

INSIDE WLJ

FAR WEST EDITION — This special edition of *WLJ* features the most pressing issues in the Far West, including drought conditions and pricing and availability in the real estate market. **Page 36**

NO ESA LISTING FOR TORTOISE — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced that the Sonoran Desert tortoise does not warrant endangered species protections. **Page 12**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

Advertising campaigns, brand spokespeople and catchphrases have all contributed to the successful promotion of beef, and one *WLJ* reader contributed his own thoughts on how to effectively sell beef in a February 1954 column: "I would like to see an advertising program developed along the following points: 1) A persuasive description of the taste of the different kinds and cuts of meat that will have people's mouths watering. 2) The use of a short musical refrain and appropriate phrase that can be dinned into people until they cannot forget them. 3) The constant identification of meat with everyday American life. 4) The seeking of endorsements from prominent people, particularly from athletes."

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ESA protections restored for gray wolf

— **Northern Rockies not included**

To much of agriculture's dismay,

the gray wolf has once again been granted federal protections on the endangered species list. A federal judge's Feb. 10 ruling restores

protections for the wolf across most of the U.S., reversing the Trump administration's 2020 ruling to delist the gray wolf.

Judge Jeffrey White in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California ruled in favor of three cases brought on by a handful of conservation and environmental groups, which alleged the delisting violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Administrative Procedure Act.

The ruling will redesignate the gray wolf as a species that faces extinction in the lower 48 states, with the exception of the Northern Rockies population. In 2011, Congress removed protections for wolves in Montana, Wyoming and Idaho, as well as eastern Oregon, eastern Washington and a small corner of Utah, granting state management.

White said the Trump ruling relied on the recovery of core metapopulations of wolves in the Great Lakes and Northern Rocky Mountains to conclude that wolves in the lower 48 states no longer qualified for federal protection.

"The (U.S. Fish and Wildlife) Service did not adequately consider threats to wolves outside of these core populations," White wrote in his opinion. "Instead, the Service avoids analyzing these wolves by concluding, with little explanation or analysis, that wolves outside of the core



National Park Service

A federal judge restored protections for gray wolves in most of the continental U.S. on Feb. 10.

See WOLF on page 14

USFS sued for shooting stray cattle in NM

— **65 head shot**

The New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association (NMCGA), along with the New Mexico Federal Lands Council and two cattle companies, filed suit Feb. 9 in federal district court for New Mexico against the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for shooting stray cattle in the Gila National Forest.

USFS planned to aerially shoot cattle Feb. 10-11, and after an emergency hearing, the court denied the groups' application for a restraining order. An aerial gunner shot about 65 head over the two-day process, which cost \$40,000. USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service said "no cattle were observed with ear tags or brands, despite intentional observation of each animal prior to engagement."

Loren Patterson, NMCGA president, told *WLJ* the associa-

tion is worried about the precedent the shootings will set.

"It would be one thing to go in there and shoot the last two, 10 head that you couldn't get out. But it's quite another thing when you don't even have an accurate number of how many feral cattle or stray cattle are out there," Patterson said. "And there's absolutely no way to check for brands from a helicopter, especially in the winter with winter coats."

Patterson noted the killed cattle were left where they were shot and not removed, which could attract predators. He added that he hoped no one's personal property was affected, but "We'll cross that bridge as we get there."

Bronson Corn, NMCGA president-elect, said in a statement: "The repercussions of gunning down and leaving of cattle carcasses in the Gila will be felt by

See USFS on page 24

Investors are buying as a hedge against inflation in Far West

The pandemic sparked a land rush toward rural areas, and the trend continued in 2021. This rush has created low inventory in all price points and land uses, creating a seller's market for people looking to cash out. Land of all types, whether recreational, ranch or unimproved land, has become an excellent investment for buyers looking for a place to park their cash, particularly if interest rates climb and inflation continues.

"I think if inflation continues to rise like it's been rising, we'll see more and more people wanting to put their money into land," Janey Knipe, associate broker and sales manager for Knipe Land Company, told *WLJ*. "Land is usually considered a hedge against inflation, and that is what we were seeing partially in 2021. People were hedging and saying, 'I need to get money into the land.'"

Northwest Farm Credit Services (FCS) surveyed their appraisal staff and found that demand was

strong for rural properties and farmland for the second half of 2021. Appraisers from Idaho, Oregon and Washington responded that the number of agricultural property listings remains low. Still, many appraisers said interest in high-quality land remains strong, with 84 percent reporting slightly higher to higher values.

"Survey participants viewed continuing interest from outside the Northwest as the most significant factor driving higher price forecasts in the coming months, followed by improved commodity prices, lack of high-quality land for sale and improving moisture levels," Northwest FCS said in a press release. "Rising interest rates and input costs, supply chain disruptions, and government regulations were rated as the most important factors placing downward pressure on prices."

Brokers who spoke with *WLJ* concurred about the reason for increasing prices and concerns

about the future, with Knipe saying rising interest rates will create a domino effect for whether someone purchases a property, which indirectly affects a buyer completing a 1031 exchange on another property.

Brokers also said the lack of inventory drove prices up, and properties have been listed for shorter periods.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) reported farm real estate value, a measurement of the value of all land and buildings on farms, in August 2021 for the Pacific region was up 8.6 percent.

Oregon experienced the largest jump in prices at 10.3 percent, for an average of \$2,790 an acre, followed closely by California, with a 9 percent jump to \$10,900 an acre. Idaho continues to see year-over-year increases in farm real estate value, with a rise of 7.7 percent to \$3,350 an acre, an 18.5

See INVESTORS on page 40

Cash trade prices continue their uptick

Cattle futures traded mostly sideways over the week, and cash trade was generally \$2 higher.

Live cattle futures were mixed over the week. The February contract gained a little over a dollar to close at \$143.40, and the April contract lost 10 cents to close at \$146.77.

Through Thursday morning, about 85,000 head had sold on the cash market. Live steers sold from \$140-144, averaging closer to \$142. Dressed steers sold between \$224-228, averaging \$225.

"Showlists are extremely current and, with the market continuing to run fast chain speeds, front end supplies of market-ready cattle won't likely stress the cash market until summer," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Thursday midday comments.

Cash trade through Feb. 11 totaled 104,457 head, breaking over 100,000 head for the first time in many weeks. Live steers averaged \$140.53, and dressed steers averaged \$223.96.

"I was surprised to see how many cattle traded in last week's negotiated cash cattle trade, but also see that only 20 percent of the cattle were committed with time," Stewart said. "As feedlots approach this week's trade, one of their biggest challenges will be keeping packers from get-

ting a sizable volume of cattle committed for deferred delivery."

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of Feb. 7 to Feb. 14 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: \$140.56.
- Formula net purchases: \$141.01.
- Forward contract net purchases: \$143.07.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$139.64.

On a dressed basis:

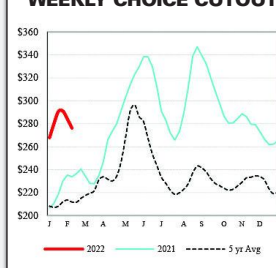
- Negotiated purchases: \$223.93.
- Formula net purchases: \$222.84.

- Forward contract net purchases: \$214.66.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$220.41.

See MARKETS on page 43

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling

WEEKLY CHOICE CUTOUT



5 AREA WEEKLY WTD AVERAGE STEER PRICE



LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$142.15	\$226.03	\$162.14
WEEK ENDING: 2-17-22		

COMMENTS

Where are the feeder cattle?

Cattle markets continue to get stronger. Folks are starting to wonder about recent placement patterns, which will finish sometime this summer and are typically the largest supplies of fed cattle of the year—also known as the summer doldrums. August is typically when we have our largest beef production. Will we have a wall of cattle to work through this summer?



CROW

Last week, cattle feeders were trading at \$142-144 live and \$226-228 dressed. Packers bought 102,000 head the week before, with around 20 percent bought with extended delivery time. Packer margins are starting to get thinner but are still respectable.

Derrell Peel, Extension economist at Oklahoma State University, said: "Feedlots certainly have individual incentives to keep feedlots as full as possible. Utilization of pen space and feed mill capacity are important economic factors. Unexpectedly large placements in November and December of 2021 pushed monthly feedlot totals slightly higher coming into 2022. Those placements largely consisted of lightweight feeder cattle because increasingly, that is what is available. Feedlots have been borrowing against the future to hold feedlot inventories as high as possible to this point, and the ability to do that will decrease in the next few months. The estimated supply of feeder cattle, calculated from Jan. 1 inventories of steers over 500 pounds, other (non-replacement) heifers over 500 lbs. and calves under 500 lbs., with current feedlot inventories subtracted, was at 25.54 million head, down 2.6 percent year over year.

"The recent lightweight feedlot placements will take longer to finish and will hold feedlot inventories for a while, but there simply are not enough feeder cattle to maintain feedlot inventories for too many months. ... Stated another way, there are only 1.74 million head of feeder cattle available to the cattle currently in feedlots. This is the lowest supply of feeder cattle to feedlot inventories on record. Barring significant drought-forced early placements or some other disruption in cattle markets, feedlot inventories should show a much more noticeable decline in 2022."

So where are those feeder cattle going to come from? The Daily Livestock Report said that cattle flows in North America are developing once again, some atypical patterns. About mid-2021, Canada shifted to importing significantly higher volumes of U.S. feeder cattle and outpaced 2020 by about 25,600 head, a 22 percent increase. Early in 2022, that trend is continuing, with the early weeks of the year about three times higher than 2021 volumes. Canada has been battling significant drought in the Prairie Provinces, which is very likely playing a key role in sending feeder cattle south.

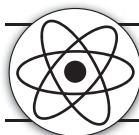
Mexico has also changed cattle flows in and out of the U.S. Last year, the U.S. shipped 54,800 head of beef cattle to Mexico, a three-and-a-half-fold increase compared to 2020. January numbers have continued that trend. The weekly data shows that cattle exports to Mexico are up 10,800 head compared to last year. USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service expects Mexico to expand its beef production in 2022, citing improved cattle productivity through genetics. Mexico has also invested resources into cold chain infrastructure, particularly along the U.S. border, which will help support higher trade volumes. In the last year, the U.S. has been importing larger volumes of beef from Mexico, which has helped boost total beef exports from Mexico. Mexico is becoming a big player in global beef production.

Feeder cattle imports from Mexico were also down 25 percent from 2020. Mexico is developing a world-class beef industry on our southern border, and they need fed cattle to fill their pipeline. Mexico is expected to increase beef production 3.3 percent in 2022. The country's cattle feeding industry is now competing for domestic feeder cattle. One of the greater challenges for the Mexican cattle feeding industry is that they must import a large portion of their feedstuffs.

This is becoming remarkable—we send feeder cattle to Canada, and I'm told the Canadians are making the feeder cattle markets in the Northwest. The cattle are fed and returned to U.S. beef processing plants.

Then the beef business booms in Mexico, and we are starting to send fed cattle south of the border for processing, and they send us beef. The U.S. would typically buy a million-plus feeder cattle from Mexico for U.S. feedlots and processing.

This whole supply chain is becoming very dynamic, and cattle and beef are traded freely throughout North America. It's all about capacity and transportation at the end of the day. Now this country of origin debate is going to get interesting. Remember, we need more moisture, so don't give it up. — **PETE CROW**



RESOURCE SCIENCE

I previously wrote about the COVID-19 virus detected in wild deer and how laboratory studies showing calves infected with the virus did not develop the disease in the Jan. 24 edition of *WLJ*. There are other characteristics of COVID-19 that may interest *WLJ* readers.

You are probably familiar with GMO (genetically modified organism) crops, in which a plant or animal is genetically engineered (bioengineered) with genes (i.e., DNA) inserted or manipulated to change a trait. GMO crops have been available since the 1990s and are a large part of today's food supply.

Of course, people have genetically manipulated plants and animals since the beginning of agriculture thousands of years ago with selective breeding, using the natural genetic variation in plants and animals. Bioengineering holds the promise of more effective and faster selection by inserting or manipulating genes for important traits to create GMOs.

The goals of traditional breeding and bioengineering are basically the same: higher crop yields; better nutrition; insect, disease and herbicide resistance; and other desirable traits. GMO crops are now a large percentage of some of the crops grown in the U.S., including soybeans, corn, sugar beets and cotton.

GMO animals can have improved traits such as growth rate, meat quality, milk composition, disease resistance and wool production. Some human genes have been inserted into animals, which is called transgenics: when genes are moved between species. For example, the human gene for lactoferrin was inserted into a bull, who then sired eight calves that inherited this gene. The lysozyme gene in goats was modified to code for the human lysozyme gene to produce milk with lysozyme that fights harmful bacteria in people.

The DNA of the dominant polled gene was inserted into a dairy bull (with gene editing), who sired six polled calves at the University of California, Davis. The potential to make bioengineered people is also real and may help cure hereditary diseases, but it has serious bioethical concerns and the potential for misuse.

What do GMOs have to do with COVID-19? A theory regarding the origin of SARS-CoV-2, the virus causing the COVID-19 disease, is that it was derived from a virus found in bats that was bioengineered in a laboratory to be infectious to humans. Another theory is that it simply moved from bats to people.



GUEST OPINION

The ghost of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) haunts Washington, and it looks like the Biden administration is preparing to play ghostbuster.

The TPP was Washington's child, a 12-nation trade agreement negotiated to Washington's standards by the Bush and Obama administrations. As the negotiations progressed, Washington came to see it as a way for the U.S. to set the trade rules in Asia before China set them.

Then, as the talks were nearing the finish line, the U.S. killed TPP. Donald Trump wielded the sword, withdrawing the U.S. on his first day as president. But even if he hadn't, it's doubtful the deal would have won congressional approval. By 2017, significant segments of both political parties had turned against it.

Undaunted by TPP's death, Japan and Australia led the other 11 countries to sign onto a slightly refashioned agreement called the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, or CPTPP.

Many U.S. exporters, including ag exporters, wish Washington would change its mind and sign onto the CPTPP. The Japanese do too. Don't hold your breath. There's no political will in Washington to do big, multilateral trade agreements.

But TPP's geopolitical and economic shadow is still out there, as two recent events have reminded Washington. The first was the Jan. 1 launch of another Asian multilateral trade deal that included some of the CPTPP countries, like Japan, Australia, Singapore and New Zealand. China is a member of this Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

RCEP is all about lower tariffs. It doesn't have the labor or environmental standards U.S. negotiators worked hard to include in TPP. It sets rules on digital trade that suit China's desire for state control. The U.S. had no say in setting these terms because it shunned the negotiations, and of course, U.S. exporters won't enjoy the lower tariffs their competitors in member countries will.

The second event is more a ploy than an event, but it's a devilish one. China has cleverly applied for admission to CPTPP, which—remember—was supposed to be about the U.S. and not China setting the rules of Asian trade. China doesn't meet the current standards for admission: too much

Recent science provides support for the theory that the original strain of the COVID-19 virus originated from a bio-engineered virus. Although viruses are not usually considered living organisms because they don't reproduce on their own (they must use an infected host's cells to reproduce), I suppose the SARS-CoV-2 virus could be considered a GMO if this theory is correct.

Originating from bioengineering in a lab is now considered a plausible theory for the origin of the COVID-19 virus, and it somehow got out of the lab and infected people around the world. The origin of the new COVID-19 omicron variant is also being studied. Omicron appeared suddenly and rapidly replaced the COVID-19 delta variant worldwide. Two recent studies show the omicron variant is very different from earlier COVID-19 variants, with about 50 new mutations in the RNA of the COVID-19 gene for the spike protein and other genes.

These studies show there has apparently been strong selection for infectivity and immune evasion in the omicron variant. One study suggests the omicron variant developed enhanced infectivity and reduced immune response within human hosts. The other study suggests that COVID-19 moved from humans to mice, in which the omicron mutation developed, and then moved from mice back to humans (like the theory of the original COVID-19 virus moving from bats to humans).

Another possibility that occurred to me is that, as with the original COVID-19 virus, omicron was bioengineered with gain-of-function mutations. This theory is consistent with omicron data showing it is a highly mutated variant with increased infectivity and immune evasion.

The risk of pathogens escaping from laboratories is certainly important for humans, as the COVID-19 pandemic shows. This is also a potential concern for crops and livestock, and we should be sure our government, university and industry agriculture research laboratories working with viruses, bacteria and other pathogens are secure. — **Dr. Matthew Cronin**

(Matthew Cronin is a scientist with Northwest Biology Company LLC in Bozeman, MT, and was a research professor at the University of Alaska. A full list of references can be found at wlj.net)

DEALING WITH THE GHOST OF TPP

state control of the economy. If the CPTPP countries lower the bar to let China in, the purpose of the organization from Washington's point of view will have been turned upside down.

Between these events and the urgings of Japan and Australia and U.S. exporters, the "dead" TPP continues to command Washington's attention, much the way the dead Banquo got Macbeth's attention in Shakespeare's play.

In response, the Biden administration's ghostbusters are preparing something aimed at quieting this annoying shade and showing the U.S. still plays a key role in Asian economic diplomacy. I've been hearing bits and pieces about this so-called Indo-Pacific Economic Framework in recent weeks, and much of what I've heard is consistent with a report on it in the Wall Street Journal Feb. 6.

Apparently, the idea is to work with friendly countries to set rules for economic engagement in Asia that are to Washington's liking. It's not a trade agreement, though. The Biden team won't be swapping access to the U.S. market for agreement with labor, environmental and other rules, as previous administrations did in negotiating TPP.

It's expected to be unveiled in a few weeks, and I'll wait until I've seen the details before assessing it. On the surface it seems like an interesting idea—reassert economic leadership in Asia without stirring up the domestic passions over trade agreements that doomed TPP. Indeed, the administration won't include anything in the agreement that requires congressional approval.

It's easy to imagine applause and agreement from Japan, Australia and other developed countries in the region, which want a U.S. presence in Asia and in many cases already live by the kind of rules Washington desires. The question, I think, will be: What's in it for developing Asian countries? Without market access goodies to hand out, how will Washington tempt them to sign on?

That's especially true since the deal or deals reached under the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework won't be congressionally approved. Will Asian countries be interested in signing agreements that successor U.S. administrations can simply revoke?

TPP may not be such an easy ghost to bust. — **Urban Lehner, DTN editor emeritus**

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

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WOTUS rule-making battlefronts heat up

Although state and agriculture interests are calling for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw a rule resetting waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) definitions back to pre-2015, the agencies already have effectively returned to those definitions.

Ag groups submitting comments to EPA on Feb. 14 pointed to a lack of engagement from the agencies as reason for concern.

Battle lines are being drawn in a renewed war on how to define WOTUS in the Clean Water Act (CWA), seven years after the Obama administration finalized a rule that eventually lost in court and was then rewritten by the Trump administration.

The Biden administration's EPA currently is enforcing pre-2015 definitions while doing a broader rewrite, although the agencies just recently completed a public comment period on a first pre-2015 rule.

Though two federal courts have tossed the Trump administration's Navigable Waters Protection Rule (NWPR), and the Biden administration is in the process of doing yet another rewrite, the state of Florida has continued to instead enforce the Trump rule as part of its CWA permitting program.

All 50 Republican U.S. senators asked EPA Administrator Michael Regan to stop work on the broader rewrite pending the outcome of a Supreme Court case that could determine just how broad or narrow EPA's powers are in the Clean Water Act.

Groups representing both agricultural and environmental interests submitted comments regarding current work on WOTUS. The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture (NASDA) said in comments that state officials have been left out of the rule-making process. Similar concerns were levied at EPA leading up to the drafting of the final 2015 WOTUS rule.

NASDA said the federal agencies continue to discount the role state regulators play in protecting water resources.

"The CWA establishes limits on federal jurisdiction and the role of the federal government to regulate interstate commerce, thus recognizing the role of states in regulating non-navigable waters," NASDA said in a letter to EPA.

The group of state agricultural directors also defended the Trump-era rule. "NWPR respected these limitations on federal jurisdiction, as well as the capabilities and responsibilities of states to regulate and promote water quality."

The EPA and Corps put out a list of what they say are more than 300 projects causing environmental harm "based solely on the premise that these projects are not subject to federal jurisdiction," NASDA said in the letter, "and seemingly ignoring the role and responsibilities of state's review and approval of projects that may impact non-jurisdictional waters."

NASDA said they have highlighted the benefits of such projects in briefings and public meetings with EPA. Yet, "EPA officials seemed surprised that these projects might be beneficial. Rather than conducting the neces-

sary analysis internally, the agencies continued to assert these misleading arguments in public releases.

"Unfortunately, any review undertaken by EPA and the Corps lacked either transparency or input from stakeholders, including state partners. State departments of agriculture could have shared from the start that the local environmental regulatory programs implemented and enforced by states are effective and beneficial."

The return to the so-called "significant nexus" standard that was a hallmark of the 2015 rule—the idea that dry land could be considered jurisdictional if there's evidence of previous water flow to larger water bodies—is something NASDA said was difficult for farmers and ranchers.

"EPA and the Corps are now moving forward with efforts to resurrect a regulatory structure that was historically problematic for American agriculture," NASDA said.

"NASDA members, farmers, ranchers and the agriculture industry have repeatedly advocated for clarity and reasonableness in the regulatory definition of WOTUS. They have argued that compliance with clean water standards should not require the employment of expensive consultants to determine the applicability of standards.

"Unfortunately, the proposed rule will return us to the ambiguity of past regulation as well as the federal overreach that ignored the role and expertise of state partners."

NASDA said the rule-making process should be stopped until the Supreme Court later this year considers *Sackett v. EPA*, which could ultimately determine the reach of the CWA.

In what was a common theme from comments submitted on the rule, the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) joined other ag groups in calling for the withdrawal of the pending rule because of what they say has been a lack of engagement with farmers and ranchers.

"Put plain, we are disappointed by the proposed rule," AFBF said in comments. "NWPR was a clear, defensible rule that appropriately balanced the objective, goals and policies of the CWA, and the agricultural groups feel strongly that the agencies should have kept it in place, rather than refuse to defend it and revert to definitions of WOTUS that: test the limits of federal authority under the Commerce Clause; cast significant uncertainty upon property owners' understanding of the jurisdictional status of their land; and, ultimately, are not necessary to protect the nation's water resources."

AFBF goes on to say it was "disappointed by the lack of meaningful outreach" by EPA prior to issuing the proposed rule to return to pre-2015 definitions.

"We believed that the agencies would conduct these proceedings in good faith and with full consideration of all stakeholder views, but we are now concerned that the agencies do not intend to provide the open and dialogue-driven process promised," AFBF said.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) asked EPA to support a "limited, clear definition of WOTUS that maintains ag-

ricultural exclusions and respects existing Supreme Court precedent limiting federal jurisdiction over small bodies of water."

In comments to EPA, NCBA Chief Environmental Counsel Scott Yager said the Biden administration's rule "repeals bipartisan exclusions" carved out for agriculture.

"Without these critical exclusions, common features like stock ponds, agricultural ditches and drainage systems can fall under federal jurisdiction, preventing cattle producers from actively managing their land and caring for their cattle," NCBA said.

Also on Feb. 14, 120 House Democrats called on EPA to finalize a new WOTUS definition to replace what they said was the "Trump dirty water rule."

A group of 27 water quality groups led by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation filed comments supporting the Biden administration's proposal. The groups called for the next rule to protect non-adjacent wetlands and seasonal

streams, including two types of wetlands unique to the Bay region—shallow depressions known as Delmarva bays and swampy bogs called pocosins. The EPA and Corps already have returned to enforcing pre-2015 WOTUS definitions on questions of jurisdiction, as evident in the agencies' approach with the state of Florida.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has been embroiled in a battle with EPA regarding the state's federally approved CWA Section 404 permitting program.

That program was approved by the Trump administration and applies NWPR definitions. The state continues to use NWPR definitions in its program.

The state is fighting a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, where environmental groups contend the EPA did not complete an Endangered Species Act review prior to approving Florida's program, among other accusations. In addition, EPA officials have been

pressing the state to use pre-2015 definitions instead.

In a letter to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) on Dec. 9, EPA Region 4 Administrator Daniel Blackman said the FDEP is required to use the pre-2015 definitions.

"When EPA approved Florida's request to assume the Section 404 program, the term 'waters of the United States' was defined by the 2020 NWPR," the letter said.

"On Aug. 30, 2021, the U.S. District Court for the District of Arizona vacated and remanded the NWPR. On Sept. 27, 2021, the U.S. District Court for the District of New Mexico also issued an order vacating and remanding the NWPR.

"Pursuant to these cases, the agencies interpret 'waters of the United States' under the statute and implementing regulations to mean the pre-2015 regulatory regime."

In September 2021, Earthjustice attorney Tania Galloni told the FDEP in a letter that returning to pre-2015 definitions would re-

store "broader coverage of waterways under the CWA" as in previous years.

The letter said the state was required to take immediate actions to adjust its program to meet pre-2015 WOTUS definitions.

Alexandra Kuchta, FDEP press secretary, told DTN the department continues to have discussions with federal partners to determine how the court rulings striking down the Trump rule affect the state.

"Federal assumption regulations (40 C.F.R. 233.16) include a provision that should there be any change to the program or any applicable federal law, states have up to one year to make any necessary rule change(s) or two years to make any necessary statutory change(s)," she said in a statement.

"The U.S. EPA is engaged in rule-making to draft a new water of the United States rule, and DEP continues to monitor the progress of that rule-making." — **Todd Neely, DTN staff**



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Selling sons of SITZ Resilient 10208, SITZ Accomplishment 720F, SITZ Stellar 726D, SITZ Barricade 632F, SITZ Profound 680G, Square B True North 8052, Connealy National 390C, Connealy Dry Valley



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S: SITZ Accomplishment 720F MGS: SITZ Upward 10559
CED 7 BW 2.4 WW 75 YW 133 SC 1.58 Claw 0.46
Angle 0.34 HP 13.0 Milk 30 CW 74 Marb 0.81 REA 0.89
\$M 61 \$B 186 \$C 302



SITZ Impulse 732J Reg: 20010981
S: SITZ Resilient 10208 MGS: Woodhill Blueprint
CED 12 BW 0.1 WW 86 YW 144 SC 1.32 Claw 0.55
Angle 0.54 HP 13.0 Milk 31 CW 67 Marb 0.68 REA 1.03
\$M 75 \$B 161 \$C 284



SITZ True North 709J Reg: 20014255
S: Square B True North 8052 MGS: SITZ Stellar 726D
CED 14 BW -1.7 WW 76 YW 136 SC 1.50 Claw 0.34
Angle 0.33 HP 11.9 Milk 31 CW 46 Marb 0.59 REA .73
\$M 101 \$B 130 \$C 265



SITZ Accomplishment 713J Reg: 20003659
S: SITZ Accomplishment 720F MGS: SITZ High Country
10011 CED 7 BW 0.9 WW 74 YW 131 SC 0.76
Claw 0.45 Angle 0.32 HP 21.3 Milk 30 CW 70
Marb 0.39 REA 0.64 \$M 93 \$B 150 \$C 288



SITZ Stellar 706J Reg: 20041441
S: SITZ Stellar 726D MGS: SITZ Investment 660Z
CED 4 BW 0.7 WW 81 YW 150 SC 0.83 Claw 0.43
Angle 0.37 HP 15.5 Milk 33 CW 66 Marb 0.31 REA 0.84
\$M 83 \$B 150 \$C 278



SITZ Stellar 11170 Reg: 19673747
S: SITZ Stellar 726D MGS: SITZ Sensation 693A
CED 9 BW -0.5 WW 67 YW 125 SC 0.71 Claw 0.34
Angle 0.34 HP 13.6 Milk 29 CW 54 Marb 0.84 REA 0.63
\$M 85 \$B 158 \$C 290



SITZ JLS True North 649J Reg: 20023244
S: Square B True North 8052 MGS: SITZ Profile 1160
CED 5 BW 0.7 WW 78 YW 130 SC 1.93 Claw 0.39
Angle 0.50 HP 16.4 Milk 29 CW 50 Marb 0.98 REA
0.71 \$M 91 \$B 150 \$C 286



SITZ Resilient 718J Reg: 20003661
Sire: SITZ Resilient 10208 MGS: Koupals B&B Titan 3013
CED 5 BW 1.0 WW 81 YW 143 SC 0.94 Claw 0.43
Angle 0.44 HP 11.6 Milk 24 CW 68 Marb 0.64 REA 0.92
\$M 75 \$B 172 \$C 298



SITZ Stellar 705J Reg: 20003655
Sire: SITZ Stellar 726D MGS: SITZ Investment 660Z
CED 3 BW 1.6 WW 74 YW 133 SC 0.75 Claw 0.30
Angle 0.34 HP 10.3 Milk 31 CW 75 Marb 0.60 REA 0.73
\$M 74 \$B 175 \$C 301

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Lazy KT Ranch receives Oklahoma Leopold Conservation Award

The Lazy KT Ranch of Freedom, OK, has been selected as the recipient of the 2021 Oklahoma Leopold Conservation Award. Given in honor of renowned conservationist Aldo Leopold, the prestigious award recognizes farmers, ranchers and forestland owners who inspire others with their dedication to the land, water and wildlife habitat resources in their care. In Oklahoma, the award is presented annually by the Sand County Foundation, American Farmland Trust, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Noble

Research Institute, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, ITC Great Plains, Oklahoma Conservation Commission and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service. Dr. Katie Blunk and her family own and operate Lazy KT Ranch. They receive \$10,000 and a crystal award for being selected. "The Blunk family has a true passion for land stewardship. They are in a continual process of learning, always working toward improvement of their land," said Hugh Aljoe, Noble Re-

search Institute director of producer relations. "They move beyond their own operation, serving as leaders and educators in their community and inspiring others to be better stewards." The first Oklahoma Leopold Conservation Award was presented to Jimmy and Ginger Emmons in 2017. Other recipients include Russ and Jani Jackson in 2018, Chuck and Ruth Coffey in 2019 and the Victor Ranch in 2020. The Leopold Conservation Award in Oklahoma is made possible thanks to the generous contributions

from American Farmland Trust, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association, Noble Research Institute, Oklahoma Farm Bureau Foundation for Agriculture, ITC Great Plains, U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service, Sand County Foundation, McDonald's, Oklahoma State University and the Oklahoma Association of Conservation Districts. **Lazy KT Ranch** Lazy KT Ranch's story is one of resilience. A mother and daughter's



Sand County Foundation
Dr. Katie Blunk and her mother, Rose Kline Blunk

land ethic has revived the native grasslands of a ranch located a few miles east of the Dust Bowl's epicenter. As a child, Rose Kline Blunk took shelter at a neighbor's home on Black Sunday. The bank took her family's cattle as they struggled through the Great Depression. During a severe drought during the 1950s, she vividly remembers the sky turning gray and the wind feeling like a sandblaster. Since then, the importance of caring for the land has never left her.

Ridge Beef" label, they provide their customers with assurances that their cattle have been raised in a low-stress environment. To reduce erosion and protect water quality and quantity, riparian areas have been fenced off, and ponds have been built. Pipelines, water storage and solar powered watering systems have been installed. Grazing cattle helps meet their rangeland restoration goals. A cycle of prescribed fire, rotational grazing and a period of rest mimics the days when

"The Blunk family has a true passion for land stewardship. They are in a continual process of learning, always working toward improvement of their land."

Rose's daughter, Katie, grew up on the Blunk family ranch. Her time with horses, cattle and dogs influenced her decision to become a veterinarian. When Katie's father died in 1995, Rose inherited what would later become Lazy KT Ranch. Drought, cedar trees and overgrazing had ravaged the ranch's landscape. Although Rose was overwhelmed by its decline, she shouldered the task of preserving the land for the next generation. She cut cedar trees and brought prescribed fire management to the ranch with the financial and technical assistance of the local USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service office. In 2012, after retiring from her veterinary medicine career in Nevada, Katie came home to her ranching roots with her husband, Michael Hornvedt. She embarked on her life's next journey, an immersion into conservation and cattle ranching. A decade later, the Lazy KT Ranch is thriving from an ecological and business perspective. For Katie and Michael, good land stewardship practices go hand in hand with good stockmanship practices. Whether they're selling quality Black Angus cattle as seedstock to other ranchers or selling beef directly to consumers under their "Jackass

bison roamed prairies that were reinvigorated by wildfires. Katie says the best and most economical conservation tool for their ranch is the strategic application of prescribed fire and grazing. This combination has restored the prairie ecosystem while producing quality wildlife habitat and forage for cattle. She credits the Cimarron Range Preservation Association with encouraging this approach. Katie serves as president of the association, which brings neighbors together with beneficial prescribed fires. Serving in that role and as a local conservation district board member are ways she helps educate and inspire others to address conservation issues. Katie encourages landowners to adopt pollinator-friendly stewardship practices through her involvement in the Okies for Monarchs campaign. Wildflowers and native grasses have been seeded across the ranch's 1,525 acres to provide habitat for native pollinators, monarch butterflies and lesser prairie-chickens. The reemergence of the prairie, wildlife and cattle to the Lazy KT Ranch are all testaments to the landscape's recovery, regenerative ranching practices and the land ethic of its stewards. — Sand County Foundation

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\$API 156.4 \$TI 90.5
TUEL COWMAKER A3032 son.

109J ASA 3916306

5/8 SM 3/8 AN
\$API 160.1 \$TI 95
NLC COW BOSS 160C son.

1137J ASA 3916293

5/8 SM 3/8 AN
\$API 150.6 \$TI 87.6
GW DUE PROCESS 678G son.

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1/2 SM 1/2 AN
\$API 146.5 \$TI 84.8
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MGS: VAR Discovery 2240

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CW +72, MB +1.23, RE +.84, Fat +.020

\$M +73, \$W +91, \$F +117, \$G +78, \$B +195, \$C +326



+*19978396

RIVERBEND POWER PLAY H2150 7/11/2020

Sire: VAR Power Play 7018 • Dam: MHA Sunrise of Rita2G14 6999

MGS: GAR Sunrise

CED +8, BW +1.9, WW +91, YW +159, Milk +26, PAP +1.25

CW +69, MB ++1.22, RE +.85, Fat +.007

\$M +69, \$W +93, \$F +112, \$G +79, \$B +191, \$C +317



+*19963012

RIVERBEND RELEVANCE H265 9/10/2020

Sire: Woodhill Relevance • Dam: Daltons Lucy 7245

MGS: GAR Anticipation

CED +5, BW +2.4, WW +97, YW +169, Milk +29, PAP +1.85

CW +82, MB +1.33, RE +1.52, Fat +.017

\$M +61, \$W +100, \$F +129, \$G +92, \$B +221, \$C +348



*20054641

RIVERBEND ENFORCER 0523 7/26/2020

Sire: SS Enforcer E812 • Dam: Spruce Mtn Rita 6523

MGS: VAR Discovery 2240

CED +8, BW +1.0, WW +80, YW +148, Milk +31, PAP +4.93

CW +69, MB +.90, RE +1.33, Fat -.032

\$M +76, \$W +91, \$F +126, \$G +74, \$B +200, \$C +335



+*19962960

RIVERBEND RENO H194 8/19/2020

Sire: Spring Cove Reno 4021 • Dam: Baldrige Isabel E071

MGS: Connealy Confidence Plus

CED +9, BW +1.3, WW +77, YW +135, Milk +32, PAP +3.33

CW +54, MB +1.05, RE +1.05, Fat -.009

\$M +102, \$W +92, \$F +90, \$G +75, \$B +166, \$C +317



+*19842730

RIVERBEND BEST BUY H1608 9/9/2020

Sire: VAR Best Buy 8577 • Dam: Black Gold Rita K6009

MGS: VAR Discovery 2240

CED +7, BW -.8, WW +71, YW +132, Milk +33, PAP +5.44

CW +55, MB +1.47, RE +.93, Fat -.014

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Methane production in grazing beef systems

The environmental impact of the beef industry has received increased attention from the public because of perceptions of its effects on climate change. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change estimated that 23 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions were from agriculture, forestry and "other land uses." Methane is a potent greenhouse gas, and ag, forestry and "other" land uses produce

the 9 percent of greenhouse gas emissions attributed to agriculture, 60 percent is attributed to animal agriculture (5.4 percent of total emissions), and within that, 60 percent is methane from all ruminant animal agriculture (3.2 percent of total U.S. emissions).

