching 1.05 million mt, up 5% from the previous year’s record pace, and value increasing 10% to \$2.33 billion. This marks the third consecutive year that export value to Mexico has topped \$2 billion; the

first time it has surpassed \$2.5 billion.

U.S. lamb exports continued their upward trend in 2024, driven by strong demand in the Caribbean and Mexico, according to USMEF. From January through November, exports increased 12% year over year to 2,428 metric tons, with value rising 13% to just over \$13 million. Mexico led the growth, with shipments climbing 27% to 768 mt, marking the highest volume since 2019 as a broader range of cuts gained traction with importers. The Bahamas also saw a surge in demand, with exports soaring 124% to 309 mt, the strongest level since 2011. USMEF also reported year-over-year gains in the Philippines and Guatemala, while shipments to Japan increased slightly. Exports remained steady in Taiwan but declined in Canada and Panama.

Trade optimism

Despite challenges such as

trade barriers, labor disruptions at U.S. ports, and the need for stronger enforcement of trade commitments, Halstrom remains optimistic about the industry’s future.

“If I seem like an eternal optimist, it’s because I have seen firsthand for several decades how expanding global demand benefits the U.S. meat industry,” he said.

Comparing Africa and Southeast Asia’s potential to the early development of markets in Mexico and Central and South America, he believes the growth opportunities are extraordinary. While he acknowledges the need for a new farm bill to provide stability for U.S. producers, Halstrom remains confident in the industry’s resilience.

“These challenges are not insurmountable, and I am confident they will not stand in the way of continued success in the coming year,” Halstrom concluded. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

Texas beef herd grows slightly amid record prices

The Texas beef cattle herd grew slightly since January 2024, but the overall U.S. herd remains near its lowest numbers since 1961.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts expect several factors to continue working against a rebuild of the Texas beef cattle herd. The latest USDA beef cattle inventory survey showed the U.S. herd had shrunk another 0.6% to 27.68 million head.

Texas’ beef cattle herd grew by 60,000 head to 4.02 million over last year, according to the USDA report.

Reaching new heights

The historically strong beef cattle market, high input costs and longer-term concerns about drought have stymied a herd rebuild, said Jason Cleere, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension statewide beef cattle specialist, and David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension livestock and food product economist.

Anderson, professor in the Texas A&M Department of Agricultural Economics, said 400-500-pound calves averaged \$3.89 per pound in the southern Plains market that includes north Texas and Oklahoma. That weight class of calf sold for \$3.29/lb. at the same time last year.

“That’s outrageously high,” he said. “But the lower cattle numbers mean the pressure is going to be on higher calf prices.”

Cleere, associate professor in the Texas A&M Department of Animal Science, said even the salvage values for older cows and bulls is at record highs.

“From a rancher perspective, it’s great to see a 2,000-lb. bull selling as a packer for \$2,500-3,000,” he said. “So, if salvage values and demand is so high, it’s just another snapshot of how unprecedented the cattle market is.”

Despite the unprecedented market, Cleere said producers are finding it more challenging to find profits due to higher input costs. Everything in ranching costs more than the previous price surge following the 2011 drought.

Cleere said inflation-adjusted prices for a 550-lb. calf are lower than in 2013-14 when ranchers were realizing better margins.

“Ranchers need these record-high prices because it costs more to raise that same 550-lb. calf,” he said.

Optimism among Texas ranchers is brimming, especially in areas of the state east of Interstate 35 historically known for forage and beef cattle production. Price outlooks are good, and consistent

rainfall have set the stage for a strong spring green-up and flush of cool-season forages.

The flush of cool-season forages like ryegrass and legumes can pack pounds on spring calves and help cows recover for breeding, Cleere said.

Despite the good market and moisture outlooks, Cleere said Texas ranchers have not yet held back heifers above replacement percentages in ways that indicate a herd rebuild.

“The weather has been encouraging, and some ranchers may be thinking about keeping more heifers, but that has to hold,” he said. “Ranchers have good memories, and they may be thinking about the next drought.”

Cleere said many ranchers may also remember how drastically the beef cattle market dropped in 2016 after a rapid herd rebuild. Ranchers paid top dollar for replacement heifers with the expectation that prices would remain high or go higher. But prices fell, which meant losses at sale barns for the subsequent calves produced by those high-cost heifers.

After the 2012 drought, prices for a 400-500-lb. feeder steer peaked at \$3.17/lb. in May 2015, Anderson said. By December 2015 those steers brought \$1.97/lb.

That cautious approach, higher input costs and long-term weather outlook for more drought for Texas will likely mean the state never reaches its previous herd numbers again, Cleere said. Land-use changes and fragmentation due to population growth are also taking ranches, forage production, pastures and rangeland out of Texas’ beef cattle production system.

“You see it, even in rural areas, so the reality is, if you look back 10 years, we’re not going to see those same cow/calf numbers that we once did,” he said. “The only thing that would change that is if inputs like fertilizer were dirt cheap so ranchers could ramp up their stocking rates.”

Despite the challenges, Cleere said Texas cattle ranchers should have good opportunities the next few years. He expects strong price trends to continue and recommends ranchers look for ways to reduce costs and increase profits.


Cleere said it could mean selling calves earlier or later depending on market prices and quality forage availability and/or focusing on cows’ post calving body condition. Smart, timely investments in nutritional supplements or fertilizer applications can provide long-term benefits for operations. — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

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Status of and shifts in Texas' agricultural lands

The Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute (NRI) has published the latest Texas Land Trends Program report, "Status Update and Trends of Texas Working Lands 1997-2022."

The document is a critical resource to help understand the complex makeup of Texas' agricultural lands and the challenges presented by rapid economic and population changes.

The report describes the status and recent changes in land values, ownership size and land use of privately owned Texas working lands. It shows on a larger scale how land use in Texas has changed over the last 25 years.

"This report serves not only as an updated snapshot of current conditions but also as a resource to inform future policies affecting our state's natural resources," said Roel Lopez, Ph.D., director of the NRI and head of the Texas A&M Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management.

Published every five years, the report pulls from extensive sources including the U.S. Census Bureau, Texas State Comptroller of Public Accounts, land

value and land use data from independent school districts and the USDA Statistics Service Census of Agriculture dataset.

Texas is home to eight of the top 15 most rapidly growing cities in the U.S., according to the report. From 1997 to 2022, the Texas population increased 55%, from 19 million to 30 million residents or nearly 1,100 new residents per day. Eighty-eight percent of this population increase occurred within the state's top 25 highest-growth counties.

The largest increases in land values were observed near major metropolitan areas. The average appraised market value of Texas working lands rose 55% since 2017, from \$1,951 per acre to \$3,021 per acre. Over the last 25 years, land values have increased by 505%.

Lopez said population growth and increasing land values are creating incentives for landowners to subdivide and sell their land.

"The report shows as Texas continues to grow in population and economy, the demand for rural land, especially in areas surrounding major urban centers and transportation cor-

ridors, will continue to increase and have long-term impacts on working lands," Lopez said. "Lands across the state are following much of the same trends in ownership fragmentation and conversion in the last five-year period as observed since 1997."

From 1997 to 2022, Texas saw approximately 3.7 million acres of working lands converted to nonagricultural uses. The last five years alone accounted for the loss of nearly 1.8 million acres.

While grazing lands make up the largest portion of working lands in the state, they have steadily decreased since 1997—losing roughly 6.7 million acres to other land uses over the 25 years.

In contrast, wildlife management acres significantly increased in recent years, growing from about 94,000 in 1997 to approximately 7.1 million in 2022.

Although Texas lost more than 17,000 agricultural operations in the last five years, the state still has almost 2,500 more operations than in 1997, totaling over 230,000. The average ownership size of these opera-

tions increased from 509 to 541 acres between 2017 and 2022.

Small farms and ranches of less than 100 acres in size represent 60% of all ownerships but only account for 3% of land devoted to agriculture in 2022. Larger operations covering over 2,000 acres saw the sharpest five-year decline in the last 25 years with more than 1,000 operations lost between 2017 and 2022.

Lopez emphasized that contributions from agricultural lands extend beyond the economic benefits they provide by producing crops, livestock, timber and more. They also provide valuable ecosystem services, such as air and water quality and wildlife habitat.

"We're aware of how land fragmentation and the conversion of working lands can diminish ecosystems," he said. "It's important to provide Texans with knowledge and resources to mitigate these impacts and reduce the pressure on undeveloped spaces that can provide these ecological services and a healthy balance in and around urban areas."

— Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

LEGAL LEDGER

Cattle, bison imports to resume from Mexico

The USDA announced plans to reopen the border to cattle and bison imports from Mexico following the detection of New World screwworm in the country. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Mexico agreed to implement a pre-clearance inspection and treatment protocol to mitigate the threat of the screwworm. Under the agreement, Mexico will immediately notify the agency if the screwworm is detected again, and USDA will temporarily suspend cattle imports into the country. Any cattle already at the border for import would not be eligible for entry. As part of the protocol, Mexico identified and prepared pre-export inspect pens in San Jeronimo, Chihuahua and Agua Prieta, Sonora, which USDA has inspected and approved. All cattle and bison approved for importation will be dipped in a solution to ensure they are insect- and tick-free.

Ranchers seek \$83.5M settlement with JBS

The National Farmers Union, Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund (R-CALF) USA and four cattle producers are seeking approval of a proposed \$83.5 million class action settlement with JBS. The settlement includes the \$83.5 million cash payment and certain non-monetary considerations, including providing certain documents and assistance in relation to any subsequent trial against remaining defendants Tyson, Cargill and National Beef. JBS has not admitted any wrongdoing with the settlement. The settlement classes include anyone who sold fed cattle to the Big Four from June 2015 to Feb. 29, 2020, other than pursuant to a cost-plus agreement or profit-sharing agreement, or anyone who held a long position in CME Group live cattle futures prior to June 2015 and subsequently liquidated the long position through an offsetting market transaction prior to Nov. 1, 2016. "We're pleased to have reached this settlement with JBS and we look forward to prosecuting our claims against the remaining Defendants, Tyson, Cargill and National Beef," said R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard. More details can be found at www.cattleantitrustsettlement.com.

Burgum, Zeldin receive bipartisan confirmation

The Senate confirmed Doug Burgum as Interior secretary and Lee Zeldin as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Burgum is the former governor of North Dakota and was confirmed by the Senate by a vote of 79 to 18. Zeldin is a former congressman from New York and was confirmed on a vote of 56 to 42. "Secretary Burgum has a proven record of supporting rural communities and promoting a balanced approach to energy development and conservation," the National Cattlemen's Beef Association said. The group also congratulated Zeldin on his new role. "We look forward to an EPA that acknowledges the conservation efforts that are only made possible by cattle farmers and ranchers—America's original conservationists."

Senate Ag Committee advances Rollins

The Senate Agriculture Committee late Monday night on Feb. 3 approved President Donald Trump's USDA secretary nomination Brooke Rollins on a unanimous vote of 23 to 0. Ranking Member Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) said while she would support the nomination, the Democrats remained worried about workforce, tariffs and conservation. Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) told DTN that he wants to bring Rollins' nomination to the floor as soon as possible but "the pipeline is filled for this week."

BLM, USFS announce 2025 grazing fees

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) announced the 2025 fees to graze on public lands administered by the agencies. The fees remain unchanged at \$1.35 per animal unit month (AUM). The annually determined fee uses a 1966 base value of \$1.23 per AUM and is then adjusted based on current private land lease rates, beef cattle prices and the cost of livestock production. The fee applies to 16 western states.

HSUS to change name

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) is changing its name to Humane World for Animals effective on Valentine's Day. Kitty Block, president and CEO of HSUS, announced the change in November at the To The Rescue! gala in New York City, New York. "The Humane World for Animals is strong, it is memorable, and perfectly captures who we are and what we are striving to achieve," Block said. The group said it has outgrown the "humane society" term, which is more often associated with local animal shelters.

OK introduces lab-grown meat ban bills

Two Oklahoma senators have introduced bills to ban cultivated meat. Senate Bill (SB) 22, authored by Sen. Grant Green (R-28), amends the state's Meat Consumer Protection Act to prohibit the manufacturing and selling of cell-cultured meat. "Oklahoma is a beef state that prides itself on having an abundance of healthy and natural protein," Green said. "Oklahomans should support local farmers and ranchers instead of eating fake meat." SB 96, sponsored by Sen. Warren Hamilton (R-07), would stop people or entities from producing or selling the product.

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Retail food price inflation subsided in 2024

Food-at-home prices increased by 1.2% in 2024, almost one-quarter of the increase in 2023 (5%) and lower than the 20-year historical average (2.7%). Of the food categories depicted in the chart, prices for 13 categories increased and two categories decreased in 2024.

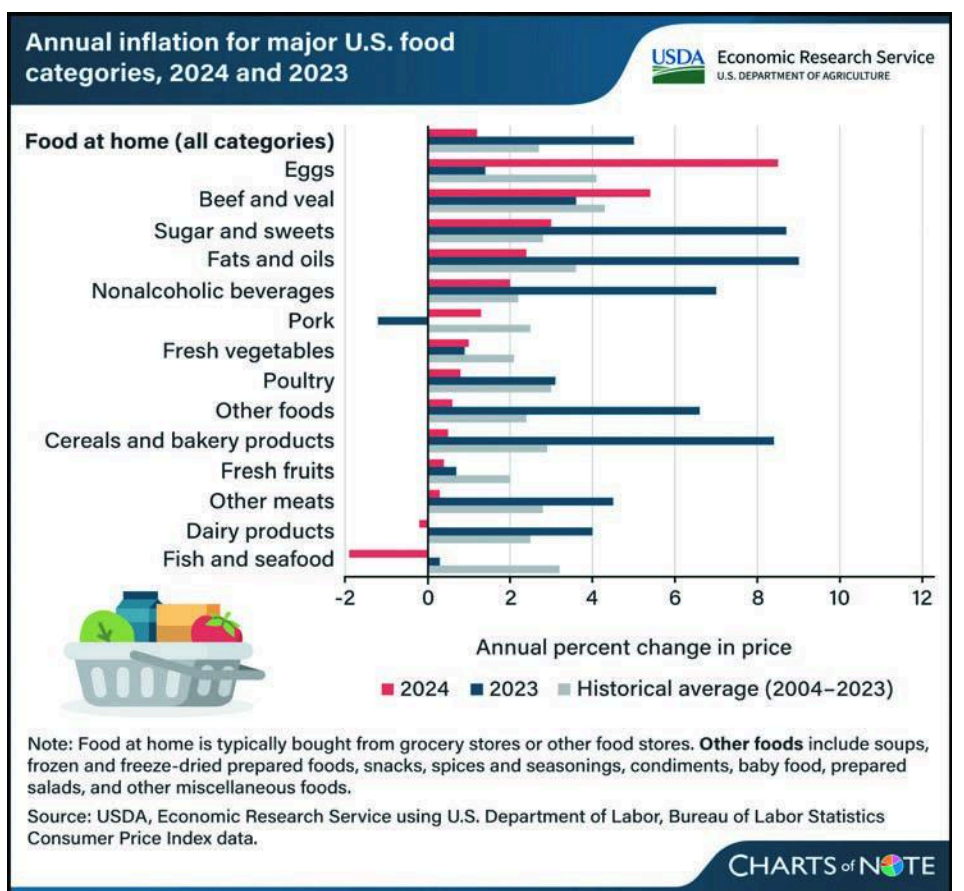
Food price growth slowed in 2024 as economy-wide inflationary factors, such as supply chain issues and labor market pressures, continued to ease after contributing to high price growth in 2022.

Prices for some inputs, including energy and unprocessed agricultural commodities, also remained below their 2022 peaks. In 2024, egg prices surged the most (8.5%) after a resurgence of a highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak that began in 2022. Beef and veal prices experienced the second highest increase (5.4%), and sugar and sweets were third highest (3%).

In contrast, fish and seafood prices declined (1.9%) in 2024 as did dairy products (0.2%).

The remaining food categories experienced price growth at a slower pace than their historical averages, including fats and oils (2.4%), nonalcoholic beverages (2%), pork (1.3%), fresh vegetables (1.0%), poultry (0.8%), other foods (0.6%), cereals and bakery products (0.5%), fresh fruits (0.4%), and other meats (0.3%).

USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) researchers project food-at-home prices will increase 1.3% in 2025, with a prediction interval of -2.7 to 5.5%. — **USDA ERS**



Soil moisture levels improve for some, worsen for others

Some parts of Texas are going into spring with a good soil moisture profile. However, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor, much of the state west of Interstate 35 continues to deal with moderate to extreme drought conditions.

Jourdan Bell, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension agronomist and associate professor in the Texas A&M Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, said the Texas High Plains are drought-free for the first time in several years. The region received very beneficial rains in October and November.

Those rains improved soil profiles, filled stockponds and benefited wheat planted for grazing and/or grain. Bell also expects the moisture to benefit rangelands when warmer weather arrives and native forages and browse break dormancy.

Despite the improved conditions, Bell said it is important to note subsoil moisture in many fields is lacking. In Texas A&M AgriLife research fields, soil moisture sensors confirmed negligible soil moisture increases below 20-24 inches.

"The performance of wheat later in the season and our summer crops will depend on winter moisture and timely spring rainfall to fully fill soil moisture profiles," she said. "But we're in much better condition than at this time in previous years."

Ronnie Schnell, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension agronomist and associate professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, said north and east of the I-35 corridor had received consistent rains that have skirted much of West and South Texas. Schnell said Northeast Texas has benefited from the La Niña weather pattern that is pushing storm systems north and to southeastern parts of the state like Beaumont.

For the most part, producers east of I-35 have experienced good working conditions as they prepare for summer crops. Cool-season forages should also be performing well with the moisture and milder temperatures.

However, areas along the Coastal Bend, including Corpus Christi, were experiencing drier conditions and moderate drought.

"The weather patterns have really helped the soil moisture profiles in those wetter areas," he said. "But in locations

around San Antonio, Hondo and west you see soils that are much more on the deficient side, so they will need to catch spring rainfall leading up to planting."

Drought is the primary concern for most producers, but Schnell said the wetter weather pattern could be detrimental to producers' ability to access fields for preparations and planting.

Missing rainfall

While rainfall loosened the drought's grip on the High Plains, and East Texas continues to receive timely rains, West and Southwest Texas have slipped deeper into protracted drought.

Reagan Noland, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension agronomist and associate professor in the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, said some areas around the region received isolated heavy rains in September and November, punctuating an otherwise extremely dry fall.

Rainfall amounts in some locations around San Angelo ranged from 5-13 inches over Labor Day weekend, and many areas received 3-5 inches in a short time in November, but all of October and December were very dry.

The rain events improved soil moisture levels some, but not as much as the slow, steady delivery of the same amount over a few weeks might have provided, Noland said. Above-average temperatures throughout the fall also contributed to subsequent moisture losses to evaporation.

Dryland wheat in the region has been stymied by the lack of rain and warmer temperatures, he said. Some dry-planted fields lay dormant until measurable rainfall was received in January. Adequate chilling hours for vernalization and timely rainfall will both be needed to allow those fields to produce profitable crops.

Conditions will need to improve for planting dryland summer crops like cotton, and timely rains will be needed to see them to harvest. The lack of rainfall in aquifer recharge zones is also impacting irrigation capacity for farmers with wells.

"Conditions look pretty bleak right now, but I'm hopeful," Noland said. "We've seen things turn around with timely

rains. Our producers aren't excited about where things are, but the jury is still out regarding 2025 crop production opportunities." — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

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Key to prosperity for Eastern Sierra 'island' communities is coordination

Tawni Thomson has a big job. She is responsible for attracting visitors and activating business activity in Bishop, arguably California's most isolated city and the heart of vast Inyo County, the state's second-largest county by area.

"I know everybody says their place is unique, but we're almost an island," said Thomson, who has served as executive director of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce and Visitors Bureau for the past 17 years. "We're a four-hour drive to the 'mainland' in any direction—it's four hours to Reno, four hours to LA, four hours to Las Vegas. And instead of water we have open landscape."

While those majestic Sierra Nevada views across the Owens Valley make the region appealing to outdoors enthusiasts, diversifying the economy and supporting tourism during the off-season (generally November to May) remain formidable challenges.

Thomson said devoting focused attention and resources to economic development is difficult, with only 3,700 people within Bishop's city limits and 18,000 in all of Inyo County.

"We're a very small community and we have very few people working on economic prosperity; we're spread really thin," she said. "So if there's a way we can

create some efficiencies or even get some outside help—that would be really welcome."

In October 2023, some help arrived in the form of Aaron Wilcher, University of California (UC) Cooperative Extension (CE) community and economic development advisor for Inyo, Mono and eastern Kern counties.

A self-described "city slicker," Wilcher grew up in San Jose and has spent much of his career as a program manager and technical assistance provider in the higher education space. Most recently, he was consulting in the northern San Joaquin Valley on the California Jobs First initiative, aimed at creating jobs and accelerating economic projects across the state.

And although Wilcher certainly will bring his experience on the workforce development front, he soon discovered he will be called upon to do much more in this region.

"There's so much to learn; one of the surprising things I've learned coming here is that the complexity of my work is almost greater because you're able to be engaged in so many more things," he said. "Because we have so few resources, you really have to pay attention to all the ones you do have. So that means you better make friends with

everybody—because everybody is important."

Wilcher is part of an emerging Community and Economic Development team of more than 20 UCCE advisors and specialists supported by UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR). Like his counterparts embedded in communities across California, Wilcher first sought to get a better understanding of the most pressing issues facing the region he serves. He spent the first few months on the job talking with elected officials and a host of community managers, planners, directors and leaders.

"I really appreciate Aaron's approach in that he's come into our community and already made a significant effort to understand the different sectors in our economy and meet with people one-on-one," Thomson said. "He's just been listening—and asking a lot of questions."

Wrapping up his needs assessment late last year, Wilcher said he heard many priorities that are shared by communities across the state—such as devising regional economic strategy and creating entrepreneurial support systems—and a few concerns that are truly unique to this particular "frontier economy."

For example, more than 98% of the land in Inyo

County is public land, managed by the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and, predominantly, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power—a legacy of the Los Angeles Aqueduct project dating to the early 20th century.

"Less than 2% of the total land mass in the region is private property," Wilcher said. "So how do you do economic development where there is no private property? For this area, it will be more about improving job quality, helping local business grow and start new operations and recruit local talent, and improving quality of life—rather than attracting large companies for relocation."

Building partnerships

Short of untangling that long-standing issue of land tenure, Wilcher also can tangibly serve the region in another crucial way—bringing the expertise and skill set that he's honed during a career of fostering cross-sector partnerships.

In Inyo County, Thomson said, there remains a disconnect between the agricultural interests that have been the historical lifeblood of the region and the tourism and hospitality industry that is now its primary economic engine. She noted that Wilcher has al-

ready made progress in building bridges and opening conversations.

"What I'm hoping for is that the tourism folks will have a better appreciation for the ag folks, and the ag folks will have a better appreciation for the tourism side of things—and realize that we can all work together and we really do all want the same thing: a healthy, vibrant economy," Thomson said.

And while the region's diverse sectors and myriad organizations are working independently on economic and workforce development, Wilcher said better coordination among the entities through an overarching convening agency would be a boon for all.

"You have a lot of small organizations that are effective and interesting in what they do and they have great people," Wilcher explained, "but they need a lot more attention and resources to be able to: one, boost their own capacity and two, get together to force multiply their impact."

