

INSIDE WLJ

FARMERS QUERIED — Farmers' input requested on how USDA can improve its data collection and analysis. Page 6

MEAT DEMAND MONITOR — K-State releases Meat Demand Monitor report with nearly six years of data on consumer demand, financial sentiment, etc. Page 27

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"Officials at the University of Nevada, Reno, (UNR) announced a plan on March 1 that, if brought to fruition, would leave the state without an agricultural college. The plan to dismantle UNR's College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources (CABNR) is part of a larger proposal designed to meet budget reductions mandated by the state legislature," read the March 8, 2010, *WLJ* article. Ultimately, the college did not close and is still running today.

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Interior rescinds 80% of NEPA regulations

—**Final rule immediately effective**

The Department of the Interior

(DOI) is rolling back a significant portion of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. The move will rescind more than 80%

of the agency's prior NEPA regulations, with most of those regulations moved into a new departmental handbook.

The remaining regulations will govern when and how to comply with NEPA, and which NEPA processes should be used in decision-making processes. The action follows the White House Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) own rescission of NEPA regulations.

"For decades, NEPA has been twisted into a weapon to block American energy, infrastructure, and conservation projects," said Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum. "We are cutting unnecessary bureaucracy, speeding up approvals, and putting Americans back to work, while enforcing NEPA as Congress originally intended."

Last April, the administration removed the CEQ regulations that previously implemented NEPA. Federal agencies have been working to revise and rescind their NEPA procedures, including USDA, which rescinded nearly 70% of its NEPA regulations last summer.

The DOI released an interim final rule in July and implemented the rule with a few changes effective Feb. 24. Changes include updated

See NEPA RULE on page 10



USDA NRCS

The Department of the Interior is rescinding many of its National Environmental Policy Act regulations. Pictured here, cattle summer graze at Big Hole Valley in Montana.

Report shows a snapshot of financial strain across ag

—**Bankruptcies up 46%**

The latest snapshot of U.S. agriculture shows that small family farms are numerically dominant but increasingly dependent on off-farm income, while larger operations generate the majority of production value.

In America's Farms and Ranches at a Glance: 2025 Edition, the USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) reports that in 2024, the U.S. had 1.87 million farms operating 880.4 million acres, generating \$500.9 billion in production value. Small family farms accounted for 86% of all farms but operated only 40% of farmland and produced just 17% of total output value.

By contrast, large-scale family farms—only 5% of farms—operated 33% of farmland and produced 50% of total production value. Midsize family farms represented 6% of farms, operating 18%

of land and contributing 18% of production value, while nonfamily farms made up 3% of operations and 14% of output.

Commodity production is similarly concentrated. Large-scale family farms accounted for 73% of dairy production value, 58% of specialty crops, 52% of beef and cotton, and 51% of cash grains and soybeans in 2024. Small family farms remained important in hay (51%) and poultry and eggs (35%), while midsize farms played a notable role in hogs (32%) and poultry and eggs (27%).

The report defines a family farm as one in which the producer and related individuals own the majority of the business and classifies operations by ownership structure and gross cash farm income (GCFI).

Farms are first divided into family and nonfamily operations,

See FARM FINANCES on page 18

BLM advances Steens Mountain grazing plan amid greens' protest

—**Former Hammond allotments**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has issued a Proposed Decision advancing a plan to reauthorize grazing on the Hammond, Hammond FFR, Mud Creek and Hardie Summer allotments near Steens Mountain in southeastern Oregon, amid protests from environmentalists.

The agency concluded that Alternative 2 in its Bridge Creek Area Allotment Management Plan's final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), "meets the purpose and need and best balances the BLM's obligation to manage the public lands under principles of multiple use and sustained yield" while supporting the secretary of the Department of the Interior's orders.

Under the proposal, BLM would issue new 10-year grazing permits, implement updated Allotment

Management Plans (AMPs), and authorize range improvements, including the Bridge Creek water gap extension, fence construction and removal, and maintenance of spring and pipeline developments.

The decision also establishes adaptive grazing rotations, utilization thresholds of 50% on native grasses and 60% on crested wheatgrass, and a phased increase in permitted animal unit months (AUMs) within the Hammond Allotment tied to land health standards. The decision increases AUMs in the Hammond Allotment incrementally over five years, contingent on continued compliance with the standards and guidelines.