Life cycle assessments of the U.S. beef industry indicate the cow-calf and stocker segments of the industry produce 70 to 80 percent of the

Reducing methane emissions by acting directly on the grazing animal and not the forage base is problematic.

about 44 percent of the methane, with 46 percent of that coming from ruminant animals.

In the U.S., agriculture contributes 9 percent of the total greenhouse gas emissions, with the transportation, industry and electrical sectors producing 79 percent of total greenhouse gases. Of

greenhouse gas emissions from the beef sector. This is because cattle consuming a high-forage diet have increased methane emissions, and brood cows live on pastures continuously and have a single offspring per year.

Globally, 75 percent of greenhouse gases from ruminants are produced in developing countries, which produce over two times the amount of greenhouse gases per pound of carcass than in developed countries. This is driven by low feed digestibility, low slaughter weights, higher age at slaughter and poor animal husbandry practices.

Emission rates per pound of product in developed countries (primarily Europe, North America, Australia and New Zealand) are low due to improved grazing management, higher pasture quality and digestibility, and more intensive feeding practices.

Even though livestock's greenhouse gas emissions are relatively minor in the U.S., methane emissions can be reduced by improving forage quality, such as increasing use of cool-season forages and legumes, and using rotational grazing management.

Reducing methane emissions by acting directly on the grazing animal and not the forage base is problematic, partially due to the difficulty in estimating intake of grazing animals (level of intake is a major driver of enteric methane production), the infrequency of supplementation, and the variable level of individual animal supplement intake.

Common strategies to reduce methane production are supplementation to increase animal performance and providing supplements that directly alter ruminal fiber digestion or methane-producing ruminal bacteria.

Methane mitigation strategies in grazing environments are limited, but producer decisions that improve the nutritional status of animals, a high-quality forage base, and supplementation of methane mitigation compounds can reduce methane production. Thus, management, husbandry and technologies that increase productivity and efficiency of beef production systems can also reduce the environmental footprint of beef. — Paul Beck, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle specialist



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Bunk space not a big concern when limit feeding cattle

— Little difference in gain efficiency

Kansas State (K-State) University beef cattle nutritionist Dale Blasi said a recent study indicates that the amount of bunk space provided to cattle during limit feeding has little effect on their growth.

Limit feeding is the practice of feeding cattle less dry matter than they would normally consume if given unlimited access to such forages as hay or silage. It is thought that giving cattle more room in the bunk lines or aprons during limit feeding will provide all calves an equal opportunity to consume their intended amount.

Blasi said 18 inches is a common recommendation for bunk space when limit feeding beef cattle. In a recent study, graduate student Zach Duncan evaluated bunk spacing at 10, 15, 20 or 25 inches per calf. Cattle were on limit-fed diets for 58 days and then placed on a native grass, double-stock grazing system for an addi-

“We only saw an upward increase in performance (when bunk spacing was) 20 inches per animal, and it was not significant when feed to gain efficiency was considered.”

tional 90 days.

“Our concern was that the timid, smaller calves would not have their opportunity to eat, and thus, the larger, more aggressive calves would eat more than their designated amount of 2.2 percent of dry matter on a body weight basis,” Blasi said.

Bunk spacing did not seem to make a difference, according to Blasi.

“We only saw an upward increase in performance (when bunk spacing was) 20 inches per animal, and it was not significant when feed to gain efficiency was considered,” Blasi said.

He said there was a slight tendency for some improvement in feed efficiency for the calves that had more bunk space, “but it was not significant after following

these calves into a 90-day double-stock grazing system.”

Blasi said the study’s findings are important because they will help producers maximize the use of the bunks they already have available. New bunk lines and concrete aprons are expensive.

“We’re trying to make the most of what we have and help producers better estimate the number of animals they can (feed) if they are considering the use of limit feeding as an option for their operations,” Blasi said. — **K-State Research and Extension**



K-State Research and Extension
K-State researchers found only a slight tendency for improvement in feed efficiency for calves that had more space at the feed bunk.

Texas survey to examine status of working lands

The Texas Land Trends program of the Texas A&M Natural Resources Institute (NRI), a part of Texas A&M AgriLife, has released the 2022 Landowner Survey for landowners who own or operate private working lands in Texas.

This voluntary questionnaire serves to gather information on the needs, preferences, concerns and challenges landowners face regarding the everyday management of property.

The Landowner Survey can be taken at tx.ag/TexasLandownerSurvey.

Texas’ rich land heritage, vital to the state’s economy.”

Survey includes six topic areas

The Landowner Survey is divided into six topic areas, including land management, landowner concerns, land loss/fragmentation, water, hunting and landowners.

The survey results are anonymous and will only be presented in an aggregate form. An example of past data usage can be found in the Texas Land Trends pub-

“Since private rural working lands comprise most of the open space in Texas, private rural landowners and their management decisions help shape our statewide resources.”

Released once every five years, the survey seeks to identify the special characteristics and values of the diverse people who collectively own and manage the 141 million acres of privately owned farms and ranches in Texas. It examines changes in the demography, economy and natural resources of the state.

“Texas working lands are among the most productive farms, ranches and energy producers in the country,” said Roel Lopez, Ph.D., director of the Texas A&M NRI. “Since private rural working lands comprise most of the open space in Texas, private rural landowners and their management decisions help shape our statewide resources.”

“Supporting landowner stewardship makes sense because it helps conserve

lication “Status Update and Trends of Texas Working Lands 1997-2017.”

Presenting this survey once every five years allows data scientists to determine how landowner preferences and needs are changing over time. It also shows how Texas A&M NRI and other natural resource agencies can work together to better understand and meet those needs.

The questionnaire should take approximately 20-30 minutes to complete and is mostly multiple-choice questions. For an optimized experience, it is recommended participants take the survey on a tablet, laptop or desktop computer. Those who take the survey have a chance to enter a raffle to win one of 15 Yeti Texas Land Trends mugs. — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**



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Report assesses impact of proposed Senate bill for cattle industry

— Price discovery act

A recent report by the Agricultural and Food and Policy Center (AFPC) at Texas A&M University provides an assessment of the proposed Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act of 2021, known as Senate Bill 3229, and its potential impact on segments of the beef and cattle supply chain.

The lead author for the report was Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economist Justin Benavidez, Ph.D., with the Texas A&M AgriLife Research

and Extension Center. Collaborators included AFPC co-directors Bart Fischer, Ph.D., and Joe Outlaw, Ph.D., as well as AgriLife Extension economist David Anderson, Ph.D.

"This report is comprised of two parts," Fischer said. "The first is an analysis of the impact of the bill on negotiated trade volume. The second is a qualitative, economics-based summary of the bill's expected effects."

The report presents the expected effects in a matrix format, highlighting the anticipated directional impact of each portion of the

bill on a set of stakeholder groups and market outcomes, including cattle and beef prices, market transparency, price discovery and data confidentiality.

Background on report

In November, a bipartisan group of U.S. senators announced a compromise cattle market proposal that was introduced as the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act of 2021.

Sen. John Boozman (R-AR), ranking member of the Senate Committee on

Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, requested that AFPC evaluate the potential impact the bill may have on various segments of the beef and cattle supply chain.

"The report builds on work published by AFPC in October 2021 at the request of the bipartisan leadership of the House Committee on Agriculture in the 116th Congress," Fischer said.

What would the bill do?

"The bill proposes to es-

tablish a regional mandatory minimum threshold for the percentage of cattle purchased under negotiated grid or negotiated pricing terms," Benavidez said. "It also proposes the establishment of a cattle contract library and to expand reporting requirements for cattle pricing and slaughter."

The bill establishes regional mandatory minimum thresholds of negotiated cash and negotiated grid trades based on a region's 18-month average trade. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association has voiced concern with the negotiated minimums portion of the bill, as has the American Farm Bureau Federation.

To determine if the minimum and maximum bounds of the bill as proposed impose an economic cost to the cattle market, the authors established an unrestricted forecast of negotiated trade for various U.S. cattle-producing regions—Texas-Oklahoma, New Mexico, Kansas, Nebraska and Iowa-Minnesota.

ers that operate with AMAs tend to have lower marketing costs.

"Reliability of supply is a critical component in operating a large packing plant, and industry research has shown plants with higher AMA volumes have more stable average monthly volumes," he said. "And the increased costs from a mandated reduction in AMA use would be shouldered by the cattle feeding sector."

Benavidez noted the report also shows the region that includes Texas would see the greatest negative impact from the imposition of mandatory trade minimums.

Expected effects of the bill

The report also provides a matrix of the expected effects of the bill by its three primary segments:

- **Negotiated trade mandate** — Mandated levels of negotiated trade are expected to have negative effects on short-term cattle and calf prices.

"Negotiated trade man-

"Typically, a move away from alternative marketing arrangements (AMAs) results in lost efficiency. This efficiency loss translates directly into increasing the transaction cost of buying and selling cattle."

In each region, they modeled expected negotiated trade as a function of:

- The trend in negotiated trade.
- Whether the cattle cycle year saw an increase or decrease in herd size.
- Seasonality of historic negotiated trade.
- The previous week's negotiated trade volume.
- Total weekly fed cattle trade.

The criteria also included a dummy variable accounting for the introduction of the industry-led "75% Plan."

"The difference in the expected amount of unrestricted negotiated trade and the amount of negotiated trade compelled by Senate Bill 3229 provides a measure of the cost of the bill's negotiated trade provisions," Benavidez explained.

The report contains figures showing the expected unrestricted negotiated trade plotted against the negotiated trade minimums compelled by the bill through December 2026, a five-year outlook.

The authors also addressed whether changes in negotiated volume would have a cost.

"Typically, a move away from alternative marketing arrangements (AMAs) results in lost efficiency," Anderson said. "This efficiency loss translates directly into increasing the transaction cost of buying and selling cattle."

Anderson said industry research also shows pack-

dates do provide additional price discovery and market transparency, but more price discovery does not mean that cattle prices will be higher," Benavidez said. "The mandate will result in lower short-term fed cattle prices due to the increase in the costs of the feeder-packer cattle sale transaction."

Benavidez said the bill does increase price discovery, but at the cost of lower prices to cattle producers and higher prices to beef consumers.

- **Contract library** — The effects of the contract library would be exclusively felt in terms of market transparency in that such a library would increase market transparency.

- **Expanded reporting requirements** — Reporting requirement expansion would impact two areas, transparency and discovery, and would likely increase both.

"In overall terms of the bill's impact on various segments of the beef and cattle supply chain, the bottom line is that there would be trade-offs," Fischer said. "While it may be able to achieve greater price discovery and market transparency, forcing the movement away from AMAs via regional mandatory minimums for negotiated purchases will result in lower cattle prices and higher wholesale and retail beef prices." — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

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Farm bankruptcies considerably lower in 2021

After three years of increases in farm bankruptcies, Chapter 12 filings were considerably lower in 2021.

The number of Chapter 12 filings in 2021 was down 50 percent from 2020, and for the first time in a decade, there were fewer than 300 filings. Total filings in 2021 were 276, compared to 560 in 2020 and 599 in 2019.

"For the first time in the last decade, every region in the United States had fewer farm bankruptcies in the last year, compared to the year before," Veronica Nigh, senior economist for the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), said in a statement. "This decline is certainly worthy of celebration; however, it is important to not lose sight of the fact that 276 Chapter 12 bankruptcies were filed in 2021."

Chapter 12 bankruptcies were down in every region last year. The region with the largest decrease in Chapter 12 filings by absolute number was the Midwest, which had 144 filings, down from 297 filings in 2020. Still, the region leads the rest, with the number accounting for 52 percent of all Chapter 12 filings in the U.S.

Other parts of the country also had significant declines in the number of filings in 2021, with four regions having double-digit decreases in the number of Chapter 12 filings by both

absolute numbers and by percentage.

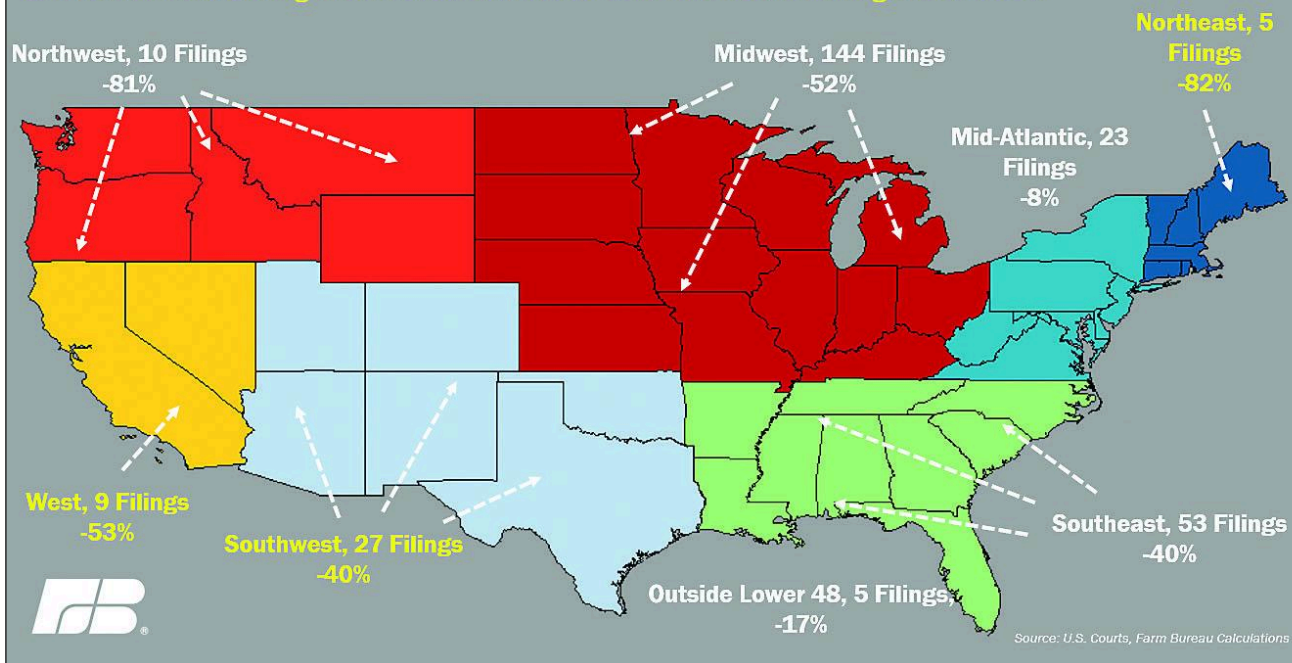
The Northwest had 42 fewer filings in 2021 at 10, down 81 percent from 2020. Despite severe drought conditions, the West and Southwest were down 53 and 40 percent, respectively, from 2020.

Overall, bankruptcies were down in 36 states, and 10 states had no Chapter 12 filings. Wisconsin and Minnesota led the nation for most state Chapter 12 filings with 27 and 26, respectively. Nigh said given the number of dairies in those states and consolidation in the industry, it is likely that many of the filings in those states were on dairy operations.

AFBF stated net farm income has been "volatile over the last decade, ranging from \$58.6 billion to \$134.5 billion between 2012 and 2021." USDA currently projects \$95.2 billion in returns this year. According to AFBF, many producers saw an increase in income from crop and livestock sales last year, but input costs moving forward could decrease income substantially the other way.

"How the latter compares to the former will dictate whether the trend of fewer bankruptcies will continue to be 'in' or 'out' in 2022," Nigh said. "For once, this is a trend we hope has some staying power." — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

Figure 2. 2021 Chapter 12 Farm Bankruptcies By Region, 12-Month Period Ending in Dec 2021 Relative to 12-Month Period Ending in Dec 2020



USDA unveils guide to help rural entrepreneurs

USDA Undersecretary for Rural Development Xochitl Torres Small unveiled a resource guide to help people in rural America start and grow businesses, create good-paying jobs in their communities and strengthen America's economy.

"America's rural entrepreneurs are critical to the success of our nation's economy," Torres Small said. "They create jobs for the people in their communities, start businesses and industries that expand financial opportunities, and deliver products and services that improve the lives of people across this nation."

"The guide we are unveiling today will enhance American competitiveness around the world to meet the challenges of the 21st century by equipping rural entrepreneurs with the tools they need to succeed."

The guide features information on how rural entrepreneurs can use USDA and other federal programs to access financing and other assistance to help start and expand their businesses. It includes tools to help them:

- Expand their access to capital to create small business incubators.
- Create value-added agricultural products.
- Access high-speed inter-

net to connect their business to national and global markets.

- Cut energy costs.
- Access health care resources to enhance the quality of life for their employees.
- Access workforce development and training opportunities to improve their skills, products, services and more.

The guide also features firsthand stories from Rural Development customers on ways USDA programs and services have helped them start or expand businesses.

To learn more about investment resources for rural areas and to access the resource guide, visit www.rd.usda.gov, or contact your nearest USDA Rural Development state office.

Rural Development provides loans and grants to help expand economic opportunities, create jobs and improve the quality of life for millions of Americans in rural areas. This assistance supports infrastructure improvements; business development; housing; community facilities, such as schools, public safety and health care; and high-speed internet access in rural, Tribal and high-poverty areas. For more information, visit www.rd.usda.gov. — **USDA**

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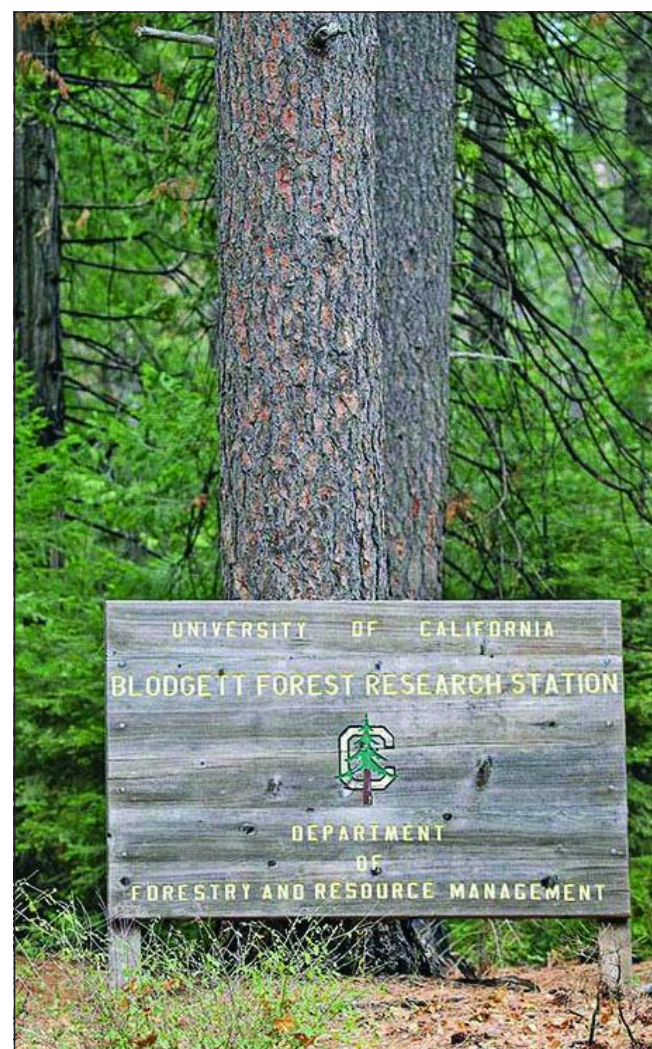
Lessons on wildfire resilience from a 4,000 acre forest lab

In his years managing California's woodlands, Rob York has come up with a few quick and easy ways to gauge whether a forest is prepared for wildfire.

"The first question I like to ask is, 'Can you run through the forest?'" York says.

York, an assistant Cooperative Extension specialist and adjunct associate professor of forestry at University of California (UC), Berkeley poses the question while standing in a grove of pine trees during a tour of Blodgett Forest Research Station, a 4,000 acre experimental forest in the northern Sierra Nevada. While fire suppression has allowed many of California's forests to grow thick and dense, this patch of forest is one you could actually run through. The area is punctuated by large trees spaced a few meters apart, separated by a smooth carpet of dried pine needles.

"The idea is, if it doesn't



Evet Kilmartin

Blodgett Forest Research Station is a 4,000 acre experimental forest in the northern Sierra Nevada.



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have a lot of buildup of surface fuel on the ground—sticks and logs—you should be able to run through it," York adds. "Looking through this forest, I might have to jump over that log, but, generally, I could take a jog through it."

For more than 50 years, York and other UC Berkeley forestry researchers have used Blodgett as a living laboratory to study how different land management treatments—including prescribed burning, restoration thinning and timber harvesting—can reduce the risk of severe wildfire and improve a forest's resilience to the impacts of climate change. In addition to research, Blodgett regularly hosts workshops to demonstrate different land management techniques to landowners.

After another year of record-breaking wildfires in California, the work at Blodgett is more critical than ever, and state and federal agencies are motivated to enact more effective forest management practices. In 2020, the state and the U.S. National Forest Service jointly committed to managing 1 million acres of California forests a year, and recently, the Biden administration pledged billions in new federal funding to reduce the wildfire risk in the state.

"(Blodgett) was really designed to eventually demonstrate land management alternatives and offer a glimpse into how they might look at bigger scales," York said.

Though prescribed burning was once banned at Blodgett, it is now one of the primary tools that researchers use to reduce wildfire risk and maintain the biodiversity of the forest.

Experimenting with fire

Blodgett Forest is "pretty representative of millions of acres of Sierra mixed conifer forest," said Ariel Roughton, a research stations manager at Berkeley Forests. After the majority of its trees were logged in the early 1900s, the forest was donated to Berkeley in the 1930s with the intent that it would be used to study sustainable timber production. Aside from a few old relics that survived early logging, the majority of the trees are regrowth and are approximately 100 years old.

The forest is currently divided into a patchwork of tracts, each having received a different series of treatments since active management began in the 1950s and 1960s. And while fire suppression was once the policy at Blodgett—early fire ecologist Harold Biswell was even banned from using prescribed burns out of fear that they would interfere with the timber harvest—fire is now one of the primary tools that Blodgett researchers use to maintain biodiversity and reduce the risk of severe wildfire.

"Back then, people thought, 'Why would you ever want to use fire for land management?' They wanted to grow trees; they want to grow timber. The idea of seeing black and char was literally off the scale," said Scott Stephens, a professor of forest science and co-director of Berkeley Forests. "It's amazing that just a few decades ago, researchers didn't have the opportunity to do the work that Rob and Ariel and others are doing up here now."

In the open, airy tract of forest that York could easily jog through, blackened scorch marks extend 10 to 15 feet up the trunk of each

tree. Ecologists believe that before European colonization, these forests experienced fire once every 10 years or less, leading to open forest structures very similar to this one. Here, two years ago, Roughton, York and their colleagues conducted a prescribed burn to remove excess fuel from the ground and reduce the risk of wildfire.

"I think it's important to remember that nature hasn't taken its course without a lot of human intervention since the last glaciation, because there was strong Indigenous burning here," said John Battles, a professor of forest ecology at Berkeley. "There has always been intense human stewardship of one sort or another."

According to the researchers, it took 15 to 20 years of active management, followed by regular maintenance, to get the forest tract to this state. Over the years, they have worked to achieve the open forest structure by harvesting some of the bigger trees for timber but leaving the largest behind. They have also used a machine called a masticator to chip up smaller trees, and they have conducted regular prescribed burns.

While there are forest management strategies that can be effective on a shorter time scale, it usually takes at least a few separate treatments over the course of a few years to successfully restore a forest and reduce its wildfire risk, York explains.

"It can be a challenge to get to the forest structure that we want," York says. "It takes a lot of time, and it takes a lot of investment."

Climate change is also narrowing the annual windows of time when conditions are best for prescribed burning, limiting when and how often foresters can safely burn. Hot, dry conditions usually make prescribed burning too risky during the summer, while rain and snow in the winter can leave the forest too wet and damp for fire to burn. However, research at Blodgett is showing that with the right management decisions, prescribed burning during the winter can be made more viable.

"Because of timber harvests that removed some of the canopy and subsequent treatments to remove the ladder fuel, we now have more light hitting the ground, and it dries out faster," Roughton said. "We've gotten to the point out here where we're able to burn more easily because of our past management actions."

Friends of the forest

While York likes to imagine running through the trees, Battles has a slightly different metric for evaluating the health of a forest.

"You need to be able to run through the woods," Battles said. "But I also want to see all six of my friends as I do my run."

Battles' friends are the six tree species that make up the Sierra mixed conifer forest: oak, ponderosa pine, sugar pine, white fir, Douglas fir and incense cedar. Fire suppression—and the

dense, overgrown forest structures that can result—often favor the survival of some of these species over others, leading to forests that are dominated by just one or two species. This lack of biodiversity can make the forest, as a whole, less resilient to stressors like bark beetles or tree pathogens, which often target some of these species but not others.

According to Battles, the open structure and frequent fire at this tract of Blodgett have allowed all six of his friends to flourish.

"I see my friend, ponderosa pine, which you don't see as frequently in the unburned forest because it's shade intolerant—it needs light. I see oak, and it also requires fire to get a lot of the oaks," Battles said. "I see all six of my friends all here, and you only see them when you have management like this."

Over the past 20 years, research has shown that prescribed burning and mechanical thinning with tools like the masticator can also benefit soil quality

and water availability while having no significant negative impacts on forest ecosystems. While burning or otherwise removing plants and trees can release carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which accelerates the impacts of climate change, reducing the risk of severe wildfire can help maintain the whole forest for long-term carbon storage.

However, applying these techniques across 33 million acres of California forestland remains a monumental task. Prescribed

burning requires a great deal of expertise and is also limited by weather conditions and air quality regulations. Meanwhile, mechanical tree thinning can be costly, and unlike timber harvesting, it does not generate any revenue for landowners—though Berkeley researchers have suggested that creating a market for small trees and other woody biomass could help offset the costs while limiting carbon emissions.

"Fire used to be so common in this system, and that's no different than in

most forests in California. But, when you take it out for that long, you begin this transformation," Stephens said. "That's why we have to get both public and private entities together to come up with a philosophy to be able to move forward on this. Blodgett is 4,000 acres—that's interesting, but it doesn't really address the needs of the state. We always hope that our work shows people what's possible and then enables them to continue it." — UC Agriculture and Natural Resources

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Sonoran Desert tortoise does not warrant ESA listing

— Greens decry decision

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and much to the dismay of conservation groups, the Sonoran Desert tortoise does not warrant protections under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The tortoise resides

in the Sonoran Desert in Arizona and Mexico.

USFWS announced Feb. 8 that after a 12-month review brought on by a petition, the species does not require listing, but the agency will accept public comments at any time regarding any information relevant to the tortoise or its habitat.

“For those of us who have visited Arizona’s public lands, we can clearly see that the species’ habitat is still gravely threatened by livestock grazing, off-road vehicles, abandoned mines, invasive species and fires,” said Cyndi Tuell of Western Watersheds Project (WWP).

The group said it re-

mained concerned the tortoise’s habitat is being degraded by invasive species, livestock grazing, increased fire risk, housing developments, off-road vehicles, habitat fragmentation and increased predation facilitated by human activities.

They claim the desert has experienced continuous overgrazing, which has

depleted the vegetation. WWP also asserts that cattle are known to trample and crush tortoises in their burrows.

“We worry that the Service has put the tortoise on a collision course with extinction by minimizing the threats from livestock grazing throughout the tortoise’s habitat,” Tuell said.

However, in its finding, USFWS said, “We expect that human development and climate change will have the greatest impact on the Sonoran Desert tortoise’s viability due to its effects on habitat and survival rates.” The document did not mention livestock. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

A stewardship mindset earns River Bend Ranch 2022 BQA Cow-Calf Award

River Bend Ranch (RBR) revolves around their philosophy of being the best stewards possible—to

their land, animals, family, friends and neighbors. With stewardship and commitment to Beef Qual-

ity Assurance (BQA) at the forefront of the operation, RBR was awarded the distinguished 2022 BQA Cow-

Calf Award.

Located in Limon, CO, and managed by the Frasier family, RBR is a prod-

uct of several generations of ranching in Colorado. It has operated as an extension of Frasier Farms LLC since 1981. Primarily a commercial cow-calf operation with Red Angus-based females, the ranch also includes a seedstock enterprise called Solid Rock Red Angus. Joe and Cindy Frasier, the owners/operators of RBR, have lived on the ranch for more than 40 years, and their children and grandchildren take an active role in the operation.

“As a rancher, I’m responsible for my family as a steward of the land,” said Ryan Frasier, Joe and Cindy’s son, who works full time on the ranch. “The grass is what the cattle need to survive. Taking care of the grass is taking care of the cattle, and the cattle take care of us.”

RBR has a unique grazing management strategy that was implemented in 1984 and enabled them to improve the health of grazing lands while focusing on healthy stewardship of their herd.

By maintaining fewer parasites and soilborne diseases and allowing individual pastures adequate rest, RBR has seen better calf health, improved cow fertility and more vigorous calves at

100 pastures for intensive grazing. RBR has notably more regular interaction with cattle than other traditional ranches. The fact that their cattle are required to be handled more often is recognized as an opportunity to dedicate their attention to BQA’s low-stress handling techniques, cattle health management and enhanced record keeping.

“Being proper stewards is the only way to go about something for us,” Cindy Frasier said. “Through BQA principles, it’s a whole way of life and not just a hobby.”

RBR is also dedicated to improving consumer confidence through public engagement and shares the importance of BQA on its operation and its foundation in U.S. beef production. The ranch is split by Interstate 70 and multiple county highways and roads, making it very visible to the public.

“We want to be a good advocate for the industry, so when people drive along I-70, we want the cattle to be healthy and the grass to be healthy. That way, we are representing our industry well,” said Kelsey Fraiser, Joe and Cindy’s daughter.

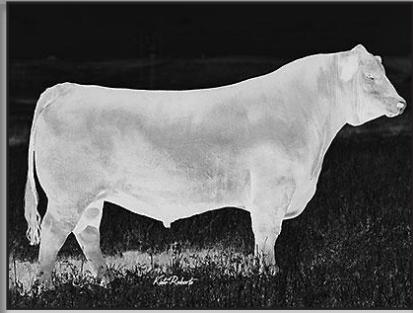
The Frasier family disseminates BQA’s message

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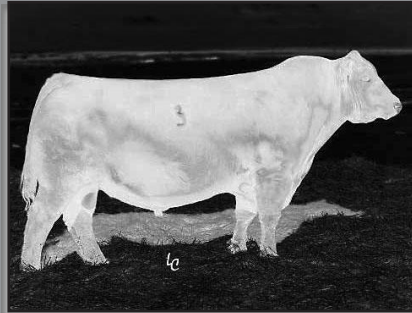
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River Bend Ranch

BQA

weaning time. This management style encourages calves to be more independent grazers and adopt healthier hygiene choices.

In addition, RBR utilizes livestock as a tool to recycle nutrients and organic matter back into the soil. By doing so, RBR has been able to keep the soil covered, which aids in the retention of moisture to promote abundant plant growth.

With pride in their land management practices and years of implementing a holistic grazing approach, the Frasier family maintains that a strong emphasis on BQA principles truly coincides with effective land stewardship. With managing nearly

through social media, blogging and involvement in CommonGround Colorado and opens their ranch for tours to extend the positive message of the beef industry and BQA to consumers.

“Receiving this award is such an honor and is humbling to be recognized for something we try to do daily,” Cindy Frasier said. “We hope we can inspire others to do the same.”

The BQA Cow-Calf Award is funded in part by the Beef Checkoff, with additional support from Cargill. For more information on River Bend Ranch and other 2022 BQA Award winners, visit www.bqa.org/about/bqa-awards. — **BQA**

First Texas ranchers paid \$200K for delivered soil carbon credits

Grassroots Carbon, a Texas-based soil carbon credit company that connects American ranchers with companies looking to reduce their carbon footprint, released over \$200,000 in payments to Texas ranchers for soil carbon credits.

Ranchers are paid for capturing and storing atmospheric carbon dioxide in their healthy soils, which they achieve through the use of regenerative grazing practices. Regenerative grazing actually draws atmospheric carbon back down into the soil.

excite ranchers like Sneary; it is great to be a part of a movement that could have major implications for revitalizing America's grassland ecology and also combating climate change.

Sneary continued, "The other thing that is exciting about it is seeing the companies buying the carbon credits from Grassroots Carbon and their commitment to actually reducing their carbon footprint. This is more than just a paragraph on their website that says they are being good stewards of the environment; these folks

our network for the atmospheric CO2 they capture and store in their soils," said Henk Mooiweer, CEO and co-founder of Grassroots Carbon. "This is the start of an exciting journey where thousands of American ranchers will be rewarded for the millions of tons of CO2 they will store in their soils."

"The companies in our network who buy these nature-based and certified carbon credits are not just reducing their carbon footprint; they support the revitalization of America's grassland ecology with impacts far beyond just carbon."

The first group of ranchers paid by Grassroots Carbon in January can look forward to a much higher payment at the end of this year. The first-year payment is lower due to the high cost of rigorous soil sampling, which is conducted every five years. As an added benefit to ranchers participating in Grassroots Carbon's soil carbon credit program, they do not incur any out-of-pocket costs in the measurement process and can enjoy regular technical and educational support from the Grassroots Carbon team.

Parties interested in supporting the restoration of American grasslands can purchase soil carbon credits or learn how they can become a participating rancher under Grassroots Carbon at BuildGrassroots.com. — Grassroots Carbon

The first group of ranchers paid by Grassroots Carbon in January can look forward to a much higher payment at the end of this year.