Whether through the regional joint powers authority (Eastern Sierra Council of Governments) or some yet-to-be-defined new organization, Wilcher stressed that the best approach for better governance of economic activity comes from the community itself. The only way such an endeavor will be successful is if there is local grassroots buy-in, from the start and at every step.

"Ultimately it will be up to the community and empowering the community to support such an effort," he said. "It will probably look like an entity—or set of entities—that will be the go-to place where people share ideas, develop projects and track progress."

UCCE to offer trainings

Given the importance of "mom and pop" shops and eateries in the local economy, Wilcher—with the support of UCCE Inyo-Mono Director Dustin Blakey—is planning to provide training opportunities in the coming months for existing and emerging leaders across sectors to understand the local economy and empower them to drive and support new programs.

Wilcher and Blakey have proposed a "community economic development academy" to offer curriculum in strategic planning, local economic data and program management.

The Eastern Sierra has made strides in recent years to lay the groundwork for development activities, Wilcher noted. Regional stakeholders led by the Eastern Sierra Council of Governments created a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy that outlines opportunities and goals for the region.

These stakeholders have also been actively engaged in the Sierra Jobs First initiative, which devised a

strategic plan for community and economic development investments. Wilcher also praised the work of the Mammoth Lakes Chamber of Commerce and other chambers.

The Bishop Chamber of Commerce and the recently opened Eastern Sierra Business Resource Center—a partnership with the Sierra Business Council—provide some essential learning resources, but Thomson acknowledged her community would greatly benefit from additional offerings.

"It's great having more people make more educational opportunities available," she said. "And it can be incremental—we're so small that even if we can help five people, that's a huge impact."

Wilcher said he also seeks to bring to the region subject-matter experts like Keith Taylor, associate professor of Cooperative Extension and community economic development at UC Davis, and Anne Visser, professor of community and regional development in the UC Davis Department of Human Ecology.

Taylor has been helping to organize UC ANR's team of Community and Economic Development advisors.

Across the state, Taylor said he aims to create greater awareness of underused resources from invaluable networks such as the National Association of Community Development Extension Professionals and the regional rural development centers under the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

"We're looking at how we can leverage existing assets in what I call the 'hidden economy'—things like the California State Association of Counties and Rural County Representatives of California, major associations that provide immediate capacity for counties that often go underutilized," he said.

"The hidden economy refers to legal entities and business practices that enable local communities to capture more economic activity, making them less beholden to external forces and shocks."

Like Taylor, Wilcher seeks to expand the toolbox for economic development in the Eastern Sierra region and thus empower people to drive their own sustainable growth and prosperity. He will share resources and insights on a newly launched blog; he urges interested community members to subscribe to the blog and sign up for his e-newsletter.

"I'm passionate about this; I'm excited to be here," Wilcher said. "I love being at this intersection between technical aspects—like policies and data and all the things we do at the university—and working with the community and hearing what people are interested in, what they're working on and what they need." — UC ANR



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42% of family farms had income below US median

The proportion of family farm households with income below the U.S. median of \$80,610 was 42%, and the share with lower wealth was 5%.

The proportions varied in 2023 depending on the type of farm, with small farms tending to have a greater share below the U.S. median. Low-

sales family farms had the highest proportion (73%) of households with incomes below the U.S. median, and very large family farms had the smallest proportion (10%).

For household wealth, measured as the value of the assets of all household members minus debt, the median total for all family farm house-

holds was \$1.4 million, compared with the median of \$200,662 for all U.S. households. About 5% of all family farm households had wealth below the U.S. median, with that percentage ranging from none to 7% depending on the size and type of farm. — **USDA Economic Research Service**

Farm Credit continues efforts to preserve and protect CA ag

Farm Credit, the largest provider of credit to U.S. agriculture, is also committed to the sustainability and long-term viability of agriculture and rural communities and strongly supports non-profits and other organizations working to preserve and protect California agriculture.

That's why in 2024, the seven Farm Credit associations operating in California—AgWest Farm Credit, American AgCredit, CoBank, Colusa-Glenn Farm Credit, Fresno Madera Farm Credit, Golden State Farm Credit and Yosemite Farm Credit—joined together to contribute just over \$1 million to nearly 80 organizations around the state.

The funding focuses on four main areas—raising awareness of agriculture, preservation of agriculture, education and research, and support for young, beginning and small farmers.

Nearly half the funding—\$480,000—was directed at raising awareness of the importance of agriculture in the Golden State, said Jacob DeBoer, senior regional marketing manager at American AgCredit.

“Too many policymakers and the public at large don't really understand the importance of agriculture in California,” DeBoer said. “Reminding them that our state leads the nation in farming and ranching is vitally important, both because of the economic impact and the simple fact that California feeds the nation and the world. Protecting and preserving our industry is essential, and Farm Credit is proud to help promote that message.”

One organization receiving funding was Dairy Cares, a statewide coalition working to ensure the long-term sustainability of the state's dairy farms. Every other year, Dairy Cares hosts the California Dairy Sustainability Summit, which educates policymakers and promotes efforts the industry is undertaking to meet California's climate change goals. This is critical as dairy is a \$20 billion-a-year industry in California including more than 1,100 family farms along with dairy cooperatives, processors and other businesses.

Education is also a top Farm Credit priority. The associations collectively contributed some \$234,000 to provide the latest information to the industry. A new program funded in part by Farm Credit is the AgHiRE program operated by the Center for

Land-Based Learning, which is crafted to provide Spanish-speaking farmworkers with language skills, digital literacy and leadership training that will allow top-performing farmworkers to advance into roles with more responsibility within their organizations.

Kevin Ralph, California State president for AgWest Farm Credit, said programs like AgHiRE will help ensure skilled agricultural employees will remain in the industry while providing them with opportunities to advance.

“Numerous employers would like to advance skilled employees who don't speak English and AgHiRE will benefit many talented workers who know their jobs but can't advance because of language and other gaps,” Ralph said. “These educational programs will help ensure our farmers and ranchers continue to lead the nation in agricultural production.”

Another priority is encouraging and educating young people and small and beginning farmers. That priority received \$165,000 in 2024 from Farm Credit. One of the most successful programs to encourage young Californians to pursue careers in ag-related occupations is FFA.

“FFA provides educational opportunities in agricultural business, agricultural mechanics, agriscience, animal science, forestry and natural resources, ornamental horticulture, and plant and soil science,” Ralph said. “Like Farm Credit, FFA recognizes that the needs of California agriculture are always evolving, and we're pleased to be able to help make these opportunities available to so many young people.”

FFA membership grew to over 103,000 statewide last year, and a record 74,165 middle- and high school students attended the annual FFA Leadership Conference.

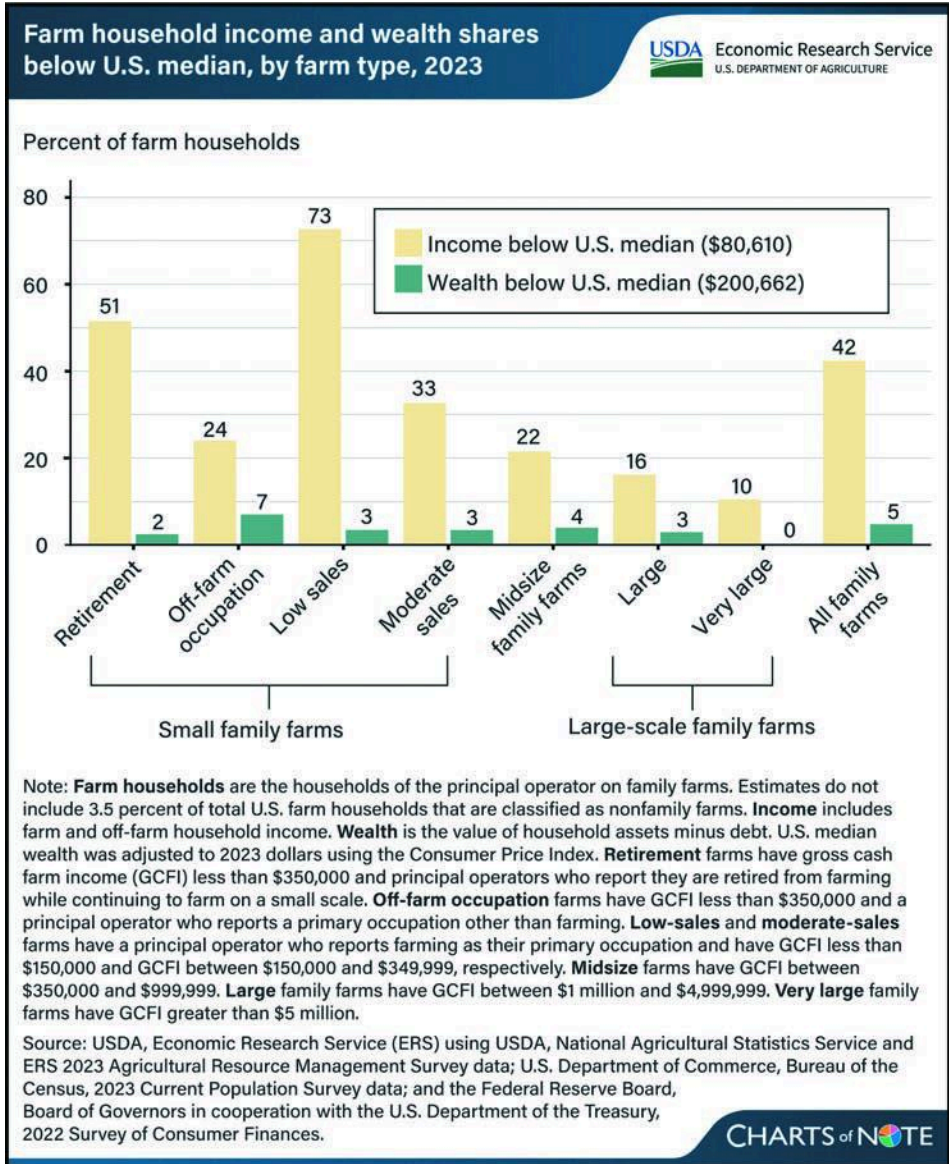
The fourth priority, helping preserve farming and ranching, received \$155,000. One recipient was Cultivate California, which works to educate Californians about the vital link between farms and ranches and their water supply—and how the ag community is working hard to grow even more food and fiber while using less water.

One of its successful programs is the ongoing Water Challenge Exhibit at Sacramento's Museum of Science and Curiosity, which features three interactive displays that illustrate how farmers are working to use less water. But

besides making science fun, Cultivate California and its nonprofit parent the California Farm Water Coalition, invest heavily on social media channels to entice viewers with imagery and food facts while providing information about the importance of water to ensuring California agriculture remains secure.

The program reached about 10 million people in 2023 and in 2024 expanded to social media platforms that cater to younger audiences.

“The Museum of Science and Curiosity exhibit does such a great job of educating California consumers on how vital water is in growing the food that feeds our families, and how farmers are always aiming to optimize their water usage to ensure they're



being good stewards of our land,” DeBoer said. “Farm Credit's support helps ensure this messaging reaches the broadest possible audience.” — **Farm Credit**

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CFB stands with ag workers and farmers, calls for workforce stability

While there have been news reports of unease among some farm employees, the California Farm Bureau Federation has been in contact with numerous farmers across the state and has not heard of any widespread workforce disruption.

Bryan Little, senior director of policy advocacy at the California Farm Bureau, which represents more than 26,000 farm and ranch families in the state, clarified that while concerns exist, farmers are continuing operations. While it's unclear if all farms are fully operational, Farm Bureau has not received reports indicating otherwise, and efforts are always underway to ensure workforce stability.

"We recognize that some workers may feel uncertain right now, and we want to be very clear: California agriculture depends on and values its workforce," Little said. "Farm employees are not just workers—they are partners in this industry. They are people with families, dreams, and an incredible work ethic that keeps food on tables across America.

"We understand the uncertainty some might feel right now, and we want to be absolutely clear: California's farmers stand with you. We respect you. We value you. And we will do everything in

our power to ensure that agriculture remains a place where you are safe and supported."

With one-third of the nation's agricultural workforce located in California, farm employees play an indispensable role in food production. These skilled workers plant, cultivate and harvest the crops that make California the leading producer of fruits, vegetables and nuts in the U.S.

"Without these employees, crops would go unharvested, rural businesses would suffer, and food prices could rise for families across the country," Little said. "This is not just a farm issue—it's a food security issue, an economic issue, and a community issue."

The interdependence of agriculture and rural economies is without question, according to Little. Thousands of employees in ag-adjacent industries—including food processing, transportation, and equipment suppliers—depend on the steady flow of agricultural work to sustain their livelihoods.

Little addressed the urgent need for immigration policy reform, noting that California's agricultural workforce challenges are not new.

"Farmers and ranchers have struggled with chronic labor shortages for years, and

uncertainty surrounding immigration policy only exacerbates the problem," he said. "California's farmers and ranchers are ready to work with the administration and Congress to advance real, bipartisan workforce reforms this year," Little said. "This isn't just about filling jobs—it's about ensuring security and stability for the agricultural workforce and the farmers who depend on them."

To provide a long-term solution, Little outlined three key priorities for workforce reform:

- Modernizing the H-2A agricultural visa program to make it more flexible and responsive to the labor needs of farmers and ranchers.

- Providing earned legal status for current agricultural workers, recognizing their longstanding contributions to U.S. food production.

- Crafting immigration policies that reflect the reality of agriculture in a diverse state like California, where workforce stability is essential to feeding the nation.

While supporting lawful immigration policies, the Farm Bureau cautioned against indiscriminate enforcement actions that do not account for workforce stability.

"We need policies that offer real solutions, rather than uncertainty," Little said. "It's

like pulling the foundation out from under a house. If we want a strong agricultural economy and a secure food supply, we need solutions that reflect the reality of farming—not blanket enforcement measures that put the entire agricultural system at risk."

Little said the California Farm Bureau remains in close contact with worker advocates, policymakers, and agricultural leaders to monitor any reports of workforce disruption and to help ensure that California's farms continue to function smoothly during all of California's upcoming harvest periods.

"California Farm Bureau will continue to advocate for practical, compassionate solutions that protect our workforce, stabilize our industry, and secure America's food supply," Little said. "California agriculture is strong, and our message to farm employees is simple. You are essential. You are valued. And farmers will continue to stand with you. As harvest season approaches in key growing areas, we will do everything in our power to ensure a stable and secure workforce, a dependable food supply, and a strong agricultural economy for the future." — **California Farm Bureau**

STORY SHORTS

Oklahoma National Stockyards for sale

The Oklahoma National Stockyards, the last major urban stockyard in the U.S., is for sale with a \$27 million price tag, ABC News reports. The stockyard covers 100 acres along the Oklahoma River and faces declining cattle numbers—down 20% in two years. Owned by the same family since 1910, younger generations are uninterested in managing its demanding operations, according to President Jerry Reynolds. If closed, auctions in Joplin, MO, and El Reno, OK, would absorb much of the business. Despite its historical significance, redevelopment pressures threaten this last remnant of the once-thriving terminal markets of the Midwest.

TX officials investigating stolen cattle

Authorities are investigating after 14 stolen Angus cattle were found in an abandoned trailer in Houston County, TX, eight of them dead, local news outlet KETK reports. Sheriff Zak Bengé's office responded to a call on Highway 19 South, discovering the stolen livestock. Bengé said officers are actively pursuing the thief for livestock theft and cruelty. Special Ranger Bobbitt of the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association is assisting in the case. Bengé thanked local cowboys and the Texas Department of Transportation for their help and vowed, "These kinds of crimes will not be tolerated," promising justice for the offenders.

OK ranch manager arrested on larceny

Darrel Bernard Morris, 60, of Stuart, OK, was arrested on Jan. 8 by Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association Special Rangers. Morris faces 83 felony charges for stealing and unlawfully selling cattle from his employer's Hughes County, OK, ranch. Between January 2023 and December 2024, Morris transported and sold 83 stolen yearlings at livestock auctions, making over \$108,000. Authorities arrested him at his residence following the investigation.

CO man sentenced for killing cattle

Michael Hester, 37, of Larimer County, CO, was sentenced to 24 days in jail and three years of supervised probation for shooting and killing his neighbors' cattle near Fort Collins, The Coloradoan reported. Hester killed seven cattle near his Buckhorn Road property, leaving another fatally injured. Jordan Yarber, who lost several cattle, said the crime had a "profound impact" on his family, adding, "The trauma of finding my animals injured and dead has been difficult to process." Hester will serve weekends in jail and pay \$27,000 in restitution as part of a plea agreement.

EPA directs OK to coordinate with Tribes

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a decision on Jan. 13 requiring Oklahoma to coordinate with Tribes when administering federal environmental programs, EPA announced. The decision mandates Tribal involvement in air and water pollution, hazardous waste and drinking water regulations. It modifies a 2020 order allowing Oklahoma to oversee these programs on tribal lands—a move opposed by Tribes, including the Pawnee Nation, which challenged it in court. Stemming from the 2020 McGirt v. Oklahoma ruling, EPA's decision ensures Oklahoma consults with 11 Tribes on permitting and enforcement, aligning with federal consultation practices for tribal lands.

England to lose 10% of farmland for net zero

More than 10% of England's farmland will be repurposed to help achieve net zero and protect wildlife by 2050, The Telegraph reports. Environment Secretary Steve Reed will launch a consultation on balancing food production with environmental goals. The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs estimates that 9% of farmland will be removed from food production, with another 5% seeing reduced output and 4% integrating trees. Reed insists changes won't be forced on landowners, but concerns remain among farmers. The government plans to expand woodlands by 265,000 hectares (654,829 acres), install renewable energy projects, and protect 30% of land for nature to meet its climate targets.

JBS invests \$200M in production facilities

JBS USA is investing \$200 million in upgrades to its beef production plants in Cactus, TX, and Greeley, CO. Construction begins this year by adding a new fabrication floor, expanded ground beef room in Cactus, and a new distribution center in Greeley. These enhancements aim to boost efficiency and production capacity, benefiting cattle producers, consumers, and local communities. JBS's Cactus plant employs 3,700 people and buys \$2.9 billion in cattle annually, while its Greeley facility employs 3,800 people and purchases \$3.1 billion in livestock yearly.

Sausage recalled for foreign matter

D.J.'s Boudain, LLC, of Beaumont, TX, is recalling 17,720 pounds of boudain sausage links due to possible contamination with pen fragments, USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced. Produced on Jan. 23, 2025, the recalled products bear establishment number "EST. 13246" and were distributed in Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. The issue was discovered after a consumer found a pen piece in the sausage. FSIS urges consumers, retailers and restaurants to check for the recalled products and avoid consumption for safety reasons.



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CED	BW	WW	YW	MK	MRB	RE	SB	SC
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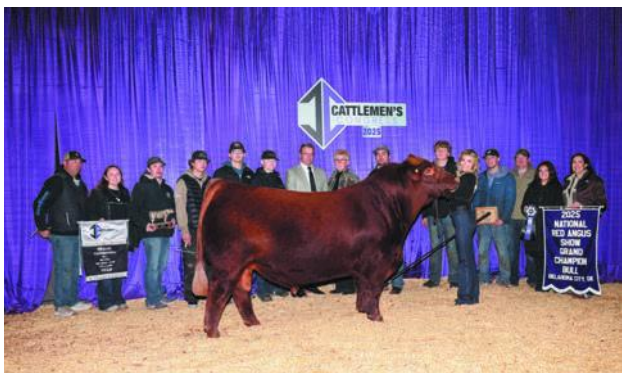
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Contact Matt Macfarlane or John Cannon for bull details, including yearling ultrasound, performance and fertility data, as well as Zoetis HD50K genomic testing results and genomic enhanced EPDs.



RED ANGUS

FEATURED SECTION



Next Level Images

Grand champion bull 3ACES LEVEL UP 9562, Annie Meier, Clinton, TN.



Next Level Images

Grand champion female, BJF FANCY LADY 3036L, Kelly Gaffney, Barneveld, WI.



Next Level Images

Champion pen of three bulls, February and March 2024 sons of NIO MOJAVE 2029, Sandridge Land and Cattle, Forest, MS.

Red Angus shine at Cattlemen's Congress

The 2025 Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City, OK, showcased some of the nation's best Red Angus genetics during the National Red Angus Show, despite frigid temperatures and challenging conditions. Exhibitors from across the country hauled in their top-tier cattle, demonstrating the breed's renowned quality and resilience.

The Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) congratulates all participants. Below are the champions crowned in each division:

2024 sons of NIO MOJAVE 2029, Sandridge Land and Cattle, Forest, MS.

• **Reserve champion pen of three bulls:** February 2024 sons of RED WILBAR INTUITION 832J and RED DIAMOND EL REY 102.L, 83 Ranch, Westhope, ND.

• **Champion pen of three females:** March 2024 daughters of SMOKY Y WALK IT OUT 2134J, CR Ventures, Bryan, TX.

• **Reserve champion pen of three females:** March and April 2024 daughters of ALT REGENCY 301E, PIE CAP-

“These exceptional cattle represent the commitment and hard work of Red Angus breeders and exhibitors.”

— Erin Dorsey

Open show

• **Grand champion bull:** 3ACES LEVEL UP 9562, an Oct. 20, 2022, son of DAMAR NEXT D852, Annie Meier, Clinton, TN.

• **Reserve grand champion bull:** BWP DKBF RED WAVE 59K, a Feb. 27, 2022, son of EGL GCC RED EAGLE E7194, 74 51 Cattle Company, Marshall, OK; Brown Farms, Lamoni, IA; Bret Pembroke, Fairview, OK.

• **Grand champion female:** BJF FANCY LADY 3036L, a Feb. 27, 2023, daughter of SIX MILE JOHN WICK 882E, Kelly Gaffney, Barneveld, WI.

• **Reserve grand champion female:** DUCH TC MISS EAGLE 308L, a Jan. 14, 2023, daughter of EGL GCC RED EAGLE E7194, Addison Vowell, Forest, MS.

• **Grand champion percentage female:** TRAVE TLBT MAGGIE MAY 408M, a Feb. 18, 2024, daughter of DUFF RED BEAR 18154, Cade Williams, Maysville, OK.

• **Reserve grand champion percentage female:** MCL SMILES 3011, a March 2, 2023, daughter of BIEBER CL ENGERGIZE F121, Allyse Lents, Creston, IA.

Pen show

• **Champion pen of three bulls:** February and March

TAIN 057 and BIEBER JUMP-START J137, Holton Cattle Company, Cisco, TX.

Junior show

• **Grand champion female:** BJF FANCY LADY 3036L, a Feb. 27, 2023, daughter of SIX MILE JOHN WICK 882E, Kelly Gaffney, Barneveld, WI.

• **Reserve grand champion female:** DUCH TC MISS EAGLE 308L, a Jan. 14, 2023, daughter of EGL GCC RED EAGLE E7194, Addison Vowell, Forest, MS.

• **Grand champion percentage female:** TRAVE TLBT MAGGIE MAY 408M, daughter of DUFF RED BEAR 18154, Cade Williams, Maysville, OK.

• **Reserve grand champion percentage female:** MCL SMILES 3011, daughter of BIEBER CL ENGERGIZE F121, Allyse Lents, Creston, IA.

“These exceptional cattle represent the commitment and hard work of Red Angus breeders and exhibitors,” said Erin Dorsey, RAAA show specialist. “We applaud every exhibitor for braving the cold and raising the bar for Red Angus excellence.”