In the Mud Creek Allotment's Lower Field pasture—containing a greater sage-grouse lek—grazing would begin at a 35% utilization threshold, adjustable upward to 50% only if monitoring shows that vertical cover objectives for nesting

habitat are maintained. Visual obstruction readings would ensure residual grass heights meet sage grouse habitat recommendations, and if cover drops below target levels, utilization would be permanently capped at the last acceptable level.

BLM said the plan further reduces infrastructure impacts on designated lands. Removal of 0.14 miles of fence from the Steens Mountain Wilderness would improve wilderness character, and no increase in AUMs would occur within the Bridge Creek Wilderness Study Area.

Riparian protections are equally central. The Bridge Creek water gap modification would restrict livestock access to perennial riparian corridors, preventing animals from traveling along the drainage. In Krumbo Creek Pasture, grazing

See STEENS on page 27

Cattle market trends lower on uncertainty

Cattle futures moved lower over the week as uncertainty continued about whether employees at a major Colorado packing plant were going to strike.

Live cattle futures closed lower over the week. The February contract lost \$1.50 to close at \$246, and the April contract lost about \$6.50 to close at \$236.90.

"What's behind today's sell-off is likely nervousness that the UFCW union at the Greeley, Colorado fed cattle slaughter and processing plant might decide tonight to strike," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday. "The union has held three registration events this week so members can register to be paid if a strike is initiated. The last sign up ends this evening at 7 p.m. Mountain time. Lots of people have lots of opinions on whether or not the strike will take place, but at this juncture, it is all speculation."

Cash trade through Thursday totaled about 18,000 head. Live steers sold from \$242-244, and dressed steers sold from \$382-384.

"There was some light trade at weaker money in the north, but so far, most are passing," Fish said. "Cattle feeders seem

confident that their leverage remains strong, strike or no strike."

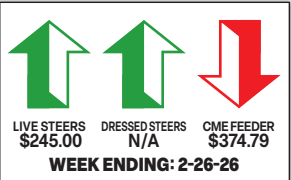
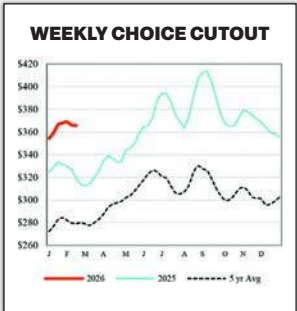
Cash trade for the week ending Feb. 23 totaled 74,704 head. Live steers averaged \$246.65, and dressed steers averaged \$387.90.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 427,000 head, on pace with a week earlier. Total slaughter for a week earlier is projected at 516,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Feb. 14 was 543,582 head. The average steer dressed weight was 984 lbs., up 2 lbs. from the prior week.

Boxed beef prices were higher over the week, up more than \$12 on the

Choice cutout to \$377.89 and up \$11 on the Select cutout to \$370.79.

See MARKETS on page 31



COMMENTS

On the cusp

On Feb. 1, Oregon’s Initiative Petition 28 (IP28), had roughly 92,000 of the 117,173 required signatures to be put on the November ballot. By the end of February, over 105,000 signatures have been reported. The deadline to meet the required amount is July 2. This means that—barring some extra-terrestrial event—the required signatures will be gathered sometime mid-to-late March by the current trajectory.



IPSEN

As mentioned in my Dec. 29 column, titled “Initiative marketing,” we are seeing this play out in real time. The animal rights activist group In Defense of Animals claims, “Since the vast majority of humans can survive and thrive without harming animals, IP28 envisions a society that prioritizes compassion and protects all individuals, regardless of the bodies they were born into. It affirms that human needs can be met while allowing animals to live free from exploitation ... The campaign behind Yes On IP28 is not naive. They do not expect the initiative to pass in 2026. The goal is to build the infrastructure necessary to consistently return to the ballot, shift public consciousness, and continue forcing the conversation until it succeeds ... This strategy is not new. The women’s suffrage movement repeatedly brought the issue to the ballot in 30 states for over a decade before women finally won the right to vote. In Oregon, women succeeded on their sixth attempt. Those earlier efforts laid the groundwork for lasting change.”