Loy Sneary, a rancher in the program, said, "It's been an exciting time for us at Sneary Cattle to be a part of this," and he went on to offer this piece of advice for ranchers looking into Grassroots Carbon. "For ranchers who are considering the type of regenerative grazing management we are doing, this payment could very well give them the impetus to move into this type of grazing management."

are actually putting their money where their mouth is, and I really appreciate that."

These payments represent the first of many payments to ranchers. Several additional soil sampling campaigns are being scheduled, and Grassroots Carbon plans to certify and deliver another 200,000 total carbon dioxide (CO2) of measured and certified soil carbon credits this year.

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Progressive leadership earns Five Rivers Cattle Feeding the 2022 BQA Feedyard Award

As the world's largest cattle feeder with 11 yards in six states, Five Rivers Cattle Feeding recognizes the importance of being a leader and an advocate for the beef industry, and that couldn't be more true for Five Rivers Cattle Feeding's Kuner Feedlot, the 2022 Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) Feedyard Award recipient.

Located in Kersey, CO, Kuner has a one-time feeding capacity of 100,000 head and houses Five Rivers' natural cattle program. BQA serves as the backbone of cattle management at Kuner Feedlot. As one of the country's largest and most visible cattle feeding operations, Kuner Feedlot understands that it

has a responsibility to represent the beef industry's foundational management program to a broad audience.

"BQA and animal welfare have always been the core of our business," said Tanner Pickett, Kuner's general manager. "That's the reason we are here, and it's our sole responsibility—from the day cattle arrive to the day they ship—making sure they have the best environment possible."

From the basics of training employees on the significance of health management to opening its doors to a variety of research to help improve cattle comfort, efficiency and other quality features, Kuner has BQA principles at



Five Rivers Cattle Feeding's Kuner Feedlot.

the core of its daily operations. The feedlot even underwent a facility redesign in 2011 with the help of Temple Grandin, Bud Williams and

other industry leaders, making it the state-of-the-art facility it is today.

"Low-stress animal handling is of the utmost impor-

ance here. It's what is best for the employees and animals," Pickett said. "The facility redesign ensures low stress and easy flow through the buildings."

One unique feature of Kuner is that it is home to the only Five Rivers natural program. These cattle come from across the U.S. and are enrolled in source and age verification, non-hormone treated cattle and verified natural programs, which have been a large draw for tours and consumer interest. Each year, Kuner opens its doors to around 1,000 people, hosting more than 100 feedlot tours.

"The biggest takeaway people typically have after touring our facility is learning just how happy the cattle are here," said Kim Rounds, Kuner's specialty beef program manager. "People are pleasantly surprised on the quality of care and quality of

life cattle have here." During these tours, the Kuner team explains the BQA program and its guidelines. "We can explain to the public that there is a compassion part of these guidelines, but there's also a science behind why we want to handle and care for the animals as much as possible," Rounds said.

As a progressive leader for the industry, the team is never done advocating, educating, training and searching for ways to be better. "Here, we have compassion for animals and a passion for the cattle industry," Pickett said.

The BQA Feedyard Award is funded in part by the Beef Checkoff, with additional support from Cargill. For more information on Five Rivers Cattle Feeding's Kuner Feedlot and other 2022 BQA Award winners, visit www.bqa.org/about/bqa-awards. — **BQA**

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CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	M	M&G	REA	MARB	CHBS
2.9	2.6	65	106	1.6	30	62	0.58	0.45	165

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USFWS will review Northern Rockies wolves

WOLF (from page 1)

populations are not necessary to the recovery of the species. ... In so concluding, the Service avoided assessing the impact of delisting on these wolves."

CO wolves

The ruling comes in the midst of Colorado planning to reintroduce wolves to the state by the end of 2023. As the decision returns management authority of gray wolves back to the federal U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) says it has been in communication with the agency regarding wolf management.

"CPW is reviewing the court's decision and is in contact with the USFWS to understand the implications of this decision on Colorado's gray wolf reintroduction process," the agency said on its website.

CPW approved wolf hazing measures for producers at its virtual meeting in mid-January following several wolf livestock incidents, but the measures do not allow for the taking of wolves in defense of livestock. In addition, the agency said hazing would not be permitted if wolves are on the list of federally threatened or endangered species. It is advised producers do not use projectile tools as hazing measures until clearer direction is given from USFWS.

Reactions

The greens celebrated the judge's ruling. "Restoring federal ESA protections for wolves is essential to their recovery throughout their historic range, so while we are thankful for this ruling, we also call on Secretary Deb Haaland to issue emergency relisting protections for the Northern Rockies wolf population to halt the senseless slaughter taking place," said Lindsay Larris, wildlife program director at WildEarth Guardians.

On Feb. 7, Haaland penned an op-ed to USA Today, saying the USFWS is evaluating whether relisting the northern Rocky Mountains' gray wolf population under the ESA is necessary.

"In such an emergency, the Fish and Wildlife Service can immediately list the species for 240 days," Haaland wrote. "We are closely monitoring data on wolf populations and will make those determinations if merited using the best available science."

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) and Public Lands Council (PLC) expressed their disappointment.

"It's disappointing that environmental activism carried more weight than science in this case. Rather than ruling on due process and adherence to recovery criterion, Judge White chose to remand the rule and undermine one of the most successful ESA recovery stories in United States history," said NCBA Executive Director of Natural Resources and PLC Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover in a released statement. "This is just another attempt by activist groups to ignore the facts and rewrite the history of gray wolf recovery in the U.S."

NCBA and PLC said data shows the gray wolf population has recovered and no longer needs listing. Glover added that ESA should not be used as a permanent management tool, and the decision removes critical management tools for wolves.

"One year, I lost 26 calves due to gray wolf attacks," said Minnesota cattleman Joe Wilebski in the statement. "As a producer, my top priority is the health and safety of my livestock. The consequences of gray wolf attacks go far beyond the immediate loss of livestock. When wolves attack animals, even if they aren't killed, it causes long-term effects on their overall health and well-being."

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) also expressed their dissatisfaction with the ruling. "Farmers and ranchers share the goal of a healthy and thriving ecosystem," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall. "Management of the fully recovered gray wolf should be overseen by the states, which can best determine the most appropriate course of action for each region." — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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Insight on consumer food spending, satisfaction, sustainability

The Consumer Food Insights Report, a new monthly report identifying trends and changes in consumer food purchases and preferences, has been released.

The survey-based report out of Purdue University's Center for Food Demand Analysis and Sustainability assesses food security and spending, consumer satisfaction and values, support of agricultural and food policies, and trust in information sources.

Purdue experts conducted and evaluated the first survey, which included 1,200 consumers across the U.S., in January.

Key results include:

- 25 percent of respondents were unable to find a specific food product at the grocery store.
- 32 percent of respondents are waiting for their next paycheck to buy groceries.
- 16 percent of respondents face food insecurity.
- 51 percent of respondents blame COVID-related shutdowns for the rise in meat prices.
- The Sustainable Food Purchasing (SFP) Index is at 67/100.

"We are taking the pulse of consumers to help guide farmers and retailers along the food supply chain as we all adapt to changing circumstances," said Jayson Lusk, distinguished professor and head of the Department of Agricultural Economics at Purdue, who leads the center. "Consumers significantly influence the direction of food and agricultural systems, and we need a timely way to track trends in what people are buying and eating and how this is affected by events like inflation, climate change and COVID-19."

Sam Polzin, a food and agriculture survey scientist for the center and co-author of the report, said the goal is to create a useful public resource.

"Informed decisions are one way we can build a better and more sustainable food system," he said. "We are sort of democratizing food data that previously was limited by resources and access."

Larger corporations have the resources to conduct consumer surveys themselves, but the data isn't shared. Some of the data is publicly available, but it is over longer periods of time and in difficult-to-understand government or academic reports, he said.

"We also are covering new territory, like examining sustainability as a factor in food purchases, and establishing baselines in certain areas," he said.

The Consumer Food Insights Report includes a new SFP Index that offers insight into how sustainability and health relate to consumer behaviors. It is a self-reported assessment of how consumer shopping habits correspond with healthy diets from sustainable food systems.

"We're looking at whether or not people are purchasing foods that align with different areas of sustainability," Polzin said. "We want to gauge consumer interest in this, as well as track changes over time and in response to outside factors, like climate change related events."

The January report is our first, so it is a baseline. We'll see what increases, decreases and remains steady over time."

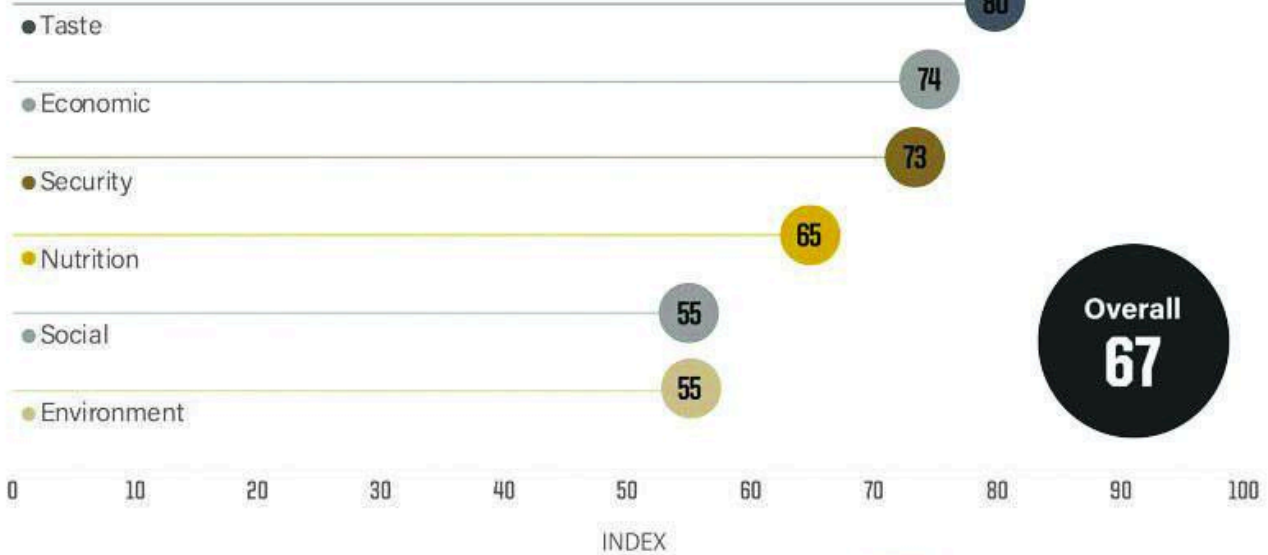
The SFP Index value for January is 67/100. The score reflects consumer food purchasing that aligns with a set of key recommendations for healthy diets from sustainable food systems. The index includes six components correlating with different strategies for achieving food system transformation: nutrition, environment, social, economic, security and taste.

"For example, purchasing a diversity of foods with many different micro and macronutrients is central to supporting nutritional health, but a family must also be able to buy this food while staying within their budget," Polzin said. "Meeting the nutritional goals of a sustainable food system is moot if the system is not also providing affordable options that meet our economic goals."

The survey is flexible and has an "ad hoc" question section that can be tailored to current events. In January, the question was "Why are retail meat prices ris-

Sustainable Food Purchasing Index

Consumer Food Insights
Volume 1, Issue 1: January 2022



Source: Center for Food Demand Analysis and Sustainability

PURDUE UNIVERSITY College of Agriculture

ing?" The results showed 51 percent of consumers blamed COVID-related shutdowns for the dramatic increase in meat prices, and less than 10 percent attributed the increase to

concentration in the meat-packing sector.

"Stock-outs also continue to affect consumers," Lusk said. "About a quarter of the respondents mentioned being unable to

find certain items in the grocery store. The most commonly mentioned missing items were chicken, beef and dairy products."

The report offers data

that the team hopes will lead to further research, guide strategic pivots from producers and retailers, and inform policymakers, he said. — **Purdue University Extension**

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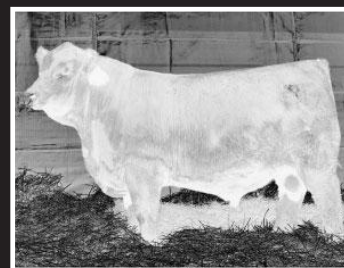
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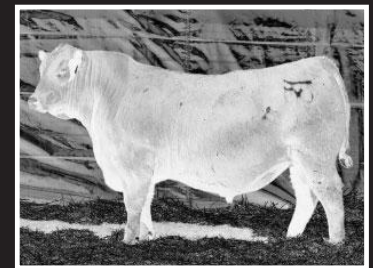
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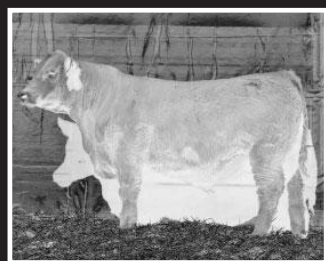
BGG Capitalist



BGG Game Changer



BGG Tahoe



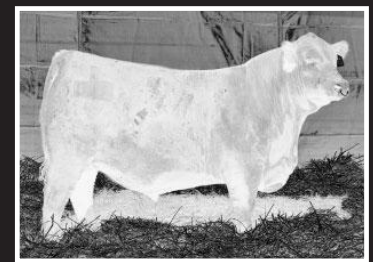
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SALE REPORTS

BURGESS ANGUS BULL SALE

Feb. 4, Homedale, ID
 42 Angus bulls.....\$3,905
 2 Red Angus bulls.....2,650
 Auctioneer: Kyle Colyer
 TOP: Bar X Everlong 13J, 1/30/21 by D-D Everlong 41; to Charlie Lyons, Mountain Home, ID, \$7,000. — LOGAN IPSEN

KLAMATH FALLS BULL SALE

Feb. 5, Klamath Falls, OR
 112 Total bulls.....\$3,860
 1 ChiAngus.....5,000
 9 SimAngus.....4,306
 69 Angus.....4,253
 1 Red Angus.....4,250
 6 Lim-Flex.....4,117
 5 Charolais.....3,050
 3 Polled Herefords.....2,750

12 Herefords.....2,492
 3 Shorthorn Plus.....2,167
 3 Shorthorn.....2,083
 Auctioneers: Eric Duarte & Trent Stewart

TOPS:

WB First Reaction 0 2 1 3, 2/23/20 Angus by Malson's First Reaction 77E; to Steve Declerk, Hornbrook, CA, \$13,250. CWT Acclaim F168-084, 1/2/20 Angus by Jindra Acclaim; to Steve Declerk, Hornbrook, CA, \$9,500. Traynham Generation 913 1931, 3/6/20 Angus by Traynham Generation 913; to



IPSEN

Merriman Angus, Battleground, WA, \$7,750. CIC Hawkeye, 2/25/20 Lim-Flex by AHCC Easy Rider 5594E; to Carolyn Northcutt, Bonanza, OR, \$6,800. — LOGAN IPSEN

SOUTH CATTLE CO. BULL SALE

Feb. 8, Caldwell, ID
 92 Angus bulls.....\$5,395
 7 Hereford bulls.....3,929
 Auctioneer: Rick Machado
 TOPS: SMC Resilient 1111, 12/4/20 by Sitz Resilient 10208; to Riverside Ranch, Tremonton, UT, \$40,000. SMC Resilient 1018, 11/2/20 by Sitz Resilient 10208; to Marek Ranches, White Bird, ID, \$8,500. SMC Accomplishment 1026, 11/4/20 by Sitz Accomplishment 720F; to Marek

Ranches, White Bird, ID, \$8,000. SMC Accomplishment 1069, 11/11/20 by Sitz Accomplishment 720F; to Josh Bruce, Jordan Valley, OR, \$7,500. SMC Bomber 1020, 11/3/20 by Casino Bomber 1020; to Edward Barterll, Orvada, NV, \$7,500. — LOGAN IPSEN

MEADOW ACRES BULL SALE

Feb. 9, Stanfield, OR
 89 Angus bulls.....\$3,994
 Auctioneer: C.D. "Butch" Booker
 TOPS: Meadow Acres Bravo 160, 9/7/20 by Coleman Bravo 6313; to Doug Emel, Prairie City, OR, \$7,000. Meadow Acres Crossbow 1132, 10/3/20 by Spring Cove Crossbow; to LSD

Logging LLC, Tillamook, OR, \$7,000. Meadow Acres Bravo 166, 9/26/20 by Coleman Bravo 6313; to J2 Cattle Co., Outlook, WA, \$6,500. — LOGAN IPSEN

DUTCH FLAT ANGUS & CX HEREFORDS BULL SALE

Feb. 11, Lewiston, ID
 10 SimAngus bulls...\$5,915
 26 Hereford bulls.....5,835
 27 Angus bulls.....5,337
 3 SimAngus females...2,467
 19 Hereford females...2,358
 22 Angus females...2,016
 9 Commercial Angus females.....1,461
 Auctioneer: C.D. "Butch" Booker
 Sale Manager: Matt Macfarlane Marketing
 TOPS—Angus bulls: Dutch Flat Monumental 1199, 9/14/20 by EXAR Monumental 6056B; to Morgan Ranches, Jordan Valley, OR, \$8,750. Dutch Flat Monumental 1197, 9/7/20 by EXAR Monumental 6056B; to Klaveano Ranch, Pomeroy, WA, \$7,500. SimAngus: Dutch Flat Fully Loaded Y559, 9/13/20 by DMCC/Wood Fully Loaded 39D; to Ledgerwood Farm, Pomeroy, WA, \$7,400. Herefords: CX 6186 Advance 2045, 9/23/20 by HH Advance 6186D ET; to ADL Cattle Co., Moses Lake, WA, \$14,000. CX 1637 Advance 2061, 10/18/20 by CX 2032 Advance 1637; to ADL Cattle Co., Moses Lake, WA, \$11,000. CX 1785 Advance 2052, 10/3/20 by CX 5030 Advance 1785; to Phil Sealock, Toppenish, WA, \$10,000. CX 1642 Advance 2063, 10/19/20 by CX 1341 Advance 1642; to Phil Sealock, \$10,000. Female: CX Miss 2185 Advance 1825, 1/23/18 by H5 9131 Domino 2185 with a 1/26/22 heifer calf at side; to Chad Sanford, Asotin, WA, \$5,000. — LOGAN IPSEN

heifers.....10,000

Auctioneer: C.D. "Butch" Booker
 TOPS—Bulls: Kesslers Patriarch J049, 1/3/21 by Tehama Patriarch F028; to MR Angus, Wheatland, WY, \$27,500. Kessler Stellar J011, 12/30/20 by Sitz Stellar 726D; to NC Cattle Co., Powell Butte, OR, \$19,500. Kesslers Goalkeeper J151, 1/12/21 by Baldrige SR Goalkeeper; to O'Neal Ranch, O'Neals, CA, \$10,500. Kesslers Goalkeeper J111, 1/7/21 by Baldrige Goalkeeper; to Smelser Ranch, Hermiston, OR, \$10,000. Heifer: A pick of the 2021 replacement heifer pen; to Camas Prairie Angus Ranch, Grangeville, ID, \$10,000. — LOGAN IPSEN

DURBIN CREEK RANCH ANNUAL BULL SALE

Feb. 9, Worland, WY
 98 Bulls.....\$5,250
 247 Commercial open heifers.....1,147
 Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
 TOPS: DCR 428B Manhattan 0 0 1 8, 4/2/20 by Churchill Manhattan 428B ET; to Armstrong Ranch, Lander, WY, \$20,000, 1/2 interest and full possession. DCR 428B Manhattan 0072, 4/10/20 by Churchill Manhattan 428B ET; to Darrin Uttecht, Woonsocket, SD, \$11,000, 1/2 interest and full possession. DCR 428B Manhattan 0042, 4/5/20 by Churchill Manhattan 428B ET; to Mark Mackenzie, Jordan Valley, OR, \$9,000. DCR 199B Cowboss 0209, 4/5/20 by NJW 78P 88X Cowboss 199B ET; to Mark Mackenzie, Jordan Valley, OR, \$9,000. DCR 428B Manhattan 0031, 4/4/20 by DCR 428B Manhattan 6009; to Mark Mackenzie, Jordan Valley, OR, \$8,500. DCR 199B Cowboss 0256, 4/22/20 by NJW 78P 88X Cowboss 199B; to Mark Mackenzie, Jordan Valley, OR, \$8,500. — DEVIN MURNIN



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Lot 3



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Sired by Stevenson Easy Money 70688

QLC Strut J295 370L

Lot 19



#20207005

Sired by Chestnut Strut

QLC V-Eight G123 093L

Lot 33



#20206954

Sired by Connealy V-Eight 6635

QLC Quality H150 284L

Lot 49



#20207013

Sired by KR Quality 8525

QLC End Game H171 288L

Lot 65



#20206993

Sired by EXAR End Game 4730B

QLC Splash H133 283L

Lot 77



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GEM STATE CLASSIC BULL SALE

Feb. 12, Twin Falls, ID
 3 Hereford bulls.....\$4,107
 24 Angus bulls.....3,806
 3 Red Angus bulls.....3,000
 39 Commercial Angus females.....1,500
 9 Angus females.....1,450
 Auctioneer: C.D. "Butch" Booker
 TOP: TLC Fateful Combustion 101JK, 2/18/21 by GAR Combustion; to Diamond E Ranch, Bliss, ID, \$6,000. — LOGAN IPSEN

EZ ANGUS RANCH OREGON BULL SALE
 Feb. 12, Myrtle Creek, OR
 35 Angus bulls.....\$4,216
 Auctioneer: Jack Parnell
 Sale Manager: Parnell Dickinson, Inc.
 TOPS: EZAR Fireball 0352, 7/30/20 by GB Fireball 672; to Powers Ranch, Myrtle Creek, OR, \$6,500. EZAR Fireball 0396, 8/12/20 by GB Fireball 672; to Dennis Kiely, Unity, OR, \$6,250. Optum's Growth Fund 0554, 9/29/20 by Deer Valley Growth Fund; to Quinton Quisenberry, Roseburg, OR, \$5,900. — LOGAN IPSEN

BB CATTLE CO. 52ND ANNUAL BULL SALE
 Feb. 14, Connell, WA
 38 Angus bulls.....\$4,970
 93 Hereford bulls.....4,117
 Auctioneer: Rick Machado
 TOPS—Herefords: BB 5040 Domino 1039, 2/12/21 by BB 994 Domino 5040; to Lawson and Son Inc., New Pine Creek, OR, \$15,000. TDF 9090 Mark Donald 124, 3/7/21 by BB 4209 Mark Donald 9090 ET; to John Harder, Ritzville, WA, \$10,000. BB 8165 Domino 0148, 10/11/20 by BB 375 Domino 8165 ET; to McBride Hereford Ranch, Mabton, WA, \$7,500. Angus: BB 8001 Black Granite 053, 10/8/20 by BB Black Granite 8001; to Harder River Ranch, Hooper, WA, \$7,500. — LOGAN IPSEN

POWDER RIVER ANGUS ANNUAL BULL SALE
 Feb. 11, Buffalo, WY
 105 Total bulls.....\$5,877
 Auctioneer: Mark McNamee
 TOPS: PRA Bulldogger 1197, 3/2/21 by U-2 Coalition 206C; to Paint Rock Angus, Hyattville, WY, \$29,000. PRA Substantial 1123, 2/23/21 by Mohnen Substantial 272; to EB Ranch, Broadus, MT, \$14,500. PRA Black Mass 1225, 3/5/21 by B Bar Black Mass 0849; to Martin Palzkill Farms, Mineral Point, WI, \$13,750. PRA Crackerjack 124, 1/29/21 by Musgrave Crackerjack; to EB Ranch, Broadus, MT, \$13,750. PRA Effective 141, 1/31/21 by Schiefelbein Effective 61; to EB Ranch, Broadus, MT, \$13,500. — DEVIN MURNIN

KESSLER ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE
 Feb. 15, Milton-Freewater, OR
 114 Angus bulls.....\$5,871
 1 Pick of the replacement

COLEMAN ANGUS/TREXLER ANGUS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE TESTED BULL SALE
 Feb. 15, Missoula, MT
 3 Herd bulls.....\$180,000
 178 Bulls.....9,177

Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS: Coleman Glacier 041, 1/11/20 by SAV Renown 3439; to Glacier Group, Sullivan, IN, \$270,000, 1/4 interest and no possession. Coleman Triumph 1164, 1/22/21 by Coleman Triumph 9145; to Voss Angus, Dexter, IA, \$150,000, 1/2 interest. Coleman Navigator 147, 1/5/21 by Coleman Navigator 614; to Ingram Angus, Pulaski, TN, \$120,000, 1/2 interest. Coleman Navigator 144, 1/3/21 by Coleman Navigator 614; to Marshall Fenner Farm, Malta Bend, MO, \$40,000. Coleman Resolve 0352, 6/30/20 by Coleman Resolve 7219; to JR Ranch, Othello, WA, \$40,000. Coleman Re-

nown 0398, 7/1/20 by SAV Renown 3439; to Gaugler Angus, Judith Gap, MT, \$22,000. Coleman Marshall 0427, 6/27/20 by Coleman Marshall 7170; to Leadore Angus, Leadore, ID, \$19,000. Coleman Renown 0372, 7/1/20 by SAV Renown 3439; to Kenneth Griffen, Yuba, OK, \$18,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

FELTON ANGUS RANCH
Feb. 15, Springdale, MT
157 Total bulls \$4,651
50 Commercial bred heifers 2,100
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs
TOPS: Felton Willie Nelson 3390, 5/4/20 by Marda Willie Nelson 564; to Jonas McGrady,

Mandaree, ND, \$12,000. Felton Pioneer Way 073, 9/24/20 by DSR Pioneer Way 6914; to Jonas McGrady, Mandaree, ND, \$9,500. Felton Profuse 4170, 6/8/20 by Jindra Profuse; to Jeff Nohavitzka, El Campo, TX, \$8,500. Felton Bond 2450, 4/15/20 by MLG Bond 8005; to Beau Lange, Paulina, IA, \$8,500. Felton Pioneer Way 074, 9/23/20 by DSR Pioneer Way 6914; to Mountain Sky Ranch, Emigrant, MT, \$7,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

BOOTH'S CHERRY CREEK ANGUS
Feb. 10, Veteran, WY
139 Older bulls \$5,424
Auctioneer: Lander Nicodemus
TOPS: Cherry Crk Achievement H199M, 9/2/20 by Poss Achievement; to Lyman Livestock, Salem, UT, \$17,000. Cherry Crk Stellar H122 S, 8/13/20 by Sitz Stellar 726D; to Dyer Ranch, Crawford, NE, \$12,000. Cherry

Crk Stellar H360 M, 9/16/20 by Sitz Stellar 726D; to Edwards Livestock, Laramie, WY, \$11,000. Cherry Crk Advantage H391 S, 9/19/20 by S S Enforcer E812; to Grant Jones, Benkelman, NE, \$11,000. Cherry Crk Patriarch H268 M, 9/11/20 by Tehama Patriarch F028; to Jack Cobb, Savery, NE, \$10,000. Cherry Crk Patriarch H154 S, 8/20/20 by Tehama Patriarch F028; to Jack Cobb, Savery, WY, \$10,000. — **JIM GIES**

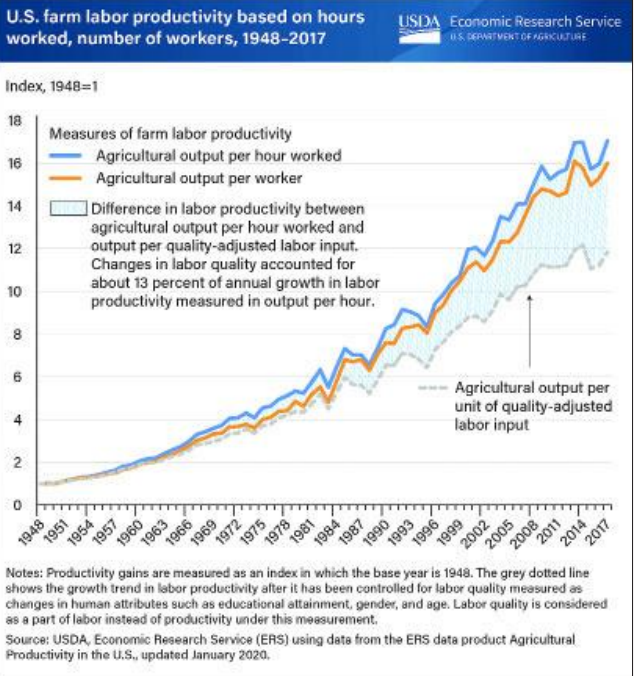
DOUG BOOTH FAMILY ANGUS
Feb. 15, Torrington, WY
82 Yearling bulls \$5,203
Auctioneer: Lex Madden
TOPS: DDB Stunner J28,

2/5/21 by Musgrave 316 Stunner; to Spring Cove Ranch, Bliss, ID, \$11,750. DB Treasure J11, 1/30/21 by MGR Treasure; to Thaler Land & Livestock, LaGrange, WY, \$8,750. DB Wyobraska J184, 3/10/21 by A & B Wyobraska 7250; to Justin Hogan, Densmore, KS, \$8,250. DDB Ashland J138, 2/22/21 by G A R Ashland; to Vollman Ranches, Douglas, WY, \$8,250. DB Exclusive J119, 2/19/21 by Musgrave 316 Exclusive; to Vollman Ranches, Douglas, WY, \$7,750. CDB Fair-N-Square J15, 1/31/21 by Myers Fair-N-Square M39; to Thaler Land & Livestock, LaGrange, WY, \$7,750. — **JIM GIES**

OSTRAND ANGUS BULL SALE
Feb. 16, Mason City, NE
148 Yearling bulls \$6,574
28 Open heifers 2,428
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS—Bulls: O A Fortune

491, 1/3/21 by Connealy Fortune 752L; to Amdahl Angus, Rapid City, SD, and Green Mountain Angus, Ryegate, MT, \$30,000. O A Blackhawk 161, 12/27/20 by Connealy Blackhawk 6198; to Kathol Farms, Hartington, NE, \$21,000. O A Entice 151, 12/26/20 by MOGCK Entice; to Kathol Farms, Hartington, NE, \$16,000. O A Big Valley 901, 1/11/21 by Connealy Big Valley; to Mart McNutt, Sutherland, NE, \$16,000. O A Fortune 1411, 1/25/21 by Connealy Fortune 752L; to Kathol Farms, Hartington, NE, \$15,500. O A Fortune 1561, 1/26/21 by Connealy Fortune 752L; to Bart Deterding, Cambridge, NE, \$15,000. O A Blackhawk 1021, 1/14/21 by Connealy Blackhawk 6198; to Mart McNutt, Sutherland, NE, \$15,000. **Open heifer:** O A Weonkas Erica 1551, 2/8/21 by SA Weigh Up 158; to Straka Ranch, Stuart, NE, \$5,250. — **JIM GIES**

US labor productivity per hours worked has grown



Agricultural output in the U.S. nearly tripled between 1948 and 2017, even as the amount of labor hours worked declined by more than 80 percent. These opposing trends resulted in an increase in labor productivity growth in the U.S. farm sector. Labor productivity—calculated as average output per unit of labor input—is a popular measure for understanding economic growth.

According to USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) estimates, agricultural output per worker grew by 16 times from 1948 through 2017. At the same time, agricultural output per hour worked grew even faster, by 17 times, implying that average hours worked per worker declined.

Labor productivity estimates can vary based on different ways labor is measured. One factor in the increased labor productivity is the quality of labor, measured by attributes such as

age, gender and the highest level of education a worker has reached. Because these attributes may affect worker performance, ERS researchers accounted for labor quality changes in analyzing farm labor productivity.

When labor quality changes since 1948 were accounted for, labor productivity grew at a slower rate than those based simply on hours worked or employment. The reason is because labor quality is treated as a part of labor input instead of productivity. This implies that changes in labor quality, such as improvements in education, account for much of the change in labor productivity over the last seven decades.

ERS researchers estimate that changes to farm worker attributes accounted for about 13 percent of growth in hourly based annual labor productivity during the time studied. — **USDA ERS**



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STELLAR X UPSHOT

3C STELLAR 1009 20241039

STELLAR X BROKEN BOW

3C FEATURE 1106 20240966

FEATURE X CC&7

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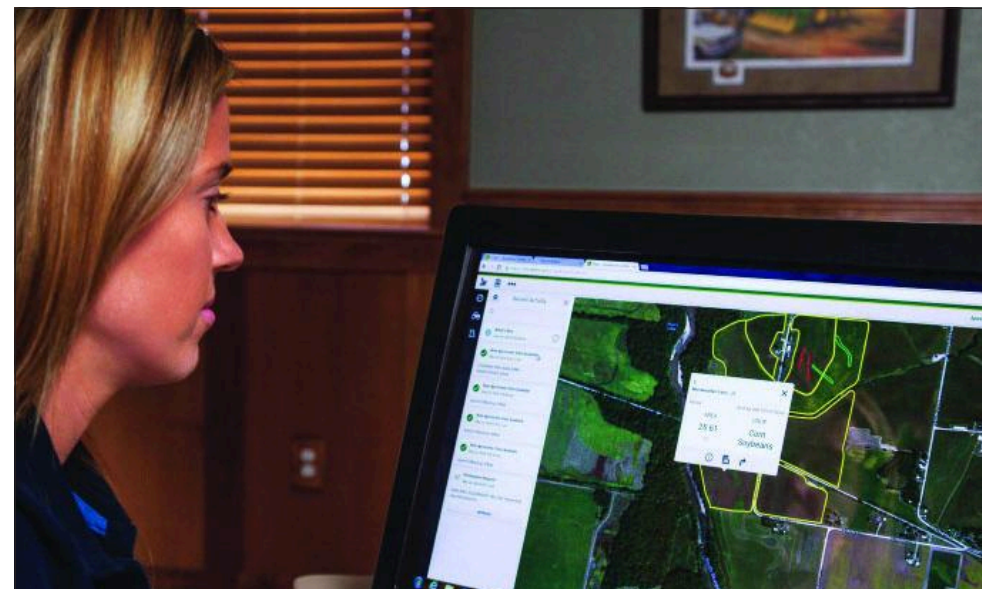
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K-State researchers have teamed with John Deere to test the accuracy of remote sensors on and off combines.

John Deere

K-State, John Deere team up on remote sensing study

Researchers at Kansas State (K-State) University and one of the world's largest manufacturers of agricultural machinery are reporting findings of a project that they say could "fundamentally change" the way farmers manage and market crops.

K-State Research and Extension agronomist Ignacio Ciampitti said the university is working with partners at John Deere to analyze information from re-

mote sensors on and off combines that will ultimately help farmers improve grain protein in crops.

"Our customers tell us that maximizing grain yield and quality is very important," said Yancy Wright, the business agronomy test lead with John Deere, a Fortune 500 company. "End users—including millers, livestock feeding operations and other processors—need high-quality grain crops, and market premiums are beginning to reflect this demand.