For more information on Red Angus shows and upcoming events, visit www.RedAngus.org. — RAAA



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RED ANGUS

FEATURED SECTION

Four reasons to use Red Angus genetics



Carissa Rivers

Red Angus cattle are known for their exceptional docility.

For cattle producers, choosing the right breed is more than just a decision—it's an investment in the future of their operations. Red Angus cattle have become a trusted choice for ranchers across the country, offering a powerful combination of traits that deliver results. Here are four reasons why you should consider adding Red Angus genetics to your herd.

1. Docility: A calm temperament that pays off.

Handling cattle is a routine part of any operation and having animals with calm, predictable temperaments can make all the difference. Red Angus cattle are known for their exceptional docility, making them easier to manage both in

the pasture and chute side.

Docile cattle not only reduce stress on producers but also experience less stress themselves, resulting in better overall health, improved performance and growth, as well as fewer handling injuries. For operations that prioritize safety and efficiency, the docile nature of Red Angus cattle provides a clear advantage.

2. Environmental resilience: Thriving in challenging conditions.

From the heat of Texas to the cold plains of Montana, Red Angus cattle are built to thrive in a variety of environments. Their environmental resilience makes them a versatile option for ranchers operating in re-

gions with unpredictable weather or challenging terrain.

Red Angus cattle have a sleek hide and red coat that contribute to heat tolerance, allowing them to remain productive in hotter climates. Additionally, they are hardy enough to perform well in colder regions, maintaining their efficiency and health year-round. This adaptability ensures that Red Angus cattle consistently deliver, no matter the conditions.

3. Carcass quality: Meeting consumer demands.

Consumers today demand high-quality beef and Red Angus cattle deliver with exceptional carcass traits. Known for delivering tender, flavorful beef with outstanding marbling and consistency, their genetics provide exceptional value to both producers and consumers.

Red Angus cattle often top the charts when it comes to quality grade, providing producers with a competitive edge in the marketplace. Whether you're selling to a branded beef program or directly to consumers, Red Angus cattle help meet the growing demand for premium beef.

4. Maternal traits: Building strong foundations.

A successful herd starts with strong, productive females and Red Angus cows are the indus-

try's favorite. Known for their fertility, longevity and excellent mothering ability, Red Angus females are the foundation of many profitable operations.

Red Angus cows have the ability to raise performance-oriented, healthy calves year after year, ensuring steady production and profitability. Their moderate size and efficiency make them a practical choice for operations of all sizes. In addition, Red Angus dams are known for calving ease, making them an ideal option for breeding heifers or improving maternal traits within a herd.

A breed built for the future

Docility, environmental resilience, carcass quality and maternal traits are just a few reasons why Red Angus cattle stand out. These characteristics not only improve herd performance but also contribute to a more sustainable, profitable operation.

As producers face evolving challenges, the value of versatile, reliable genetics has never been greater. Red Angus cattle continue to prove their worth on ranches across the country, offering the tools you need to succeed today and for generations to come. — **Maclaine Shults-Mauney, RAAA editor and written content specialist**

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A season of change

Th “ber” months are behind us—October, November, December—you get the idea. Along with these seasonal changes, there’s been a shift in the cattle industry that took effect in November—the use of an electronic identification devices (EIDs) alongside visual tags. As of Nov. 6, all cattle and bison 18 months of age and older that are still sexually intact need an 840 EID. Additionally, all livestock used for recreation or rodeos now require an 840 EID. Finally, all cattle and bison moving interstate or crossing state lines must have an 840 EID.

An EID has several benefits, especially the USDA 840 EID. Some of those benefits include:

- One EID serves multiple purposes: disease traceability, calfhood vaccination records, value-added program compliance and even management practices.
- EIDs increase the chances of receiving more carcass data and grid information.
- They have a higher retention rate compared to a dangle tag.
- They are less likely to be cut out during feed yard processing.
- EIDs are easy to apply and more cost-effective than in the past.
- Packers and feedlots are more likely to purchase program calves with an EID instead of a dangle tag.

Keep in mind, purchasing 840 EIDs requires a premise ID. A premise ID or PIN is linked to where the livestock

are managed, usually the owner’s ranch and is authenticated with a 911 address. Producers can call their Department of Agriculture office and request a premise ID. They’re free and typically issued on the same day.

Through the Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) value-added department, producers can purchase 840 EIDs for \$2.20 for their enrolled calves. As mentioned earlier, these EIDs can be used by your veterinarian or others for various purposes. It’s important to note that program cattle should never be double-tagged with EID buttons.

If you’ve already applied or obtained 840 EIDs from another source, RAAA can bring those EID tags into the system for \$1 per tag for program enrollment. Some producers may be eligible to receive free EIDs from their state or local veterinarian. Be sure to explore that opportunity and save some extra money!

The process for adding outside program-compliant tags to the system is straightforward. Producers must contact the value-added department and complete the supplier evaluation to enroll their calf crop. They’ll also need to submit a signed request form for outside program-compliant tags along with the tag numbers. RAAA will then import the tags into the system as program tags and producers will receive a Certificate of Compliance as proof of enrollment. — **Lauren Weingardt, RAAA value-added program specialist**

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RED ANGUS

FEATURED SECTION

Another successful year for the Red Angus Foundation, Inc.

The Red Angus Foundation, Inc. (RAFI) has had a tremendous year supporting the Junior Red Angus Association, financially supporting educational programs and funding impactful research. RAFI has been serving the Red Angus breed since 1996, when it was incorporated as a non-profit 501c3. It was initially designed to strictly help support the Red Angus juniors, while allowing donors to receive a tax write-off for their philanthropy. However, in 2010, RAFI had the foresight to reincorporate the foundation with the expanded mission of also supporting research and education.

With the generous donation of over \$1 million by the late Charlie Jackson of Vermont to the Sal Forbes Research Fund, RAFI has been funding an aggressive research program. The RAFI board spent many months studying and discussing the Red Angus Association of America's (RAAA) strategic plan to determine the areas within the plan that could best be impacted with RAFI-funded research. This was followed by a call for grants, which was distributed to the research community.

A strict application process was implemented, which covers the hypothesis; access to needed human, laboratory and data resources; experimental design; budget and budget justification; and expected timeline and deliverables. The process also incorporates a peer review of the proposals by three scientists with expertise in the subject area. Not every priority area has been researched yet, but this rigorous process does ensure the highest quality research for those that are funded.

Three years ago, RAAA made clear to RAFI that their highest priority was the collection of foot scores, with the ultimate goal of producing a genetic prediction. Taking RAAA's lead, RAFI funded a program for \$16,853 to collect a large amount of data. After two years of preparation, RAAA hired an individual to gather foot scores. To date, he has visited six herds over a three-month period, collecting a total of 1,882 records. The project has utilized \$6,285 of the \$16,583 of the prepaid funds, so RAFI looks forward to the continuation of this program and the further data it will collect.

Another RAAA priority identified three years ago was the collection of dry matter intake (DMI) records. RAFI has made several proposals to achieve this mutual goal. RAFI will be offering RAAA the funds needed to pay a \$35 subsidy to help offset the cost of genomics for animals with DMI and genomic records submitted from the current calf crop, or \$17.50 for new records to the RAAA database from previous calf crops. RAFI has allocated \$82,500 to this project, with a maximum

annual payout per year of \$7,000 to a single producer. It will then be up to RAAA if they want to take advantage of this opportunity.

Research projects solicited and funded by RAFI include a completed project with Colorado State University (CSU) to explore functional genomics (single nucleotide polymorphisms or SNPs) that could add accuracy to the genetic predictions for Heifer Pregnancy and Stayability. In the process of discovery, CSU found three highly informative SNPs associated with Stayability and one less informative SNP associated with Heifer Pregnancy.

CSU also screened the Red Angus population for the significant number of SNPs discovered in the Holstein breed that are associated with early embryonic death loss and found good news. Although these previously identified SNPs were found in the Red Angus population, their frequency was so low as to not impact Heifer Pregnancy or Stayability.

Regarding DMI, RAFI funded a project with Dr. Matt Spangler at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, as well as scientists from the USDA Agricultural Research Service Meat Animal Research Center, to explore pooled DNA and pen intake data to improve the accuracy of a DMI genetic prediction. The data for this project has been collected, and a Ph.D. student will be starting on the analysis.

The next project RAFI has funded is a genetic prediction for breeding soundness exam (BSE) under the guidance of Dr. Megan Rolf at Kansas State University. They currently have a master's degree student working on collecting data and analyzing the individual traits, with a Ph.D. student starting in the fall to design the genetic prediction. Any producer that would like to participate in this project by submitting contemporary group BSE data should please call a member of the RAFI board for assistance.

The last ongoing project is a general "tune-up" on IGS's Stayability EPD. Various parameters used or not used in the model are being tested to make sure they improve, or have the potential to improve, the accuracy of the prediction. This project is largely being done in-house, but RAFI will assist with funds if outside expertise is needed.

In terms of education, RAFI supported the Red Choice project being run by the University of Missouri with \$18,000. The program was based on the long running and highly successful Show-Me-Select Replacement Heifer Program. The RAAA launched the program, "To promote improved heifer development, increase marketing opportunities for Red

Angus females and create reliable sources of high-quality replacement heifers for cattle producers."

Juniors have remained a focus of RAFI. Last year, RAFI increased its annual scholarship funding by awarding six collegiate scholarships for \$2,000 each. In addition, RAFI will again be providing a \$1,000 scholarship for a

member of the JRAA to attend the International Genetic Solutions Beef Leadership Conference. This across-breed program is held every other year and is very similar to the junior Roundup.

In addition to the scholarships, over the past two years, RAFI has also supported the juniors with \$50,000 to their general fund. This is not all.

RAFI was proud to contribute \$4,500 to fund the inaugural Elevate program. Geared for college students, it provided participants with opportunities to hone their skills to allow them to excel in interviews, internships and, ultimately, their career. This inaugural Elevate Collegiate Leadership Conference was held in conjunction with the

National Red Angus Convention. RAFI envisions using its junior funds to target special projects and activities in the future.

For more information on RAFI and to donate tax deductible funds to the foundation, contact Cam Forbes, RAFI president, at becktonredangus@gmail.com. — **Dr. Bob Hough**

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RED ANGUS

FEATURED SECTION

Building a strong legacy, one cow at a time

When you think of California, the first things that come to mind are probably Hollywood, Disneyland and beaches. When you think of "California agriculture," you may think orchards, vineyards and crop fields as far as the eye can see. Beef cattle, and especially Red Angus cattle, may not be the

first thing you envision, but for Johnathan and Dillon White, Red Angus cattle grazing peacefully in central California is their vision come to life.

The White brothers grew up on a cattle ranch with their mom, Marci, who is a teacher, and their father, Richard ("Richie") White, a cowboy

who always had a few of his own cows, too. At one time, Richie worked for San Felipe Ranch, which was owned by Hewlett Packard and home to 2,000 cow-calf pairs, yearlings and replacement heifers.

"My dad also broke horses, and one day, a lady whom he had broken horses for and

owned the ranch just across the road from San Felipe called him," Johnathan said. "She wanted to lease her ranch to someone new and offered it to my dad."

With one phone call, the White family broke into ranching on their own, and the family has leased that ranch for 18



RAAA

The Whites like Red Angus cattle because they stay a little bit cooler. Although their local climate is temperate, it can get hot occasionally.

McCann Red Angus

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years. Richie got a loan to buy cattle and bought 300 commercial cows out of Nevada.

"They were good cows, and coming from Nevada, they didn't have to work so hard to graze here," said Dillon.

"There were some winners in there," Johnathan said sarcastically. "But those cows thought they'd died and gone to heaven when they got here."

Relationships were the key to the White family's next addition in 2018. A friend from Crane Cattle Co., Merced, CA, wanted to sell their cows and lease the land. The Crane herd was Red Angus and was the beginning of the White family transitioning their herd to the Red Angus breed. The Cranes offered them first to Johnathan and Dillon, who were both newly minted college graduates at the time. Johnathan had just earned a degree in plant science from Fresno State University, while Dillon had his biology degree from Stanislaus State University.

"We knew we should take the opportunity, but we had no inheritance," Johnathan explained. "Nothing was handed to us. Our dad was a cowboy and when San Felipe closed in 2001, he started working for the local irrigation district. Our mom was a teacher. We didn't have a ranch to inherit, so if we were going to expand, we had to try ourselves. We decided to go for it. Luckily, both of our wives were OK with it."

"Cattle prices weren't like they are now," Dillon says. "It's gotten better, and we've been able to make it work. But the first five years were a break-even to even a loss."

For the first three to four years, the brothers split everything by the percentage of how many total cows each owned. Eventually, they got tired of that approach and decided to combine forces with Richie to make everything easier. White Cattle Company was established in 2023.

Embracing different

The Red Angus cattle acquired from Crane Cattle Company weren't the White brothers' first exposure to the breed. Their grandparents and Richie had both had a few Red Angus cattle, and Johnathan and Dillon came to really like what Red Angus cattle had to offer.

"They were unique and different," Johnathan says. "We wanted to be different than everyone else, and everyone else had black cattle, so we decided to stick with them. We even chose a 7W shoulder brand so they would stand out. My dad said if you put a shoulder brand on a red cow, she better be good." Dillon wholeheartedly agreed.

"They're pretty and they weaned off good calves," he added. "People notice the red."

The transition to a herd based on Red Angus was in full swing. However, making a transition to another primary breed takes longer than expected, according to Johnathan.

"It was hard to get our dad on board," Johnathan admitted. "He wanted to keep the black calves, and we had to keep telling him no."

"Our friends give us a hard time about having Red Angus, but even they admit that they're nice cows," Johnathan chuckled.

Today, the herd has expanded to 500 cow-calf pairs and 160 replacement heifers. Of those, 90 are purebred Red Angus, with that number growing every year.

"It can get hot here, sometimes over 105 F," Johnathan said. "If having a red calf means they stay 1 or 2 degrees cooler, that can make a difference. We'd rather have that potential cooling factor on our side."

The family bought a Red Angus bull in 2018 for \$4,600—which seemed like a lot to them at the time. Since then, they've phased out the black Angus and Hereford bulls, and have had only Red Angus bulls for the past few years.

"We still have about 200 more black cows to phase out," Dillon said. "We have 90 purebred Red Angus mama cows. The rest are Red Angus commercial crosses and some red baldies."

The Whites focus on buying the best Red Angus bulls. When they started out, the goal was to break even for the year. Everyone had a full-time job to support their family, and the cows were a side investment and had to pay for themselves.

"We could do that and know that the operation was growing and would be all right," Johnathan said. "We focused on buying good genetics—we knew



RED ANGUS

FEATURED SECTION

they would pay off. As a cow-calf operation, we lean on maternal, structure and phenotype first, then go to carcass traits. We also want calving ease; we won't buy a bull without high calving ease."

The Whites emphasize traits for maternal characteristics, growth, carcass and the profitability and sustainability index, ProS. The cattle buyers they work with like the genetics and focus on growth and maternal traits.

"We also look at the feed to gain and Stayability numbers," Dillon added. "At the end of the day, the bulls that do both carcass and maternal well cost more, and from our experiences, they're worth the price."

The Whites have been utilizing genomic testing for three years, and plan to continue doing so. Their goal is to have their purebred Red Angus cattle in the top 10% overall for the breed, and all commercial cows in the top 25%.

"Selling with data is coming, and we want to be ahead of that," Johnathan explained. "With health and data, we believe we can remain profitable and sustainable."

Spreading out breeding

The White brothers have split their cows into two groups, a fall calving herd and a winter herd. Bulls are turned out with the fall calving group on Nov. 1, and the calving window is between Aug. 1 through Oct. 1. The winter herd calves between Thanksgiving and Jan. 31.

"Having two groups allows us to run better bulls, because they're covering cows twice a year," Johnathan said. "We run extra bulls per head, but fewer bulls overall, so we get our money's worth."

Richie was originally calving in the fall but had recently switched to spring calving to save on inputs.

"That was a pain, because everyone else calved in the spring, and we needed to sell at a different time of year than the rest of the country," Johnathan explained. "Our winters are mild here, so it's easier for our cows to calve in the winter, and it gives us a second calf crop within the calendar year. Our fall herd is now late summer, and the spring herd is now winter. We calve within 60 days twice a year, utilize our bulls and spread the workload and cashflow."

The winter herd is jokingly called "purgatory" by the brothers, because any females that calve after 60 days in the fall go to the winter herd.

"If she doesn't get bred there, she's done," Johnathan says.

Feeding efficiently

The herd grazes year-round, but the Whites feed supplemental high-test hay starting in September that's stored in their barn.

"Feeding hay at that time helps the fall calving cows to keep them going," Dillon says. "The calves are around a month old, so they're getting good milk, and it helps the cows cycle back while they're

grazing on dry grass."

Going back to their grandparents' philosophy, the Whites all agree that feeding mediocre hay results in more waste, so they pay more for higher-quality test hay that the cows will consume every bit of. Johnathan says that by the time they paid for trucking, hauling and feeding alfalfa hay, it was just easier and more cost-effective to buy test hay.

"We started buying test hay four years ago, and we've found that the extra protein and digestibility is important for embryo development and breeding rates," Johnathan adds. "We have a lot of dairies in our area that are very efficient, and so we decided to run our beef cows efficiently like the dairies do. It works for the dairies, and works for us, too."

At that time, Dillon had just begun working full-time on the ranch, so he had time to feed hay all the time during the drought—and that's what he did.

The cows receive either dry mineral or supplemental blocks all year round, too.

Their feeding strategy paid off during the drought between 2019 and 2022. The brothers had already culled any cows based on feet and udder, cows that didn't fit their operation or were too old. Alfalfa hay was costing more than \$400 a ton annually.

"We kept our numbers up, but we also culled hard," Dillon attested. "We figured, worst case scenario, we'd have to sell more cows to pay for the hay. By putting money into our cows, we were in a good spot when cattle prices went back up. We actually used the drought to naturally put pressure on what we kept. We tightened our calving window to 60 days and moved the calving window up an entire month. Whatever got bred was the best of the best and they deserved the hay so we wouldn't lose them."

Getting a good price

About half of the calves are sold in early May before the grass turns, and the rest in August—before the rest of the spring calves begin selling—at Turlock Livestock Auction. Most calves sold by the Whites end up with the same returning buyers, whether they sell directly to the packer's cattle buyers or through the livestock market.

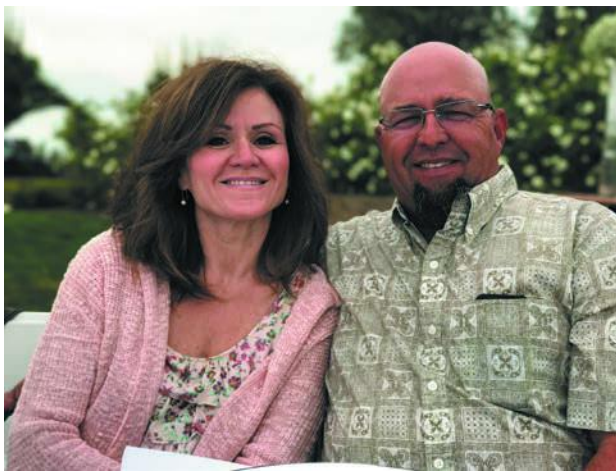
"We buy good bulls, so buyers know their bloodlines," Dillon said.

"We try to be loyal, but always cognizant of price," Johnathan chimed in.

Today, the operation still budgets selling at \$600 to \$800 per calf, just to hedge their input costs. The operation hasn't broken into selling replacement heifers yet, but that's in the plans for the near future.

Big goals

The Whites are certainly ambitious with their future plans. They hope to build their purebred Red Angus lines up to be in the top 10% of the breed for seedstock production and are always looking for



RAAA

Marcie and Richie White.

more land to lease so they can increase their herd.

"Eventually, we'd like to buy our own ranch for our kids to inherit," said Johnathan. "We've been blessed with some good opportunities, but it's an uphill battle."

In their spare time, the

brothers spend time with their young families. Johnathan's wife, Cherie, is a teacher, and they're parents to Weston, 4, Bronson, 2, and Alaina, 3 months. Dillon and his wife, Christina, a precision ag manager for Helena, are parents to Adilynn, 8, and Sawyer, 5.



RAAA

Johnathan and Dillon really liked what Red Angus cattle had to offer, preferring the breed's uniqueness.

Richie and Marci are still very involved in the operation, and love being grandparents.

With the help of their family members, White Cattle Co. is working to continue learning, improving and expanding. The operation started with

good work ethic, loyalty and strong family values, and as the family continues to improve, learn and expand, they hope to keep and pass down those core values. — Sarah Hill for the Red Angus Magazine

Big Sky Genetics - Where Performance Meets Maternal.



LOT 1 - C-T WESTERN SKIES 4062

Reg. # BW BR 205-WL WR YR IMF-R REA-R
4968588 79 102 803 115 116 91 100

BIEBER PAYDAY K113 X WFL MERLIN 018A

ProS HB GM CED BW WW YW ADG DMI M
102 38 63 17 -2.1 98 151 0.33 1.41 32

ME HPG CEM ST MA YG CW REA FAT
16 11 10 12 0.53 0.11 49 0.23 0.01

Big-time Payday son with 115 WR and 116 YR all with a 79 lb. BW. Dark cherry red with a massive phenotype. Stemming from the proven Buffalo Creek Red Angus Amber cow family!!



LOT 2 - FEDDES DRIFTER 081-4296

Reg. # BW BR 205-WL WR YR IMF-R REA-R
4961508 75 96 766 113 111 81 96

TAC DRIFTER H10 X MR COACH 1296

ProS HB GM CED BW WW YW ADG DMI M
157 95 62 14 -2.0 79 135 0.35 1.32 35

ME HPG CEM ST MA YG CW REA FAT
14 11 10 22 0.41 0.25 44 0.17 0.06

An outcross Drifter son that goes back to the great Coach bull. Dam's average weaning ratio on 3 head is 115. His maternal sister was the pick of the herd sold in 2024 and his brother sold as a herd bull to Schriever Red Angus. ProS 3%, HB 2%, WW 11%, YW 6%, ADG 4%, CEM 10% and STAY 1%.



LOT 3 - FEDDES FCC MAINFRAME 4600

Reg. # BW BR 205-WL WR YR IMF-R REA-R
4898430 75 ET 743 ET ET 128 114

BIEBER HARD DRIVE Y120 X BASIN HOB0 0545

ProS HB GM CED BW WW YW ADG DMI M
115 64 51 13 -2.8 77 112 0.22 0.56 24

ME HPG CEM ST MA YG CW REA FAT
6 16 7 15 0.62 0.02 17 0.35 0.04

Mainframe has everything going for him with phenotype, data and the genetics. A full brother to one of last year's top sellers that sold to Cross Diamond for \$25,000. He packs more growth and muscle dimension with an actual weaning weight of 822 lbs. and 1258 lbs. at a year. Mainframe scanned off the charts with a 128 IMF ratio and 114 REA.



