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INSIDE WLJ

ANGUS THE BUSINESS BREED

ANGUS FEATURE – This special breed edition celebrates the Angus legacy, showcasing award recipients and industry changemakers.

ASI FEATURE – Look no further for our annual American Sheep Industry Association feature with special focus on issues at the forefront of the sheep industry!

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"Set to be implemented in April, legislation passed by the Colorado Legislature last year would have the effect of trampling the property rights of farmers and ranchers in Colorado. The Legislature had voted last year to allow the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission to craft new rules which would better protect wildlife and public health, but now that the rules have been released, landowners and gas developers are crying foul," wrote Tait Berlier, WLJ editor, in the Feb. 23, 2009, WLJ issue.

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Ranchers fight southwestern willow flycatcher listing

—Argue not a valid subspecies

Oral arguments were heard in the U.S. District Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia on Feb. 3 regarding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's (USFWS) listing of the southwestern willow flycatcher on the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association (NMCGA) contends the bird is not a valid subspecies and the broader willow flycatcher species is not protected under the ESA. The suit filed in 2021 further asserts that USFWS often makes decisions without clear, data-driven standards, such as determining whether a population qualifies as a "subspecies" under the ESA. This lack of clear standards is a cause for concern, as it can lead to arbitrary and unsupported regulations, such as the endangered listing of the southwestern willow flycatcher, impacting ranching families, the group said.

Pacific Legal Foundation attorney Charles Yates, representing NMCGA, said they are not requesting the court to order the delisting of the species. Instead, they are urging the court to send the matter

back to USFWS for a new rulemaking process that applies a consistent and reasonable standard, according to Politico

Background

In 1995, USFWS listed the

southwestern willow flycatcher as an endangered subspecies. In 2013, the agency designated 1,227 stream miles and 208,973 acres as revised critical habitat for the bird. The flycatcher is a small, neotropical migratory bird that breeds from May to Septem-

ber in riparian habitats across the southwestern U.S. including parts of California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

See FLYCATCHER on page 24



National Park Service

Cattle ranchers in New Mexico argued in an appeals court that the southwestern willow flycatcher should not be listed under the Endangered Species Act.

New Interior secretary lays out energy orders

—PLC applauds orders

Newly confirmed Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum wasted no time in taking action following his Senate confirmation. On his first day in office, Burgum signed six new secretary's orders that focus on American energy independence and the stewardship of the country's public lands and resources.

"We are committed to working collaboratively to unlock America's full potential in energy dominance and economic development to make life more affordable for every American family while showing the world the power of America's natural resources and innovation," Burgum said.

The six orders intend to enhance efficiency and innovation across the Interior, reduce regulatory burdens and restore economic certainty to industries that

utilize public lands.

"For too long, regulatory uncertainty has put ranchers, energy producers and rural communities on unstable footing," the Public Lands Council (PLC) said in a Weekend Roundup e-newsletter. "The pendulum swing of regulation has created unnecessary economic risk, and these new orders represent an opportunity to restore balance."

• Unleashing American energy.

Secretary's Order 3418, "Unleashing American Energy," encourages energy exploration and production on federal lands and water. The order immediately terminated all actions under the executive orders President Donald Trump revoked and will mandate a review of all agency actions that could burden the development of

See INTERIOR PLAN on page 30

Advancing strategies for a resilient sheep industry

—Making genomic predictions

The U.S. sheep industry is built on a foundation of diverse breeds, each adapted to specific environmental conditions and management systems.

From fine wool to long wool, hair to dairy, and all in between, genetic diversity enables producers to select animals best suited for their production goals. However, balancing uniformity for consistent production with maintaining enough genetic variability for resilience and adaptability remains challenging.

The Sheep GEMS project—GEMS

stands for Genetics, Environment, Management and Society—aims to address these challenges by incorporating genomic technologies into breeding programs, enhancing sustainability and improving genetic evaluation tools.

Sheep GEMS has been underway for about two years and has generated valuable insights into sheep genetics. Scientists at the Dale Bumpers Small Farms Research Center, the U.S. Meat Animal Research Center and the U.S. Sheep Experiment Station are collecting data on Katahdin, Polypay, Rambouillet and Suffolk breeds. The project has partnered with the National Sheep Improvement Program

(NSIP) and recruited 45 NSIP flocks to gather similar data, ensuring that findings are applicable across production systems.

A key aspect of Sheep GEMS is understanding and defining critical traits that contribute to an animal's overall performance of robustness and climatic resilience.

Sheep GEMS focuses on robustness traits such as lamb survival, udder health and resistance to gastrointestinal parasitism. Researchers evaluate lamb survival through birth weight, early postnatal survival and survival to weaning. Udder

See SHEEP GEMS on page 39

Market sees volatility amid shifting demand

While live cattle futures dipped back below the \$200 mark over the week, analysts point to potential market corrections ahead as packers cut production and boxed beef prices adjust to seasonal demand.

Live cattle futures were several dollars lower. The February contract lost about \$5 to close at \$199.55, and the April contract also lost about \$5 to close at \$196.52.

"CME cattle futures had become oversold on most technical indicators and have staged a recovery rally today," Cassie Fish, market analyst, wrote on Thursday in The Beef. "Live cattle futures managed to hold their 2025 low, rallying back from the brink this week."

Cash trade through Thursday was light, totaling about 20,000 head. Live steers sold from \$202-203, and dressed steers sold from \$320-321.

"Scattered bids are currently being offered in the cash cattle market, but aside from the light movement that we saw earlier this week in the South—the market hasn't traded any more cattle," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Thursday comments.

Cash trade for the week ending Feb. 9 totaled 72,948 head. Live steers averaged \$207.19, and dressed steers averaged

\$327.19.

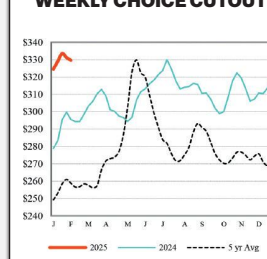
Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 454,000 head, compared to 476,000 head a week earlier. Total slaughter for that week is estimated at 584,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Feb. 1 was 601,785 head. The average steer dressed weight was 952 lbs., 4 lbs. above a week earlier.

"Even though packers have bought cattle cheaper this week than last week by about \$4/cwt, red ink has forced companies to slash production

even further this week, the weekly slaughter estimated now at 564k head compared to 608k a year ago

See MARKETS on page 43

WEEKLY CHOICE CUTOUT



5 AREA WEEKLY WTD AVERAGE STEER PRICE



↓	↓	↓
LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$202.92	\$320.30	\$275.73
WEEK ENDING: 2-13-25		

Time Sensitive
Priority Handling
PERIODICAL:

COMMENTS

It's cold outside, but the market is hot!

At the time of writing this column, the temperatures have been brutally cold in my home state of Montana. After a relatively mild, dry and warm fall and start of winter, Mother Nature showed up with a vengeance and reminded us of what winter is. Temperatures have dipped down to over 30 below zero and areas are reporting having multiple feet of snow. No doubt this has made feeding cows a daily struggle and those with heifers calving are in a full-on battle to keep calves alive, let alone with full ears and tails. Good equipment, facilities and plans are worth their weight in gold.



MURNIN

Despite how extremely cold it is outside, the cattle market is extremely hot! Producers will be rewarded for all the hard work they are putting in this February when the time comes to market these calves. At the beginning of the month, CattleFax gave its annual report to the attendees of the CattleCon convention in San Antonio, TX. Mike Murphy, CattleFax chief operating officer, provided some forecast numbers for 2025. Projections for the fed steer price are flirting with the \$200/cwt mark with the 2025 projections at \$198/cwt. This is a \$12/cwt increase from 2024! Accordingly, all classes of cattle are projected to be higher in 2025 with the 800-pound steer price projected to average \$270/cwt, the 550-lb. steer price projected to average \$340/cwt, cull cows at \$140/cwt and bred cows at an average price of \$3,200 per head. It appears the strong market we all experienced in 2024 is going to keep the momentum going into 2025.

Another bright spot highlighted by CattleFax was margins for the cow-calf producers. Those of us who make a living off the grass know that despite the fact of record prices recently, we are also experiencing record input costs. Margins have been slim for producers as it's simply a matter of more money in and more money out to keep these ranches going. However, CattleFax expects margins to be stronger in 2025 for this sector of the industry as inputs have seem to stabilize following the huge runups since 2020. Inflation and inputs are expected to be more predictable and manageable in 2025.

Even with these rosy scenarios playing out, I do not think this is a time for cattle producers to be lackadaisical in their management decisions. Explore risk management decisions that can be beneficial to our operations. The opportunity to utilize the Livestock Risk Protection program should be looked at and understood thoroughly to see if that can help mitigate risk from potentially large market fluctuations. Another option is to take advantage of summertime video auctions to forward contract your calves if you have load lots to market. If the opportunity exists to wear your calves, it really paid off for producers this year.

Another valuable part of every cattle producer's herd is using good genetics. Maybe this market can give you the opportunity to purchase a higher quality bull that will help improve your herd in the future. The final piece of advice I will give is to make sure to take a holistic look at your finances and make sure you have your tax planning, debt payoff, compensation and all other financial factors in place this next year. Heck, maybe there will be enough left over to take your family on a vacation!

Looking into the future and predicting what this market might be like beyond 2025 is more of a stretch. The cattle cycle used to be more predictable with how producers would react with higher markets. I firmly believe that the movements of the cattle cycle are not going to follow the same trends as the past. Talking with producers and watching their marketing decisions has seen more heifer calves being sold into the market with the majority going on feed to make up for the fewer number of steers available to fill feedlot pen space. Replacement heifers are being kept, but not at the rate needed to rebuild cattle numbers. Dispersions are still happening at record rates. Who can blame a rancher who is nearing retirement with no family to take over the place for taking advantage of these prices?

All in all, it looks to me like the 1% decrease in beef cattle numbers we have comparing 2025 to 2024 is real and we will have a hard time increasing supply enough to drive the market down to unprofitable levels. Keep your chin up if you are battling through snowbanks to keep the cows fed and know the extra effort you are putting in to keep those calves warm and dry is worth it. Stay safe, stay warm and safe travels. I hope to see you all down the road at a bull sale this spring. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

DITTMER'S TAKE



Way back in 1968, my steer got beat out for grand champion by a 775-pound Angus that could have walked under your dining room table. That was when they posed critters in deep straw to make them look shorter and dumper for photos.

My Dad didn't cotton to that trend, because he was selling beef in halves and quarters and the cutout yield was terrible on those short, dumpy things.

I mention this because that was the cattle population that was used to develop the yield grade formula that we use today. Our national herd is a tad different now.

At NCBA's Live Cattle Marketing Committee meeting, John Stika of Certified Angus Beef and Blake Foraker of Texas Tech University gave updates on red meat yield research, working to update the yield grade formula to properly assess the modern beef animal. The goal is to improve yield grading's ability to accurately project actual yield, to enable cattlemen to get paid for what the carcass is yielding, the packer to know better what he is getting and, importantly, to keep getting the carcass quality that has made the consumer willing to pay record prices for our product. Incidentally, CattleFax reported that beef demand is at its second highest level in 37 years, with retail prices at all-time records.

The initial research is examining the data we already have, with the tools that we've been using. For example, KPH (kidney, pelvic and heart fat) has very little correlation with external fat in today's cattle. One of the questions will be whether we should remove that from the equation completely.

There is a Red Meat Yield Working Group, funded by the Beef Checkoff, consisting of 30 people from the cow-calf, feeding, processors, academics, technology providers and beef merchandising sectors of our production chain. They are examining existing data, formulating new questions and then determining which questions are worth pursuing.

KPH varies from 1.5-6% of carcass weights. One goal is to reduce the 40% variation in yield grade. The group expects to finish the project in three to five years.

Foraker pointed out that while we are producing four times the number of Prime carcasses of a few years ago, we are also back to getting a lot of yield grade (YG) 4s and 5s. What kind of balance can we get between external fat and marbling? The formula we've been using is based on fat thickness at the 13th rib, carcass weight, KPH and ribeye area.

The original research involved 162 head, three-quarters of

whom yielded under 600-lb. carcasses. Foraker showed a plot graph of yield grade versus cutout value that had dots scattered everywhere. To get that premium for Prime and high Choice, we're producing a lot of fat to get high quality and high yield. We're not accurately describing what we're getting.

They are also utilizing CT scans to determine composition. For the packer, red meat yield is the weight of subprimals that go into the box. Retail yield is trimmed cuts. Workers trim carcasses differently, which is one source of variability. What correlation is there between the CT scans and red meat yield? What effect does the shape of an animal have on correlation to red meat yield? The project is also determining ways to augment data and use "virtual cutting." They are using AI techniques to process 100 head, projecting results across 10,000 head. Is the way we cut carcasses today the only best way?

The Q&A elicited another nugget: ribeye area doesn't correlate to overall muscling like it once did. Other considerations involve beef-on-dairy crosses and how beta agonists change the comparison.

The outlook for working with the expected-to-be-confirmed USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins looks promising, as does a new chairman on the Senate Ag Committee and returning chair on House Ag. The only cautionary notes on personnel were regarding some Department of Health and Human Services appointments. RFK Jr. could be helpful or a problem, depending on where he concentrates his fire.

The Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee shifted violently away from its trajectory all through the process to a startling report sent to the secretaries for review. The bias against red meat suddenly took flight, for reasons that can only be guessed at. There is much to do to keep that bias out of the final recommendations, NCBA's Sigrid Johannes said.

Three factors that could ruin our good times: Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) and Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) have reintroduced a mandatory country-of-origin labeling bill, lengthy tariffs could disrupt our export market and JBS has proposed a non-admission settlement with R-CALF and National Farmers Union. — **Steve Dittmer, WLJ columnist**

(Steve Dittmer is the author of the Agribusiness Freedom Foundation newsletter. Views in the column do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of WLJ or its editorial staff.)



GUEST OPINION

NEW INVESTMENTS IN YOUR FAMILY BUSINESS

The beginning of the year offers a chance to reflect on what went well over the last 12 months. It also brings opportunities to make your family business measurably better. This year, commit to a range of investments in key people, financial knowledge and future transitions. Specifically, think about those investments in terms of mental or emotional energy, conversations and planning efforts.

• Invest in people.

"People" in this case means your family members or key staff, and two types of investments warrant your consideration. The first is developing others, including coaching, mentoring or teaching them. It involves sharing your wisdom, encouraging them to grow or bringing them along in understanding some of your daily activities. Identify a person close to you and invest in making them better in some way.

The second kind of investment in people is repairing or improving relationships. We all have places in our lives where the connection we have with a family or team member is not as good as it could be. Perhaps a past conflict or misunderstanding damaged your relationship. Maybe you find their personality, communication or work style frustrating.

But, if you can improve the bond, even a little, it will improve your perspective on life and your feelings about the workplace. It will have a noticeable and positive impact on your day, and improve the morale of those around you, as others often feel the tension between two people.

• Invest in financial knowledge.

My nonagricultural friends marvel at all the subjects a farmer or rancher must know to run a successful business. Animal science, agronomy, equipment repair, engineering and construction, human resources, commodity marketing, finance, Farm Service Agency programs—the list goes on. Improving your knowledge in any of these areas will be helpful to the business, but one specific topic in which all agricul-

ture business owners can improve is their financial knowledge.

Between cash and accrual accounting, grain or livestock raised and sold over multiple years, deferred income and prepaid expenses to manage taxes, multiple entities and complex ownership structures for liability protection and estate planning, knowing where you stand financially is no small chore.

Spend some time and mental energy developing a clearer picture of your financial performance. Meet with your lender and accountant, perhaps together, to walk through their observations and set clear financial goals for the coming year. You will gain a clearer idea of how to make your business stronger.

• Invest in future transitions.

Almost all farms and ranches face an impending generational transition. If the younger generations return, the management of the company will need to be handed off. Even if they don't return, ownership of land will likely be passed on to them. If neither management nor ownership transition will occur, then a different set of plans around retirement and asset sales is relevant.

This year, take a step toward clarifying future transitions. Talk with your spouse, your adult children or your sibling business partners about your future. Identify tasks you should hand off. Update your last will and testament, or have your attorney review your estate plan. You and your family members will have more peace of mind knowing you've done what you can to smooth the succession of activities or assets.

Commit to investments in areas you know will produce a return for your family and business. If you invest in people, invest in financial knowledge and invest in future transitions, you will look back a year from now and be proud of all you achieved. — **Lance Woodbury, DTN farm business adviser**

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Army Corps dam releases sent CA farmers scrambling

Local water managers in Tulare County, CA, may have prevented a disaster

On the afternoon of Thursday, Jan. 30, an announcement by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that it was set to immediately begin dumping water from dams at Lake Kaweah east of Visalia and Lake Success near Porterville sent farmers downstream scrambling to prevent floods.

"It was a scary moment," said Tom Barcellos, president of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District, who owns a dairy and grows pistachios and other crops in Tulare County.

The Army Corps told local water authorities the dams would release water into the Kaweah and Tule rivers at "channel capacity," the maximum flows allowed in the rivers.

Alexandra Biering, a water policy expert and director of policy advocacy for the California Farm Bureau, said she had never seen anything like it. "There is a huge danger to the downstream public," Biering said of making unscheduled releases of that magnitude.

"The communities and the cities typically could flood with that much flow," said Dave Van Groningen, who grows walnuts and other tree crops near Visalia.

The dams, which hold runoff from the southern Sierra Nevada mountains, usually release water in the winter only when flood control space is needed in the reservoirs. And the releases are coordinated days or weeks in advance with local officials and water managers. But it has been a dry winter in the southern Sierra, posing little risk of flooding, and water managers said they were given only an hour's notice before the dams would be thrown wide open.

"That's going to put people in a panic a little bit," said Blake Wilbur, a dairy farmer who grows forage and tree crops west of Tulare.

"The window was just way too short," Barcellos said.

Cities need time to warn homeless people to clear the channels, he said. And irrigation districts need to remove debris and pull out boards that divert water from canals into irrigation ditches.

"With all the checks and blocks in place, if you turn that much water into the river at once, it's going to blow out the banks," Barcellos said. "That could flood surrounding farmland. It could flood the little groups of rural houses that are along the banks."

Irrigation district staff prepared to work through the night removing the irrigation blocks. Barcellos, who owns an excavator company, worked alongside his operators Thursday stationing heavy equipment at critical sites along the Tule River, "just in case debris came down and created any problems," he said. "It was all hands-on deck from every facet that you can imagine."

Meanwhile, water managers were working the phones trying to get someone to intervene.

"A lot of folks were talking

with Washington, D.C.," Aaron Fukuda, general manager of Tulare Irrigation District, said in an email. "We don't know who actually was called to get the release dialed back."

Eventually, the evening of Jan. 30, the Army Corps agreed to delay the releases until the following morning and to scale them back to less than a third of channel capacity.

"Farmers in Tulare County are really fortunate that they have exceptional local water managers who were able to advocate for themselves," Biering said. Had they not managed to get the releases dialed back, she said, "it would have been potentially quite disastrous."

According to federal data, from Friday, Jan. 31, through Sunday, Feb. 2, the dams released around 6,700 acre-feet of water, lowering water levels by about 2% in each reservoir.

The water has stopped gushing, but farmers, water managers and elected representatives continue to seek answers about why it was released.

"Everybody is very confused," Wilbur said. "We're all kind of picking up the pieces, trying to figure it out."

President Donald Trump has appeared to take credit for the decision and to celebrate the Army Corps' releases. On Jan. 31, Trump posted on social media a "photo of beautiful water flow that I just opened in California."

The Army Corps did not respond to questions from Ag Alert about what was achieved by releasing water from Lake Kaweah and Lake Success. Gene Pawlik, a spokesperson at the Corps' Washington, D.C., headquarters, said in an email to the news site SJV Water, which first reported the incident, that the water was released to help fight wildfires.

During the past month, as fires raged in Los Angeles and reports emerged that fire hydrants in the city ran dry, Trump blamed the tragedy on California's "disastrous" management of its water resources, conflating issues related to urban water systems with environmental rules that have prevented more water from being pumped through the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to farms in the San Joaquin Valley.

In his first days in office, Trump signed an executive order directing federal agencies to override state policies and rescind endangered species protections to provide more water to farms and cities, repeatedly urging state leaders to "turn on" the water.

"Consistent with the direction in the Executive Order on Emergency Measures to Provide Water Resources in California, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is releasing water from Terminus Dam at Lake Kaweah and Schafer Dam at Success Lake to ensure California has water available to respond to the wildfires," Pawlik said in his email, which was provided to Ag Alert. By then, the fires were almost entirely contained.

During a press briefing Monday in the Oval Office, Trump said he sent Richard Grenell, his envoy for special missions, to "turn on the water" in California. "We turned it on," the president said, apparently referring to the dam releases in Tulare County. "It was on three days ago. You probably saw." Later in the briefing, Trump said, "It's a great thing. It's too bad they didn't do it themselves. I had to do it, and it was not easy. We did it in a very rough way."

The water released from the dams did not go to Los

Angeles. Lake Kaweah and Lake Success hold snowmelt that is owned by San Joaquin Valley farmers and stored in the reservoirs during winter so that it can be used for irrigation in the summer.

In the winter, "We need as much water at the top of the hill as we can possibly keep there," Wilbur said.

Barcellos estimated the water the Army Corps drained from the reservoirs may cost farmers a couple days of summer irrigation. "That sounds like it isn't much, but it's enough," he

said, referring to the intense demand for water in dry years in the San Joaquin Valley.

"Everybody is in sync in frustration," Van Groningen said.

Much of the water released by the Army Corps was diverted into basins managed by irrigation districts to replenish the region's aquifers, with some farmers also taking water for on-farm groundwater recharge and for minimal winter irrigation needs. "It was all used efficiently," Barcellos said. "However, we would have preferred to have

had it in June or July."

Farmers said the episode did not diminish their appreciation for the president's stance on California water issues. "He understands that we need more water," Van Groningen said, referring to Trump's support for pumping more water through the delta to supply farms. Going forward, he added, "There has to be a little more education or reliance on local people here." — **Caleb Hampton, Ag Alert assistant editor, California Farm Bureau Federation**

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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	



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	



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	



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	



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	



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	

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USDA report shows a rise in US sheep inventory

— Wool production lower

The U.S. sheep and lamb industry saw a modest uptick in numbers, according to the latest Sheep and Goats inventory report from the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). As of Jan. 1, the nation's flock grew by 20,000 head—a 0.4% increase—to reach 5.05 million head.

Tyler Cozzens, Livestock Marketing Information Center director, told

WLJ the increase marks the first year-over-year gain in inventory since 2016 when the flock grew by 25,000 head (0.5%) to 5.27 million head. While the latest increase is slight, it signals a potential shift in an industry that has faced years of declining or stagnant numbers.

While most states maintained steady sheep populations, several experienced notable shifts in inventory. Texas, the nation's largest sheep-producing state, saw a 5% increase,

bringing its total flock to 670,000 head. Other states posting gains included Iowa (3.9% to 161,000 head), Utah (4% to 280,000 head), Montana (2.8% to 185,000 head), Ohio (2% to 145,000 head) and Nevada (8% to 65,000 head). Michigan also recorded a 4% increase, while Utah and Ohio saw modest increases of 3.7% and 1.4%, respectively.

Conversely, Wyoming's sheep population declined by 6% to 300,000 head, and South Dakota saw a 2.4% drop to 205,000 head. Other

declines were reported in Arizona (down 10% to 95,000 head), Nebraska (down 5% to 74,000 head) and Missouri (down 3%). Meanwhile, flock numbers in California (510,000 head), Colorado (405,000 head) and Idaho (235,000 head) remained unchanged from the previous year.

The breeding sheep inventory saw a minor increase to 3.68 million head, with replacement lambs holding steady at 635,000 head. Notably, the number of ewes aged

1 year and older rose to 2.88 million head.

However, market sheep and lambs saw a more significant shift, increasing by 1% to 1.37 million head. In terms of weight distribution, the number of market sheep and lambs over 105 pounds remained stable at 465,000 head. However, market lambs weighing 65-84 lbs. slightly increased, rising from 195,000 head in 2023 to 195,500 head in 2024.

One notable change was the lambing rate, which climbed by 3% to 106 lambs per 100 ewes, signaling improved reproductive efficiency. The total lamb crop in 2024 reached 3.04 million head, a slight increase from 2023.

The report also noted that for the first time, 27% of all sheep and lambs in the U.S. are hair sheep or wool-hair crosses, according to the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI).

"We have long standing requests of producers for a breakout in the survey for the hair breeding and are pleased USDA delivered with this report," said ASI Executive Director Peter Orwick. "As important is the sustained level of sheep numbers in spite of the glut of wool worldwide and for many producers, lamb market returns that are not keeping pace with

high input costs."

Wool production continued its downward trajectory, falling 1% to 22.5 million lbs. The number of sheep shorn declined by 2%, down to 3.17 million head. However, the most striking change occurred in wool prices: The average price per pound dropped from \$1.56 to \$1.43, leading to a 9% decrease in total wool value, which fell from \$35.4 million to \$32.1 million.

Cozzens said that in 2024, lamb imports reached a record of 309 million lbs., an increase of 69 million lbs. (29%). Lamb imports from Australia totaled 230 million lbs., up 51 million lbs. (29%) from the prior year, while shipments from New Zealand rose 18 million lbs. (31%) to 77 million lbs.

Cozzens noted feeder lamb prices have surged in early 2025, climbing 35% in just six weeks. Prices for 60-90-lb. lambs across Colorado, Texas and South Dakota started the year at \$256/cwt but rose sharply to \$345/cwt by mid-February—a \$89/cwt gain. Meanwhile, slaughter lamb prices have struggled to gain momentum. National negotiated live prices have hovered between \$161-171/cwt, lagging \$21-25/cwt (11-13%) below the same period last year. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

Benefits of beef cow leasing

Leasing instead of purchasing cows can be an effective financial strategy for cow-calf producers. A new publication by University of Missouri (MU) Extension specialists, "Introduction to Beef Cow Leases," details how beef cow leases work.

Lack of capital is often a barrier for new producers and producers wanting to expand. Leasing alleviates high input and startup costs, opening the door to a less capital-intensive and lower-risk option than purchasing cows, said Jacob Hefley, MU Extension agricultural business specialist.

"Not only can leasing be a viable option for those wanting to expand or get

into production with less capital, new producers can also potentially gain experience from the owners that they might not get otherwise," Hefley said.

Owners wanting to lease their herds are often producers who prefer less hands-on involvement but want to retain ownership of their cattle. Compared to selling animals, leasing can allow producers to retain ownership of their herd's genetics and maintain an income stream.

Livestock leases can be structured in multiple ways, Hefley said. Cash, share or flexible-cash leases are options when considering a lease structure.

Cash cow leases offer the most control and responsibility for an operator.

Share leases have the cow owner and the operator sharing expenses, income, management decisions and risk. Income or possession of calves is split based on the owner and operator's share of contributions to total production costs.

Flexible cash leases are essentially a hybrid of a traditional cash lease and a share lease. This lease structure includes both a fixed and a variable payment, combining the payment security of a cash lease with the risk-sharing benefits of a share lease.

Beef cow leases can help

in transferring ownership of a herd gradually. For the herd owner, this approach can offer potential benefits in tax reporting and help with a smoother succession. For operations, acquiring ownership gradually through a lease can lessen financial pressures and allow operations to gain expertise from the herd owner before full possession is attained.

"Maintaining detailed and accurate production and financial records is crucial when leasing cows," said Katie Neuner, MU Extension ag business specialist. "And the leasing agreement needs to be in writing." — **MU Extension**

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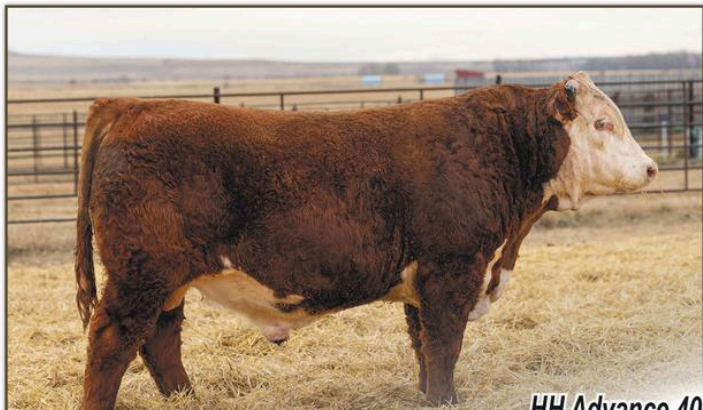
HH Advance 4027M ET
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 X HH Miss Advance 0001H

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MM	MG	REA	MARB	BMI\$	CHBS
12.6	-0.6	65	91	1.5	41	74	0.49	0.53	424	161



CL 1 Domino 456M 1ET
 CL 1 Domino 267K 1ET
 X CL 1 Dominette 9223G 1ET

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MM	MG	REA	MARB	BMI\$	CHBS
10.5	0.2	60	97	1.3	33	63	0.49	0.26	473	150



HH Advance 4067M ET
 HH Advance 1128J ET
 X HH Miss Advance 8099F ET

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MM	MG	REA	MARB	BMI\$	CHBS
2.7	2.5	64	103	1.5	27	59	0.60	0.21	425	142



CL 1 Domino 4154M
 CL 1 Domino 2230K
 X CL 1 Dominette 976G 1ET

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MM	MG	REA	MARB	BMI\$	CHBS
4.4	3.8	68	108	1.7	33	67	0.41	0.27	354	146

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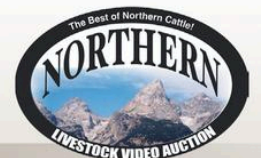
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THE VIEWPOINT

with Matt Perrier

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 Matt Perrier, ranching isn't just a profession—it's a calling rooted in family heritage and industry leadership.

Through his leadership roles and dedication to education and advocacy, Matt has become a respected voice in the beef industry. Whether managing cattle, serving on industry committees or sharing insightful conversations through his podcast, "Practically Ranching," Matt remains invested in the future of American ranching.

Background

Born and raised on the family's Dalebanks Angus ranch in Eureka, KS, Matt earned his degree from Kan-

sas State University in the mid-'90s and set out to gain experience beyond his home state. His first stop was Pennsylvania, where he worked with the Pennsylvania Beef Council, engaging with food service and retail customers to promote beef.

Matt was in this role for just under a year when an opportunity arose with the American Angus Association—the exact position he had hoped for but one that wasn't readily available when he graduated in 1996. When the opportunity finally came, Matt took the job and moved to Fort Worth, TX, covering New Mexico and Texas as a regional manager for the association for several years. Eventually, he relocated to the association's headquarters in St. Joseph, MO, and spent several more years in the commercial programs department. However, in 2004, when one of the longtime employees at Dalebanks Angus decided to move on, Matt and his wife, Amy, decided to return to the ranch.

"I remember my dad call-



Courtesy photo
Matt Perrier

ing me and asking if I knew anyone looking for a job," Matt told WLJ. "Amy and I talked and prayed on it, we had just had a year-old baby girl and decided that it may be time to make the move back to our family operation."

The ranch

Dalebanks Angus traces its roots back to 1867 when Matt's ancestors settled in the Flint Hills. Despite the name, no one named Dale or Banks ever owned it—it was a farm name brought

over from England. The ranch introduced registered Angus cattle in 1904 when Matt's great-grandfather, E.L. "Bert" Barrier, intrigued by a new breed known for its efficiency and marbling, traveled to the American Royal to see them firsthand.

"The reason they went to the Royal was because Mr. Barrier had heard of a new breed of cattle that had just been around in the States," Matt said. "They were black, they didn't have horns and he'd never seen such a thing. So, they went up the Royal and looked and looked, but

couldn't find any of these Aberdeen Angus cattle until finally, they saw a little display under the ramp at the old American Royal building. They didn't buy any that year but made some connections."

A year later, in 1904, Barrier purchased his first registered Angus cows and the family ranch has raised them ever since, making Matt the fourth generation of Angus producers.

Matt shared that his parents, Carolyn and Tom, remain deeply involved in the operation, with his dad still out every day handling various tasks, including much of the office work. Matt and Amy have five children: Ava, a college senior; Lyle, a college freshman; Hannah, a high school junior; Henry, an eighth grader; and their youngest, Hope, a kindergarten.

"We're pretty spread out," Matt said, "but we have lots of cow hands and plenty of help."

Matt and Amy have always encouraged their children to explore opportunities beyond the ranch. "We believe it's important for them to go out into the world, gain experience and work in different industries," he said. "If they choose to come back, we want it to be because they truly want to—not because they feel obligated."

In addition to family, the operation also relies on two dedicated non-family employees who help keep everything running smoothly.

Beyond the ranch, Matt has been deeply involved in industry organizations. He has served as president of the Kansas Livestock Association and the Beef Improvement Federation, and has worked on committees for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

His leadership extends into advocacy and education, ensuring that ranchers have the tools to succeed. "If we don't step up and tell our story, someone else will," Matt emphasized. "And they might not get it right."

The podcast

In the spring of 2022, Matt decided to step away from social media for 40 days during Lent. When he returned the Monday after Easter, he was struck by the online discourse. Coming off COVID-19 and several black swan events, tensions in the industry were high.

"I was appalled. Facebook was lit up with hate and anger, all directed at a couple of segments of our industry," Matt recalled. "And while the frustration wasn't necessarily misplaced, there was no other side presented—no nuance. The comments came fast and furious, and everyone just piled on, blaming corporate feed yards, the packers, this association or that association."

Seeing the negativity, Matt felt compelled to create a platform for more balanced discussions. "I got frustrated because I saw good people commenting, and I knew they had their reasons," Matt said. "But I thought, there's got to be a way we can have a discussion—not just a tirade, not just lambasting this

or that person or entity."

That realization ultimately led to "Practically Ranching," a space where meaningful conversations could occur within the industry.

Matt shared the backstory behind the name of his podcast, explaining, "We're not actually ranching—we're practically ranching because we're talking about it. We also try to keep it very practical."

The podcast covers everything from cattle marketing and genetics to rural culture and mental health. Matt's guests include industry experts and fellow ranchers, all of whom offer valuable perspectives.

"I don't want it to be an echo chamber," he explained. "I invite guests with different opinions because that's how we learn and grow as an industry."

Listeners have responded positively, and the podcast continues to gain traction. "Some people tune in for the market discussions, while others enjoy the cultural aspects," Matt said. "It's about creating a well-rounded conversation."

As the podcast grows, so does Matt's influence. "I never set out to be a mentor, but I get messages from listeners saying an episode helped them make a business decision or see an issue differently. That's what keeps me going."

Matt recalled a recent conversation with another podcaster who asked what his favorite episode was. Matt said he paused for a moment before responding, "The next one."

"That's what I love about doing this," Matt explained. "Whether I'm listening to someone else's podcast or recording my own, it's the curiosity—the excitement of what's next, who I get to talk to. That's my favorite part."

Thinking forward

Looking ahead, Matt remains optimistic about the beef industry. "Consumers are embracing beef again," he says. "We've moved past the era where people felt guilty about eating red meat. Now, they're recognizing its value in a healthy diet."

He also sees a shift in how the industry tells its story. "For years, we let others define us. Now, we're taking back that narrative, showing consumers that beef production is sustainable, humane and vital to rural economies."

Matt believes the role of technology and innovation will only grow. "Data-driven decision-making is going to be a game changer," he predicts. "Ranchers are becoming more analytical, whether it's genetics, grazing strategies, or marketing. Those who embrace technology will be ahead of the curve."

For Matt, the work never stops. Whether managing cattle or recording his next podcast episode, he remains committed to ensuring that ranching thrives for generations.