"We wanted to validate

journal article, a recent survey of 186 soybean farmers from multiple states indicated that more than 55 percent of them would invest in technology to assess grain protein concentration if they could earn a 50 cent premium per bushel. Because of that, the researchers say, "Farmer interest is expected to increase as both the direct and indirect benefits of (grain protein concentration) become more evident."

"As we introduce on-combine grain protein concen-

"End users—including millers, livestock feeding operations and other processors—need high-quality grain crops, and market premiums are beginning to reflect this demand."

our current technology development and discover new approaches to consider as we develop solutions for helping customers maximize their yield and quality, especially grain protein."

In a paper published in late 2021 in the journal Remote Sensing, the researchers outlined their analysis of 84 studies on the accuracy of models that predict grain content in a field crop based on current technology, such as satellite imagery.

Ciampitti said the team was able to compare areas of farm fields before harvest using hand-held sensors, drones or planes and then after harvest using sensors attached to the combine.

With that information, they compared areas of the field rated as low quality or high quality for grain protein concentration and determined where there was variation in the quality of crops after harvest.

"This is an emerging area of research," Ciampitti said. "Field crop quality differentiation is becoming important to understand and can increase the competitiveness of U.S. crops entering both local and international supply chains and markets."

Ciampitti said the analysis showed that on-combine sensors are more accurate than remote sensors in predicting grain protein concentration, though off-combine sensors performed better for in-season management and segregated harvest planning; and they cost less to implement.

"However," he adds, "on-combine sensors may quickly become the gold standard for predicting in-season grain protein concentration."

According to the recent

tration data collection technologies, we will look to this work to understand how we might carry out some of the proposed uses for this new data layer with internal solutions and via partnerships, which will help us bring maximum value to customers who adopt these technologies," Wright said.

"This work," he added, "will direct technology development that will fundamentally change the way growers manage their harvest and grain marketing, as well as how they manage their crop inputs."

Ciampitti said the university is moving forward with developing a remote sensing "decision tool" to differentiate spatial variation in field crop quality before harvest, which will help farmers make decisions prior to harvesting and marketing their crop.

"In addition, we are working with crop commodity boards to start collecting field data in order to create one of the largest farmer-centric databases on field crop spatial variation related to the quality of U.S. crops," Ciampitti said. "This is happening in collaboration with many other states and in close partnership with farmers across the country."

K-State's team included Ciampitti as principal investigator; agricultural engineer Ajay Sharda (co-principal investigator); Leonardo Bastos (now at the University of Georgia); and Andre Froes De Borja Reis (now at Louisiana State University).

The researchers' full study is available to view online at www.mdpi.com/2072-4292/13/24/5027.

— **K-State Research and Extension**

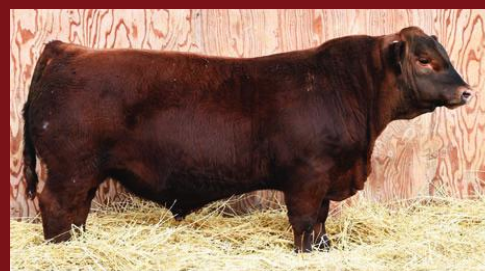
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USDA reopens Pandemic Cover Crop Program premium benefit

Farmers who intend to plant cover crops during the 2022 crop year can get a \$5 per acre premium discount, but USDA said those producers will need to report their cover crop acreage by March 15.

The Pandemic Cover Crop Program (PCCP) provides premium benefits for farmers growing cover crops. The program was first offered in 2021 and led to \$59.5 million in premium subsidies for 12.2 million acres of cover crops.

The catch, though, is USDA requires producers to report their cover crop acreage by March 15, which is typically the crop insurance sign-up deadline for spring crops. So producers essentially have to look ahead when it comes to

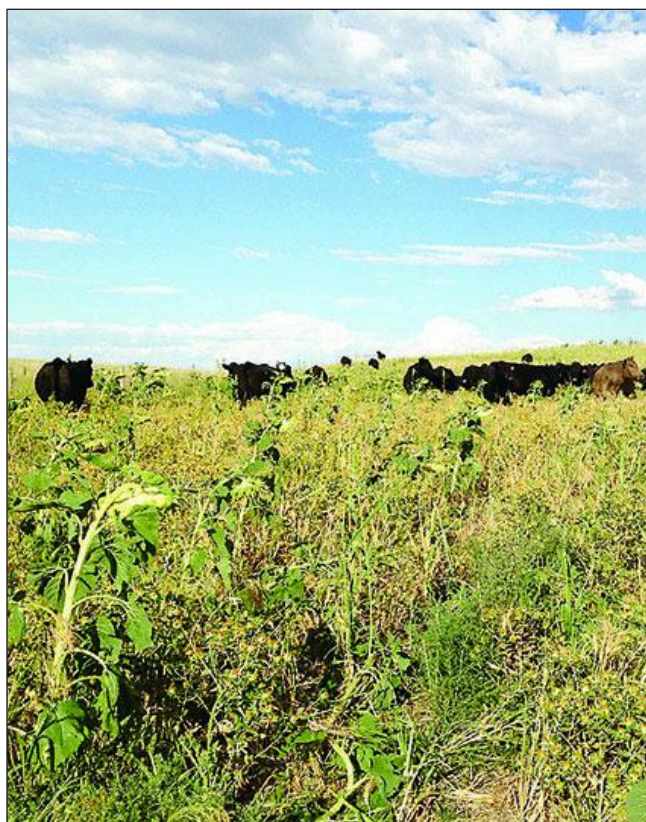
FSA-578, farmers need to contact their local USDA Service Center and make an appointment.

The discount is then applied when the crop insurance companies calculate the total premium due.

Producers in Illinois, Indiana and Iowa can get additional benefits by also participating in programs in those states. PCCP will provide a supplemental match for those programs.

USDA doesn't allow PCCP for every policy. Catastrophic Risk Protection policies are not eligible because those policies do not have a premium. PCCP is not available for Enhanced Coverage Option, Hurricane Insurance Protection—Wind Index, Post-Application Coverage En-

Whole-Farm Revenue Protection. — **Chris Clayton**, DTN ag policy editor



USDA NRCS Montana

Heifers graze a cover crop in Montana.

their cover crop intentions.

"Cultivating cover crops requires a sustained, long-term investment, and the economic challenges of the pandemic made it financially challenging for many producers to maintain cover crop systems," said Risk Management Agency Administrator Marcia Bunger.

"Producers use cover crops to improve soil health and gain other agronomic benefits, and this program will reduce producers' overall premium bill to help ensure producers can continue this climate-smart agricultural practice."

While the premium discount is up to \$5 an acre, it cannot be more than the full premium owed on a policy.

All cover crops reportable to the Farm Service Agency (FSA) are eligible for the program, including multi-seed mixes planted at the same time.

To receive the premium benefit, producers must file the "Report of Acreage" form (FSA-578) for cover crops with FSA by March 5. The cover crop fields reported on the form must also match what the producer reported to their insurance company for crop insurance policies. To file

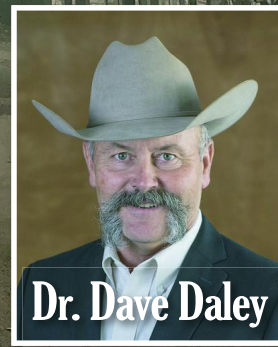
dorsement and Supplemental Coverage Option. Stacked Income Protection (STAX) and Margin Protection (MP) policies are only eligible for PCCP when insured as a standalone policy. STAX and MP endorsements to underlying policies are not eligible for PCCP. USDA has adjusted the program to make it available to producers who enroll in

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Outlook for the 2022 ND grazing season

In 2021, North Dakota experienced one of the worst droughts on record. This resulted in significant impacts to forage production on range, pastureland and hayland across the state.

As we look forward to 2022, the question is how the 2021 drought will impact the upcoming grazing season.

"Thanks to above-average rainfall across much of the state this fall, there is potential for producers to see average forage production in 2022 if we receive normal rainfall in April through

"Thanks to above-average rainfall across much of the state this fall, there is potential for producers to see average forage production in 2022 if we receive normal rainfall in April through June."

June," says Miranda Meehan, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist.

"Rains during this period

are responsible for 80 to 90 percent of forage production in the state. The exception will be the western portion of the state where extreme (D3) and severe (D2) drought persists."

The ability to achieve normal forage production in 2022 will depend on grazing management decisions made in 2021, specifically fall grazing and the level of grazing use going into the winter.

"Fall plant tiller development has a direct impact on plant growth during the subsequent year for all cool-



Above-normal fall moisture in many areas created the opportunity for new grass tillers to develop.

season grasses, which are dominant in our grassland," says Kevin Sedivec, NDSU Extension rangeland management specialist.

"Cool-season grass tillers, such as western wheatgrass, Kentucky bluegrass, smooth brome grass, green needlegrass and crested wheatgrass, that developed from late August through early October are the first plants to green up in the spring. If these tillers are eaten or die due to drought, then spring growth must occur from new tillers developed in April and May."

Following the 2017 drought, tiller development in the spring occurs two to four weeks later than the previous year's carry-over tillers. Tillers that develop in the spring come from buds that broke dormancy in the spring, usually when soil temperatures stay at about 40 F for three or more days.

occur or if livestock overgrazed the pasture to the point of removal of the plant's growing point.

"Delay turnout until the dominant forage species in a pasture reach grazing readiness," says Meehan. "Grazing readiness for most domesticated pasture is at the three-leaf stage, whereas grazing readiness for most native range grasses is the 3.5-leaf stage. The delay in grazing readiness could be one to two weeks or longer, depending on spring temperatures and management in 2021."

This delayed turnout is usually caused by delayed growth and development, which results in a lack of standing forage.

"When production is low due to delayed tiller development, it becomes easy to run out of forage more quickly if you go to full stock too early, leading to overuse," says Sedivec. "This overuse dur-

"Expect normal plant growth in the spring of 2022 if your pasture or hayland produced new tillers in late summer and early fall 2021."

However, the tillers established in the fall will grow as soon as temperatures are favorable, Sedivec notes. If livestock consume these fall tillers below the growing point, in between the bottom two leaves, they usually will not survive the winter. Drought also will affect these fall tillers.

Fall droughts either do not allow buds to come out of dormancy, thus no new tiller growth, or they cause death to the tillers that did grow. If tillers did not establish or survive this fall, producers should expect to see a delay in grass development and growth this spring.


"Expect normal plant growth in the spring of 2022 if your pasture or hayland produced new tillers in late summer and early fall 2021," says Sedivec. "This scenario assumes spring moisture in May and June 2022 is at or above normal for your area, and livestock did not graze below the growing point during the fall or winter months."

Meehan and Sedivec advised delaying turnout on pastures or cells that experienced drought in the fall of 2021 and had no green up

ing early green up leads to reduced plant vigor and reduced leaf area, impacting photosynthesis and reducing food (carbohydrates) stored in roots. In the end, you may sacrifice 45 to 60 percent of forage production for the year by grazing too early."

Although drought impacted much of the Northern Plains in 2020 and 2021, above-normal fall moisture in many areas of North Dakota created the opportunity for new grass tillers to develop. These fall tillers will provide an opportunity for normal pasture turnout this coming spring and potential for a good hay producing year if rainfall is at or above normal in May and June 2022.

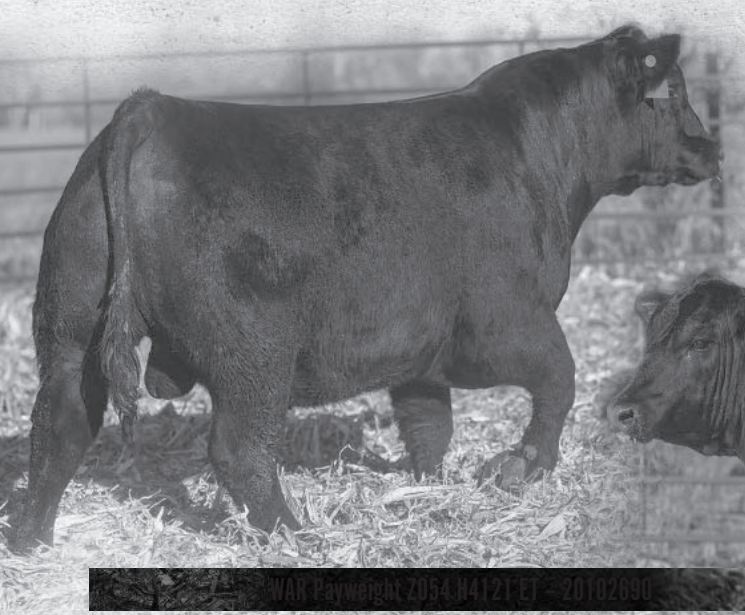
"If drought persisted in your area, thus no fall tillers survived or grew, or livestock overused a pasture that contained fall tillers, expect a delay in pasture turnout in 2022," says Meehan. "You may also experience a delay in hay harvest and even below-normal hay production in 2022 if no fall tillers survived, even if spring moisture in 2022 is near normal." — **NDSU Extension**




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Purdue projects receive \$143,000 to advance ag, cancer research

The Purdue Research Foundation's Office of Technology Commercialization has awarded more than \$143,000 to three projects, each led by researchers in Purdue University's College of Agriculture, College of Engineering and College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Trask Innovation Fund supports short-term projects that enhance the commercial value of Purdue's intellectual property.

Guri Johal, professor in the Department of Botany and Plant Pathology, College of Agriculture, received \$49,013 for "Cloning and Validating the Gene Responsible for a Novel, Dominant Dwarf Mutant of Maize."

Urine." The innovation has been licensed from the Office of Technology Commercialization to Molecular Diagnostics, a startup company.

The project focuses on creating a fast, noninvasive and low-cost cancer screening technique. The initial focus is detecting bladder cancer in dogs, but the eventual goal is detecting bladder cancer and other diseases in people.

Mohammadi said the Trask award will make it possible to build a prototype to detect bladder cancer in urine samples of dogs. Project leaders will distribute prototype devices to researchers at Purdue and elsewhere who work on

zeaxanthin consumed by Americans."

Evan said the Trask award will help advance the development of orange sweet corn varieties available for commercialization.

"As the commercial leader in orange field corn, NutraMaize is excited to partner with Purdue to bring this exciting innovation to market that has the potential to positively impact the health status of millions of Americans," he said. — **Purdue University Extension**



Purdue Agricultural Communication photo/Tom Campbell
Torbert Rocheford of Purdue University's College of Agriculture is developing high-carotenoid varieties of sweet corn.

The current corn crop is excessively tall, which has multiple drawbacks for farmers, the environment and crop sustainability.

Johal is developing a corn variant that could impact worldwide corn production. He said the current corn crop is excessively tall, which has multiple drawbacks for farmers, the environment and crop sustainability. They are easily damaged by windstorms, require high agriculture inputs like fertilizers and cannot be grown at high densities.

"Short-statured corn is more resilient than traditional corn and requires less inputs and farmland," Johal said. "This enhances the margin for farmers and protects the environment in the process. The corn industry also stands to gain, as more seed will be needed to plant the crop at higher densities."

Johal's short corn variant, called D16, can be maintained as a pure stock. He said the hybrid plant it generates is optimal in both height and vigor. Trask funds will be used to further identify the role of the specific gene linked to short-stature corn.

"This Trask award will allow me to hire a postdoctoral fellow trained in genetics and genomics to clone the gene that underlies D16," he said. "Once the mutant gene is cloned, we will have to validate it in either corn or another model plant, such as Arabidopsis. The correct cloning of the gene will also be validated by targeted mutagenesis of D16 in corn."

Dr. Deborah Knapp, distinguished professor of comparative oncology and Dolores L. McCall Professor of Comparative Oncology in the College of Veterinary Medicine, and Saeed Mohammadi, professor of electrical and computer engineering in the College of Engineering, also received funding.

Co-primary investigators Knapp and Mohammadi received \$44,656 for "Detecting Transitional Cell Carcinoma and Leptospirosis in

transitional cell carcinoma (TCC) in dogs.

"Deborah is a world-renowned researcher on TCC. She will help with testing TCC and control samples," Mohammadi said. "We hope to improve the sensitivity and specificity of our technique so it can be used to detect the disease at early stages and improve the prognosis of the disease. If this can be established, there will be a good potential for the application of such a simple and noninvasive technique for screening cancer in humans."

Torbert Rocheford, Patterson Endowed Chair for Translational Genomics in Crop Improvement, Department of Agronomy, College of Agriculture, received \$50,000 for "Developing High-Carotenoid Orange Sweet Corn."

Once developed, the innovation will be licensed to NutraMaize, his startup company led by his co-founder and son, CEO Evan Rocheford.

Torbert said Americans are at a significantly increased risk of losing their vision as they age because they don't eat enough carotenoids, which are antioxidant pigments that give many fruits and vegetables their yellow, orange or red color. Lutein and zeaxanthin are two carotenoids that protect our eyes from age-related macular degeneration, which Torbert said is the leading cause of irreversible blindness in Americans older than 60.

"Lutein and zeaxanthin are predominantly found in green, leafy vegetables, which unlike sweet corn, are consumed in very low quantities in the U.S.," Evan said. "The goal of developing high-carotenoid varieties of sweet corn is to create an accessible and popular food that can make a meaningful impact on the amount of health-protecting lutein and

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Building a database to breed hardier sheep

Genetic analysis is an increasingly important and common tool in guiding animal breeding. With the use of genomic information, a growing number of desired traits for livestock that boost herd health and producer profitability are being incorporated into breeding programs.

Considerable gaps exist in genetic data collection for the sheep industry, however, and a new research project led by a faculty member in the University of Nebraska–Lincoln's (UNL) Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources aims to build a needed inventory of such data.

paramount to the industry's sustainability," said Lewis, who serves as the technical adviser to the National Sheep Improvement Program, providing genetic evaluation services for sheep and goat producers across the U.S.

Lewis' research in animal genetics intertwines theory, simulation and field studies of sheep, beef and poultry. He works closely with other researchers in North America, the United Kingdom and Australia.

This NIFA-funded project involves experienced sheep breeders in various U.S. climatic regions, with research done at Nebraska,

"Breeding robust animals that perform well under these conditions is paramount to the industry's sustainability."

The project, funded by a \$650,000 grant from USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA), will develop a database of traits for robustness and climatic resilience. Researchers will assemble current and additional genetic data, as well as performance records, for several major U.S. sheep breeds: Katahdin, Polypay, Rambouillet and Suffolk.

Ron Lewis, professor of animal breeding and genomics in the Department of Animal Science, is the project director.

The sheep industry contributes nearly \$6 billion annually to the U.S. economy. Lewis noted that nationally, sheep farms outnumber dairy cattle, pig and broiler enterprises. Distinctive breed-types of sheep are dispersed across a wide range of climates and management systems.

"Breeding robust animals that perform well under these conditions is

Purdue University and three of the USDA's Agricultural Research Service centers. Co-investigators include Brad Freking and Tom Murphy of the USDA's Meat Animal Research Center in Clay Center, NE.

"By the end of the project, our reference populations in each of the four breeds involved in the study should have more than 3,000 animals with genomic information," Lewis said. "This will be complemented by performance data on these animals and their relatives."

That data should improve producers' understanding of several key traits affecting the robustness and profitability of sheep enterprises, with genomic-enhanced estimated breeding values (GEBVs) generated to help them evaluate those traits. Given that GEBVs are more accurate, producers can make better selection decisions that increase the profit potential for their operations.

Because the new study will build sizable reference populations, "We should be in good shape to provide reliable GEBV in these breeds," Lewis said. "We are already doing so in one of them," the Katahdin breed.

By integrating genetic data sets, the researchers will be able to comprehensively evaluate traits of robustness, including lamb survival, ewe longevity, gastrointestinal parasitism and udder health. To analyze climatic resilience, the project will record changes in body weights and condition scores across seasons, resilience to environmental challenges, and hair shedding in the Katahdin breed.

The project ultimately aims to provide training to the next generation of scientists with an interest in sheep breeding and boost the industry's long-term competitiveness and advancement. — UNL



Drought reduces wheat midge populations in North Dakota for the second year in a row

Soil samples in North Dakota indicate lower levels of overwintering wheat midge larvae (cocoons) for the 2021 season, says Janet Knodel, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension entomologist.

A total of 2,070 soil samples were collected from 22 counties in the fall of 2021 to estimate the statewide risk for wheat midge in the 2022 wheat growing season. The distribution of wheat midge is based on unparasitized cocoons found in the soil samples.

"No soil samples had moderate or high cocoon densities of wheat midge (201 to over 800 larvae per square meter)," says Knodel.

"This dramatic decrease in wheat midge populations since 2019 is probably due to drought in 2020 and 2021," adds Knodel. "Drought can cause wheat midge to overwinter for two years instead of the typical emergence during the following season. Larvae also are susceptible to dryness and require rain

crop is at risk.

Producers can access the wheat midge degree day model on the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) website at ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu/wheat-growing-degree-days.html.

Select your nearest NDAWN station, and enter your wheat planting date. The output indicates the expected growth stage

of the wheat and whether the crop is susceptible to midge infestation, as well as the timing of wheat midge emergence.

If wheat midge is detected, the economic thresholds for wheat midge are one or more midge observed for every four or five heads on hard red spring wheat, or one or more midge observed for every seven or eight heads on durum wheat.

"This forecast is good news for growers since the risk for yield loss and reduced grain quality from wheat midge is low," says Knodel. "Unfortunately, the bad news is that the beneficial parasitic wasp can't survive without its host, wheat midge. To my surprise, no parasitized cocoons were found in 2021. This is the first time that no parasitic wasps were observed.

"Parasitic wasps play an important role in natural control of wheat midge and parasitize the eggs or larvae," she adds. "In contrast, the parasitism rate was 15 percent in 2020, 36 percent in 2019 and 9 percent in 2018."

NDSU Extension agents collected the soil samples. The North Dakota Wheat Commission supports the wheat midge survey. — **NDSU Extension**

"To my surprise, no parasitized cocoons were found in 2021. This is the first time that no parasitic wasps were observed."

"The majority of the soil samples had zero wheat midge cocoons in the soil for the past two years," says Knodel. "The percentage was 95 percent with no midge cocoons in 2022 and 86 percent in 2021. This is the record low since the wheat midge larval survey for overwintering cocoons started in 1995. In 2018, we had another low year with 84 percent of the soil samples with no cocoons."

Knodel states that only about 5 percent of soil samples were positive for wheat midge cocoons, with density ranging from 36 to 71 cocoons per square meter. This is a low risk for wheat midge infestation, which is classified as one to 200 midge cocoons per square meter.

to emerge from the soil in late June through mid-July and to drop out of the mature wheat heads and dig into the soil to overwinter as cocoons.

"Comparing precipitation from May through August with wheat midge cocoon densities for each surveyed county over the past 11 years shows a strong positive correlation between precipitation and wheat midge populations."

With the very low populations of wheat midge for two years in a row, producers may not have to scout for adult midges this year unless the field is continuous wheat, and/or favorable moist weather in late June to early July occurs during emergence. These two factors can

2021 Wheat Midge Larval Survey

North Dakota



Midge larvae / m²

- 0
- ▲ 1-200
- 201-500
- 501-800
- 801-1200
- ▲ >1200

NORTH DAKOTA WHEAT COMMISSION
NDSU EXTENSION

"Low-risk areas were scattered in eight counties throughout the state, including the northwest area (Divide, Mountrail and Renville counties), the north-central area (Bottineau, Benson and Pierce counties), the west-central area (McLean County) and the north-east area (Ramsey County)," says Knodel.

cause rapid increases in the numbers of emerging adult wheat midges, especially in areas that did receive adequate precipitation last year.

Knodel recommends that producers still use the wheat midge degree day model to predict the emergence of wheat midge and to determine when to scout and if their wheat

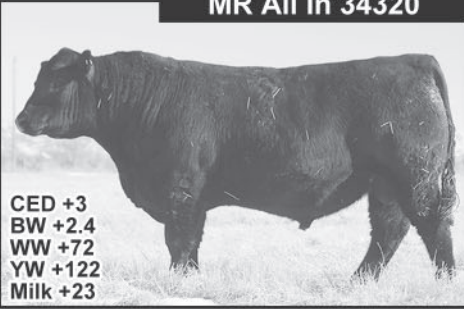
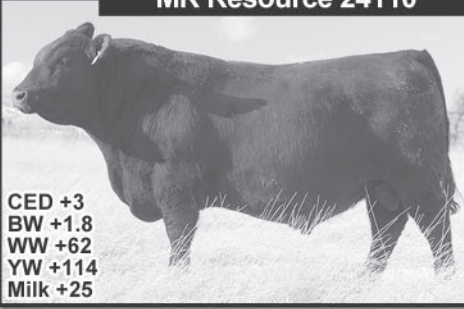

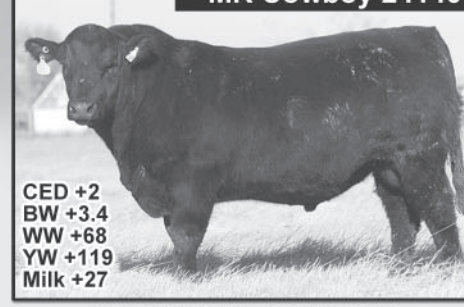




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<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>MR Resource 28920</p>  <p>CED -2 BW +4.2 WW +56 YW +106 Milk +25</p> <p>AAA 20234718 • BD 6/8/2020 BW 98 • Adj. WW 687 • PAP 46 • SC 41</p> </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>MR Krash 30040</p>  <p>CED +3 BW +2.8 WW +77 YW +133 Milk +23</p> <p>AAA 20251624 • BD 6/8/2020 BW 88 • Adj. WW 780 • PAP 44 • SC 40.5</p> </div>
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Oct. 28, 2002, Vol. 82, No. 2

Western Wanderings – The 'positermilogicolectitudinarian'

The last column I wrote about my trip to Ruidoso Downs, NM, for the All American Futurity prompted a letter from a long-time friend whom I've not seen or talked to for several years.

Dean H. Parker, Logan, UT, wrote a very nice letter to me about the old days together, and it sure did bring back lots of memories for me just as the column had for Dean. Dean's business card read, "Dean H. Parker, Positermilogicolectitudinarian." The translation for that is

"Professional Auctioneer" ... and, I might say, a darn good one.

Dean recalled he was the first auctioneer for the All American sale and sold it for 25 years, managing the sale for 15 of those years. It was a lot different back then and, as Dean remembered, it was real tough just to get quality horses consigned. I worked the sales for Dean back then and they've certainly changed over the years. Now it's not uncommon for one horse to bring what we would gross on

an entire sale back then.

Dean was the auctioneer on the first sale I ever worked as a ring man and that was the National Ram Sale in Salt Lake City. I was scared to death, but with his encouragement I made it through the sale.

When I first started traveling, I had the good fortune to work a lot of sales with Dean and his partner, the late Thane Lancaster of Filer, ID. Dean and Thane were a unique partnership. They had a chemistry on the block

that has not been matched since. If there was a Quarter Horse sale of any consequence anywhere in the country, they managed it. Dean had his own plane and did the flying himself, and probably to this day he would have as many, if not more, hours than many commercial airline pilots.

I can remember working sales with Dean and Thane for such reputation ranches as Howard Pitzer in Nebraska, Guy Ray Rutland in Kansas, Matlock Rose in Texas, the Norells in Colorado, Hal and Lois Schudel in Oregon, the Quarter Horse sale during the National Western, and many more. I remember being absolutely mesmerized

at seeing some of the great horses like Two Eyed Jack, Go Man Go, Mr. San Peppy and Easy Jet, or one of Thane's favorites, Starduster. That was pretty heady stuff for a kid out of Montana having never ridden anything but a grade horse.

Today Dean still lives in the beautiful Cache Valley of northern Utah, and he and his son Lane operate the auction market at Smithfield, UT. If you're ever in the Logan area, you need to give this man a call. I know Dean would love to visit with you.

Thanks for your friendship over the years, Dean. It's been a great ride.

WANDER, WANDER...

The past few weeks have been very busy with sales nearly every day and, of course, lots of traveling. This last week, after some very successful sales for the Stollers at Bear Mountain Angus, Thomas Angus Ranch, and Bob and Nina Lundgren's Bonina, Inc., I worked a sale in Roseburg, OR, for Packham Angus and ran into a well-known Montana Angus breeder,

Dale Davis, PAPA Angus. Dale lives in Roseburg now and enjoys traveling with Nancy in their motorhome, but he just couldn't resist coming to a sale when it's that close.

As it happened, we had a daughter or two sired by Forte and Durabull in the sale, both of which have sterling reputations and both of which Dale raised. It was good to see him again and have the chance to visit. Dale is one of those early Angus breeders who paved the way and helped make the breed what it is today.

MORE WANDERING...

Although this is a busy time of year for many of us, it's also a great time to be traveling the West and see some of the spectacular scenery the fall of the year brings. Last week, traveling in southwestern Oregon and northern California, the trees were in full color; being able to take time to enjoy the countryside makes all that windshield time worth it. Have a good fall and enjoy our great country. — **Jerry York, WLJ fieldman**



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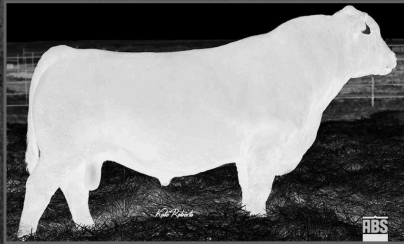
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Cattle shooting hearing set for mid-February

USFS

(from page 1)

the agriculture community and many New Mexicans for some time."

He added, "Those animals could have entered the food chain and been of benefit to many; instead, they are being consumed by predators that already have the natural inclination to depredate producers' livestock. The overall situation and the waste of protein is saddening."

NMCGA calculated the financial losses of the shootings based on mid-level and high-end grocery stores in Santa Fe, NM. If 200 cattle were shot, and 440 pounds of edible beef per animal were lost, 88,000 lbs. of beef went to waste, the cattle group said. Using the price of 1 lb. of ground beef chuck (\$4.48) in a Santa Fe Walmart brings the total losses to about \$394,240 worth of beef.

Background

USFS said it located three separate herds of cattle totaling 150 head, and it planned to shoot all cows, calves and bulls. NMCGA reported producers in the area said USFS did not make a good faith effort to gather the estray cattle.

"Instead, the Service has opted to shoot the cattle in compliance with a settlement agreement with the Center for Biological Diversity, who previously sued the USFS for allowing the cattle to harm the riparian areas in the Gila," the association said.

"The USFS is establishing dangerous precedent to appease the Center for Biological Diversity," Patterson said in a released statement. "Shooting cattle is not a long-term range management solution, and the USFS should know that."

Patterson said the issue has stemmed from years of USFS management and vacated grazing allotments, and until vacant allotments are released to cattle producers, estray cattle will continue to be a problem.

"This situation took years to create, and a final solution may take years to ethically achieve," Patterson said.

This is the second time shooting estray cattle in the forest has been up for debate. The first time was in March 2021, but the plan was met with resistance by industry groups, environmental groups and the New Mexico Livestock Board, and it was halted.

The lawsuit plaintiffs assert the USFS acted in violation of the law in its recent shootings.

"Forest Service regulations specifically govern the removal of unbranded livestock from a grazing allotment or area closed to livestock grazing," the current lawsuit read. "There is no federal statute or regulations allowing the federal government to shoot livestock from a helicopter."

Rather, the suit said, cattle that are grazing unlawfully on Forest Service ground must be seized and impounded. Following impoundment, the agency must publish a notice of sale of impounded livestock in a local newspaper, as well as post notices in the county courthouse and post offices. The livestock are then to be sold to recoup the agency's costs, and only if efforts to sell the livestock have failed may the animals be condemned or destroyed.

"The law governing estrays in New Mexico is quite clear and should not willingly be violated by an agency of the federal government," NMCGA said in a Facebook comment. "There is a current contract in place to remove cattle, the USFS should have allowed that contract to expire before taking any additional steps."

A motion hearing for a temporary restraining order and preliminary injunction is scheduled for Feb. 22 in Albuquerque, NM, before District Judge James O. Browning. NMCGA will be reviewing its options and whether to proceed with the lawsuit, Patterson said. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

2021 beef exports shatter previous records

U.S. beef exports greatly exceeded previous volume and value records in 2021, surpassing \$10 billion for the first time, according to year-end data released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF).

December beef exports totaled 121,429 metric tons (mt), up 1 percent from a year ago, while value climbed 33 percent to \$991.8 million—the third largest month on record. These results pushed the 2021 volume to 1.44 billion mt, up 15 percent from a year ago and 7 percent above the previous record set in 2018. Export value soared to \$10.58 billion, up 38 percent from 2020 and shattering the previous record (also from 2018) by 27 percent.

“The beef export results are truly remarkable, especially considering the COVID-related obstacles in the global food service sector and all the supply-side and logistical challenges faced by the U.S. industry,” said USMEF President and CEO Dan Halstrom. “Obviously our large Asian markets accounted for much of the growth, but it really takes broad-based global demand to reach these impressive levels. So this success story is not just about Korea, Japan and China—but also a strong performance in Taiwan, excellent growth in Central and South America and a rebound in Mexico and Southeast Asia.”

Japan remained the leading volume destination for U.S. beef exports in 2021 at 320,737 mt, up 5 percent from 2020 and the second largest volume of the post-BSE era. Export value climbed 22 percent to a

cord \$2.376 billion but finished a close second to South Korea. The U.S. industry remains concerned about Japan’s import safeguard, which resulted in a higher tariff rate being imposed on U.S. beef in late March and early April of last year. Without an adjustment to the safeguard threshold, a similar scenario is possible in 2022 and highly likely in years to come.

Beef exports to Korea totaled 280,143 mt, up 14 percent and eclipsing the previous record set in 2019. Export value soared 38 percent to \$2.382 billion—not only a record for Korea, but the highest value achieved in any destination. Korea’s surging demand for U.S. beef has been driven largely by growth in the retail sector, both in traditional retail venues and e-commerce platforms. U.S. beef also continues to benefit from the phase-out of Korea’s import duties as the tariff rate under the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) dropped to 10.7 percent for 2022, down from 40 percent prior to the implementation of the FTA.

Capitalizing on the market access gains included in the U.S.-China Phase One Economic and Trade Agreement, beef exports to China/Hong Kong also broke the \$2 billion mark at \$2.09 billion, up 114 percent from 2020, while volume climbed 87 percent to 240,827 mt. Direct exports to China, which started to gain significant traction in mid-2020, jumped 346 percent in volume (190,803 mt) and 413 percent in value (\$1.59 billion). U.S. beef accounted for 6 percent of China’s total imports on a volume basis

and 11 percent by value. Grain-fed beef now accounts for an estimated 11 percent of China’s imports, with the U.S. as the largest supplier, providing approximately 68 percent of China’s grain-fed imports.