LOT 4 - C-T OUT WEST 4044

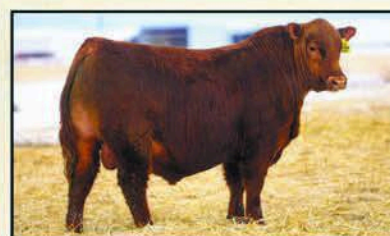
Reg. # BW BR 205-WL WR YR IMF-R REA-R
4968656 77 100 808 110 114 165 95

C-T REPUTATION 0094 X BIEBER CL STOCKMARKET E119

ProS HB GM CED BW WW YW ADG DMI M
137 45 92 15 -4.1 84 131 0.30 1.31 30

ME HPG CEM ST MA YG CW REA FAT
11 8 8 15 0.92 0.18 51 0.36 0.05

A standout Reputation son with 165 IMF ratio, 110 WR and 114 YR. He comes with an eye-catching phenotype, a wide back and loads of muscle. Stems from one of our most productive cow families for over 30 years!



LOT 5 - FEDDES CAPTAIN C31-4256

Reg. # BW BR 205-WL WR YR IMF-R REA-R
4961562 74 ET 709 ET ET ET ET

PIE CAPTAIN 057 X BROWN JYJ REDEMPTION Y1334

ProS HB GM CED BW WW YW ADG DMI M
126 91 35 12 -1.7 70 117 0.29 1.18 31

ME HPG CEM ST MA YG CW REA FAT
13 13 9 21 0.36 0.05 14 0.28 0.05

One of the most phenotypically correct bulls in the offering. When you look at him you can't help but notice his hind-quarter and rib shape. Structurally very correct. His mother is the highest valued donor to ever walk our pastures. 709 lbs. at weaning and 1202 lbs. at a year with a big ribeye. Should sire incredible females.



LOT 7 - FEDDES JUMPSTART 170-4263

Reg. # BW BR 205-WL WR YR IMF-R REA-R
4961566 70 95 698 107 104 96 117

BIEBER JUMPSTART J137 X BIEBER SPARTACUS A193

ProS HB GM CED BW WW YW ADG DMI M
126 54 72 14 -2.8 88 142 0.33 0.71 31

ME HPG CEM ST MA YG CW REA FAT
16 13 9 15 0.62 -0.08 23 0.69 0.03

A maternal brother to Feddes Amsterdam that sold last year and was a top seller to Select Sires. 107 weaning ratio, 104 yearling ratio and a ribeye ratio of 117, this bull has done it all. 19% ProS, 13% GM, 2% WW, 3% YW, 5% ADG, 9% Milk, 20% CEM, 17% Marb, 4% YG and 1% REA. Added growth, carcass and maternal in an extremely attractive package with great structure and backed by a top dam.

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RED ANGUS FEATURED SECTION

The traits included in economic selection indexes



RAAA

Lindsay Upperman, Ph.D.

The evaluation of possible herd sires based on their genetic potential can sometimes be confusing for new bull buyers. One factor a bull buyer can get behind in the buying process is that the next herd sire purchased should hopefully gain more profit in the next calf crop. Yet,

when looking at the available selection tools such as EPDs to evaluate herd sires, there are so many choices to choose from. So, which EPD should you look at? And is there more than one EPD to compare sires on?

An economic index is a tool used to select on multiple traits at once based on a given breeding objective. Essentially, an index looks at both genetic and economic values as well as the relationships between traits in order to select for profit. This is a much easier way to consider multiple traits at once, while only having one value to compare between sires. Let's take a look at each of the selection indexes available at RAAA.

There are three main selection indexes:

Profitability and Sustain-

ability (ProS): This is an all-purpose index which predicts the economic differences of animals for all segments of the beef supply chain. The breeding scenario for this index is that replacement heifers are retained from within the herd and all other remaining progeny are fed out to be harvested on a quality-based grid. Ultimately, this index would be the combination of the two selection indexes and breeding objectives defined below.

The traits included within this index are Calving Ease, growth traits, Milk (MILK), Mature Weight (MW), Heifer Pregnancy (HPG), Stayability (STAY), Dry Matter Intake (DMI), Average Daily Gain (ADG), and carcass traits (BF, CW, MARB and REA).

HerdBuilder (HB): This is

a maternal selection index which predicts the economic differences of animals for traits that are important from conception to weaning. The breeding scenario for this index is that bulls are mated to both heifers and cows, replacement heifers are retained and all other remaining progeny are marketed at weaning.

The traits included within this index are Calving Ease Direct (CED), Calving Ease Maternal (CEM), Weaning Weight (WW), Milk (MILK), Mature Weight (MW), Heifer Pregnancy (HPG) and Stayability (STAY).

GridMaster (GM): This is a terminal selection index which predicts the economic differences of non-replacement animals through the post-weaning part of

production. The breeding scenario for this index is that all progeny are fed out to be harvested on a quality-based grid.

The traits included within this index are Dry Matter Intake (DMI), Average Daily Gain (ADG), Carcass Weight (CW), Back Fat (BF), Marbling (MARB), and Ribeye Area (REA).

Furthermore, all of these indexes are expressed in dollars per head born, thus a larger value will be indicative of a larger dollar profit overall. For instance, let's compare two bulls on the HB index. Bull A has an index value of 78 and Bull B has an index value of 50. If these bulls are bred to a comparable set of females, we would expect Bull A's progeny, on average, to be \$28 more profitable per head born, given that these bulls were utilized in a breeding scenario that encompasses retaining replacement females and selling all other progeny at weaning.

One caveat of utilizing economic selection indexes is making sure that your operation matches the breeding


scenario. This is an important factor to ensure that your operation is marketing their animals in a similar fashion, allowing for the profit per head to be realized. However, if there are other aspects of your operation that are hard to ascertain, then choosing the all-encompassing breeding scenario, such as in the ProS index, offers a balanced scenario for any operation.

With the bottom-line always being at the forefront of a producer's mind, an economic index value can be a valuable asset due to being expressed in units we are all familiar with, dollars. An economic selection index takes the daunting task of multiple EPD comparisons between bulls into just one comparison.

This takes the work out of focusing on multiple EPDs and takes less time to evaluate potential herd sires on. One index, one breeding scenario and more profit per head can be the best asset to your operation! — Lindsay Upperman, Ph.D., director of Breed Improvement

One caveat of utilizing economic selection indexes is making sure that your operation matches the breeding

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Tony Tolar honored as Red Angus Herdsman



Next Level Images

Tonay Tolar, pictured with his wife, Edie, and children (from left): Truett, Chloe, Tony, Edie and Owen Tolar.

Tony Tolar has been named the 2025 Red Angus Herdsman of the Year. The award was presented at the Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City, OK, honoring Tolar's exceptional management practices and dedication to advancing the Red Angus breed.

The Herdsman of the Year is presented to a hands-on individual who has most effectively presented his or herself, and their cattle, in a professional manner while at Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) sponsored shows throughout the previous calendar year.

Tolar, who grew up in Columbia, MS, earned a Bachelor of Science in animal science from Mississippi State University and later completed a Master of Divinity at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Along with more than 30 years of experience in ranch management across Mississippi, Texas and Oklahoma,

he has devoted the last 15 years working with Red Angus cattle.

Tolar credits the cattle industry for providing him and his wife, Edie, the opportunity to raise their three children, Owen, Chloe and Truett, in a setting they all enjoy.

He currently manages the Oklahoma division of Sandridge Land and Cattle in Perkins, OK, where he oversees a robust embryo transfer program and organizes fall and spring cattle sales. Tolar believes in the power of genetic diversity and sees a bright future for the Red Angus breed in meeting the evolving needs of the beef industry.

"I believe in the benefits Red Angus cattle offer both registered and commercial producers," Tolar said. "We have a bright future and I am grateful to be part of it."

For more information on Red Angus shows and upcoming events, visit www.RedAngus.org. — RAAA



RED ANGUS

FEATURED SECTION

Red Angus cattle produce Angus beef



RAAA

Angus brands tend to sell at higher prices than graded commodity beef and, as a rule, Angus beef represents premium quality that sells at a premium price.

Angus-labeled beef is important to the U.S. beef industry. Many consumers are familiar with the name Angus and tend to associate that name with high-quality beef. The USDA identifies more than 50 beef brands that include the name "Angus" on their website listing specific certified meat programs over which they have voluntary regulatory jurisdiction.

Many, though not all, of these brands are relatively small in terms of tonnage sold. When combined, however, they add up to a sizable portion of total wholesale and retail beef sales, perhaps approaching 20% to 25%. Angus brands also tend to sell at higher prices than graded commodity beef. As a rule, Angus beef repre-

sents premium quality beef that sells at a premium price.

What exactly is Angus beef? Common sense mixed with a little scientific knowledge about beef breeds suggests it is beef derived from cattle that are 50% or more Angus, regardless of whether they are red or black. In other words, Angus beef comes from cattle that are genetically Angus. Hide color is (or should be) irrelevant to the determination of what qualifies as Angus beef. As one cattle feeder from Kansas quipped, "No one cares about the color of the hide when they are eating a steak."

Furthermore, everyone knows that Angus genetics come in more than one hide color. Some Angus cattle are black, and some are red. The

same is true of Simmental, Gelbvieh, Limousin, Salers, Wagyu and other cattle breeds. Most Holsteins are black and white, but some are red and white.

Wikipedia correctly states that, "Holsteins have distinctive markings, usually black and white or red and white in color." When we think of Holsteins, we most often picture a black-and-white cow, but that color combination does not encompass all that the Holstein breed represents. No knowledgeable cattle person would say otherwise.

Breeds are defined by the fact that the cattle contained in that breed share large amounts of the same DNA and have pedigrees tracing back to common ancestors. Color, as an individual trait, is not proof positive of one breed or another. Superficial evaluation fails as a foolproof method of breed identification.

The DNA is what counts and, when a consumer eats an Angus steak, it makes sense that the beef they are eating should have originated from an animal with predominantly Angus genetics. Otherwise, the consumer has been misled by the Angus label on the package he or she purchased.

This brings us to a simple question: What kind of beef do Red Angus cattle produce?

Genetically and scientifically, the answer is: Red Angus

cattle produce Angus beef.

That statement bears repeating: Red Angus cattle produce Angus beef. Therefore, labeling beef from Red Angus cattle—like those verified through Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) Feeder Calf Certification Program—as Angus beef should be a given.

Unfortunately, that is not the case in today's U.S. beef busi-

ness, and it has not been for decades. Black-hided animals, whether they contain Angus genetics or not, enter Angus branded beef programs with no questions asked. On the other hand, Red Angus cattle, though they produce Angus beef, are not included in a majority of Angus brands.

We all understand that there are some things in life and

business that simply do not make sense, do not pass the smell test and need to be changed. As a Red Angus cattle producer, you are producing Angus beef. Be assured that RAAA is wholly committed to making sure the entire industry understands that fact and makes appropriate adjustments. — **Tom Brink, RAAA CEO**

RAAA hires AJ Knowles

The Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) is pleased to announce the hiring of A.J. Knowles as the new beef geneticist, supporting the RAAA breed improvement department led by Lindsay Upperman, Ph.D.

Knowles spent the past two years with the American Brahman Breeders Association, overseeing producer education, development programs and collaborations with academic institutions.

During this period, he also pursued his doctoral studies under Jared Decker, Ph.D., at the University of Missouri. Previously, he earned a Ph.D. at Virginia Tech in animal and poultry science as well as a master's degree in animal breeding from Texas A&M Uni-

versity, where he also completed his bachelor's degree in animal science.

"A.J. brings a great background in cattle genetics to RAAA," said Tom Brink, RAAA CEO. "He is an excellent communicator to complement his technical skills and has several years of breed association experience. We look forward to having him join Dr. Lindsay Upperman in our breed improvement department."

Knowles brings a strong blend of practical cattle knowledge, genetics expertise and breed association experience to his new role. He will be based in the association's Commerce City, CO, office.

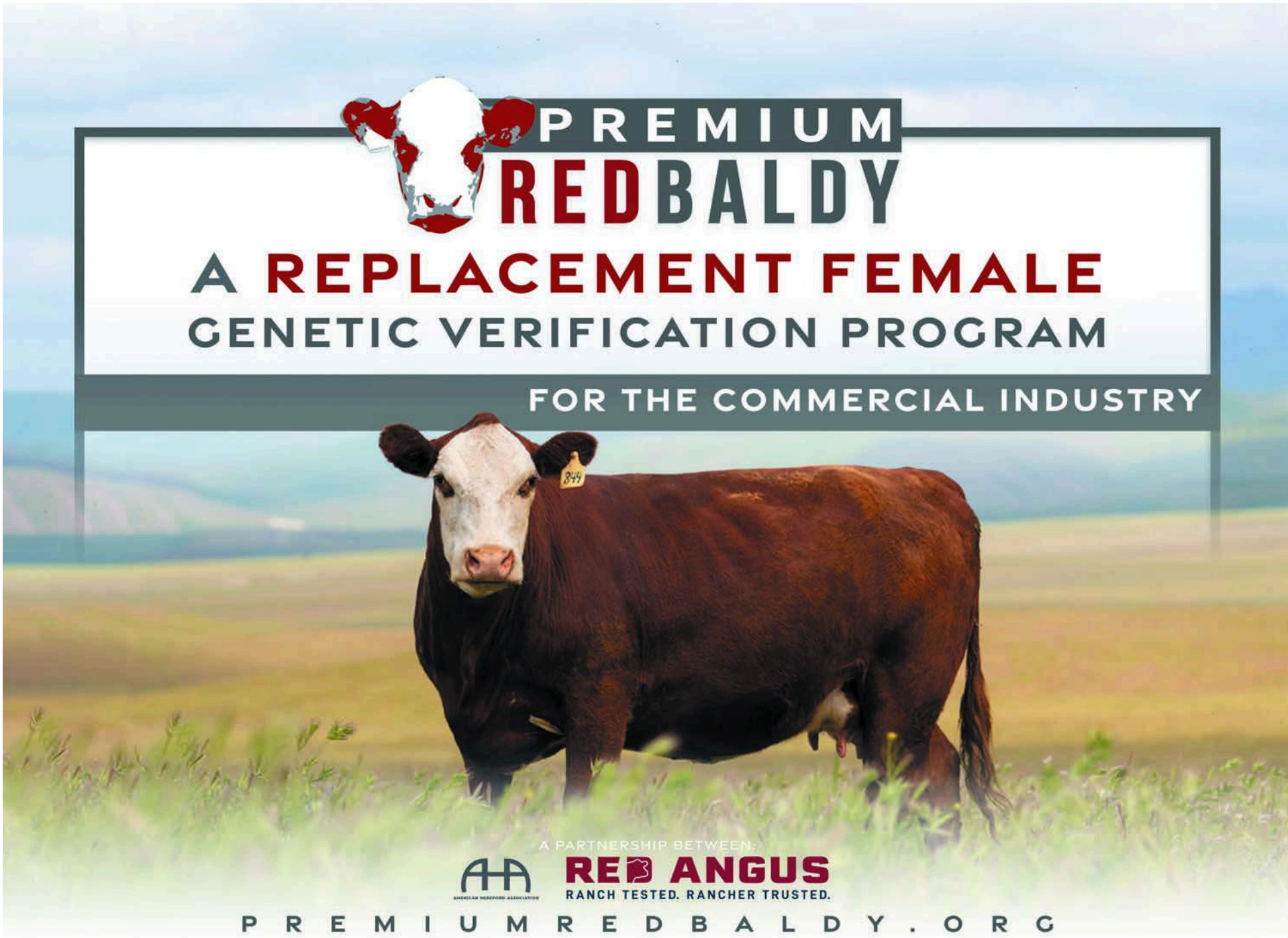
"I'm excited to join the Breed Improvement team at RAAA," said Knowles. "I look forward



RAAA

A.J. Knowles joins RAAA as beef geneticist.

to working with producers to increase the use and utility of genetic tools in their operations." — **Maclaine Shults-Mauney, RAAA editor and written content specialist**



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RED ANGUS FEATURED SECTION

Childhood dreams lead three women into veterinary medicine

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Lot 1 - LELAND PROPULSION 4054



#5002873
Lot 2 - LELAND PROPULSION 4016



#5003033
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#5002499
Lot 10 - LELAND BRUNSWICK 1047-4003

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Is your veterinarian a woman? The odds strongly favor an affirmative answer. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2023 nearly 70% of veterinarians were women. That statistic is likely to increase with the class of 2027, where 83% of students are female.

This is not a new phenomenon. Vicki Frobese, DVM, said there were more female than male vet students when she was attending the Ohio State University College of Veterinary Medicine in the 1980s. Her daughter, Hunter Frobese, DVM, as well as Paige Schmidt, DVM, encountered the same thing when they earned their degrees in May 2024. While the large majority of female vet students will enter into a small animal practice, these three knew they wanted to be large-animal vets from a young age.

The path to success

The elder Dr. Frobese, Vicki, yearned to be a veterinarian when she rode with her mentor, Bob Smith, DVM, in her southern Ohio childhood hometown of New Lexington. "When I started out with Dr. Smith in eighth grade, he did mostly large-animal work and from day one I loved it," she said. "One summer day we finished our work doing an autopsy on a high hill, it was stinky and gross. I thought to myself, 'Well, this didn't gross me out' and that's where my love for large-animal work began."

Graduating from vet school in the mid-1980s, she observed the number of women going into veterinary medicine was trending upward.

"When I was in school it was

probably 50/50 but women were increasing in numbers and today this is a female-dominated field," she said. The rigorous course work proved challenging. "Keeping my grades up in pre-vet was hard and I had to study a lot."

In 1986, she bought a practice, Town and Country Animal Health Care, in Bowling Green, OH. This was close to her husband's family farm and where they wanted to raise a family. She works with small and large animals with just a few equine clients. She was the sole animal doctor there for decades until this year, when she brought her daughter on staff. Together they plan to break ground on a new facility that will offer large-animal surgeries, ultrasound and a place for animals to stay during treatment.

The younger Dr. Frobese, Hunter, had the same early passion for veterinarian medicine. "I've known I wanted to be a vet since I was 5 years old. I idolized my mom and always wanted to pursue this career."

When she transferred from Hutchinson Community College in Hutchinson, KS, to Oklahoma State University, her grades were not as high as they could have been but she applied to vet school and hoped for the best. Plan B was to finish her bachelor's degree and re-apply. Much to her surprise, she earned an interview—and then: "I was in Hobby Lobby shopping, I got the acceptance email and I was so shocked, I sat down in the middle of the aisle and cried."

Her parents weren't surprised she chose veterinary

medicine as a career but when they got the news she was accepted, "They both cried; it was awesome," Hunter said.

In addition to working side by side with her mom, she is on staff at an emergency room animal hospital in Lima, OH. "The ER is a place where I have to learn on my own and not use my mom as a crutch. It's in a chaotic environment and I have to learn to think quickly and in the few months I've been there, I've gained a lot of technical skills that can be used across species and I believe has made me a better doctor."

Paige Schmidt, DVM, grew up in Crystal Springs, ND, on a fourth-generation Red Angus and Simmental cow-calf operation. She loved everything about working on the ranch and was passionate about working with cattle. After earning her bachelor's degree from the University of Jamestown and playing basketball all four years, she wasn't sure if she wanted to dive into more schooling. At the last minute, she applied to vet school at Kansas State University (KSU) and was shocked when she received her acceptance letter.

"I will never forget where I was when I got the letter," she said. "It came in the mail and I was scared to open it. I opened it up and right at the top it said, 'Congratulations!' I was so shocked and then I called my family to tell them. Once I got into vet school, it all fell together and I loved being there—I knew that's where I belonged."

Schmidt works with five other vets at their practice in

Featuring these top-ranking future breed leaders!

GMRA LEGIONNAIRE M4223



GMRA KING JAMES 0272H X GMRA TESLA 6214
 BW: 77 WR: 107 YR: 109

#4945358

GMRA BANJO M4302



BIEBER BLUE CHIP H302 X 3SCC DELIVERANCE H130
 BW: 55 WR: 117 YR: 109

#4945510

ProS	HB	GM	CED	BW	WW	YW	ADG	M	HPG	CEM	ST	MARB	YG	CW	REA
138	71	67	17	-3.9	81	132	0.31	29	11	12	17	0.37	-0.01	52	0.70
188	100	88	18	-4	71	118	0.29	30	14	11	21	1.04	0.17	31	0.25

**Highlighted numbers indicate top 25% breed rank*

ProS	HB	GM	CED	BW	WW	YW	ADG	M	HPG	CEM	ST	MA	YG	CW	REA						
GMRA PATRIOT M4215 #4945346 • BROWN PRA PATRIOT G6291 x BIEBER CL STOCKMARKET E119																					
BW:	88	WR:	108	YR:	105	131	51	81	11	0.4	95	155	0.37	34	10	7	14	0.69	0.07	46	0.37
GMRA STOCKMARKET M4216 #4945348 • BIEBER CL STOCKMARKET E119 x 3SCC DOMAIN A163																					
BW:	74	WR:	112	YR:	112	113	36	76	11	0.7	93	158	0.40	29	14	5	12	0.68	0.20	43	0.36
GMRA HIGH JUMP M4231 #4945372 • BIEBER JUMPSTART J137 x BIEBER CL STOCKMARKET E119																					
BW:	76	WR:	118	YR:	115	131	47	84	15	-2.0	96	160	0.40	27	16	10	11	0.57	0.06	49	0.65
GMRA MONARCH M4232 #4945374 • GMRA KING JAMES 0272H x BIEBER CL STOCKMARKET E119																					
BW:	66	WR:	122	YR:	114	110	48	62	19	-4.2	85	140	0.34	30	10	11	16	0.54	0.09	38	0.55

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RAAA Mother daughter vet team Vicki Frobese, DVM, and Hunter Frobese, DVM, work side by side at their animal clinic in Bowling Green, OH.



RED ANGUS

FEATURED SECTION

Nebraska. She spends most of her time in feedyards. "Going to school in Kansas, we had a lot of opportunities to go to feedyards and I am so passionate about the beef industry as a whole, I just wanted to learn more about all facets and I found I really enjoy production medicine. Feeding the world and being a part of the entire production system is something I love."

Getting involved with the Beef Cattle Institute at KSU piqued her interest in feedlot medicine and spurred her desire to learn more. While in vet school she also earned a master's in veterinary biomedical sciences focusing on feedlot interstitial pneumonia. "I have always had an interest in advocacy and consumer education and being in the feedyard industry brings you closer to the consumer. That attracted me to feedlot medicine as well."

Large versus small

While Hunter loves dogs and cats, her preference is to work with large animals. "It's honestly working with the farmers that I enjoy most. It's so refreshing because while it's normal to have emotions and feelings for our pets, farmers understand the economic side as well," she explained. "You can trust them and their knowledge about their livestock and it makes it fun to work with those people in your community."

Vicki echoed her sentiments but while she also enjoys working on the large-animal side with farmers, since her daughter has joined the practice, she has been doing more small-animal work. "I have faced the challenges that come with the large-animal side, like when you have little to no facilities to work with and you are faced with an animal in a pen with no way of restraining it. You do your best," she said.

The truth has been her go-to when things start going south in a situation. "When I hit a brick wall, like when we can't get a calf out, I step back, slow down, take a deep breath and tell the client the truth. I feel that's very important for them to know the truth so they can make the hard decisions in those situations."

The challenges are great for a female vet on a feedlot but Schmidt has found success in having the courage and confidence to admit her limitations and ask for help. "In most situations, I know what to do but I also know there are times when I'm not strong enough to do it, so I am happy to ask for help. In the long run, it's better for the animal; I don't need to make the situation worse by exhausting myself or the cattle."

Her approach with a difficult animal is similar to Vicki's: "I step back, take a deep breath and come up with a plan. I try to make the best decision for the situation," she explained.