"Ranching is more than a job," he said. "It's a responsibility—to our families, our communities and the future of agriculture." — Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor

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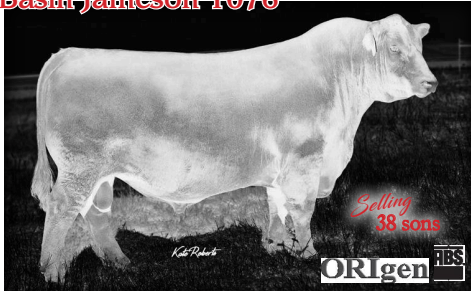
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CW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C	
+90	+1.68	+0.85	+92	+222	+380	

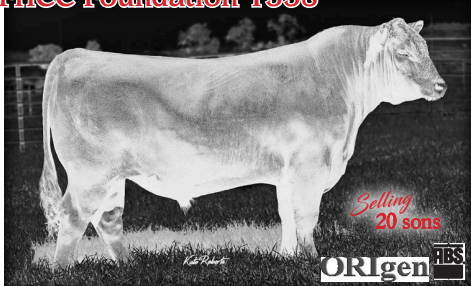
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CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+7	+0.9	+81	+148	+12.9	+15	+32
CW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C	
+67	+1.67	+1.03	+85	+223	+374	

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Excels for growth, maternal traits and foot quality.

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+17	-0.6	+78	+136	+14.7	+18	+21
CW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C	
+80	+1.55	+1.01	+83	+243	+398	

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Boyd Bluegrass 1203 • RSA True Balance 1311
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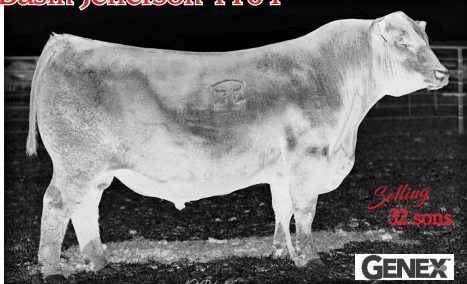
Basin True Grit 1021



Calving ease with exceptional muscle.

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+10	-1.7	+64	+120	+14.9	+13	+35
CW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C	
+53	+1.24	+1.08	+67	+190	+313	

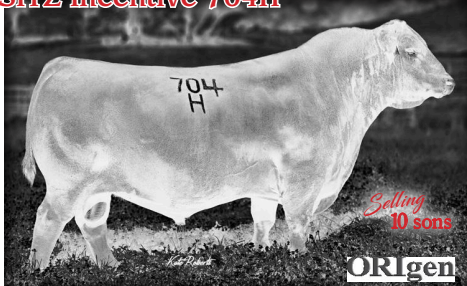
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CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+1	+3.4	+82	+141	+16.9	+13	+24
CW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C	
+58	+1.08	+0.57	+84	+175	+311	

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CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	CEM	Milk
+8	+0.5	+75	+125	+14.6	+9	+24
CW	Marb	RE	\$M	\$B	\$C	
+56	+0.88	+0.51	+93	+156	+295	

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 RE +.75
 Fat +.020
 \$AxH +214
 \$AxJ +190
 \$M +55
 \$W +65
 \$F +137
 \$G +90
 \$B +228
 \$C +351

LOT 4

RIVERBEND BOUGIE M255

+*20945760 • BD: 1-31-2024

Sire: BNWZ Bougie 1588 • Dam: Curtin Lucy 7429

MGS: Basin Payweight 1682



CED +5
 BW +2.7
 WW +95
 YW +161
 Milk +22
 PAP +3.58
 CW +82
 MB +.77
 RE +.99
 Fat +.014
 \$AxH +164
 \$AxJ +162
 \$M +90
 \$W +82
 \$F +119
 \$G +63
 \$B +181
 \$C +325

LOT 10

RIVERHEND PROLIFIC M705

+*20901233 • BD: 12-24-2023

Sire: Ellingson Prolific • Dam: Spruce Mtn Erica 0622

MGS: Hoover No Doubt



CED +14
 BW +.2
 WW +73
 YW +131
 Milk +32
 PAP -.14
 CW +75
 MB +1.60
 RE +.82
 Fat +.040
 \$AxH +237
 \$AxJ +215
 \$M +65
 \$W +76
 \$F +126
 \$G +98
 \$B +225
 \$C +357

LOT 101

RIVERBEND BOUGIE M342

+*20961290 • BD: 2-15-2024

Sire: BNWZ Bougie 1588 • Dam: Riverbend Rita H699

MGS: GAR Genuine



CED +11
 BW +3.0
 WW +97
 YW +172
 Milk +20
 PAP -.03
 CW +95
 MB +1.71
 RE +1.38
 Fat +.035
 \$AxH +294
 \$AxJ +292
 \$M +72
 \$W +79
 \$F +145
 \$G +111
 \$B +245
 \$C +404

LOT 126

RIVERBEND TRUE BALANCE L1686

+*20932858 • BD: 11-5-2023

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

MGS: SG Salvation



CED +9
 BW -.6
 WW +81
 YW +149
 Milk +34
 PAP +2.27
 CW +79
 MB +1.23
 RE +.92
 Fat +.066
 \$AxH +211
 \$AxJ +208
 \$M +88
 \$W +88
 \$F +126
 \$G +80
 \$B +206
 \$C +355

LOT 34

RIVERBEND STATESMAN L1659

+*20933821 • BD: 8-24-2023

Sire: Virginia Tech Statesman • Dam: Vintage Henrietta Pride 5010

MGS: VAR Discovery 2240



CED +12
 BW +.3
 WW +79
 YW +141
 Milk +34
 PAP +.14
 CW +65
 MB +1.31
 RE +.90
 Fat -.007
 \$AxH +213
 \$AxJ +191
 \$M +63
 \$W +81
 \$F +110
 \$G +89
 \$B +199
 \$C +321

LOT 81

RIVERBEND WINCHESTER L1712

+*20881127 • BD: 8/25/2023

Sire: Poss Winchester • Dam: Audley Rita F085

MGS: Baldrige Bronc



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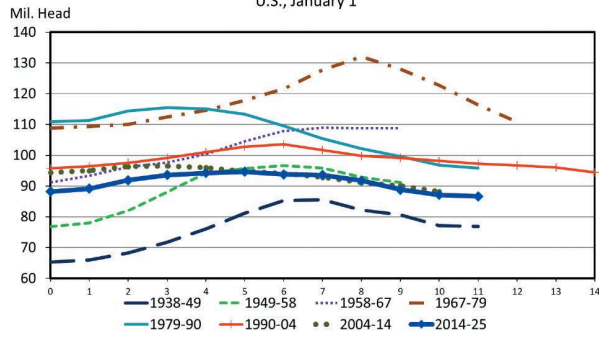
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US cattle inventories still looking for a low

Figure 1. Total Cattle Inventory By Cycle
U.S., January 1



The annual Cattle report from USDA at the end of January showed that the U.S. cattle industry continued to get smaller in 2024. The inventory of all cattle and calves was 86.66 million head, down 0.6% year over year. This total inventory was 1.8% lower than the recent cyclical low in 2014 and the lowest since 1951. The all cattle and calves inventory has decreased 8 million head (8.5%) from the cyclical peak in 2019.

The beef cow herd on Jan. 1 was 27.86 million head, down 0.5% year over year and 3.8% below the previous low in 2014; the lowest since 1961. The beef cow herd has declined 3.78 million head from the recent peak in 2019, a decrease of 11.9% in six years. The Jan. 1 inventory of beef replacement heifers was 4.67 million head, 1% less than one year ago and the smallest inventory since 1949. The 2025 beef replacement heifer inventory is down

9% from the previous low in 2011.

The dairy cow inventory in this report was 9.35 million head, unchanged from last year. The inventory of dairy replacement heifers was 3.9 million head, down 0.9% year over year. The inventory of bulls was 2.01 million head, down 0.6% from one year ago.

Other inventory categories are used to calculate the estimated feeder supply outside of feedlots. This includes the sum of other heifers (down 1%); steers 500-plus pounds, (down 0.6%); and calves <500 lbs. (down 0.2%) adjusted for Jan. 1 feedlot inventory (down 0.9%) resulting in a feeder supply estimate down 0.5% from last year.

The cattle industry is characterized by so-called "10-year" cattle cycles. In fact, the last eight cattle cycles have varied from nine to 14 years with only one (2004-14) exactly 10 years from low-to-low

inventory (Figure 1). The 2025 inventory represents the 11th year since the previous cyclical low. Is 2025 the cycle low? Maybe, but not necessarily. We won't know for sure for another year.

For 2025, the die is mostly cast relative to herd dynamics. The small inventory of dairy heifers calving in 2025 (a part of the total beef replacement heifer inventory) suggests that little, if any, growth in the beef cow herd is likely. With bred heifers determined for the year, it will depend on cow culling. The cow culling rate in 2024 dropped to 10.2% (from higher levels in 2021-23), about equal to the previous 20-year average. Another year of sharp decrease in beef cow culling could lead to minimal herd growth but, lacking that, the cow herd could shrink a bit more this year. In the last three herd expansions, the cow culling rate has averaged below 9%. In 2025, beef cow slaughter will have to drop more than 12% year over year to result in a cow culling rate below 9%.

The question of heifer retention in 2025 will determine herd dynamics in 2026 and beyond. Heifers saved for breeding (part of the 2025 beef replacement heifer inventory) and additional unplanned (or impulse) heifer breeding in 2025 may result in a modest increase in heifers calving in 2026. The supply of heifers available to do this is limited but could allow for limited

Hello essential oils and goodbye ionophores?

Negative public perception and increasing governmental regulations have researchers seeking alternatives to antibiotic use in livestock. Ionophores—an antibiotic that alters rumen microbial populations to increase efficiency—have been temporarily banned in some countries.

If this occurs in the U.S., Kansas State (K-State) University beef systems specialist Jaymelyn Farney said other feed supplements need to be evaluated to maintain current production levels.

In response to this change in animal husbandry, Farney and her team at the Southeast Agricultural Research Center in Parsons, KS, have started examining whether essential oils make a satisfactory substitute for ionophores.

"Some essential oils have similar ruminal effects as ionophores and impacts on feed efficiency, volatile fatty acid production and other efficiency areas," she said. "We were interested in looking at this in stocker cattle because most of the work has been in feedlots or in vitro."

Farney used 281 head of black-hided steers split into eight pastures. Four groups received free-choice mineral infused with essential oils, and the others infused with

ionophores.

"We found that they performed essentially the same," she said. "We had a 2.15-pound average daily gain for ionophores and a 2.13-lb. average daily gain for essential oils over 90 days."

She added: "The cattle fed ionophores gained 204 pounds total, and the essential oils group put on 203 pounds. Also, both groups had a very similar intake of mineral."

While metrics like mineral consumption were comparable, the actual cost of the two supplements differed. Farney said the price of Solus—the brand of essential oil examined—calculated to \$13.09 per unit while the ionophores cost \$14.34.

"We fed a garlic oil product plus the Solus—a proprietary blend of ingredients," Farney said. "When you open the mineral bag, you smell cinnamon, oregano, lemongrass and capsaicin."

Outside of determining differences in performance, Farney has also set out to observe changes in functional behavior through GPS ear tags. Researchers noted no differences in the amount of time eating, resting, walking and ruminating. Yet, they saw a trend in slightly elevated heart rates in the animals fed

essential oils.

"This was intriguing because many essential oils have been identified and marketed as vasodilators, or substances that allow for easier blood flow," Farney said. "We're not sure yet if that means anything to performance, but it was cool to see."

This study will be conducted annually for four more years as a part of an overarching research project, said Farney. After her team collects the data and comes to conclusions, she hopes their results open a natural marketing avenue for producers.

"One of the big downsides of natural and organic systems is that ranchers have to get paid a significant premium because cattle do not gain as well as without antibiotics (ionophores)," she said. "If you can increase gain and feed a product like an essential oil that could be certified through those marketing schemes, you might get the best of both worlds."

Farney will present her team's results during K-State's 112th annual Cattlemen's Day, set for Mar. 7 at the National Guard Armory in Manhattan, KS. Her session will take place during the morning portion of the program. — K-State Research and Extension

herd growth in 2026. Additional retention of heifer calves in 2025 (for breeding in 2026)

might set the stage for more rapid herd growth in 2027 and beyond. We shall see. — Der-

rell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist

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WA bill would require methane emission reports

House Bill 1630, introduced by Rep. Lisa Parshley (D-WA-22) and sponsored by several other lawmakers, would mandate dairy and feedlot operators in Washington to submit methane emission reports each year. "It is the intent of the legislature to better understand the scale and scope of methane emissions from dairies and feed lots in the state, by gathering basic information regarding the level of their emissions," the bill text read. Operators would be required to estimate total annual emissions by multiplying the average total monthly emissions over a three-month period. Farmers and feedlot operators said it would be difficult to calculate emissions as farm practices vary. Parshley said during a House Environment & Energy Committee meeting that the bill seeks to guide future policy on methane emissions. "If that data says this is not significant, we just monitor," Parshley said. "If [the data] says it's significant, it will help us build accurate policy."

MCOOL bill reintroduced into Congress

Senate Majority Leader John Thune (R-SD) and Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ) reintroduced the American Beef Labeling Act on Feb. 5, which would reinstate mandatory country-of-origin labeling (MCOOL) for beef. The bill would require the U.S. trade representative and USDA to develop a World Trade Organization-compliant way of reinstating MCOOL for beef within one year of enactment. If MCOOL failed to be reinstated within one year, it would automatically be reinstated for beef only. The United States Cattlemen's Association and Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund (R-CALF) USA applauded the measure's reintroduction. "Our cattle and beef markets cannot function properly when consumers are denied basic market information, such as where the beef they purchase for their families was produced, under which country's food production and food safety regime it was produced, and whether their purchase will help strengthen our domestic food supply chains," said R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard.

ID bill could increase livestock brand fees

Idaho Senate Bill 1016, introduced by the Agricultural Affairs Committee, proposes an increase in livestock brand inspection fees. Proponents said the fee increases are necessary to cover rising costs. The bill would increase the annual brand inspection certificate fee from \$5 to \$10, the brand recording fee from \$50 to \$75, the per-head cattle inspection fee from \$1.25 to \$1.50 and the renewal application fee from \$125 to \$200. In addition, the bill would add new fees, such as a \$10 charge for duplicate brand inspection certificates and a \$36 hourly rate for brand inspection services at livestock auction sales. All fees collected by the state brand inspector would be deposited into a state brand account, which would be appropriated for the state brand board.

SD introduces lab-grown meat ban bill

South Dakota House Bill (HB) 1109 would prohibit the manufacture, sale or distribution of cell-cultured meat in the state. The bill was introduced by Rep. John Sjaarda (R-SD-02) and would make it a misdemeanor to sell or distribute lab-grown meat. The House of Representatives passed the bill on a 42-26 vote and sent the bill to the Senate. On Feb. 11, Gov. Larry Rhoden (R) signed HB 1022 into law, which prohibits the misbranding of any cell-cultured protein product.

Bill would move BLM HQ back to CO

Colorado Rep. Jeff Hurd (R-03) introduced a bill to move the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) headquarters office from Washington D.C., back to Colorado. H.R. 1125 would "provide for improved management of Federal lands and increased efficiencies within public land agencies," according to a bill summary. A full text version of the bill was not available ahead of WLJ press time. The BLM headquarters office was first moved to Grand Junction, CO, during President Donald Trump's first term and subsequently relocated back to Washington by the Biden administration. Proponents say a Colorado office would put BLM staff closer to the federal lands they manage, while opponents contend that moving the office out West makes it more difficult to communicate with decision-makers.

Mexico resolves GE corn dispute

The USDA commended Mexico's action to declaring ineffective measures about genetically engineered (GE) corn that the U.S. challenged in a United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement dispute. USDA said the country's action safeguards about \$5.6 billion in U.S. corn exports to Mexico. "Mexico's action declaring ineffective these GE corn measures is a major victory for U.S. farmers," said Kailee Buller, USDA chief of staff. "The Trump administration will continue to stand up for U.S. farmers and producers, including tackling countries' unjustified barriers to products of agricultural biotechnology."

Rancher paved the way for female FFA membership

More than 1 million youths nationwide learn about agriculture and develop leadership skills through FFA. In California, the organization is thriving, with 104,469 members in 360 chapters. Almost half of those members are girls.

This wasn't always the case. FFA was an all-male organization for more than 40 years. Thanks in part to the efforts of female pioneers who paved the way, membership opened up to girls in 1969.

Among the pioneers is Mary Rickert of Shasta County. Now 72, Rickert and her husband, Jim, are cattle ranchers and farmers who also appraise, broker and manage farmland for others. The longtime Farm Bureau members have earned several awards for their environmental stewardship, including the Leopold Conservation Award in 2015. Mary Rickert has also served years in community and public service, including two terms on the Shasta County Board of Supervisors from 2016 through 2024.

Rickert says she values all youth agriculture organizations but especially cherishes FFA because it's a family legacy. When her grandfather, Julian McPhee, was the chief of the State Bureau of Agricultural Education, he established the California state headquarters of FFA—then called Future Farmers of America—in 1928, shortly after the national FFA was formed. Later, Rickert's father taught FFA agriculture classes. Her three children were FFA members, and now she has grandchildren involved.

"I've been accused of having blue and gold blood," Rickert said, laughing.

Yet, for most of her childhood, she wasn't allowed to participate.

Born Mary LaSalle in Hanford, CA, Rickert was one of six children who grew up around dairy cattle and "lived and breathed agriculture." As a young girl, she enjoyed showing the family's Holsteins in open competitions and remembers practicing "for hours" with her brothers.

But she had to watch from the sidelines as her two older brothers competed in FFA livestock shows, speech contests and other competitions. She remembers longing to join them.

"When you grow up in a household of primarily brothers, you want to do everything they do," she said.

"My dad would bring state FFA officers to our home all the time, and I was always inspired by their leadership qualities and their ability to influ-

ence young people. ... So, in my mind, it was important that females be able to participate in FFA," she added. "It's a great organization and develops a lot of leadership skills."

But earning that right "was a battle," she said.

"I can remember a few ag teachers really fought it," she said. "Even my father wasn't too excited about it. I think a lot of it was they just wanted to stick with tradition. They were used to having all-male members, and the girls would be something called the 'chapter sweethearts.' Remember, it was very patriarchal society in the '60s."

However, even though the National FFA banned female membership, some state and local FFA chapters had begun allowing girls to participate in activities and competitions.

In May 1968, 15-year-old Rickert and about six other like-minded friends headed to the annual FFA state convention at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, the state FFA headquarters. The girls stood before the delegates and made their case for being allowed to participate.

"They voted—and it passed!" Rickert said. "I think they saw the handwriting on the wall and knew that other states were allowing females to participate, so they should too."

At the state finals in May the following year, Rickert, her brother and another boy competed in cattle judging. The team didn't do well, but Rickert was named high individual.

"It was kind of a big moment for me because it was a bit of a fight to allow girls to be able to compete with boys, and I got to prove to them that, yes, we could do anything they could do," she said.

The following August, she remembers being the first girl to show an animal at the California State Fair. There were no dormitories for girls, so she stayed at the home of Warren Reed, the state FFA adviser at the time.

Two months later, in October 1969, after several prior unsuccessful attempts, the National FFA voted to strike the word "male" from the constitution—after a California delegate, Paul Bankhead, made the motion—opening the door for full female membership in every state.

"I still smile whenever I see a girl in an FFA jacket, because I was there, more or less, on the front lines," Rickert said.

Continuing the legacy

This is especially true of her two granddaughters in FFA: Madison Rickert of Durham High School in

Butte County and Nora Ehn of Hollister High School in San Benito County.

She recalls seeing Nora show her goat at the San Benito County Fair. "Needless to say, when I went down there and saw my granddaughter with her FFA jacket on, I did shed a tear," Rickert said.

"It was a watershed moment for me," she added. "I'm not a very emotional person, but I still choke up talking about it. It was very

touching for me to see that she's carrying on the family legacy. In fact, I think she's going to the state conference this year.

"As you go through life, you want to make a difference, and to think that one little effort I made influenced what two of my granddaughters are experiencing," Rickert said. "That's really a good feeling."

Rickert said she believes FFA is more important now than ever—for boys and

girls.

"I'm very concerned about the future of agriculture," she said. "A lot of commodity prices are really suffering right now. Everything costs so much more than it did even three, four or five years ago."

"The other thing is so many of our farmers and ranchers are aging out and retiring, and we're seeing a real decline in the actual number of people involved in agriculture," she added, pointing out that California

is the fifth largest economy in the world.

"We have a big responsibility to keep producing food and fiber," Rickert said. "We need to encourage young people to consider a career in agriculture, and I think FFA is an opportunity for them to be exposed to that idea. It really opens that door for young people." — **Linda DuBois, California Bountiful assistant editor, California Farm Bureau Federation**



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Panel talks capturing added value in cattle

Change is not usually a favorite topic for ranchers. But, when change comes with potential increases in profitability and the preservation of their lifestyle, they are often willing to give it a try.

During one session at the 2024 Angus Convention in November, panelists discussed how value creation in the beef industry has changed and what the future might hold, focusing on areas like quality and sustainability.

"The wheels of change grind exceedingly slow, but change is coming," said Nevil

Speer, an industry consultant who served on the educational panel. "It's all about what's at the end of the road. It's consumers, and there's going to be more and more questions."

It's not the first time producers have shifted their practices based on consumer demands. Bruce Cobb, executive vice president of production with Certified Angus Beef (CAB), said the early 1990s was a critical juncture for beef value and responding to consumer signals.

"We weren't really connected at all with the consumer

and what we were producing," Cobb said. "We were producing what we wanted to produce as opposed to what the consumer was expecting and demanding."

In 2024, Cobb said, he feels excited about the opportunities afforded to producers willing to participate in value-based marketing and to talk about the value they have created in their cattle.

"Here's an opportunity for you to participate in something that can help you economically and also help build your business and build de-

mand," Cobb said. "When you have models that address cattle care all the way through the supply chain, there's going to be a different demand for that product. When you have a model that drives quality all the way through the supply chain, there will be a different demand for that. We are no longer in the commodity business in the beef industry."

Current affairs

One place Speer, along with many cattle producers, looks for signs of change is by watch-

ing market prices.

Speer said that from April 2021 through early November 2024 most weeks have seen better prices year over year in the feeder-cattle markets. He said he interprets that to be a sign of genetic progress and other long-term efforts pushing the beef industry in the right direction—that is, in the same direction as consumer demands.

Speer said producers first need to maintain key characteristics of today's cattle and beef, like palatability, carcass merit and productivity.

In the same vein, Cobb predicted quality trends to continue.

"Whether that pace of change is driven by consumer demand, or it's driven by profitability or driven by genetic technology, all of those things are working together in concert," Cobb said.

The group told their audience there will continue to be a demand from consumers to know more about where their food comes from.

"[Sustainability is] not a new word at all, but it's something that we have really embraced in the last several years at Certified Angus Beef," Cobb said. "It was something that our customers were asking about, and asking is the key."

He continued, "When your customers engage with you like ours do and they see what you're doing relative to sustainability, and they walk away saying, 'That label that you have—we need it in our store next week,' those attributes are real."

Panelist Leann Saunders, chief operations officer (COO) of IMI Global, a division of Where Food Comes From Inc., said supply chains are being built to meet these consumer demands, so it is a growing area in which producers can capitalize.

"As you align with the things that work for you and your operations, then buyers that also believe that and want to sell that at the supply chain, there is added value," Saunders said.

New opportunities

So what's next? Speer said he notices conversations changing in the industry around how value is shared. Grid marketing is not the only tool the beef industry has at its disposal for capturing value, and he sees this with a corporate feedyard that works with their customers to create win-win scenarios.

"I don't remember having that conversation 20 years ago, or even 10 years ago," Speer said. "That's where we want to go, because the conversations are more win-win than they used to be; because we can win, and we have the tools."

Once genetic decisions have been made, "then you also have to work at getting the value, and that means marketing them in the correct venue," he said. "I think that's often times where people get very frustrated."

Although producers can be frustrated by marketing and the time-consuming nature of building those relationships, Speer said buyers are highly motivated to find the right kind of cattle for their value-

added supply chains.

"Now the cattle feeder is in a position where he is looking for those higher-quality cattle from commercial cattle producers who historically have sold weight, health, reputation. Now they can sell off of a quality perspective," Speer said.

Not done yet

While the business environment is a harsh one compared to historical conditions, the market is also ripe, providing premiums for cattle that match consumer demands.

"What we see is more and more of that differentiation in the programs that we have continuing to grow, not lessen, over time," Saunders said.

Panelists recognized that small producers might be feeling the economic pressure to capture value but struggling to find the marketing channels that are ideal for a smaller calf crop. Their advice was to look for opportunities to collaborate or create those opportunities with others facing the same hurdles. A tool like AngusLink's Genetic Merit ScorecardSM (GMS) evaluates the genetic potential of a group of feeder calves, regardless of group size.

"Buyers are beginning to recognize the [Genetic Merit Scorecard], and there's an appetite for that data," Cobb said. "[Their appetite] allows a small producer or a group of small producers to market those cattle collectively anywhere across the country to buyers who do have a value on what the genetic merit score is."

Saunders said she has seen smaller producers succeed in capturing added value on their feeder calves by working with local livestock markets that host special sales for those types of cattle.

"On some of the other programs, there's a lot of livestock markets now across the United States that will schedule special days to sell verified cattle," she said. "That enables the smaller headcounts to go in and still receive the value."

Video markets are still the most popular way to sell cattle with verified claims. Saunders said they often sell cattle as load lots. She has been encouraged with the growth of special sales among livestock markets to more options.

"[The Livestock Marketing Association] has been very supportive of a lot of that effort, trying to get some of the smaller producers and buyers coming in that want those cattle," she said.

Speer summarized the major challenge presented to cattle producers, with its anecdote being greater collaboration.

"The supply chain part of this whole equation is critical, because we have to coordinate those segments in our industry," he said. "We really don't have that luxury like all other industries do, where production is contained within a building or across a complex. Our production is contained across thousands of producers, 50 states, different time zones, and we have to coordinate in order to hit that target for the consumer." — Sarah Kocher, American Angus Association senior communications specialist

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Tattoo: 025M
ASA#: 4393080
Sire: CDI/NF HONOR GUARD 267H
MGS: HILB HES A CHARMER F201B

CE	BW	WW	YW	API	TI
19.2	-3.9	79.9	124.1	172.6	93.9



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: 312L
ASA#: 4243953
Sire: RAML RAPTOR 9693G
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Beef export value trended higher in 2024

Beef export value climbed 5% from 2023 despite a slight decrease in volume, as unit export values were record high, according to year-end data released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). Lamb exports trended higher than a year ago in both volume and value. Exports of U.S. pork eclipsed previous highs in both volume and value in 2024.

December beef exports totaled 110,171 metric tons (mt), up 1.5% from a year ago, while value climbed 4% to \$897.6 million—the highest since July. For the full year, beef exports were 1.29 million mt, down 0.5% year-over-year, while value increased 5% to \$10.45 billion.

“Considering the formidable headwinds in the large Asian markets—especially in the first half of the year—and the challenges on the supply side, beef exports exceeded expectations in 2024,” said USMEF President

and CEO Dan Halstrom. “The economic climate in Asia has shown modest improvement and in the meantime, demand for U.S. beef strengthened in other regions, including double-digit growth in Mexico.

“The U.S. beef industry continues to export a steady percentage of production at higher prices, as evidenced by export value per head of fed slaughter reaching \$415. U.S. beef always sells at a premium internationally, and the strong U.S. dollar contributed to further increases in pricing in local currencies. So, the 2024 results confirm that global demand is extremely resilient.”

Market diversification also paid dividends for beef exports, which achieved annual volume and value records in a number of emerging markets, including the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, the Leeward Windward Islands, Netherlands Antilles, Turks and Caicos, Cuba,

Guyana, Singapore and Morocco. Value records were reached in the Bahamas, Bermuda, Qatar, Jordan and Bahrain.

Record pork exports

December pork exports totaled 267,132 mt, slightly below last year’s large volume, while value increased 1% to \$771.8 million. These results pushed the full-year volume to 3.03 million mt, up 4% from a year ago and topping the previous high (2.98 million mt) reached in 2020. Export value totaled \$8.63 billion, up 6% from the previous record set in 2023.

“Market diversification has been a key goal of the U.S. pork industry for many years, and the resulting broad-based growth has never been more evident than in 2024,” said Halstrom. “While exports to Mexico were record-large for the fourth consecutive year, U.S. pork’s footprint expanded greatly in the Western Hemisphere and made gains in the Asia-Pacific, which bolstered global export totals and pushed export value per head slaughtered to a new high of more than \$66.”

In addition to Mexico, pork exports achieved annual volume and value records in Cen-

tral America, Colombia, New Zealand, Malaysia and several Caribbean markets. Value records were reached in South Korea, Australia and the Dominican Republic.

Lamb exports trend higher

Exports of U.S. lamb totaled 2,723 mt in 2024, up 16% year over year, while export value climbed 14% to \$14.3 million. For lamb muscle cuts, exports totaled 2,003 mt valued at \$11.8 million, each down slightly from 2023. The Caribbean and Mexico are the two largest destinations for U.S. lamb muscle

cuts, and exports to the Caribbean were up 14% to 976 mt, valued at \$7.1 million (up 13%), fueled in part by a doubling of shipments to the Bahamas.

Exports to Mexico were the highest since 2019 at 759 mt, up 21% year-over-year as a wider range of cuts—including shoulder and flap meat—gained traction in Mexico’s foodservice sector. Export value to Mexico jumped 20% to \$2.4 million.

A detailed summary of the 2024 export results for U.S. pork, beef and lamb, including market-specific highlights, is available from the USMEF website, usmef.org. —USMEF

Farmers, ranchers urged to monitor heart health

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) reports that there are more than 100,000 farmers in the state, and the average age of those farmers is just over 58.

Tawnie Larson, a project consultant for the Kansas Agriculture Safety and Health program at Kansas State University, said the KDA’s statistics combined with national figures on heart disease serve as a cautionary tale for those who live in rural areas of the Sunflower State.

“Male farmers aged 45 and older have an increased risk of heart disease compared to their non-farming peers,” Larson said. “And women in rural areas also are at an increased risk for heart disease.”

Larson urges rural residents to take a moment to recognize heart health in February, which is recognized nationally by the American Red Cross as American Heart Month. The Red Cross reports that heart disease is a leading cause of death in the U.S.

Farmers, she said, tend to experience high levels of stress due to such job-related factors as weather, market fluctuations, equipment malfunctions and financial hardship.

Plus, a by-product of living in rural communities is that those areas tend to have decreased access to health care, “or (farmers) do not see their doctor on a regular basis,” according to Larson.

As much as 44% of women in the U.S. are living with some sort of heart disease, according to figures from the U.S. National Institutes of Health—for many of the same reasons that men suffer from heart disease. In Kansas, many of those women are farmers; the KDA reports that of the 100,000-plus farmers in the state, more than one-third of those are women.

“Blood pressure tends to rise in women earlier than men,” Larson said. “Early signs of hypertension for women include fatigue, sleeping issues, bloating, headaches and blurred vision or dizziness. Don’t write these symptoms off; talk to your doctor before you have a problem.”

Larson says men and wom-

en should check their blood pressure on a regular basis; if you can’t get by the doctor’s office regularly, take advantage of blood pressure machines often available at a local pharmacy or other location.

“You can also buy a small cuff to use at home,” Larson said. “Log your numbers routinely and discuss these with your doctor.”

In addition to elevated blood pressure, other conditions that affect heart health include high cholesterol, diabetes, kidney disease, smoking, excessive use of alcohol, poor diet, obesity, limited cardiovascular activity and hearing loss.

“People, in general, may also ignore or downplay their susceptibility to heart disease and put off necessary actions to improve their wellness,” Larson said. “Poor heart health can lead to heart attack or stroke.”

According to Larson, some ideas for improving heart health include:

- Make healthy choices, such as eating a healthy diet, being more active and maintaining a healthy weight.
- Make small changes. Set one goal per week, rather than many changes at once.
- Reduce stress by focusing on what you can control.
- Find a favorite stress-reducing activity and do it regularly.
- Start a regular walking routine. Listen to music or a podcast.
- Read books.
- Spend time with family or friends.
- Take up an activity that gets your heart rate up and gradually build to higher rates of activity.

Larson said the website, Kansas Ag Stress Resources, is available to help farmers cope with ag-related stress. In some parts of the state, free counseling may be available; Larson cited the example of Pawnee Mental Health in northeast Kansas.

More information is available by contacting Larson at 785-532-2976, or tawnie@ksu.edu. Information may also be available at local Extension offices in Kansas. — Kansas State Research and Extension

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Angus Foundation highlights successes in January

The month of January successfully launched an exciting new year for the Angus Foundation, bringing with it numerous opportunities to advance education, youth and research. Thanks to the generous support garnered through the events held in conjunction with the Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City, OK, this year is already shaping up to be another impactful year for the Foundation.

The enthusiasm and contributions in support of the Foundation's missions, helped raised over \$150,000 through Join us in January events like the Angus Foundation Heifer Package and Herdsman Social Auction.

"The funds help us to have continued success for our Angus membership; through leadership and educational development, advancement of the breed's genetics and development of our next generation," said Jaclyn Boester, Angus Foundation, executive director. "It is astonishing to have the unwavering support of our donors and supporters to keep advancing our Foundation's mission."

The Foundation was also fortunate enough to have a Fund the Future lot offered in the Bases Loaded Sale to raise money for the Angus Fund, which provides unrestricted funding for Angus education, youth programs, and research.

The Angus Fund supports various initiatives, including academic scholarships, leadership conferences, and cutting-edge research aimed at enhancing the breed's future. To learn more about the Angus Foundation, visit www.angus.org/foundation.

More about the donated lots:

• Bases Loaded Sale at Cattlemen's Congress

Lot: Heifer pregnancy.
Sire: CONNEALY CRAFTSMAN.

Dam: RIVERBEND MISS BELLE 9209.

Donated by Riverbend Ranch, Idaho Falls, ID. Purchased by Heritage Farm of Shelbyville, KY, for \$25,000,

with all funds supporting the Fund the Future Campaign.

• National Angus Bull Sale at Cattlemen's Congress

Lot: Donation heifer package.

Donated heifer: POLLARD Rita 4012.

Sire: EXAR Cover the Bases 0819B.

Donated by Pollard Farms, Waukomis, OK, purchased by Lylester Ranch of Martell, NE, for \$75,000.

To learn more about the 2025 Angus Foundation Heifer Package, visit bit.ly/2025HeiferPackage.

• Herdsman Social

The Angus Foundation also auctioned items to support their mission during the an-

nual Herdsman Social at Cattlemen's Congress on Jan. 10. The event welcomed the Angus family for an evening of fellowship and featured refreshments, door prizes and the announcement of Cash Langford of Hunter Angus as 2025 Angus Herdsman of the Year.

For the auction items, past National Junior Angus Board Foundation Director Josh Jasper served as the auctioneer, and items sold included: men's and/or women's custom-made cowboy hat from Greeley Hat Works, a set of whiskey barrel chairs and a custom cowhide bag from Holy Cow Couture. A 2025 National Finals Rodeo ticket package experience was also up for grabs.

The Foundation supports a diverse set of efforts focused on ensuring the Angus legacy remains strong. For more information about the Angus Foundation, visit www.angus.org/foundation.

A complete list of auction items sold at the Herdsman Social, along with their donors and buyers, follows:

Auction items

• Men's custom Greeley hat.
Donated by: Greeley Hat Works Inc.

Purchased by: Turner Meadow Ranch of Wills Point, TX.

• Women's custom Greeley hat.
Donated by: Greeley Hat Works Inc.

Purchased by: M6 Cattle of Canyon, TX.

• Framed vintage cow/calf ad.
Donated by: Angus Foundation.