Other 2021 highlights

Though beef exports to Taiwan dipped slightly in volume (63,095 mt, down 1 percent from 2020), export value climbed to \$668 million—up 21 percent from 2020 and breaking the previous (2019) record by more than \$100 million. The U.S. continues to dominate Taiwan’s chilled beef imports, capturing an 81 percent market share in 2021.

Beef exports to Mexico partially rebounded in 2021, though shipments remained below pre-COVID levels. Exports increased 4 percent from a year ago to 200,628 mt and climbed 24 percent in value to \$1.06 billion. Mexico is the largest volume

destination for beef variety meat exports, which increased 9 percent to 97,642 mt and jumped 16 percent in value to \$264.1 million.

Fueled by excellent growth in a range of markets, beef exports to Central America set new records for both volume (20,991 mt, up 52 percent from a year ago) and value (\$137.3 million, up 81 percent). U.S. beef has a growing presence in the region’s rapidly expanding retail sector and has capitalized on the gradual easing of COVID-related food service restrictions. Beef exports to Central America have also benefited greatly from the phase-out of import duties through the Central America-Dominican Republic FTA.

Beef exports to Colombia surged in 2021, more than doubling year over year in both volume (9,359 mt, up 106 percent) and value (\$40.7 million, up 105 percent) and easily surpassing 2019 records. With shipments also trending higher to Chile and Peru, exports

to South America reached 31,802 mt (up 32 percent), valued at \$177.6 million (up 82 percent). U.S. beef also faces zero duties in these FTA partner countries.

Led by a sharp rebound in the Dominican Republic, beef exports to the Caribbean increased 31 percent from a year ago to 25,098 mt, while value climbed 69 percent to \$191.5 million. Exports also increased year over year to Jamaica and the Bahamas.

Exports to Indonesia set new records in 2021, reaching 27,010 mt (up 42 percent), valued at \$118.4 million (up 65 percent). Indonesia is a key destination for beef variety meat, which accounted for 45 percent of the total export volume.

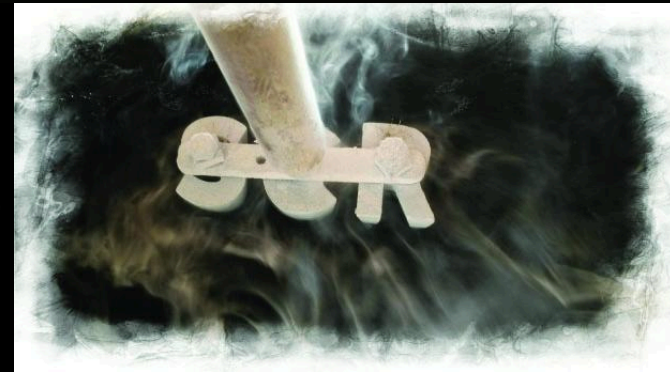
Rebounding from a down year in 2020, global exports of U.S. beef variety meat increased 8 percent to 300,297 mt and set a new value record, topping \$1 billion for the first time (\$1.09 billion, up 24 percent).

Beef export value per head of fed slaughter equat-

ed to a record \$407.22 in 2021, up 35 percent from a year ago. Exports accounted for 15 percent of total beef production and 12.8 percent for muscle cuts only, up significantly from the respective 2020 ratios of 13.5 percent and 11.3 percent.

Lamb exports

December exports of U.S. lamb were 1,613 mt, up 16 percent from a year ago, while export value climbed 32 percent to \$2.49 million—the highest monthly value since July 2014. For 2021, lamb exports increased 9 percent to 14,053 mt, valued at \$20.45 million (up 19 percent). While volume growth was driven primarily by lamb variety meat exports to Mexico, lamb muscle cut exports rebounded to the Caribbean—achieving impressive growth in the Dominican Republic and increasing to Bermuda, the Bahamas, Trinidad and Tobago and Turks and Caicos. — USMEF



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CW+63 Marb+.68 Rib+.93 \$M+.94 \$C+309



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CW+58 Marb+.94 Rib+.72 \$M+.84 \$C+306



25 sons & grandsons of Southern Charm AA31 sell
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CW+47 Marb+.98 Rib+.87 \$M+.62 \$C+270



10 sons of S S Enforcer E812 sell
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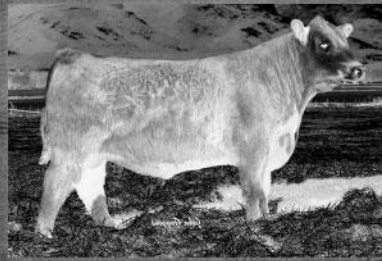
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LEGAL LEDGER

MSGA opposes MT wolves in CO

The Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) has announced its opposition to the state of Colorado using Montana wolves in its reintroduction plan. MSGA penned a letter to the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (FWP), expressing concerns for Colorado producers who do not have the same tools in place as Montana producers do for livestock protections and programs. "Giving Colorado wolves from Montana isn't going to solve the wolf issues in our state, but it will significantly impact livestock producers in Colorado," said Jim Steinbeisser, MSGA president. "MSGA represents ranching families throughout the state, and we have experienced firsthand the impacts this apex predator has on our family ranches." The MSGA Board of Directors said they were in strong opposition to FWP considering any request from the state of Colorado to use Montana wolves for reintroduction into Colorado.

Daniel-Davis DOI hearing held

Laura Daniel-Davis, the nominee for the position of assistant secretary for land and minerals management in the Department of the Interior (DOI), attended a rare second nomination hearing with the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Daniel-Davis' first hearing was in September, and the committee voted 10-10 on her nomination, along party lines. "If confirmed, I will work hard to support the bureaus as they implement their programs and address the important infrastructure needs of society," she said at the hearing. GOP committee members remain opposed to her nomination, citing her role in the administration's handling of federal oil and gas leases.

CA interim wolf compensation plan

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has announced an interim Wolf Livestock Loss Compensation Grant Program, which would allocate funds for wolf impacts on livestock. The funding was approved by the California Legislature in 2021 through Senate Bill 170. Producers are able to apply for fair market value compensation for animals lost to probable or confirmed predation as of Sept. 23, 2021. "The stakeholder group has been working diligently to advise CDFW on a fair compensation program that will adequately compensate producers for both the effects of wolf presence on livestock and for any losses that may occur," said the California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) in its Legislative Bulletin. "There is currently no timeline for when the full pilot program will be released, but CCA will update members with any new information." To receive an application for the interim program, email Wolfprogram@wildlife.ca.gov.

Pet antimicrobial comments sought

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is requesting public comments regarding antimicrobial use in companion animals, which includes dogs, cats and horses. "Although most of the FDA's animal antimicrobial stewardship efforts to-date have been related to food-producing animals, the FDA recognizes that there is also a need to better understand how the use of antimicrobial drugs to treat companion animals might contribute to the development of antimicrobial resistance in both animals and people," FDA said in a press release. Comments will be accepted through June 16 and may be submitted by searching for document ID FDA-2021-N-1305 at regulations.gov. Comments may also be submitted through mail to Dockets Management Staff, HFA-305, Food and Drug Administration, 5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061, Rockville, MD 20852.

Scott, Shasta river curtailments

The California State Water Resources Control Board has issued amendments to curtailment orders for water right holders in the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds. All surface water right holders in the Scott River watershed actively diverting more than 1 cubic foot per second (cfs) as a daily average are required to report their daily diversions to the State Water Board on a weekly basis. The requirement is in effect until further notice. In addition, the temporary suspension of all curtailments in the Scott River watershed was extended through Feb. 18, as long as the 200 cfs flow requirement was sustained at the U.S. Geological Survey Fort Jones gage. If flows were less than 200 cfs at the gage, the most junior water rights in the watershed were to cease diversions immediately. The first mandatory report for those diverting more than 1 cfs was due on Feb. 18.

OR meat processing grants open

Oregon has allocated \$2 million to improve the infrastructure and operating capacity of Oregon meat processors. Applicants may request up to \$500,000 for equipment, physical improvements, technical assistance, processing hardware/software, on-site waste handling and education/training. The application deadline is March 23. For more information, including guidelines and application forms, visit oregon.gov/oda/programs and search for "Oregon Meat Initiative."

Carbon pipeline plans see pushback in IA

Carbon pipeline companies looking to take carbon emissions from ethanol plants and pipe liquid carbon through multiple states are starting to face more organized landowner resistance.

An Iowa state senator's bill would take away the companies' ability to use eminent domain. The bill introduced by Sen. Jeff Taylor (R-IA-002) would limit the use of eminent domain to public utilities and double the annual fee paid to the state for pipelines carrying hazardous liquids.

"I've heard from lots of farmers back home, in northwest Iowa, who are upset about the pipelines and about the likely use of eminent domain to seize part of their land—or, to put it another way, to coerce an easement," Taylor stated in an email to DTN.

"Some object to the pipelines for safety reasons, some because crop yields will decrease as a result of topsoil disturbance, and others just don't want to have a hazardous liquid pipeline forced upon them. Three of the four county boards of supervisors in my district have registered opposition to the use of eminent domain for these pipelines with the Iowa Utilities Board."

Proposed projects

Iowa is the center of three separate carbon pipeline projects that collectively would cross about 1,600 miles of property just in the Hawkeye State alone.

Summit Carbon Solutions is led by Bruce Rastetter, an Iowa agribusiness leader who operates pork and ethanol companies in the state. Summit's Midwest Carbon Express pipeline, estimated to cost \$4.5 billion, plans to run through Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska and South Dakota and sink carbon dioxide into a geological formation in North Dakota about a mile into the ground.

In Iowa, Summit Carbon Solutions filed an application with the Iowa Utilities Board in late January to use eminent domain for its pipeline across 30 counties. The company will be building at least 681 miles of pipeline just in Iowa. In its application, Summit stated, "It is uncertain whether and to what extent the right of eminent domain will be required."

Summit, though, has stated the company already has signed up hundreds of landowners and cites strong support for its project. "This project will be transformational for the ethanol industry and, by extension, the agriculture industry," Summit stated.

"We're pleased to have begun the permitting process for Summit Carbon Solutions, which keeps us on schedule to be operational in the first half of 2024," said Rastetter, CEO of Summit Agricultural Group, in a statement earlier this month. "Farmers and landowners in Iowa understand that ethanol production consumes over 50 percent of our corn crop every year, which is a big

reason why we've had early success signing hundreds of pipeline easements with farmers who have a vested interest in our success."

Summit announced recently the company also filed for a permit with the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission for nearly 459 miles of planned pipeline routes in that state. Summit officials have expressed confidence they would be able to use eminent domain in that state, if necessary.

Summit and backers have continued to highlight the benefits that could come from lower emissions at ethanol plants, which would improve the prospects for selling ethanol that demonstrates lower carbon intensity.

"Summit Carbon Solutions' project will benefit farmers across the state by maintaining a strong corn market while supporting ethanol producers. The project will also provide tax revenue for the counties along the route and help the environment," said Walt Wendland, CEO of Ringneck Energy, one ethanol plant partnering with Summit in South Dakota.

So far, Summit's main competitor, Navigator CO2 Ventures, has not filed for eminent domain. Created by the Texas-based pipeline company Navigator Energy Services, Navigator's Heartland Greenway pipeline, projected at a cost of \$2 billion, will stretch 1,200 miles across Nebraska, South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa and sink its carbon dioxide at two sites in Illinois near where ADM is already sinking carbon into the ground near Decatur.

ADM also has announced plans with Wolf Carbon Solutions for another pipeline from Cedar Rapids, IA, to where ADM is already sequestering carbon near Decatur, IL.

Iowa opposition

Taylor noted the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation has not taken a position on the pipelines or on eminent domain for private companies. "But I've heard considerable agreement with my position when speaking to county Farm Bureau boards during the past couple months," he stated.

One of the more conservative state senators in Iowa, Taylor noted he has had senators from both parties express support for his bill. He added, "On the other hand, the bill is considered 'controversial'—not because grassroots Iowans or conservative Republicans oppose it, but because one of the pipeline companies is politically well connected in Iowa, and there's big money behind all three companies."

Jessica Mazour, a coordinator for the Iowa Sierra Club, told DTN on Feb. 15 she had just found out Taylor's bill would get a subcommittee hearing at the Iowa State Capitol on Feb. 16. She was organizing landowners who could make it to Des Moines to attend the hearing. Mazour said there is an inherent unfairness about a private

company using eminent domain to make a profit at the expense of someone else's right to their land.

"There are hundreds of landowners who are against the pipelines," Mazour said. "If you look at the docket on the Iowa Utility Board website, probably 99 percent of the comments are opposed to the pipelines for various reasons. There are hundreds and hundreds of comments raising concerns and objections. It's spread out to literally every corner of the state."

Besides private citizens, at least 20 county boards of supervisors also have filed formal objections to the use of eminent domain for the project.

Actions in other states

While Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota have specific permitting requirements for carbon pipelines, that isn't the case

in some other states. Nebraska has no state law governing carbon pipelines. The Minneapolis Star Tribune reported recently that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has determined that carbon pipelines are essentially regulated by county zoning laws.

Nebraska, though, has a lot of recent history opposing pipelines. Earlier this month, the group Bold Nebraska held a couple of in-person events and an online informational meeting about landowner rights. Of Nebraska's 24 ethanol plants, at least nine have committed to the Summit pipeline, while three have signed on to Navigator.

"Pipeline companies have a playbook. We didn't know that playbook 12 years ago. We know it now," said Jane Kleeb, founder of Bold Nebraska.

Landowner rights

Brian Jorde, an attorney

with the Domina Law Firm in Omaha, also helps lead the Nebraska Easement Action Team (NEAT) to represent landowners in negotiations with pipelines. That work has since crossed over into Iowa, where NEAT is representing dozens of landowners as well.

"You are not being protected at the state level," Jorde told landowners at a meeting in York, NE.

Jorde said landowners may be in the camp of opposing any pipeline or may be in the camp of negotiating better terms than the pipelines are offering now.

"It's going to be a battle over whether they have a mechanism to use the power of eminent domain," Jorde said.

Jorde noted easements are perpetual, and he has represented landowners in at least one case in which a property heir hit an oil pipeline with farm equipment because he didn't know it was there. The pipeline then sued the

landowner trying to recover damages. These types of issues need to be negotiated ahead of time, especially since landowners often only receive one payment. Then there is the question of what happens to the pipeline once its useful life has ended.

"With just a few little words, they can shift risk," Jorde said. A negotiation with a large group of landowners can ensure liability gets pushed back onto the pipeline company.

A key part of the focus for NEAT is to spread the costs of attorney representation because NEAT will negotiate on behalf of all the landowners with a pipeline company to force better easement terms.

"If you don't stand up for yourself, you aren't going to be protected," Jorde said. He added, "Everyone I've ever represented, those who hold out the longest get the most money." — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

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15CED, -4.6BW, 71WW, 111YW, 30MILK, 4ME,
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PRESIDENT X EPIC X ENTERPRISE
12CED, -2.0BW, 77WW, 126YW, 29MILK, 5ME,
16HP, 9CEM, 15ST, 0.74MB, 0.24RE,
\$13,539PRO, \$59RAN



Lot 116 • 1354J • 1/13/21 • #4461361
PRESIDENT X SAGA X PACKER
12CED, -3.9BW, 72WW, 113YW, 28MILK, 2ME,
12HP, 9CEM, 14ST, 0.61MB, 0.30RE,
\$17,266PRO, \$70RAN



Lot 1 • 1360J • 2/8/21 • #4461373
X-FACTOR X DENIRO X NEW CHAPTER
14CED, -2.5BW, 77WW, 125YW, 27MILK, 8ME,
13HP, 8CEM, 15ST, 0.80MB, 0.41RE,
\$18,540PRO, \$68RAN



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PRESIDENT X EPIC X ENTERPRISE
10CED, -3.3BW, 68WW, 111YW, 29MILK, 5ME,
15HP, 8CEM, 13ST, 0.59MB, 0.53RE,
\$14,942PRO, \$64RAN



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MERLIN X DECLARATION X TAKEOVER
18CED, -4.8BW, 76WW, 121YW, 29MILK, 7ME,
11HP, 9CEM, 9ST, 0.27MB, 0.48RE



Lot 77 • 1839J • 1/25/21 • #4472465
MERLIN X SLEEP EASY X CONQUEST
16CED, -4.8BW, 65WW, 105YW, 31MILK, -2ME,
6HP, 6CEM, 12ST, 0.56MB, 0.22RE,
\$16,195PRO, \$59RAN



Lot 72 • 1358J • 1/18/21 • #4461369
PRESIDENT X REDEMPTION X EXPECTATION
15CED, -4.5BW, 68WW, 106YW, 29MILK, 3ME,
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STORY SHORTS

WA small processor grant funds

The Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) announced it will begin accepting applications for a grant program for small processors following approval by the Legislature for \$3.6 million in funding. The goal is to increase livestock and poultry processing access for small to midsize ranchers and help small processors sell direct-to-consumer, to restaurants and to other local buyers. The WSDA Local Meat Processing Capacity Grants program will provide grants of up to \$150,000 for small projects and fund large projects between \$150,000 and \$750,000. Eligible costs include equipment, facility improvements, planning and workforce development costs. The deadline to apply for a small project grant is Feb. 28, while applicants for the large project grants have until March 7. Information about the WSDA Local Meat Processing Capacity Grants, including how to apply, can be found by visiting agr.wa.gov/grants.

ARC/PLC enrollment deadline

USDA's Farm Service Agency announced producers have until March 15 to enroll in either the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) or Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs for the 2022 crop year. Producers can elect coverage and enroll in ARC-County or PLC, which are both crop by crop, or ARC-Individual, which is for the entire farm. Although election changes for 2022 are optional, producers must enroll through a signed contract each year. If an election is not submitted by the March 15 deadline, the election remains the same as the 2021 election for crops. In addition to the March 15 deadline for ARC and PLC, other important deadlines include March 1 for the Livestock Indemnity Program, March 11 for the General Conservation Reserve Program sign-up and March 15 for the Pandemic Cover Crop Program. For more information on these programs, producers can visit www.fsa.usda.gov or contact their local USDA Service Center.

Flashtag deterrent for sheep

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Wildlife Services announced in a Facebook post it has partnered with Utah State University and sheep producers from several states to evaluate the effectiveness of a new light deterrent known as a flashtag. According to APHIS, the ear tag will protect against predation by activating when it is dark and the animal is in rapid motion. The large-scale study will determine the device's effectiveness and limitations for deterring livestock predation by wolves, coyotes and other predators. Results are expected later this year. In 2021, prototype flashtags were developed and tested on a band of sheep in Idaho. Those trials showed promising results, with the ear tags being durable and nondisruptive to the sheep, and they may have deterred some predation.

Tyson short on sustainability goal

A Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) analysis concluded that Tyson Foods failed to meet its sustainability goals and could do more to reduce its environmental impacts. According to UCS, Tyson set a goal in 2018 to have better environmental practices across 2 million acres of corn. However, according to Tyson's 2020 sustainability report, only about one-quarter, or about 408,000 acres, have been converted to better practices. The company cited COVID-19 as the reason and moved the goal to 2025. UCS estimates that 10 million acres are required to feed all the animals the company processes, and "with hundreds of millions of dollars in profits in recent years, Tyson has the resources to accelerate its commitment to improving production practices." One of the major issues that has slowed Tyson's progress toward practicing more sustainable farming techniques is the expenses of switching to these practices. As the UCS report points out, many farmers contracted by Tyson cannot afford the upfront costs associated with making the necessary changes. The report recommends Tyson should use its buying power and resources to help farmers employ practices that conserve and build healthy soil.

Beef exec to lead alt-meat company

An executive with over 25 years of experience in the agriculture and meat production industry has been named CEO of the Israel-based culture meat company Future Meat Technologies. Nicole Johnson-Hoffman was previously the managing director of Further Processed Foods for OSI Europe. According to Food Business News, she worked for 19 years at Cargill, where she practiced law as in-house counsel and held leadership roles in financial services and beef plant operations. Johnson-Hoffman was also the founding chairperson of the United States Roundtable for Sustainable Beef, where she served two terms as the organization's president and spent five years on its executive committee. Future Meat Technologies produces cultivated chicken, lamb, beef and pork. Earlier this year, it opened a facility in Israel and is currently looking for locations in the U.S. to open a facility.

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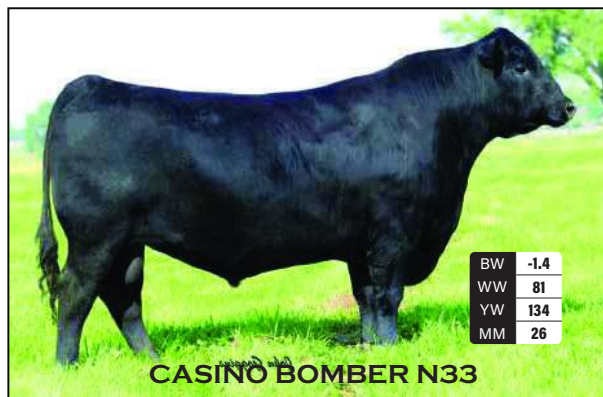
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Canola may help High Plains dairies fill spring forage gap

As the number of dairy cattle in Texas' High Plains grows and the state ranks as the fourth largest dairy state in the nation, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service teams are looking for ways to make sure the expanding herd gets fed.

One recent study identified the forage value of canola, which may offer producers a high-protein feed alternative, as well as another winter crop, to consider for filling a spring forage gap.

Juan Piñero, DVM, AgriLife Extension dairy specialist, and Jourdan Bell, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension agronomist, began looking at the nutritive value of canola in 2020.

"Feed prices are incredibly high this year, and protein concentrates such as soybean meal are usually the highest priced feed," Piñero said. "If you start a ration at a dairy with a forage source high in protein content, that means you have more opportunities to save money on buying protein concentrates."

In addition, he said, there is an added benefit that if canola is harvested at an early stage, not only would the protein content be higher, but forage digestibility would be better.

Growing dairy herd

The Texas dairy herd has basically doubled in size in the past two decades, Piñero said, with the majority of those cows located in the High Plains region. The milking herd in the High Plains includes about 475,000 cows; the state's total is about 625,000 head.

This is prompting growth in processing capacity, as four new plants are being planned or built to receive milk from the High Plains region. This will serve to keep dairy cow numbers high.

USDA statistics show that Texas and New Mexico combine to produce about 10 percent of the U.S. milk supply, with about 80 percent of that amount produced in the High Plains of Texas and eastern New Mexico.

Canola as a potential feed

In the High Plains, corn has traditionally been the silage of choice, but as irrigation capacities decline, livestock producers are evaluating alternative forage options. And while research at Amarillo has proven that forage sorghums are ideal for water-limited conditions, there can still be a forage gap, especially under drought conditions.

Wheat, rye and canola can provide producers a winter and spring forage option to fill that gap, Bell said. Canola is typically produced as an oilseed crop, but research shows it can produce a high-quality forage, both for grazing and silage, depending on growing conditions.

Canola forage can range anywhere from 16 percent to 10 percent in protein at flowering to early ripening, respectively, which is in line with wheat, at 16 percent at boot and 10 percent at soft dough. However, at flowering, the increased digest-

ibility of canola would result in more feed intake and milk production.

"As with other forages, nutritive value is closely tied to the agronomic management, crop maturity and growing conditions," she said. "While there is limited canola planted for oilseed production, in recent years, canola silage, or canolage, has continued to expand in the western Texas High Plains as an alternative forage option for dairies."

Data from research conducted in 2021 demonstrated that September and February planting dates could provide producers with planting flexibility when growing canola as a forage in the High Plains.

Another benefit of looking at canola as a forage crop is that it can be double-cropped under some conditions. The production potential of double-cropped systems is limited by environmental conditions and irrigation capacity. However, it is a winter crop, so unlike summer forage crops such as corn and grain sorghum, it can provide producers an opportunity to maintain a winter cover on a forage field while growing a forage source.

"Intensively managed forage fields are susceptible to wind erosion because little biomass remains after silage is harvested in the fall," Bell said. "Winter crops like wheat, rye and canola can provide a cover as well as a spring forage source, but there is always a trade-off in semiarid environments."

"The winter forage will use stored soil water and precipitation during the growing season. If there is not timely spring and summer precipitation, there is extra pressure on the irrigation systems in the summer or yield losses especially in drought years, like the current year."

Research determines answers

In 2020-21, canola forage yield and nutritive value were evaluated for one cultivar at the Texas A&M AgriLife James Bush Research Farm at Bushland on drip irrigation. Although previous canola planting date studies at Bushland identified September as an ideal seeding period for oilseed production, a late winter planting date was also evaluated in 2021 as a forage option.

Bell said the canola was planted on Sept. 24, 2020, and Feb. 1, 2021, on 30-inch rows at 500,000 seeds per acre. Total irrigation was 5.6 inches for the September planting and 3 inches for the February planting. The forage was harvested at flowering and the early ripening stages.

"As with other forage crops, data confirmed that canola forage yields increased with plant maturity," she said. "Yields were greatest for the early ripening growth stage when pods were still green, and most flowers had dropped. But there was a decline in evaluated forage nutritive value."

Crude protein decreased 6 percent from the September-planted forage at flowering to the early ripening stage, Bell said. And the

acid detergent fiber (ADF) and neutral detergent fiber (NDF) increased as plants matured. The ADF is a measure of the plant's cellulose, lignin and insoluble protein. The NDF is a measure of the fiber.

She said lower ADF and NDF numbers are indicative of improved digestibility and forage quality. The relative feed value, or RFV, is an index combining NDF and ADF as a forage benchmark relative to alfalfa at full bloom, assuming 41 percent

ADF and 53 percent NDF.

Also important to the dairy industry, the indices of net energy for lactation and RFV suggested improved forage nutritive value for harvest at flowering. The RFV for the fall-planted canola at the flowering stage was 226, indicating a forage that would be classified as prime compared to alfalfa.

Bell said although RFV decreased 52 percent from flowering to early ripening, the RFV remained greater than 100. The forage nutri-

tive value for the September 2020 and February 2021 planting dates at early ripening were comparable.

Management practices

High moisture contents at harvest require canola to be swathed and wilted before ensiling, Bell said. Ensiling is a process that allows producers to preserve high-moisture forages and maintain forage quality, but moisture contents greater than 70 percent increase the leachate or liquid seepage from the silage pile.

In addition to leachate concerns, high-moisture forages do not reach ideal lactic acid concentrations, resulting in poor fermentation and risking the development of clostridial organisms, she said.

When cutting high-moisture forages, producers should consider environmental conditions, potential forage shrink and the desired forage quality, including intake and nutritive

value, Bell said.

Research at Washington State University demonstrated that blending canola forage with a lower dry matter feed source could minimize leachate loss.

"Canola forage may not be a stand-alone forage," Bell said. "It is a high-nutritive value option that should be blended with other feed sources because it can have very low fiber and high protein."

Another concern, she said, is canola can also be high in nitrates. While nitrates dissipate during the ensiling process, producers should always test the forage prior to feeding.

Another option is chopping and feeding canola immediately as green-chopped forage rather than ensiling.

As dairy herds increase, research is important to evaluate alternative forages for water-limited production systems, and the Texas High Plains region is currently under extreme drought conditions: droughtmonitor.unl.edu/. — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

"Feed prices are incredibly high this year, and protein concentrates such as soybean meal are usually the highest priced feed."

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Study challenges greenhouse gas benefits of corn ethanol and the RFS

A new study on ethanol production published by the National Academy of Sciences will likely draw a lot of scrutiny. The study, led by researchers at the University of Wisconsin (UW), questions whether ethanol “should be left in the rearview mirror” as a transportation fuel. Essentially, the researchers conclude corn ethanol contributed to higher greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions since the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) went into effect than if liquid fuels had been left to “business as usual.”

When factoring in the increase in corn production, the expansion of acres, the culling back of the Conservation Reserve Program and the increase in fertilizer use, the study comes to the conclusion, “The sum effect is that the carbon emissions of corn-based ethanol produced to meet the RFS are at least as high

as those from the equivalent amount of gasoline and possibly higher—likely by 24 percent or more,” UW stated in a news release.

The study comes at a time when the Environmental Protection Agency will have to recalibrate how to manage the RFS blend volume requirements after this year as the dates set in the legislation expire.

“It’s a pivotal moment for deciding what this policy—and our landscape—should look like moving forward,” said Tyler Lark, the lead author on the study and a scientist in the Great Lakes Bioenergy Research Center and the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at UW-Madison.

Some study details

The combined changes in the intensity of corn production and cropland led to

7.5 percent more reactive nitrogen from fertilizer. That has led to an annual 5.3 percent increase in nitrate leaching from agricultural land, and it has been “implicated in widespread groundwater contamination throughout the United States with major public health consequences. Leaching was highest in regions with high nitrogen inputs and (coarse) soil texture.”

Along with nitrogen also comes phosphorus runoff. The study cites that edge-of-field phosphorus runoff has increased by 3.2 percent, driven by a 3.5 percent increase in total phosphorus applications and a 4.7 percent increase in soil erosion, “which transports dissolved and sediment-bound phosphorus to downstream surface waters, where it causes eutrophication and harmful algal blooms.”

Focusing on emissions, “The RFS substantially increased on-site greenhouse gas emissions from cropping systems.” Greater use of nitrogen fertilizer increased nitrous oxide emissions by 8.3 percent or 4.1 teragrams of carbon dioxide equivalent. That translates into 4.1 million metric tons of additional carbon dioxide. That’s because nitrous oxide as a greenhouse gas is 298 times more potent than carbon dioxide per ton. Most of the higher emissions stem from intensified corn production on preexisting fields, but about 5.7 percent of emission increases stem from increases in corn acres.

RFA response

As expected, the report didn’t exactly go over well at the Renewable Fuels Association (RFA). Geoff Cooper, president and CEO of RFA, released a rebuttal.

“The claims in this report simply don’t align with reality and the facts on the ground, and the paper reads more like a fantasy novel than a genuine piece of academic literature. It should not be taken seriously,” Cooper wrote.

Cooper added, “In fact, when related research from some of the same authors was released several years ago, representatives from RFA and corn grower organizations met with this study’s lead author, Tyler Lark, at the University of

Wisconsin, in an attempt to begin a constructive conversation about today’s ethanol industry and the real impacts of biofuels policy.

“At that time, we shared data and information with Lark and his colleagues and asked how we could collaborate on research. We asked how we could work together to ensure their error-ridden satellite analysis of land use changes was grounded in reality. We never heard back from them.”

Cooper added, “RFA is always open to having an honest, fact-based discussion about the impacts of ethanol and the RFS on the environment and economy. We have a great story to tell and the data to back it up. Ethanol already reduced greenhouse gas emissions by roughly half compared to gasoline, and we are on a trajectory to achieve a net-zero emissions carbon footprint for ethanol by 2050 or sooner. Unfortunately, the authors appear more interested in slandering farmers and getting salacious headlines than examining the facts.”

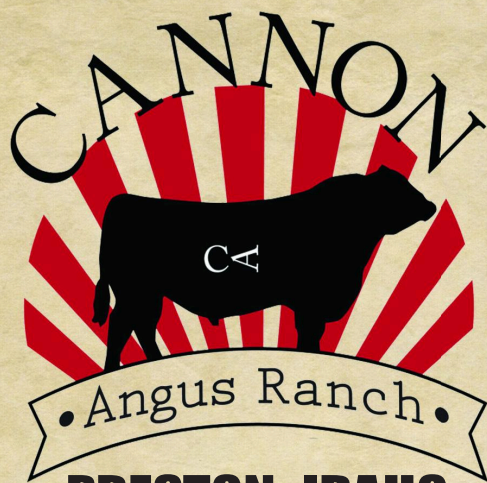
In a seven-page response, RFA cited multiple studies in recent years showing corn ethanol reduces emissions somewhere in the range of 41 percent to 50 percent compared to gasoline.

“Today’s corn ethanol already reduces GHG emis-

sions by roughly half, on average, compared to gasoline. According to the Department of Energy’s Argonne National Laboratory, typical corn ethanol provides a 44 percent GHG savings compared to gasoline, including land use change emissions. Similarly, researchers affiliated with Harvard University, MIT and Tufts University concluded that today’s corn ethanol offers an average GHG reduction of 46 percent versus gasoline.

“In addition, the California Air Resources Board (CARB) found that ethanol used in the state in 2020 reduced emissions by 41 percent, on average, compared to gasoline. From 2011 to 2020, CARB data shows that the use of ethanol cut GHG emissions from the California transportation sector by 27 million (metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent), more than any other fuel used to meet the state’s Low Carbon Fuel Standard requirements.”

RFA also counters the Wisconsin study’s data on overall acreage and production, citing that acreage has been relatively constant since the RFS went into effect in 2008, while average yield and production have trended higher. Fertilizer applications per bushel also have declined during that time, RFA cited. — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**



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MARB	RE	SW	SG	SB	SC
.80	.66	70	56	151	272



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WOODHILL BLUE PRINT X SITZ REPUTATION 689C

CEW	BW	WW	YW	CEM	MILK
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MARB	RE	SW	SG	SB	SC
.58	.81	74	49	148	255



CANNON TAHOE 768 12/26/2020 WWR - 117
TEHAMA TAHOE B767 X CONNEALY CONFIDENCE PLUS

CEW	BW	WW	YW	CEM	MILK
7	2.5	79	138	5	31
MARB	RE	SW	SG	SB	SC
.74	.92	79	59	161	294



CANNON BOMBER 770 12/28/2020 WWR - 115
CASINO BOMBER N33 X CONNEALY CONFIDENCE 0100

CEW	BW	WW	YW	CEM	MILK
8	.7	78	133	11	22
MARB	RE	SW	SG	SB	SC
.66	.69	76	52	163	277



CANNON BOMBER 780 1/2/2021 WWR - 107
CASINO BOMBER N33 X TC ABERDEEN 759

CEW	BW	WW	YW	CEM	MILK
3	3.5	71	120	7	25
MARB	RE	SW	SG	SB	SC
.77	.73	66	56	156	269



CANNON YETI 772 12/28/2020 WWR - 113
PAHR YETI B5 X TC ABERDEEN 759

CEW	BW	WW	YW	CEM	MILK
9	1.6	71	127	10	30
MARB	RE	SW	SG	SB	SC
.53	.57	76	43	144	270

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Texas to lead drone data processing as part of \$15M national wheat project

Texas A&M AgriLife will lead the creation of an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) data hub as a component of a \$15 million grant that brings together the strengths of the public wheat breeding programs in 19 universities across the U.S.

This is the fourth USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture award supporting the Wheat Coordinated Agricultural Project (WheatCAP) consortium for research on yield. The overall goals for this project are the validation, characterization and deployment of phenotypic traits for improving grain yield components and training the next generation of plant breeders.

The recently announced WheatCAP 2022-26 grant is \$3 million per year for five years. The project is led by the University of California, Davis.

Public development of cultivars

WheatCAP is designed to establish a nationally coordinated consortium of public wheat breeders, molecular geneticists, database experts, educators and high-throughput genotyping and phenotyping laboratories focused on sustainable increases in wheat productivity.