Hunter has faced similar struggles in her young career and points to the difference in perspectives. "I was on a farm call where the cow had dystocia, the calf was dead, a C-section was out of the question, it was a hot summer day and we had tried for two hours to get the calf out," she recounted. "I looked at the farmer and told him this wasn't happening and he made the decision to ship the cow."

"That farmer made an economic decision and there was still money that could be recouped. Had that been a small-animal owner, they would have been devastated and very emotional and asking us to do more."

Hunter has encountered similar challenges early in her career and recognizes the contrast in perspectives. She explains that many farmers she has worked with approach

adverse situations with a practical mindset, often keeping their emotions in check. In contrast, many small-animal owners tend to react more emotionally in difficult situations, often requesting additional efforts to be made.

Large animal hacks

There's no denying the physical differences between most men and women. When it comes to dealing with 2,000-pound animals, Hunter is figuring it out. "I may regret it later in life but one thing I've learned is though we might not be as physically strong [a woman's] body is a lot more useful than just her arms," she said. "You have to be creative about using things around you. I like to call it large-animal vet ingenuity—it's really important."

In fact, while she was in vet school she was called upon to use her special large-animal

skills. "One of the doctors needed to fix something and she looked at me and said, 'Hunter, you're a large-animal person, right? Use your large-animal ingenuity and fix this.' I went and got the duct tape and by golly, I fixed the problem!"

Technology has enabled people to connect while divided by hundreds of miles. In the '80s and '90s it wasn't as easy to get support as it is now with social media and specific affinity groups. "I love being a part of organized veterinary medicine and I like to attend conferences where we can come together and support one another. I love being around other large-animal vets who are women with similar passions," Schmidt said.

Hunter has a concern for budding vet students and wants to grow a community of vets who can be available to

answer questions. "New vets can get so discouraged because they don't have any sort of a support group, so I would like to be that person others can depend on to answer their questions," she explained.

It takes a certain tenacity and determination to excel through the rigors of veterinary medicine and cross the line to gain DVM credentials. Vicki credited her dad for setting the example. "My father's character was, he set a goal, he reached it and he taught us to do the same." She also gave credit to Smith for setting the example of someone who loved their work, so she knew she would love being a veterinarian too.

Hunter reflected on her childhood and watching her mother work hard. "Watching my mom be an amazing veterinarian set the example for me. My dad always believed we could do anything we

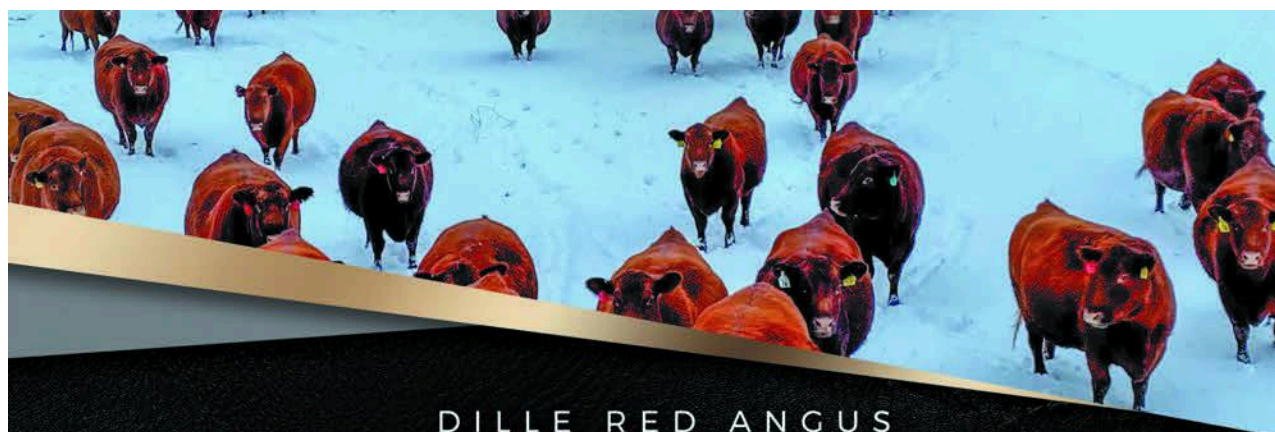
wanted to. Our parents never questioned our ability to do something," she said. "I have the benefit of an old-school vet for a mom, so I have an old-school heart - but can use new-world medicine."

Schmidt pointed to being raised on a ranch with responsibility and playing collegiate sports as the reason she is driven to excel. "Sports instilled determination in me and my parents emphasized working hard and things will fall into place," she said. "Working hard can strengthen your mental wherewithal and push you further than your mind believes you can go."

"I'm driven by my passion and I knew that being a large-animal veterinarian was going to be more physically demanding and a more challenging job but that's what I wanted to do. If you work hard, you can do anything." — **Melissa Hart for the Red Angus Magazine**



RAAA
Paige Schmidt, DVM, grew up on a ranch in North Dakota where her passion for agriculture was cultivated.



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RED ANGUS FEATURED SECTION

Relationships and reputations: Not just a Taylor Swift song



RAAA
Rachael Oliver, RAAA assistant director of commercial marketing.

Last summer, a few local Montana producers were selling their calves in a Superior Livestock video sale I was watching. On one specific lot, the bidding price dropped significantly from where all

the others had started earlier that day, and the auctioneer had to start those calves at \$2.80.

Eventually, however, those cattle ended up selling on par with the rest. That auctioneer had been around long enough, and he knew it was the time of day that many online buyers were at lunch or not watching as closely. With his persistence, he held out longer for the producer and was able to sell those calves for \$3.12.

Now you may wonder, "Why does this story matter?" My reasoning for this story is simple: throughout my time in the beef industry, I am time and again reminded of how much relationships matter. If it was not for the relationship and reputation of that consigner and the auctioneer, those cattle would've sold well

below market price.

If you watch many summer video sales, you'll see there has been a huge increase in cattle marketed through video auction, regardless of whether it's Superior Livestock, Northern Livestock Video Auction, Western Video Market or Cattle Country Video. If you've ever sat through those sales for more than two days, you start to become numb to the constant chanting.

To my surprise, even buyers feel the same way. After visiting with a couple large-scale online buyers, they too voiced similar sentiments, explaining they occasionally must step away during portions of the sale just to come up for air. Every buyer counts and if one walks away at a certain time that could make an impact on the price of many consign-

ments.

During my travels to industry events and on-ranch visits, I am often asked by ranchers if they should cut ties with their rep, sale barn or current direct buyer. And every time I give them the same answer. I tell all producers to never cut ties with the person who is helping you to make a living. It never benefits producers to jump ship constantly, leaving severed strings in your wake.

If a producer is unhappy working with a rep, that's when I encourage them to have a discussion. Just like a relationship—without communication and trust, you will never get anywhere. But it is amazing how much a little communication and trust can change an outcome. And yes, even in the cattle industry!

Part of our job at the Red

Angus Association of America (RAAA) is to help producers cultivate relationships with industry people. Without continually building relationships with reps, buyers, feedlots and packers, we will not be able to build a demand for Red Angus feeder cattle. It is easy to complain about how unhappy we are about the sale of our cattle, but before we point blame at someone else, I ask we look at ourselves and see if we truly worked with the representative and have a solid foundation built with them to help set

them up for success.

As all market outlets are becoming more and more competitive, having a strong relationship with your sale barn, video rep and even RAAA marketing specialist is so crucial in order to succeed. It is easier to advocate for an individual when there is a relationship established. If we want Red Angus to push forward in the industry, we all need to work together no matter our differences. —**Rachael Oliver, RAAA assistant director of commercial marketing**

Driving long-term membership growth

The Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) is a membership-based organization. Everything RAAA does is directly or indirectly designed to serve our members and their commercial bull and female customers.

From its inception in 1954, Red Angus followed a unique path among beef breeds. That path was of its own design and intentionally focused on scientific cattle evaluation and supporting the commercial beef industry.

Perhaps this is a bit of an oversimplification because other areas of the Association's work are important to RAAA and its members, like juniors.

However, the one-two punch of scientific cattle breeding and emphasis on commercial producers has proven to be a winning formula that stood the test of time. More than that, the Association and the breed are thriving because of this underlying philosophy that few other beef breeds have understood.

How can we be certain this formula is producing positive results? Membership growth over the past two and a half decades is one metric to consider.

Since 2000, RAAA regular/adult memberships are up 64%, junior memberships increased 277% and total memberships, not counting affiliate members, more than doubled. Over the same period, the inventory of active Red Angus cows increased by 57%.

These growth percentages are even more impressive when one considers that Red Angus faced a strong headwind in the feeder cattle market in the form of a black hide bias.

To say these cattle work in the country is an understatement. How else can the growth in membership and cow inventories be explained? Red Angus couldn't simply benefit from the popularity of black-coated cattle like some other breeds have.

Membership growth happens for several important reasons. People join because they believe in what an organization is doing, what they stand for and where they are going.

In the case of RAAA, new

members join because they see good things in Red Angus cattle, especially the females and they see the benefits of getting more reds on their place. They also see that Red Angus is supported by a strong and active association.

RAAA is never standing still in its efforts to improve, promote and position the Red Angus breed for greater success in the future. In recent years, a significant portion of those efforts have been dedicated toward helping the industry understand that Red Angus cattle produce Angus beef and to reduce or eliminate color bias in the marketplace.

These efforts are starting to show results, although more work remains to be done. We are in for an exciting future as cattle prices stay high and more Angus beef supply chains are formed, with Red Angus having a prominent seat at the table.

Innovation is another important aspect of Red Angus history that has attracted growth in membership and bolstered the breed's commercial following.

That point is well illustrated by a conversation Kelly Smith, RAAA director of commercial marketing, had recently with a Red Angus rancher from the northern Plains.

Kelly recounted that this gentleman brought up the subject of Total Herd Reporting. He explained that Red Angus has long been ahead of the pack because every cow must "report in" every year, with a calf record or other reproductive code—no exceptions.

This commercial rancher was proud to talk about the Red Angus THR program, which is now almost 30 years old. Interestingly, only a few imitation programs exist in the beef breed industry and most of these are optional rather than mandatory.

What's ahead for Red Angus membership? Faster growth is the most probable outcome. Red Angus is now conquering some of the mountains that have hindered it in past years. This impact will provide support at all levels, from adult members and juniors to commercial cattle producers. —**Tom Brink, RAAA CEO**

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RED ANGUS

FEATURED SECTION

Wyoming ranch thrives with Red Angus

East-central Wyoming is home to a unique multi-faceted agriculture enterprise, rich in tradition with a strong vision of the future. Wagonhound Land and Livestock, owned by Art and Catherine Nicholas, is a working ranch headquartered 20 miles south of Douglas, WY. What began as a modest 14,000-acre ranch in 1999 has blossomed into a sprawling 320,000-acre operation.

Under the skilled guidance of general manager Dustin Ewing, the ranch has flourished. "It's been a 20-year project building and developing the ranch," Ewing said, explaining that the ranch's success lies in its interconnected divisions. "We have four divisions including cattle, horses, farming and outfitting. The entire operation is anchored by our Red Angus cow herd."

Wagonhound's choice of Red Angus cattle is no accident. Ewing discussed the ranch's strategic move towards a pure Red Angus herd, "When we originally purchased the Red Angus-Gelbvieh-cross herd of about 250 head, we wanted a pure herd. We eliminated the Gelbvieh influence and went straight Red Angus. Now, our performance is exceptional for a larger herd."

Full-cycle beef production

Wagonhound doesn't just raise cattle; the diversified operation raises them from start to finish. The cattle division boasts a capacity of 5,000 Red Angus commercial cows and 7,500 feedlot cattle. Calves born on the ranch remain there through the finishing phase, ensuring complete control over the quality of their beef.

The cow herd summers in the Laramie Mountains and returns to headquarters in the fall.

"We truck the pairs up there in the spring, because the babies are too small to make the trip," cow-calf manager Justin Schwartzkopf described. "Early November we bring the cows home to their winter grounds on the meadows, so they don't get snowed in on the mountain. It's 60 miles they walk home every year. It takes us about five days to drive them."

Schwartzkopf highlighted the adaptability of Red Angus to the ranch's challenging elevation. "We're running between 4,000 and 9,000 feet of elevation, and I think these Red Angus acclimate well into our environment. They're hearty and do their job through some extreme winters."

The calves are weaned on the mountain mid-October, then hauled to Wagonhound's feedlot. "The calves come into the yard in the fall. We background them, then carry our yearlings over and fatten them on a Global Animal Partnership program," feedlot manager Cory Everett explained.

In addition to finishing cattle out, Everett also oversees the development of Wagonhound's replacement heifers. "Red Angus females are a step above in my book. I've been Aling at Wagonhound for 13 years, and the fertility in these

females is just unbelievable. We synchronize everything and have very few timed AIs. We pull on a heat basis and 90% to 95% of them will come into heat."

Knowing that Wagonhound females navigate challenging terrain during their life, Everett prioritizes structure when selecting replacements. "When we're evaluating females in the alley, we pay close attention to feet, because they're the foundation. Red Angus have worked well for us because they have better feet than many other breeds."

Top-notch marketing strategies

Wagonhound enrolls the calf crop in numerous value-added programs to ensure the traceability and quality of the ranch's beef. These include the Red Angus Association of America (RAAA) Feeder Calf Certification Program, Earth Claims' GAP and IMI Global's NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, CARE and vegetarian-fed programs.

Ewing underscored the commitment to transparency and quality, "When marketing our calves, we consider the things that are important to our buyers, such as age and source verification. We want to incorporate all the positive attributes consumers are looking for."

"The Feeder Calf Certification Program works well for us for two reasons," Everett explained. "First, it verifies the Red Angus genetics in our herd. Second, the EIDs serve a dual purpose, and can be used as the identifier when cattle are enrolled in other programs through IMI Global."

"The RAAA has been really good working with those third-party companies. There's a real camaraderie and everybody is trying to do what's right for our industry. It aligns with how we see things," Ewing added.

Wagonhound clearly isn't afraid to adapt and embrace new opportunities. Ewing explained, "Having developed a pure Red Angus herd with a strong genetic base, we're now implementing some crossbreeding with Hereford to bring red baldies back into the herd to increase hybrid vigor. I really compliment RAAA for recognizing the importance of crossbreeding and the value of heterosis."

Nurturing the land

Fueling the impressive Red Angus herd is the ranch's extensive farming operation, overseen by farm manager Greg Richendifer. Operating approximately 8,000 acres of irrigated farmland featuring a sophisticated irrigation system, Wagonhound produces all its own hay and corn, ensuring the long-term sustainability of the cattle operation. Richendifer underscored the importance of water resources, "The farm consists of 41 center pivots, and that water comes out of the North Platte River."

The arid climate with high altitude maximizes the quality of the alfalfa hay. In addition to

serving as the backbone for the cattle operation, Wagonhound's farm also produces some of the finest certified weed-free dairy, cattle and horse hay on the market. Wagonhound produces 20,000 tons of alfalfa each year, with more than 5,000 tons of premium hay maintained under modern storage facilities.

Speaking of horses, Wagonhound's equine legacy shines through its horse division, meticulously breeding and raising both ranch and performance horses. The dedication to quality is evident in its achievements, including selling top-performing horses at renowned events such as the Four Sixes Ranch Return to the Remuda Sale and National Cutting Horse Association Snaffle Bit Futurity.

Heather Sanchez, horse

manager, provided insights into the horse division, "The horse division at Wagonhound consists of performance horses and ranch horses. Performance horses go into the reined cow horse competition. All of our cowboys use home-raised horses on the ranch."

"The primary purpose of the horse division is to produce horses to use on the ranch, but we're super proud of those horses that you can go to town and play in the sporting events," Ewing added.

An oasis for wildlife

Perhaps the most unique aspect of Wagonhound is its successful integration of an outfitting business with its working cattle ranch. As Dax McCarty, lead outfitter and

wildlife natural resource manager, said, "There are many benefits of running an outfitting business beside a working cattle ranch. One is stewardship of the land. By running an outfitting business on a working cattle ranch, you're basically raising wildlife without trying to raise wildlife. There are abundant opportunities for wildlife to flourish given the improvements we have as far as rotating pastures and water resources."

McCarty explained the services offered through the outfitting division. "We offer a full outfitting service, primarily for elk hunting, but also for mule deer, whitetail deer, antelope and black bear."

The Reid Creek Lodge, Wagonhound's stunning 8,000-square-foot guest lodge,

offers a luxurious and personalized experience for guests. Mitch McElwain, guest services manager, detailed the hospitality aspect, "We can host up to 20 guests and create a customized itinerary based on their preferences."

McElwain further highlighted the interconnectedness of the Wagonhound divisions, sharing that, "About 50% of our guests are extremely interested in how a commercial cattle ranch operates."

Wagonhound's story is one of continuous improvement and adaptation. Through the changes and improvements on the ranch throughout the years, one thing remains the same: the Red Angus breed plays a crucial role in Wagonhound's success. — **Katie Martin, RAAA director of communications**



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RED ANGUS FEATURED SECTION

Mastering mineral management for herd success

Chart 1: Macro Minerals

Mineral	Most Significant Known Functions in Body	Source
Macro Minerals (Required in larger amounts)		
Calcium (Ca)	Essential for skeletal and bone development, muscle function & nerve signaling	Forages
Phosphorus (P)	Critical for energy metabolism, bone development & reproductive performance	Grains
Potassium (K)	Important for maintaining fluid balance, nerve function & muscle contractions	Forages
Magnesium (Mg)	Essential for proper enzyme and nervous system function and for efficient carbohydrate metabolism	Mineral Supplement
Sodium (Na)	Necessary for proper nervous and muscular function, body pH regulation & water retention	Water & Forages
Chlorine (Cl)	Essential for lowering the pH of the abomasum as well as the production of enzymes & for respiration	Feedstuffs
Sulphur (S)	Required for normal growth and reproduction of bacteria in the rumen of cattle and essential for rumen microbial synthesis of certain amino acids, vitamins and enzymes	Forages & Grains

Cattle require minerals daily for normal metabolism and essential functions. While animals can store some minerals for later use, several critical minerals are not stored in sufficient amounts for long-term needs. When minerals are not supplied adequately, deficiencies

can occur, impacting growth, reproduction and overall performance.

Studies show two out of every three cows are copper deficient and selenium deficiencies are common in certain regions. However, overfeeding minerals can also create problems. Research shows that trace

minerals like copper and selenium are frequently overfed, yet many producers unknowingly exacerbate the issue by administering additional trace mineral injections.

"We see as many—or more cases where a mineral antagonism is created because people are over-

Chart 2: Micro Minerals/Trace Minerals*

Mineral	Most Significant Known Functions in Body	Source
Chromium (Cr) ⁸	Enhances insulin action & critical for energy metabolism	Cereal grains
Cobalt (Co)	Required for the synthesis of vitamin B12	Legumes
Copper (Cu)	Aids in red blood cell formation, immune function & development of connective tissues & nervous system	Forages & Grains
Iodine (I)	Important in the synthesis of the thyroid hormones which regulate energy metabolism	Forages
Iron (Fe)	Key to enzyme functions and formation of hemoglobin which carries oxygen in the blood	Forages
Manganese (Mn)	Involved in bone formation, reproduction & enzyme function involved in metabolism	Forages
Molybdenum*	Needed for enzyme activity	Forages
Nickel*	Required to help break down urea	
Selenium (Se)	Crucial for antioxidant defense systems, thyroid function & immune response	Forages & Grains
Zinc (Zn)	Vital for enzyme function, protein synthesis, immune response & reproduction	Legumes

*Chromium, molybdenum and nickel do not have an established requirement and are not normally added to mineral mixes fed to beef cattle.

feeding some minerals, usually copper or selenium, than we see cases of extreme mineral deficiencies," said David Lalman, Ph.D., Extension beef cattle specialist, Oklahoma State University.

Whether it's a deficiency

or antagonism, both can negatively affect growth and reproductive performance, ultimately impacting profitability.

Mineral balance exercise revealing

Lalman strongly advocates for conducting a mineral balance audit, which can provide insights into an operation's current mineral program and highlight areas for improvement.

"Depending on the level of concern or interest, producers could begin by conducting a winter feeding and summer grazing balance," Lalman said.

A mineral balance audit involves five key steps:

1. Determine animal requirements.
2. Sample pastures, hay and silage to identify mineral content in forages.
3. Assess the mineral content of supplemental feeds or supplements.
4. Calculate estimated forage and feed amounts for future use.
5. Consider digestibility and bioavailability of minerals in all sources.

"Finding or documenting existing antagonists is important," Lalman said. "Knowing if soil, forage or one of the primary concentrate feeds being used contains a high level of antagonist will inform the nutritionist regarding the needed mineral product formulation. Sulfur, molybdenum, iron and even phosphorus are good examples of minerals that work as antagonists if there's too high of a concentration in the diet."

A practical example

To illustrate the importance of a mineral balance audit, Lalman referenced a chart created for 1,200 lactating beef cows grazing spring tallgrass prairie forage in the southern Great Plains. These cows consumed 3.3 ounces daily of a commercial mineral supplement. The chart re-

vealed key gaps and excesses, such as a sodium deficiency of 7 grams per day. To address this, the cows required an additional 15 grams of salt daily, equivalent to about half an ounce.

Lalman explained that a mineral balance audit can lead to three key conclusions:

1. The mineral supplement complements the forage for that time of year.
2. Blending 10-15% salt with the mineral better balances sodium requirements.
3. Selenium concentrations in the supplement could be reduced by 50%, as higher levels were unnecessary.

"A mineral balance audit can reveal both potential deficiencies and excesses," Lalman said. "Then, a nutritionist can develop a plan to proceed with those needs and characteristics in mind—and with the end goal of providing adequate tissue stores as economically as possible."

Forage testing

Forages often lack sufficient levels of minerals like calcium, phosphorus, magnesium and sodium. Additionally, forage mineral content varies by region, season and maturity. As grass dries and becomes more lignified, mineral availability decreases.

Sampling forages during grazing provides insights into whether cattle are receiving adequate minerals. A video by South Dakota State University Extension, titled "Mineral Content Sampling that Matches Pasture Grazing," offers guidance for collecting samples. Forage samples can then be analyzed at a feed and water testing lab to identify deficiencies, toxicities and interactions.

"Producers who have additional questions after watching the video might find it useful to contact their local Extension office," said Laurentia VanRensburg, commercial head of nutrition, with Alltech.



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MOTILITY	MORPHOLOGY	
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2023	88.4	89.4
2024	88	88.6
RAAA AVG. ??????		