Purchased by: Belle Point Ranch of Fort Smith, AR.

• Branded Angus Yeti cooler.

Donated by: Angus Foundation.

Purchased by: R&L Angus of Westmoreland, KS.

• Angus rocking chair.
Donated by: Angus Foundation.

Purchased by: Rowh Angus of Jennings, KS.

• Custom Holy Cow Couture cowhide bag.

Donated by: Holy Cow Couture.

Purchased by: Circle M Farms LLC of Rockwall, TX.

• 2025 NFR ticket package.
Donated by: Angus Foundation.

Purchased by: Pollard Farms LLC of Waukomis, OK.

• Angus Media marketing package.
Donated by: Angus Media.

Purchased by: Nowatzke Cattle of Michigan City, IN.

• Whiskey barrel chair set.
Donated by: Angus Foundation.

Purchased by: Schroder Angus of Clarence, IA.

• Cherrywood slab package.
Donated by: Angus Foundation.

Purchased by: Circle M Farms LLC of Rockwall, TX.

• Party hosting package.
Donated by: Angus Foundation.

Purchased by: Langemeier Livestock of Marion, TX.

Door prize items:
• Case of custom cotton gloves.
Donated by: PlainJan's.

• Certified Angus Beef gift set.
Donated by: Angus Foundation.

• Cowles store package.
Donated by: Pleasant Hill Farm.

• Angus toy barn set.
Donated by: Angus Foundation.

— **Molly Biggs, American Angus Association communications specialist**

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Colorado snowpack shows modest accumulation

After a strong early season, January brought drier-than-normal conditions throughout most of the state, leading to a decrease in snowpack percentages and decreased streamflow forecasts. As of Feb. 5, statewide snow water equivalent (SWE) is at 90% of median, 5% lower compared to early January, reflecting a muted accumulation period. January precipitation continues at below normal levels at 77% of median an improvement from December's 69% of median.

Water year-to-date precipitation as of Feb. 1 is below normal at 91%. The January storm cycle was largely uneventful with modest accumulations. The average SWE delta from Jan. 1 to Feb. 6 is 2 inches with the highest SWE delta at the Tower SNOTEL showing 7.9 inches of SWE for this period.

Compared to this time last year, most basin snowpack conditions are slightly higher with the exception of the combined San Miguel-Dolores-Animas-San Juan River basin at 66% of median SWE, a 10% drop from this time last year. Reservoir storage remains relatively unchanged, with 94% of median statewide as of the end of January. This is a slight decline from 100% of median this time last year.

Reservoir inputs and out-

puts have remained steady and no significant changes are expected until spring runoff begins. Streamflow forecasts have decreased since January, now at 89% of median, down from 98% at the start of the year. This reflects the persistent dry conditions through January.

January saw significant temperature swings statewide. A sharp cold spell in mid-January set new record lows. This was followed by record-high temperatures in late January and early February. Snowpack and streamflow forecasts will remain sensitive to upcoming storm activity, particularly in southern basins where conditions have continued to decline. Near-term conditions from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's six- to 10-day outlook suggest mid-February may bring increased precipitation statewide, however January's deficits could limit overall recovery.

Looking ahead, there are still roughly two months, give or take, until peak SWE, depending on location. Late season storms can still have significant impact and upcoming precipitation plays an important role in shaping spring runoff. — **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**

Studying the red meat supply chain in Peru's wet markets

Although Peru's modern retail sector is expanding, much of the meat consumed in the country is purchased in traditional wet markets. An estimated 70% of animal proteins bought and sold in Lima, Peru, are distributed through 1,122 wet markets, according to the National Statistics Institute of Peru. To better understand how U.S. beef and pork reach consumers in Peru's largest market, the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) researched and studied a select group of wet markets in Lima.

"We have been stressing the importance of high-quality animal proteins as part of a healthy diet for children and the elderly," says USMEF South America Representative Jessica Julca. More than 40% of children under the age of three in Peru suffer from anemia, Julca adds. "We are working

to raise awareness and have been promoting specific U.S. red meat items as high-nutrient, high-value protein options."

Julca believes there are opportunities to expand the range of U.S. beef and pork products in Lima's wet markets and commissioned ground-level research in 2024 to determine which U.S. red meat products are available and how they are identified, merchandised and promoted.

USMEF visited 10 representative wet markets in Lima in early 2024 and documented the red meat products sold in the stalls of each wet market. Researchers returned in the fall to document changes in the number of stalls that sold U.S. red meat and the products they sold.

U.S. beef variety meat items distributed through Lima's wet markets include

liver, tripe and feet. Import statistics from Trade Data Monitor show that 5,067 metric tons (mt) of U.S. beef variety meats, valued at \$11.8 million, were imported from January to October 2024, a 5% increase by volume and 22% increase in value year-over-year. Trade Data Monitor also shows that 1,594 mt of U.S. pork loin, ham and belly, valued at \$4.15 million, were imported from January to October 2024. A small percentage is sold through modern retail outlets while the majority of U.S. pork is sold through wet markets.

Through the research, USMEF also sought to identify additional U.S. red meat products that may have demand.

"Naturally, the U.S. cuts and variety meat items sold through the wet markets are price sensitive, but we believe there are opportunities

for other products in this sector, including U.S. beef hearts," says Julca. "Peru primarily imports beef hearts from Brazil and Argentina. But many stall owners who

had previously bought U.S. beef hearts expressed interest in purchasing them again because of the larger size and greater tenderness of the U.S. product."

Funding support for the research project was provided by Texas Beef Council, the Beef Checkoff Program and the National Pork Board. — USMEF

OSU research, outreach drive cattle industry to success

The cattle industry is a significant part of Oregon's economy, contributing over \$900 million annually. It consistently ranks first or second among the state's most-valued agricultural commodities, providing numerous employment opportunities and supporting economic stability throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Approximately 15 million acres of rangeland and pastureland are used for grazing cattle in Oregon. Most of the state's estimated 11,000 cattle ranches are in southern and eastern Oregon, particularly in Malheur, Morrow, Harney, Klamath and Lake counties. These areas offer vast rangelands and timberlands where cattle can graze, which helps maintain healthy plant communities and can reduce the risk and/or severity of wildfires that continue to grow in frequency.

Oregon State University (OSU), through its Agricultural Experiment Station (AES) and Extension Service, helps maintain a robust and sustainable cattle industry in Oregon, benefiting both the economy and the environment.

The OSU Cattle Plan, a comprehensive needs assessment, was developed in partnership with industry leaders and identifies critical areas for research and outreach. It focuses on animal reproduction, health, nutrition, welfare, grazing management, environmental issues, technology and economics.

The plan was developed in collaboration with numerous stakeholder and stakeholder groups including the advisory committees for the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (EOARC), Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Oregon Dairy Farmers Association, Oregon Beef Council and Oregon Dairy and Nutrition Council. This partnership ensures that the research

aligns with the needs of the industry.

Researchers and Extension faculty at EOARC, with AES branch stations in Burns and La Grande, conduct extensive research on cattle to support sustainable and efficient beef production.

Here are some key areas of OSU's cattle research at EOARC and by AES and Extension faculty across the state:

- Optimizing cattle diets to improve growth rates, health and overall productivity, and grazing practices that aim to balance livestock production with rangeland health, ensuring sustainable use of resources.

- Breeding strategies to enhance reproductive efficiency and genetic quality of cattle herds and studies on best practices for calving to reduce mortality rates and improve calf health.

- Preventing and managing common cattle diseases to improve herd health and development and evaluation of vaccination protocols to protect cattle from infectious diseases.

- Implementing practices that reduce the environmental impact of cattle production, such as managing manure and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

- Using virtual fencing to improve cattle management and reduce the need for physical barriers. This technology allows for more flexible and precise control of grazing patterns.

- Expanding the Beef Quality Assurance program, which guides producers toward continuous improvement using science-based production practices including production, market and financial/profit risk management to assure cattle well-being, beef quality and safety throughout Oregon.

OSU's cattle research and Extension efforts benefit the public by enhancing food

security, promoting sustainable agricultural practices and supporting rural economies through improved cattle health and productivity. — OSU Extension

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The American Lamb Checkoff: FAQs

The National Lamb Checkoff, directed by the American Lamb Board (ALB), is funded by mandatory assessments (checkoff) paid by all segments of the sheep industry.

By federal law, all sheep or lambs of any age, including ewes, rams, feeder and market lambs, breedingstock and cull animals, are subject to the national lamb checkoff assessment at the time of every sale.

• What is a direct marketer?

Direct marketers are producers who maintain owner-

ship of some or all of their lambs and sheep through production, feeding and harvest, and sell their products directly to consumers, retailers and/or chefs. Direct marketers have their lambs or sheep custom-harvested at a local processor or butcher.

In some cases, primarily for ethnic sales and holidays, direct marketers sell their lambs and sheep directly off the farm. Direct marketers are both the producer and the first handler and are responsible to pay both the live weight and first

handler assessments and remit directly to the ALB.

• What is a first handler?

Owner of the animal at time of slaughter, such as packer, processor or direct marketer.

• What is an exporter?

Each person or entity which sends live lambs or sheep out of the U.S. is responsible for remitting the live weight assessment to ALB at the time of export.

• Do 4-H, FFA and seed-stock sales pay the checkoff?

Yes. Fair boards, sale managements and 4-H/FFA clubs

can collect and remit the live weight assessment directly to ALB.

Otherwise, they can deduct the assessment from the sale and pass the live weight assessment to the buyer, who becomes the first handler responsible for remitting both the live weight and first handler assessments.

• What's the USDA's role?

The USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service oversees the American Lamb Checkoff to assure that funds are spent as intended by law. Information

is available at ams.usda.gov.

• How to send your assessment?

Assessments must be sent with Form LS-81, the Monthly Remittance Report. This form is available at LambResourceCenter.com or by calling 303-759-3001. You can submit your remittance online or mail Form LS-81 and your payment to: American Lamb Board, 23029 Network Place, Chicago, IL 60673-1230.

• Where can I find online information about the Checkoff?

Goto Lambboard.com. Specifically, these pages will be helpful to learn more about how the ALB works, is collected, Long Range Plan and programs, and reports at lambboard.com/reports.

• How do I contact the American Lamb Board?

The ALB is happy to answer your questions about the Lamb Checkoff, provide industry information and help with local promotion resources. Call 303-759-3001 or email info@AmericanLamb.com. — ALB



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Adding black bears to the MT Livestock Loss Board

Recently, the Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) spoke in favor of House Bill (HB) 356: "Allow livestock loss reimbursement for black bear predation," sponsored by Rep. Eric Tilleman (R-23). Adding black bears to the Livestock Loss Board was brought forward at the Cascade Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and was passed by the county members.

Predation by black bears has been an ongoing problem for ranchers in the Cascade area and funding had become potentially available through the Livestock Loss Board, a situation that members needed readily addressed. The idea advanced to the Farm Bureau policy development process and was discussed at the MFBF Annual Convention in November. The discussion brought this issue to the forefront and gave MFBF the opportunity to bring forward legislation.

MFBF found a willing requester for the bill idea. This requester was able to put a bill draft request into legislative services who crafted the bill text. Tilleman then sponsored the bill. During the hearing, it was explained how the addition of the black bear to the Livestock Loss Board will allow ranchers to be compensated for livestock killed by black bears and to receive grant funding for preventive measures to protect livestock from black bears.

The Livestock Loss Board provides a critical service to Farm Bureau members, along with agriculture producers across the state, and adding black bears to the list of pred-

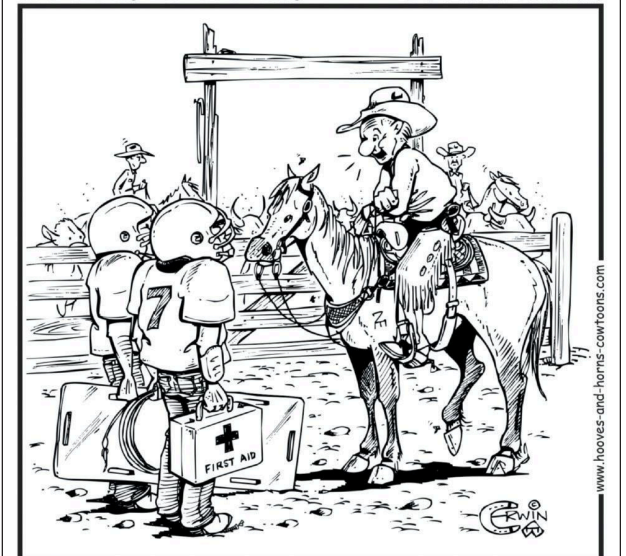
ators compensated by the loss board broadens that. By taking preventative measures, we can see a culmination of ag producers and wildlife advocates taking the same stance and easing the burden of co-existing with a state managed species.

The Livestock Loss Board has been financially sound with the additional appropriation in 2019 with a yearly appropriation of \$450,000. Claims have an average of approximately \$250,000 annually. Additional funds go towards grants for loss prevention. The claims are estimated at approximately \$18,000 to go towards compensating for animals taken by black bears.

HB 356 had its hearing in the House Agriculture Committee on Feb. 6, and those who testified rounded support for the bill. Cascade County Farm Bureau President Merrill McKamey made the trip to Helena to testify in support of the bill. McKamey had the opportunity to share his real-life experiences with the House Agriculture Committee members explaining how his ranch, as well as his neighbors, have experienced losses of more than 10 ewes/lambs due to black bears. Along with testifying, McKamey was able to answer multiple livestock loss questions for the representatives.

HB 356 passed out of the House Agriculture Committee the same day that it was heard. MFBF will track the bill's progress as it works through the passage process. — **Karli Johnson and Nicole Rolf, MFBF**

HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN



"I see yew fellers have worked cattle with us before."

Change-makers recognized as Heritage Foundation inductees

For more than 40 years, the American Angus Association's Angus Heritage Foundation has recognized the passion, dedication and perseverance of individuals whose life's work has had a lasting influence on the Angus breed. Today more than 80% of the U.S. cow herd is Angus-influenced. The forward-thinking action of the 2024 Heritage Foundation inductees contributed to that market share and helped position The Business Breed as a leader in the industry.

The 2024 inductees include: Bill and Sally Bowman, Saint Joseph, MO; Dave and Yvonne Hinman, Malta, MT; Bob and Jim Sitz, Harrison, Dillon, MT; and Harlan Ritchie (posthumously), East Lansing, MI.

Bill and Sally Bowman

Bill and Sally Bowman traveled separate paths to Angus, but their shared teamwork helped transform genetic tools and producers' ability to use them.

Bill's grandfather first taught him about livestock, and his small herd started as a junior high FFA project. He graduated with an animal science degree from the University of Missouri and worked in various roles for the American Angus Association, including as a regional manager, director of commercial programs, and assistant director of performance programs.

Sally, a native of Lexington, KY, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Kentucky and then completed a doctorate in quantitative genetics at Iowa State University. After time at Oklahoma State University, she landed at the association, bringing the organization's genetic evaluation in-house for the first time.

"We wanted to be more fluid and be efficient and change the environment of the industry," Bill says.

During their time at the association, the duo led the introduction of \$Value indexes, genomically enhanced EPDs and helped create Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) as a standalone subsidiary of the association.

With Sally working on the data to build tools, Bill was "out in the country" helping to inspire adoption as AGI's first president.

"I am still immersed in Angus cattle and the Angus breed, and will be my whole life," Sally says.

In 2014 Sally founded Method Genetics, and Bill became her first employee. The couple was married in 2017 and continue to advance the Angus breed through data-driven innovation and a strong sense of commitment to the cattlemen they serve.

Dave and Yvonne Hinman

Pioneer breeders of performance cattle, Dave and Yvonne Hinman of Hin-

man Angus have raised registered Angus cattle since 1973.

"It's a work in progress forever, and it will be for the next generation and the next one," Dave says.

The couple and their daughters, Jill and Heidi, ran Hinman Angus in Willow Creek, MT, for more than 25 years. In 1988 they had their first production sale, joining with Bill and Jennifer Davis and two other couples as the Performance Breeders, a group that worked together until 2008 to market registered Angus seedstock.

"The reason we wanted to do it together was at the time, we wanted more bulls in one sale," Dave says. "It worked."

In 2000 Dave and Yvonne made the move to "good old cow country" near Malta, MT, to lease an 8,000-acre ranch and later purchase land in the area. In Malta, they have worked alongside daughter, Heidi, and son-in-law, Billy, for many years, mentoring them and now their grandson, Tyler. Together, the family continues to produce high-quality, reputation cattle as Hinman Angus and distribute their signature, bright yellow-covered sale books annually.

As leaders in the breed, Dave served on the Association Board of Directors from 2017 to 2023. Yvonne served as president of the American Angus Auxiliary in 1999 to 2000 and was honored with the Distinguished Woman Award in 2007. In 2005, the Performance Breeders were recognized with the Certified Angus Beef (CAB) Seedstock Commitment to Excellence Award.

"If I had advice for young breeders? I'd do this: make some friendships with older breeders that have been in the business and listen to them," Dave says. "I was very, very fortunate to have a lot of them ... those friendships, that's what made it so special."

Bob and Jim Sitz

Bob (Jr.) and Jim Sitz of Harrison and Dillon, MT, lead Sitz Angus as its third generation. They labored alongside their parents Bob (Sr.) and Donna as young men, growing a passion for Angus cattle and the cattle business. In their 20s, they chose to manage the ranch alongside their mother after the untimely death of their father in 1989.

"My dad always said we had to be a jack-of-all-trades. That would fit Sitz Angus ranch to a T," says Jim.

Together, the brothers and their mother guided the ranch through some lean years that included a mature cow dispersal and subsequent herd rebuilding.

In the decades since, they have expanded the ranch from a single location in Harrison to three properties, and they have

prioritized customer relationships, adopted new technologies like embryo transfer and genomics, and improved the quality of their cattle.

"What's helped us survive for over 100 years? I'd say adaptability," says Jim. "The consistency of knowing that the only thing constant in this world is change. When there is new technology that is brought forward, you can't be afraid to embrace it."

Sitz Angus sires consistently claim spots in annual lists of the top 25 sires for breed registration, and their reputation for being a high-quality source of maternal genetics persists. As leaders, Bob serves the Montana Stockgrowers Association in addition to being an active member of the American Angus Association. Jim followed in his father's footsteps, serving on the Association Board of Directors from 2009 to 2016 and as presi-

dent in 2016.

Today, Jim and Bob, along with Jim's wife, Tammi (Huntsman), manage Sitz Angus with their families. Jim also markets customers' cattle as a representative with Northern Livestock Video Auction. The brothers continue to be long-term supporters and collectors of performance data, especially with the pulmonary arterial pressure EPD and as a MaternalPlus herd.

Harlan Ritchie

Harlan Ritchie's profound legacy and influence on the cattle industry is unmatched.

Throughout the 1960s, '70s and '80s, the Michigan State University (MSU) professor championed change, driving cattle trends with his bold selections in the show ring, groundbreaking research and published works.

"Dr. Ritchie had the in-

nate ability to foresee the future needs of the beef cattle industry," says Ken Geuns, Ritchie's business partner in Ventura Farms.

Up until his passing in 2016, Ritchie was first and foremost a student, a seeker of knowledge. It was his constant curiosity and passion for learning that laid the foundation for him to become one of the world's leading experts on cattle.

The Iowa native traveled the world speaking about his work, seeking out value in all types of cattle and judging premier cattle shows. In the ring, Ritchie made selections that pushed the industry to think differently.

"Having the courage to walk out in front of thousands and thousands and thousands of people and slap an animal that you deem champion, that nobody else deems champion, requires tremendous courage," says Jason Row-

tree, who knew Ritchie and now serves as MSU Faculty Coordinator at the Lake City Research Center.

What stands out most to those who had the opportunity to cross paths with Ritchie is his generosity with his time and wisdom; always willing to have a conversation, answer questions and offer his insights.

"My dad was a very hardworking, passionate person about the beef cattle industry," says Ritchie's oldest son, Bill. "He was very humble; very kind and generous."

Ritchie is remembered as a man who dedicated his life to the betterment of the cattle industry, pushing against the grain to drive meaningful and impactful change that continues to play a role in the success of today's market.

— Jessica Hartman, Molly Biggs and Sarah Kocher, American Angus Association



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LOT 2 DAL PORTO FAIR-N-SQUARE C05
**MYERS FAIR-N-SQUARE M39 X *CONNELLY ARMORY 3205
DB: 02-05-2024 **21079315

CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	RE	SM	SC
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LOT 9 DAL PORTO RIVER C35
**4M 3 RIVERS 219 X *DPL CHICO U18
DB: 02-25-2024 **21079305

CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	RE	SM	SC
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**BULLERMAN REIGN X *CASINO BOMBER N33
DB: 08-24-2023 **20934031

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Registration open for Reclamation Conference

The 2025 North Dakota Reclamation Conference, themed "Future of Reclamation in North Dakota," will bring together industry leaders, researchers and stakeholders to explore the evolving reclamation needs associated with the state's growing energy sector.

The conference will be held March 4-5 at the Rough Rider Center in Watford City, ND. The conference will include general sessions, breakout sessions and networking opportunities designed to foster collaboration among industry professionals, regulatory agencies, landowners and researchers.

"The energy industry plays a vital role in North Dakota's economy, and as it continues to evolve, so too must our reclamation strategies," says Thomas DeSutter, North Dakota State University (NDSU) professor and research leader for the School of Natural Resource Sciences.

"This conference provides a platform for stakeholders to discuss how to balance energy development with responsible land stewardship."

As North Dakota's energy industry continues to expand with investments in enhanced oil recovery, pipeline infrastructure, transmission and data centers and legacy en-

ergy industries, understanding the reclamation challenges and opportunities ahead will be critical. This year's conference will focus on aligning reclamation strategies with the state's future energy developments to ensure long-term sustainability and responsible resource management.

The event will feature a keynote address by Lynn Helms, former director of the North Dakota Department of Mineral Resources. Helms will provide a comprehensive outlook on the future of North Dakota's energy industry and the reclamation needs accompanying its continued growth.

Additional general session speakers will address key topics:

- The future of pipeline and transmission infrastructure in North Dakota.
- The role of enhanced oil recovery technologies in shaping reclamation needs.
- The long-term outlook for legacy energy industries and their reclamation challenges.
- Best practices for reclamation efforts in emerging energy sectors.

The event is hosted by NDSU Extension, Dickinson State University, the Society for Range Management, the USDA's Agricultural Research Service, North Dakota Depart-

ment of Environmental Quality, BNI Coal and BKS Environmental.

Conference registration is open and \$145 after Feb. 14. Student registration is free. For

more details or to register, visit www.ndreclamation.com or contact Miranda Meehan at 701-231-7683 or miranda.meehan@ndsu.edu. — NDSU Extension

Tips on controlling early emerging kochia

A Kansas State (K-State) University weed specialist says farmers should be on the lookout for early emergence of a troublesome weed that competes with farm crops for nutrients, water and light.

Sarah Lancaster said kochia is among the first summer annual weeds to emerge in the spring. In 2024, kochia was found as early as Feb. 7, following a snowstorm in late January, and temperatures that hit the 50s and 60s in early February—conditions that were very similar to what much of Kansas experienced this year, as well.

"Early-emerging kochia seedlings use the limited spring soil moisture in dryland production fields," said Lancaster, noting that good control of the first dense flush of kochia is essential for obtaining a good crop yield later in the season.

Lancaster said that kochia seedlings emerge in dense populations, which makes adequate herbicide coverage difficult. In addition, glyphosate-resistant kochia is prevalent across western Kansas.

"For these reasons, it is important to apply pre-emergence herbicides in late winter or early spring to control kochia before it emerges," Lancaster said.

According to Lancaster, an herbicide program needs two components in order to successfully manage kochia:

- A very soluble and effective herbicide that can be incorporated with very little precipitation, such as dicamba.

- A herbicide that has longer residual activity, which will require perhaps three-quarter inches or more precipitation for adequate incorporation, such as atrazine.

"Precipitation events during late winter are often too small to activate longer-lasting residual herbicides, but dicamba may control kochia for 4-6 weeks until atrazine is incorporated," Lancaster said.

For those reasons, the best time to apply herbicides is generally January through the first week of March, according to Lancaster.

Other herbicides with good pre-emergence kochia activity include mesotrione, metribuzin, saflufenacil (Sharpen) and sulfentrazone. Lancaster urges farmers and herbicide applicators to check product labels for crop-specific planting intervals.

More information on controlling kochia and many other weeds is available in a recently released publication from the K-State Research and Extension bookstore, Chemical Weed Control for Field Crops, Pastures, Rangeland and Non-cropland. Farmers can also get information at local Extension offices in Kansas. — K-State Research and Extension Service

Key factors in Douglas fir decline in Oregon

Douglas fir is among the world's most economically important tree species and is abundant across southwestern Oregon, where it is the dominant species in many low to mid-elevation forests. Douglas fir trees provide vital wildlife habitat, store carbon and are an important source of timber.

Douglas fir trees in the Klamath Mountains are experiencing a "decline spiral" due to multiple factors, including drought, elevated summer temperatures and atmospheric aridity. These stressed trees are more susceptible to insect and fungi infestations, leading to increased mortality. Dead and fallen Douglas fir trees heighten the risk of hotter, more extreme wildfires, particularly in areas receiving less than 35 inches of annual precipitation.

Researchers in the Oregon State University (OSU) College of Forestry conducted a study to assess the factors contributing to Douglas fir mortality. They collaborated with the USDA Forest Service and used data from the Aerial Detection Survey and OSU's PRISM Climate Group. The study involved collecting field data, analyzing climate infor-

mation, and developing a tool for landowners and managers to assess tree stand risk as the climate changes.

The study found that Douglas fir mortality is driven by a combination of factors, with the flatheaded fir borer being the predominant insect associated with tree mortality. The researchers identified hotspots of mortality and projected that areas of Douglas fir mortality will increase substantially over the next three decades.

They developed a tool that helps predict the risk of infestation and mortality events, guiding forest management towards more drought-tolerant species like oaks and pines. This approach aims to reduce the overabundance of Douglas fir in dry sites and enhance forest resilience.

The research findings were disseminated to landowner and professional audiences via presentations and field tours and a daylong workshop, reaching a total of about 700 participants at local, state and national levels. The findings are detailed in the OSU Extension publication, "Trees on the Edge: Understanding Douglas fir decline and mortality in Southwest Oregon." — OSU Extension

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Boots crunch in snowy pastures. Aprons tied tight in the kitchen. And conversations of beef fill the air. Bringing together the next generation of cattlemen and women and chefs, the Certified Angus Beef (CAB) Connecting the Culinarian and Rancher event fosters a deep connection between opposite ends of the beef supply chain.

Two worlds collide, with one focused on raising the best beef and the other crafting dishes that honor it. This innovative program unites students from Johnson & Wales University

(JWU) and ranchers from across the U.S., offering an immersive look at the beef industry.

The event emphasizes collaboration, storytelling, and a shared commitment to sustainability. By engaging the next generation of culinary and beef professionals, CAB builds a unified community based on mutual respect and a common purpose for the future of beef.

Participants began in the meat lab exploring beef fabrication. There, they discovered the cuts that often go overlooked but

can be just as flavorful as a ribeye or filet mignon.

Chef Vinnie Cimino, operating partner and executive chef at Cordelia, joined the group to share his perspective on the intersection of food and storytelling.

"It's our duty to appreciate the things farmers and ranchers do," he said. "Without them, we wouldn't have the great beef we serve today."

Through Chef Cimino's guidance, students learned how to carry the story of the ranch into their dishes, elevating their culinary cre-

ations by honoring the source of their ingredients. It was here that a mutual appreciation began to form between ranchers and chefs, each gaining a deeper understanding of the other's craft.

The group then traveled to a local Angus farm. There, culinary students learned from the family raising purebred Angus seedstock what it takes to meet customer demand. They shared sustainable practices and the ranchers' commitment to animal and environmental stewardship. For many culinary students, including JWU sophomore Caleb Brown, this was their first in-depth look at how ranchers care for their land, cattle and resources.

"Seeing the connection between ranchers and their land really opened my eyes," Brown said. "It's not just about raising cattle; it's about ensuring we care for the environment and the

animals so future generations can continue the tradition."

Katie Scheiv, also a student at JWU, relayed a similar perspective.

"I previously thought most ranching was always on large-scale operations, but now I understand the process spans a longer timeline," she said. "Through conversations with ranching students, I realized it's not just a job, but a lifestyle."

The event concluded with a collaborative cooking session, where attendees worked together to prepare a shared meal using the cuts they explored earlier. The process brought their respective skills to life, blending culinary artistry with a profound respect for the work that begins on the ranch.

"It's amazing how similar ranchers and chefs really are," said Olivia Rooker, agricultural communications student at Oklahoma State

University. "We both put in the hours, take pride in our work, and share the goal of creating something meaningful for others to enjoy."

At its core, the event was about relationships. By sharing meals, stories and experiences, participants found common values: hard work, long hours and commitment to quality.

Through programs like Connecting the Culinarian and Rancher, CAB is building bridges between cattle ranchers and chefs who create memorable beef dishes.

"I never thought I would get an opportunity to engage in an experience like this," Rooker said. "The knowledge I've gained has fueled my fire and passion for working in the agricultural industry and to share my story with others to do the same thing."

Together, they are shaping a stronger, more connected beef community. — Courtney Weekley

Partnership in Oregon provides durability for hay, forage growers

Hay and forage producers in central Oregon, Oregon's top hay-producing region, face significant challenges, including limited irrigation water supply, increasing fertilizer and input costs and changing insect pest dynamics.

Overcoming these obstacles is critical for the region's economy. Hay is one of Oregon's top agricultural commodities, ranking third in the state in 2022 with a total value of about \$785.5 million.

The Oregon State University (OSU) Extension Service serves as a crucial information source for central Oregon hay growers, providing unbiased, science-based expertise to complement traditional local practices and the knowledge from agricultural consultants and input suppliers.

Since the early 1990s, OSU Extension has worked closely with the central Oregon Hay Growers Association (COHGA). Over its three decades, COHGA has provided monetary support for wide-ranging research on forage topics from fertilizer management to cool-season grass variety trials. The association has also sponsored and co-organized the central Oregon Forage Seminar since 1992, connecting hundreds of farmers with science-based recommendations and research findings.

One key achievement of COHGA has been the introduction of Low Elevation Spray Application (LESA) to central Oregon through research, the forage seminar, on-farm demonstrations, field days and adoption by association members. LESA technology lowers the sprinklers on central pivot or linear irrigation systems closer to the crop canopy, reducing losses to wind and evaporation. Studies have shown a 15-20% water savings when converting from standard pivot and linear systems to LESA.

In addition to the practical benefits to today's farmers, COHGA has been in-

vesting in the future of agriculture in the region. Since its founding, the association has provided more than \$35,000 in scholarships to seniors graduating from central Oregon high schools and pursuing areas of study related to agriculture.

Additionally, members have donated thousands of dollars to the Oregon Forage/Livestock Endowment held by the Agricultural Research Foundation. Their donations provide funds in perpetuity for OSU faculty to study and devise solutions to the practical problems facing forage-livestock agriculture across the state.

In 2023, the umbrella organization under which the association maintained its nonprofit status began to close its doors. COHGA needed to form its own independent nonprofit or cease operations. In 2024, Gordon Jones, Extension agronomist in central Oregon, worked together with the COHGA board of directors to lead the administrative effort to revise the association's bylaws and have COHGA registered as an Oregon nonprofit corporation and be granted 501(c)(3) status by the IRS.

In February 2024, OSU Extension partnered with COHGA and over 10 local industry sponsors to host the central Oregon Forage Seminar. This event, revived after being on hold since 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, featured speakers from OSU, the Oregon Department of Agriculture, the National Weather Service, The Fertilizer Institute and other organizations. The daylong seminar, which drew 45 attendees, covered topics such as snowpack, efficient irrigation technology, pesticide safety, and evolving insecticide resistance in alfalfa weevils.

These efforts combined to provide a solid platform for continued meaningful impact on the central Oregon agricultural community. With partnerships like the one between COHGA and OSU Extension, the

future of forage agriculture in central Oregon is bright. — OSU Extension

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Gene editing in beef cattle

Clustered regularly interspaced short palindromic repeats (CRISPR) is a powerful tool for editing genomes. It allows researchers to easily alter DNA sequences and modify gene function. These “intended alterations” accomplished through editing are another potential tool in the toolbox of cattle breeders.

This technology is primarily useful for simply inherited traits (influenced at one locus of the genome). CRISPR technology has many potential applications that facilitate sus-

tainability, animal health, welfare and efficiency. These include:

- The opportunity to repair deleterious genetic conditions.
- The opportunity to introduce naturally occurring useful alleles into breed germplasm. Specifically, to potentially bring a useful gene from one breed to another breed.
- Introduce traits that change sex ratio of heifers versus bulls.
- Enable breeding schemes to accelerate genetic progress.
- Gene edits for disease re-

sistance.

As of now, the successful gene edits accomplished in cattle include:

- The first gene-edited beef calf with reduced susceptibility to a major viral pathogen, bovine viral diarrhea virus.
 - Knockout of the Myostatin gene to increase lean muscle yield.
 - Intraspecies polled allele substitution.
 - Intraspecies slick hair allele and gene for diluted coat color to improve heat tolerance
- Long-term, the use of this

technology in the U.S. beef industry likely hinges on the regulatory framework imposed. On a global basis, this varies dramatically from country to country. The future of genome editing will likely be governed by the development of a fit-for-purpose, risk-based regulatory framework that fosters innovation, supports trade, creates profit potential and promotes public acceptance. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

Feeding high-quality hay after calving

Good cow nutrition is crucial following calving to get cows rebred. Today, let's look at the reason for using our top-tier hay after calves hit the ground.

Because cows experience a lot of stress after calving, they need good feed. Not only is the cow producing milk for her calf, she is also preparing her reproductive system to rebreed. As a result, nutrient demands are high. Energy requirements increase about 30% and protein needs nearly double after calving.

Underfeeding reduces the amount of milk a cow provides for her calf, and it can delay or even prevent rebreeding. If it gets cold, wet or icy again, nutrient demands can sky-rocket.

If animals can get to them, winter grass, corn stalks, and other crop residues are low quality right now as these feeds have weathered and are well picked over. It is critical that the hay or silage you feed will provide the extra nutrients your cows need.

Because of this, not just any

hay or silage will do. Your cow needs 10-12% crude protein and 60-65% total digestible nutrients in her total diet. If she is grazing poor-quality feeds or eating grass hay, your other forages and supplements must make up any deficiencies.

Make sure your forage has adequate nutrients; if you haven't done so yet, get it tested now for protein and energy content. Compare this to the nutrient requirements of your cows. Then feed your cows a ration that will meet their requirements. Use supplements if needed. But don't overfeed, either. That is wasteful and expensive.

Calving and the months after are a stressful time for cows. If we underfeed, it can delay rebreeding and slow down calf growth. Use your best quality forages with any needed supplements to provide adequate nutrition. By meeting nutrient requirements, your cows will milk well, rebreed on time, and produce healthy calves year after year. — **Ben Beckman, Nebraska Extension**

Sheep, goat carcass ultrasound school in TX

The 2025 Sheep and Goat Carcass Ultrasound School will be held April 22-24 at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center. Attendees will learn to ultrasound live sheep and goats for carcass traits and have the chance become certified to provide this service for the National Sheep Improvement Program.

Over the course of three days, not only will students learn the proper technique to measure loin eye size and backfat depth, but additional information on various ultrasound equipment, genetic selection, livestock management and carcass evaluation will also be included.

It is not a requirement to have a machine to attend this course, all ultrasounds will be provided for the school, but if attendees wish to bring their own, they are encouraged to do

so. Access to a machine can be a limiting factor to utilize this skill in the future, therefore this should be an important consideration for all who apply.