Wheat differs from other major crops grown in the U.S. in that public breeding programs play an active role in developing commercial varieties. While most U.S. corn and soybean varieties and hybrids are developed by private breeding programs, most U.S. commercial wheat varieties are developed by the public sector.

A continuous increase in the productivity of public wheat varieties is required to maintain the competitiveness of U.S. wheat growers.

During WheatCAP 2017-21, researchers developed exome capture datasets, imputation tools, functional genomics resources and an integrated, public repository of wheat data, the T3/Breedbase hub.

The Texas A&M AgriLife team will now develop a data management system capable of processing, analyzing and delivering high-throughput phenotyping of data gathered by unmanned aircraft vehicles (UAVs) and sensors to populate the T3/Breedbase.

The Texas team includes wheat breeders Amir Ibrahim, Ph.D., who serves as AgriLife Research's lead; Jackie Rudd, Ph.D.; Juan Landivar, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center director; Mahendra Bhandari, Ph.D., remote-sensing crop physiologist; Jose Scott, engineer/programmer; Shuyu Liu, Ph.D., geneticist; Shannon Baker, certified pilot and program manager; and Russ Garetson, certified pilot and AgriLife Extension program specialist.

The team also includes Jinha Jung, Ph.D., assistant professor of civil engineering, Purdue University, who was an AgriLife Research scientist in Corpus Christi and a key part in building the data analysis and interpretation part of the Texas A&M AgriLife UAV pipeline.

"The multidisciplinary AgriLife Research digital agriculture program is one of the largest in the U.S., utilizing both fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft as part of

research activities at centers in Weslaco, Lubbock, Stephenville, Corpus Christi, College Station and Amarillo," Landivar said. "Because of our capability to analyze large volumes of data, we were chosen to lead the UAS portion of the WheatCAP."

Ibrahim said they will use a pipeline already developed by the group, which includes an automated data processing workflow.

"This pipeline uses UAS data collected over the growing season to extract plant height, canopy cover, canopy volume and vegetation indices for wheat," he said.

Participating programs will collect raw data using their UAS and sensors and upload it to a central hub in Texas. The hub will process that information into geospatial Level 1 and Level 2 data, send the plot/grid-level phenotypic data back to the breeder, and also add it into T3/Breedbase.

Having this centralized data portal helps breeders share data and standardizes data processing procedures to obtain high-quality data products from all the breeding programs throughout the growing season, Bhandari said.

"Standardized high spatiotemporal resolution data collected over the growing season at multiple locations will enhance our understanding of growth dynamics and genotype x environment interactions," he said.

Wheat breeders from the 19 universities can submit up to 2 acres of raw images to be processed for free by a centralized pipeline. The Texas A&M team will coordinate technical aspects of drone data collection and submission for all the breeding programs, and data collection will begin this month.

"Processing big data is a bottleneck for many programs, but Texas has made a lot of progress in this area, and the processing is automated," Ibrahim said. "Some programs will send raw data, and others will be more advanced."

Rudd said UAS phenotyping and genotyping will not replace the need for breeders to walk through wheat fields and analyze what comes through the combine. However, obtaining a greater set of data will create a more complete picture and lead to more discoveries.

Another large component of this project will be to involve students in many areas of the research, as well as host courses, workshops, conferences and webinars. These students will be trained in all aspects of traditional plant breeding and equipped with experience in and knowledge of the newest technology.

Building upon collaboration

Rudd said the T3/Breedbase is an open database, and collaboration among programs is encouraged. In addition to the UAS data, the database will also contain genotyping data from the same set of breeding lines. The performance data will be related to the genetic data for a more complete understanding of how to introgress valuable traits into new varieties and breeding lines.

"Instead of having just the Texas A&M data, we will have access to 18 other pro-

grams that we can coordinate with on yield and disease data," he said. "Our goal is not just to store data, but also to make it accessible by all the programs. It is extremely valuable for us to interact with one another to breed the best varieties for the future."

Ibrahim said the project will bring greater efficiency to the breeding process.

"We can look at more lines in the field in less time," he said. "This should increase breeding efficiency and ultimately benefit the producer as we translate into higher yield, quality and tolerance to disease and antibiotic stresses."

The biggest benefits of the project may still be unknown, though, the breeders said.

"Wheat breeding programs across the U.S. collecting and sharing their performance and genetic data is an incredible opportunity," Rudd said. "So, what is the bigger dataset going to tell us that we were not getting from the smaller datasets? This provides

data that we were not able to gather before, and when everyone starts looking at that, then we may discover even greater benefits.

"The repeatability, looking at different classes of wheat across diverse environments, we don't exactly know what it will look like, but we are excited about what we will find," he said. "We've been very successful with new varieties so far, and this will be important to help us continue the legacy of superior cultivars that are widely adopted."

The ultimate beneficiaries of this program will be the producers and the consumers.

"The varieties will be improved with increased frequencies, so the odds are improved of getting a royal flush instead of just a full house," Rudd said. "This allows the producer to get more yield with the same inputs. New varieties are more efficient in the use of water, nitrogen and other resources, so more environmentally friendly. And the consumer still gets the prod-

ucts they love."

As breeding efficiency increases, breeders will be able to focus on issues beyond just yield and pest

resistance; they can improve qualities such as nutrition, flavor and aroma profiles, he said. — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



Texas A&M AgriLife/Shannon Baker
A photo shot from a drone of Texas A&M AgriLife wheat field plots near Bushland, TX.

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Prepare for upcoming grazing in a drought



K-State Research and Extension Planning ahead can lessen the impacts of drought on the beef herd.

Just as the mail carrier delivers the letters in all types of weather, so too must beef producers be able to respond to climate impacts on the herd. With the low amounts of moisture that Kansas has experienced in the fall and winter, the experts at Kansas State (K-State) University's Beef Cattle Institute said now is the time to be thinking about management strategies for a drought in a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast discussion.

"We've had a really dry fall and winter, so some folks are getting concerned about drought and making a plan for how to deal with it," said Brad White, veterinarian.

Nutritionist Phillip Lancaster advised producers to evaluate their feed resources by looking at what they have on hand, as well as the forages they will have access to.

"You might want to consider planting drought-tolerant crops that can be used for grazing or look for alternative pastures before other people try to secure them," Lancaster said.

Agricultural economist Dustin Pendell said as producers evaluate the pastures, they must also consider the costs associated with water and fencing when grazing cropland or using alternate pastures.

Along with the feed concerns, veterinarian Brian Lubbers advised producers to look at ways to decrease grazing pressure by culling open cows or even managing them in a drylot.

"Think about making those culling decisions earlier as well as managing the feed differently by putting the cattle in a drylot as a last

option," Lubbers said. "From a biosecurity standpoint, it is better to maintain those cattle in a drylot on the same operation rather than outsourcing them to another herd."

Lubbers also suggested the option of moving from natural service breeding to timed artificial insemination to get the cattle moved to a tighter calving window.

The experts agree that many of these options have short-term and long-term financial implications.

"If everyone is buying more hay or selling off cull cows at the same time, it will have implications for the short-term bottom line," Pendell said.

He added: "Along with the short-term effects, producers really need to think through how those culling decisions will impact the herd two to three years in the future when prices for replacement heifers may be higher because of the increased demand for them."

The amount of moisture the grasses get in the spring may influence weaning dates, said the experts.

"Early weaning of the calves will reduce the grazing pressure because non-lactating cows consume 20-30 percent less feed per day than lactating females," Lancaster said.

Lubbers said there are health implications for the calves with early weaning that producers need to be aware of when making that choice.

"Younger calves require a softer weaning or there could be some extreme health challenges that follow," Lubbers said. — **K-State Research and Extension**

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IGS allows producers to easily compare EPDs across breeds

“International Genetic Solutions (IGS) is leveraging the data across all breed association partners and using that information to increase the accuracy of prediction of our EPDs,” said Randie Culbertson, American Simmental Association lead geneticist.

Culbertson explained IGS technology, challenges with the multi-breed genetic evaluation and how the technology works for seedstock and commercial producers in her presentation during the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Symposium June 24 in Des Moines, IA.

IGS

IGS is a multi-breed genetic evaluation in which 17 progressive breed association partners collaborate to enhance commercial profitability. The collaboration has yielded the world’s

largest genetic evaluation of beef cattle, with more than 20 million animals and 350,000 genotypes.

The genetic evaluation is an implementation of a super hybrid model and has published many traits, including birth weight, weaning weight, yearling weight, milk, stayability, docility, direct and maternal calving ease, carcass weight, marbling, ribeye, backfat, yield grade and pulmonary arterial pressure.

“The multi-breed, multi-association approach breaks away from the traditional breed association model, which is single-breed, single-country analysis,” Culbertson explained. “So, traditional breed associations were very focused on their own breed and how to improve their breed, but at IGS we work on leveraging the benefits of collaboration.”

Genetic evaluation challenges

There are many challenges that come about with a multi-breed genetic evaluation. Many issues arise from duplicate registrations and data collection from multiple breed association sources. It can be hard to compare breed differences accurately, as they can vary significantly, which requires adjustments for heterosis. Additionally, there are potential differences in marker effects across breeds and a question of how to introduce new partners into the evaluation. All of these approaches require thorough beta testing and communication between the partners.

“The carcass evaluation is kind of the weak spot. All beef breed registries really struggle getting the phenotypes into the carcass evaluation, and I think that’s a pretty common problem in the industry. Because of the lack of phenotypes, we also

found a lack of connectivity across breed data sets during the development of the carcass evaluation,” explained Culbertson.

Seedstock producers

IGS provides increased information with improved accuracy through comparable EPDs across their 17 partners. The system provides increased data on related animals through aggregation of progeny records across registries, and it makes marketing to commercial producers more efficient. IGS makes it easier for seedstock producers who are marketing and selling multiple breeds of cattle to have comparable EPDs available without having to convert EPDs from two or more different breed bases.

“The connectivity through the pedigree is going to increase the accuracy of animals’ EPD,” Culbertson added. “Especially for smaller breed associa-

tions, the increase in pedigree ties and the increase of information can really help give them better EPDs with more accuracy. Improvements in availability and accuracy of EPD clearly aids their members in the promotion and marketing of their animals.”

Commercial producers

The multi-breed, multi-association IGS approach to genetic evaluation has increased information, thereby providing increased accuracy for EPDs comparable across breeds. This allows commercial producers to look at bulls from different breeds and directly compare those EPDs.

IGS offers a Feeder Profit Calculator based on the multi-breed evaluation results. The Feeder Profit Calculator is an innovative marketing tool for commercial producers to predict feedlot performance for feeder cattle.

“Commercial producers are key partners in the evaluation, especially for carcass traits. Since retained ownership cattle are owned by commercial producers, we are more likely to get carcass data. This is huge for our evaluation because we are trying to incorporate more carcass phenotypes to increase the reliability and breadth of animals described through our carcass evaluation,” Culbertson said.

To watch Culbertson’s full presentation, visit youtu.be/-wJoKe69Q3k. For more information about this year’s symposium and BIF, including additional presentations and award winners, visit BIFSymposium.com. — BIF

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Sire: [unreadable]

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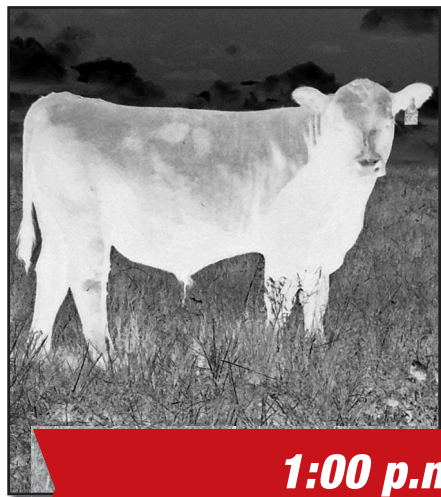
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Preparing for breeding season: Calculating bull to female ratios

Breeding season is approaching, and bull turnout is only six weeks away for herds that plan to start calving next January. Oklahoma is fortunate to have a large number of outstanding registered seedstock breeders who are, and will be, marketing bulls in volume in the state. The opportunity to invest in genetics to improve the profit potential of your operation leads to several questions and requires planning.

The first goal of the breeding season is to get cows bred early in the breeding season, resulting in more calves born earlier in calving season, shorter breeding/calving seasons, older calves at weaning and, ultimately, more pay weight at weaning due to calf age. The typical beef calf gains about 2 pounds/day up until weaning. Accordingly, a calf born one heat cycle (21 days) earlier will wean off

about 40 lbs. heavier.

How do we get this accomplished? Have an adequate amount of bulls to get cows serviced. The following shows a conservative expectation of the number of cows we should expect bulls to cover in a defined breeding season:

- 12-15-month-old bulls: 10-12 females.
- 15-18-month-old bulls: 12-18 females.
- 18-24-month-old bulls: 18-25 females.
- 2-6-year-old bulls: 25-35 females.

The rule of thumb is one female per month of age at turnout (after passing a yearling breeding soundness exam).

For example, if a rancher has 60 heifers to breed and plans to turn out 15-month-old bulls, they will need four bulls.

What is the typical life expectancy of a breeding bull?

Typically up to the age of 6 is "prime of life" for breeding bulls. This isn't to say that all bulls will break down at this age, but it is more likely to happen after age 6. Often, when an older bull goes bad, it isn't discovered until after breeding season during pregnancy checks.

Social behavior of bulls

When you invest in bulls this spring, it is a good idea to pen bulls of similar ages and size together for several weeks prior to the start of breeding season to allow for the social ranking of bulls. This time together allows bulls to establish a "pecking order" so they will be ready to focus on their job at turnout. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**



A bull at Sauerbier Ranches Inc. in southwest Montana.

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UC Davis leads \$15M wheat research project

Wheat products account for roughly 20 percent of what people eat every day around the globe. As the climate changes, wheat crops must adapt to new weather patterns to keep up with demand.

The University of California (UC), Davis is leading a five-year, \$15 million research project to accelerate wheat breeding to meet those new climate realities, as well as to train a new generation of plant breeders.

"Everything is less stable," said Jorge Dubcovsky, a plant sciences distinguished professor who is

grams in the U.S."

The consortium will bring together data and research from across institutions, allowing for more expansive analysis while reducing redundancies. "We can take advantage of the data from everybody," he said. "By doing that, we don't need to duplicate efforts."

A team in Texas will analyze plant images taken from drones at each institution to extract information about plant growth, water use, nitrogen levels and other data. "Using technology, we can see beyond our human capabilities," Dubcovsky said. "You can extract

"Using technology, we can see beyond our human capabilities. You can extract a huge amount of information from every plant variety."

leading the grant research. "Everything is changing, so you need to be fast. You need to be able to adapt fast."

The grant from USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) will create a coordinated consortium of 41 wheat breeders and researchers from 22 institutions in 20 states. Researchers from Mexico and the United Kingdom are also participating.

Breeding needs to speed up

"Breeding crops for the future will require new traits, breeding platforms built for quick transfer of traits to elite cultivars, coordination of breeding efforts in public and private domains, and training for current and future plant breeders and researchers," NIFA said in an announcement about this grant and others related to breeding.

The program involves on-the-ground research, molecular marker identification and data analysis from multiple institutions to determine genes that will help wheat crops mitigate the effects of climate change. Plant breeding will follow to prove those findings.

Wheat is unlike other crops in that 60 percent of the plant varieties—generating about \$4 billion in annual production—are developed by public breeding programs rather than private corporations. In many states, wheat growers tax themselves to support basic breeding efforts at public institutions like UC Davis.

Increased coordination

The NIFA grant money will lead to more coordinated, sophisticated research. "This grant allows us to do breeding at a level that a good, modern company would do," Dubcovsky said. "This grant is essential to maintain modern and effective public breeding pro-

a huge amount of information from every plant variety."

The data from those images will allow researchers to document the plants throughout their life cycles and determine which plants fare better under certain conditions. Genotyping will help researchers obtain information about the plant genome. The combination of these two types of data could speed up breeding cycles, helping wheat crops adapt to a changing environment.

"If we can breed fast, we can adapt to change," Dubcovsky said. "We are trying to make sustainable improvements in time."

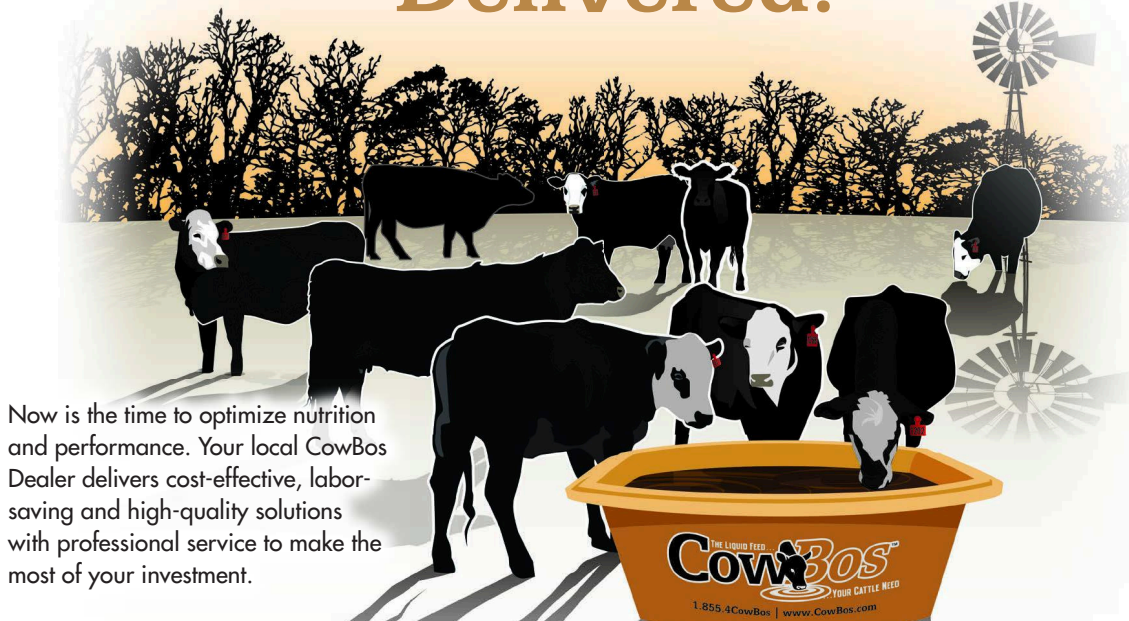
Training the next generation

The project will also train a cohort of 20 plant Ph.D. students in active breeding programs where they will participate in fieldwork, collect data from drones and DNA samples, and learn to integrate that information to accelerate wheat breeding. The students will participate in online and face-to-face workshops, as well as educational events and national scientific conferences.

Colorado State University, Cornell University, Kansas State University, Michigan State University, Montana State University, Oklahoma State University, Purdue University, South Dakota State University, Texas A&M University, University of Idaho, University of Illinois, University of Minnesota, University of Nebraska, University of Wisconsin, Utah State University, Virginia Tech, Washington State University, and the USDA Agricultural Research Service branches in North Dakota, Washington, Kansas and North Carolina are also participating in the consortium. — UC Agriculture and Natural Resources

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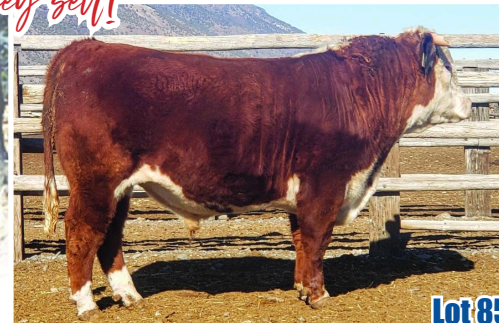
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FAR WEST

Farm & Ranch Edition

Drought expected to continue throughout Far West

— Study confirms driest megadrought

Dry conditions are likely to continue across the Far West region following last year's drought, which helped the current megadrought secure the title as the driest in at least 1,200 years, according to a new study.

The study, "Rapid intensification of the emerging southwestern North American megadrought in 2020-2021," was published Feb. 14 in the journal *Nature Climate Change*. According to its findings, the current 22-year-old drought in southwestern North America is the driest megadrought since at least the year 800. A megadrought is a drought that lasts two decades or longer.

The study points to human-caused climate change as being responsible for 42 percent of the megadrought.

"Climate change is changing the baseline conditions toward a drier, gradually drier

state in the West, and that means the worst-case scenario keeps getting worse," study lead author Park Williams, a climate hydrologist at University of California, Los Angeles, told the Associated Press.

"This is right in line with what people were thinking of in the 1900s as a worst-case scenario. But today I think we need to be even preparing for conditions in the future that are far worse than this."

In the study, researchers calculated the intensity of droughts by analyzing tree rings, which give insight about soil moisture levels each year. Their measurements were then checked against historical climate data, which showed periods of severe drought marked by high degrees of soil moisture deficit.

The researchers studied the Pacific Ocean to the Rocky Mountains and southern Montana to northern Mexico. They determined mega-

droughts occurred repeatedly in the region from 800 to 1600, and Williams noted the finding shows dramatic shifts in water availability happened in the Southwest well before the effects of human-caused climate change became apparent in the 20th century.

"Without climate change, the past 22 years would have probably still been the driest period in 300 years," Williams said. "But it wouldn't be holding a candle to the megadroughts of the 1500s, 1200s or 1100s."

Current drought

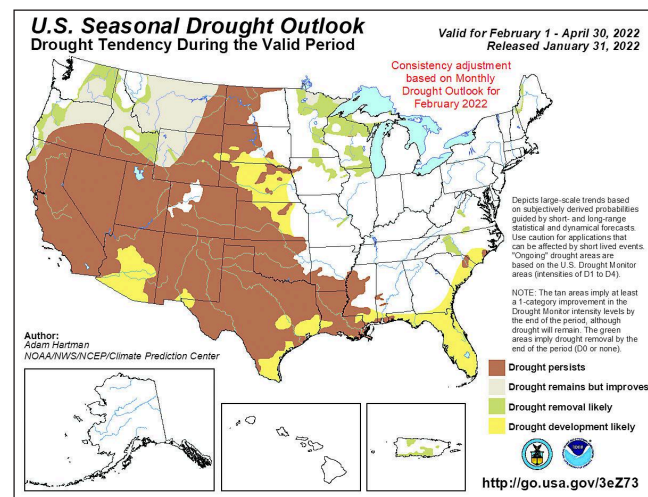
As of Feb. 10, drought across the West was widespread, according to the Drought Monitor. At least 95 percent of the region is in some stage of abnormally dry conditions, and 64 percent of the region is in some severity of drought. About 20 percent of the region is in extreme drought, and close to 4 percent

is in exceptional drought.

Through the week ending Feb. 12, western Oregon saw expansions of moderate and severe drought, although the northern Oregon Cascades saw improvement. Extreme drought expanded through Utah. The rest of the West was relatively unchanged, although weeks of dry weather have caused high elevation snowpack levels in the West to decline from the above-normal levels seen in the beginning of the year, according to the Drought Monitor.

Snowpack

The West experienced an above-normal snow water equivalent at the beginning of 2022, which provided a buffer to mitigate the extremely dry conditions over the past month, according to the National Integrated Drought Information System's (NIDIS) latest snow drought report. This buffer helped most of the



region avoid plummeting into a snow drought.

However, the West is trending toward snow drought conditions. The region's snow water equivalent is below normal at 62 percent of snowpack telemetry (SNOTEL) sites as of Feb. 8, compared to 21 percent just one month earlier, according to NIDIS.

tential water supply outcome, which generally occurs from late March through early April. With more than a month left in the heart of the snow season, many areas have already exceeded 70 percent of median peak snow water equivalent, NIDIS said, thanks to the wet period in early winter.

"The continued dry spell, above-normal temperatures, and increasing late winter sun angles all will be working against snowpack accumulation, and the spatial extent of snow drought is likely to continue to increase."

Snow drought occurs when there is a period of abnormally low snowpack, and it can reduce both summer and winter water availability. This can lead to severe impacts, affecting ecosystems, reservoir levels and water resource management, among others.

NIDIS reported zero precipitation over the past 30 days (as of Feb. 10) at many SNOTEL sites in northwest California, the Sierra Nevada and the Great Basin. However, "Remarkably, some of the sites at which zero snow fell in the past month still have slightly above-normal snow water equivalent thanks to major storms during the last two weeks of December and beginning of January," the report read.

Peak snow water equivalent is used to assess the po-

In the Cascades of Oregon, several SNOTEL sites have already exceeded the median peak snow water equivalent. However, there are numerous areas that have received less than 50 percent of the median peak snow water equivalent, such as northwest California, northeast Nevada, Utah, northwest Wyoming and southwest Montana. Below-average precipitation and snowfall is likely to continue during the next couple weeks in most of the West.

"The continued dry spell, above-normal temperatures, and increasing late winter sun angles all will be working against snowpack accumulation, and the spatial extent of snow drought is likely to continue to increase," the report read. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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Don't miss out on this fabulous property! 121 acres just outside Klamath Falls with a spacious 4 bedroom home built in 2017. Sit on the covered front porch and enjoy the views of the mountains across the valley. This warm home features a bedroom on the first floor with an ensuite bath, 3 bedrooms upstairs, and a large family room wired for surround sound. The land offers plenty of room for horses or any farm animals. Six outreaching exterior water faucets, outbuildings, and pens make this home ready for all your animals. MLS#220137920 \$665,000



34+ ACRES, KID 'A' FARM GROUND AND POTENTIAL HOMESITE 34.71 Acres of farm ground with Class 'A' KID water rights. Opportunities for income producing acreage and a homesite at this price within the Henley school boundaries are rare. Zoned EFU-C. Use caution around old homesite. This is not currently

being irrigated. No pump, in the past irrigation water was supplied by a diesel engine. The last crop was alfalfa. Sold AS-IS. Buyers to perform own due diligence regarding, zoning, water rights, building, utilities, and airport overlays. MLS#22015456 \$188,000



A RARE FIND-Certified organic 180-acre farm close to town and buildable with several elevated view homesites. This productive hay farm has in place a 1000-ton steel hay barn, pivot, KBID water with a well permit good through 2035. Unobstructed views of Mt. Shasta to suit your preference for one or two homes. Quality soils rated at 6 ton/acre for alfalfa. The complete package for an outstanding farm conveniently located close to schools and shopping. MLS#102999823 \$950,000



Here is a 184 acres alfalfa farm on modest southern slope in south central Oregon with quality newer 5380 sq. ft. hay barn. 152 Acres are irrigated with district water consisting of predominantly class II and III soils capable of producing 6 ton to the acre for alfalfa and would grow all basin crops. Very picturesque, elevated setting with impressive views of Mt. Shasta and the broad agricultural valley. Potential for productive family farm in great location. MLS#220133909 \$550,000



This fabulous 834 acre ranch -located outside Bieber, CA in Lassen County is set in a picturesque valley w Willow Creek running through the property. 3 wells: artesian, domestic & irrigation provide plenty of water for home, crops & stock. This ranch has supported 200 cows spring-fall or 120 year round. There is a 40,297 acre-191

AUM USFS grazing permit (May-September) PLUS a BLM permit to graze additional stock-OUT THE GATE! Great soils-70 acres irrigated & 130 acres of dry farm. The craftsman-style farm house has 5 bedrooms, 2 baths, custom country kitchen w/new stainless steel appliances, & built-in features throughout. There's also a detached 2 car garage, a 40'x150' metal shop, 6 RV spots w/hookups, & 5 pole barns for storing hay & equipment (including a huge hay barn with covered feeding alleys with easy truck access from the hwy). The cattle facility includes a squeeze chute, cow & calf alleys, sorting tub, 3 corrals, manger feeder, & loading chute. 2-X3A zone deer tags included! MLS#220133135 \$2,100,000



GOT WATER? This farm does! This 1,711 acre farm/ranch straddles Highway 139 in Northern California, and is comprised of 386 acres of irrigated farm ground (currently planted mostly in potatoes and alfalfa.) There are 7 wells on the property (4 irrigation and 3 stock) with a total of 550hp

water pumping capability. This property also features over 700 acres in range land, with native grasses for spring and fall grazing, fenced and cross fenced, complete with stock water. There are 2 potato sheds - capable of holding 100,000 sacks of potatoes total. Also included is a metal shop building with concrete slab, both roll-up and sliding doors, and 220v power. There is also a 3 bedroom, 2 bath manufactured home on 3 acres. The parcels are in either CA hunting zones X1 and X2 - which are premium deer tag general season zones. MLS#220136119 \$2,250,000



Opportunity to own 133.4 acres of Tulelake farm ground currently planted in alfalfa. TID irrigation delivered by an efficient Linear Precision irrigation system. Listing agent is licensed in Oregon and California. Farm is located in Modoc County. MLS#220117423



Opportunity to own 133.8 acres of Tulelake farm ground currently planted in alfalfa. TID irrigation delivered by a pivot irrigation system. also includes pasture area and corrals. Older manufactured home currently has tenant. MLS#220117424 \$602,100

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. 28 – The Sandhills Cattle Association's 2022 scholarship applications are now open, with a total of \$9,000 up for grabs this year. To be eligible, the applicant must be the child or grandchild of a current member of the Sandhills Cattle Association. Applicants do not have to be studying in the agriculture field to apply for or receive the scholarship. Details: www.SandhillsCattle.com or 402-376-2310.

Feb. 28 – The Growing Internship Program is now accepting applications for 2022. The program provides hands-on internships at working farms and ranches to Wyoming's beginning farmers and ranchers each year in cooperation with state producer organizations and

educational institutions. Applications: GrowinG-WY.org.

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

March 1 – The North Dakota Stockmen's Foundation is offering 10 scholarships in 2022. Complete rules and downloadable application forms are available at www.ndstockmen.org under the "Foundation" tab. For more information, call 701-223-2522.

March 18 – The Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association has an internship opportunity for students to assist during the summer months in the headquarters office in Fort Worth, TX. A cover letter, resume and letter of recommendation should be sent to education@tskra.org. Details: tskra.org/who-we-are/employment.



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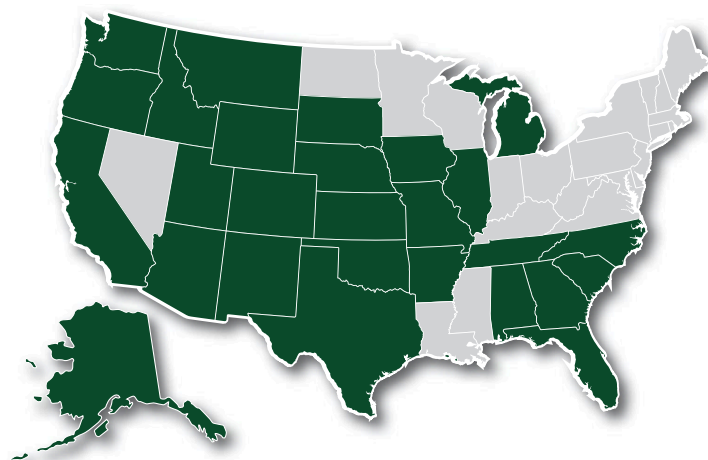
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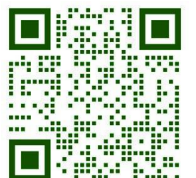
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FAR WEST

Farm & Ranch Edition

PERC advocates for Tribal water marketing

— Gives Tribes full value

A policy brief released by the Property and Environment Research Center (PERC), a free market environmental group, is advocating for Tribes to be able to opt in or out of water marketing.

This would enable Tribes to capture the full value of their water rights and direct water to sectors where it is needed most.

“With some of the most extensive and senior water

rights in the West, the potential influence of Native American tribes over water markets and trajectories of future water use cannot be overstated,” PERC wrote.

PERC noted the ability is urgent, as the Bureau of Reclamation declared a Tier 1 shortage for low water levels on Lake Mead, triggering water cutbacks for Arizona, Nevada and Mexico. The Gila River Indian Community and Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT) have helped maintain Lake Mead’s water levels by leas-

ing water to federal agencies and municipal governments in the Lower Colorado River Basin, while receiving “millions of dollars in revenue.”

In December, the Tribes signed a memorandum of understanding with the federal government to leave water in Lake Mead as part of the 500+ Plan. The 500+ Plan asks the Lower Basin states to voluntarily cut back 500,000 acre-feet (one acre-foot is 325,851 gallons) to keep Lake Mead water levels above 1,030 feet.

The Colorado River Ba-

sin’s 29 federally recognized Tribes hold combined rights to 3.6 million acre-feet of water, or roughly 25 percent of the Colorado River’s annual flow. The rights were guaranteed in the 1908 Supreme Court ruling in the case of *Winters v. the United States*, which ruled Tribes are entitled to water needs for self-sufficiency, with the priority date of when the federal government negotiated a reservation with the Tribe. However, the ruling did not quantify or establish Tribes’ water rights until the court was called again on Tribal water rights in the case of *Arizona v. California* in 1963.

they cannot lease water without authorization by Congress. The Indian Non-intercourse Act bars Tribes from transferring Tribal trust assets without Congress, and Tribal water rights are held in trust by the federal government.

According to PERC, as of 2020, “23 of the 34 congressionally enacted settlement agreements that defined water rights for tribes also allow some form of tribal water marketing,” but permission is still needed outside the adjudication process. Therefore, “Restrictions on tribal water marketing limit the efficacy of water markets to flexibly

such as oil and gas.

While CRIT acquired water rights in 1963, they called for legislation authorizing water marketing in 2020. At the end of December 2021, both Arizona senators introduced the Colorado River Indian Tribes Water Resiliency Act for CRIT to lease a portion of its water allocation and improve water efficiency on Tribal lands.

PERC pointed out the legislation only applies to CRIT, and waiting to pass 13 individual pieces of legislation for each of the Tribes with water rights “undermines the ability of water users in the region to respond to drought and manage water more responsibly.”

PERC also recommends Tribes should have “sovereign authority” to use water according to their own needs and priorities and not be limited to long-term water agreements.

“Restrictions on tribal water marketing violate tribal sovereignty, erode the value of tribes’ water rights and perpetuate inefficient and inequitable water use. Federal legislation and financial and administrative support are critical to reducing barriers to tribal water marketing.” — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

“Restrictions on tribal water marketing violate tribal sovereignty, erode the value of tribes’ water rights and perpetuate inefficient and inequitable water use.”

PERC noted that while court cases have established water rights, funding for water infrastructure can take decades, and the 20 Tribes with deeded water rights have not used roughly 1 to 2 million acre-feet of water. The unused water could be an opportunity for Tribes to lease the unused portion, benefiting Tribes with leasing revenues of “\$563 million to \$1.3 billion, or between \$3,200 and \$7,300 for every person residing on these reservations,” according to PERC.

The barrier for Tribes is

reallocate water to its highest-value use.”