It’s as simple as consistently building and branding an initiative, raising funds, crafting broad language to appeal to the masses and continuing to push until a precedent has been set. After that, the dominoes will fall from state to state.

The site continued to read, “Small welfare gains can play a role, but IP28 is playing the long game, inviting us to think bigger and ask for what we want: liberation from enslavement and legal protection for all animals. This initiative advances activism that tackles injustice at its root and is celebrated each February during Animal Activist Appreciation Month.”

The measure was initially filed under IP13 in 2020 for the 2022 ballot, then failed to collect enough signatures. The measure was filed in 2024 under IP3 and failed again. However, it appears that the signatures will reach the threshold and be on the 2026 ballot. As of this writing, there are only two of the 75 filed petitions that have submitted signatures. The other petition is IP33, which is centered around human rights and has been reported to have spent well over \$1,300,000. IP28 has spent far less—estimated around \$250,000. IP33 has only 12,194 signatures submitted while IP28 has over 100,000. It is estimated that to gain the required 117,173 valid signatures, there needs to be roughly 140,000 after a vetting process. Even still, the trajectory still holds.

This initiative attacks nearly every aspect of animal-related activities. Hunting, fishing, trapping, farming, ranching and research will now lose their exemptions drafted in current state law if this measure is voted in and passed. Even Tribal rights that have treaty-protected hunting and fishing laws would be in jeopardy. They are literally going after everyone in one swing.

The campaign states, “Animal abuse is legally defined in Oregon as the intentional, knowing, or reckless injury of an animal. Yet slaughter, hunting, fishing, experimentation, forced breeding, and other so-called ‘animal husbandry’ practices all involve intentional injury and remain legal. These exemptions leave most animals legally unprotected and enable cruelty and violence across numerous industries. By eliminating them, IP28 would ensure that animals can no longer be intentionally injured or killed, forcibly impregnated, or denied adequate food, water, and shelter, whether in farms, in labs, at rodeos, exhibitions, in transport, or in the wild.”

When you step back and take a look at what is happening across the broad landscape and look at animal activism measures that have recently surfaced across the country, this all makes a little more sense. On the Yes on IP28 website, they openly claim, “We are excited to see the growing push among the animal rights movement to use the ballot initiative process to move the movement forward. While we are not formally tied to the Pro-Animal Future initiatives to Ban Slaughterhouses and Fur Sales in Denver Colorado, the Measure J Factory Farming Ban in Sonoma County California, or the Retail Pet Sale Ban in Del Mar California, we have been in contact with all three campaigns and maintain a mutually supportive connection.”

There’s teamwork and collaboration happening, and that appears to be the future of animal activism. They aren’t worried about the 330,000 licensed hunters, 500,000 licensed anglers, 37,000 farms and ranches (oregonhunters.org), and nearly every citizen that will undoubtedly be impacted if this measure passes. Available food and fiber, economies, industries and daily life in Oregon will be uprooted. Together, the impacted industries currently represent nearly \$7 billion of Oregon’s economy.

Do I sound paranoid? Maybe. But four years ago, none of us said this would make it onto the ballot, but here we are right on the cusp. Will it pass? Undoubtedly no. And the cycle will repeat itself with more experience, funding and support on the next ballot. We’ve entered the new age of fighting for our way of life. — **LOGAN IPSEN**

KAY’S KORNER



The rebuilding of the U.S. beef herd has scarcely begun, according to USDA’s annual Cattle inventory report. Beef cows on Jan. 1 totaled 27.607 million head, down 1% from a year ago. Beef replacement heifers on Jan. 1 totaled 4.714 million head, up 0.9% from a year ago. The only meaningful year-on-year increase in cattle numbers came in the number of milk cows, which was up 2% on a year earlier. All other categories of cattle were flat with 2024 or slightly lower. All cattle and calves as of Jan. 1 totaled 86.155 million head, 99.6% of a year earlier.

Uncertainty around U.S. processing capacity is raising fresh questions about whether large-scale heifer retention is even necessary as the industry looks toward rebuilding the cow herd, noted a report from RFD-TV News in Lubbock, TX, on Feb. 4. Recent plant closures and production cutbacks suggest slaughter capacity may shrink before expansion efforts fully begin.