For traveling purposes, the school will begin mid-morning on April 22 and conclude mid-afternoon on April 24.

Due to the space and hands-on instruction, a limited number of applicants will be selected for this course based on the application questions. Deadline to apply will be March 3. Selected applicants will be notified by March 7. The cost to attend is \$300 per person.

To view the application, visit tinyurl.com/2rh647re.

For more details, contact Jake Thorne, Extension sheep and goat specialist, at Jake.Thorne@ag.tamu.edu or 325.657-7320. — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

Workshop will highlight desert irrigation in CA

The latest in irrigation research and technology will be showcased at the Advances in Irrigation Tools and Technologies Workshop in Holtville, CA, on Feb. 27.

“This workshop brings together University of California (UC) scientists, irrigation and water industries, government agencies and the farming community to discuss advances in irrigation tools and technologies and provide a guide to smart farming choices in the low desert region,” said Ali Montazar, UC Cooperative Extension irrigation and water management advisor for Imperial County.

The workshop will feature 19 presentations on cutting-edge irrigation technologies and innovations and precision farming irrigation. The irrigation industry will exhibit the latest

products and technologies.

Presentations will include a reservoir and hydrology update for the lower Colorado River and cover alfalfa water use, water conservation, emerging irrigation tools and technologies, the Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation Program, the California Department of Foods and Agriculture's State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program, and Natural Resources Conservation Service Assistance Programs.

The workshop, a “guide to smart farming choices in the Low Desert Region,” begins at 8 a.m. at the Barbara Worth Country Club, 2050 Country Club Dr., Holtville, CA, 92250.

To register, visit ucanr.edu/desertirrigation2025. — **UC Agriculture and Natural Resources**



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CA to revisit ban on driverless tractors

New technologies have transformed the world during the past half-century. Agriculture has been no exception, with the emergence of aerial drones, autonomous tractors and other equipment changing the way crops are planted, cared for and harvested.

One thing that hasn't changed since 1977, however, is a regulation from California's Division of Occupational Safety and Health, or Cal/OSHA, that prohibits the use of autonomous agricultural equipment without a driver at the helm.

The regulation requires that all "self-propelled equipment shall, when under its own power and in motion, have an operator stationed at the vehicular controls." The regulation requires that all "self-propelled equipment shall, when under its own power and in motion, have an operator stationed at the vehicular controls."

Conceived long before the first driverless vehicle existed, the regulation has nevertheless prevented farmers from taking advantage of many types of autonomous equipment developed in recent years.

"It has the effect of preventing the use of any kind of autonomous vehicle in any agricultural location where people are employed," said Bryan Little, chief operating officer of Farm Employers Labor Service and senior director of policy advocacy at the California Farm Bureau.

Around the world, farms have benefited from driverless blast sprayers that apply pesticides to orchards and vineyards, autonomous weeders that use visualization technology and lasers to burn weeds, and assistive machines such as driverless carts—or mules—that work alongside people, ferrying bins of produce from the end of a row to a collection point to save workers time and labor.

In California, "Everyone in the industry is trying to determine the best way to operate within the confines of that regulation," said Sean Sundberg, business integration manager at John Deere.

After years of advocacy from farm groups such as California Farm Bureau and California Association of Winegrape Growers, change may be on the horizon.

In August, Cal/OSHA issued a memorandum clarifying that driverless tractors and other agricultural vehicles may be used when no field workers are present. When employees are absent, the memo stated, the location does not qualify as a worksite under the agency's jurisdiction.

The directive gave a clear greenlight for farmers in California to use equipment such as an autonomous blast sprayer manufactured by the Fresno County-based company GUSS, which applies pesticides in orchards and vineyards, doing so without workers on site for chemical safety reasons.

"Essentially, one person is sitting in a pickup truck on the side of the field with a laptop computer monitoring a fleet of up to eight of these machines," said Gary Thompson, chief operating officer at GUSS.

The August memo has given farmers some clarity, Little said. However, for many types of farm work, he added, "you

need to have people around, and that restricts the use of autonomous equipment."

In November, the Cal/OSHA Standards Board announced it was empaneling an advisory committee that comprise stakeholders to examine the regulation, signaling that the board may consider revising it.

Proposed changes may face pushback from labor advocates, who in the past have raised concerns about the safety of autonomous equipment and cautioned that widespread adoption of it could lead to job losses for agricultural workers.

Farm groups have vouched for the technology's safety and said autonomous technology in many cases may improve worker safety and create upskilling opportunities for employees.

When it comes to safety, "We should be comparing the autonomous technology to the real world and what we have right now," not an unachiev-

able ideal, said Little, who will serve on the advisory committee.

The autonomous sprayer made by GUSS, for example, eliminates a job that traditionally required someone to be present in orchards and vineyards when pesticides were being sprayed. The vehicles move at about 2 miles per hour, and they have redundant safety features, including LIDAR that detects people and obstacles, safety bumpers that trigger the engine to shut off and brakes to lock, and a safety vest supervisors wear that signals the machine to pause when within 30 feet of the vest.

Operating a traditional blast sprayer is "very tedious, boring work, most of the time done at night, going very slowly with chemicals spraying all around you," Thompson said. "This was a job that was ripe for automation."

Should Cal/OSHA end its ban on driverless tractors, farmers may see new types of

equipment become available in the state.

"We are doing testing and product development so that when we are able to work with Cal/OSHA to modify the regulation, we will be ready to bring the products to market," said Sundberg of John Deere. He said the company has a large autonomous row crop tractor used for tillage that it has introduced in the Midwest. "Eventually, we would like to work with the state to bring those out here to California," Sundberg said.

The committee's first hearing is scheduled for next month.

"Hopefully, it's going to result in a common understanding between employer advocates and employee advocates," Little said, "that we want to encourage this technology because it's safer than the technology currently being used."

— **Caleb Hampton, Ag Alert assistant editor, California Farm Bureau Federation**

Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame 2025 inductees

The Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame recognized its 2025 inductees and award winners during its 16th annual banquet on Feb. 5, 2025, in San Antonio, TX.

Established in 2009, the Hall of Fame was created to honor the visionary men and women who have made lasting contributions to the cattle feeding industry, including helping to improve production practices and celebrate the industry's rich traditions.

The new inductees, nominated by cattle feeders from across the country, are:

• **Joe Morgan, CEO of Poky Feeders, based in Scott City, KS.**

After joining the company in 1985 as manager, he expanded its capacity from 17,000 head to the current 103,000 head. Poky also partners on leased feedyards in Kansas and Nebraska and has extensive ranch holdings. He is a longtime member of the Kansas Livestock Association and National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), as well as a founding member and current vice chairman of U.S. Premium Beef.

• **Dan May, along with his brothers, Jim, Tom and Steve, grew their small family farm and 2,500-head feedlot to include numerous farming, feedlot and ranching operations in Colorado, Nebraska and Nevada. Their feeding operations at 4M Feeders in Stratton, CO; Herd Co Cattle Company in Bartlett, NE; and Magnum Feedyard in Wiggins, CO, have a one-time capacity of 175,000 head. They produce grain and forage on over 35,000 acres and run 10,000-plus cows/pairs. May markets over 400,000 head of beef cattle yearly and is active in commodity trading.**

Tom Jensen is the recipient of the Industry Leadership

Award. In 1985, he started a direct agribusiness department at the First National Bank of Omaha, which grew to \$2.5 billion in loan commitments by June 2020. He retired that year as the bank's senior vice president and board of directors member. Jensen has been involved with the Nebraska Cattlemen and NCBA. He also has been a guest presenter for agriculture economics classes at multiple universities.

George Littrell Jr., known as "Frank," is the Arturo Armendariz Distinguished Service Award recipient. He has worked for Midwest Feeders, Inc., in Ingalls, KS, for over 31 years. As the current cattle foreman, he runs a crew of 21 cowboys and two outside processing crews and works weekly with consulting veterinarians. Littrell has been essential in the company's expansion and is extremely well-versed in cattle health and handling.

"It's an honor to recognize these outstanding members of the cattle feeding industry," said Dustin Johansen, senior vice president at Farm Journal and Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame board member. "Their passion and commitment have helped make our country the world's most efficient producer of safe, quality beef."

Founding sponsors of the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame include Merck Animal Health, Drovers magazine and Osborn Barr Paramore (OBP).

All ticket sales for this year's sold-out banquet and corporate sponsorships benefited future initiatives for the Cattle Feeders Hall of Fame. All funds from tickets purchased by cattle feeders are fully donated to the Hall of Fame. Donations to the Hall of Fame may also be made at cattlefeeders.org. — **NCBA**

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MARB .54 CHB 173

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\$M 49 \$C 238



13M
Sire: **Sitz Incentive** AAA# 20956615
CED 3.0 BW 2.5 WW 82 YW 145 MIK 32 REA .12 MARB 0.53
\$M 79 \$C 264

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Angus showcased at 2025 NWSS Angus Pen & Carload Show

Angus producers competed for top honors during the 2025 National Western Stock Show (NWSS) Angus Pen & Carload Show, Jan. 18 in Denver, CO. One carload and 24 pens-of-three were showcased in the Yards during the NWSS.

John Pfeiffer, Orlando, OK; Adam Sawyer, Bassett, NE; and Doug Stevenson, Laurel, MT, evaluated the bulls and heifers before selecting champions.

Chestnut Angus Farm, Pipestone, MN, claimed grand champion carload

with 10 January and February 2024 bulls sired by KR Storm 900, Musgrave Jumbo, Long Teton 107, HF Safe & Sound 019 and Ellingson Prolific. The group weighed an average of 1,364 pounds and posted an average scrotal circumference of 36.4 centimeters.

Krebs Ranch, Gordon, NE, also showcased the grand champion pen of three bulls with January 2024 sons of 8N Academy 2101. The trio posted an average weight of 1,468 lbs. and an average scrotal circumference of 36.3 centi-

eters. The bulls first won early calf champion.

Vollmer Angus Ranch, Wing, ND, captured the reserve grand champion pen of three bulls after first claiming late calf champion. The February and March 2024 sons of VAR Determined 108, Chestnut Enlist 812 and Baldrige Balance J849 posted an average weight of 1,123 lbs. and an average scrotal circumference of 33.2 centimeters.

Vision Angus, Amherst, CO, also showcased the grand champion pen of

three heifers. The January and February 2024 daughters of Montana Judgement 1038 posted an average weight of 1,005 lbs. They first claimed early calf champion.

Bar S Ranch, Paradise, KS, captured the reserve grand champion pen of three heifers with April 2024 daughters of Bar Dynamic. The trio posted an average weight of 767 lbs. They first won late calf champion.

A complete list of winners follows:

Carloads Shown: 1

- Grand Champion Carload of Bulls: Chestnut Angus Ranch, Pipestone, MN.

- Reserve Grand Champion Carload of Bulls: None.

Pens Shown: 24

- Late Calf Champion Pen of Three Bulls: Vollmer Angus Ranch, Wing, ND.

- Reserve Late Calf Champion Pen of Three Bulls: Lazy JB Angus, Montrose, CO.

- Early Calf Champion Pen of Three Bulls: Krebs Ranch, Gordon, NE.

- Reserve Early Calf Champion Pen of Three Bulls: Bush Angus, Britton, SD.

- Fall Champion Pen of Three Bulls: Griswold Cattle, Stillwater, OK, and Sadler Ranches, Perkins, OK.

- Summer Champion Pen of Three Bulls: Circle L Angus, Wise River, MT.

- Grand Champion Pen of Three Bulls: Krebs Ranch, Gordon, NE.

- Reserve Grand Champion Pen of Three Bulls: Vollmer Angus Ranch, Wing, ND.

- Late Heifer Calf Champion: Bar S Ranch Inc., Paradise, KS.


- Reserve Late Heifer Calf Champion: Sam Hovde, Willow Lake, SD.

- Early Heifer Calf Champion: Vision Angus, Amherst, CO.




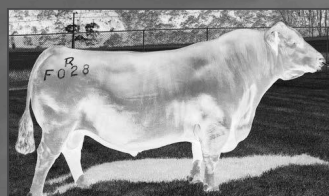
- Reserve Early Heifer Calf Champion: Krebs Ranch, Gordon, NE.


- Grand Champion Pen of Three Heifers: Vision Angus, Amherst, CO.

- Reserve Grand Champion Pen of Three Heifers: Bar S Ranch Inc., Paradise, KS. — **Amber Wahlgren, American Angus Association communications assistant**




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MARCH 11, 2025


																									
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Soil, water tool provides management insights

An innovative resource designed to streamline and improve decision-making in agricultural and natural resources production and management is now available to a wide range of users—including policymakers, land and water managers, farmers, researchers and extension agents across the nation.

The Soil and Water Assessment Tool Virtual Extension Assistant, or SWAT VEXA, was released in late 2024 by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and IBM. It is a free, interactive, generative artificial intelligence, AI, assistant that provides custom, user-friendly insights.

By addressing critical areas such as soil erosion, pollution control and disaster risk mitigation among many other scenarios, SWAT VEXA empowers users to make informed decisions across a host of scenarios.

Outputs from SWAT VEXA are based on big data sets of the Soil and Water Assessment Tool, SWAT. This advanced computer modeling system was developed over more than four decades by scientists at the Texas A&M AgriLife Blackland Research Center at Temple along with the USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Over the years, SWAT has become the international and U.S. standard for agriculture and natural resources decision-making at all geographical scales.

"VEXA accelerates research, enhances reproducibility and empowers users to design innovative solutions for complex agricultural and hydrological challenges," said Raghavan Srinivasan, Ph.D., AgriLife Research distinguished professor and director of the Blackland Research Center at Temple.

"With its ability to democratize knowledge and fast-track decision-making, VEXA is set to drive significant advancements in SWAT model research, ultimately promoting ecosystem sustainability and effective resource management worldwide," Srinivasan said.

The SWAT system was integrated with AI as part of a continuing collaboration between AgriLife Research and IBM through the technology company's IBM Sustainability Accelerator. SWAT VEXA also incorporates IBM's Deep Search AI, watsonx.ai and Granite model.

Researchers say the tool can advance agricultural and natural resource productivity and sustainability by enabling faster decision-making for users worldwide.

"Today, smallholder farmers need more than traditional advice," said Justina Nixon-Saintil, vice president and chief impact officer at IBM. "They need scientifically precise, data-driven insights. Solutions such as SWAT VEXA democratize access to critical environmental insights, enabling faster, more informed decision-making for communities facing agricultural challenges."

In addition to advancing agricultural and resource productivity, SWAT VEXA is expected to amplify the global impact of the IBM Sustainability Accelerator. To date, this program has supported approximately 65,300 direct beneficiaries through efforts in sustainable agriculture initiatives.

By offering accessible, AI-powered insights, SWAT VEXA enables users to make data-informed decisions, ultimately promoting sustainability and resilience in agricultural systems worldwide. — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

More to cattle manure than meets the eye

Over the last three decades, South Texas cattle producer Bob McCan has discovered more about his rangeland and pasture conditions from analyzing manure than any academic paper or ranch consultation could provide.

McCan is one of many producers nationwide who rely on Texas A&M AgriLife Research's Grazingland Animal Nutrition Lab (GAN Lab) to transform manure analysis into actionable insights. By providing precise data on forage quality and livestock nutritional demands, the lab empowers producers to make informed decisions that improve efficiency, enhance land stewardship and reduce costs.

"We're able to see the level of nutrition our cattle are getting throughout the year and tailor our supplemental programs—whether that be vitamin and mineral packages or additional feeding," McCan said. "This helps us to better forecast management needs and optimize efficiency on the ranch."

Considering adequate nutrition affects everything from

fertility and gestation to general health and livestock yields, the importance of these insights cannot be overstated.

Where science meets stewardship

This ability to connect science to practical stewardship has been a cornerstone of the GAN Lab since its inception, said Doug Tolleson, Ph.D., director of the lab and AgriLife Research associate professor in the Texas A&M Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management.

At the heart of the GAN Lab's mission is dietary diagnostic analysis of manure using near-infrared reflectance spectroscopy (NIRS).

"NIRS works similarly to how our eyes perceive color," Tolleson explained. "Just as we see all the pretty colors of bluebonnets because they reflect certain light wavelengths, NIRS detects and analyzes specific wavelengths absorbed and reflected by materials in manure samples."

By shining near-infrared light energy on dried manure

samples and applying calibrated equations, GAN Lab scientists can identify key nutritional markers such as protein and total digestible nutrients.

This information is then processed through the lab's Nutritional Balance Analyzer software, NUTBAL, which accounts for environmental factors and livestock profiles to determine if dietary needs are being met.

"From the fecal sample, we know exactly the quality of the animal's diet and if it's fulfilling their nutritional requirements," said Barbara Rodrigues, Ph.D., research scientist and GAN Lab manager. "We then provide producers with these findings as well as suggested supplements and resources if the nutritional needs are not being met."

With a typical turnaround time of two or three business days, producers can swiftly address deficiencies, preventing health declines and improving herd condition.

Real-world results

The lab's impact extends beyond identifying nutritional gaps—it can also uncover cost-saving opportunities when forage conditions are meeting or surpassing an animal's needs.

"The analysis helped us realize that we were exceeding the nutritional requirements of our sheep herd and spending extra money on supplemental feeding when they were doing just fine on pasture," said Erika Campbell, a commercial livestock producer in West Texas. "The nutritional monitoring results help us fine tune our supplementation strategies, maintain animal health and condition, and prevent excess spending on feed."

Over time, the lab's aggregated data allows producers to track trends and pinpoint how specific land management decisions, such as grazing rotation or prescribed fire, are affecting forage production to

make proactive management decisions.

International impact

Unlike other labs using NIRS for manure analysis, the GAN Lab is one of the only commercial laboratories in the U.S. using the technology to offer producers a prediction of animal diet quality, giving it a unique position in the industry.

Beyond the U.S., the lab has supported international producers through projects such as the East Africa Livestock Early Warning System and the Mali Livestock and Pastoralist Initiative. Tolleson said the lab has collaborated with laboratories around the world and has even helped many new labs set up their instruments.

Aside from livestock production, the techniques used by the lab can have a positive impact on wildlife management as well. To date, the lab has conducted NIRS analyses on

species ranging from giant pandas to elephants.

A vision for the future

Tolleson and Rodrigues hope to continue to increase the number of producers using the lab's services while also exploring more innovative applications for NIRS to be applied across agriculture and land management.

"Our goal is to continue to do what we've done well, find out where we can improve and ultimately provide better quality information to help people manage the nutrition of their animals," Tolleson said.

By bridging science, technology and practice, the GAN Lab continues to equip producers with the tools they need to optimize livestock performance, safeguard natural resources and increase profitability across Texas and beyond. — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

MT snowpack improved by winter storms

"Following a relatively warm and dry start to the snow accumulation season across most of Montana, the weather took a timely turn during the last week of December. Since then, much of Montana has received significant snowfall, however gains were not equivalent across the state," said Eric Larson, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) hydrologist.

Northwest Montana was an exception, receiving near normal precipitation mid-October through early December. Aside from several storms early in January, last month was relatively dry in that area.

The region extending from the Sun-Teton-Marias to the Kootenai only received 30-50% of normal January precipitation. In contrast, central Montana and the Bighorn Mountains were impacted much more by recent weather receiving over 190% of normal January precipitation. Southwest Montana and southcentral Montana received about 80-110% of normal January precipitation, with some higher elevation SNOTEL sites receiving slightly more than that. The snowpack is making gains during the first week of February across all of Montana as active weather continues to impact the region.

As of Feb. 7, the mountain snowpack across most of Montana remains slightly below normal at around 80-90% of median, but there are exceptions. The Smith-Judith-Musselshell basin is reporting a 120% of normal snowpack with most of that snow arriving since the last week in December. Several SNOTEL sites in the Little Belt and Big Snowy mountains received their largest January snow accumulation in 20 years. In contrast, the

Sun-Teton-Marias and St. Mary currently have a 65-75% of normal snowpack. Snow water equivalent deficits in that region are 2-7 inches; however, that could be recovered in a couple upslope storms aimed in the correct direction.

Snowpack percentages in the Gallatin, Bighorn and Tongue River basins are currently about 100% of normal and additional snow is forecasted over the next couple days. All other basins are reporting a snowpack about 80-90% of normal, except the Bears Paw near Havre.

"Don't forget, last year was one of the lowest snow years on record. While recent snow conditions have been excellent for recreating, lack of early season snowfall left most of Montana with a deficit. Most mountain ranges are still recovering from that deficit," said Larson.

Two to three months remain in the normal snow accumulation season and deficits that exist in many locations could be eliminated by several weeks of active weather.

"Given the major weather pattern change experienced over the last month and half, the outlook that snowpack conditions will continue to improve throughout the next month is good."

"However, if drier weather returns during February, part of Montana might be left with mountain snowpack deficits that will be difficult to overcome as spring approaches. The Rocky Mountain Front is one of those regions," said Larson.

During a typical year, 60-70% of the seasonal snowpack has accumulated by Feb. 1. March 1 conditions will give a better indication of what spring runoff might bring. — USDA NRCS

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LOOSLI JUMP START 409 • #5005827

ProS 127, HB 54, GM 73, CED 10, BW -2.4, WW 87, YW 139, ADG 0.33, DMI 0.66, MILK 32, ME 12, HPG 17, CEM 6, STAY 14, MARB 0.60, YG 0.08, CW 32, REA 0.37, FAT 0.04



LOOSLI PERSEVERANCE 468 • #5006133

ProS 130, HB 78, GM 52, CED 13, BW -1.2, WW 77, YW 127, ADG 0.31, DMI 1.20, MILK 35, ME 7, HPG 11, CEM 7, STAY 19, MARB 0.22, YG 0.08, CW 47, REA 0.54, FAT 0.04



LOOSLI COMPLETE 463 • #5006125

ProS 127, HB 64, GM 63, CED 11, BW 0.4, WW 80, YW 136, ADG 0.35, DMI 1.42, MILK 31, ME 13, HPG 12, CEM 5, STAY 19, MARB 0.53, YG 0.14, CW 33, REA 0.18, FAT 0.04



LOOSLI JUMP START 433 • #5006067

ProS 126, HB 77, GM 649, CED 13, BW -2.8, WW 81, YW 126, ADG 0.28, DMI 0.78, MILK 32, ME 11, HPG 15, CEM 9, STAY 17, MARB 0.50, YG 0.10, CW 22, REA 0.22, FAT 0.05

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208-351-3333

Suit contends 'subspecies' is not defined under ESA

FLYCATCHER (from page 1)

A grayish-green back and wings, a whitish throat, a light gray olive breast and a pale yellowish belly characterize the bird. According to the suit, the agency initially classified the southwestern willow flycatcher as a distinct subspecies based on subtle differences in color and morphology. More recently, its classification has been based on morphological data collected from core areas within the bird's range, vocalization patterns from areas that do not align with geographic divisions, and genetic differentiation that lacks clear geographic boundaries, NMCGA said.

In 2015, NMCGA and other interested parties petitioned to delist the southwestern willow flycatcher. The petition argued that the best available science, including DNA evidence, showed that the bird is not a

distinct subspecies and should never have been listed as endangered.

USFWS denied the petition in 2017, citing a substantial body of scientific literature that has shaped the classification of the species and its subspecies. Independent, university, state and federal scientists reviewed and debated the findings. While not entirely uniform, this research has consistently supported the classification of the southwestern willow flycatcher as a distinct subspecies.

Suit details

The Pacific Legal Foundation, a nonprofit organization that defends individual liberty and property rights, is representing NMCGA in this case. They argue that while the ESA grants USFWS the authority to list "subspecies," the statute does not define the term, nor is there a universally accept-

ed definition among taxonomists. As a result, the agency must establish its own standard when determining whether to list or delist a subspecies.

USFWS has not adopted a consistent, generally applicable definition of "subspecies." In denying the petition to delist the flycatcher, the agency selectively accepted certain studies while rejecting others without providing a clear standard for what

constitutes an avian subspecies, the group said. Consequently, the suit continued, the agency failed to explain how the available morphological, genetic or other data support its classification of the flycatcher as a distinct subspecies.

The suit states that USFWS' failure to consider relevant evidence and the best available scientific data was arbitrary, capricious and an abuse of discretion,

in violation of the Administrative Procedure Act.

In May 2022, the court granted the Center for Biological Diversity and the Maricopa Audubon Society status as defendant-intervenor. This decision was based in part on their members' recreational, aesthetic, scientific and professional interests in protecting and conserving the southwestern willow flycatcher.

In February 2024, the U.S.

District Court for the District of Columbia ruled in favor of the environmental groups, stating that NMCGA did not show USFWS' ruling was arbitrary and capricious.

The cattle group appealed the decision, and the Pacific Legal Foundation argued recently before the court in what Politico described as a back-and-forth that "challenged both sides." — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

Time to rethink deworming the beef herd

The use of commercial livestock dewormers has paid off in terms of animal health and productivity, but it has also resulted in resistance among parasite populations.

"As dewormers lose effectiveness, producers need to develop a broader strategy for managing inter-

nal parasites in their livestock," said Eric Meusch, University of Missouri (MU) Extension livestock specialist.

Resistance

A recent study funded by Merck Animal Health and led by Eric Bailey of the

University of Missouri conducted fecal egg count reduction tests in beef herds across the state, finding resistance to macrocyclic lactone dewormers (ivermectin-type dewormers). The benzimidazole class of dewormer ("white" dewormer) still showed efficacy above the threshold for effective deworming, which is 90%. The results of the Missouri study are consistent with a larger data set compiled by Merck Animal Health.

The dewormers losing efficacy are products commonly used in pour-on and injectable forms and have become popular due to cost and ease of administration.

"The popularity and frequency of use of these products has likely led to resistance," said Meusch.

Understanding the enemy

To manage parasites, it is important to understand their life cycle, said Meusch. Stomach worms must complete several life-cycle stages both inside the gastrointestinal tract of cattle and on the pasture. The cows can only be infected by consuming grass from infected pastures, and pastures can only be infected by cows carrying adult stomach worms.

Worms that are resistant to a dewormer (less than 90% are killed by the treatment) survive and lay eggs that are deposited in the pasture. Over time, the percentage of resistant larvae increases in the pasture until the animals are infected with worms that can no longer be controlled with the product.

Manage the problem

Better grazing and pasture management can limit the exposure of cows to parasites on pasture, Meusch said. Rotational grazing can allow cows to avoid times when the most larvae are emerging on the grass. Because the larvae remain lower in the grass surface layer to keep from drying out, leaving a higher

residual when grazing can help avoid exposure to the larvae as well.

Strategic deworming is another concept that can help avoid exposure to parasite larvae on pasture. This is basically timing deworming treatments to take advantage of when the worms on the pasture are dormant and not reinfesting animals. When temperatures drop to 28 F a few times, typically in the late fall, it can be a good time to deworm because it isn't likely that cattle will be reinfested from the pasture after that point. This allows them to go through the winter without stomach worms, ensuring they benefit the most from supplemental feeding. It also ensures cattle aren't depositing more eggs on the pasture over the winter.

The parasites infecting pastures will become active again in the spring when temperatures regularly exceed 50 F. As the eggs emerge into larvae and advance to the third stage, the cows will be infected again. The next strategic time to deworm is about six weeks after the springtime temperatures exceed 50 F. At this time, the cows will have been reinfested but are not yet depositing eggs in the pasture. This extends the time that eggs aren't being deposited and helps reduce the parasite burden on the pasture.

It isn't always possible to visually identify which cows are carrying the heaviest worm loads, but culling cows that chronically show symptoms of a heavy parasite infection can also benefit overall herd health.


"By managing grazing and strategically deworming cattle to avoid further pasture contamination, producers can keep their animals healthy and productive, as well as help ensure the long-term efficacy of deworming products," said Meusch.

For more information about deworming strategies or assessing the worm load in your cow herd, contact your local Extension center. — **MU Extension**

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57th Annual Bull Sale **Saturday, March 22, 2025 at the Ranch**



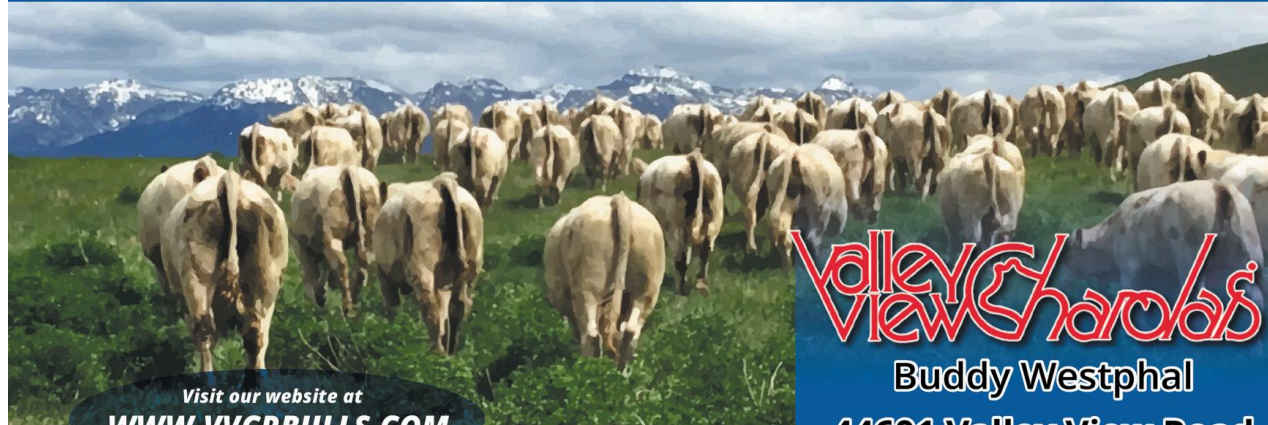
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Maximizing profits for cow-calf operations

What are the key drivers that position a cow-calf operation for success? Most farmers and ranchers would respond to this question with answers like taking care of the land, creating a cow herd with genetics that work in their environment and meet consumer demands, and taking care of the people who live and work on the operation.

All three of these factors are of course dependent upon profitability. Profits enable us to maintain and improve our resources and enable us to provide a standard of living that those working on the operation deserve. I would also argue that identifying one's "why," or purpose, should be part of that equation, as well as identifying a business model and market targets that allow them to differentiate their product and leverage the value they have created.

All of these are vitally important, but for this article we are going to focus on the cow herd and the bull battery.

Maternal traits matter

Your cow herd is typically the biggest distinguishing factor as an operation, and the largest point of differentiation. The cow herd not only contributes 50% of the genetic makeup of the calf crop but is really and truly the factory. The cow herd is the building block of everything we are trying to accomplish as producers. As trite as it sounds, you are not in the cattle business without cows.

The old formula for building a cow herd served us pretty well—understand the level of mature size and milk production your environment can sustain. Once those thresholds are established, work to select for higher levels of fertility, keeping in mind the "necessity" traits like mothering ability, udder quality, feet and leg structure, and disposition. The economists would tell us this would allow us to optimize the economics of our operation, finding the optimum combination of production costs and weaned calf percentage.

Your herd, your goals

Then there's the other half of a calf's performance equation: its expression of sire genetics. With value differences between pens of cattle routinely exceeding \$600, a low-cost, highly fertile cow herd is not the guarantee of success it once was.

While herd strategies differ, one thing remains the same—purchasing the right bull is also influential in your long-term success. The first step in choosing the right bull is to define your herd goals. What are your breeding objectives and how can you choose the right genetics to meet them? When you concentrate on those areas, you can make rapid progress in ad-

vancing your herd.

A bull has a lasting genetic impact on your herd. In natural service, a bull normally sires 20 to 40 calves each year while a cow produces less than half that many offspring in her lifetime. Consequently, most herd improvement comes from the sires chosen to produce each calf crop, particularly if daughters are retained for breeding.

Upgrading your genetics can have a significant effect on the performance of your herd, how do you capture value on investments in your bull battery? In a commodity pricing system with little or no price differentiation, this is difficult. However, the value of the terminal traits—postweaning gain, feed efficiency, marbling, carcass weight and yield have grown in significance.

Cow-calf producers must not only create a cow herd that fits the environment, but a calf that meets the demands of the various sectors across the supply chain and, ultimately, the consumer. With value differences between pens of cattle routinely exceeding \$600, a low-cost, highly fertile cow herd is not the guarantee of success it once was.

The exciting news is cow-calf producers have nearly doubled their opportunity to increase margins. The troubling part is the difficulty level of hitting these targets has also increased. Thankfully, we have better tools than we have ever had to make the right genetic decisions.

Tools to help

Genomically enhanced EPDs and new EPDs like functional longevity, foot EPDs, and teat and udder scores enable us to manage the numerous genetic antagonisms that exist. A producer truly can select cattle with appropriate levels of mature size and milk production, while simultaneously improving growth and composition of our end product. Sire selection, heifer selection and culling regimens are the typical tactics employed to reach these goals, but all three require more information to make informed decisions.

GeneMax Advantage gives producers the capability to make better selection decisions. The Maternal Score with AngusLink's Genetic Merit Scorecard gives buyers a better understanding of what they are buying and sellers an avenue to further differentiate their product through documented and verified information.

Sire selection has become more accurate because of genomically enhanced EPDs, but we are now tasked with finding the optimum combination of 22-plus traits, all of which potentially have a significant influence on the bottom line. Some traits we are striving to optimize, while

others we are attempting to maximize. Still others fit under the category of threshold traits. Add in the fact we have a wide variety of production environments, costs and marketing objectives, and the simple task of selecting next year's bulls becomes somewhat daunting.

A producer truly can select cattle with appropriate levels of mature size and milk production, while simultaneously improving growth and composition of our end product.

That is why so many people are relying on selection indexes to help them move toward their breeding objectives and to make decisions that keep them out of the ditches. The science of selection has never been better. Visual appraisal will always be a vital component of selection decisions; however, in today's world, with increased demands

and economic values, it is sorely inadequate if one wants to make truly informed decisions.

The Angus cow is the standard, and thanks to a lot of committed breeders and the largest database for genetic evaluation in the world, the gap is widening. But, saying you are going to run an Angus bull on an Angus-based cow herd is probably not sufficient if you are truly committed to positioning your herd for the future.

Be a confident decision-maker and maximize your profits by setting goals for success with your cow herd, bull battery and marketing strategies in mind. Learn more about tools for commercial cattlemen at angus.org/commercial-cattlemen. — **Troy Marshall, director of commercial programs, American Angus Association**



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Consumer stress over grocery prices stands at midpoint

Stress levels due to grocery prices are mixed, and most consumers are at least somewhat familiar with the concept of tariffs, according to the January issue of the Consumer Food Insights (CFI) Report.

The survey-based report out of Purdue University's Center for Food Demand Analysis and Sustainability (CFDAS) assesses food spending, consumer satisfaction and values, support of agricultural and food policies, and trust in information sources. Purdue experts conducted and evaluated the survey, which included 1,200 consumers across the U.S.

The average grocery price stress level rating came in at 5.1 on a scale ranging from no stress at all (0) to extreme stress (10).

"Low- and middle-income households are more likely to report higher stress levels on this scale, with those earning

less than \$75,000 annually reporting an average rating of close to 6, whereas high-income earners reported an average rating around 4," said the report's lead author, Joseph Balagtas, professor of agricultural economics at Purdue and director of CFDAS.

New questions in the latest survey included a section that gauged consumer understanding of tariff policy. This included what they see as the costs and benefits of such policy and how they think tariffs affect food prices.

"The average rating among all consumers is 6.9 on a 0-10 scale, meaning consumers believe the government has moderate influence over the price of food," Balagtas said. Further exploration of partisan differences in responses to this scale found that this belief is largely bipartisan.

CFDAS researchers gauged

consumer understanding of the proposed tariffs as a policy tool and allowed them to express their opinion on the benefits and costs of such a policy. Most consumers—80%—are at least somewhat familiar with the tariffs concept.