PAST SALE BULL AVGS.:

STAYABILITY			
YEAR	HB	STAY	
2022	90	22	
2023	92.6	23	
2024	102	23	
RAA AVG. 55 15			



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#1622622	KRP KANYON MAKER 3853	#4867984	3/30/23	70	728	102	100	26
#1546984	KRP MAKE A MILL 2054	#4867990	4/19/23	85	753	105	104	23
#1329487	BUF CRK FINAL ANSWER W004	#4868256	3/30/23	80	737	101	100	23
#4172812	KRP MALBEC RED MILL 9636	#4868222	4/18/23	77	754	107	101	22
#3783603	KRP OLY'S WANDER 7500	#4867964	4/18/23	75	729	104	103	21
#4338991	KRP EPIC BUSTER 0689	#4868278	4/12/23	78	743	104	103	20
#3721545	RED U2 MALBEC 195D	#4867956	4/1/23	85	748	103	102	20
#3984374	KRP HOLY PAY DAY 8221	#4868136	4/15/23	75	749	107	100	22
#3783459	KRP DOK KANYON BRITE 7359	#4868022	4/12/23	74	714	102	102	23
#4525809	KRP RIGHT KIND PAYER 1951	#4868390	4/14/23	74	762	104	102	22
#4338733	KRP LUNKER MAKER 0166	#4868250	4/20/23	74	714	102	99	24



RED ANGUS

FEATURED SECTION

Chart 3: Mineral Requirement of Beef Cows

	Requirement			
	Growing Cattle	Pregnant Cows	Lactating Cows	Maximum Level
Calcium, %	0.45	0.3	0.45	2
Phosphorus, %	0.3	0.2	0.2-0.21	1
Magnesium, %	0.1	0.12	0.2	0.4
Potassium, %	0.6	0.6	0.7	3
Sodium, %	0.08	0.08	0.1	-
Sulfur, %	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.4
Iron, ppm	50	50	50	1000
Manganese, ppm	20	40	40	1000
Zinc, ppm	30	30	40	500
Copper, ppm	10	10	10	100
Iodine, ppm	0.5	0.5	0.5	50
Selenium, ppm	0.2	0.2	0.2	2
Cobalt, ppm	0.1	0.1	0.1	10
Molybdenum, ppm	-	-	-	5

Source: Ohio State University

Soil testing can also provide valuable insights, as trace mineral content in soil varies by region and management practices. Factors like fertilization, forage species, plant maturity and grazing methods influence mineral levels in soil and plants.

"Trace mineral content in soil varies from region to region which, in turn, will impact trace mineral content in feeds and forages," VanRensburg said.

Choosing a mineral supplement

Selecting a proper mineral supplementation strategy can be challenging with all the different product offerings and brands available. VanRensburg recommended studying product labels for details on species-specific formulations, guaranteed analysis, ingredients and usage directions.

Per the Association of American Feed Control Officials, minimum requirements for a cattle supplement tag include six important items:

1. Product and brand name
2. Purpose statement that identifies the species and class of animal the product was developed for
3. Guaranteed analysis that tells which minerals might be included and at what rate
4. List of ingredients
5. Directions for use or any limitations or precautions
6. Manufacturer and/or distributor information

"It's very important to know that the more guarantees listed on the tag, the more useful the information is to help compare nutritional levels," she explained.

When comparing trace minerals, VanRensburg emphasized that the source of the mineral—organic or inorganic—is more critical than the amount.

Inorganic trace minerals—listed as oxides, sulfates, hydroxides and sodium selenite—are typically byproducts from other industrial processes and tend to be inexpensive.

While it's great to be price conscious, VanRensburg pointed out that inorganic trace minerals typically have lower bioavailability than organic trace minerals.

"With organic minerals, the metal, such as copper or zinc, is bound to peptides or amino acids," she explained. "This makes the mineral more representative of the form which animals are adapted to utilize."

Organic trace minerals, such as proteinate or selenium yeast, offer higher bioavailability than inorganic forms, improving efficiency and results.

VanRensburg noted that organic trace minerals are linked to improved reproductive efficiency, earlier breeding, higher conception rates, better embryo quality and heavier calves at weaning. In bulls, proper mineral supplementation supports semen quality and volume.

Since mineral brands differ in quality and bioavailability, producers should request product-specific research to make informed decisions.

Not every supplement is the right fit for every operation. A supplement's novelty, lower price or popularity among neighbors does not necessarily make it the best choice. Several factors influence the appropriateness of a mineral supplement, including differences in forage base, supplemental feeds, cattle breed and stage of production. (Refer to Chart 3 regarding stage of production and mineral needs.)

"When comparing different mineral programs, make sure you look at feeding rates and monitor actual consumption, if possible," said VanRensburg. "For example, when comparing two different brands where one is a 4-ounce mineral versus a 2-ounce mineral, divide the cost per 50-lb. bag by the number of feedings, which provides the cost per animal per day, for an easier comparison than just looking at the cost per bag of mineral."

VanRensburg and Lalman emphasized that vet-

erinarians and nutritionists play a critical role in ensuring animals maintain adequate mineral levels. If deficiencies or excesses are identified, producers should prepare for a longer recovery process. Address-

Figure 4: Mineral balance for a lactating beef cow grazing spring tallgrass prairie forage

Nutrient	As Fed	DM	Required	DM	Required	Status
	Diet Concentration		Daily Amount			
Diet DM	100%					
TDN	70%	70%	-	23.8 lb	TDN:CP	5.00
ME, Mcal/lb	1.12	1.12	-	38.2 Mcal	-	-
NE _m , Mcal/lb	0.71	0.71	-	24.2 Mcal	-	-
NE _g , Mcal/lb	0.44	0.44	-	15.2 Mcal	-	-
NDF	68%	68%	-	4.8 lb	NDF	68%
peNDF	61%	61%	7-20 Min	20.8 lb	7.0 pH	ADEQUATE
Crude Protein	13.9%	13.9%	-	4.76 lb	3.30 lb	ADEQUATE
Fat	3.2%	3.2%	-	1.09 lb	-	ADEQUATE
Calcium	0.39%	0.39%	0.28%	60.2 g	43.8 g	ADEQUATE
Phosphorus	0.23%	0.23%	0.18%	35.0 g	28.2 g	ADEQUATE
Sodium	0.06%	0.06%	0.10%	9.36 g	15.53 g	DEFICIENT
Potassium	1.60%	1.60%	0.60%	248.0 g	108.7 g	EXCESSIVE
Magnesium	0.27%	0.27%	0.15%	42.6 g	31.1 g	ADEQUATE
Sulfur	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	23.3 g	23.3 g	ADEQUATE
Cobalt ppm	0.18	0.18	.15 ppm	2.8 mg	2.3 mg	ADEQUATE
Copper ppm	14.40	14.4	10 ppm	224 mg	155 mg	ADEQUATE
Iron ppm, mg	199.69	199.7	50 ppm	3101 mg	776 mg	EXCESSIVE
Manganese ppm	74.88	74.9	40 ppm	1163 mg	621 mg	ADEQUATE
Selenium ppm	0.26	0.26	.1 ppm	4.0 mg	1.6 mg	EXCESSIVE
Zinc ppm	45.65	45.7	30 ppm	709 mg	466 mg	ADEQUATE

Source: Dr. David Lalman, Oklahoma State University

ing mineral imbalances typically requires several months to restore the herd to optimal performance levels. — Teres Lambert for the Red Angus Magazine

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RED ANGUS

FEATURED SECTION

Fresh approaches to the age-old winter-water issue

As winter unfolds, cattle ranchers reflect on the preparations made to endure its harsh grip. Supplies such as forage and supplements, secured in advance, are now critical for feeding cattle through the frigid months ahead. Ranchers spend untold amounts of time and money gathering, storing and dispersing feedstuffs for winter.

While most producers know the importance of feeding cattle in the winter, how much focus is on water availability during cold temperatures?

Freezing water has been a challenge since the beginning of time and modern technology has provided many solutions to keeping water available in winter months. However, some of these solutions are expensive and time-consuming. Two Wyoming ranchers took matters into their own hands when they created the Water Rippler.

Randall and Shondah Otwell own the Lazy RS Ranch, raising cattle in Oshoto, WY. Shondah is a fourth-generation rancher and she met Randall after he moved to Wyoming, looking for a change. The couple married and had expansive careers that prepared them for their future. Randall worked as a master electrician, journeyman lineman and substation electrician. Shondah built businesses that supported corporate computer networks.

In 2010, they moved to Shondah's family ranch, becoming the fourth generation to manage the operation. The Otwells constantly battled the harsh winters and freezing water supply.

"We know the importance of having water during the winter and we have

tried every solution available to keep the ice from forming," Randall said. "It's costly to run electric and propane heaters or to install geothermal heat pumps. In the early spring, we will run water daily to 1,000-gallon stock tanks and we can't afford to heat that much water using these methods."

After a particularly bitter morning of chopping ice during the winter of 2019, Randall decided it was time for a change.

"It was 20 below zero and I remember it being cold and bitter," Randall said. "I got fed up and went to the shop to find a different way to keep ice off. We spent three years building different inventions and discovering what wouldn't work." Finally, in 2022, there was a breakthrough.

"We came up with the Water Rippler and I knew this would be big," Randall said. "I realized it was working one morning when the temperature was a little over 20 below. There was a thin layer of ice but the water underneath was moving. It wasn't very hard to push through the ice."

The Water Rippler is like nothing else on the market. It keeps ice from forming at temperatures as low as zero F and still functions well at -22 F.

"It moves within the water to create a rippling effect, which mitigates ice formation," Shondah said. "We knew we needed something that stayed at the water's surface, so we created the Water Rippler to move with the water level."

Shondah suggested sharing the idea with other ranchers who suffered from the same problems they did. She knew the Water Rippler



The Water Rippler prototype.

was unique and could benefit other producers.

"It runs on a DC pump that can be used with a solar panel or with regular electricity," Randall said. "Another factor that makes the Water Rippler stand out is the cost savings. It costs \$3.39 per day to run an electric stock tank heater for 24 hours, while it costs \$0.11 per day to run the Water Rippler for 24 hours."

According to Randall, the Water Rippler will work in a tank of any size, can be moved from one location to another and can be used in multiple seasons.

"We've had a lot of folks in the East and South who are interested in the Water Rippler for warmer temperatures," Randall said. "They want to use it to keep mosquito larvae from hatching on the surface and to reduce algae growth in the stagnant water."

The product is still in the early stages of manufacturing and distribution but the Otwells are hoping to have it widely available soon.

"We have a wait list for distribution and I send out updates about our produc-

tion schedule to the people on that list," Shondah said. "We anticipate they will be widely available by the winter season of 2025-2026. We are continuously working toward large-scale manufacturing to get it out to everyone interested."

Until the Water Rippler is widely available, the Otwells recommended a tried-and-true method they have used for decades to ensure cattle access to water.

"We've tried all kinds of things over the years and there are methods that worked better for us than others," Shondah said. "One of the things we've had to do for years and years is to go out first thing in the morning to open the water using an ax or a pitchfork. We started our water as a slow trickle and checked it several times throughout the day to make sure it was still running and not overflowing. The cattle can come by throughout the day and get a drink that way."

Key winter water considerations

Madison Kovarna, beef nutrition field specialist for South Dakota State University Extension, said it is important to keep water in mind as temperatures drop.

"Producers tend to put water as one of the lower concerns on the totem pole," Kovarna said. "When they see a blizzard in the forecast, producers are seen stacking up hay bales and bringing in extra feed. However, they also need to be worried about water because cattle require water for body processes, such as removing waste and digesting dry matter."

The amount of water required for cattle depends on various factors, including their purpose, size and age.

"The rule of thumb is 1 gallon of water per 100 lbs. of weight for mature bulls and dry cows," Kovarna said. "When talking about weaned calves that are still growing or lactating females with a calf on, they require 2 gallons of water per 100 lbs. This even affects calves if they aren't getting enough nutrition from their mothers because the cow is not getting enough water."



Shonda and Randall Otwell.

Limited access to water can adversely affect cattle performance, even during winter.

"Cattle use quite a bit of water in their digestive processes," Kovarna said. "If they don't get enough water, it can cause them to intake less feed. It can also cause them to inefficiently process the feedstuffs and performance levels can be lost."

The rumen is responsible for fermentation digestion, requiring a large amount of fluid.

"If the amount of fluid in the rumen is limited, the microbes conducting digestion won't get around to all of the feed," Kovarna said. "They won't be able to take in as much feed because the digested feed is not moving out as quickly."

The location of the water source should not be too far for cattle to access within reason.

"During the winter season, cattle tend to bunch up and conserve energy during the colder months and they don't want to move as much," Kovarna said. "I suggest keeping it under 1 mile or even half a mile when the conditions are especially harsh. Cattle can wander in the wrong direction if there is low visibility because of snow or rain."

Kovarna discussed innovative ways for producers to get sufficient water to the cattle. "I've seen some creative solutions for operations that don't have a permanent water source," Kovarna said. "Sometimes they have to haul water in tanks and I've also seen people do underground piping. The underground piping comes up and hooks to a tank and the producer can turn it off when they're not using it."

Avoid using tanks that were used for storing chemicals, which can be dangerous if ingested by cattle.

"Make sure they weren't used for storing or mixing herbicides, insecticides or other chemicals," Kovarna said. "Those chemicals can seep into the plastic and hang on after they have been emptied. Producers should also consider this

with other supplies such as hoses and pumps."

Whatever watering system a producer chooses, there are a few things to remember.

"The biggest thing to remember when it comes to providing winter water is ensuring it works for the operation," Kovarna said. "They shouldn't try to do what a neighbor does if that doesn't fit their operation to mitigate cold stress."

One of the most challenging issues of winter is the water freezing over.

"I advise checking the water daily to ensure cattle have access to their water supply," Kovarna said. "Cattle shouldn't be expected to bust through the ice. The easier it is for cattle to get to the water, the more likely they are to drink."

If cattle drink from a natural water source that freezes, such as a pond or a lake, Kovarna said to pay attention to where the ice is being broken.

"When breaking ice on the pond bank, make sure that the ice is not broken too close to the shoreline," Kovarna said. "It's hard because producers don't want cattle going too far out on the ice and potentially slipping but they also don't want them to muddy the water. Cattle are very sensitive to the palatability of their water and they won't drink it if it tastes like dirt."

Above all else, it is vital to have another option if the original plan fails.

"Always have a backup plan, especially during winter," Kovarna said. "This is especially true if the water source is supplied electrically, such as with an electric pump or heater. Ensure there's a backup power source or a different way to supply water if the electricity is down or the herd can't be reached."

Lastly, Kovarna advised producers to keep water tanks clean. "Providing quality water for cattle to drink is important, so it's crucial to clean tanks often," Kovarna said. — **Jessica Wesson for the Red Angus Magazine**

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Prescribed grazing: A win-win for endangered frogs, farmers

Jake Yancey, owner of Tracking Y Ranch, has adopted a unique farming approach that sustains his beef operation, regenerates land and improves wildlife habitats. Through prescribed conservation grazing, Jake has established a thriving direct-to-consumer beef operation that improves habitats without owning his own farm.

When it came time to establish his own ranch in 2015, the price of acreage in western Washington had been inflated beyond regular means due to new developments. As an alternative to ownership, Jake and his wife, April, decided to find lease property, going door to door looking for land to graze their cattle.

"Some of the first people we reached out to were the conservation groups. We saw that they were spending a ton of time, effort and money on vegetative management, controlling invasives and clearing wildfire hazards all by hand with lots and lots of man hours. So, we saw the opportunity of grazing as a management tool to help these conservation programs."

Their persistence paid off. Ten years later, they lease over 1,000 acres from landowners and conservation groups to graze their 150 cows. By tailoring grazing prescriptions to the specific needs of each property, Jake helps landowners achieve their goals naturally, often saving

them labor, financial costs and reducing the use of chemicals.

Jake's work with the Centre of Natural Lands Management has shown promising results. Prescribed grazing has helped to manage the invasive reed canary grass which threatens the habitat of the rare Oregon spotted frog. By allowing Jake's cows to graze the property for just three weeks a year, the weed is kept at bay, allowing the frogs to lay their eggs in the prime wetland area.

Despite facing challenges such as losing leased land to developers, Jake remains committed to his mission. His family plays a crucial role in the operation: his wife and twin

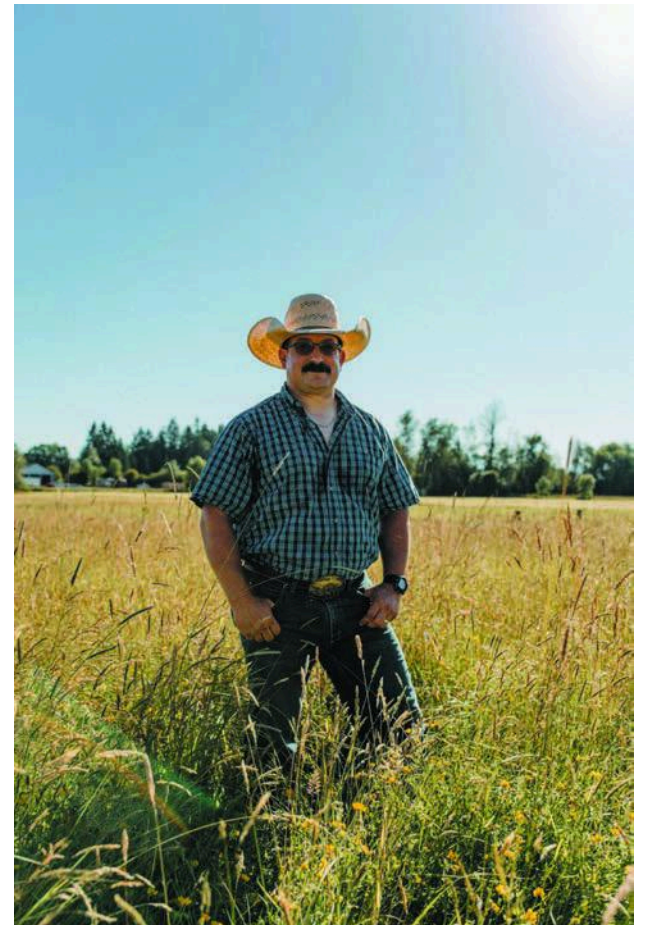
daughters help to shift cattle, maintain individual cow reports and market the beef direct to consumers. The Yancey family's dedication to transparency and sustainable practices has earned them a loyal following of customers who care about where their beef comes from.

"We're just happy when customers decide to buy direct from producer because that really helps as we start to build and continue with that dream."

Jake Yancey's prescribed grazing approach at Tracking Y Ranch shows that innovative farming practices can positively impact the environment while sustaining a thriving beef business, even without owning

a farm. His story is a testament to the power of innovation and dedication to

sustainable practices. — **Gallagher Animal Management**



Gallagher Animal Management
Jake Yancey at Tracking Y Ranch.

Forest retains authority to shoot feral cattle

GILA CATTLE (from page 1)

against the agency, arguing the USFS violated federal regulations by not following standard procedures for removing unauthorized livestock.

Former NMCGA President Loren Patterson told *WLJ* at the time that the association was worried about the precedent the shootings would set and the potential impacts to private property. In addition, he noted the waste of beef and the consequences of improper carcass management.

The livestock interests filed for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction to stop

the shootings, which were denied. The district court did not find that the removed cattle met the definition of "unauthorized livestock" as they were unowned and feral, and therefore, the USFS was not required to follow impoundment procedures.

"The plaintiffs express concerns regarding the operation's impact on goodwill and the potential loss of customers, but these potential harms are not sufficient to justify the granting of injunctive relief here," the court wrote in an opinion.

A week after the court denied the restraining order and injunction, the Center for Biological Diversity intervened in the lawsuit in support of USFS. The

court granted the group in September 2023 the right to intervene.

In February 2024, a four-hour-long hearing was held between the parties.

"I feel more convinced of the correctness of the construction that I gave in a rather quick way in 2023," district judge James O. Browning said during the hearing. "Now, that I've studied this much more, and been more informed by the argument, I feel more convinced than ever

that the construction that I've given these regs is correct."

Nearly a year later, Browning ruled that USFS complied with all laws and the livestock groups' complaint was dismissed with prejudice.

"This sensible ruling validates the Forest Service's efforts to protect the Gila Wilderness and its remarkable biological diversity," said Taylor McKinnon of the Center for Biological Diversity. "It's a victory for

America's first wilderness that will lead to a cleaner, healthier Gila River and restored wildlife habitat." The Gila National Forest will have full legal authority to remove unauthorized livestock from federal lands. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

Taking stock of feed resources

In Nebraska, February is typically the halfway mark through winter. As we move toward the later half of the season, now may be a good time to take stock of feed resources.

How is your hay stockpile looking at this point in the winter? We really want to avoid having to purchase more this late in the game to make it to spring, but if that is the case, how can we avoid it next year? If we decide to raise our own, annual forages can provide a quick yield. If this problem keeps occurring, maybe expanding grass or alfalfa acres is worth consideration. Of course we need to keep an eye on the forecast. If irrigation isn't an option, forage plans require adequate precipitation to happen.

Speaking of perennial fields, how did they yield last year? Is it time to renovate grass or alfalfa hayground? If we need to tear out an old alfalfa stand to give a year's rest before a new seeding, we need to start planning now. Even planning to inter-seeding a grass field with legumes should happen quickly.

Maybe a full renovation

isn't needed, but some fertilization to boost yield would help. Plan for soil sampling if it hasn't already been done in the fall and figure out timing of applications now. Remember not all plants grow at the same time of year, so the timing of fertilizer needs to be matched with your predominant species.

Finally, it's worth looking at the overall financial standing of your forage operation. Is new equipment needed? Can the costs be justified? We might even weigh the pros and cons of producing hay ourselves vs. buying it or having it custom harvested. This isn't limited to the balance sheet, but labor, scheduling, and quality of forage all need to be considered.