PERC recommends federal legislation authorizing Tribes to market water off-reservation, as there is already legislation for Tribes to lease natural resources

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COMING EVENTS

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

March 18-19 – Cattleman’s Weekend is returning to the Prescott Livestock Auction in Chino Valley, AZ, for its 31st year, and the 24th Annual Arizona Ranch Remuda Sale is transforming into the American West Horse Sale. Cattleman’s Weekend is also hosting the 45th Annual Arizona Hereford Association Bull Sale, the

22nd Annual Arizona Angus Association Bull Sale, the 34th Annual Prescott All Breed Bull Sale, the 31st Annual Cattleman’s Trade Show, the 2nd Annual Cattleman’s Weekend Jackpot Roping and the 2nd Annual Yavapai County Fair Catch-a-Calf Contest. More info: cattlemansweekend.com or Cattleman’s Weekend Program and American West Horse Sale Facebook pages.



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PROPERTY LOCATION – “LO Ranch-Dorsett Place Unit” – At Alzada, MT, approx. 23 mi. north on MT Hwy 323 (paved Ekalaka Rd.), 2 miles east on private access ranch road. Signs will be posted along the highway & brochures will be onsite.
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PROPERTY INSPECTION DATES – Auctioneer/Broker onsite at the Hwy 323 turnout road to the East on Tues., Feb. 15th & Tues., Feb. 22nd from 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM OR please call the Auctioneer for a private showing.



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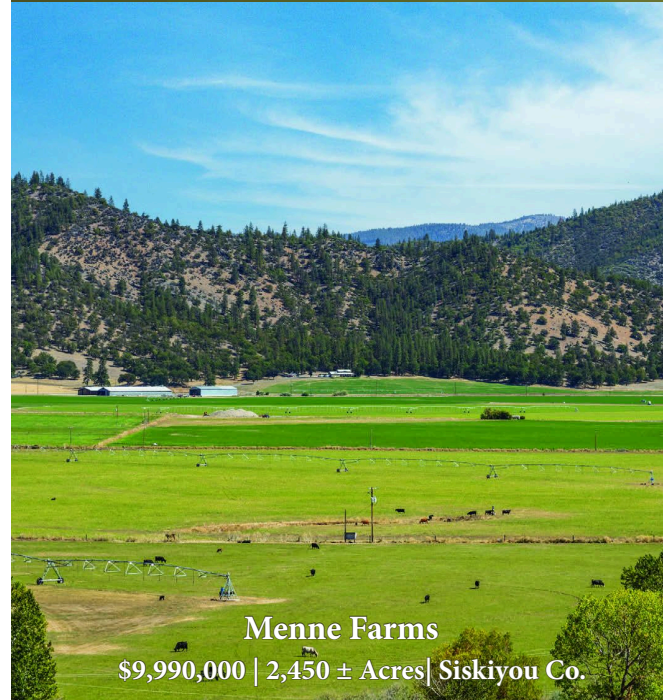
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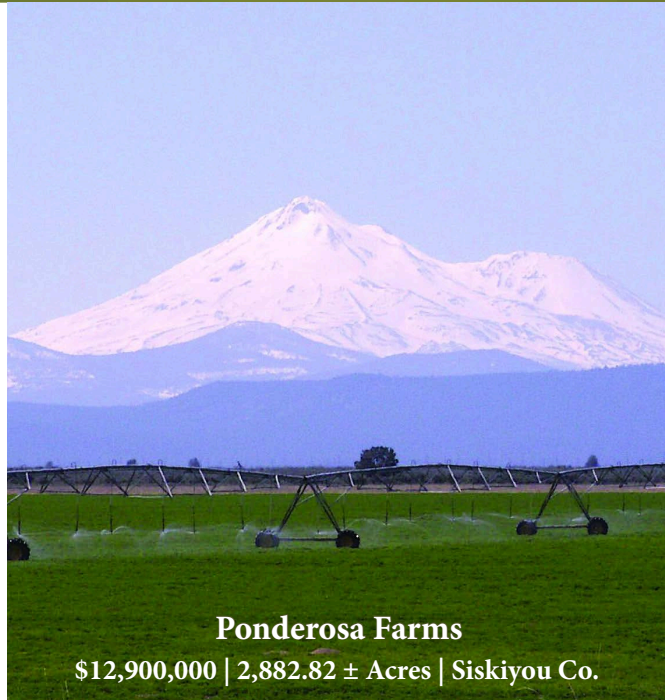
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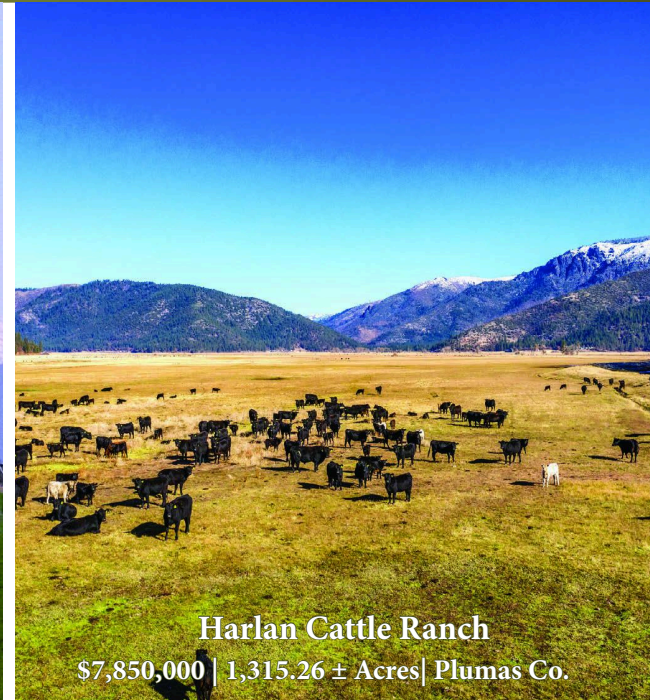
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| Ruby Mountain Ranch \$5,200,000 3,197.54 ± Acres Elko Co., NV | Huntley Ranch \$2,350,000 256.66 ± Acres Yuba County |
| Double J Ranch \$4,890,000 2,397 pending Monterey Co. | San Antonio Valley Ranch \$2,175,000 667 ± Acres Santa Clara Co. |
| Leavitt Lake Ranch \$4,750,000 1,360 pending Lassen Co. | Triple Creek Ranch \$1,795,000 397 ± Acres Siskiyou Co. |



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FAR WEST

Farm & Ranch Edition

Drought on top of buyers' minds

INVESTORS (from page 1)

percent increase since 2017. Utah and Washington also experienced growth with 6.9 and 5.1 percent gains, respectively.

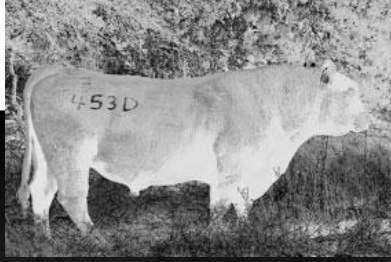
Brokers told *WLJ* drought remains a concern with buyers, as most of the

"I have farmers that are pining to buy irrigated ground with well water."

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West received heavy moisture and snowfall in December, then very little in January and February so far. Farmers and ranchers who are buying are looking for water accessibility.

Buyers in the Far West vary by state, with the majority being either cash buyers or 1031 exchanges. Both Knipe and Ashley Mickelson, broker for Fisher Nicholson Realty LLC, said buyers in Oregon have been "absentee landlords" of investors and people moving out of urban areas and buying hobby farms for raising 4-H animals.

Oregon

Mickelson said buyers of farm and ranch properties want them with irrigation

and stock wells, rather than depending on the water district. Mickelson sells property in southern Oregon and northern California, where water issues with the Klamath River basin are a concern.

"There's been a slowdown of farmers and ranchers investing, and a lot of them are holding off and waiting to see what happens (with water allocation)," Mickelson said. "I have farmers that are pining to buy irrigated ground with well water."

Mickelson said she had a property that was on the market for two years, which recently received multiple offers from local farmers, ranchers and investors because it had four productive wells that did not run dry

last year.

Mickelson pointed out installing a well in the Tule Lake region of northern California is more accessible than in southern Oregon. In the Upper Klamath Lake area and the Sprague River, water availability is "iffy." However, in the area south of Klamath Falls along Highway 39, farmland is selling rapidly since there are available wells.

Mickelson concurred with NASS' report showing a 10 percent increase in farm real estate values. She said that irrigated farmland typically sells for \$4,500 an acre, and farmland with Class 1 or 2 soils will list for \$5,000 an acre.

Mickelson expects the market to grow this year, especially in the Klamath Basin, as prices have not accelerated as much as other areas. The challenge for this year, Mickelson said, will be water issues and the drought, coupled with a lack of inventory.

Idaho

Knipe said there was a mix of investors looking for farm and ranch properties along with recreational opportunities. As expected, Knipe said buyers from the West Coast were looking for smaller properties close to amenities offered in larger cities, but with a chance to own some land.



California/Nevada Outdoor Properties

The 2,882.82 acre Ponderosa Farms property is a jewel of Butte Valley. The property sits at around 4,240 feet in elevation and captures beautiful views of Mt. Shasta.

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640± acres with estimated 2 MMBF± timber, meadows, stream, and ponds. Great elk and big game hunting. Ranch has private lease on 20,000 more acres next door. \$5,350,000. Two 320± acre parcels are also available separately. \$2,970,000

SOUTH SUN VALLEY RANCH

690± acre ranch features 285± irrigated acres, 2 wells, ponds, springs, and BLM frontage. Manger's home, 6 rental units, and 3,200 sf shop. 25± miles from Sun Valley, Idaho! \$4,500,000

CAREY FARM

436± acres has 250± acres irrigated by 5 pivots and 3 wheel lines. May work well to develop, 30± air miles south of Sun Valley. \$3,500,000

PARMA FARMLAND- SOLD

213± acres with 1/2 mile of Snake River frontage, water rights for 200± acres, well, and machine shed. Great fishing and hunting! \$3,195,000

ROCK CREEK RANCH - PRICE REDUCED

120± acres with pasture, hay ground, and 3,600± sf Barnominium style home. 23± miles to Moscow. Great hunting and recreation. \$2,999,000

SALMON RIVER RANCH

182± acres with over 1/2 mile of Salmon River frontage, irrigated land, waterways, and trees. 104± acres is platted into 42 lots. \$2,999,000

MIDDLE CREEK RANCH

800± acres in Eastern Idaho has two homes, an older cabin and outbuildings. 217± acres are irrigated along with sub-irrigation from Middle Creek, 3 ponds and 11 springs. \$2,999,000

PAHSIMEROI VALLEY RANCH

160± acres with 2 creeks flowing through, and water rights for 58± acres. Excellent fishing and hunting property with gorgeous views. \$1,600,000

OREGON

LOSTINE TIMBER RANCH

9,810± acres of timbered grazing land. Fronts National Forest with Bear Creek flowing through, and potential for 41± home sites. \$9,319,000. 1,198± acres with creek offered separately. \$1,438,260

OWYHEE RIVER HUNTING RANCH - NEW LISTING

205± acres with 1.4± miles of river frontage. 114± acres irrigated and rated Prime Farmland by the USDA. Older home and great hunting. \$3,500,000

NORTH POWDER RANCH

186± acres with a 2,300± sf home, shop, 10-stall barn, indoor arena/equip storage, hay barn, & irrigation. Near Anthony Lakes Ski Area! \$2,349,000

OVERSTREET FARM - NEW LISTING

Productive row crop farm near Adrian and the Snake River. 153± acres irrigated via ditches and wheel lines. 3 bdrm/1 bath home. \$1,600,000

WASHINGTON

WHEELER ROAD RANCH

545± acres with pasture and 201± acres of farmland. Half hour to Spokane Valley. Multiple income opportunities and a potential wind contract. PACMLS: 246545. \$2,200,000

YAKIMA RIVER RANCH

176± acres has two branches of the Yakima River flowing through. Water rights for 110± acres. Includes an older home, barn, & corrals. Offered with or without water rights. PACMLS: 251700. \$2,000,000

BICKLETON TIMBER RANCH

1,326± acres of rangeland with timber and seasonal streams. Springs and large pond for fishing and recreation. NW of Goldendale. \$1,400,000

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FAR WEST

Farm & Ranch Edition

Knipe noted investors were looking for development ground, and some farmers and ranchers were looking to expand their operations. Knipe said farmers who sold to developers used 1031 exchanges to purchase land in Idaho. Knipe also noted that some land in Oregon was sold to developers, and the sellers bought in Idaho.

Aside from the Treasure Valley area, which includes Boise, Meridian and Nampa, Knipe anticipates prices will stabilize or rise only marginally. However, Knipe noted it depends on the location, whether prices will continue to climb and the property type. Knipe said the unique properties with water features that would typically be difficult to sell are selling to people working remotely.

California

The California chapter of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers (ASFMRA) "2021 Trends in Agricultural Land and Lease Values" report showed that demand for rangeland depends on the

region of the state.

ASFMRA noted that smaller, rural residential and recreational type properties experienced strong demand and increasing prices, partially spurred by the COVID-19 pandemic. Buyers either relocated to rural communities or purchased a secondary recreational residence.

Todd Renfrew, owner and broker of California Outdoor Properties and Outdoor Properties of Nevada, told *WLJ* there are still many buyers from the San Francisco Bay Area looking for land. Buyers are also looking to put their money into something other than the stock market.

The majority of rangeland purchases in the state's mountainous region were for owner occupancy, homesite construction with grazing uses, expansion of existing owner-operated cattle operations, and marketing to buyers looking for recreational/retirement properties with cattle grazing as a secondary use. Prices in the region for irrigated pasture range from \$2,500-3,500 an acre, with increasing demand and mar-

ket value. Dry pastures in the area list from \$500-1,000 an acre.

ASFMRA divides cattle ranches in Lassen, Modoc and Siskiyou counties into "inside operations" (0-15 percent public land), with values at \$6,500-9,000 an acre, and "range operations" (greater than 15 percent public land), listed for \$4,000-6,000 an acre.

Renfrew noted recreational properties have also been selling well in the state as "it is an emotional purchase

rather than a financial one."

Nevada

ASFMRA reported the Nevada agricultural real estate market has indicated stable to increasing values, depending on the local market. There have been several cattle ranch sales, indicating a stable to increasing demand. Sales of pump groundwater farms have been strengthening, with several listings showing increasing values. Sales in the Fallon

area are increasing with smaller parcels, and in Mason Valley and Smith Valley, the Walker Basin Restoration Program continues to have some impact on values.

Northern Nevada cattle ranch values per animal unit month are from \$2,400-3,600 for desert operations to \$5,000-7,000 for inside operations on increasing demand and prices. USDA pegs the value of farm real estate at \$1,010, a modest 1 percent increase.

Renfrew said a lack of in-

ventory drove prices higher, and buyers from California were looking at Nevada due to the favorable tax situation. Renfrew said 2021 was his best year, as he sold a large tract in California and a 50,000 acre ranch in the Weld/Elko area.

Brokers who spoke with *WLJ* anticipate a lack of inventory this year. Knipe said sellers are hesitant because "they cannot buy what they needed if they sold what they had." — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

USDA projects lower farm income in 2022 than 2021

— Still above average levels

USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) has released the 2022 Farm Sector Income report, showing a decrease in farm income due to higher input costs and a reduction in government support.

The net farm income forecast, a measure of profits, predicts an overall net farm income decrease of \$5.4 billion, totaling \$113.7 billion in 2022, down from \$119.1 billion in 2021.

Net cash farm income—a measurement of cash receipts plus government payments minus cash expenses—is expected to increase by 1.9 percent to \$136.1 billion in 2022, but when adjusted for inflation, it will decrease by \$2.9 billion (2.1 percent) from 2021.

While 2022 cash receipts overall are expected to increase to \$461.9 billion in 2022, lower direct government payments and higher production expenses are expected to counteract their net effects. ERS projects government payments to fall by \$15.5 billion from 2021 to \$11.7 billion in 2022.

The decrease is expected because of lower supplemental and ad hoc disaster assistance for COVID-19 relief in 2022 compared with 2021. Meanwhile, ERS projects total production expenses, including operator dwelling expenses, to increase by \$20.1 billion (5.1 percent) to \$411.6 billion in 2022. ERS attributes the increase in spending to the rise in feed and fertilizer/lime soil conditioner costs.

According to the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), "Farmers and ranchers are most concerned about the increase in pro-

duction costs, particularly in fertilizer and other inputs, the cost of which will challenge their ability to reach above breakeven. This is apparent in USDA's estimate for farm financial indicators, which shows a decline in working capital and an increase in farm debt."

ERS projects farm sector equity in nominal terms to be \$2.85 trillion in 2022 and total farm debt to increase by \$13.1 billion to \$467.4 billion. The farm sector debt-to-asset ratio is forecast to increase from 13.89 percent in 2021 to 14.11 percent in 2022, and working capital is forecast to decrease by 3.3 percent in 2022 from 2021.

"Much of the concern across farm country now turns to having enough working capital to cover short-term debt while interest rates remain low, but rapid increases to interest rates could put farmers leveraged with a larger amount of debt in a more difficult financial position," AFBF said in a statement. "Managing financial risk by lowering production costs and diversifying revenues, or even supplementing revenues with off-farm income, are some of the solutions farmers are considering."

Median total farm household income is forecast to increase to \$88,234 in 2022, a 2.2 percent increase after inflation from 2021. Median off-farm income is projected to increase by 4.4 percent to \$74,354 in 2022.

"The anticipation of a weaker year-end balance sheet, despite above-average net farm income, is a strong reminder of the challenges farmers and ranchers face," AFBF wrote. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**



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DEVELOPERS OF AGRICULTURE

1,350-head dairy with beautiful home — Buhl, Idaho



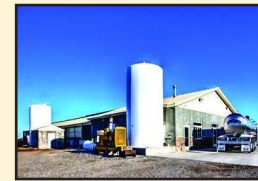
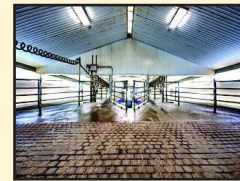
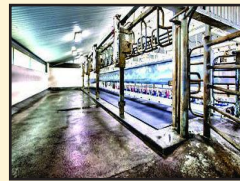
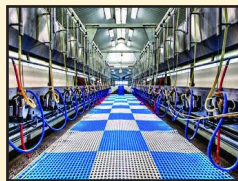
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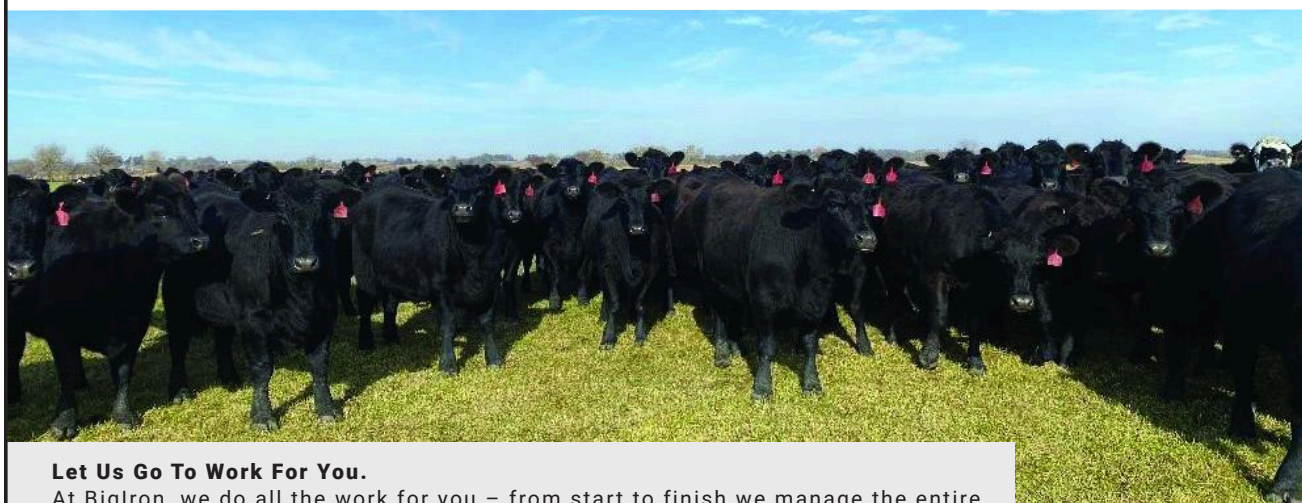
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MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 2/17/2022	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	142.15 ▲	140.02	114.05
CME Feeder Index	162.14 ▼	162.73	136.29
Boxed Beef Average	269.59 ▼	274.82	238.85
Average Dressed Steers	226.03 ▲	223.04	181.00
Live Slaughter Weight*	1402 ▼	1,400	1,399
Weekly Slaughter**	659,000 ▲	639,000	611,000
Weekly Beef Production***	554.3 ▲	537.0	510.1
Hide/Offal Value	14.00 ▲	14.00	9.65
Corn Price	6.50 ▲	6.42	5.50

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

89BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef												
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price	PRIME Loads/Price	BRANDED Loads/Price	CHOICE Loads/Price	SELECT Loads/Price	UNGRADED Loads/Price						
February 11	6,948	279.81	245	325.01	1,448	280.53	2,329	274.73	691	271.52	2,236	254.68
February 4	6,924	284.92	192	333.54	1,244	288.00	2,170	280.33	723	275.59	2,595	261.63
January 28	7,436	292.27	261	346.38	1,507	293.90	2,116	288.30	740	278.24	2,813	262.33
January 21	6,331	288.31	215	345.90	1,153	290.49	1,987	284.78	660	272.48	2,316	262.41

Cutouts						FED BOXED BEEF					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN						
February 17	269.59	264.85	230.89	102.34	283.01						
February 16	269.62	266.08	230.63	106.81	282.46						
February 15	270.37	267.82	232.17	107.36	N/A						
February 14	273.96	268.75	232.35	104.27	284.10						
February 11	274.52	267.83	231.84	117.31	282.14						

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	2/11	2/14	2/15	2/16	2/17	High*	Low*
Feb.	14188	14243	14290	14313	14340	14340	10527
Apr.	14618	14635	14690	14693	14678	14783	10920
Jun.	14113	14145	14213	14225	14215	14385	12525
Aug.	13993	14035	14095	14100	14075	14240	13055

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	2/11	2/14	2/15	2/16	2/17	High*	Low*
Mar.	16623	16688	16873	16745	16620	17025	15385
Apr.	17070	17150	17255	17218	17115	17275	15425
May.	17475	17555	17693	17655	17573	17755	16625
Aug.	18470	18495	18665	18648	18573	18665	17450

*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.

Selected Auction Week Ending February 17, 2022											
Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2											
DATE MARKET	STEERS / HEIFERS								SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS	
	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up				
February 11 Blackfoot, ID	N/A	150-181	150-220 150-185	150-205 140-178	147-185 135-148	145-160 127-149	135-154 127-149	65-80 75-97			
February 10 Burley, ID	711	226.50-229	216-226 180-185	202-205 153-173	161.50-185 152.50	152.75-159.75 127-148.50	119-147 114-122	71.75-80.50 99-100		1,200-1,350	
February 15 Emmett, ID	1,445		191.50-211 158.50-173	189-212 155-164	168-182.25 145.75-159.25	156-166.50 139-145	128-155 117.50-131	66-76 79-82			
February 12 Eugene, OR	642	125-144* 115-131*	152-174* 120-146*	130-169* 125-160*	132-165* 108-127.50*	115-135*		68-76 90-105		560-1,525 465-990	
No report available Madras, OR											
February 9 Vale, OR	807	146-165	173-198 150-165.50	161-185 147-154				56-80		900-1,250 850-1,460	
No report available Davenport, WA											
February 10 Toppenish, WA	1,700		194* 175*	175-200* 120-175*	166-175* 148-153*	140-142* 125*		54-75 84-100.50			

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	23,575	1,486	142.15
Live FOB Heifer	16,168	1,326	142.10
Dressed Del Steer	8,750	977	226.03
Dressed Del Heifer	3,367	876	226.10
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	22,452	1,493	140.02
Live FOB Heifer	14,161	1,355	140.00
Dressed Del Steer	1,124	985	223.04
Dressed Del Heifer	728	853	223.66
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	4,031	1,295	114.05
Live FOB Heifer	453	1,168	114.08
Dressed Del Steer	270	948	181.00
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	36,392	3,847
Formula	283,622	448
Negotiated Cash	89,611	191
Negotiated Grid	42,597	0
Packer Owned	8,988	0
Total	461,210	4,486

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS	FORWARD BEEF SALES
Delivery Month	Neg. Sales 0-21 days
Feb. '22	1,927
Mar. '22	1,363
Apr. '22	3,522
May '22	136
Jun. '22	6,007
	NAFTA Exports
	140

CANADIAN LIVESTOCK PRICES & FEDERAL INSPECTED SLAUGHTER FIGURES		
Alberta Direct Sales (4% shrink)	Price	Weekly Change
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	N/A	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	124.76	-1.41
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	136.20	+0.25
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	135.19	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	65.23	+1.99

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, February 4, 2021			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	175.98	175.26	162.78
601-700 lbs	163.06	163.85	162.39
701-800 lbs	153.16	153.32	151.35
801-900 lbs	146.80	146.68	151.35
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	157.56	160.22	145.44
501-600 lbs	150.19	151.88	140.71
601-700 lbs	140.61	141.95	136.37
701-800 lbs	134.80	135.25	126.52

USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS				
Feeder cattle imports weekly and yearly volume.				
Species	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Year-to-date	Previous Year-to-date
	2/12/22	2/5/22		
Feeders	20,138	21,094	107,779	125,084

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE		
Friday 2/11/22	Week Ago Act: 16,877	Year Ago Act: 23,298
Mexico to TX & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary		
Receipts EST: 15,000		
Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold 2.00-4.00 higher. Heifers 2.00-3.00 higher. Trade active to very active, demand good to very good. The bulk of the supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.		
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 181.00-195.00; 400-500 lbs 166.00-180.00, few 182.00; 500-600 lbs 155.00-170.00, few 172.00; 600-700 lbs 145.00-160.00, few 162.00. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 166.00-180.00; 400-500 lbs 151.00-165.00; 500-600 lbs 140.00-155.00.		
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 155.00-170.00, few 171.00; 400-500 lbs 145.00-160.00, few 161.00; 500-600 lbs 135.00-150.00, few 151.00; 600-700 lbs 125.00-140.00, few 141.00.		
(All sales FOB port of entry.)		

February 9 Orlando, CA	1,444	160-238 176-187	150-210 170-172	120-201 148-169	110-159 131-140		147.50	70-85 65-105	1,000-1,700 800-1,300	
February 14 Escalon, CA	N/A	130-171 125-150		125-160 120-145		120-140 100-135	100-125 95-115	68-75 80-105	800-1,300 700-1,300	
February 147 Famoso, CA	229	150-183 120-140	150-183 120-140	150-173 110-140	140-150 110-120	120-140 95-115	110-120	50-81.50 70-92		
February 16 Galt, CA	1,278		175-212 150-170	165-193 150-160	145-150 135-140	130-150 125-144	125-140	64-90 90-129	1,200-1,525	
February 15 Turlock, CA	1,982		155-170 142-158	160-180 140-155.50	156-169 135-147.50	150-164 130-140	135-145 125-133.50	130-146 120-136.50	74-95.75 84-121	
February 8 Salina, UT	908	182.50-220 164-185	175-220 157.50-184	165-200 148-175	157-196 145-171	147.50-175 142.50-162.75	140-156 132.50-150.50	133-147.25	54.35-76.20 85.85-99.40	
February 14 Iowa	18,457	210-244 174-208	192-236 164.50-198	184-214.50 150-190	162.50-197.75 143.75-179	154-181.75 128-159	134-164.75 127-155.25	57-87 61-108		
February 15 Miles City, MT	960		215-230 177-200.75	198-217.25 172-175	175-198 151-171	147-166	146.50	65-78.25 77.50-106.25	1,1135-1,585	
February 16 Bassett, NE	3,135		233-237 194-202	203.50-218 175-191	160-189.25 159.50-195	153.50-173 149-166.50	160-166 150.50-156.50			
February 12 Ericson, NE	3,180	229 191-193	230-233 190-195.75	184-226 179-189.50	173-202 160.50-178.50	165-178.50 145-160	150-164.50 146			
No report available Imperial, NE										
February 9 Kearney, NE	4,400		209-235 196	196-212 173-190	173.50-207 164.50-176.25	155-184.10 154-165.75	150.50-171 145.50-157			
February 11 Lexington, NE	3,894		202-221 175-187	189-224 157.50-190	169.25-213 160.25-180	155-180 152.75-162.25	151.25-165.50 143.50-155.75			
No report available Ogallala, NE										
February 10 Valentine, NE	660								2,000 810-1,900	
February 11 Herreid, SD	3,826		208-212.50 174-181	197-225.50 161.50-186	171-192.50 142-168.50	158.50-182 133.50-150	148.25-167 139-139.25			
February 11 Torrington, WY	1,167							71-91 88-106.50	1,010-1,850	
No report available Willcox, AZ										
February 14 Colorado	9,705	214-232.50 181-186	192-227.50 165-192	184.50-219 144.50-186	154-193.50 130-168	159-170 136-155	136-159 136-143.50	30-98 80-119	1,100-1,400 775-1,750	
February 12 La Junta, CO	1,060								775-1,575	
February 14 Loma, CO	644	207.50-212.50	205 190	174-191 165	169-173 160-165.50	154.50-160 155.50	121-151	80.50-90 89-102	1,200-1,300	
February 16 Dodge City, KS	3,662	223 202	220-248 194-207	210-232.50 179-195.50	203-224 172-189	174-194 151.50-166	157-178.60 145-159.75	142.50-164.25 128-150.75	70-91 87-119	785-1,300
February 17 Pratt, KS	3,000		189 172	178-179	162-179	180 158.50-166.25	156-161 146-168.50	143-149 129-152.75		
February 10 Salina, KS	6,141		226-235 181-202.50	210-225.50 175-186	196-218.50 166-185	180-200.50 165-174	164-183 145-159.50	149.50-166 133-153.75		
February 16 Clovis, NM	2,319	242-253 192-206	220-246 190.50-209.50	188-220 154-184.50	165-191 146-164	147-175 144-153	145-160 137-150	142.50-154		
February 9 El Reno, OK	6,047	232.50 187.50	202.50-235 175-187	202.50-235 175-187	174.50-208 160-181					

Cattle cycle scenario 1: More and worse drought

The list of factors that will shape cattle markets in 2022 is lengthy and leads to multiple scenarios for cattle and beef industry outcomes for the coming year. The recently released USDA Cattle Inventory report confirms the cattle inventory situation at the beginning of the year and provides some indications of what the cattle industry would like to do in the coming year, or at least what might be possible in the coming year.

Beyond cattle inventories, current drought measurements and data on hay stocks indicate the general forage situation in various regions and high costs for feed and other inputs must be balanced against rising cattle prices.

Drought will be the principal determinant of the general cattle industry scenario in 2022. The current Climate Prediction Center drought outlook suggests that drought may persist in regions of the West and Northern Plains that have been in drought (with some improvement in the Pacific Northwest) and where drought has recently developed in the Southern Plains,

and it will perhaps expand even further into the Central Plains region. Drought has impacted some regions since 2020.

Widespread drought in 2022 could result in much more pronounced cow herd liquidation and relocation than before, and the scenario will be all about what we have to do. There will be little flexibility in regions that were in drought in 2020 and 2021. For example, Dec. 1 hay stocks in the four-state region of Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota were down 40.2 percent year over year.

By April or May, this predominantly spring-born calving region could be faced with significant additional liquidation of cows or cow-calf pairs, on top of the 8 percent herd liquidation in this region since 2020. This region represents 15.1 percent of the national beef cow herd.

The four-state region of Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona and Utah has suffered in drought conditions since 2020 and has seen an 11.6 percent beef cow herd liquidation in the past two years. Persistent drought will re-

sult in additional liquidation this year. This region represents 5.3 percent of the total beef cow herd.

Drought has expanded sharply in Texas and Oklahoma over the winter: a region that has seen just 1.1 percent herd liquidation since 2020. Much of that was general cyclical liquidation rather than drought induced. Dec. 1 hay stocks in these two states were up 18.7 percent year over year.

The Southern Plains region should emerge from winter with a bit more flexibility, and with more fall calving, it might not face critical herd liquidation and destocking decisions as quickly as some other regions. Nevertheless, cow culling could accelerate sharply in the region by mid-summer. These two states represent 21.9 percent of the total beef cow herd.

The Central Plains region, including Kansas and Nebraska, has been marginally impacted by drought the past two years, with the beef cow herd in these two states down 3.3 percent since 2020. The Dec. 1 hay stocks in the region were up 4.9 percent year over year.

Should drought develop significantly in the Central Plains, additional significant cow herd liquidation would follow by summer. These two states represent 10.8 percent of the beef cow herd.

Drought in all of the above regions could impact over 53

percent of the total beef cow herd, roughly 16 million cows. Significant drought in 2022 will have more noticeable impacts on cow markets, will change the timing of feeder cattle and ultimately feedlot production and will have more implications for the industry in sub-

sequent years.

There is a potential for the drought to push cattle inventories significantly lower than planned and set up a market reaction similar to 2014-15 in the next couple of years. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock**

Feeders trade lower, corn futures higher

MARKETS (from page 1)

“For those operating in the cash markets for cattle and grain, the improvement in fed cattle prices has not resulted in reasonable profits for the past few months,” wrote the Cattle Report. “Each improvement in pricing has been accompanied by increases in feed cost leaving the close out outcome sitting on the margins of profitability. Additionally, each new purchase brings a new higher breakeven for the future.”

Slaughter through Thursday totaled 122,000 head, bringing the week's total to 488,000 head, on par with the same time a week earlier. Projected slaughter for the week ending Feb. 11 is 659,000 head. Actual slaughter for the first week of February totaled 635,293 head.

Boxed beef prices continue their slow decline. The Choice cutout dropped a little over \$5 to close at \$269.59, and the Select cutout lost about \$4 to close at \$264.85.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures closed modestly lower. The March contract lost about 50 cents to close at \$166.20, and the April contract lost 60 cents to close at \$171.15. The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost about 30 cents to close at \$162.14.

Corn futures were higher over the week. The March contract gained 9 cents to close at \$6.50, and the May contract also gained 9 cents to close at \$6.49.

“With the grain complex unable to level out due to the Ukraine/Russia circumstances, the feeder cattle complex will continue to dip-dodge accordingly to the grain market's devel-

opments as feed prices are so high and feeders have to be extremely cautious with their cost of gains,” Stewart said.

Colorado: Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 2,045 head Tuesday. Compared to a week earlier, steers under 450 lbs. sold steady, 450-700 lbs. sold \$3-5 higher and over 700 lbs. sold steady to \$1 higher. Heifers under 400 lbs. sold mostly steady in a light test, 400-500 lbs. sold \$3-5 higher, 500-600 lbs. sold \$1-2 higher with instances of \$5 higher and over 600 lbs. sold steady.