The survey presented consumers with an open response format rather than a list of potential benefits and costs of tariffs. "Around one-third of respondents say there are no benefits to tariffs while 20% are unsure," Balagtas said. "Helping or protecting domestic industries was the most commonly cited benefit, followed by government revenue and trade fairness, leverage and regulation."

A greater share of self-identified Democrats say there is no benefit to tariffs (42%) relative to independent (31%) and Republican consumers (21%). Many of the open re-

sponses mentioned cost of living and price increases. This was by far the most common theme, particularly in responses from Democratic consumers (63%). Fewer consumers believe there are no costs to tariffs (14%) and around 21% are unsure.

Most consumers (72%) think that tariffs raise prices to some degree. "How severe the increase also varies by political affiliation," Balagtas said. "More than half of Democrats say they increase prices a lot relative to 35% of independents and 22% of Republicans."

This month's CFI Report includes a new section reporting on monthly consumer diet quality based on a nine-question diet assessment known as the Mini-EAT Tool. The questions asked consumers to report on consumption frequency of a variety of food groups such as

fruits, vegetables, whole grains and sweets. Using these responses, CFDAS economists estimated diet quality.

"We estimate an average Mini-EAT score of 61.9 in January," said Elijah Bryant, a survey research analyst at CFDAS and a co-author of the report. "This has remained relatively stable over time and translates to a diet quality classification of 'intermediate.' The threshold for an 'unhealthy' diet is scores less than 61, showing there's plenty of room for improvement in terms of what we eat."

Overall diet well-being remains stable, with two-thirds of American adults rating their diet as 7-10 (thriving) when asked where their diet fits on a scale from 0 (worst possible diet) to 10 (best possible diet).

Consumers in households on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) rate their diet well-being comparably to those in non-SNAP households, Bryant said. However, a larger share of SNAP consumers put themselves in the "suffering" category (0-4 out of 10) on the diet well-being index.

"Food insecurity is higher among SNAP households compared to non-SNAP households. The gap is striking since SNAP benefits help alleviate food insecurity for low-income households," Bryant said.

He points out, however, that previous research from the USDA Economic Research Service found that many of those receiving SNAP benefits self-select into the program once they reach se-

vere levels of food insecurity.

"So, while SNAP benefits are crucial for households in need, the positive effect on the food insecurity rate is likely not able to fully overcome the gap between SNAP and non-SNAP households," Bryant said.

On a scale from never (1) to always (5), consumers in SNAP households choose generic over name-brand food items more often (3.6) than non-SNAP consumers (3.2) when shopping for food. They also report checking labels more often.

"Since most of those receiving SNAP benefits are in low-income households, finding affordable food options such as generic and store brands can be crucial in ensuring that they get the proper amount of foods they need," Bryant said.

Consumer estimates of food inflation over the past 12 months dropped to 5.2%, following a downward trend since late 2022. Expectations about future food inflation also dropped to 2.6%, just above the consumer price index food inflation rate of 2.5%. The USDA Economic Research Service recently updated its forecast for 2025 food inflation from the original 2.5% to 2.2%.

The Center for Food Demand Analysis and Sustainability is part of Purdue's Next Moves in agriculture and food systems and uses innovative data analysis shared through user-friendly platforms to improve the food system. In addition to the Consumer Food Insights Report, the center offers a portfolio of online dashboards. — **Purdue University Extension**

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How to incorporate older hay into the diet

To help reduce waste and stretch the food dollar, many people look for ways to use items in the refrigerator before they spoil.

Beef producers with old hay stored on their operation often look for appropriate ways to incorporate that into the forage feeding strategy. This was the topic that Kansas State (K-State) University Beef Cattle Institute experts addressed on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast.

In this case, a listener runs spring and fall-calving cows in the same pasture and is trying to determine how to best meet the varied nutritional requirements with hay that is 2-3 years old.

"Depending on the type of hay, when it was cut, and how it was stored, there could be a lot of variability in the quality of that forage," K-State nutritionist Phillip Lancaster said.

To help determine the quality of the hay, K-State veterinarian Bob Larson recommended producers keep track of the harvest date.

"If we know the harvest date and are familiar with the maturity pattern in the area, we will have a pretty good idea about the nutrient quality of that hay," Larson said.

Lancaster said the highest

quality hay needs to be fed to lactating cows that have high maintenance energy requirements. He said producers can use older hay, but they will likely need to offer a vitamin and mineral supplement as well.

"In 2-3-year-old hay that is stored outside, the beta carotene in those bales deteriorate rapidly, so it is important to offer them a vitamin A supplement," Lancaster said, adding that the minerals need to be fresh.

In some herds, producers can separate the fall- and spring-calving cow herds, allowing them to offer the older hay to cows with lower maintenance requirements, such as cows in mid-gestation. But in this case, the cows are maintained together and that leads to a different strategy, the experts said.

"With the fall-calving cows just coming out of the breeding season and the spring-calving cows in their last trimester, I recommend primarily offering them hay cut this year, but every once in a while, you could throw them a bale of the older hay to try to use it up and that should allow them to keep from getting too thin," Lancaster said. — **K-State Research and Extension**



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An alternative to pasteurization for killing H5N1

Pasteurization is the only widely recognized method of killing H5N1, the virus that causes bird flu, in milk. However, pasteurization can be expensive and fewer than 50% of large dairy farms pasteurize waste milk.

Waste milk includes colostrum, the first milk after calving;

milk from cows treated with antibiotics or other drugs; or any other factor that can make milk unsuitable and unsellable for human consumption. On farms, raw waste milk poses a potential risk of spreading avian flu, which so far has been confirmed in dairy cattle in 16

states.

University of California (UC), Davis, researchers have found that acidification can kill H5N1 in waste milk, providing dairy farmers an affordable, easy-to-use alternative to pasteurization of waste milk. The Journal of Dairy Science published the study.

“There can be a quite significant cost to have pasteurization as an option on the farm,” said co-corresponding author and veterinary epidemiologist Richard Van Vleck Pereira, with the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. “In our laboratory tests, we found that acidifying milk

to a pH of 4.1 to 4.2 with citric acid effectively deactivates the virus.”

The UC Davis research team will next conduct on-farm testing of milk acidification in waste milk containing H5N1. They will develop practical guidelines for farmers to implement acidification of waste milk as a protocol on the farm.

about not just deactivating the virus but developing a method that could be affordable, accessible and sustainable for farmers to use,” he said.

Some U.S. dairy farms already practice milk acidification. Lowering milk pH to a level unsuitable for bacterial growth can kill bad bugs and prevent contamination without causing health issues in calves.

“We believe acidification is a novel and effective way to contain the spread of H5N1 on dairy farms and help protect livestock, pets and people,” Periera said.

Other authors of the study include Beate Crossley and Daniel Rejmanek from the California Animal Health and Food Safety Lab at UC Davis, along with Craig Miramontes and Rodrigo Gallardo with the Department of Population Health and Reproduction at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture and the USDA funded the research. — UC Davis

The deadly mix of substance use and farm machinery

Farming is one of the toughest professions, demanding long hours, sharp focus and the ability to handle high-risk situations. Whether it's operating heavy machinery or working with large animals, even minor changes in coordination or reaction times can increase risks. In this context, it's important to recognize how substances such as alcohol, medications or other drugs might impact farm safety.

Studies have indicated a link between alcohol use and higher rates of on-farm injuries and fatalities—not as a judgment on individual choices, but as a recognition that even small amounts of substances can alter coordination and reaction times. This is a universal observation noted in the U.S. but in other countries.

Researchers at Michigan State University's (MSU) Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine are examining the root causes of agricultural workplace injuries. Their work is focused on exploring ways to improve safety and support farmers in making choices that best align with their well-being.

- Maintain your equipment. Regular safety checks and diligent equipment maintenance reduce the risk of unexpected malfunctions.

- Take breaks, especially during long workdays. Fatigue is a common cause of mistakes. Short pauses can help you recharge and refocus.

- Use personal protective equipment. Items like gloves, goggles and hearing protection might seem small, but they play an important role in reducing injury risks.

- Stay current on certifications like pesticide licenses. Keeping up to date ensures you are informed about the latest safety practices.

- Establish and follow safety protocols. Simple steps, like ensuring someone is nearby during high-risk tasks, can save lives. Working alone in potentially dangerous situations increases risk.

We all face pressure to push through or cut corners, and our goal is to support you making choices that reduce risk while respecting your personal circumstances.

Healthy ways to manage stress

Stress is a constant in farming, and many people have used alcohol to unwind or escape the pressures of daily life. However, using alcohol and other substances can disrupt sleep, heighten anxiety and negatively impact overall well-being. Consider reflecting on what has worked for you in the past to manage feelings of stress—whether it was attending social events with other farmers or community events, taking breaks or leaning on a trusted support system. Sometimes, managing stress is about revisiting and strengthening these social and personal habits, rather than using substances. There are also resources available to make drinking alcohol safer and ways to change how much and when you drink.

You can explore new strategies to manage stress. Talking with a friend, family member or counselor can provide relief, while physical activity, mindfulness or deep breathing can help you recharge and stay focused.

MSU Extension offers stress management courses and free counseling services tailored to farmers, and in a crisis, calling 988 connects you to immediate support. Asking for help is a sign of strength and a step toward a safer, healthier future for yourself and those around you.

Farming is a shared effort, and the challenges faced by one farmer are often felt across the community. By prioritizing safety and working together to address stress, we can foster

stronger, more resilient agricultural practices. Whether it's through sharing experiences, supporting one another or adopting safer habits, every small step contributes to a healthier farming community.





You are not alone on this journey. Together, we can work together to cultivate a safer, more sustainable future for farming and for the generations to come.

For those in the agriculture industry and their families, resources and information can be found at the Managing Farm Stress website, tinyurl.com/3c48z78d. These resources include teletherapy services, the free virtual training Rural Resilience, the AgrAbility project, which supports people with disabilities working in agriculture and more. — MSU Extension

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Real-world consequences

Stories from farming communities highlight the real risks of substance use in agriculture. While not all fatal incidents undergo toxicology testing and non-fatal injuries may go unreported, 29 Michigan farming deaths between 2002 and 2021 were linked to a non-zero blood alcohol content.

These stories are not about pointing fingers of blame or shame for substance use. Instead, they acknowledge the challenges of balancing the demands of farming with personal well-being, and they stress that even minor impairments can have serious outcomes. Small, intentional actions—like taking breaks, leaning on support systems and staying mindful of safety protocols—can save lives.

Choices for a safer farm

Farm safety is a shared responsibility. While no one is perfect and each farmer's situation is unique, here are a few practical suggestions:

- Avoid substances or manage substance use around high-risk tasks. If you choose to use substances, be aware that even small amounts can impact your coordination. Consider avoiding alcohol or other substances before or during high-risk tasks. Always read prescription medication labels for potential side effects such as impaired vision or slowed reaction times.

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New Miss American Angus is eager to give back

With generations of the family gathered round, there's a collection of historical moments at the heart of the huddle. Newspaper clippings and old photographs showcase Kidwells from years past exhibiting a devotion to the beef industry.

For Rosalind Kidwell, it's always been a legacy she's honored to uphold.

"Family history is a really important thing for me," she

explains. "I ran for junior princess within Indiana, and we were going through scrapbooks of pictures from my grandparents, and I still remember finding the certificate that verified my great-great-grandpa as a member of the Indiana Junior Angus Association and the American Aberdeen Breeders Association."

That same grandpa was also one of the first people to exhibit the champion bred-

and-owned heifer and champion bull at the Chicago Stock Exchange.

"Those were small things that we always told stories about at family get-togethers," Kidwell says. "Just being around that tradition and that history ... it's kind of become something that I wanted to carry on."

As the fifth generation in the family tree to take on the title of "cattle producer," Kidwell's made it her mission to take her passion to the next level. That drive led her to apply for the 2024 American Angus Auxiliary scholarship, which came with the opportunity to run for the title of Miss American Angus during the annual Angus Convention last November.

Standing on stage during the awards dinner and reception Nov. 3 in Fort Worth, TX, Kidwell says she was proud to be shoulder-to-shoulder with one of her best friends, Erin Driscoll,

who was waiting just as anxiously for the results.

"I remember when it got announced, she looked over and at me and she said, 'I knew it, I just knew it,'" Kidwell recalls of the moment her name echoed in the dinner hall. "I feel like it's something that you can't equate to anything else. It's awesome."

As she takes on the respected red coat and the title of 2024-2025 Miss American Angus, Kidwell's ready to share her love for these black-hided cattle and their keepers.

"I think that Miss American Angus is almost like a focal point for the Angus breed," the Gentryville, IN, local said. "I love advocating for the Angus breed. I love talking about it. So, to have that opportunity to advocate for the Angus breed and the beef industry is something I think that is really, really pivotal to Miss American Angus."

Family values

Kidwell's father, Jud, as a young man didn't have any close ties to The Business Breed. He enjoyed fitting show calves and traveling with a lot of different cattle operations, but it wasn't until he married Carla, and they started a family that he came back home.

"I was probably 2 or 3 when he bought his first Angus heifer again," Kidwell says. "Having cattle as an outlet was something I always depended on when I was younger. It's kind of been something I've always looked to, and my parents never made it something where I have to do it ... but definitely being around it from a young age sparked that passion, and it's never going to leave."

Jud's involvement in the seedstock world created another mentor for his daughter in Maddie Butler, Kidwell's older cousin. Kidwell became Butler's shadow at the age of 5 and stuck to her side until she was done showing—consequently, the same time Butler was named Miss American Angus.

"She was always someone I looked up to. In the show ring ... I wanted to show like her. I wanted to get good grades. I wanted to do all the things that Maddie did," Kidwell adds.

After watching Butler don the crown at Eastern Regionals, Kidwell added a new goal to the list.

"I just remember it was the first time I really saw her outside of a show harness ... it was really the first time I saw her grow into being a really confident, powerful and poised young woman for other people to look up to," she says. "I want to do that for young girls. I want to give young girls the opportunity to have that mentor and someone to look up to within the ag industry."

Part of that mission requires Kidwell to arm herself with knowledge. She says this opportunity is the perfect excuse to push herself to learn more about every segment of the industry, so she can share that information with others, both familiar and new to the world of beef production.

Learning is a key part of her personality, too. Kidwell has a knack for the science

side of things, another trait she credits to her father. Chatting about the nutritional requirements of livestock sparked a childhood desire to be a vet, and she's transformed that youthful ambition into a real goal.

"There's a big space for vaccine development and just kind of making the beef industry and the ag industry a more profitable space," she explains, highlighting anaplasmosis as a topic that specifically drew her attention.

The 19-year-old is a freshman at Purdue University pursuing a degree in biochemistry with an animal science minor. She's on the prepharmacy track to be a veterinary pharmacist.

Whether it's cattle or anaplasmosis, conversation is never a concern for Kidwell.

"It's like my favorite thing ever to talk about cows with my friends and the people that I've met," she says.

Kidwell goes so far to admit one thing she was looking forward to most during her campaign for Miss American Angus was the chance to give a speech to a crowd.

"My whole family was giving me a hard time," she laughs. "I'm excited to speak in front of 75 people, and they were all like, 'You're the only person I know who would say that.'"

Teasing aside, it was her family that served as Kidwell's foundation through the experience.

When she ran off the Fort Worth stage wearing her crown for the first time—feet red and blistered from the new heels she had purchased just for the occasion—her parents and grandma Peggy were waiting with open arms.

"It really just kind of showed me how great my support system is and how lucky I am to have them," Kidwell adds.

She says she's honored to be carrying on a family tradition, but realizes her definition of family has grown much larger than those she's related to.

"I feel like I've gained a support system that's not just my family," she explains. "It extends across the country. I have the Angus family." — **Megan Silveira, Angus Journal managing editor**



Rosalind Kidwell

American Angus Association

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VIDEO AUCTION

Feb. 6, Hudson Oaks, TX

Superior Livestock Auction hosted their video auction live Feb. 6 from the Superior Livestock Auction Studio in Hudson Oaks, TX. Cattle producers sold 29,076 head of calves, yearlings and bred stock, totaling 257 lots from 22 states for this offering. Strong buyer participation from several bidders throughout the auction resulted in 78 different successful buyers. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through No-

ember 2025.

After a very volatile week, Superior Livestock witnessed some resistance on feeder steers from all regions at steady to \$3 lower. Feeder heifers from all regions were received at \$4-8 lower than the last offering. Weaned calves in grazing conditions found strong buying support and were fully steady with the last auction. Calves on cows were well received but at a lower trend. Beef-dairy crosses again showed more interest in quality genetics.

Tools optimize dry-off and udder health

"A cow doesn't simply stop producing milk when she's no longer brought to the parlor each day," said Jennifer Roberts, DVM, Boehringer Ingelheim. "The more milk she's producing at dry-off, the greater the pressure in her udder, which can lead to milk leakage."

Studies have shown that cows producing more than 33 pounds of milk at dry-off have an increased risk of leaking. "When leakage occurs, it can open the teat end and allow bacteria to enter

the mammary gland," explained Roberts. "This creates a risk for cows at dry-off and may lead to mastitis."

Holistic dry cow care

Roberts likes to look at the dry period from multiple angles: mastitis management, udder health and cow longevity. With the innovative tools available today for dry cow care, producers are better equipped than ever before to attain their goals.

Roberts has three tools she recommends for a holistic

dry-off protocol, each adding value to the merits of the next:

1. Oral acidogenic boluses decrease the level of milk production right at dry-off, creating a more comfortable experience for the cow, and lowering the risk of milk leakage.

"This supplement is a valuable tool to help cows at dry-off reduce milk production more quickly, support udder health, and improve cow welfare," said Roberts. "It's even better that we can do it without compromising her health or comfort."

In a study, cows given acidogenic boluses at dry-off experienced reduced somatic cell counts and lower risk of clinical mastitis. Subsequently, those same cows had a lower likelihood of herd removal after both 90 and 300 days in milk. In the same study, cows given the supplement spent 33 more minutes lying down the day

after dry-off.

"Think about the difference a 30-minute nap can make in your day," said Roberts. "This rest time not only indicates a comfortable cow, but is especially important for cows just transitioning from the milking herd to the dry cow pen."

2. Dry cow therapy is one of the most effective tools in treating subclinical mastitis. Clearing lingering infections during the dry period also supports udder regeneration, preparing cows for a healthier freshening.

For producers looking to cut antibiotic use and associated costs, selective dry cow therapy—in which antibiotics are only used to treat cows that likely have mastitis—is an option to explore with your veterinarian.

3. An internal teat sealant is a protective barrier that mimics the naturally forming keratin plug. Since more than 25% of cows don't form

a keratin plug at dry-off, adding this barrier helps reduce the risk of mastitis-causing pathogens entering the teat.

"There's value in a holistic approach to dry-off," Roberts asserted. "We're getting the benefits of each tool in trying to maintain and ensure udder health for that cow in the next lactation and beyond."

Close eye on management

The environment and nutrition of cows during the dry period are also important for their health and performance in the next lactation. Roberts reminds producers that clean, well-ventilated and temperature-controlled dry cow pens keep animals comfortable and minimize the risk of mastitis-causing pathogens.

"Just because they aren't going to the parlor each day

doesn't mean we can forget about our dry cows while they rest," she shared.

Roberts encourages collaboration with a herd nutritionist and veterinarian to establish appropriate rations and protocols for dry cows. Maintaining dry cow body condition throughout the transition period can reduce their risk of metabolic diseases, such as ketosis, after calving. Ideally, cows should maintain a body condition score of around 3.5 during the dry period.

"No one thing alone is going to eliminate the risk of mastitis, and sometimes even when we do everything right, cows end up getting mastitis," concluded Roberts. "But every little thing that we can do to incrementally reduce that risk is going to be a benefit to the cow and to the farm in terms of longevity in the herd, productive life and profitability." — **Boehringer Ingelheim**

Moorhouse takes the reins as new chair of CBB

Cattle producers Ryan Moorhouse of Texas, Dr. Cheryl DeVuyst of Oklahoma and Terry Quam of Wisconsin are the new leaders of the Cattlemen's Beef Promotion & Research Board (CBB). Elected by their fellow CBB members at the 2025 Cattle Industry Convention in San Antonio, TX, this new officer team is responsible for guiding the national Beef Checkoff throughout 2025.

Moorhouse, the 2024 vice chair, is now the CBB's chair, while DeVuyst will transition from her role as the 2024 secretary-treasurer to become the 2025 vice chair. Quam is the newest member of the officer team, taking on DeVuyst's former responsibilities as secretary-treasurer.

Moorhouse grew up in north-central Texas on his family's cow-calf and stocker operation. After graduating from Texas A&M University, he went to work for Continental Grain Cattle Feeding (now Five Rivers). He currently serves as the general manager for Hartley Feeders, a Five Rivers Cattle Feeding operation. A resident of Amarillo, TX, Moorhouse, his wife, Colette, and their two sons also operate a stocker operation back home on part of the family ranch.

"As we look ahead to 2025, the beef industry continues to face new challenges and opportunities," Moorhouse said. "From navigating changing consumer preferences to addressing sustainability and global competition, the role of the Beef Checkoff has never been more critical. 'I'm honored to serve as chair of the Cattlemen's Beef Board and to work alongside other dedicated producers and industry leaders. Together, we'll continue to identify innovative ways to drive demand for beef, ensuring its place on plates and in hearts worldwide while upholding the values and traditions that make our industry strong."

Vice Chair DeVuyst and her husband, Eric, own DeVuyst Ranch, a cow-calf and stocker operation. DeVuyst is also a professor of agricultural economics at Oklahoma State Univer-

sity and head of its Ag Econ department.

DeVuyst is involved with numerous agricultural organizations, including Oklahoma CattleWomen, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), Oklahoma Farm Bureau, Pawnee County CattleWomen, Agricultural and Applied Economics Association and American National CattleWomen. She's also a faculty advisor for the Oklahoma Collegiate CattleWomen and is a past board member of the Western Agricultural Economics Association.

Secretary-Treasurer Terry Quam operates an Angus seedstock operation, Marda Angus Farms, in Lodi, WI. Since 1940, the farm has raised cattle that meet the needs of commercial cattlemen and purebred producers throughout the country. Quam has been a longtime active member of his community and the agricultural industry at large. His activities and leadership roles include the Wisconsin Beef Council, NCBA, Farm Bureau, local and state Cattlemen's associations, president of the Lodi Agricultural Fair, chairman of the University of Wisconsin Discovery Farms, the Cotton and Wisconsin Corn Boards and Wisconsin Corn Growers.

"I'm excited to welcome this exceptional officer team as they step into their leadership roles for 2025," said Greg Hanes, CEO of the CBB. "Each of them brings a unique perspective and a shared passion for advancing our industry. I'm confident their dedication and vision will help the Beef Checkoff continue to create meaningful opportunities and overcome the challenges we face. Together, we'll build on our shared commitment to driving beef demand and ensuring a brighter future for all beef industry stakeholders."

For more information about the Beef Checkoff and its programs, including promotion, research, foreign marketing, industry information, consumer information and safety, contact CBB at 303-220-9890 or visit DrivingDemandForBeef.com. — **CBB**

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Y063M | ASA: 4392134

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

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MISS MCC-R852L | ASA: 4232708

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DAM: W/C MISS WERNING 811F
MGS: W/C BANKROLL 811D

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MISS MCC-R856L | ASA: 4232657

SIRE: WHF/JS/CCS DOUBLE UP G365
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MGS: ZKCC CHOPPER 844U

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MISS MCC-B894L | ASA: 4232674

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DAM: W/C ANGEL 0102H
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Eight ways to improve farm security

Within the last couple of weeks, two sheriff departments in rural areas of Nebraska have issued alerts to agricultural producers warning them of rural crime, specifically theft.

On Jan. 28, the Madison County Sheriff's Office issued a press release advising farmers and landowners of theft reports of copper wires from central pivot irrigation systems. The northeast Nebraska law enforcement agency advised all owners to check their systems and report any theft/damage that might have occurred.

"We are also advising all to keep an eye out for any suspicious activity and if found to call the sheriff's office," Madison County Sheriff Todd Volk said in the release.

In southeastern Nebraska, the Gage County Sheriff's Office issued a public alert on Feb. 5, about the recent theft of copper wire from a rural area. Approximately 1,275 feet of wire was stolen from a center pivot irrigation system. The estimated value of loss and damage exceeds \$30,000.

The Gage County Sheriff's Office encourages residents to remain vigilant and report any

unusual activity in or around the area.

"Property owners are advised to review their security measures to prevent potential thefts, and farmers should check their pivots for loss or damage," Gage County Sheriff Millard Gustafson said in the alert.

Farm Bureau Financial Services suggests eight ways to improve farm security. While insurance policies are the first step to protecting farmers' assets, extra security precautions can help prevent farm theft from happening in the first place.

Here is the list:

1. Watching from afar.

Video surveillance is one of the best ways farmers can protect their property from theft. Well-placed cameras can help producers watch vulnerable areas and home security apps enable you to view your property remotely.

For a cheaper option, consider dummy cameras. Often, the appearance of cameras is enough to deter thieves.

2. Keeping it out of sight.

Keeping your farm equipment out of plain sight, so that it's not easily visible and acces-

sible from the road is a simple way to avoid potential theft. Also, don't forget to keep outbuildings, yards and houses well lit. Whether you leave lights on or have them motion-activated, it will discourage criminals who don't want to be seen.

3. Putting Fido to work.

Use animals as deterrents. A good watch dog around the property with proper signage such as "Beware of Dog" is effective. Geese are also good noise makers when strangers come.

4. Locking it all up.

Store what you can inside outbuildings that can be locked up tight with locking bars or high-security padlocks. Fuel tanks, large equipment and tools should be locked up inside. Store power tools in lockable containers that are also attached to the ground or wall.

Keep a record of serial numbers or log all pieces of equipment, so you can keep track of equipment in the event of farm theft.

5. Taking away the keys.

Store all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) or utility-terrain vehicles (UTV) inside outbuildings

and remove the keys when they're not in use. Keep these in the house with you or in a different location.

You can also use wheel clamps or locking posts to keep them secure. Consider parking larger vehicles in front of doors to complicate access.

6. Leaving a mark.

Leave a security mark on equipment and register them when you can. Put your zip code on the top of your trailers, so they can be easily seen from

the sky.

You can paint your equipment in bright colors or put a warning decal on that will help them be spotted if they are taken. For your livestock, mark them using a recommended method and/or look into microchipping.

7. Using layers of security.

The more security precautions you take, the less likely it is that you will have to deal with stolen farm machinery. Adding immobilizers or chip keys,

or removing batteries and wheels, helps to keep your peace of mind.

8. Working together.

Form a rural watch group with nearby neighbors and friends to look after each other's properties. Jot down descriptions of strangers and vehicles including license number, location, date and time. This can be helpful to police if crimes occur in the area. — Russ Quinn, DTN staff reporter

Interior secretary's orders address ESA regulations

INTERIOR PLAN (from page 1)

domestic energy resources.

PLC said while Burgum's "Unleashing American Energy" order is primarily aimed at expanding domestic energy production, ranchers who use public lands could also benefit from the order. The plan calls

for revising all drafts and finalized resource management plans involving sage grouse, along with addressing concerns with the Bureau of Land Management's Public Lands Rule that has largely been opposed by ranching groups.

"This rule has faced strong opposition from PLC and ranchers across the West due to its potential to restrict grazing and multiple-use principles on federal lands," PLC said.

In addition to land use management, Burgum's order also addresses the Endangered Species Act and eliminating three regulatory rules put in place during the Biden administration, which reinstated the Section 4(d) "blanket rule," updated interagency cooperation, and revised listing determinations and critical habitat designations.

"These Biden rules reinstated heavy-handed restrictions that ignored the practical realities of land stewardship and sound science," PLC said. "PLC welcomes this renewed effort to ensure ESA decisions consider economic impacts and recognize the role public lands ranchers have in active land management as it relates to ecological preservation."

• Addressing the need for national energy.

Secretary's Order 3417, "Addressing the National Energy Emergency," addresses Trump's national emergency declaration calling for a "reliable, diversified, growing and affordable supply of energy."

The order will require the department to identify all emergency and legal authorities available to "facilitate the identification, permitting, leasing, development, production, transportation, refining, distribution, exporting and generation of domestic energy resources and critical minerals." In addition, the Interior will identify all emergency and other legal authorities available to expedite all authorized and appropriate infrastructure energy, environmental and natural resources projects.

• Addressing the cost of living.

Secretary's Order 3419, "Delivering Emergency Price Relief for American Families and Defeating the Cost-of-Living Crisis," mandates the Interior to take steps to reduce living costs for families in the U.S. The order requires a department-wide review of all programs and regulations that could be causing higher living costs.

"Interior will focus on ways to eliminate harmful, coercive

climate policies and lower the cost of energy, which in turn will restore purchasing power to the everyday American and improve overall quality of life," the department said.

• Revoking withdrawals in the Outer Continental Shelf.

Secretary's Order 3420 directs the department to comply with Trump's executive order to revoke three withdrawals of certain areas of the Arctic Coast from oil or gas leasing.

"The Department will resume taking all actions available to expedite the leasing of the Outer Continental Shelf for oil and gas exploration and production," the department said.

• Supporting Trump's deregulation agenda.

Secretary's Order 3421, "Achieving Prosperity Through Deregulation," directs the Interior to support Trump's deregulation executive order. The intention is to reduce red tape, enhance national security and improve the quality of life for U.S. citizens.

The department will eliminate at least 10 existing regulations for every new one introduced.

• "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential."


Secretary's Order 3422 mandates the Interior to maximize the development and production of natural resources found on federal and state lands within Alaska. Burgum calls for an immediate review of all restrictions on resource development in the state and for the Interior to develop plans of action to open up natural resources.

The orders were met with scrutiny from environmental groups. "Burgum and Trump are strapping dynamite to basic rules that protect our natural world," said Noah Greenwald, endangered species director at the Center for Biological Diversity.

Defenders of Wildlife concurred, saying: "These orders are reckless and issued at a time that America is not experiencing an energy emergency, but rather a crisis of species and habitat loss."

The Interior concluded the orders with: "By advancing policies that honor America's heritage while fostering innovation and sustainability, the department remains committed to serving the interests of the American people and strengthening the nation's environmental and energy future." — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor

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Mike McGuire awarded Angus Ambassador of the Year

Many young farm kids dream of having a toy John Deere tractor or imagine working cows and plowing fields on the carpet of their living room. For Mike McGuire, his dream as a young 4-Her was to have an Angus heifer.

He grew up in town, but his father's career in extension eventually led the family to Georgia in 1970. At the age of 10, McGuire's family purchased their first acreage—just enough for some show steers and pigs.

"I had some influential people around me at that time that had an Angus herd," McGuire says. "Boy, it was not long until I wanted an Angus heifer so bad."

It took five years of patience before that dream became a reality, but it's one he's held to tightly ever since.

"This coming March, it'll be 50 years in the business," he explains. "I think it is simply out of love for the business to stay in it that long. It has been

a really great experience, and there was just nothing I wanted to do more than show an Angus heifer or steer back in those days."

That childlike love for the work still rests in his heart today.

"Still even to this day, I just want to get out there and touch them and work on them. That's just what really gets me excited," he adds.

McGuire's journey has been shaped by his dedication. His passion has remained steadfast, especially when he returned to Alabama to raise a family and build his own herd. More importantly, his commitment has always been to Angus breeders.

McGuire's devotion to Angus and Alabama for nearly five decades culminated in being recognized as the Angus Ambassador of the Year at the 2024 American Angus Association Awards Reception and Dinner in Fort Worth, TX, Nov. 3.

This is the second year the

award has been used to honor an individual who goes above and beyond to promote or aid Angus efforts and broaden the breed's influence in the beef industry.

"Anytime you get recognized by the American Angus Association, it just means a lot," McGuire says. "Working in the position for the Alabama Association was never something I had envisioned myself in, but I am thankful to have been able to do it. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish here, and it is just a huge honor."

Sweet home Alabama

While his childhood might have taken him to a few different states, Alabama eventually became a permanent home for McGuire. He was in his early 30s when he started taking the knowledge he'd gained working on a few different cattle operations with various mentors to build his

own herd.

He settled in Waverly, AL, with his wife, Angelika, and sons, Reid and Clay. He ran cows with his father from 1993 until 2012, when his father passed away.

Shortly after the relocation, McGuire heard about an opening for the role of executive secretary with the state Angus association. In 1997, the role became his.

"The Alabama Angus Association had a strong foundation that preceded me. A lot of the things that we do now, were all in place before I started. I have just tried to carry those on," McGuire says. "You blink your eyes, and 27 years have gone by now."

Decades later, McGuire continues to be a leader in the breed and has been pivotal in growing one of the most robust state associations in the country. From annual meetings and banquets to educational opportunities, it's been a goal to serve both commercial and seedstock breeders in

the area.

"I think that's how it should be," he says. "We've got our great national organization, and then if we have these state organizations, too, we can kind of help funnel people, answer some things and help people here..."

McGuire has helped to serve an active membership by organizing more than 50 state sales, planning annual field days and helping to establish the Alabama Angus Family of the Year and Alabama Progressive Breeder of the Year awards.

"A couple of important activities we have been able to maintain is hosting two sales a year, one each April and November," McGuire says. "It's given people an avenue to sell and build a reputation. It is a great gathering place for us, and a way to bring everybody together."

While he's happy to be a part of this mission, McGuire says he knows there's a bigger hope he's fighting for. He's

seen it get progressively harder for younger cattlemen to find their place in the industry, but he says there's still hope.

"I am glad to see that we do have a lot of young people that are interested," he explains. "I do think that we need to stay with it, and we have to feed the world, and we need to take pride in that. Every little bit we do is working toward that end."

McGuire says the key is to stay patient and never lose sight of end goals. In his eyes, pride in your own work and satisfaction in hard-earned success is a draw to the cattle industry, especially the show side that he raised his own sons in.

McGuire says it's the people in the breed that truly make him happy to call himself an Angus man.

"It's just the breed and the breeders and then just the inherent goodness in them," he adds. — **Molly Biggs, American Angus Association communications specialist**

AGI white paper looks at future of phenotyping

A new white paper, released by Angus Genetics Inc. (AGI) on Jan. 28 with support from the Angus Foundation, discusses the future of phenotyping and expansion of data collection into the commercial sector.

Written by Troy Rowan, assistant professor of beef cattle genomics at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, the paper examines industry research and results from Imagine: AGI's Beef Genetics Forum, which took place Sept. 25-26, 2024. The event was attended by professionals from academic, research, allied industry and ranching backgrounds.

One of the major themes of the paper is the numerous technological developments poised to affect phenotype collection. Examples include computer-vision technology and wearable sensors.

"By using these technologies to measure traits on continuous scales rather than the categorical scales we currently use for traits like hair shedding or foot angle, we can increase precision of phenotype measurements and consequently increase the quality of EPDs over time," Rowan says.

Rowan also discusses in the paper the types of data most important and economically viable for the industry to pursue.

"We should work on developing genetic selection tools that capture all elements of commercial profitability, continuing to improve yield and the eating experience of our end product while also making our cowherd more efficient, adapted and productive," Rowan says.

Advancing terminal and maternal traits, health and other challenging areas of production require data integration and more advanced tools, he says in the paper.

André Garcia, senior geneticist with AGI, says AGI is

uniquely positioned to help facilitate these conversations, and the white paper will help to advance discussions.

"We have a lot of discussion about the importance of commercial data, but the underlying question is how to make collection an easier process," Garcia says. "It will take a coordinated effort to tackle these issues, on all fronts really—the technology development and application, costs, data sharing, use of the data, etc."

Garcia says the Imagine genetics forum was the perfect catalyst to spark these discussions because of the involvement of breeders, researchers and others in the industry.