While we might not appreciate the hardships, winter brings time to take stock of our current operations and plan for the future. Looking at current hay stocks, last year's yields, and weighing out all options available may not be a task we look forward to, but it can make a huge difference in success for the upcoming year. — **Ben Beckman, Nebraska Extension**

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MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 2/6/2025	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	207.16 ▼	207.70	176.00
CME Feeder Index	279.03 ▼	279.45	242.11
Boxed Beef Average	323.98 ▼	327.54	295.01
Average Dressed Steers	326.96 ▲	N/A	N/A
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,447 ▲	1,446	1,397
Weekly Slaughter**	600,000 ▲	599,000	637,000
Weekly Beef Production***	526.4 ▲	525.3	536.8
Hide/Offal Value	11.63 ▲	11.53	11.69
Corn Price	4.96 ▼	4.97	4.33

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef												
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price	
January 31	6,558	330.51	221	388.64	1,228	334.79	1,981	326.19	749	316.95	2,380	300.46
January 24	7,348	331.85	259	390.89	1,444	335.83	2,140	328.58	777	315.88	2,738	300.42
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

Cutouts						FED BOXED BEEF					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN	90% LEAN					
Feb. 6	323.98	314.77	290.46		114.22	N/A					
Feb. 5	325.34	314.33	290.16		109.67	373.76					
Feb. 4	330.73	317.41	292.45		118.65	381.17					
Feb. 3	331.99	319.84	286.31		119.47	367.77					
Jan. 31	327.68	317.07	287.75		116.09	367.85					

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	1/31	2/3	2/4	2/5	2/6	High*	Low*
Feb.	20460	20298	20188	20435	20368	20935	16853
Apr.	20230	20015	19865	20198	20113	20773	16668
Jun.	19670	19448	19323	19630	19583	20165	17005
Aug.	19333	19105	18988	19263	19218	19790	18068

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	1/31	2/3	2/4	2/5	2/6	High*	Low*
Jan.	28168	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	28225	21920
Mar.	27573	27050	26825	27150	27080	27983	22268
Apr.	27513	26983	26763	27113	27055	27900	22460
May	27313	26798	26580	26940	26885	27723	24118

Selected Auctions										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	PAIRS	
		SLAUGHTER BULLS		REPLACEMENTS							
NORTHWEST											
No report available	Blackfoot, ID										
January 30	Burley, ID	384	426 358-392	209-371 317-333	308-318.50 320-327	197-300 280-289	268-280.50 275	193 219			
No report available	Emmett, ID										
February 1	Eugene, OR	631	300-356* 260-357*	270-337* 245-309*	260-297* 245-312*	240-264* 220-252*	210-242*	185-205*	115-133 133-158	1,100-2,200	
February 3	Madras, OR	633	365-401 348-386	345-365 328-362	325-361 305-325	270-300 255-280	240-265 225-255		100-127 135-150		
No report available	Vale, OR										
No report available	Davenport, WA										
January 30	Toppenish, WA	735		369-425* 335-365*		272*			125-158.50	2,300	
FARWEST											
January 30	Orland, CA	1,010		250-350 230-320	240-327 220-300	230-310 210-305	230-258 210-252		110-145 110-157	1,800-2,800	
No report available	Escalon, CA										
No report available	Famoso, CA										
No report available	Galt, CA										
February 4	Turlock, CA	363		284-327.50	295-378 284-338	290-332 280-304	260-300 232-269	228-258 220-255	220-245 205-230	110-143.50 139-170	
No report available	Salina, UT										
NORTH CENTRAL											
February 3	Iowa	15,065	408-425 380-420	360-415 247-383	321-382.50 271-336	282.50-341.75 260-304	270-318 225-292	203.50-297.50 238-276	97.50-203 117-192		
February 4	Miles City, MT	670		394-422	370 403	320-335 283	262.50		119-150 150-152	2,200-2,775	
February 5	Bassett, NE	2,920		416 350-367.50	382.50-412 312-362	311.50-373 285.50-357.50	290-312.50 270-279.50	253.50-286.50 266			
February 1	Ericson, NE	3,160	427.50-447.50	395-416 362.50-369	335-376 318.50-352	315-337.50 270-346.75	283.50-306 262-351	264-283 254		1,850-3,400	
No report available	Imperial, NE										
No report available	Kearney, NE										
January 31	Lexington, NE	3,582	445 420-432	370-435 342.50-391	343.50-376 304-338	309-338 273-306	281-303 264-276	250-283.75 240-256			
January 30	Ogallala, NE	6,277	480-492.50 387.50-400	417.50-471 357.50-387.50	361-438.50 313.50-338	317-372 289-350	275.50-319 265-335	235.50-281.50 242-259.50			
January 30	Valentine, NE	4,300	420-475 375-410	420-495 368-389	359-413 322-372.50	315-369 300-323	308-314 278				
January 31	Herreid, SD	3,446	440	367.50-420 357-408	355-380.50 292-343	306-350 289.50-314.50	292-312.25 274-298	283.75-302.50 237-244			
February 5	Torrington, WY	3,312	465-485 390-420	425-441 369-381	355-408 318-351	319-349 286-307	280-312 246-271	260-269 236-254			
SOUTH CENTRAL											
January 30	Willcox, AZ	1,154	403.50-430 349.50-392.50	423.50-462.50 351.50-390	371-442.50 322.50-380	375.50-367.50 307-335	330-339 280.50-310		109-138 124-148	2,000-2,200	
February 3	Colorado	7,666	425	417.50-450 272.50-415	345-435 332.50-398	315-382.50 265-367.50	278-334.50 251-312	260-292.50 231-263	245-282.50 186-253	86-160.50 130-178	
No report available	La Junta, CO										
No report available	Loma, CO										
February 5	Dodge City, KS	2,636	460	435 354-366	382-419 350-374	338-362 311-336	306-332 263.75-292.50	270-293.50 251-260	251.50-280.50 221-234.50	113-147 148-168	
January 30	Pratt, KS	1,993		397.50-445 335-377	347.50-425 312.50-370	308-354 285-322.50	280-332 259-300.50	265-295 239-259	245.50-280.50 218-247	122-147 154-189	
January 30	Salina, KS	3,731	337.50-417	342-386 300-363	366-416 300-363	327-372 290-357	305-344 272-287	266-318 251.50-274	246-283 228-260		
February 6	Clovis, NM	2,602	440-507 415-475	385-450 327-420	338-427 300-385	300.50-345 266.50-340	256-312 240-302	258.50-269.50 236-259	230-260 227.25	120-139.50 132-158.50	
February 5	El Reno, OK	8,646		370 405-475	375-442.50 330-395	327.50-375 300-365	287.50-327.50 255-285	268-292.50 246-261	232-272 226-245		
February 4	McAlester, OK	1,465		405-475 335-393	225-419 323-360	295-361 285-325	283-316 249-298	259-290 225-255	232-255 198-215	128-151 150-170	
February 4	Oklahoma City, OK	9,761	427.50	438-476 362-420	350-426 303-364	330-374 281-333	281-334 256-284	264.50-294 241-263.50	240-276 235-243.50		
January 31	Cuero, TX	728	452-520 375-450	403-485 337-428	349-465 306-406	300-400 278-335	275-314 256-310	263-290 223-250	225-250	126-144 135-173	
January 30	Dalhart, TX	2,500		390-410 372.50	365-385 307.50-370	315-362.50 275-317.50	285-327 284-370	260-293 243-265	241-252 226-246.50	109-137 127-174	
January 30	San Angelo, TX	1,025	380-400	415-425 380-400	390-420 325-345	320-345 290-328	290-315 246	262-264 246	104-140 137-158	1,825-2,750 1,975-2,675	
January 30	Tulia, TX	1,059	385	362-385	342-347 307-340	330-340 250-300	273-300 285-290	252-266 228-253.75	211-259 219-248	115-130 140-150	
EAST											
January 31	Alabama	10,614	400-495 350-430	380-470 320-380	325-465 300-345	290-345 263-325	270-317.50 241-270	240-285 222-255	247.50-272 244-245	117-155 140-185	
February 3	Lexington, KY	2,252	340-345* 305-330*	342.50-412.50* 291-347.50*	317.50-410* 262-339*	285-350* 261-290*	261-328* 236-271*	244-281* 230-260*	215-250.50* 185-220*	125-154 140-178	
February 4	Joplin, MO	11,934		425-440 350-395	380-440 319-360	321-392 280-331	290-332 263-284	267-294 244-271	240-275 233-247		
February 3	Tennessee	14,052	390-540 310-510	320-430 295-400	300-400 260-340	282-370 230-325	262.50-323.75 210-290	249-287 200-257	227.50-269.50 185-241	110-167 122-191	
February 3	Virginia	3,778		370-424 275-344	270-404 269-307.50	256-340 210-288	200-310 175-259	233-275 165-240	192.50-245 190-216	1,550-3,550 1,125-2,950	

FED CATTLE TRADE			
	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	5,005	1,509	207.16
Live FOB Heifer	2,273	1,321	206.41
Dressed Del Steer	6,204	978	326.96
Dressed Del Heifer	825	847	327.55
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	615	1,449	207.70
Live FOB Heifer	462	1,228	202.91
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	40	825	325.00
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	34	1,350	176.00
Live FOB Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: FEBRUARY 2, 2025		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	24,176	6,163
Formula	265,524	4,089
Negotiated Cash	76,188	149
Negotiated Grid	42,767	2,274
Packer Owned	8,966	N/A
Total	417,621	12,675

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,976
Feb. '25	126,747	Neg. Sales 21+ days	692
Mar. '25	157,183	Formula sales	3,809
Apr. '25	204,460	Forward contract sales	81
May '25	102,232	Domestic sales	5,837
Jun. '25	108,277	NAFTA Exports	155

CANADIAN LIVESTOCK PRICES & FEDERAL INSPECTED SLAUGHTER FIGURES</			
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Feeders see \$10 losses

MARKETS (from page 1)

headed lower over the week. The March contract lost \$8 to close at \$273.20, and the April contract lost \$10 to close at \$265.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost 42 cents to close at \$279.03.

Corn futures were modestly higher over the week, up 5 cents to \$4.95 on the March contract and up six cents to \$5.07 on the May contract.

"Although, the most aggressive losses are seen in nearby March and April futures, all contract months are taking significant hits with concerns surrounding the opening of import levels of cattle from Mexico and how this will change the tight supply of beef currently being factored into prices," Stewart said.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold

12,500 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, at the mid-session, feeder steers and heifers are selling steady to \$5 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 774 lbs. sold for \$267-276, averaging \$270.34.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 9,500 head on Monday. An accurate comparison could not be made at the mid-session. Benchmark steers averaging 718 lbs. sold for \$268-294, averaging \$282.48.

Wyoming: Winter Livestock in Riverton sold 2,647 head on Tuesday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder calves and yearlings had no comparison available due to light offering last 2-3 weeks, but prevailing markets higher overtones noted. Benchmark steers averaging 720 lbs. sold for \$282-283.50, averaging \$283.26. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**



TURLOCK LIVESTOCK AUCTION YARD

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TUESDAY, MARCH 11 - TUESDAY APRIL 1, 15, AND 29

SPECIAL SPRING FEEDER SALES FEATURING SMALL PRODUCERS WITH 50 HEAD OR LESS

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Stanislaus San Joaquin Contra Costa Alameda Counties

2025 Upcoming Sales

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John Luiz 209-480-5101	Brandon Baba 209-480-1267
Jake Bettencourt 209-262-4019	Bud Cozzi 209-652-4430
Travis Johnson 209-996-8645	Eddie Nunes In Memory of 1944-2024
Tim Sisti 209-631-6054	

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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.)

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.

Feb. 21 - The National Cattlemen's Beef Association announced applications for two internship opportunities available summer 2025, a public policy internship based in Washington, D.C. and a meetings and events internship based in Centennial, CO. Both internships will run from May 19 through Aug. 15. Details: jobs.keldair.com/ncba.

Feb. 28 - The Montana Stockgrowers Foundation is now accepting applications for the Dr. Raymond Ansotegui Overeducated Cowboy Scholarship. Applicants must complete an application, submit their current transcript and write an essay. Details: www.mtbeefoundation.org.

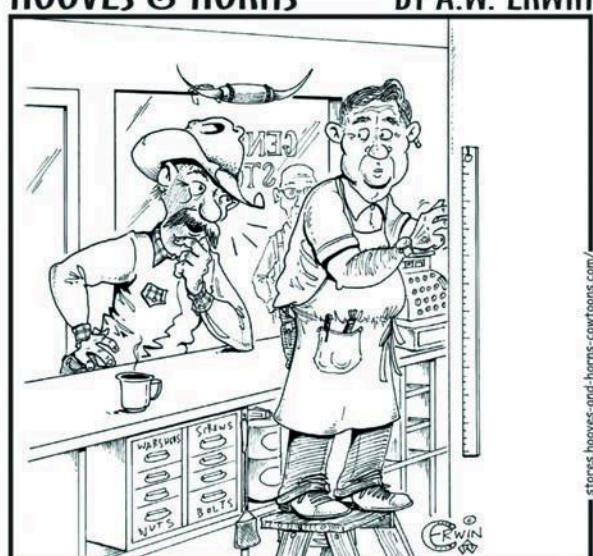
April 15 - The Colorado CattleWomen's Heather Hays Stinnett Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a Colorado woman pursuing a graduate or undergraduate degree in agriculture or a related field. Details: tinyurl.com/bhvv53kw.

March 1 - The Northern International Livestock Exposition Foundation is accepting applications for scholarships for the 2024-25 academic year. The foundation will award five levels of scholarships. Details: thenile.org.


March 14 - The Livestock Marketing Association is proud to announce the opening of its 2025 scholarship program application period. Nine deserving students will each be awarded a one-time \$2,500 scholarship to assist with their academic pursuits. Details: lmaweb.com.

June 9-19 - The USDA AgDiscovery 2025 free summer youth program offers middle and high school students the opportunity to live on a college campus for 2-4 weeks and learn about our nation's agriculture from agriculture experts including veterinarians, wildlife biologists, entomologists and agribusiness professors. Details: tinyurl.com/4cfzjsr3.

HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN



"Durn-it, Luther,.... this is fer Valentine's Day!
Ain't yew got any pink de-horners?"




JAMISON & FRIENDS


LI HEREFORD BULL SALE

FRIDAY, FEB. 28, 2025


• 12 NOON (CST) •
At the Ranch, 2271 County Rd. 74, Quinter, Kansas




JA LI Domino 3600L
BD: 1/31/23 • Reg. # 44471887
Sire: CL I Domino 6163D
BW 1.6 WW 60 YW 82 MM 38 MG 68 REA .38 MRB .18




CO LI Domino 314L
BD: 3/7/23 • Reg. # 44461076
Sire: FS ADVANCE 0079H
BW 2.7 WW 64 YW 108 MM 31 MG 63 REA .64 MRB .08




B&B LI Domino 374
BD: 3/10/23 • Reg. # 44483922
Sire: B&B LI Domino 770
BW 3.9 WW 53 YW 94 MM 36 MG 62 REA .22 MRB .00




B&B LI Domino 3130
BD: 6/10/23 • Reg. # 44483884
Sire: B&B LI Domino 770
BW 2.8 WW 55 YW 92 MM 31 MG 59 REA .28 MRB .02




JA LI Domino 3601L
BD: 2/8/23 • Reg. # 44471891
Sire: CL I Domino 6163D
BW 1.5 WW 57 YW 81 MM 31 MG 59 REA .37 MRB .18



B&B LI Domino 397
BD: 3/22/23 • Reg. # 44483899
Sire: EHF LI Advance 622ET
BW 4.4 WW 55 YW 90 MM 25 MG 52 REA .48 MRB .02



B&B LI Domino 3171
BD: 9/18/23 • Reg. # 44519785
Sire: JA LI Domino 014H
BW 1.8 WW 56 YW 93 MM 27 MG 55 REA .44 MRB .20



B&B LI Domino 3184
BD: 9/26/23 • Reg. # 44519795
Sire: FS Advance 7032E
BW 3.6 WW 59 YW 93 MM 25 MG 54 REA .48 MRB .11

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Videos Online at WWW.JAMISONRANCH.COM

Are you listening to what your cows are saying?

Comfortable cows are generally healthier, more productive and less stressed—and it's no secret that cow comfort directly influences milk production and your bottom line. A recent study shows that for every hour of lying time beyond 10 hours, cows can produce up to 3.5 more pounds of milk per day.

But you can't task every cow if she's getting enough rest.

"Cows can't say how they feel, so you need to rely on behavior and data to understand their needs," says Rosa DePriest, dairy support team lead at VAS. "By listening to what your cows tell you through data, you can create a more comfortable environment for your herd to thrive."

Optimizing for cow comfort begins with asking the right questions and leveraging your herd's data to implement a solution. Here are four questions to ask yourself to evaluate, monitor and improve your herd's comfort:

1. How much time do your cows spend standing versus lying down?

Your cows' standing and lying patterns are key indicators of their comfort.

"When a cow isn't being milked, she should be at the feed bunk or laying down," says DePriest. "Monitoring systems, which can be easily integrated with your herd management system, compare cow behavior with standards for optimum conditions and previous behavior patterns. They flag changes or abnormalities, prompting you to investigate further."

Extended standing times can indicate stall design issues, overcrowding or stall and bedding management issues—such as not cleaning pens and beds often enough or using adequate bedding.

If you notice longer standing times, start by evaluating your stalls. Look at stall structure, bedding and stocking density to identify where the

problems are.

Longer standing times can also indicate health problems like lameness, which impacts more than cows' mobility. Globally, lameness results in a \$6 billion loss in milk production, fertility and increased culling.

"Lameness is a low-hanging fruit in cow comfort management," says DePriest. "Using herd management software, you can track hoof health events, flag problem cows, build hoof care lists, spot deviations in activity levels and take preventive measures before they become a bigger issue."

2. Are you optimizing your stocking density?

Overcrowding can disrupt your cows' ability to rest, eat and ruminate. By using herd management software like DairyComp you can customize your reports to provide specific insights into your pens. With these reports, you can track and analyze pen size

and milk production to identify the optimal stocking density for your cows and barns.

"I worked with a dairy that wanted to scale back their herd size to meet their reduced production quota," says DePriest. "Instead of seeing a drop in milk production, they unexpectedly saw an increase. After some investigation, we realized their pens had been overstocked. By removing cows, the herd was closer to an optimal stocking density. This increased milk production per cow per day."

You can find the right balance between cow comfort and utilizing your barn space by tracking milk production and other important herd data before and after management changes. Granting your consultants permission to review and access this data via the cloud also helps ensure well-informed management decisions.

3. How efficient are you with your cows' time?

The less time cows spend confined and handled by people, the better. Unnecessary confinement time can cause stress for cows, negatively impacting milk production.

"For a cow to be productive and profitable, we want to give her time to do her thing—eat, rest and produce milk," says DePriest. "Many tools are available to help minimize disruption to cow routines and increase efficiency. Options range from small things like mobile herd management solutions and RFID wand

readers to larger tools like automatic sort gates and parlor systems."

Going mobile allows for rapid cow-side data entry and quick access to your herd's information, offering new opportunities to boost efficiency by combining tasks or approaching them differently. With mobile management solutions, you can quickly see which cows need vaccinations and treatments, reduce confinement time and keep them moving through the pen. Pairing mobile herd management with an RFID reader and tags can also make herd checks and worklists easier, faster and more accurate.

Automatic sort gates and parlor systems like ParlorBoss help minimize disruption by only sorting out cows that require attention.

4. How much does weather impact your herd?

Heat stress can have a negative ripple effect on reproduction, milk production and herd health.

"With herd management software, you can track milk yield, somatic cell count and reproduction metrics like conception rates and pregnancy rates and correlate data with weather patterns," says DePriest. "This historical analysis can help you focus on when and how your cows are most impacted by heat and plan and prepare better to mitigate the weather's impact."

Many heat stress mitigation strategies are easy to imple-

ment. For instance, double-check your summer management plan to ensure simple tasks are completed, such as cleaning and maintaining fans, ensuring adequate water availability, and confirming misters and curtains work.

In addition to keeping your cows cool, other management practices can help reduce heat's greater impact. For example, DePriest worked with a farm that noticed a spike in mastitis health events over multiple summers. In addition to their cooling management practices, they evaluated teat dip products and switched to sand bedding to further manage their mastitis cases.

Monitor the impact of a change

First, focus on improving cow comfort for your most significant challenges. Whether it's heat abatement, lameness or optimizing pen layout, use your data to prioritize and track the effectiveness of changes you implement.

"The key is to tackle one change at a time and focus on incremental changes," says DePriest. "If you make too many management changes at once, it is much harder to identify what change made the impact."

Ask yourself, "Was this change effective?" and continue to track before-and-after data to optimize your herd management further. — VAS

Auction will be broadcast live
LiveAuctionsTV

17th Annual Northwest Hereford Breeders Bull Sale

Sat. Mar. 8, 2025 - 1:00pm (PST)

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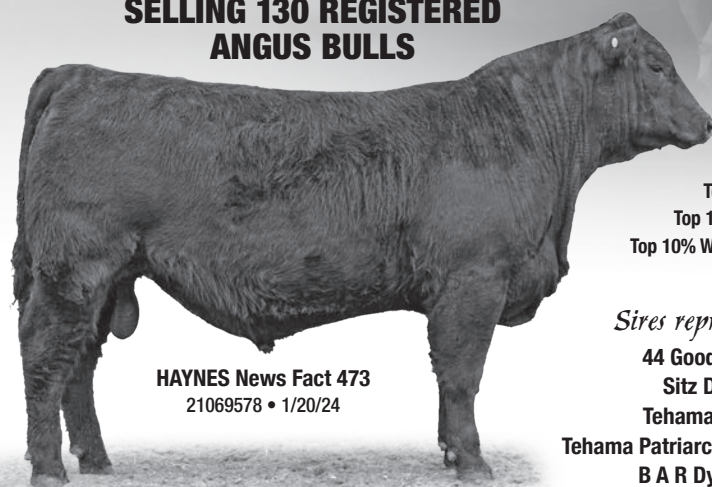
CATALOG at: Hereford.org • owniherefordassn.org
Facebook – Northwest Hereford Breeders Bull Sale

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Ogallala Livestock Auction • Ogallala, Neb.

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Sire:
44 Good News 1130
Maternal Grand sire:
Tehama Patriarch F028
Top 1% REA • Top 2% CED
Top 10% WW, YW, CW, SW, \$B, \$C
Top 15% Marb

Sires represented include:

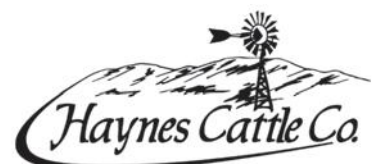
44 Good News (19971596)
Sitz Domain (19974072)
Tehama Tahoe (17817177)
Tehama Patriarch F028 (18981191)
B A R Dynamic (19923789)
Man In Black (19955191)
Big/WSC Iron Horse 025F (19415015)
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Wintering growing calves using corn residue

Corn residue is an outstanding forage resource for wintering cows but is also an option for backgrounding calves or growing heifers. Given the typical rental rates for corn residue and the cost of distillers grains, these two feed resources together make one of the lowest cost growing rations. To understand why distillers grains are such a good supplement for growing calves, one must first understand a little about how protein is used in ruminant animals. In ruminant diets, not all protein is created equal, and this is particularly apparent for animals with high protein requirements such as growing calves.

Ruminally degradable protein is used by rumen microbes to grow (eventually, rumen microbes become a source of protein for the animal called bacterial crude protein). Ruminally degradable protein supplied in excess of the microbes' requirements cannot be used by the animal as a source of protein. When the animal's protein need is high, bacterial crude protein does not meet the animal's demand, thus a source of ruminally undegradable protein (or bypass protein) is needed. Providing more ruminally degradable protein will not help in this

instance.

A good example of this concept is the comparison of urea as a source of protein vs distillers grains for growing calves grazing corn residue. Urea is 100% ruminally degradable, whereas the protein in distillers grains is only 37% ruminally degradable, meaning that 63% of the protein bypasses the rumen (is not degraded in the rumen) and can be absorbed and used as a source of protein for the animal itself.

When a similar amount of energy (3.1 pounds total digestible nutrients/day) and protein (0.9 lbs. crude protein/day) were supplied by corn plus 5% urea (4 lbs. dry matter (DM)/day) vs. distillers grains (3 lbs. DM/d), the gain of calves receiving distillers grains (1.32 lbs./day) was more than double that of the calves receiving the corn plus urea (0.53 lbs./day). The difference in gain with urea and distillers grains emphasizes the value of bypass protein (or ruminally undegradable protein) for growing calves.

Distillers grains have consistently been the lowest cost source of bypass protein in the Midwest. In addition, distillers grains are very high in energy (greater than corn). Thus, distillers grains make an ideal supplement for

calves grazing corn residue. A pooled analysis of several studies reported in the 2017 Beef Report illustrates the amount of distillers grains that would need to be fed to achieve various rates of gain.

Their data suggests that for a targeted average daily gain of:

- 1.1 lbs./day, calves would need to be supplemented with 1.8 lbs. of DM, which is 2 lbs. of dry distillers or 3.6 lbs. of modified distillers.

- 1.5 lbs./day, calves would need to be supplemented with 3.6 lbs. of DM, which is 4 lbs. of dry distillers or 7.2 lbs. of modified distillers.

- 1.9 lbs./day, calves would need to be supplemented with 6 lbs. of DM, which is 6.7 lbs. of dry distillers or 12 lbs. of modified distillers.

In forage-based systems, similar performance is observed with dry, modified and wet distillers grains as long as the same amount of dry matter is fed. It is important to note that the estimates are based off of calves being fed in a bunk.

Feeding on the ground will increase waste and thus, increase the amount of distillers grains needed to be provided. In trials evaluating the waste with ground feeding, waste of 5% was measured for modified distillers, 20% for wet dis-

tillers and as much as 40% for dry distillers when compared to bunk feeding.