Kansas: Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 3,662 head Wednesday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers 700-950 lbs. sold steady to \$2 higher. Steer calves 400-700 lbs. sold \$10 higher. Feeder heifers 800-950 lbs. sold steady to \$2 lower. Heifers 400-800 lbs. sold \$3-7 higher, with the most advance on heifers from 400-700 lbs. Benchmark steers averaging 771 lbs. sold between \$157-165.50, averaging \$161.62.

Iowa: Russell Livestock in Russell sold 3,481 head Monday. Compared to the previous auction, steer calves under 750 lbs. were mostly steady to \$4 higher; 750-850 lbs. traded \$7-9 higher. Heifer calves under 650 lbs. sold \$2 higher, and heifers over 650 lbs. were \$2-5 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 762 lbs. sold between \$160-173.60, averaging \$169.07.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 6,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers under 550 lbs. traded \$5-10 higher, with three-weight steers trading \$20 higher. Steers over 550 lbs. traded steady. Benchmark steers

averaging 766 lbs. sold between \$156-164, averaging \$158.26.


Nebraska: Tri-State Livestock in McCook sold 2,760 head Monday. Compared to the last auction, steers were \$4-7 higher, with not enough heifers to show a trend except 750 lbs., which were \$2 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 734 lbs. sold between \$161-178.25 and averaged \$168.47.

New Mexico: Clovis Livestock in Clovis sold 2,319 head Wednesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers and heifers sold steady to \$3 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 792 lbs. sold between \$153.50-156.25, averaging \$155.92.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 14,000 head on Monday. Compared to the previous week's light test, feeder steers and heifers sold mostly steady to \$2 lower, with the decline on heavier weights. Stocker cattle and calves sold \$2-6 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 762 lbs. sold between \$155-164, averaging \$160.74.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional in Worthing sold 4,628 head Monday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers 350-400 lbs., 450-500 lbs., 650-800 lbs. and 850-900 lbs. were steady to \$5 lower. Steers 400-450 lbs., 500-650 lbs., 800-850 lbs. and 900-950 lbs. traded steady to \$5 higher. Feeder heifers were steady to \$5 higher, except 450-500 lbs. and 750-800 lbs., which traded \$1-5 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 777 lbs. sold between \$159.60-174, averaging \$164.71. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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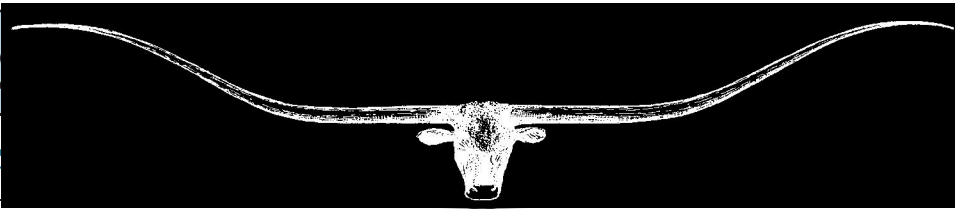
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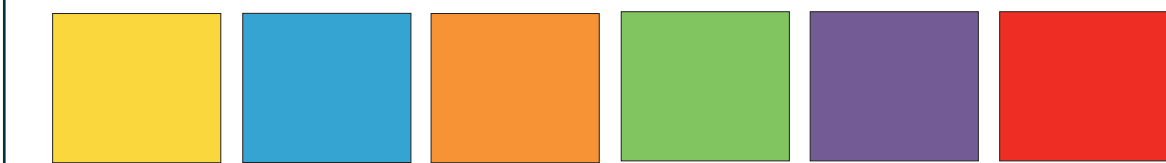
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Mar. 16 – Western Breeders, Bull Sale, Eltopia, WA
Apr. 7-8 – Midland Bull Test, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Apr. 19 – Treasure Bull Test, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
Nov. 5 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, "World of Bulls" Sale, Galt, CA

ANGUS

Feb. 21 – Bulls of the Big Sky, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Feb. 21 – Frank Cattle, Bull Sale, Chappell, NE
Feb. 21 – Teixeira Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Terrebonne, OR
Feb. 21 – Weaver Ranch, Bull Sale, Fort Collins, CO
Feb. 22 – Haynes Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Ogallala, NE
Feb. 22 – J.C. Heiken & Sons, Miles City Livestock Commission Bull Sale, Miles City, MT
Feb. 22 – Connelly Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Valier, MT
Feb. 22 – Thomas Angus, Bull & Bred Heifer Sale, Baker City, OR
Feb. 23 – TC Ranch, Bull Sale, Franklin, NE
Feb. 24 – Botts Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Enterprise, OR
Feb. 25 – Cowman's Kind, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Feb. 25 – Diamond Peak Cattle, Bull Sale, La Junta, CO
Feb. 25 – Hyline Angus, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT
Feb. 25 – Skinner Ranch, Seedstock Production Sale, Hall, MT
Feb. 26 – 44 Farms, Bull Sale, Cameron, TX
Feb. 26 – Baker Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Feb. 26 – Rancher's Choice, Bull Sale, Eltopia, WA
Feb. 26 – Sutphin Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Lamar, CO
Feb. 27 – Buchanan Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Feb. 28 – Circle L Angus, Bull Sale, Dillon, MT
Feb. 28 – Colyer Herefords, Bull Sale, Bruneau, ID
Feb. 28 – Reyes/Russell, Bull Sale, Wheatland, WY
Mar. 1 – Barker Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Burley, ID
Mar. 1 – Ipsen Cattle, Online Bull Sale
Mar. 2 – Adams Angus, Bull Sale, Blackfoot, ID
Mar. 2 – Ox Bow Ranch, Bull Sale, Wolf Creek, MT
Mar. 2 – Pasture View & ZWT Ranch, Bull Sale, Valentine, NE
Mar. 3 – Cannon Angus, Production Sale, Preston, ID
Mar. 3 – Split Diamond Ranch, Bull Sale, Dillon, MT
Mar. 4 – Crouthamel Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 4 – Reminisce Angus, Bull Sale, Dillon, MT
Mar. 5 – Bulls of the Bitterroot, Bull Sale, Stevensville, MT
Mar. 5 – Lazy JB Angus, Bull Sale, Montrose, CO
Mar. 5 – Loya/Wardell Angus, Bull Sale, Platteville, CO
Mar. 5 – Lucky 7 Angus, Bull Sale, Riverton, WY
Mar. 6 – Corsair Angus Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Lone, OR
Mar. 8 – Veltkamp Angus, Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT
Mar. 8 – Wagon Wheel Ranch, Bull and Commercial Female Sale, Yuma, CO
Mar. 9 – Hornung Livestock, Bull and Commercial Female Sale, Stratton, CO
Mar. 9 – RA Brown, Production Sale, Throckmorton, TX
Mar. 9 – Sitz Angus, Bull Sale, Dillon, MT
Mar. 9 – Udy Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Rockland, ID
Mar. 10 – Sunny Okanogan, Production Sale, Okanogan, WA
Mar. 11 – Reid Angus, Production Sale, Brush, CO
Mar. 11 – Rollin Rock, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 11 – Yardley Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Beaver, UT
Mar. 12 – Diamond Peak Cattle, Bull Sale, Riverton, WY
Mar. 12 – Koberstein Farms, Bull Sale, Ogallala, NE
Mar. 12 – Montana Ranch Angus, Bull Sale, Big Fork, MT
Mar. 12 – Riverbend Ranch, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID

Mar. 12 – Western Colorado Angus Association, Bull Sale, Delta, CO
Mar. 14 – Parry Angus, Bull Sale, Sterling, CO
Mar. 14 – Pine Coulee Angus, Bull Sale, Hardin, MT
Mar. 14 – Spring Cove Ranch, Production Sale, Bliss, ID
Mar. 15 – Blevins Angus, Production Sale, Charlo, MT
Mar. 15 – Quirk Land & Cattle Co., Production Sale, Hastings, NE
Mar. 16 – Lufkin Angus, Bull Sale, Leadore, ID
Mar. 16 – Stevenson Angus, Bull Sale, Hobson, MT
Mar. 16 – Wagonhammer Ranches, Bull Sale, Albion, NE
Mar. 17 – Carter Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Blackfoot, ID
Mar. 17 – Vallad/Of, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Mar. 18 – Leadore Angus, Bull Sale, Leadore, ID
Mar. 18 – Montana Performance Bull Co-op, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Mar. 18 – T/D Angus, Bull Sale, North Platte, NE
Mar. 19 – Gray Angus, Bull Sale, Harrison, NE
Mar. 19 – Nelson Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Salmon, ID
Mar. 19 – Ward Ranches, Bull Sale, Minden, NV
Mar. 21 – Whistling Winds Angus, Production Sale, Hingham, MT
Mar. 21 – Harrer's Lost Lake (Angus), Production Sale, Great Falls, MT
Mar. 21 – JR Ranch/Sackmann Cattle, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Mar. 23 – Nebraska Bull Test, Bull Sale, Broken Bow, NE
Mar. 23 – Peterson Grain and Cattle, Bull Sale, Havre, MT
Mar. 24 – Gartner-Denowh, Bull Sale, Sidney, MT
Mar. 24 – Vermilion Ranch, Commercial Female Sale, Billings, MT
Mar. 25 – Vertical Edge Genetics, Production Sale, Bancroft, ID
Mar. 25 – Schurrtop Angus & Charolais, Bull Sale, McCook, NE
Mar. 25 – Vermilion Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Mar. 26 – Basin Bull Fest, Bull Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Mar. 26 – Diamond Peak Cattle, Bull Sale, Loma, CO
Mar. 26 – Connealy Angus, Bull Sale, Whitman, NE
Mar. 29 – Silver Bit Ranch, Bull Sale, May, ID
Mar. 29 – Thomas Angus, Bull Sale, Shoshone, ID
Apr. 2 – Brooks Chalky Butte, Bull Sale, Bowman, ND
Apr. 5 – Daigger-Orr Angus & Red Angus, Bull Sale, North Platte, NE
Apr. 5 – Hinman Angus, Bull Sale, Malta, MT
Apr. 7 – Arntzen Angus, Bull Sale, Hilger, MT
Apr. 8 – Midland Bull Test, Angus Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Apr. 9 – Bar T Bar Ranches, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ
Apr. 9 – Fink Beef Genetics, Angus and Charolais Bull Sale, Randolph, KS
Apr. 9 – Redd Ranches, Bull Sale, Paradox, CO
Apr. 11 – Cook Angus, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Apr. 11 – Herbster Angus Farms, Bull Sale, Marysville, KS
Apr. 11 – Jorgensen Land & Cattle, Production Sale, Ideal, SD
Apr. 12 – Hilltop Angus, Production Sale, Denton, MT
Apr. 14 – Carr Angus, Production Sale, Hobson, MT
Apr. 14 – Jocko Valley Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Missoula, MT
Apr. 14 – McClun Lazy JM Ranch, Bull Sale, Torrington, WY
Apr. 15 – Degrand Angus, Bull Sale, Baker, MT
Apr. 20 – Milk River Genetics, Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Apr. 23 – Herring / Hi Country, Bull and Quarter Horse Sale, Saratoga, WY
Apr. 26 – Currant Creek, MCLC Bull Sale, Miles City, MT
May 14 – Diamond Peak Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Loma, CO

BALANCER

Feb. 21 – Frank Cattle Ranch, Bull Sale, Highmore, SD
Apr. 9 – Bar T Bar Ranches, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ
Apr. 9 – Redd Ranches, Bull Sale, Paradox, CO

BEEFMASTER

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

BRANGUS

Mar. 22 – Geneplus-Suhn Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Eureka, KS

CHAROLAIS

Feb. 22 – VAL Charolais, Bull Sale, Nyssa, OR
Feb. 25 – Cowman's Kind, Bull Sale,

Madras, OR
Feb. 26 – Rancher's Choice, Bull Sale, Eltopia, WA
Feb. 26 – Sutphin Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Lamar, CO
Mar. 15 – Romans Ranches, Production Sale, Westfall, OR
Mar. 16 – Wagonhammer Ranches, Bull Sale, Albion, NE
Mar. 25 – Schurrtop Angus & Charolais, Bull Sale, McCook, NE
Mar. 26 – Valley View Charolais, Annual Bull Sale, Polson, MT
Mar. 28 – Axtell Cattle Company, Production Sale, Sterling, CO
Apr. 2 – DeBruycker Charolais, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
Apr. 9 – Fink Beef Genetics, Angus and Charolais Bull Sale, Randolph, KS
Apr. 9 – Hebbert Charolais, Bull Sale, Hyannis, NE
Apr. 16 – Cobb Charolais, Bull Sale, Augusta, MT

FLECKANGUS

Mar. 25 – Vertical Edge Genetics, Production Sale, Bancroft, ID

FLECKVIEH

Mar. 25 – Vertical Edge Genetics, Production Sale, Bancroft, ID

GELBVIEH

Feb. 21 – Eagle Pass Ranch, Bull Sale, Highmore, SD
Apr. 9 – Bar T Bar Ranches, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ
Apr. 9 – Redd Ranches, Bull Sale, Paradox, CO

HEREFORD

Feb. 25 – Jamison Herefords, Bull Sale, Quinter, KS
Feb. 28 – Colyer Herefords, Bull Sale, Bruneau, ID
Mar. 1 – Ipsen Cattle, Online Bull Sale
Mar. 3 – NW Hereford, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 7 – Harrell Herefords, Bull Sale, Baker City, OR
Mar. 9 – Udy Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Rockland, ID
Mar. 14 – Holden Herefords, Production Sale, Valier, MT
Mar. 14 – Spring Cove Ranch, Production Sale, Bliss, ID
Mar. 15 – Cooper Herefords, Production Sale, Willow Creek, MT
Mar. 17 – Vallad/Of, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Mar. 23 – Nebraska Bull Test, Bull Sale, Broken Bow, NE
Mar. 23 – NJW Herefords, Bull & Female Sale, Sheridan, WY
Mar. 29 – Silver Bit Angus, Bull Sale, May, ID
Apr. 14 – McClun Lazy JM Ranch, Bull Sale, Torrington, WY
Apr. 16 – Stuber Ranch, Production Sale, Bowman, ND
Sep. 5 – Genoa Livestock, Bull & Female Sale, Minden, NV

LIM-FLEX

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

MAINE ANJOU

Mar. 11 – Yardley Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Beaver, UT

OPTIMIZER

Mar. 19 – Ward Ranches, Bull Sale, Minden, NV

RED ANGUS

Feb. 21 – Frank Cattle, Bull Sale, Chappell, NE
Feb. 25 – Calvo Red Angus, Bull Sale, Bassett, NE
Feb. 26 – Sutphin Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Lamar, CO
Mar. 1 – Sandhills Red Angus, Bull and Female Sale, Sidney, MT
Mar. 2 – Dille Red Angus, Production Sale, Buhl, ID
Mar. 3 – Bieber Red Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Leola, SD
Mar. 4 – Sutherland Farms, Production Sale, Stevensville, MT
Mar. 5 – McCann Red Angus, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Mar. 5 – Redland Red Angus, Bull Sale, Hysham, MT
Mar. 8 – Loosli Red Angus, Production Sale, Ashton, ID
Mar. 9 – RA Brown, Production Sale, Throckmorton, TX
Mar. 9 – Udy Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Rockland, ID
Mar. 11 – Leland Red Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Sidney, MT
Mar. 12 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Cornhusker Classic Sale, North Platte, NE
Mar. 14 – Feddes and C-T Red Angus, Production Sale, Manhattan, MT
Mar. 14 – Lautenschlager and Sons, Spring Sale, Othello, WA
Mar. 15 – Green Mountain Red Angus, Bull Sale, Logan, MT
Mar. 16 – Klompain Red Angus, Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT
Mar. 19 – Lorenzen Red Angus, Bull

Sale, Madras, OR
Mar. 19 – Milk Creek Red Angus, Bull Sale, Plevna, MT
Mar. 21 – JR Ranch/Sackmann Cattle Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Mar. 23 – Nebraska Bull Test, Bull Sale, Broken Bow, NE
Mar. 23 – Westphal Red Angus, Production Sale, Grass Range, MT
Mar. 28 – Axtell Cattle Company, Production Sale, Sterling, CO
Apr. 1 – Pieper Red Angus, Bull Sale, Hay Springs, NE
Apr. 5 – Daigger-Orr Angus & Red Angus, Bull Sale, North Platte, NE
Apr. 8 – 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
Apr. 9 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Spring Bull Sale, Shepherd, MT
Apr. 9 – Redd Ranches, Bull Sale, Paradox, CO
Apr. 12 – Beckton Red Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Sheridan, WY
May 25 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Online Bull Sale, Shepherd, MT
Sep. 11 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, West Coast Bull Sale, Visalia, CA
Sep. 24 – McPhee Red Angus, Annual Sale, Lodi, CA
Oct. 29 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Fall Bull Sale, Shepherd, MT

SIMANGUS

Feb. 21 – Bulls of the Big Sky, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Feb. 21 – Eagle Pass Ranch, Bull Sale, Highmore, SD
Feb. 23 – Price Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Echo, OR
Feb. 25 – Diamond Peak Cattle, Bull Sale, La Junta, CO
Feb. 26 – Sutphin Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Lamar, CO
Mar. 1 – Barker Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Burley, ID
Mar. 3 – Kearns Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Rushville, NE
Mar. 5 – Trinity Farms, Bull Sale, Ellensburg, WA
Mar. 9 – Hornung Livestock, Bull and Commercial Female Sale, Stratton, CO
Mar. 12 – Diamond Peak Cattle, Bull Sale, Riverton, WY
Mar. 14 – Parry Angus, Bull Sale, Sterling, CO
Mar. 16 – Wagonhammer Ranches, Bull Sale, Albion, NE
Mar. 24 – Western Cattle Source, Production Sale, Crawford, NE
Mar. 26 – Diamond Peak Cattle, Bull Sale, Loma, CO
Mar. 26 – T-Heart Ranch, Bull Sale, La Garita, CO
Apr. 9 – Redd Ranches, Bull Sale, Paradox, CO
Apr. 23 – Herring / Hi Country, Bull and Quarter Horse Sale, Saratoga, WY

SIMMENTAL

Feb. 21 – Bulls of the Big Sky, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Mar. 1 – Barker Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Burley, ID
Mar. 3 – Kearns Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Rushville, NE
Mar. 5 – Trinity Farms, Bull Sale, Ellensburg, WA
Mar. 11 – Yardley Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Beaver, UT
Mar. 14 – Bar CK Ranch, Bull Sale, Culver, OR
Mar. 24 – Western Cattle Source, Production Sale, Crawford, NE
Mar. 26 – T-Heart Ranch, Bull Sale, La Garita, CO
Mar. 28 – Vertical Edge Genetics, Production Sale, Bancroft, ID
Mar. 31 – Open Gate Simmental, Bull Sale, Augusta, MT
Apr. 2 – Big Country Genetics, Bull Sale, Powell, WY
May 1 – Poppe Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Fallon

STABILIZER

Mar. 27-28 – Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Spring Bull & Female Sale, Fort Collins, CO

COMMERCIAL

Mar. 2 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Special Feeder Sale, Galt, CA
Mar. 5 – Bulls of the Bitterroot, Bull Sale, Stevensville, MT
Mar. 8 – Wagon Wheel Ranch, Female Sale, Yuma, CO
Mar. 9 – Hornung Livestock, Female Sale, Stratton, CO
Mar. 16 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Special Feeder Sale, Galt, CA
Apr. 14 – Western Video Market, Turlock, CA
Jul. 11-13 – Western Video Market, Silver Legacy, Reno, NV
Nov. 5 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Female Sale, Galt, CA

HORSE

Mar. 4 – Winnemucca Ranch Rodeo, Horse Sale, Winnemucca, NV
Apr. 23 – Herring / Hi Country, Bull and Quarter Horse Sale, Saratoga, WY

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Study shows struvite good phosphorus source for crops

Studying new fertilizer options is the first step to getting farmers to eventually use them on their crops. A mineral called struvite has the potential to be an effective phosphorus fertilizer that may be considered organic.

Joanne Thiessen Martens, a researcher from the University of Manitoba, along with collaborators, studied how struvite impacted three crops. These were spring wheat, flax and an alfalfa/grass forage mixture.

“Struvite is a naturally occurring mineral that can be extracted from nutrient-rich wastes, such as municipal wastewater or manure,” Thiessen Martens says. “It is rich in phosphorus and seems to be a relatively good phosphorus fertilizer.”

She adds that recovering the fertilizer from wastewater also reduces the amount of phosphorus entering the environment. Excess phosphorus can be harmful to the environment.

The research was recently published in the *Agronomy Journal*, a publication of the American Society of Agronomy.

In their study, they applied struvite to fields of the three crops at different rates. They then looked at yields from the crops and measured how much phosphorus the crops contained after harvest. Their goal was to find the best application rate of struvite that provided a good amount of phosphorus to the crops.

“The main thing we were looking for was an increase in the grain yield or the forage biomass yield when

crops were fertilized with struvite,” Thiessen Martens said. “A key part of our study was to see how the struvite application rate affected these different indicators of a good phosphorus supply.”

Their results showed that struvite increased the grain yield of spring wheat, but not flax. The alfalfa/grass forage responded very well to the fertilizer. The researchers also noted that the benefit to the alfalfa/grass increased in the second and third years of the study. Thus, the struvite applied in 2017 provided an even greater benefit in 2018 and 2019 than it did in 2017, the year it was applied.

Although they don’t know for certain why the crops responded differently, they have some ideas. It

may be because they get nutrients from the soil in different ways. Flax, for example, gets help from fungi in the soil to get phosphorus. This may be why it doesn’t respond well to struvite.

Crops like alfalfa produce acids that help dissolve phosphorus in the soil, and that may have been why it responded well to the fertilizer. The scientists want to perform more research to learn more about the differences between crops and the reasons for these differences.

They found that high rates of application created the best results. They also saw that a lot of the struvite was not recovered by the crop. This means it was not taken up by the plants and was left in the soil. The scientists want to further

study what happens to the unused struvite in the soil.

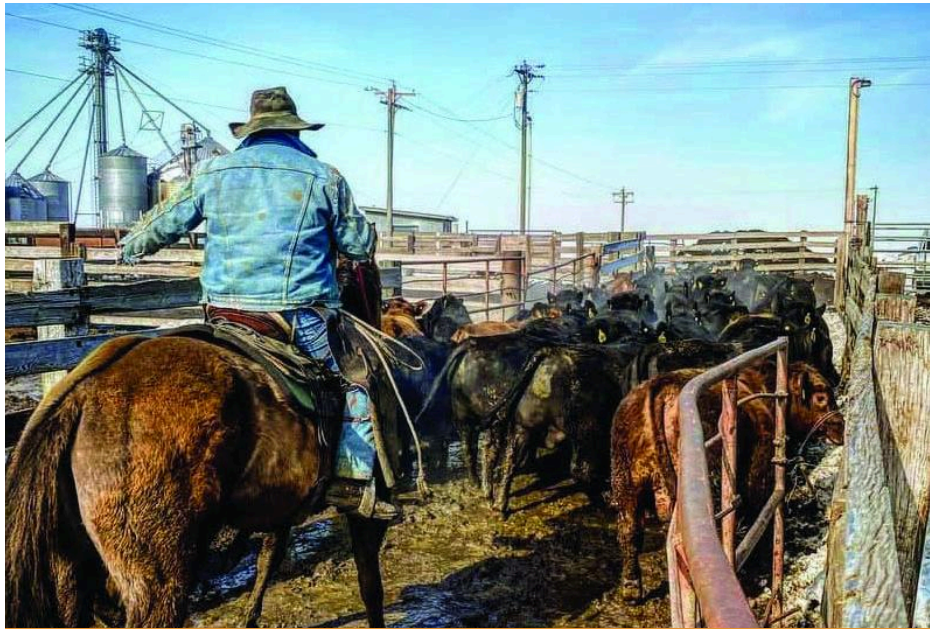
In examining the different rates of fertilizer applied, the researchers found that they did not reach an amount of fertilizer that maxed out the crops’ response. To establish the maximum crop response to a certain fertilizer, they would need to have application rates where crop yield or phosphorus accumulation levels off.

“Based on our results, we can say that the recommended phosphorus application rates, which correspond to our lowest application rates, were not adequate at this site,” Thiessen Martens explains. “But we don’t know enough from this study to say whether fertilizer recommendations in general need to be revisited.”

She adds that much of the research on the circular economy for nutrients has been focused on how to recover fertilizers like struvite from waste. However, it’s also important to do more research on how to use these recycled fertilizers.

“These recycled fertilizers do not behave the same in the soil as soluble fertilizers do,” she says. “It’s one of the practical aspects that needs to be worked out so we can apply the idealistic notion of the circular economy more broadly.”

This research was funded by Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Ostara Nutrient Recovery Technologies. — **American Society of Agronomy, Soil Science Society of America and Crop Science Society of America**



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Compost transfer and equipment calibration in ag systems

Arranging for the timely and safe application of compost once it has been delivered can help to safeguard maximum nutrient absorption by the soil and aid in the reduction of environmental risks due to pile runoff. Michigan State University (MSU) Extension recommends having a plan in place for transporting and applying compost before it is delivered or ready.

For compost that is not applied at the time of delivery, proper storage must be utilized. This includes the safe transfer of finished compost between locations, accurate calibration of spreading equipment and the potential environmental implications.

One of the first things to consider is the type of equipment you plan to use for transferring and/or applying the finished compost. It may sound simple, but this is important in helping to prevent potential spills, which can ultimately affect surface waters and groundwater. The following are questions you should ask yourself:

- How much volume can the equipment safely hold?
- How will the compost be loaded into the transfer equipment?
- Do I have a route mapped out for getting the compost from point A to point B?

Be safe on the road

MSU Extension recommends applicators take other safety precautions into account, such as current and forecast weather conditions, as well as road conditions. Rainy conditions may cause hydroplaning and poor visibility on the roadways, which could lead to accidents and spills. Winter weather, including snow and ice, may cause roads to become slick and difficult to drive on, which could also lead to accidents and spills.

Other safety precautions include overall awareness when operating the equipment to transfer the finished compost. Nowadays, it is easy to become distracted while driving via texting, eating and even being tired. Another important consideration is taking time to plan the best route

possible, which may look like avoiding bridges and other surface water to reduce or eliminate any risk to water quality in the event of an accidental spill.

Also, consider detouring around highly populated spaces like schools and hospitals to reduce odor complaints, even though finished compost should have little to no odor. It is crucial to always share your plans to spread and the planned route with a trusted employee or family member so if there are issues with the equipment, someone knows your location.

Stockpiles must be properly managed

Another consideration when transferring finished compost is whether it will be applied right away or stockpiled until land application occurs. If the compost will be stockpiled, it needs to be managed in a way that:

- No leaching of nutrients from compost impacts the groundwater (meaning nutrients drain away from the compost and into the soil, eventually reaching the groundwater).
- No contaminated runoff will flow onto neighboring property or into surface waters.

Additionally, it is important to protect the pile from excess moisture from both an environmental standpoint and a compost recipe standpoint. Too much water added to the pile can cause the compost recipe to be off, which can then cause odor issues. Additionally, the stockpile must be moved around from year to year in the field to allow vegetation to grow back where the previous pile was located.

For more information about appropriate transfer practices, the Manure Hauler Certification Program can be utilized as a reference. While the Manure Hauler Certification Program discusses manure, many of the same principles can be applied to the transfer of finished compost.

Calibration of equipment

Before any compost is applied, the spreader must be calibrated. Spreader cali-

bration ensures that the right amount of compost is applied to achieve the desired soil health and plant protection. Spreader calibration also reduces the risk of ground and surface water contamination.

A simple method can be used to determine the application rate for a small volume spreader. The first step is to determine the bulk density of the compost. This is done in three steps as follows:

• **Step 1** — Weigh an empty 5-gallon bucket.

• **Step 2** — Fill the bucket to the top with compost and weigh the bucket. Repeat this step (at a minimum) three times with new compost, and average the weights.

• **Step 3** — Subtract the first weight from the second weight and multiply by 40.5. The result is a bulk density of pounds per cubic yard.

The next move is to determine the volume of compost applied when the depth of application is known. A 1-inch layer of compost ap-

plied over an acre always equals 135 cubic yards (assuming complete and uniform coverage and no compaction).

For example, if a given compost has a bulk density of 500 lbs./cubic yard and a 1-inch layer is applied over an acre, that 1-inch layer equals 33.75 tons/acre; see calculations:

135 cubic yards/acre X 500 lbs./cubic yards = 67,500 lbs./acre.

67,500 lbs./acre ÷ 2,000 lbs./tons = 33.75 tons/acre.

The amount of compost applied and the equipment used to apply it depend on how the compost will be used. For example, blower equipment should be used to apply compost on steep slopes to hold the soil in place and stimulate plant growth for erosion control. When compost is used as mulch in an orchard, a small capacity side discharge tractor-pulled spreader should be used. In both examples, different volumes of compost will be used to achieve the desired outcome.

Choosing the proper equipment for its intended use is critical in maximizing the benefits of compost. Compost can be applied with spinners, rear and side discharge spreaders, and blowers. Small volume spreaders are designed for locations such as orchards, vineyards and small-scale vegetable growers, while large volume spreaders are typically designed for field crop use.

Records of compost application must be kept to be in conformance with the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Right to Farm Generally Accepted Agricultural and Management Practices for Manure Management and Utilization, especially when finished compost is used as a nutrient source. The compost application rate needed to meet the nutrient requirements of a planned crop is determined based on:

- Estimated crop yields.
- Compost analysis for nutrient content.
- Current soil test results.

At a minimum, the following records should be documented on a per field basis: soil test results, dates of compost application, rate of compost applied, previous crop grown, yields on past harvested crops and weather conditions at the time of application. In addition, the method used to calibrate the spreader and the date when the spreader was calibrated should be documented.

It's important to remember that spreader calibration should be completed before any compost is applied. Calibrating the spreader ensures that the proper amount of compost is applied and prevents the risk of ground and surface water contamination. Matching the right kind of spreader with the intended use maximizes the benefits of the compost. Finally, to be in conformance with Right to Farm, compost application information must be documented. — **Erica Rogers, Sarah Fronczak and M. Charles Gould, MSU Extension**

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\$M +92
\$C +329

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YW +127
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YW +119
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RE +.95
\$M +68
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J267, Achievement X Lover Boy
3/4 SM BW: 67 WW: 691
YW: 1262 REA: 15" PAP: 33



Calving ease!

J286, Achievement X Stepping Stone
3/4 SM 1/4 AN BW: 58 WW: 652
YW: 1152 REA: 14.7" PAP: 38



J416, Y1 Top Gun X SAV Catalyst 5/8
SM 3/8 AN BW: 90 WW: 707
YW: 1255 REA: 14.6" PAP: 37



J303, Loverboy X Yardley Royal Jet 3/4
SM 1/4 AN BW: 85 WW: 718
YW: 1236 REA: 14.6" PAP: 39



J300, Loverboy X Broker
PB SM BW: 84 WW: 726
YW: 1345 REA: 15.1" PAP: 33



J320, Yardley Abundance X Steel Force
1/2 SM 1/2 AN BW: 100 WW: 704
YW: 1344 REA: 14.4"



J391, S.A.M X Banchor
PB SM BW: 80 WW: 694
YW: 1373 REA: 14" PAP: 38



J389 S.A.M X Coleman Charlo
1/2 SM 1/2 AN BW: 76 WW: 643
YW: 1212 REA: 14.3" PAP: 35



J427 Yardley Hilight X North Force
5/8 SM 3/8 AN BW: 86 WW: 822
YW: 1372 REA: 16.4" PAP: 40



J348, Y Standout X Stepping Stone
5/8 SM 3/8 AN BW: 80 WW: 742
YW: 1279 REA: 15.3" PAP: 38



J317, Yardley Standout X Sixteen Step
5/8 SM 3/8 AN BW: 78 WW: 667
YW: 1177 REA: 13.9" PAP: 37



J443, Y1 Standout X Stepping Stone
5/8 SM 9/32 AN BW: 80 WW: 679
YW: 1219 REA: 12.8" PAP: 39



Calving ease!

J278, SAV Catalyst X Coleman Bravo
PB AN BW: 70 WW: 759
YW: 1335 REA: 14.1"



J289, Y1 Charbroil X Yardley Top Notch
PB AN BW: 79 WW: 731
YW: 1307 REA: 12.4" PAP: 38



J382 Coleman Ace X SAV Renown
PB AN BW: 95 WW: 618
YW: 1165 REA: 14" PAP: 33

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SIMMENTAL, BLACK ANGUS & MAINE ANJOUS

WHY USE YARDLEY BULLS

1. THE BIG FEEDERS PAY A PREMIUM FOR CALVES SIRED BY OUR BULLS BECAUSE THEY ARE THE BEST GAINERS AND THEY HAVE THE LOOK, EYE APPEAL, CARCASS, AND UNIFORM PHENOTYPE.
2. Their daughters will be the most productive cows you've owned.
3. Their calves will weigh 25 to 100 lbs more at weaning.
4. These bulls are wintered in big lots on half grass/alfalfa and only 1% grain.
5. They are born unassisted on the range and walk 25 miles to and from the summer range that goes to 10,200 ft. elevation, so they have to be structurally correct.
6. You don't have to baby and pamper them. WE DO NOT CREEP FEED.
7. Our cows winter on desert winter range without hay. They have natural fleshing ability to stay fat on grass and take care of themselves.
8. All bulls are performance tested and backed by our first year breeding guarantee.
9. They have proven themselves to adapt to all environments and have sold into 30 states.
10. Simmental and Simmental crosses are some of the most sought after cattle by order buyers, feedlots and for replacement females.
11. YARDLEY BULLS ARE BRED WITH THE COMMERCIAL CATTLEMEN IN MIND.
12. BUY YARDLEY BULLS and choose from a large selection of the highest performing bulls in the industry for top quality that sire heavier muscled, faster gaining calves with more style and eye appeal, plus depth, thickness and square butts.
13. You won't find any more QUALITY any place than you will see in these cattle. Quality is the only trait that you can never get too much of. You can't measure quality with a ruler, a scale or an EPD. It can only be measured with the eye. Quality is the #1 trait that separates "reputation cattle" and quality is the leading factor that determines the premiums that buyers will bid for at auction. Buyers measure quality based on the amount of added thickness, length, style and eye appeal they see in a set of calves.
14. Gib is 89 years old and has spent his life breeding, culling and selecting this herd of cattle. We have been A.I.ing for 54 years. Our focus has always been on cow families that have longevity and fleshing ability to stay fat on grass.

We're just three hours from Las Vegas or Salt Lake on I-15. Book Your Flight Now!

View the auciton live!

CCI.LIVE

VIEW OUR WEBSITE TO
REGISTER TO BID ONLINE

CALL FOR A CATALOG

www.yardleycattleco.com

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