"We want something the whole supply chain can benefit from and contribute to," Garcia says. "For this, it's valuable to gather everyone, share and listen. Then we can move forward and work together to make progress."

With 80% of the U.S. cow herd being Angus-influenced, according to the 2023 Industry Insights survey conducted by CattleFax, there's no question the breed and users of Angus genetics will influence next steps.

"Angus has a long history of leading genetic improvement programs—from some of the first EPD calculations, to the integration of genomics, to single-step evaluations," Rowan says. "Moving forward, they are well-positioned to be leaders in the adoption of new phenotyping technologies and innovative data structures."

The complete white paper is available online at PhenotypingPaper. To join the industry conversation about next-gen phenotyping and driving commercial profitability, respond and tag Angus Genetics Inc. on LinkedIn. — **Sarah Kocher, American Angus Association communications specialist**

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Micro-irrigation work boosts NE economic development

Multiple departments in the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources (IANR) are working with the USDA to strengthen small-scale irrigation in Nebraska. The efforts address real-world needs and can boost small business development, promote urban agriculture, diversify Nebraska agriculture and boost underserved communities' access to nutritious food.

"The need is really high," said Brach Johnson, a Columbus, NE-based state urban and small-farm conservationist for the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). "I've traveled to almost every county in the state the last two years, and I would say the potential is great."

The conservation service has awarded a \$260,000 grant to IANR's Department of Biological Systems Engineering to work with Nebraska's small-scale irrigators to research the best options to improve the efficiency of their low-volume, low-pressure water applica-

tion structures, such as drip emitters, spaghetti tubes and mini sprinklers.

Such irrigation operations have a considerable variety in scale and technologies, but the most common example involves plastic-covered "high tunnels" used by small business operators and community gardens for vegetable cultivation. Micro-irrigation offers benefits such as water savings and better control of chemical application.

Strengthening small-scale irrigation can help alleviate food insecurity in Nebraska communities, said Saleh Taghvaeian, associate professor of biological systems engineering, who is heading the research.

"We can go to these food desert areas, and these small-scale productions can significantly enhance nutritional diversity and nutritional quality," he said.

Taghvaeian and colleagues test various irrigation systems and scheduling methods on

East Campus and are meeting in person with producers across the state to understand their needs and current approaches.

The Department of Biological Systems Engineering is well positioned for this work, Taghvaeian said, because it pursues a "biological systems" approach that encompasses the wide range of factors affecting efficiency and crop production under micro-irrigation conditions.

A high tunnel's self-contained conditions create a micro-climate akin to a desert, for example. Irrigation equipment requires ongoing evaluation, adjustment and maintenance. Producers must understand the specifics of soil conditions and water dispersal.

In addition to their research, Taghvaeian and colleagues provide irrigation training to Natural Resources Conservation Service staff, Nebraska Extension educators and small-scale produc-

ers.

The conservation service is also working with IANR's Department of Agronomy and Horticulture for its Nebraska Urban Soil Health Initiative focusing on improved soil management techniques. More than 500 Nebraskans have participated in the initiative since it began in 2023, and nearly 300 participants currently send in soil samples and observational data.

"Urban farmers and gardeners in Nebraska were eager to try new soil health management practices and see data on how their soil responded," said Sam Wortman, an associate professor and environmental horticulturist with the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture.

Many participants have shared anecdotes about the positive effects of their new management practices. For others, the data has helped confirm the benefits of what they were already doing, Wortman said. The university

aggregates the data each year and shares the results with the participants.

Michael Kaiser, associate professor of agronomy and horticulture, is leading detailed analyses of organic matter in participating operations. Caro Cordova, the department's statewide soil health specialist, helps organize opportunities for the university to communicate project results to growers, educators and service providers.

City Sprouts, an Omaha community garden and urban farm, has made extensive use of soil management and conservation practices highlighted through the Nebraska Urban Soil Health Initiative and in partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

"Our collaborative agreement with the NRCS has been huge, allowing us to reach urban growers in Omaha who are thirsty for knowledge on how to grow sustainably while valuing soil health," said Aaron French, who manages City Sprouts' multiple growing

sites.

Wortman describes irrigation efficiency as "critically important for Nebraska agriculture as we strive to be good stewards of our incredible ground and surface water resources."

Nebraska Extension educators buttress these efforts through their in-person outreach to Nebraskans, including irrigation-related consultation with tribal communities by Extension educator Ted Hibbeler. Extension's Backyard Farmer specialists do high-profile work in spreading the word and have offered valuable observations to Johnson, the urban conservationist.

Just as Americans helped the wartime effort during World War II by creating Victory Gardens, Nebraska can benefit in the present day through small-scale irrigation, Johnson said.

"Just producing something in the soil where you are can have a really big impact," he said. — **University of Nebraska-Lincoln**

Registration open for lambing webinar

North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension and University of Minnesota Extension (UMN) will host an interactive lambing workshop Feb. 20 at 7 p.m. The webinar, "Live from the Lambing Barn," will be broadcast from Dan and Kay Persons' Rafter P Ranch near Kensington, MN.

Participants will learn how to prepare for challenges and other tips for a successful Polypay sheep operation. Travis Hoffman, Extension sheep specialist for NDSU and UMN, will provide the virtual tour with Dan Persons. Persons has been raising Polypay sheep for over two decades. The large flock is managed using various technologies like radio-frequency identification ear tags.

"As producers, we learn best from our friends and neighbors," says Hoffman. "This is a chance to share experiences from talented shepherds that take great pride in their sheep."

The webinar is also in collaboration with Minnesota Lamb & Wool Producers. Pre-registration is required and can be found at ndsud.edu/lambwebinar25 to receive the Zoom link. A recording of the webinar will be sent to registrants.

Previous webinars are available on the UMN Extension Sheep and Goats YouTube channel. For more information, please contact Hoffman at travis.w.hoffman@ndsud.edu or Brenda Miller at nels4220@umn.edu. — **NDSU Extension**

ASI awards more shearing grants

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) has once again awarded grants to developing shearers and shearing mentors in an effort to address the shortage of professional shearers all across the U.S.

For the fourth consecutive year, the ASI Wool Council has awarded grants of \$1,500 to assist developing shearers with a variety of expenses, including travel and equipment. Developing shearer grant recipients will receive \$500 upon acceptance and \$1,000 at the completion of the program.

Those selected for shearer grants in 2025 include: Philip Bulak, Isaiah Manus, Jared Moser, Angel Papineau, Austin Pethan, Katherine Pierce, Blade Thomsen and Karin Witthar. Recipients expect to


shear sheep in more than 15 states this year.

The program is designed for shearers with some experience, specifically those who can handle shearing at least 10 sheep per day, and who are working to become a professional shearer. Priority for grant selection is given to those who can shear 25 head or more per day. Nearly all of this year's recipients fall into that category. Ideally, recipients would also have an interest in shearing full-time as they develop their skills.


Two shearing mentors were chosen to receive \$1,500 grants, as well. They will receive funding after finding work for and helping train a developing shearer. The mentors chosen for grants in 2025 include Will Kleinert and Anne Shroeder. — **ASI**



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STORY SHORTS

New processing plant could come to SD

A new meat packing plant may soon be coming to the New Underwood and Box Elder area of South Dakota, according to local news outlet KOTA. Wall Meats co-owner Ken Charfauros provided an update on the project, emphasizing the need for more processing capacity in the state. The planned 1-90 Meats facility would create up to 50 full-time jobs and increase processing services by 4,000. With an estimated cost of \$18 million, the plant aims to support local ranchers. Wall Meats is currently seeking a lead lender with plans to break ground in April.

APHIS confirms new bird flu strain in NV

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) confirmed the first detection of highly pathogenic avian influenza H5N1 genotype D1.1 in dairy cattle through whole genome sequencing. This discovery followed state investigations and testing under the National Milk Testing Strategy. USDA continues working with Nevada officials to study and contain the virus. While this genotype was previously found in wildlife and poultry, it is new to dairy cattle. A dairy worker in Nevada was infected with a new variant of bird flu, marking the state's first human case of H5N1 avian influenza. The Central Nevada Health District confirmed the worker was exposed to the D1.1 strain after handling infected dairy cattle in Churchill County.

Meat Institute comments on dietary guidelines

The Meat Institute urged the USDA and U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services to recognize meat and poultry as essential to a healthy diet, citing flaws in the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee's report. The report recommends reducing red and processed meats while increasing plant-based proteins, potentially leading to nutritional deficiencies, especially in women and adolescents. The Meat Institute emphasized that meat and poultry provide vital nutrients like iron, zinc and protein. It called for dietary guidelines that are practical, science-based and inclusive of expert input, ensuring clarity and consistency. The institute also advocated for broader scientific representation in future dietary recommendations.

Free mapping tool for BLM lands

A new tool helps outdoor enthusiasts access Bureau of Land Management (BLM) public land maps even offline. The Free National Mobile Map Package Program provides maps for 18 western states and plans to expand nationwide. Created by BLM's Enterprise Geospatial Services Team, the maps include land management details, recreation opportunities, roads and natural landmarks and are updated quarterly. To use them, download the ArcGIS Field Maps app, skip sign-in and search "BLM MMPK" to access state maps for offline use.

Texas A&M to build comparative genomics center

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents has approved the Center for Comparative Genomics, a joint initiative of Texas A&M AgriLife Research, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences. This center intends to expand research and training in animal genetics and will enhance genomic advances in human and animal health, offering students cutting-edge training. Texas A&M faculty, who have sequenced over 300 animal genomes, have secured more than \$100 million in research funding. The Chancellor's Research Initiative has committed \$5 million, with an additional \$1.8 million allocated from Texas A&M AgriLife Extension.

OSP looking for wolf poacher

The Oregon State Police (OSP) Fish and Wildlife Division is seeking information on the illegal killing of a wolf in Union County, OR. On Jan. 29, troopers found a tracking collar from OR 86, the alpha male of the Frazier Mountain Pack. The carcass was missing, and authorities believe the collar was removed post-kill. OSP said anonymous tips can be reported to the Turn In Poachers hotline at *OSP (*677) or 1-800-452-7888, referencing case SP25-032551. Rewards will be provided for information leading to a citation or arrest.

Roaming cattle a nuisance in AZ neighborhood

Residents of the Adora Trails neighborhood in Gilbert, AZ, have long dealt with free-roaming cattle, but the issue has worsened in the past six months, according to local news outlet KTVK/KPHO. Cattle are present throughout the day, damaging landscaping, pulling irrigation systems and acting aggressively. Concerns over public safety have grown, with reports of car and motorcycle accidents involving the cattle. While the Gilbert Town Council explores solutions, open range laws and the cattle owner's sovereign status limit enforcement. The Home Ownership Association has approved fencing, but residents continue pushing for a more permanent resolution.

EQIP-CIC applications open in NV

The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Nevada set a Feb. 28 deadline for Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) organic conservation assistance and Conservation Incentive Contracts (CIC). These programs help producers transition to organic certification and improve land stewardship. Late applications will be considered in the next funding cycle. For more information, contact your local NRCS office.

Lawmakers propose moving Food for Peace from USAID to USDA

With \$2 billion annual commodity purchases on the line, farm-state Republicans in Congress are rallying around an effort to protect an international food-aid program that had been operated by the now seemingly defunct U.S. Agency for International Aid (USAID).

A group of Republican lawmakers introduced a bill that would move the Food for Peace program over to the USDA. The move would help ensure the continuity of that food aid.

The bill is led by Reps. Tracey Mann of Kansas, Rick Crawford of Arkansas, Dan Newhouse of Washington, David Rouzer of North Carolina, and House Agriculture Committee Chairman Glenn "G.T." Thompson of Pennsylvania, along with Sens. Jerry Moran of Kansas and John Hoeven of North Dakota.

Currently, USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation provides \$2 billion or so annually to buy commodity products through the P.L. 480 "Food for Peace" program. Those funds are often used to buy grain and oilseed commodities such as wheat, rice, sorghum, lentils, chickpeas, dry peas, vegetable oil, corn meal, navy beans, pinto beans,

kidney beans and the like.

Elon Musk and his federal cost-cutting initiative essentially dissolved USAID, though there are now court battles over that situation.

Lawmakers have noted millions of dollars in Food for Peace commodity purchases are sitting in storage or docks waiting to be shipped.

The USAID inspector general issued a report Monday, Feb. 11 pointing out \$489 million of food assistance "at ports, in transit, and in warehouses at risk of spoilage, unanticipated storage needs, and diversion." The report cited details about food stored at warehouses in Texas, East Africa and South Africa. USAID staff cited more than 500,000 tons of U.S. food aid either on ships or at ports. That food aid was at risk of spoilage or storage needs.

USAID Inspector General Paul Martin was fired by Trent Morse, deputy director of the White House Office of Presidential Personnel, on Tuesday evening, according to multiple reports.

"For 70 years, Kansas and American farmers have played an active role in sending their commodities to feed malnourished and starving populations

around the world. This free gift from the American people is more than food," Mann said. "It's diplomacy and feeds the most vulnerable communities while helping them recognize the freedom, prosperity, and good America can establish across the globe."

Mann continued, "By moving Food for Peace to USDA, the program can continue to equip American producers to serve hungry people while providing more transparency and efficiency as to how taxpayer dollars are stewarded."

Mann also added more than 50 organizations support the bill.

"U.S. soybeans play an important role in addressing global hunger," said Caleb Ragland, president of the American Soybean Association and a soybean farmer from Kentucky. "Soybeans are the only plant-based protein that provides all nine amino acids essential for human health, and our farmers have been proud to support international food assistance programs."

The National Association of Wheat Growers (NAWG) and U.S. Wheat Associates (USW) also declared their support for the bill. The groups also complained that food-assistance pro-

grams have too often relied on cash donations to buy local food products rather than U.S. commodities.

"NAWG welcomes this legislation that supports American farmers while working to address hunger around the world," said NAWG CEO Chandler Goule. "Each year, the Food for Peace program buys more than 1 million metric tons of food, including wheat, to feed millions of starving people in the poorest countries around the world."

"Under USDA, Food for Peace, this 71-year-old program will feed more people more efficiently and effectively without losing track of starting American foreign policy at home with American farmers."

USDA late Friday, Feb. 7 issued a short statement declaring that its food aid programs run through the Foreign Agricultural Service, The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Childhood Nutrition Program and the Food for Progress Programs. The McGovern-Dole Program spends about \$240 million a year and the Food for Progress program spends about \$180 million a year — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

Cattleman's Choice

UDY

CATTLE COMPANY

46TH ANNUAL

BULL SALE

WEDNESDAY,

MARCH 12, 2025

SALE AT 1:00 PM

150 BULLS | 45 HEIFERS



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BW	3.5
WW	84
YW	135
MM	28
REA	1.01
MARB	0.25



CONNELY CRAFTSMAN

BW	1.5
WW	81
YW	133
MM	36
REA	0.85
MARB	1.14

HEREFORD SIRES:
 BIRDWELL VANGUARD 5022 9337
 CHURCHILL RED CLOUD 0376H ET

BLACK ANGUS SIRES:
 S ARMSTRONG
 STERLING PACIFIC 904

RED ANGUS SIRES:
 BIEBER JUMPSTART J137
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BIEBER CL ENERGIZE F121

BW	-5.0
WW	65
YW	114
MM	32
REA	0.15
MARB	0.54

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Rob Shuey joins Certified Angus Beef Board

Rob Shuey can't help but walk through the meat department of every grocery store he enters. After working 41 years for IBP, Inc. (Iowa Beef Processors), and Tyson Foods, Inc. (Tyson bought IBP in 2001), his work knowledge and personal interests have converged.

Eyeballing merchandising techniques for new and innovative products, he owes it to his tenure in the beef and pork business. It started when the Ohio farm boy moved west to attend Oklahoma State University (OSU). Once he got to Stillwater, he quickly got involved with the meat and livestock judging teams, while working part time at the OSU Meats Laboratory.

"It was a natural progression that led me to interview for an IBP internship the summer before my senior year," Shuey says. "I spent the summer in Dakota City, NE, at the corporate office. An incredible opportunity!"

After college graduation with a degree in animal science, he packed up and headed to Emporia, KS, to work in the IBP processing plant in carcass merchandising where he learned more about grading and meat quality.

He got to know the brand closely when he managed Certified Angus Beef (CAB) pricing and sales for IBP.

"As a company, we initially struggled with selling [the Cer-

tified Angus Beef brand] at the volume we had envisioned," Shuey says. "We didn't know how to effectively sell or merchandise it."

At the time CAB supply was increasing; both companies had work to do. IBP had to re-evaluate its pricing and sales and marketing strategies, while CAB needed to grow customer and consumer demand.

His solution was different than most at the time. After many brainstorming sessions between IBP and CAB, they found a way to be more competitively priced which ultimately sold more product.

"We put the emphasis on selling more product to existing customers," Shuey says. "And it worked."

More CAB was sold, generating more revenue which helped each business grow. The success cultivated strong relationships between Shuey and CAB. His perspective on mutual success made him a great partner throughout his career.

"Sometimes you don't win simultaneously," says John Stika, CAB president. "But over the long haul, his strategy is for everybody to win by creating more value for everyone. Rob always understood that."

Retired now, Shuey recently added another item to his resume when he accepted the industry representative appointment on the CAB Board.

"I'm in," was his response to a call from Stika.

A packer on board

The right person for the job shares the same values as the brand and aligns with its mission to serve registered Angus producers, Stika says.

While the industry representative is a three-year appointment, the last two who held the position served multiple terms. The late Bob Norton, a CAB-licensed packer early on with the brand and owner of Biozyme, served 12 years. Then Kip Palmer, Palmer Food Services CEO, provided guidance for 12 years. Palmer served during a time when the brand was working on better understanding the needs of its licensed end users. His foodservice knowledge was especially valuable during COVID, Stika says.

Shuey's background provides a unique perspective to a board of Angus ranchers, especially as the industry is working through challenges from tight beef supply.

"The packer is our biggest partner and biggest competitor," Stika says, adding to the timeliness of bringing Shuey on.

He knows the product and understands sales and how CAB partners view the brand. This extends internationally, given he retired from Tyson as the senior vice president of international fresh meats, lending him a global perspective for CAB's licensed partners.

"It's important for the industry to understand the entire

supply chain and each other's piece of it," Shuey says. "I want to better understand the production sector, and while I'm learning that I can help them understand the packer and processor perspective."

History with the brand

He's an avid reader of the Angus Journal and keeps up with genetic trends across multiple breeds. Every day he catches up on industry news—live cattle prices, feeder cattle supply, supply dynamics worldwide.

"It's a matter of me wanting to stay involved in the business," he says. "That's mostly indirectly, so I just continue to read and have conversations."

Now, he's looking forward to getting back to his roots and working alongside cattle producers—another nod that he's right for the role.

"I love the production side of the business," he says. "So, the more I can get to know the guys and gals out there on the farms, ranches and feedyards, the better."

His first board meeting was in Wooster, OH, at the CAB

office in December 2024, which brought back memories of his ties to the brand. When he lived in Columbus, he would sometimes shop the Renzetti's IGA market where the original pound of CAB was sold. He remembers when he worked the ring during the Colvin Scholarship auction at Annual Conference. Or the times he volunteered as a National Junior Angus Show CAB Cook-Off Contest judge years ago.

"That's how far I go back with CAB and that's why I love the brand so much," Shuey says. "I just think there's a great story behind it and a great story to tell."

As for Shuey's time with the board, he is ready to listen.

"We have to continue to keep our eyes and ears open," he says. "We can't get set in our ways. We have to listen. We have to be really good listeners, communicators and innovators."

From his first introduction to the brand, the goal is the same: continue to grow the Angus breed—from the ranch to the consumer. — **Morgan Boecker, producer communications senior manager**



Rob Shuey

Certified Angus Beef

Jentz Promoted to Angus chief operating officer

A deep respect for the history of the Angus breed, paired with a passion for the future—Casey Jentz, recently named chief operating officer (COO) of the American Angus Association, will bring to his new role.

"Angus is the heartbeat of the beef industry," Jentz said. "The people before us have done a great job of leading Angus and positioning the breed as a leader in the industry. We can build on that and push forward into the future."

For more than 10 years, Jentz has served as an Angus regional manager in Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin. During that time, he worked directly with association members helping them understand association programs, market their cattle with Angus Media services and answer their questions.

In his new role, Jentz will be responsible for direction and strategy of several departments, including member and field services, communications, performance programs, commercial programs, and events and junior activities.

"We are thrilled to promote Casey to this new role," said Mark McCully, CEO for the association. "Not only does he have years of experience working with Angus breeders in the field, but his knowledge of the Association and its programs will also be invaluable as COO. In particular, I love Casey's unwavering commitment to the breed."

It's the Angus family that drives Jentz. "The Angus business is a combination of great people and great cattle where great things can happen," he said.

Jentz is a fourth-generation Angus breeder who was a National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) board member from 2004 to 2006. His daughter, Sydney, is following in his footsteps with excitement for the breed. This is her third year



American Angus Association
Casey Jentz

as an NJAA member and his younger daughter, Savannah, is not far behind.

"There are a lot of things that get me excited with possibilities for the future," he said. Whether that's seeing a great Angus cow, meeting a new member or seeing the future through the eyes of a junior, Jentz is looking forward to his new role.

Prior to working for the association, Jentz was the general manager of a farm in Wisconsin and managed a multi-state sales territory for an animal health company.

Jentz will assume his new role on March 3 and will continue to work sales and serve breeders in his region through the transition. He and his wife, Kayla, and their two daughters will be relocating to St. Joseph, MO, in the coming months. A position for a new regional manager in Jentz's territory has been posted on angus.org/careers.

"I am really looking forward to continuing to work with the great members of this Association in a new way," Jentz said.

For more information about the American Angus Association, please visit angus.org. — **Holly Martin, American Angus Association communications director**



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YF&R: The next generation of ag advocates

The Farm Bureau's Young Farmers & Ranchers (YF&R) Committee empowers young agriculturalists in a wide range of ag-related occupations. By fostering a passion for farming, encouraging advocacy and developing future leaders, the program ensures agriculture remains a vital way of life for generations to come.

The past chair of the California Farm Bureau's YF&R committee fits that description to a T.

"Agriculture has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember," said Leah Groves, 30, who grew up in Trinity County. "My family owns a winery and vineyard here. I went to school at Shasta College and Fresno State and then lived in the Central Valley as a vineyard manager at Fresno State but recently moved back home to help my dad with the family business and to work for a nonprofit that helps ag businesses."

She said her involvement with the YF&R program for the past decade has played a key role in shaping her commitment to agriculture and the Farm Bureau.

"From early on, I appreciated the Farm Bureau and what it does. I gained a passion for the family atmosphere I felt and to understand that membership is for every farmer and every family in every rural community," she said.

Farm Credit is a leading sponsor of the Farm Bureau's annual meeting—held most recently in Monterey—and the YF&R's annual leadership conference because of their critical role in advocating for agriculture and developing the next generation of leadership, said Kevin Ralph, California

President of AgWest Farm Credit.

"December 2024 marked the Farm Bureau's 106th Annual Meeting and YF&R State Conference, and throughout their history they have proven to be effective advocates, educating state and local officials about the importance of agriculture and the need to support farming and ranching," Ralph said. "This year's theme of Stronger Together was a great reminder of the need for everyone involved in agriculture to stand together to make sure our voices are heard."

Jacob DeBoer, regional marketing manager, American AgCredit, said YF&R's role of building leaders for tomorrow is important as well.

"The Farm Bureau wouldn't have thrived for over a century without strong and effective leadership. That's why it's so important to make sure that the next generation of farmers and ranchers are trained and equipped to ensure the organization's continued success as the challenges farmers face grow ever more difficult," DeBoer said.

He has personal experience, having attended state YF&R Annual Meetings in the past and currently serving as a director of the Stanislaus County Farm Bureau.

Farm Credit organizations supporting conferences are AgWest Farm Credit, American AgCredit, Colusa-Glenn Farm Credit, CoBank, Fresno Madera Farm Credit, Golden State Farm Credit and Yosemite. These organizations are part of the nationwide Farm Credit System—the largest provider of credit to U.S. agriculture.

Groves said sponsorships

such as Farm Credit's are critical to putting on informative conferences to help younger generations of farmers and ranchers stay informed and educated.

"Sponsorships are essential for hosting quality conferences," Groves explained. "They provide not only financial support but also lasting connections that help young farmers succeed."

Besides financial support, several Farm Credit employees participated in presenting workshops such as how younger agriculturalists could fund their farms and ranches—and others participated in the Leadership Farm Bureau program.

YF&R offers its 18-to-35-year-old members invaluable opportunities, Groves said. These include leadership training, networking with like-minded peers, and learning to navigate the complex issues impacting agriculture.

"The connections I have made have created long-lasting friendships with like-minded individuals. We understand each other's struggles and are able to work together for the greater good of agriculture," she said.

A major annual event is the Discussion Meet held every year at the state conference.

"The Discussion Meet



Leah Groves, left, participates in a Young Farmers & Ranchers Discussion Meet during the YF&R State Conference in December.

simulates a collaborative boardroom discussion," Groves explained. It's not about debating but working together to find practical solutions to agricultural challenges. There are five questions to study ahead of time, and then four or five people are placed in panels to discuss the topic and try to find solutions," she said.

Questions in 2024 included how to diversify farm portfolios, ways for young farmers and ranchers to acquire agricultural land and how the Farm Bureau should work to increase domestic energy production while minimizing the loss of ag land and protecting private property rights.

Groves is a great example of the diverse nature of California agriculture. Her fa-

ther, Keith, established the first vineyard in rugged Trinity County in 1981 on a former cattle ranch that had been in the family since the Gold Rush. That came after he did a feasibility study on whether wine grapes would grow in the mountains while studying for a winemaking degree at Fresno State.

"The assumption was that wine grapes couldn't be grown there but the study indicated that they could be, and he planted two acres in 1981 and established the county's first winery in 1984. Alpen Cellars has grown from producing 75 cases in the beginning to 5,000 today," she said.

In fact, the combination of the high altitude and a favorable microclimate 30 miles northwest of Redding proved

to be ideal conditions for growing grapes including white Riesling, Gewürztraminer and pinot noir.

While involved in the farm's operations, she's also committed to helping support young farmers in rural and isolated areas of far northern California.

"It's very challenging in our area to have a farming lifestyle. We're so remote from everything that we don't have access to transportation and a lot of the resources people in the valleys might have," she said. "We need to find ways to get creative and find other income sources. The question is, how do you do that to support young farmers in these communities?" — **Farm Credit, YF&R Committee**

Understanding a hay test: ADF and NDF

Acid detergent fiber (ADF) and neutral detergent fiber (NDF) both show up on forage tests but measure different aspects of digestibility. Today, let's look at the difference.

Both ADF and NDF are part of the detergent analysis system used to analyze forages. NDF provides us with a measure of the forage sample's cell wall, basically the total fiber. This includes the cellulose, hemicellulose, lignin and silica portions of the forage which are the primary structural components for all plants. ADF, on the other hand, measures only the least digestible parts of the plant; cellulose, lignin and silica.

NDF measurements correspond with voluntary intake and rumen fill, how much and how fast an animal can eat. They also are a measure of how much energy is available to the animal. Usually, a low NDF reading means more energy available to the animal. The

more mature a plant becomes, the more structural components it accumulates resulting in higher NDF readings and poorer quality feed. NDF levels can vary from 80% in straw to less than 40% in early blooming alfalfa.

ADF is directly related to the digestibility of the feed, measuring the indigestible portion of the plant. As ADF increases, digestibility decreases. This means that high ADF forages are low in energy. Alfalfa at early bloom has an ADF of 30-35% while a late bloom alfalfa has an ADF usually above 40%. Straw will have an ADF nearer to 50%.

ADF and NDF measure the sample's fiber content, affecting digestibility and forage intake which help predict animal performance. Understanding these values set us up for next week's discussion as we look at a measure of energy, TDN. — **Ben Beckman, Nebraska Extension**



6th Annual | Thursday | 12:00 PM (MST)

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+15	-1.1	+80	+138	+37	+73	+65	+166	+328																													

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Henry C. Gardiner Scholarship award winners announced

Henry C. Gardiner Scholarships have been awarded to elite undergraduates since 2012. This year, 28 applicants competed for six scholarships. The applicants represent diverse interests throughout animal science and industry, production agriculture and the beef industry.

The applicants are academically elite undergraduates enrolled at Kansas State (K-State) University planning to continue careers in agriculture. In addition to written

applications, applicants compete in an intense, in-person interview with a panel of K-State faculty and industry leaders. Academic excellence, work ethic, community service, written and verbal communication skills and future goals are considered.

Dr. Dave Nichols, professor emeritus in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, and a faculty representative on the selection committee since 2012, recently offered, "The Henry

Gardiner Scholarships are the largest scholarships we give in the department. The students that have received the scholarships are the who's-who in their collegiate endeavors and have become young industry leaders. It is a strong selection process, but the rewards are phenomenal."

The 2025-26 Henry C. Gardiner Scholars are Kenedy DeVoe, Justin, TX; Elizabeth Schafer, Owaneco, IL; Lauren Wolter, Aviston, IL; Skyler Ward, New Paris, OH; Weston

Schrader, Wells, KS; Cambree Schmaltz, Bayard, NE.

When asked to comment on the Henry C. Gardiner Scholarship winners, Mark Gardiner said, "As agriculture is challenged to provide viable options for the next generation of decision makers, these students are embracing the challenge by taking advantage of every opportunity. Their curiosity, critical thinking, community service and extensive resumes, even before they launch their careers, is remarkable. Henry Gardiner believed in hard work. But he also believed in curiosity, lifetime learning and using those skills to improve, leaving his sphere better than he found it. The 2025-26 Henry Gardiner scholars are examples of his perpetual pursuit for excellence."

The Henry C. Gardiner Scholarship is made possible through the generous contributions of Gardiner customers, friends and family continuing the legacy of Henry Gardiner. To date, 60 undergraduate students have received \$286,500 in scholarships.

Gardiner Angus Ranch is a family-owned ranching operation that produces registered and commercial Angus cattle. The original ranch was homesteaded near Ashland, KS, in 1885 by Henry Gardiner's grandfather. Today, the ranch encompasses more than 48,000 acres. The Gar-

diner operation sells approximately 2,500 bulls and 2,000 registered and commercial females each year. One hundred percent of the sale offering each year is the result of artificial insemination or embryo transfer.

Gardiner Angus Ranch is a founding member of U.S. Premium Beef, the producer-owned limited liability cor-

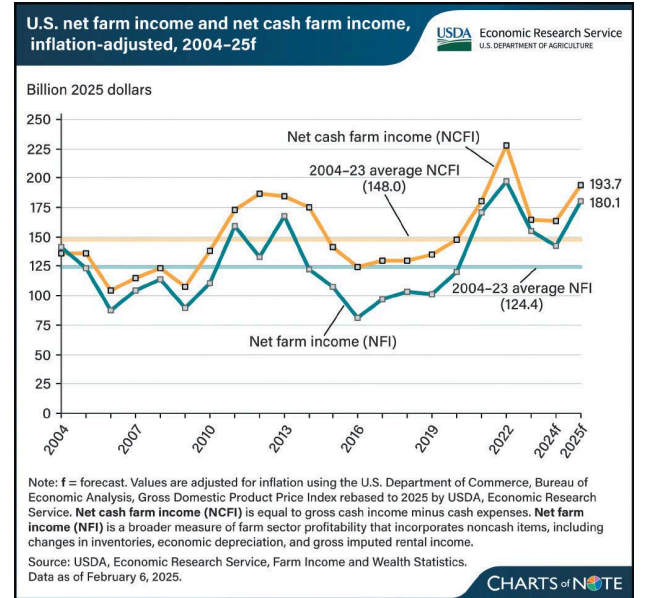
poration with minority ownership in National Beef, the nation's fourth largest beef processing company. By providing access to a proven, value-added processing system through GAR delivery rights, Gardiner Angus Ranch customers have received more than \$15.2 million in premiums and dividends. — **Gardiner Angus Ranch**



Gardiner Angus Ranch

The 2025-26 Henry C. Gardiner Scholars were awarded to (from left to right): Kenedy DeVoe, Justin, TX; Elizabeth Schafer, Owaneco, IL; Lauren Wolter, Aviston, IL; Skyler Ward, New Paris, OH; Weston Schrader, Wells, KS; Cambree Schmaltz, Bayard, NE.

USDA ERS: Farm sector profits may grow in 2025



USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) forecasts inflation-adjusted U.S. net cash farm income (NCFI), defined as gross cash income minus cash expenses, to increase by \$30.6 billion (18.8%) from 2024 to \$193.7 billion in 2025.

This comes after NCFI remained relatively stable in 2024. U.S. net farm income (NFI) is forecast to increase by \$37.7 billion (26.4%) to \$180.1 billion in 2025. Net farm income is a broader measure of farm sector profitability that incorporates noncash items, including changes in inventories, economic depreciation, and gross imputed rental income.

This projected growth comes after NFI declined in 2023 and is forecast to have declined in 2024. (The 2024

values are considered forecasts until more complete financial indicators are available later in 2025.) Most of the projected increase in 2025 corresponds to an increase in direct government payments to farmers, projected to increase from \$9.6 billion in 2024 to \$42.4 billion in 2025.

This increase is expected largely because of supplemental and ad hoc disaster assistance to farmers and ranchers from the American Relief Act of 2025, which became law in December 2024 and authorized economic assistance payments to producers and payments for losses related to natural disasters in 2023 and 2024. If the 2025 forecasts are realized, NCFI and NFI would remain below their all-time highs in 2022. — **USDA ERS**



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KCC1 3BCC FORESIGHT 4500M | ASA: 4444384
Sire: VCL FORESIGHT
Dam: KCC1 SWC HARMONY 847H
4500M is an elite phenotype herd sire prospect that is sired by VCL Foresight!



KCC1 3BCC FOLSOM 4021M | ASA: 4444385
Sire: KCC1 FOLSOM 512F
Dam: KCC1 SWC HARMONY 847H
A heavy weaning son of the \$39,000 KCC1 Folsom 5122F that is backed by the maternal prowess of 847H!



KCC1 REMEDY 4178M | ASA: 4444383
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4178M is a FULL BROTHER to the \$510,000 GPG Cornerstone 1K. A powerful set of SO Remedy 7F sons sell on March 6, 2025!



KCC1 KRYPTON 4199M | ASA: 4444389
Sire: 3BCC KCC1 KRYPTON 100K
Dam: KCC1 GWEN 9073G
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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. 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 AgMedia 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 Cattle Women'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/bhyv53kw.

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.

2025 Angus Foundation scholarship applications open

Since 1998, the Angus Foundation has championed the success of Angus youth by investing in their education. In the past 27 years, the Foundation has awarded more than \$4.9 million in scholarships including \$388,500 in 2024 alone. These scholarships help support students in their educational endeavors—whether pursuing undergraduate, graduate or trade degrees. Applications opened Feb. 1 and are due by May 1, offering an opportunity for Angus youth to receive financial support for their education.

“Thank you to the Foundation for your unwavering commitment to supporting our aspirations and for fostering an environment that promotes growth and opportunity,” said Addison Cotton, a past Angus Foundation scholarship recipient.

“Your generosity has not only given me the resources

to pursue my educational goals but has also inspired me to strive for excellence in everything I do. While it may seem unconventional to aspire to be a registered nurse that raises cattle, I am excited to combine these passions into a fulfilling future where I can work hard at what I love.”

For many junior members, like Addison, the impact of the Angus Foundation extends beyond financial support; it helps to shape young leaders in the Angus breed. Whether it is exposing youth to unique career paths or exploring new opportunities, the foundation’s support is felt far and wide.

“Raising the Bar and LEAD have allowed me to experience agriculture in different regions and form friendships with Juniors from all over the country,” said Allison Davis, a past Angus Foundation scholarship recipient.