If you are looking to back-

ground calves or grow replacement heifers this winter grazing corn residue and providing supplemental distillers

may be a system to consider. — **Mary Drewnoski, Nebraska Extension beef systems specialist**

MT policy update: Water, weeds and trust funds

While Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) members hit the road to work on national policy at the American Farm Bureau Convention in San Antonio, TX, the Montana Legislative Session plowed forward with a busy schedule.

Week four in Helena kicked off with a water bill in the Senate Natural Resources Committee. Senat Bill (SB) 178, "Provide for a temporary lease of water rights" sponsored by Sen. Sue Vinton (R-20) seeks to reimplement a former law that sunset in 2019. SB 178 would set up a process to allow willing water right holders to lease their water to another user.

While MFBF does support the concept of water leasing, the group knows that not including enough checks and balances could negatively impact water users. It is critical that senior water rights have solid protections in place; unfortunately, this bill did not include those protections resulting in MFBF opposing it. To address the issues found in this bill, MFBF looked back to the 63rd legislative session at House Bill (HB) 37 (the bill eventually became law but sunset in 2019). That bill set up a process to allow temporary leasing of water and included enough protections for water users, which is why the organization supported it. Along with sharing these points, MFBF also provided additional comments on SB 178, voicing their concerns on the additional total volume of water being raised to 2,000 acre

feet and the lack of notice and objection process for other water users. MFBF stressed the importance of Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation obligating to notice and take objections to ensure water users have a proper outlet to craft local solutions.

A water bill that MFBF supported was HB 256, "Creation of Montana water trust and special revenue accounts" sponsored by Rep. Ken Walsh (R-69), heard in House Natural Resources Committee. MFBF has a clear supportive policy regarding additional water storage to increase availability of water for agriculture and recreational use as well as to increase streamflow. HB 256 creates the Montana water development state special revenue account and directs how the interest will be used for water storage pilot projects and dam inspections. The bill directs \$50 million to the Montana water development state special revenue account in 2025 and 2026.

MFBF also had the opportunity to provide support for SB 167, "Provide funding for noxious weed trust" sponsored by Sen. Greg Hertz (R-07) in the Senate Finance and Claims Committee. We all appreciate when there is additional money to improve our environment, and SB 167 will do that. This bill asks for \$10 million to be transferred from the general fund to the Noxious Weed Management Trust Fund, which will make more funding available to fight noxious weeds across the state.


For more legislative updates and details on these issues, follow the Live with Your Lobbyist broadcast each Friday at noon on the Montana Farm Bureau Facebook Page. — **Karli Johnson and Nicole Rolf, MFBF**

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Farms received one-quarter of food-at-home dollar

In 2023, farm establishments received 24.3 cents for each dollar spent on food at home and 5.4 cents for each dollar spent on food away from home. These amounts, called farm shares, highlight

the different paths that food takes from farms to consumer points of purchase.

Food-at-home dollars include purchases from outlets such as grocery stores, supermarkets and wholesale clubs

of food meant to be prepared at home. Food-away-from-home dollars cover food purchases at restaurants, including delivery and carryout, and other venues where the food is eaten on the premises.

The remainder of each food dollar makes up the marketing share, which is the total value of processing, transportation, retailing and other activities that get food from farm operations to

points of purchase for consumers. In 2023, the marketing share was 75.7 cents per food-at-home dollar and 94.6 cents per food-away-from-home dollar.

The marketing share can change based on factors such

as consumer preferences and the costs of production inputs. The marketing share is higher for food away from home because of the higher costs of preparing and serving meals. — **USDA Economic Research Service**

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LOT 8 - CR ENDEAVOR 417
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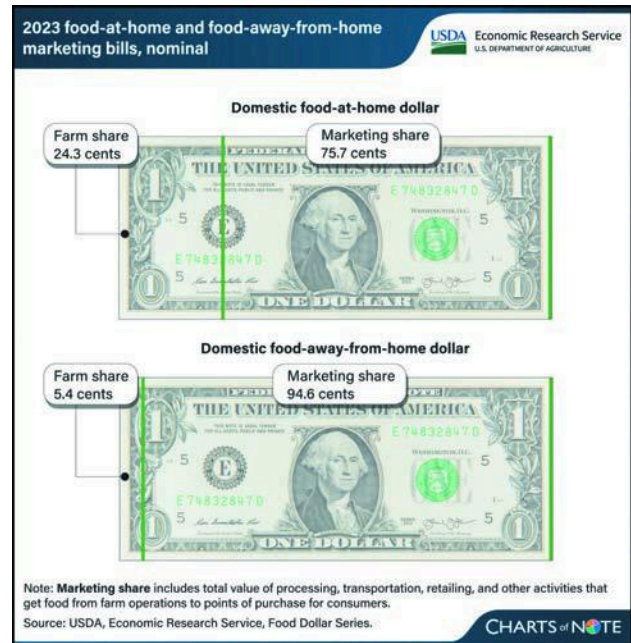
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It's that time of year again: Calving season

As the calendar turns to February, many ranchers turn their thoughts and actions to calving. There is excitement and optimism as the new calves hit the ground, and at the same time, the pressure is on to ensure the best start for this year's crop.

Over the years, I have come to realize that the calf has 100% of its genetic potential as soon as that egg is fertilized and all we can do is mess it up from there! To phrase that in a more positive way, it's the cattleman's primary focus to help that calf reach as much of that genetic potential as possible.

If you have a spring calving herd, your cows are nearing the end of the third trimester and will be calving very soon if not already doing so. What can you do at this point to help that calf reach its genetic potential? Calf survival and health during the first 60 days of life set the foundation for a successful year.

We all know that weather is a huge factor during the calving season. The decision of when to calve is critical and complicated, but that decision was made last spring. Although it's not a new concept, feeding cows in the late afternoon or evening has been shown to increase the number of calves born during the day. Studies indicate that between 75% and 85% of calves will be born between 5 a.m. and 5 p.m. if the cows are fed between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Daytime calving gives the calving crew a better opportunity to respond to calving needs. Also, it is typically warmer, giving that cow a little more time to get the calf up and sucking in cold weather.

Calf scours are a constant concern post-calving and the leading cause of sickness and death loss, not to mention the strain put on those charged with caring for them. There is no foolproof solution for scours, but some management tools have been shown to be effective.

Calves obtain passive immunity from colostrum against

many typical agents causing calf scours. Antibodies present in colostrum depend on the dam's prior exposure to the agents. Vaccines given to the cow can assist in passing on these antibodies to the calf. This is especially true for first-calf heifers who, due to their age, may not have been exposed to as many scour-causing agents as a mature cow. Consider using one of the commercially available vaccines, especially with heifers.

Research has shown that calves are most susceptible to becoming infected and shedding infective agents in their feces in the first seven to 14 days of life. Because calves are likely to be exposed to pathogens through direct contact with other animals or through contact with contaminated surfaces, it is important to keep newborn calves in as clean an environment as possible.

The Sandhills Calving System was developed to help keep the calving area clean and reduce the newborn calf's exposure to pathogens. In general, the system works as follows: Move all pregnant cows to a clean feed ground (pasture one) just prior to calving. After two weeks of calving, ride out the heavy cows into pasture two, leaving the cows with calves behind. Repeat this same process two weeks later, moving heavy cows on to pasture three. Continue on this same process until all cows are calved out. This protocol breaks the infective process and allows potential problems to be isolated rather than affecting the entire herd.

Implementing this process will undoubtedly bring some complications, and all operations are different. However, once the concept is understood, you can adapt the process to fit your operation. In short, anything you can do to improve sanitary conditions at calving will improve calf survival, health, and weaning weight. — **Dr. David Secrist, Utah State University Extension beef specialist**

CCA members gather for Mid-Winter Conference

Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) wrapped up its 2025 Mid-Winter Conference at the Denver Marriott West in Golden, CO.

This year's event leveraged CCA's active membership as participants and collaborators convened to address the challenges and prospects facing the industry. The event was characterized by active participation from members, in-depth policy discussions, recognition of outstanding achievements, and the opportunity to reconnect with new and familiar friends from various parts of the state. Attendees also had the opportunity to network with Colorado's legislators during CCA's Legislative Panel, Legislative Reception and 1867 Banquet.

The event started on Monday with meetings amongst leadership and members, including board meetings and a Succession Planning Workshop with the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust. The Colorado CattleWomen held their membership and board meetings as well. The first round of CCA's Steering Committee meetings kicked off on Monday afternoon. The day concluded with a social hour at the President's Reception, where members had the opportunity to network with industry stakeholders and fellow producers.

On Tuesday, members gathered for a productive day by continuing discussions in CCA's remaining steering committee meetings. Not only do these meetings provide critical updates but also establish the organization's policies and stance on a wide range of legislative and regulatory topics that impact Colorado's beef industry.

Following the committee meetings, CCA held its Awards Lunch, where the association recognized some of Colorado's finest and brightest from our industry, honoring their service and dedication. After lunch, CCA hosted its mid-year business session, where three

CCA board directives were presented to the membership. Following the CCA business session, CCA hosted a legislative panel onsite that gave producers a unique opportunity to have a pointed dialog with Colorado legislators.

That evening, CCA held its Legislative Reception and 1867 Banquet, where members and legislators had the opportunity to continue discussing agriculture-related issues while building a more personal relationship through discussing issues of mutual importance.

"CCA is a grassroots, member-driven organization representing the interests of cattle ranching families throughout the state," said Tom Harrington, CCA president. "While our primary focus relates to the beef industry, CCA is also interested in all issues dealing with private property rights, natural resources, and economic viability. We appreciate that the evening activities generated many beneficial conversations between CCA members and legislators."

The evening ended with additional award presentations, including Colorado CattleWomen naming their prestigious annual award winners. The Colorado Cattlemen's Foundation also recognized and celebrated two Endowment Trust inductees, the late Tim Lehmann and late Terry Fankhauser. This successful event would not have been possible without the involvement of members, industry stakeholders and sponsors.

CCA appreciates everyone who attended this year's Mid-Winter Conference to participate in the grassroots policy process, which is critical to ensuring agriculture's success in Colorado for many years to come. We look forward to gathering again this summer at our 2025 Annual Convention in Steamboat Springs from June 23-25!

Awards

The Colorado Cattlemen's

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

The 2024 Outstanding Commercial Producer of the Year is presented to Meyring Livestock Company outside of Walden and is owned and operated by Danny and Lucy Meyring. Danny is the fifth generation of his family to live and ranch in North Park and Danny and Lucy pride themselves on not only carrying on legacy and tradition but keeping up with the genetics and marketing of today.

Meyring Livestock Company has long been known for raising quality feeder cattle that perform well in the feedlot and hanging on the rail. Due to the high elevation of their home place and summer country, the Meyrings decided to start raising their own herd bulls to ensure proven genetics, especially related to pulmonary arterial pressure (PAP) scores. Their cow herd is predominantly Angus cattle, but they have utilized different genetics through Hereford and Composite bulls to develop high performance replacement heifers and steers. In addition to maintaining their operation, Danny and Lucy have served on local, state, and national cattlemen's associations and given back to their community.

The 2024 CCA Outstanding Seedstock Producer of the Year is presented to Weaver Ranch, located near Fort Collins, a family owned and oper-

ated registered Angus seedstock business. Susan and Mourine Weaver have continued their father, Adrian's, legacy of raising quality cattle. The Weavers maintain detailed records and their family has been members of the American Angus Association since 1960. For their herd, Susan and Mourine look for and appreciate heifers out of tremendous cows that have stayed in the herd for a long time to capture productivity, performance, structural correctness, and docility.

For their bulls, they select for lower birthweights acceptable for first-calf heifers, actual PAP scores under 40, and bulls that are average or higher for Marbling and Rib Eye area. In February of this year, the Weavers will be having their 40th anniversary production sale. Susan and Mourine are active in various grassroots organizations and supported state FFA contest winners from Colorado and Wyoming.

The 2024 Brand Inspector of the Year is presented to Josh Sinks. Josh is a brand inspector and supervisor for the West Central District. Josh has consistently provided the highest level of service to the industry for over 20 years. Josh has been professional and has shown the highest levels of integrity and common sense.

Josh's expertise and commitment to the industry can be highlighted by how he

solved a missing cattle case three years ago. Persistence and diligence paid off when five months after the initial report, Josh picked up an irregularity at the sale barn and nearby feedlot and found the cattle were the previously mentioned missing livestock.

The 2024 Law Officer of the Year is presented to Deputy Sheriff Andrea Maxwell. Being the officer in charge of investigating and assisting with all agricultural and livestock crimes in Larimer County, Deputy Maxwell has been an integral part in helping brand inspectors in Larimer County over the past year on several occasions. She has gone above and beyond to ensure livestock producers are protected from theft and injury and played an instrumental role in bringing charges against suspects killing and wrongfully rebranding livestock.

The 2024 CattleWomen of the Year is Penny McPherson. Penny grew up in Cheyenne County in eastern Colorado where her family raised Hereford cattle and bison. After retirement, Penny moved to Canon City and became a member of Fremont County Cattlewomen in 2019. She currently serves as the treasurer and is always willing to participate in local and state functions. She has attended both Colorado Cattlewomen Region V and State CattleWomen Convention meetings. Penny has a long history

of community involvement that includes being on the Board of Directors of the Friends of Royal Gorge Regional Museum.

The Colorado CattleWomen Rookie of the Year award is presented to La Plata County Cowbelles president Kam Elliott. She has helped energize and modernize the La Plata County Cowbelles. Kam has brought new ideas to promote beef and increase the membership. While being president, Kam has been instrumental in the educational presentation at the Southwest Water Conservation District's Water Festival at Fort Lewis College among many other activities. She has been a positive influence in every aspect of the beef industry, from parades, presenter, teaching young children about beef.

Membership is critically important to CCA. We thank everyone who is a CCA member and those who help recruit on our behalf. Loy Cotten is the winner of the 2024 Individual Membership Recruiter Contest and the wonderful S01 Priefert Rancher chute. Congratulations, Loy!

CCA's Rate-of-Growth winner is given to the affiliate with the highest rate-of-growth averaged based on the size of the affiliate, retention of members, and new members recruited. The Affiliate with the highest rate-of-growth for 2024 is Larimer County Stockgrowers. — CCA

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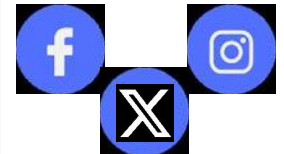
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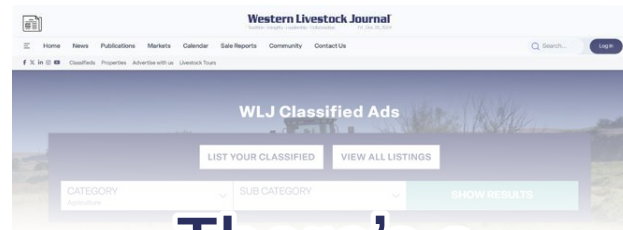
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NEW LISTING! COCHRAN CO., TX. - 160± ac. native grass, existing oil production. The tract is located roughly 21 miles north of Plains, Texas and 32 miles southwest of Whiteface, Texas. Mule deer in the area. Good small hunting, grazing ranch.

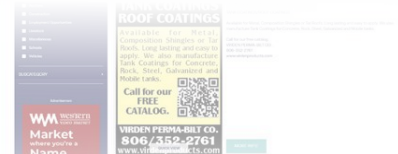
UNION CO., NM - Divided into three tracts for rotational grazing of 1822± ac. enrolled in the new Grasslands Conservation Reserve Program & 120± ac. of the property in the standard CRP program. GORP can be grazed year-round each year. Excellent fencing, one mile of hwy. frontage together with all-weather roads on the remainder, equipped with almost new set of steel working pens with scale, a second set of almost new working pens, watered by subs on electricity with pipelines furnishing water for drinkers in each pasture. Gramma & buffalo grasses. Broker owned.

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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. 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
Apr. 3 – Midland Bull Test, Columbus, MT

ANGUS

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 – R & R Genetics, Bull & Female Sale, Willard, UT

Mar. 15 – Ward Ranches, Bull Sale, Gardnerville, NV
Mar. 17 – JR & Sackmann, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Mar. 17 – Rancho Casino/Cox Ranch, Bull Sale, Purdum, 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. 19 – Wagonhammer Ranches, Bull Sale, Albion, NE
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
Mar. 21 – TD Angus, Bull Sale, North Platte, NE
Mar. 21 – Caywood Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Tendoy, ID
Mar. 21 – Montana Performance Bull Co-op, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Mar. 22 – Sinclair Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Mar. 25 – Bar JV Angus, Bull Sale, Fairview, MT
Mar. 26 – Peterson Grain and Cattle, Bull Sale, Havre, MT
Mar. 27 – Vermilion Ranch, Production Sale, Billings, MT
Mar. 27 – Gartner-Denowh Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Sidney, MT
Mar. 31 – Silver Bit Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, May, ID
Apr. 1 – Hinman Angus, Bull Sale, Malta, MT
Apr. 1 – MJB Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Apr. 3 – Arntzen Angus, Bull Sale, Hilger, MT
Apr. 5 – Brooks Chalky Butte Ranch, Bull Sale, Bowman, ND
Apr. 7 – FBA Ranch, Bull Sale, Havre, MT
Apr. 8 – Hilltop Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Denton, MT
Apr. 12 – Bar T Bar, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ
Apr. 12 – Fink Beef Genetics, Production Sale, Randolph, KS
Apr. 15 – Treasure Bull Test, Great Falls, MT
Apr. 16 – Milk River Genetics, Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Apr. 18 – Timber Line Ranch, Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT
Apr. 18 – DeGrand Angus, Bull Sale, Baker, MT
Apr. 19 – Lindskov's LT Ranch, Bull Sale, Isabel, SD
Apr. 22 – Dunn Ranches, Bull Sale, Eaton, CO
Apr. 29 – Curreant Creek Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Miles City, MT

BALANCER

Apr. 12 – Bar T Bar, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ

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
Mar. 22 – Valley View Charolais Ranch, Bull Sale, Polson, MT
Apr. 5 – DeBruycker Charolais, Bull Sale, Great

Falls, MT
Apr. 5 – Pitchfork Charolais, Bull Sale, Loma, CO
Apr. 12 – Fink Beef Genetics, Production Sale, Randolph, KS
Apr. 12 – Hebbert Charolais, Bull Sale, Hyannis, NE
Apr. 19 – Lindskov's LT Ranch, Bull Sale, Isabel, SD

HEREFORD

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
Feb. 28 – Jamison Ranch, Bull Sale, Quinter, KS
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
Mar. 26 – NJW Herefords, Bull Sale, Decker, MT
Apr. 19 – Stuber Ranch, Bull Sale, Bowman, ND

MAINE ANJOU

Mar. 8 – Yardley Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Beaver, UT

OPTIMIZER

Feb. 28 – Skinner Ranch Seedstock, Bull Sale, Hall, MT
Apr. 1 – MJB Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT

RED ANGUS

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
Apr. 3 – Northern Lites Red Angus, Bull Sale, Glasgow, 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
Mar. 22 – Lautenschlager Red Angus, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Mar. 26 – Westphal Red Angus, Bull Sale, Grass Range, MT
Apr. 8 – Beckton Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, WY
Apr. 11 – 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
Apr. 12 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Park City, MT
May. 8 – Koenig Ranch Reds, Bull Sale, Glasgow, MT

SALERS

Feb. 28 – Skinner Ranch Seedstock, Bull Sale, Hall, MT
Apr. 1 – MJB Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT

SIMANGUS

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. 27 – Meyring Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Alliance, NE
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. 6 – Kearns Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Rushville, NE
Mar. 8 – Wishbone Simmental, Bull Sale, Frannie, WY
Mar. 15 – R & R Genetics, Bull & Female Sale, Willard, UT
Mar. 21 – Black Summit Cattle, Bull Sale, Powell, MT
Mar. 22 – T-Heart Ranch, Bull Sale, La Garita, CO

SIMMENTAL

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. 27 – Meyring Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Alliance, NE
Mar. 6 – Kearns Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Rushville, NE
Mar. 8 – Wishbone Simmental, Bull Sale, Frannie, WY
Mar. 8 – Yardley Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Beaver, UT
Mar. 21 – Black Summit Cattle, Bull Sale, Powell, MT

STABILIZER

Mar. 23-24 – Leachman Cattle, Bull & Heifer Sale, TBD
Apr. 12 – Bar T Bar, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ

HORSE

Mar. 1 – Winnemucca Ranch Rodeo, Horse Sale, Winnemucca, NV

SNELLER RETIREMENT Farm Equipment AUCTION Wiley Colorado

Thursday MARCH 6
Live Internet Bidding
10am MST Start Time
Very Few Offline Items! Be On Time!
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Inspection: Noon - 2pm
Thursday, February 20
OWNER: Jay & Maralyn Sneller

- TRACTORS
- TRACTOR & LOADER ATTACHMENTS
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- TILLAGE EQUIPMENT
- HAY EQUIPMENT
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- TRAILERS
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2.5% Buyer's Premium capped at USD \$750 per item added to all winning bids.
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HXC Complete x 9M Abigail A7180-0369 REG. #5019941

\$PROFIT	\$FEEDER	CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	REA
\$19,170	\$158	12	-2.5	89	145	0.54	0.4



HXC Complete x 9M Abigail A7180-0369 REG. #5023279

\$PROFIT	\$FEEDER	CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	REA
\$19,218	\$159	12	-3	71	111	0.67	0.45



Bieber Stockmarket x LSF SRR Identity REG. #4940090

\$PROFIT	\$FEEDER	CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	REA
\$19,334	\$211	15	-5.2	77	122	1.15	0.34



Bieber Jumpstart x Lorenzen Blockana 758

REG. #4966282

\$PROFIT	\$FEEDER	CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	REA
\$17,115	\$142	16	-3.6	88	149	0.56	0.3



HXC Complete x 9M Abigail A7180-0369 REG. #5019963

\$PROFIT	\$FEEDER	CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	REA
\$18,458	\$166	16	-3.4	83	132	0.7	0.38



LSF SRR Identity x PIE Quarterback 789

REG. #5019925

\$PROFIT	\$FEEDER	CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	REA
\$18,353	\$157	14	-4.8	74	116	0.91	0.23



LSF SRR Exactly x Masterpiece

REG. #5019923

\$PROFIT	\$FEEDER	CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	REA
\$16,900	\$119	12	-1.9	72	122	0.51	0.24



HXC Complete x Quarterback

REG. #5019931

\$PROFIT	\$FEEDER	CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	REA
\$19,969	\$195	13	-3.6	71	122	0.85	0.09



Bieber Energize x Brown Redemption

REG. #4940066

\$PROFIT	\$FEEDER	CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	REA
\$11,711	\$84	16	-4.4	64	113	0.28	0.36



PIE Captain x 9M Chinook 8459-0269

REG. #5019973

\$PROFIT	\$FEEDER	CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	REA
\$10,021	\$187	12	-3.5	76	118	0.36	0.16



PIE Captain x GLE Beverly Rose 9857

REG. #5023277

\$PROFIT	\$FEEDER	CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	REA
\$15,337	\$157	13	-1.7	77	124	0.62	0.32



HXC Complete x GLE Beverly Rose 9857

REG. #5019937

\$PROFIT	\$FEEDER	CED	BW	WW	YW	MARB	REA
\$20,336	\$204	13	-2.2	76	124	1	0.3

Russ & Tara Young • Sam Lorenzen 541.215.2687
Trent Wright 541.620.0553

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