“The Foundation scholar-

ships are allowing me to attend an out-of-state university. I know that I would not be able to attend an out-of-state school and have the experiences I have without the support of the Foundation and its donors.”

The Angus Foundation undergraduate and graduate scholarship applications are available to National Junior Angus Association (NJAA) members through their American Angus Association login.

In addition to offering scholarship opportunities to NJAA members, the Foundation also offers opportunities to youth from a commercial cattle operation background, through the Commercial Cattlemen’s scholarship program.

The Foundation’s Certified Angus Beef/National Junior Angus Association and commercial cattlemen scholarships can be accessed at

angus.org/foundation and submitted through email. The website also offers more information about the scholarship program.

“This scholarship program is designed to support students with a commercial cattle background in the beef industry,” said Jaclyn Boester, Angus Foundation executive director. “Supporting youth in their education is an important part of the Foundation’s mission.”

Boester elaborated on the scholarship program noting, “The Angus Foundation scholarship are one of the most prominent and consistent ways our donors support Angus youth. Our scholarships pave the way for a bright future for our industry by ensuring young people can reach their full potential.”

Undergraduate and graduate scholarships

Applicants for undergraduate and graduate scholarships must have, at one time, been a member of the NJAA and currently be an active junior, regular or life member

of the American Angus Association.

The following documents are required to be considered for a 2025 undergraduate or graduate scholarship: the 2025 scholarship application, three letters of recommendation, a copy of current high school/college/university transcript and the applicant’s association member code.

Access to application: AAA login (www.angusonline.org/Account/Login), “Programs” tab.

Submission: Through AAA login.

Deadline: May 1.

Certified Angus Beef/NJAA Scholarship

Since 1990, the NJAA has teamed up with Certified Angus Beef (CAB) to help Angus youth pursue their higher education goals. The selected applicant will receive a \$1,500 scholarship. A separate application from the Angus Foundation scholarship application is required for the CAB/NJAA scholarship.

Access to application: Download application at angus.org/foundation.

Submission: Email to

scholarships@angus.org.

Deadline: May 1.

Commercial Cattlemen Scholarship

The Angus Foundation will award five \$1,500 scholarships to undergraduate students who use Angus genetics in a commercial cattle operation’s breeding program or whose parents use Angus genetics. Emphasis will be placed on applicants’ knowledge of the cattle industry and perspective of the Angus breed.

The applicant or their parent/guardian must have transferred or been transferred an Angus registration paper in the last 36 months (on or after May 1, 2022) and must be considered commercial and not seedstock in their operation. The scholarship applies to any field of study.

Access to Application: Download application at tinyurl.com/3xwxs69.

Submission: Email to scholarships@angus.org.

Deadline: May 1. — **Molly Biggs, American Angus Association communications specialist**

Angus champions named at 2025 National Western Stock Show

Angus enthusiasts led 117 entries at the 2025 National Western Stock Show Super Point Roll of Victory Angus Show, Jan. 17 in Denver, CO. Jake Scott, Gordon, NE, evaluated the 85 females, 31 bulls and one cow-calf pair.

MC Vegas 3109 claimed the grand champion bull title after first earning senior calf champion. Zach McCall, Greenville, VA, owns the October 2023 son of Riverstone Vegas 49H.

Thummel Angus, Sheridan, MO, owns the reserve grand champion bull. WB Thumbs Up 327 is a September 2023 son of PVF Blacklist 7077 and was first named reserve senior calf champion.

Seldom Rest Farms, Niles, MI; and Moore Cattle Company, Lebanon, OK, own the grand champion female. Seldom Rest Sandy 3007 is a January 2023 daughter of EXAR Classen 1422B and first won junior champion.

Addison Crouse, Belgrade, NE, claimed reserve grand champion female. LSCF Trixy is an October 2023 daughter of Colburn Primo 5153 and first won senior calf champion.

Greene Elba’s Mocha 2118 won grand champion cow-calf pair. Garrett Greene, Powell Butte, OR, owns the April 2021 daughter of Greene Pokerface 1304. A May 2024 heifer calf sired by Gateway Follow Me F163 completes the winning pair.

A complete list of winners follows:

Heifers: 85 shown

• Summer Heifer Calf Champion: SCC Phyllis 450. Exhibitor: Hayden Hahn, Rocky Ridge, MD.

• Reserve Summer Heifer Calf Champion: Lazy JB Saras Dream 477.

Exhibitor: Madison Fischer, Hempstead, TX.

• Junior Heifer Calf Champion - Division 1: Seldom Rest Diva Bardot 4048.

Exhibitor: Alyson Friesen, Arnett, OK.

• Reserve Junior Heifer Calf

Champion - Division 1: UDE Saras Dream 4017.

Exhibitor: Hayden Hoffman, Thedford, NE.

• Junior Heifer Calf Champion - Division 2: Collison Bardot 408.

Exhibitor: Catie Collison, Lake City, IA.

• Reserve Junior Heifer Calf Champion - Division 2: Collison Miss Annie Lu 413.

Exhibitor: Catie Collison, Lake City, IA.

• Senior Heifer Calf Champion: LSCF Trixy.

Exhibitor: Addison Crouse, Belgrade, NE.

• Reserve Senior Heifer Calf Champion: SCC Phyllis 3110.

Exhibitor: Ella Brooks, Prophetstown, IL.

• Intermediate Champion Heifer: Colburn DS Sandy VA 3305.

Exhibitor: Spencer Wright, Lebanon, TN.

• Reserve Intermediate Champion Heifer: DDA Northern Miss 2320.

Exhibitor: Kelly Gaffney, Barneveld, WI.

• Junior Champion Heifer - Division 1: Seldom Rest Sandy 3007.

Exhibitor: Seldom Rest Farms, Niles, MI; and Moore Cattle Company, Lebanon, OK.

• Reserve Junior Champion Heifer - Division 1: Reib Phyllis 336.

Exhibitor: Parker Chestnut, Bath, IN.

• Grand Champion Female: Seldom Rest Sandy 3007.

Exhibitor: Seldom Rest Farms, Niles, MI; and Moore Cattle Company, Lebanon, OK.

• Reserve Grand Champion Female: LSCF Trixy.

Exhibitor: Addison Crouse, Belgrade, NE.

Bulls: 31 shown

• Summer Bull Calf Champion: LV Marvel 2430.

Exhibitor: Lake View Angus, Mead, CO.

• Reserve Summer Bull Calf Champion: None.

• Junior Bull Calf Champi-

on: Lazy JB Outskirt 4527.

Exhibitor: Lazy JB Angus, Montrose, CO.

• Reserve Junior Bull Calf Champion: Chestnut Connect 1124.

Exhibitor: Chestnut Angus Farm, Pipestone, MN.

• Senior Bull Calf Champion: MC Vegas 3109.

Exhibitor: Zach McCall, Greenville, VA.

• Reserve Senior Bull Calf Champion: WB Thumbs Up 327.

Exhibitor: Thummel Angus, Sheridan, MO.

• Intermediate Champion Bull: DAJS Tricked Out 610.

Exhibitor: Doug Satree Angus, Montague, TX.

• Reserve Intermediate Bull: None.

• Junior Champion Bull: RW Timeless 304.

Exhibitor: David & Steph Dickerson, Paradise, KS; Rocking W Angus, Waterford, CA; and Griswold Cattle Co., Stillwater, OK.

• Reserve Junior Champion Bull: BCC King Pin 93L.

Exhibitor: Zane Barragree, Absarokee, MT.

• Senior Champion Bull: BNWZ Paisley 2143.

Exhibitor: Jeff Fruhling, Homer, IL, and Austin Nowatzke, Michigan City, IN.

• Reserve Senior Champion Bull: HLC CSI Elevation 100K.

Exhibitor: Hollinger Land & Cattle, Neudorf, Saskatchewan, Canada; and Rafter D4 Cattle Co., Ardrossan, Alberta, Canada.

• Grand Champion Bull: MC Vegas 3109.

Exhibitor: Zach McCall, Greenville, VA.

• Reserve Grand Champion Bull: WB Thumbs Up 327.

Exhibitor: Thummel Angus, Sheridan, MO.

• Reserve Grand Champion Bull: WB Thumbs Up 327.

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• Reserve Grand Champion Bull: WB Thumbs Up 327.

Exhibitor: Thummel Angus, Sheridan, MO.

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Homozygous Polled

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IPU Advance x LFE McDavid
FleckAngus Sons Sell



Homozygous Polled

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3/8 SM 5/8 AN
OCC Perfection 111A x OCC Jet Stream
FleckAngus Sons Sell

Others sires represented - VE Meyer Forte, VE Cut R Eclipse, OCC Exceptional Blaze, OCC Best Yet, OCC Gulf Stream, IPU Romano 90X

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Langford Named 2025 Angus Herdsman of the Year

American Angus Association recognizes Cash Langford of Hunter Angus as the 2025 Angus Herdsman of the Year, which is selected through a peer-voting process.

In a community where stockmen respect each other's hard work and expertise, the Herdsman of the Year Award is a mark of excellence in the Angus breed. This award recognizes an Angus enthusiast who has dedicated themselves to the management, strategic choices and advancement of their cow herd. While the life of a

herdsman may seem glamorous to many, few understand both the physical and mental demands of the job.

Cash Langford of Hunter Angus in Fair Grove, MO, understands those demands and embraces his role fully, earning him the recognition as the 2025 Angus Herdsman of the Year.

The award was presented by the American Angus Association on Jan. 10, at Cattlemen's Congress in Oklahoma City, OK. After the initial shock of the announcement passed, Langford credited his success to surrounding himself with

"The Angus breed has given me so much, and I'm honored to be nominated for this award alongside three other deserving gentlemen as well as dear friends."

—Cash Langford

good people, noting the first people to congratulate him were fellow nominees and good friends, Greg Van Zee, Michael Jones and

Cole Kaufman.

"I thought there's no way, I mean, I really was not expecting to win this," Langford said. "I mean, it's always been not necessarily a goal, but a dream. There are some people that mean so much to me and have taught me so much that have passed away in the last few years, that have won this award, and I've learned so much from those guys."

What means even more to Langford is that the award is voted on by his peers. "It's pretty awesome that people think that I'm the one that needs to be chosen for that award."

Langford, a Texas native, grew up with a competitive spirit for showing cattle. His interest in the cattle industry was sparked at a young age as he exhibited Angus cattle nationally and steers at the Texas majors.

Today he calls Fair Grove home serving as the herdsman at Hunter Angus. There he manages show and sale cattle and plays a key role in the daily operations of the farm. He works closely with the Hunter Angus team on breeding decisions, mating strategies and maintaining the farm's donor and recipient cow battery.

Under his management, Hunter Angus has achieved considerable success, including the exhibition of the 2023-24 Roll of Victory Show Bull of the Year, BNWZ Executive Decision 2219.

At Hunter Angus, Langford serves as a mentor to junior members, helping them select heifers, offering advice on feeding and providing guidance on fitting and clipping for shows.

"The Angus breed has given me so much, and I'm honored to be nominated for this award alongside three other deserving gentlemen as well as dear friends," Langford said. "What keeps me motivated is the people I get to work with, especially the young people in the industry. Helping them grow and succeed is what it's all about."

He adds, he hopes Richard Stotts and Ed Richardson are proudly looking down over him, because they helped mold and guide him to where he is today.

The 2025 Herdsman of the Year nominees were slated by a committee of previous award winners, based on their devotion and skills spent improving a specific herd and the Angus breed. They were Michael Jones, Express Ranches; Cole Kaufman, Oakley Farms; and Greg Van Zee, Udell Cattle Company.

Peers select the Herdsman of the Year award winner through voting, hosted by the association.

To be eligible to vote, exhibitors must have entered at least one of the following shows in 2024: Cattlemen's Congress, National Western Stock Show, Western National Angus Futurity, Atlantic National, American Royal or North American International Livestock Exposition.

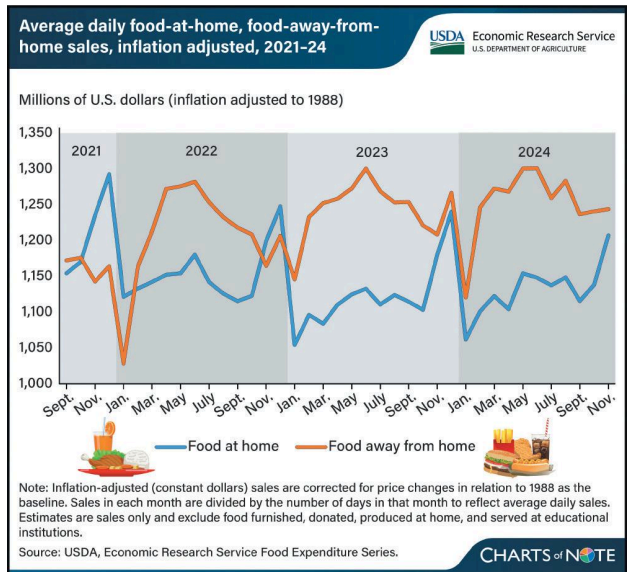
To learn more about Langford or the other three 2025 Angus Herdsman of the Year candidates, visit bit.ly/2025HOTYCandidates. — American Angus Association



American Angus Association

Pictured is the 2025 Herdsman of the Year, Cash Langford, alongside his family.

US food sales shift with the seasons



Food sales in the U.S. generally increase annually over time, even when adjusted for inflation, but distinct seasonal patterns emerge within each year.

Food sales typically spike in December, during the holiday season, as consumers spend more on holiday-related foods, festivities and dining experiences. This trend is evident in both food-at-home (FAH) and food-away-from-home (FAFH) categories. However, when the calendar flips to January, a noticeable downturn in food sales occurs.

Average daily inflation-adjusted FAH sales in January 2022, 2023 and 2024 decreased more than 13% each year from the previous

month. FAFH sales also saw a decline, dropping about 12% in 2022 and 2024 and 5% in 2023.

This sales slump does not necessarily reflect a reduction in food consumption, but it does reflect changes in consumer behavior such as focusing on budget-conscious food spending in the new year. FAFH sales typically rebound quicker than FAH sales, rising steadily to a midyear peak in June then declining a bit before experiencing an uptick in December.

FAH sales follow a similar trend of increasing after the dip in January but usually remain at lower levels overall before peaking in December. — USDA Economic Research Service

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Study uses 30 years of data to evaluate environmental influences

SHEEP GEMS

(from page 1)

health is assessed by measuring udder depth and teat placement near lambing. For gastrointestinal parasitism, fecal egg counts and FAMACHA scores— anemia assessments—are recorded in lambs and ewes at critical times.

The project also examines climatic resilience, particularly ewe longevity, by tracking stayability—whether a ewe remains in the flock while staying productive. Additionally, researchers monitor body weights and condition scores at key physiological stages, such as breeding and weaning, to better understand how sheep adapt to changing environmental conditions.

Initial study

An initial study with Katahdin sheep demonstrated how genetics, environment and management interact. Researchers analyzed body weights, fecal egg counts and FAMACHA scores at around 90 days of age in over 3,500 Katahdin lambs from 17 flocks participating in NSIP. Fecal egg counts and FAMACHA scores provided insights into a lamb's genetic ability to resist gastrointestinal nematode infections, particularly *Haemonchus contortus*, a common blood-feeding parasite in U.S. sheep and goats.

Researchers used 30 years of climate data to evaluate environmental influences, including rainfall, snowfall, tempera-

ture and elevation. Management practices were assessed through an online survey completed by 40 NSIP Katahdin producers, covering factors such as grazing systems, parasite control and feeding strategies.

Rather than considering environment and management separately, researchers combined them into nine "eco-management clusters," which better captured differences among flocks. Flocks in hotter, wetter climates with pasture-born lambs exhibited higher parasite loads, while those turned out to pasture at older ages experienced less parasitism. Further analysis showed that specific sire families performed differently depending on the eco-management cluster in which their lambs were raised.

The interaction between sire genotype and cluster accounted for 12% of the variation in fecal egg counts and FAMACHA scores and 19% of the variation in body weights. Incorporating these interactions into breeding programs could improve selection decisions and accelerate genetic progress.

Sheep genetics

Sheep GEMS has provided an opportunity to capture genetic information from sheep across the U.S. to make genomic predictions of breeding values, verify parentage and identify genetic condition status.

To characterize the genetic

diversity within the industry, Sheep GEMS has genotyped DNA from 15,586 sheep across four breeds in NSIP: Katahdin (12,495 sheep), Rambouillet (1,276 sheep), Polypay (1,292 sheep) and Suffolk (523 sheep).

Genetic research conducted through the Sheep GEMS project analyzed five key genetic conditions: ovine progressive pneumonia (OPP) susceptibility, scrapie susceptibility, double muscling (MSTN), callipyge (CLPG) and booroola fecundity (FecB).

The study found none of the four breeds—Katahdin,

Polypay, Rambouillet and Suffolk—carried the CLPG or FecB mutations. The CLPG mutation, originally from the Dorset breed, has been largely removed from U.S. sheep populations due to its negative impact on loin muscle tenderness.

The FecB mutation, primarily used in intensive lambing systems, has seen little adoption in the U.S. The MSTN mutation, linked to improved muscle development, was found at low frequencies in Katahdins (4.3%) and Suffolk (6.2%) but was absent in Ram-

bouillet and Polypay. This mutation particularly benefits terminal sire lines, where selection pressure could enhance its prevalence.

Notable differences in scrapie susceptibility were observed among breeds, with Polypay showing the highest level of scrapie resistance at 92%. Similarly, 93.3% of Katahdin, 92.5% of Suffolk and 83.5% of Rambouillet sheep were classified as either resistant or rarely susceptible. However, 15.8% of Rambouillet sheep were highly susceptible to scrapie, emphasizing the need for

genetic selection to increase resistance. As part of the National Scrapie Eradication effort, ongoing research in the Sheep GEMS project will assess the potential unintended consequences of selecting for scrapie resistance, particularly concerning OPP susceptibility.

According to Ron Lewis, an emeritus professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the Sheep GEMS project will provide updates on udder health and parasite resistance in the coming months. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

ALB appointments announced

The USDA announced in December 2024 the reappointment of four members to serve on the American Lamb Board (ALB). Each member will serve a second three-year term beginning in January and ending January 2028.

The newly reappointed members are:

- Jimmy Parker, Vinemont, AL, producer.
- David Fisher, Sonora, TX, producer.
- Stephen J. Schreier, Tracy, MN, feeder.
- Andrew Allman, Gill, CO, first handler.

"It has been a true honor to serve on the American Lamb Board and represent sheep producers from across the country. I am deeply passion-

ate about the quality of both the product we produce and the people who grow it," said Fisher. "We have a great board with a willingness to think outside the box to promote our industry. I look forward to serving a second term and representing this great industry."

"I am honored to be reappointed to serve on the American Lamb Board," said Parker, a former member of the ASI Executive Board. "It has been an educational and eye-opening experience thus far and I look forward to three more years of serving the sheep industry by helping guide the promotional and educational opportunities that will continue to help our industry

grow."

"My first term on lamb board went by very fast as there is a lot to learn. The board is very diverse, and it was a great experience to learn about the issues and concerns from members representing different areas of the sheep industry," said Schreier, who also previously served on the ASI Executive Board representing the National Lamb Feeders Association. "My goals for the next three years will be to better understand all challenges of the sheep industry and budget checkoff dollars toward programs that will strengthen the industry and support our contributors."

"I'm honored to be selected and look forward to serving the

lamb community," said Allman.

Each spring, USDA seeks nominations for the board from industry organizations that have been certified by USDA. ASI is one of these organizations, which represent producers, feeders, seedstock producers and first handlers.

"It is incredibly beneficial to have strong industry leaders like David, Jimmy, Steve and Andrew serve a second term," said ALB Chairman Jeff Ebert. "They can continue to contribute to our organization and provide strategic direction based on their knowledge and experience both in the sheep industry as well as having three years serving on the ALB." — **ALB**

Pioneer Bluffs to host Prairie Talk

On March 8 at 1 p.m., Pioneer Bluffs will host an exclusive Prairie Talk focusing on the Grassland Conservation Series from Ranchland Trust of Kansas (RTK).

In the spring of last year, RTK worked with Emil Redmon's Cow to produce a specific series of interviews focused on grassland conservation and stewardship. This prairie talk will provide a unique opportunity to interact with the four Kansas ranching families that participated in the project.

Included in the interviews were Bill Sproul, Sproul Ranch of Sedan; Matt and Tom Perrier, Dalebanks Angus of Eureka; Heather Fuesz and Irlene Huntington, Double Arrow C and Huntington Ranches of Eureka; and Glenn Walker, Walker Ranch of Brookville.

"I've interviewed over 80 farmers and ranchers now, a majority from the Flint Hills. A recurring theme has been concerns about conservation and the responsibility of stewardship. I was thrilled for the opportunity to team up with RTK and explore the subject on a deeper level," said Mark Feiden, producer of Emil Redmon's Cow.

Attendees are encouraged to participate in the panel discussion on March 8. Please watch the interviews in advance and be prepared to ask questions at www.redmonscow.org/

grassland.htm.

This promises to be an enlightening conversation on a subject of increasing importance as threats to our prairie ecosystems increase.

Samantha Weishaar, RTK associate director said, "Mark has done an excellent job on this project. Archiving these stories is so important to each family and they will get to share it with future generations. We encourage you to attend and see this truly inspirational series come to life."

This event is free and open to the public. Homemade cookies and refreshments will be served. RSVPs are appreciated, but not required, and can be made to 620-753-3484 or info@pioneerbluffs.org. Donations will support future program events. Visitors are invited to come early to tour the grounds, walk the nature trail, and see updated displays in the historic 1908 ranch house at Pioneer Bluffs.

Pioneer Bluffs, the Center for Flint Hills Ranching Heritage, is a nonprofit organization with a mission to preserve and share the ranching heritage of the Flint Hills. A National Register Historic District, Pioneer Bluffs is located 14 miles south of Cottonwood Falls or 1 mile north of Matfield Green on Flint Hills National Scenic Byway K-177. — **Pioneer Bluffs**

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LOT 4 - CASINO CONSTABLE X163
Reg #21084843 - Sire: Casino Constable T34
BW +1.6 | WW +91 | YW +151 | Marb +.55 |
RE +.81 | \$M +75 | \$W +92



LOT 30 - CASINO BROADCAST X162
Reg #21084842 - Sire: Connealy Broadcast
BW +1.2 | WW +79 | YW +138 | Marb +1 |
RE +.95 | \$M +56 | \$W +70



LOT 6 - CR THEDFORD 453
Reg #20920030 - Sire: Hoffman Thedford
BW +.2 | WW +88 | YW +156 | Marb +.62 |
RE +.83 | \$M +65 | \$W +85



LOT 44 - CR BLOCKADE 430
Reg #20917126 - Sire: Hoffman LLL Blockade
BW +3.5 | WW +88 | YW +149 | Marb +.97 |
RE +.92 | \$M +71 | \$W +66



LOT 64 - CR JUSTIFY 457
Reg #20920035 - Sire: Bear Mtn Justify
BW +.9 | WW +89 | YW +162 | Marb +.75 |
RE +1.17 | \$M +75 | \$W +94

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ASI Annual Convention shines light on flock's future

Most homes were still illuminated by lanterns and candlelight when the National Wool Growers Association—the predecessor to the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI)—held its first convention in 1865. But 160 years later, sheep producers from across the country shared a renewed excitement for the industry's future as a panel of solar grazers pointed toward new heights for the American flock and its role in developing clean energy for the U.S.

Ryan Indart of California, Reid Redden of Texas and Daniel Dotterer of Pennsylvania shared stories of getting their feet in the door of solar grazing in recent years during the 2025 ASI Annual Convention Opening Session on Jan. 16 in Scottsdale, AZ. They were joined in the panel discussion by Silicon Ranch Corporation's Loran Shallenberger and David Wen of AES Corporation. Both companies are developing solar assets, while Silicon Ranch has taken the unprecedented

step of assembling its own sheep flock, as well. The panel was moderated by Lexie Hain of New York, a solar grazer who founded the American Solar Grazing Association and is now the director of agrivoltaics and land management at Lightsource bp.

Agrovoltaics is the practice of using land for both agriculture and solar energy production, and more often than not at this point that agricultural use is the grazing of sheep. The explosion of solar fields

throughout the country has created a whole new job for America's sheep, and producers like those on the panel welcomed the opportunity to supplement their livestock incomes (from lamb and, in some cases, wool) with grazing fees. While solar grazing has allowed producers to expand their flocks, it has also welcomed newcomers who often found the lack of land an expensive barrier to getting into the industry.

The Western wildfires that dominated the news in re-

cent weeks have also put a spotlight on grazing, and the role it can play in a changing climate. Targeted grazing is a booming industry, as well, and has long been used in states such as California to reduce fire loads.

"The American sheep industry has definitely seen a resurgence in recent years thanks to these grazing opportunities," said newly elected ASI President Ben Lehfeldt of Montana. "We wanted to further highlight that opportunity at this year's convention. But sheep producers have always known the value that sheep bring to the lands they graze, whether that's a solar field, national forest or private land."

New leadership

The association elected new officers during the 2025 ASI Annual Convention at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort. Lehfeldt was elected to serve as president, while California's Joe Pozzi moved into the vice president slot and Tammy Fisher of Texas was elected secretary/treasurer. Brad Boner of Wyoming will serve as past president after two years at the helm of the association.

Lehfeldt is a fifth-generation rancher, and his family has been involved in the industry for more than 135 years. He previously served as vice president (2023-25) and secretary/treasurer (2021-23), and is a past member of the ASI Wool Council. He's also served as a director of the Montana Wool Growers Association, and on the board of directors for the American Lamb Board and the National Grazing Lands Coalition.

Each of ASI's councils and committees met in person during the Jan. 15-18 annual convention, and here are some highlights from those meetings:

- **Wool Council:** Discussions centered around American wool manufacturing industry research and wool industry biosecurity. The research suggests strengthening domestic wool markets by expanding demand, investing in first-stage processing and building supply chain partnerships. Improving cost and quality competitiveness will help boost profitability. The apparel industry's plans to move supply onshore also present new opportunities. The report underscored the importance of first-stage processing in the U.S. for handling American wool domestically and supplying essential materials to the domestic textile industry.

- **Animal Health Committee:** As the American sheep industry moves toward being declared "scrapie free" in the coming years, there is an alarming threat south of the border with the discovery of New World screwworm in Mexico. Present in the U.S. in the 1960s, the New World screwworm has not been detected in the country for decades. But its prevalence in central America and Mexico has the U.S. taking aggressive actions to stop the species from migrating further north.

- **Genetics Forum:** For the fourth consecutive year, the ASI Genetic Stakeholders Committee joined with Sheep Genetics USA to host a genetics forum during the convention. Livestock producers John Helle of Montana, Jim Malooley of Georgia and Isaac Matchett of Michigan, shared insights about how they have incorporated genetic information into their operations, as well as revealed shortcomings in putting genetic data to work on their ranches, with common frustrations centered on technological limitations. All three shared that genetic information is an important component of making selections to improve their flocks, but it's also critical that producers match those selections for the environment in which they operate.

- **Lamb Council:** A panel discussion entitled Competing in Today's Market offered opinions on marketing American lamb from three very different sides of the industry: a small producer in Kentucky, a large packer and a marketing company that works directly with the American Lamb Board. The consensus is that the industry needs to lean into the fact that lamb is a top-notch protein that works well for those looking for quality over quantity when making purchasing decisions. At the same time, those consumers want to know the story behind their food and are willing to pay for it. At the same time, lamb prices have been comparable to beef prices—and will remain so for the foreseeable future—which opens the market for consumers who aren't familiar with the protein.

- **Production, Education & Research Council:** Solar grazing made an appearance here, as well, with J.R. Howard of Texas joining a panel to discuss Scaling Up Production: How to Do It Successfully. His solar grazing operation in East Texas has grown exponentially from a family operation less than five years ago. He was joined on the panel by targeted grazer Robert Irwin of California and Katahdin producer Dan Turner of Pennsylvania. Cash flow is often the biggest issue in ramping up a livestock operation and producers need to be ready for that. If it means taking on debt, they need to be prepared and educated enough to do it wisely.

- **Legislative Action Council:** Boner discussed reformation of the H-2A Shepherder Program Taskforce to review plans for immigration reform. ASI hopes to work with the new administration to make the program more sustainable for American sheep ranchers after wages, fees and paperwork delays have skyrocketed in recent years. One-third of all sheep in the American flock are herded by H-2A workers, so the program is critical to the industry.

- **Resource Management Council:** In addition to hearing from new Wildlife Services Deputy Administrator Jessica Fantinato, the council got an update on the



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"Looking to the Future and Honoring the Past"

Friday, April 11 • 9 a.m. PDT

9 a.m. Trade Show and Bull Viewing Begins

12 noon Lunch • Complimentary, but please RSVP. See below for details.

2 p.m. Speaker Presentations

Jim Sprinkle, Ph.D. • University of Idaho
Grazing Behavior of Efficient and Inefficient Cattle on Rangeland

Dan Bell, ZZ Cattle Co. • Drew McGibbon, Santa Rita Ranch
The Future of Virtual Fence

Dave Daley, Ph.D. • Public Lands Council Board of Directors & 5th Generation California Rancher
The Challenges and Opportunities of Public Land Grazing

Kent Anderson, Ph.D. • Zoetis
The Future of DNA and Economically Relevant Traits

Moderator: Lee Leachman • CEO, Leachman Cattle

5:00 p.m. Social with Heavy Hors d'oeuvres

6:00 p.m. Centennial Customer Awards

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ASI

Panelists speak during the 2025 ASI Annual Convention Opening Session.

forthcoming targeted grazing book that ASI will publish in 2025.

• Young & Emerging Entrepreneurs Committee: The YEE committee hosted a record number of first-time convention attendees and introduced an online-based education program it is developing for new sheep producers. The committee also had its dystocia simulator on site for producers to see and experience. It was purchased in 2024 as part of a National Sheep Industry Improvement Center grant that is also funding development of the online education program.

In customary fashion, ASI used the annual convention

to recognize those who have contributed in meaningful ways to the American sheep industry and its development. Peter John Camino of Wyoming was recognized as the McClure Silver Ram Award winner. A past president of the American Lamb Board, Camino has served on several ASI councils and committees. A third-generation rancher, he's working to transition the family operation that dates back to his grandfather in 1908 to his son.

Utah's Tom Boyer was recognized as the Industry Innovation Award winner for his efforts to push the American sheep industry toward technological advances in

genetics and genomics. He is a founding member of Sheep Genetics USA and worked with a team of individuals to bring back the National Ram Sale in his home state in 2021.

Louisiana State University's Dr. James Miller earned the Peter Orwick Camptender Award for his 30-plus years as a veterinary parasitologist, where he worked tirelessly to research parasite control and educate producers in the Southeast.

New York's Keith Stumbo picked up the Distinguished Producer award after a lifetime of sheep involvement. A volunteer leader in everything from local boards to

the Empire State Sheep Association—ASI's affiliate in New York—to the ASI Executive Board, Stumbo was always willing to lend a hand despite a sales job that had him traveling internationally until his retirement. His wife, Kathy, was often called upon as head shepherd during his travels. He's served previously on ASI's Wool and

Lamb Councils.

Editor Matt Reese of Ohio's Country Journal was recognized as the Shepherd's Voice Award winner for his efforts to promote the sheep industry as a whole, but particularly for his dedication to the Ohio Sheep Improvement Association—ASI's Ohio affiliate.

And finally, ASI's Wool

Roundtable selected retired ASI Consultant Barry Savage as the 2025 Wool Excellence Award winner. He spent two decades promoting American wool using connections he established during his time working in the Australian wool industry.

The 2026 ASI Annual Convention is scheduled for Jan. 28-31 in Reno, NV. — ASI

Webinars offered on sheep predators

The University of Wyoming (UW) Extension Sheep Task Force is hosting a series of virtual webinars on predator management.

The webinar series is free and open to the public. Sheep producers from across Wyoming and beyond are welcome to attend. The three webinar sessions will take place 6-7 p.m. on Feb. 25, March 4 and March 11.

The UW Extension Sheep Task Force supports Wyoming's sheep producers with current industry challenges through evidence-based research and on-the-ground implementation.

"The UWE Sheep Task Force has heard loud and clear that predation is one of the top issues for Wyoming sheep producers," says McKenna Julian, Lincoln County Extension educator. "This webinar [series] will provide information on a few predator management strategies and the economic impact that predation and a good management plan can have on an operation."

The first webinar will focus on using burros to protect sheep flocks from predators. Researchers at the Laramie Research and Extension Center (LREC) adopted burros from the Bureau of Land Management to test this method. During the webinar, LREC Director Derek Scasta will discuss LREC's research and what producers may need to know before adding a burro to their flock.

Livestock guardian dogs are the topic of the second webinar on Tuesday, March 4. Dagan Montgomery, Sublette County Extension educator, and Cat Urbigkit, president of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, will lead the discussion. They will discuss differences between livestock guardian dog breeds and how to manage guardian dogs effectively.

The final webinar session on Tuesday, March 11, will address predator assistance options and predator management costs. Speakers are Chance Marshall, Fremont

County Extension educator and member of the Fremont County Predator Board; Alison Crane, executive director of the Wyoming Wool Growers Association; and Rob Ziegler, UW Extension livestock production and marketing specialist.

Marshall and Crane will discuss how the Wyoming Wool Growers Association, county boards and state trappers can assist Wyoming sheep producers with predation. Ziegler will review the economic impacts of predation and examine which predator management strategies are most cost effective.

To register for the webinar series, visit bit.ly/wy-predator. Registered participants will receive a Zoom link to all three webinars and are free to attend one or all of the sessions.

Webinar recordings will be available on UW Extension's YouTube page after the series' conclusion. For more information, contact Julian at mbrinton@uwyo.edu or 307-828-4093. — UW Extension

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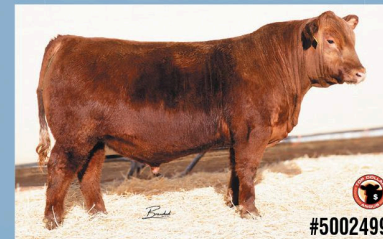
Lot 1 - LELAND PROPULSION 4054



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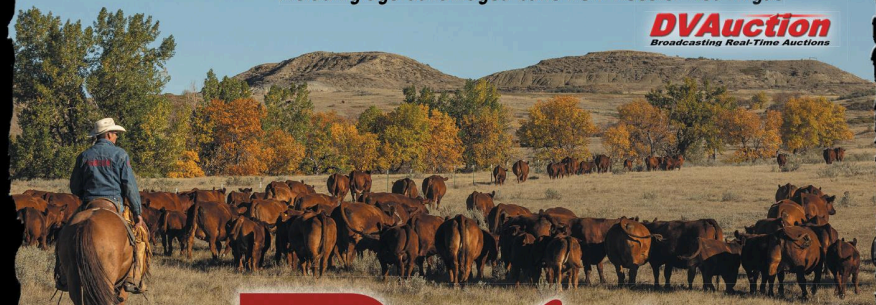
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MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 2/13/2025	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	202.92 ▼	207.16	180.13
CME Feeder Index	275.73 ▼	279.03	244.93
Boxed Beef Average	317.40 ▼	323.98	295.30
Average Dressed Steers	320.30 ▼	326.96	287.24
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,442 ▼	1,447	1,379
Weekly Slaughter**	584,000 ▼	600,000	622,000
Weekly Beef Production***	510.6 ▼	526.4	519.9
Hide/Offal Value	11.64 ▲	11.63	11.59
Corn Price	4.94 ▼	4.96	4.18

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

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef												
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price	
February 7	6,661	329.68	220	383.59	1,238	332.49	1,985	325.06	699	316.58	2,519	300.65
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

Cutouts						FED BOXED BEEF		
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN			
Feb. 13	317.40	309.84	290.59	112.46	374.00			
Feb. 12	319.26	309.14	290.12	108.91	372.19			
Feb. 11	322.46	312.21	287.70	99.61	N/A			
Feb. 10	323.50	313.92	287.83	114.61	N/A			
Feb. 7	321.87	312.90	287.56	92.57	371.88			

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	2/7	2/10	2/11	2/12	2/13	High*	Low*
Feb.	20078	20230	20185	20003	20018	20935	16853
Apr.	19678	19870	19823	19645	19753	20773	16668
Jun.	19210	19355	19315	19198	19318	20165	17005
Aug.	18925	19065	19013	18963	19075	19790	18068

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	2/7	2/10	2/11	2/12	2/13	High*	Low*
Mar.	26490	26845	26833	26473	26828	28225	21920
Apr.	26483	26805	26790	26605	26825	27983	22268
May	26360	26655	26643	26478	26658	27900	22460
Aug.	26618	26888	26868	26723	26885	27723	24118

*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.

FED CATTLE TRADE			
Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price	
Live FOB Steer	3,048	1,430	202.92
Live FOB Heifer	1,869	1,343	202.86
Dressed Del Steer	1,317	980	320.30
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	3,048	1,430	202.92
Live FOB Heifer	1,869	1,343	202.86
Dressed Del Steer	1,317	980	320.30
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
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 YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	15,104	1,438	180.13
Live FOB Heifer	10,126	1,309	179.76
Dressed Del Steer	1,685	956	287.24
Dressed Del Heifer	158	867	284.97

Selected Auctions										Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2	
Week Ending February 13, 2025											
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	NORTHWEST
										SLAUGHTER BULLS	
February 7	Blackfoot, ID	N/A		280-330	285-344	260-322	250-288	230-268	112-137	130-148	
February 6	Burley, ID	264	366	348-370	315-330	271	265-275	238	95-142		
			333	351	281-328	281	249				
	No report available										
	Emmett, ID										
February 8	Eugene, OR	339				230-275*			120-156		
			240-320*		240-285*	200-257*			140-161		1,300-1,700
	No report available										
	Madras, OR										
February 12	Vale, OR	163							132-144		
											2,000-2,250
	No report available										
	Davenport, WA										
February 6	Toppenish, WA	1,250			280*				143-153.50		
							246		142-162		

FAR WEST											
February 6	Orland, CA	284		275-355	245-355	316			120-144	141-163	
February 12	Escalon, CA	N/A		255-310	225-285				75-104	90-161	
February 10	Famoso, CA	302		280-320	280-310	275-300	250-280	225-242	200-220	105-170	
				250-290	250-290	250-290	225-270		200-210	120-140	
	No report available										
	Galt, CA										
February 11	Turlock, CA	688		310-350	305-346	284-334	255-298	240-274	220-238	112-148.50	
				300-325	290-334	270-300	240-254	220-240	200-218	140-178	
February 11	Salina, UT	885	460	280-415	265-330	245-362.50	242.50-317.50	230-282.50	205-266	125.40-138.50	
				245-365	240-345	220-333	210-289	195-260	160-245	136.05-193.75	

NORTH CENTRAL											
February 10	Iowa	16,214		370-440	350-417.50	311-389	274-344	255-313.75	200-280	115-212	
				357.50-445	280-376	249-345	257-310	232.50-305.75	201-255	140-202	
	No report available										
	Miles City, MT										
	No report available										
	Bassett, NE										
February 8	Ericson, NE	2,480			375-415	361-379	315-346.25	288.50-311.75	250-289.25	240-257.50	
				390	335-342		271.50-303	264-301.50			
	No report available										
	Imperial, NE										
	No report available										
	Kearney, NE										
February 7	Lexington, NE	3,127		455	389-423	367-385.50	310-350.25	278.50-310	260.75-273		
				385-387	340-391	320-350	272-311	247-270.50	233.50-247.50		
February 6	Ogallala, NE	4,466		448-455	396	341-391	297-338	269.50-304	254.50-278		
				391-413	332.50-354	315-338	268-308.50	249-280.50	232.50-258		
February 6	Valentine, NE	2,890			400-462.50	355-388	310-352				
				372.50-397.50	349-396	320-363	285-340	303-342			
February 7	Herreid, SD	3,165			413-415	341-387	300-354	278.25-303	295.50		
				387.50	346-389	317-348	270-313	281-302.50			
February 12	Torrington, WY	3,285			425	382-410	365-373	310-332	282-307.50	260-269	
				369-400	335-352	315-335	279-318	255-276	225-251		

SOUTH CENTRAL											
February 6	Wilcox, AZ	1,414		442-446	391-406	346.50-395	307.50-331	250.50-282.50		110-140	2,000-2,550
				370-395	297.50-350	297-322.50	288-302.50	233.50-249		120-164	2,050-2,250
February 10	Colorado	12,039		410-432.50	415-435	355-440	312.50-393	285-343.50	263-297.50	219-282	1,175-2,725
				357.50-402.50	332-405		266-341	251-316	240-309	197-252.50	925-3,025
	No report available										
	La Junta, CO										
February 10	Loma, CO	606		385-425	355-410	305-367	290-320	265-295	210-265	120-143	2,525-2,700
				360-400	345-380	300-345	265-295	240-290	190-240	150-170	
February 12	Dodge City, KS	905	450		374-391	337.50-355	304-323	270-283	244-267.60	132-144.50	
				405	344-382.50	285-310	272-279	248-256	217-236	165	2,175-2,225
February 6	Pratt, KS	2,771			352.50-420	312.50-355	253-329.50	265-290	240.50-277.75	120-148	
				385-386	287.50-372	280-327	257-297	226-262	190-241	149-188	1,375-2,925
February 6	Salina, KS	1,830			450	387-415	305-390	298-335	262-287	235.50-258	
				420-440	367-382.50	342-367	289-330	269-289	243-260	231-249.75	
February 13	Clovis, NM	1,710			390-480	310-430	295-348	267-313	244-285	182-260	2,200-2,300
				344-402	305-362	275-342	246-278	240-256	198-232	129-170.50	1,125-2,300
February 11	El Reno, OK	0			370-400	321-360	315-350	280-328	272.50		
					395-448	360-400	305-330	261-270	242.50		
February 11	McAlester, OK	435			333-375	307-340	273-297	237-262	203-217	209	1,100-2,200
						355-411	319-376	279-330	261-292	246.50-267.50	
February 10	Oklahoma City, OK	4,743			430	303-347	302-330	260-285	235-263	225-244.50	
February 7	Cuero, TX	1,824		363-490	350-465	308-430	291-325	268-300	242-280	213-246	140-158

Beef herd dynamics: What's possible in 2025?

The latest Cattle report confirms what happened in 2024—the cattle industry continued to shrink—but also provides indications of what to expect in 2025. Figure 1 shows the basic drivers of beef cow herd dynamics.

The graph shows heifer retention and cow culling, both as a percentage of the beef cow inventory. Simply put, beef herd expansion occurs when the blue line (heifer retention) is above the red line (cow culling). For example, this occurred dramatically in 2015-18 with record high heifer retention and record low cow culling.

In 2024, cow culling decreased sharply to 10.19%, about equal to the long-term average. It's headed in the right direction but will need to drop further—9% or below for two or more years—to indicate herd expansion. Even more critical is the heifer retention

part of herd rebuilding. Figure 1 indicates that heifer retention has declined continuously since 2021 and has not yet begun to increase, as is required for herd expansion.

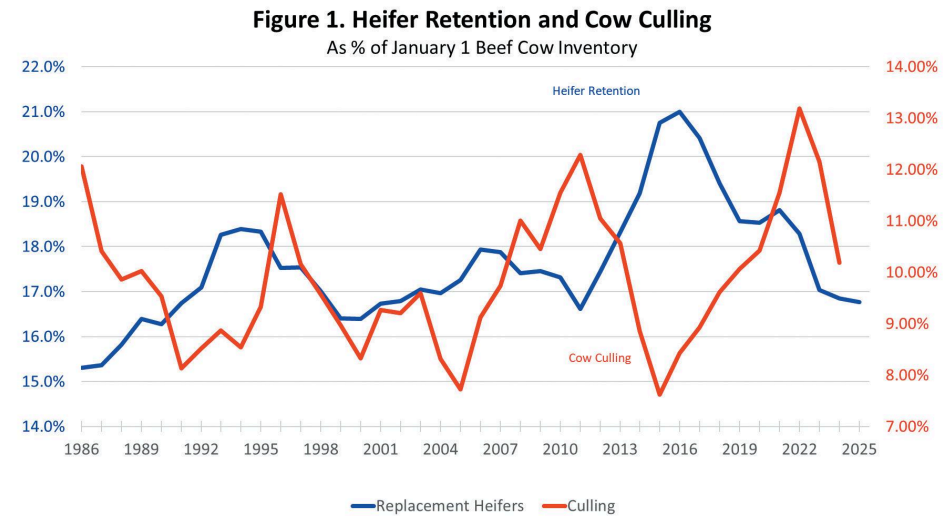
Prospects for herd growth in 2025 are very limited. Part of the replacement heifer inventory is the number of bred heifers available this year. That number was 2.92 million head, down 1.7% year over year and the smallest in data back to 2001. With this supply of bred heifers, cow slaughter will have to decrease at least 7% year over year just to hold the beef cow inventory stable for the year. That would imply a cow culling rate of 9.3% for the year. A cow culling rate less than that will be required for even fractional herd expansion in 2025.

For 2025, the supply of bred heifers is mostly fixed. There is little that the beef industry can do to change herd growth prospects in the short run. The

inventory of heifers saved for breeding was also determined in the Cattle report at 1.75 million head. These heifers can be bred to calve in 2026. Producers may decide to breed some additional heifers in 2025. This “impulse” breeding can augment the supply for bred heifers for 2026.

Impulse heifer breeding was an important part of the rapid herd expansion from 2014-19. This impulse heifer breeding would utilize heifers currently counted as part of the “other heifer” category in the 2025 cattle inventory. In other words, increased impulse heifer breeding will reduce available feeder cattle supplies on a one for one basis in 2025.

Cow culling will determine herd dynamics in 2025. It depends both on what producers are trying to do and what Mother Nature will let them do—drought is still a large threat. The beef cow herd



could stabilize, decrease more or, perhaps, increase fractionally in 2025. Heifer retention in 2025 can set the stage for some herd growth beginning in 2026.

The inventory of replace-

ment heifers suggests that there are few plans for increased heifer breeding going into 2025, but impulse heifer breeding during the year may result in additional bred heifers for 2026. As with cow cull-

ing, it will depend on what producers are trying to do and whether drought limits those plans. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Mexican feeder cattle imports resume

MARKETS (from page 1)

and 584ka week ago,” Fish said.

Boxed beef prices were about \$5 lower on each cutout over the week. The Choice cutout closed at \$317.40, and the Select cutout closed at \$309.84.

“Boxed beef values made another new low for the move [Thursday], with more downside anticipated as the market succumbs to seasonally poor beef demand and record high retail beef prices,” Fish said.

Feeder cattle

“Mexican cattle import began this week and will play catch up for a few weeks,” the Cattle Report said on Thursday.

Feeder cattle futures were mixed over the week. The March contract lost about \$5 to close at \$267.97, and the April contract gained about \$3 to close at \$267.97.

“Overdone directional price movements frequently require corrections and traders sense

the vulnerability of the contract that needs to be cash settled but the contract index needs a redo,” the Cattle Report said.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost over \$3 to close at \$275.73.

Corn futures traded sideways, down two pennies to \$4.93 on the March contract and down a penny to \$5.06 on the May contract.

Colorado: Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 3,009 head on Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers sold mostly \$2-7 higher, with instances of sharply higher across all weight classes. Feeder heifers under 700 lbs. sold mostly \$3-5 higher and over 700 lbs. sold \$5 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 720 lbs. sold for \$261-286, averaging \$274.11.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 7,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers and heifers sold from \$5 higher to \$8 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 772 lbs. sold

from \$266-278, averaging \$269.24.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 4,750 head on Monday. Compared to the previous sale, feeder steers and steer calves sold steady to \$5 lower, except 500-600 lbs. sold up to \$12 lower. Feeder heifers sold steady to \$5 higher. Heifer calves sold \$3-6 lower, except 500-600 lbs. sold up to \$10 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 772 lbs. sold from \$261-278, averaging \$269.82.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Cattle in Worthing sold 5,606 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers under 600 lbs. sold mostly steady, 600-800 lbs. were \$5-10 lower and over 800 lbs. traded steady to \$2 lower. Feeder heifers under 700 lbs. sold \$5-10 lower, and over 700 lbs. were steady to \$5 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 722 lbs. sold for \$282-305, averaging \$297.16. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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Cattlemen discuss the art of selecting traits for progress

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Western Stock Show, industry experts and boots-on-the-ground cattlemen discussed the value of balancing trait selection to achieve forward progress.

The session kicked off with a presentation by Kara Lee, director of producer engagement at Certified Angus Beef (CAB), followed by a panel discussion. The panel was comprised of moderator Kevin Ochsner, host of Cattlemen to Cattlemen on RFD-TV, and industry perspectives including David Brown of Montana Angus Ranch, Darrell Stevenson of Stevenson Angus, Anton Hermes of Hermes Livestock who is also an ABS Global representative, and Oakley Kelley, herd manager of Double RL Ranch.

The American Angus Association offers a suite of 30-plus EPDs and dollar indexes to help measure an animal's performance. But what's top priority when given such vast information? For Stevenson, the nucleus of the herd is the cow, and every input should focus on her continuous improvement.

"I believe first and foremost, those females have got to look the part, and then we've got the advantage, the art and the science and the genomically-enhanced EPDs that makes things even easier," Stevenson said. "Today, we can move these cattle farther and faster than ever before, we just need to know where to govern that out."

When asked how producers can use particular EPDs to find optimums and maximums, Kelley encouraged his approach of finding a baseline before setting long-term goals.

"As somebody that is really focusing on high quality ribeye, we have to have a baseline," Kelley said. "You need to figure your baseline and then figure out how fast and how far you want to proceed and over how many years."

In addition to EPD indexes, association programs like Targeting the Brand, AngusLink and the Genetic Merit Scorecard allow commercial cattlemen to capitalize on the marketing value of their product.

Stevenson remarked, his customer-base magnetized to genetic testing and these programs because of their capabilities as a selection tool, a scoring tool, a culling tool and ultimately as a profiting tool.

"Customers latch on to the feeder calf marketing program and for me, the AngusLink program, because it's provided a tremendous amount of opportunity," Stevenson said. "Start with genomic testing, whole-herd or replacement-type female selection and then tie yourself to a marketing program—these guys have seen tremendous results creating margin."

Striking balance isn't just for the seedstock procurers, commercial cattlemen can tap into it too.

"They want to get from calving season to weaning time to getting their check. It's a bad cycle. We've got to change that mindset to where everybody is thinking about the future," Hermes said. "When you want to be sustainable in the cattle industry, whether you're a seedstock guy or a commercial cow-calf producer, you've got to take a balanced approach."

Rest assured this balance all serves a greater purpose—the consumer. After all, the demand for high-quality beef drives our industry, Kelley said.

"They want taste, they want quality, they want consistency," he said. "What we learned with our herd was we couldn't just chase carcass, we had to go back to the female. The female had to make the herd, and I think that's our emphasis now is building that maternal cow herd, but not sacrificing carcass traits."

That inclusion of carcass traits leaves room for increased revenue for producers. Lee brought to attention the opportunity for marbling selection to increase profit, analyzing data showing it as largely the number one reason Certified Angus Beef brand candidates don't make it across the finish line.

"That's why we talk about marbling so much, it's not because we're encouraging single-trait selection," she said. "We talk about marbling because it's the number one place that we're leaving money on the table."

It does not have to be an either-or decision with maternal and carcass traits, Lee said. In particular, she also addressed recent concerns that emphasis on marbling has led to decline in fertility and foot structure. Lee referenced recent disposal code data from the American Angus Association showcasing animals removed for either fertility or foot structure purposes, which spanned a wide range of both high and low marbling cattle.

With the diversity in the Angus breed, balanced trait selection is possible, she said. It all comes back to the balanced approach, regardless of your industry sector. Balance in your selection criteria, balance in your focus level and balancing the ever-evolving demands of the consumer.

"When we think about our customer first—whether you're breeding bulls and thinking about your commercial cow-calf customers coming to buy those registered bulls, or you think about the end consumer—you're thinking about the end in mind," Lee said.—**Briley Richard, Angus Communications**

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SALE REPORTS

DURBIN CREEK RANCH PRODUCTION SALE
Feb. 5, Worland, WY
104 Hereford bulls ... \$6,708
6 Hereford open heifers ... 8,208
212 Black white face open heifers ... 2,072
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS—Hereford bulls: DCR 8128 Endure 3058, 4/15/2023 by UPS Endure 8128; to North Dakota, \$22,000, 1/2 interest. DCR 8128 Endure 3179, 5/8/2023 by UPS Endure 8128; to Wyoming, \$11,000. DCR HD 9248 Reset 304L, 4/20/2023 by DCR 128D Reset 9248; to Wyoming, \$11,000, 1/2 interest. **Open heifer:** DCR 128D Dom 4106, 4/1/2024 by Hills-Galore 44Z Resolute 128D; to South Dakota, \$21,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

STROH HEREFORD RANCH PRODUCTION SALE
Feb. 6, Killdeer, ND
46 Hereford
2-year-old bulls ... \$6,777
29 Hereford commercial bred heifers ... 3,672
18 Black white face open heifers ... 2,250
Auctioneer: Scott Weishaar
TOPS: MLS-Northern Plains 326, 4/10/2023 by XTC 83G Super Rib 1J; to Simenson Land & Cattle Co., Garrison, ND, \$13,000. SHR King L1 Domino 333K, 4/11/2023 by CL 1 Domino 079H; to Behm Hereford, Burlington, ND, \$11,500. SHR Home Town Boy 311K, 4/6/2023 by H5 10Y Hometown 6194; to Lance Kaufman, Gladstone, ND, \$11,000. SHR XTC 317L, 4/8/2023 by XTC 83G Super Rib 1J; to Marty Neugebauer, Dimock, SD, \$11,000. SHR L1 Domino 312, 4/6/2023 by CL 1 Domino 079H; to Bromley Ranch, Drake, ND, \$10,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

TJS RED ANGUS BULL SALE
Feb. 7, Buffalo, WY
94 Red Angus
bulls ... \$9,820
44 Angus bulls ... 6,949
Auctioneer: Ty Thompson
Sale Manager: Seth Leachman
TOPS—Angus bulls: TJS Constitution L066, 5/9/2023 by TJS Constitution J610; to Dwyer Red Angus, Sidney, MT, \$12,000. TJS Clarity, 7/13/2023 by Connealy Clarity; to Rhebein Land and Cattle, Arlee, MT, \$12,000. **Red Angus bulls:** TJS Trumpled L231, 5/19/2023 by TJS Dally Up G384; to Berwold Red Angus, Toronto, SD, and Resler Land and Cattle, Binford, ND, \$36,500. TJS Constitution L097, 5/11/2023 by TJS Constitution J610; to Hansine Ranch Partnership, Pierre, SD, \$17,500. TJS Dally Up L088, 5/10/2023 by TJS Dally Up G384; to Roy Veale, King City, MO, \$16,500. TJS Captain L625, 3/14/2023 by PIE Captain 057; to Doug Watson, Sundance, WY, \$12,500. CJS Razmataz L638, 3/8/2023 by TJS Razmataz G001; to Craig Whitmire, Strawberry, AR, \$12,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

SCHAFF ANGUS VALLEY PRODUCTION SALE
Feb. 8, St Anthony, ND
359 Angus bulls ... \$16,932
155 Angus females ... 13,340
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins and Ryan Doran
Sale Manager: Angus Hall of Fame

SKYLINE ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE
Feb. 10, Stevensville, MT
68 Angus bulls ... \$7,430
54 Commercial open heifers ... 2,621
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS: Skyline Dash 407, 2/3/2024 by Coleman Easy Decision 1539; to Clements Ranch, Biddle, MT, \$25,000, 1/2 interest. Skyline Rock 483, 2/17/2024 by Coleman Rock 7200; to Dead Horse Creek Ranch, Buffalo, WY, \$12,000. Skyline Ed 413, 2/3/2024 by Coleman Easy Decision 1539; to 3C Cattle, Stevensville, MT, \$10,000. Skyline Rock 466, 2/15/2024 by Coleman Rock 7200; to Dead Horse Creek Ranch, Buffalo, WY, \$10,000. Skyline Rocky 460, 2/15/2024 by Coleman Rock 7200; to Dead Horse Creek Ranch, Buffalo, WY, \$10,000. Skyline Charlo, 3/3/2024 by Coleman Charlo 0256; to Ryan Malone, Pray, MT, \$10,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

LUDVIGSON STOCK FARMS BULL SALE
Feb. 11, Park City, MT
84 Red Angus bulls
\$9,815
Auctioneer: Ty Thompson

HUWA CATTLE BULL SALE
Feb. 5, Roggen, CO
4 Angus older bulls ... \$7,875
89 Angus yearling bulls ... 7,747
Auctioneer: Wes Tiemann
Sale Manager: CK6 Consulting
TOPS: Huwa 733 Clarity 3045, 9/22/2023 by Connealy Clarity; to Amdahl Angus, Piedmont, SD, and Baker's Lemar Angus, St. Onge, SD, \$24,000. Huwa 0229 Conclusion 3031, 9/12/2023 by V A R Conclusion 0234; to Dean & Raymond Moltzer, Trinidad, CO, \$17,500. Huwa 1169 Ratified 3022, 9/4/2023 by Poss Ratified; to James Hogan, Kit Carson, CO, \$16,000. Huwa 1141 Ratified 3014, 9/1/2023 by Poss Ratified; to Alan Fenning, Bayard, NE, \$15,500. Huwa 8052 Clarity 3117, 9/7/2023 by Connealy Clarity; to Encore Cattle & Genetics, Rosenberg, TX, \$14,500. — **TY GROSHANS**

BEAR MOUNTAIN ANGUS BULL SALE
Feb. 6, Palisade, NE
105 Angus bulls ... \$7,311
Auctioneer: Greg Goggins
TOPS—Older bull: Bear Mtn Justice 3810, 9/3/2023 by Bear Mtn Justice; to O'Dea Cattle, Indianola, NE, \$16,000. **Yearling bulls:** Bear Mtn Stealth 4554, 1/20/2024 by Bear Mtn Stealth 1510; to Potts Bros. Farm, Jefferson, GA, \$21,500. Bear Mtn Prolific 4611, 2/8/2024 by Ellingson Prolific; to Norman Angus, Crawford, NE, \$14,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

POSS ANGUS BULL SALE
Feb. 7, Scotia, NE
243 Angus bulls ... \$11,203
Auctioneers: Greg Goggins & Wes Tiemann
TOPS—Angus older bulls: Poss Winchester 3913, 8/6/2023 by Poss Winchester; to Grimmus Cattle Co., Hanford, CA, \$125,000. Poss Reputation, 8/10/2023 by Poss Remington; to ST Genetics, Navasota, TX, \$60,000. **Yearling bulls:** Poss Gable 4122, 2/3/2024 by Schiefelbein Gable 311; to Select Sires Inc., Plain City, OH, \$150,000. Poss Deadwood 4627, 1/17/2024 by Poss

Deadwood; to Abernathy Ranches, Lander, WY, and Ernie Fischer, Lander, WY, \$31,000. Poss Platinum 4531, 1/30/2024 by S Armstrong; to Flying U Angus Ranch, Powell Butte, OR, Huwa Cattle Co., Roggen, CO, and Lacey Livestock, CA, \$30,000. Poss Paramount, 1/9/2024 by Pine View Premium; to Tripp Farms, Searcy, AR, \$30,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

JINDRA ANGUS BULL SALE
Feb. 12, Clarkson, NE
138 Angus bulls ... \$7,894
32 Angus total registered females ... 3,359
Auctioneer: Matt Lowery
TOPS—Angus bulls: Jindra Top Gun J11451404, 2/10/2024 by Schiefelbein Top Gun 522; to Nemeth Angus, Ludell, KS, \$65,000. Jindra Magnum J 2186 1904, 2/18/2024 by S A V Magnum 1335; to Nemeth Angus, Ludell, KS, \$25,000. Jindra Top Gun J 764 1274, 2/9/2024 by Schiefelbein Top Gun 522; to Bull buyer, NE, \$20,000. Jindra Pinnacle J11671894, 2/18/2024 by Connealy Pinnacle; to Rain Rock Cattle, AB, \$18,500. **Open heifer:** Jindra Blackbird Lassy 4190, 2/12/2024 by Jindra Assurance; to Powerline Genetics, McCook, NE, \$7,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

ELKINGTON POLLED HEREFORDS BULL & FEMALE SALE
Feb. 7, Idaho Falls, ID
52 Polled Hereford bulls ... \$5,300
26 South Devon bulls ... 5,230
22 Polled Hereford bred heifers ... 3,150
5 South Devon bred heifers ... 3,075
Auctioneers: Butch Booker & Cotton Booker
TOPS—Polled Hereford bulls: EPHR ELKER Broker 678L, by EPHR ELKER Broker 182H; to Davis Cattle Co., MT, \$9,000. EPHR ELKER Pathfinder 604L, by EPHR ELKER Pathfinder 999G; to Judy Ranches,

ID, \$8,000. EPHR ELKER 623L, by EPHR ELKER Broker 005C 439E; to Davis Cattle Co., MT, \$7,750. EPHR ELKER 666L, by EPHR ELKER Pathfinder 999G; to Judy Ranches, ID, \$7,750. **South Devon bulls:** EBS ELKER Extra 517L, by EBS ELKER 061H; to Curt Owen, MT, \$8,500. EBSELKER Extra 534L, by EBS ELKER 061H; to White Trash Ranch, UT, \$7,750. **Bred heifer:** LE Miss ELKER BEXS 516L, by EPHR ELKER Pathfinder 032H bred to EPHR ELKER Broker 043C; to Byrum Herefords, AZ, \$3,400. — **JARED PATTERSON**

BB CATTLE CO. BULL SALE
Feb. 10, Connell, WA
46 Hereford bulls ... \$6,386

45 Angus bulls ... 6,267
Auctioneer: Rick Machado
TOPS—Angus bulls: BB Resilient 3103, by EB Resilient B953; to Harder River Ranch, WA, \$10,000. BB Resilient 4070, 2/9/2024 by EB Resilient B953; to Harder Ranches, WA, \$10,750. **Hereford bulls:** BB 8101 Mark Don 4078, by BB 3007 Mark Donald 8101; to Berry Land & Livestock, MT, \$12,000. BB 6038 Britisher 3218, 11/6/2023 by BB 102 Britisher 6038; to Diamond M Ranch, WA, \$10,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

SOUTH MOUNTAIN CATTLE CO. BULL SALE
Feb. 11, Marsing, ID
118 Angus bulls ... \$8,299
Auctioneer: Rick Machado

TOPS: SMC Rawhide 4045, 10/30/2023 by Poss Rawhide; to IZ Ranch, Freedom, CA, \$17,500. S M C Armstrong 4077, 11/6/2023 by S Armstrong; to Salmon Falls Livestock, Hagerman, ID, \$17,000. S M C Testament 4074, 11/6/2023 by Tehama Testament; to Barry & Tammy Wilkin-son, McDermitt, NV, \$15,500. S M C True North 4010, 10/24/2023 by Square B True North 8052; to Edward Bartell, Orovada, NV, \$15,500. S M C Rawhide 4043, 11/1/2023 by Poss Rawhide; to Edward Bartell, Orovada, NV, \$15,000. S M C Armstrong 4105, 11/10/2023 by S Armstrong; to Split Diamond Ranch, Whitehall, MT, \$15,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

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BILL GRIFFITHS (150) Rd Ang & Char X str & hfrs, 550-700#

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TEARSHEETS: Available upon request only. Can be faxed or mailed.
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EMPLOYMENT WANTED ADS: Must be paid in advance.
DEADLINE: Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. MT, the week prior to publication date. Newspaper is published on Mondays.
LIABILITY: Advertiser is liable for content of advertisement and any claims arising therefrom made against the publication.
Publisher is not responsible for errors in phoned-in copy. Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertising not considered in keeping with the publication standards.
COMMISSIONS: Classified advertising is NOT agency commissionable.

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Excellent selection of Angus bulls for sale.
 AI-sired from proven cow families.
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150 Bulls For Sale
 Home of 2 Bar Twenty X
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 877/2BAR-ANG
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 Loren Pratt
 520-709-1554
 44996 W. Papago Rd.
 Maricopa, AZ 85139

Livestock Supplies 18

POWDER RIVER LIVESTOCK EQUIP.
 Best prices with delivery available.
 Conlin Supply Co., Inc.
 Oakdale, CA
 Ask for Larry or Albert
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Real Estate Pacific 20A

KNIFE LAND
 (208) 345-3163
 knipeland.com
LOST VALLEY CREEK
 1,962± acres of good cattle grazing and hunting land with live year-round water in Ironside, Oregon.
\$2,150,000
ADRIAN CATTLE RANCH
 126± acres with gravity-pressurized pivots, a creek, 130± head cattle set-up, and two remodeled homes.
\$1,275,000. Owner may carry.
 janey@knipeland.com

Pasture Wanted 24

Ranch lease wanted for pairs. 2025 and beyond. Up to 1500 pairs but would consider smaller deals.
 Anywhere in the western states. Full care or our care
 541-377-3942

Hay/Feed/Seed 26

Mountain grass hay for sale
 Gunnison, Colorado. 3x3 bales, all classes of quality. Price is variable.
 Call 970-209-7036

NEED EXTRA INCOME?
 Advertise a hunting or fishing lease!
CALL NOW!
 800-850-2769

Ag/Industrial Supplies 28

NEW & USED PIPE
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 Conlin Supply Company, Inc
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 Delivery available.

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STAY UP TO DATE

Real Estate Plains 20E

Real Estate Southwest 20D

Scott Land Company, LLC
RANCH & FARM REAL ESTATE
 We need your listings on any types of ag properties in TX, NM, OK & CO.
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. GCRP 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.
UNION CO., NM - Just out of Clayton, a large feedyard w/four circles irrigated by ¼ mile sprinklers, six irr. wells & just across the hwy. an 800 ac. grass lease.
 www.scottlandcompany.com • 800-933-9698 day/eve
 Ben G. Scott - Broker • Krystal M. Nelson - NM QB

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Real Estate Plains 20E

Real Estate Plains 20E

STEVE MILLER FARM & RANCH AUCTION
 BARBER CO. KS - THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH | 10AM

- Highly Productive Tillable Farmland
- Well-Managed Ranch Land
- Great Investment Potential
- Perfect Addition to Your Operation
- Excellent Deer & Game Bird Hunting
- Several Tracts with Income Producing Minerals

ONLINE BIDDING AVAILABLE

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 OFFERED IN 9 TRACTS & COMBINATIONS
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Auction Location:
 Barber Co. Heritage Center
 1466 SE Isabel Rd.
 Medicine Lodge, KS 67104



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

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. 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 – Coleman Angus, Bull Sale, Charlo, MT
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. 28 – Vertical Edge Genetics, Production Sale, Bancroft, ID
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

CHAROLAIS

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

FLEKVIEH

Mar. 28 – Vertical Edge Genetics, Production Sale, Bancroft, ID

HEREFORD

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

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

SALERS

Feb. 28 – Skinner Ranch Seedstock, Bull Sale, Hall, MT
Apr. 1 – MJB Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT

SIMANGUS

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
Mar. 28 – Vertical Edge Genetics, Production Sale, Bancroft, ID

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

HORSE

Mar. 1 – Winnemucca Ranch Rodeo, Horse Sale, Winnemucca, NV

BRENT CATTLE COMPANY

REFERENCE Sires

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	M	CW	Marb	RE	SB	SC
+5	+2.7	+9.0	+14.4	+12.7	+2.2	+6.7	+1.59	+3.7	+18.9	+31.5

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	M	CW	Marb	RE	SB	SC
+9	+2.4	+1.0	+1.4	+1.4	+2.7	+9.2	+1.71	+8.9	+22.4	+37.7

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	M	CW	Marb	RE	SB	SC
+6	+8	+5.6	+10.8	+15.4	+2.9	+4.6	+9.8	+8.7	+1.71	+29.9

ANNUAL BLACK ANGUS BULL SALE

APRIL 7, 2025
@ 1PM CT

Selling...

33

4 2-YEAR OLD ANGUS BULLS

4 RED ANGUS BULLS

1 HEIFER

Matthew Brent
719-740-3268
matthewbrent@hotmail.com

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Maywood, NE 69038

WWW.BRENTCATTLECOMPANY.NET

THE BULL PEN

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DeGrand Angus

Baker, MT

"Concentrating on the Basics"

Annual Bull Sale

April 18, 2025

Baker, Montana

Raising Registered Angus Since 1974

Bulls will be on a ration to gain two pounds a day

Bulls will not be fat with a target of having 1/10 of an inch of Back Fat

Bulls are developed in large pastures to ensure soundness

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28th Annual Performance Sale

Selling Registered Angus Bulls

Thursday, March 20, 2025 • 1pm

Producer's Livestock • Vale, OR

Terry Oft 208-741-0824

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Cows and heifer calves for sale this fall • www.degrandangus.com



LUFKIN CATTLE COMPANY

ANNUAL BULL SALE MARCH 19, 2025

At the Ranch | Salmon, Idaho

125 Yearling Bulls / All PAP Tested

Lot 1



CED	+4
BW	+2.9
WW	+101
YW	+167
Milk	+31

LCC Architect 4228
Reg: AAA 21096603
Sire: S Architect 9501
MGS: Leadore Statement B142

Lot 2



CED	+9
BW	-.3
WW	+79
YW	+136
Milk	+24

LCC Architect 4229
Reg: AAA 21096604
Sire: S Architect 9501
MGS: Leadore Statement B142

Lot 7



CED	+9
BW	+8
WW	+78
YW	+137
Milk	+33

LCC Republic 430
Reg: AAA 21096347
Sire: Raven Republic
MGS: TEX Playbook 5437

Lot 8



CED	+9
BW	-1.3
WW	+74
YW	+133
Milk	+28

LCC Stellar 4140
Reg: AAA 21084135
Sire: Sitz Stellar 726D
MGS: Sitz Final Statement 618X

Lot 9



CED	-1
BW	+3.1
WW	+80
YW	+134
Milk	+23

LCC Prolific 461
Reg: AAA 21096577
Sire: Ellingson Prolific
MGS: Riverbend Fortress F024

Lot 10



CED	+0
BW	+2.0
WW	+80
YW	+135
Milk	+23

LCC Iconic 4216
Reg: AAA 21096604
Sire: DB Iconic G95
MGS: Sitz Upward 307R

Lot 40



CED	+8
BW	-.7
WW	+58
YW	+92
Milk	+30

LCC Incentive 4131
Reg: AAA 21096345
Sire: SITZ Incentive 704H
MGS: Sitz Final Statement 618X

Lot 55



CED	+5
BW	+1.7
WW	+78
YW	+143
Milk	+38

LCC Badlands 480
Reg: AAA 21094282
Sire: Ellingson Badlands 0285
MGS: Sitz Stellar 726D

Lot 59



CED	+12
BW	+2
WW	+77
YW	+129
Milk	+27

LCC Badlands 4210
Reg: AAA 21094298
Sire: Ellingson Badlands 0285
MGS: SITZ Logo 12964

Featured Sires:

Sitz Incentive 704H, Ellingson Prolific,
Sitz Stellar 726D, Ellingson Badlands 0285,
Raven Republic 1564, DB Iconic G905,
S Architect 9501



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