According to an analysis from Don Close of Terrain, Tyson Foods’ decision to close its Lexington, NE, beef plant and reduce production at its Amarillo, TX, facility (both on Jan. 20) has altered the balance between fed cattle supplies and slaughter capacity. With fewer cattle needed by packers, feedyards may be able to meet demand using existing inventories, reducing the need to bid aggressively for feeder cattle, he told RFD.

USDA data continues to show that heifer retention has not meaningfully started, Close said. Heifers on feed remained flat through the third quarter of 2025, confirming that producers have not yet shifted toward herd rebuilding. At the same time, years of cow liquidation across both the beef and dairy sectors have left an aging herd with limited replacement depth. Close warned that further reductions in processing capacity could discourage expansion, locking the industry into tighter supplies and slower recovery.

As noted, numbers in most cattle categories on Jan. 1 were flat with a year earlier. USDA estimated the 2025 calf crop at 32.9 million head, down 2% from the previous year’s calf crop. Calves born during the first half of 2025 were estimated at 24.2 million head, down 2% from the first half of 2024. Calves born during the second half of 2025 were estimated at 8.70 million head, 26% of the total 2025 calf crop.

Tight cattle supplies caused Tyson Foods’ beef segment to have an operating loss of \$319 million in Tyson’s 2026 first quarter ended Dec. 27, compared to a \$26 million operating loss in

HERD REBUILDING SCARCELY BEGINS

2025’s first quarter. Tight feedlot supplies also helped cash live cattle price surge from late January well into February. Live prices averaged an all-time record of \$246.91/cwt the week ended Feb. 22, while dressed prices averaged a record \$387.95/cwt.

Meanwhile, strong U.S. beef demand continues to be the biggest surprise of 2025 and now into 2026. The industry has just entered its second weakest demand month of the year. But consumers got minor relief on beef prices in January as retail prices fell somewhat from December. USDA’s All Fresh Beef price averaged \$9.47 per pound, down 8 cents from the month before. The Choice price averaged \$9.93/lb., down 15 cents from the prior month. But the prices were still up 16.2% and 16.4%, respectively, from January 2025. February retail beef prices are expected to print lower again, as February is the weakest demand month of the year for beef. The industry cannot expect much relief this month either.

The beef product market has yet to respond to the reduced levels of production, suggesting that the current levels are not low enough to stimulate interest and will need to move even lower, says Bob Wilson of HedgersEdge.com. While the last four weeks saw cash live cattle prices advance over 6.5%, the Choice cutout was up less than 2%. The average retail beef price fell in January from the previous month as consumers adjusted their purchases for the uncertainty they feel. As the song lyrics say, “Someone’s going to have to explain it to me.” This type of economic environment is not sustainable, he says.

Wilson made his comments the week before last, which saw the national comprehensive cutout (cuts, grinds and trim) increase \$0.25/cwt from the prior week. The slaughter total the week before last was an estimated 516,000 head, and this pushed up daily boxed beef prices sharply higher the first three days of last week. The Choice cutout gained \$12.53/cwt while the Select cutout gained \$6.33/cwt. Fed cattle meanwhile continue to reflect their long-fed status through near-record carcass weights and grading. For the week ended Feb. 14, they graded a combined 87.70%, second only to the 87.72% set the week ended Jan. 24 this year. — **Steve Kay, WLJ columnist**

(Steve Kay is editor/publisher of Cattle Buyers Weekly, an industry newsletter published at P.O. Box 2533, Petaluma, CA, 94953; 707-765-1725. Kay’s Korner appears exclusively in WLJ.)

GUEST OPINION

Lately, farmers and ranchers have had no shortage of reasons to feel frustrated. We’re facing a tough economy, rising costs and prolonged uncertainty around key policies that shape our ability to plan for the future. But in recent weeks, we’ve also seen some encouraging progress.

From progress on the farm bill to new trade agreements and growing momentum for year-round E15, there’s been meaningful movement that shows agriculture’s priorities are being heard. It doesn’t mean the work is finished, but it does mean momentum is building, and that matters.

Congress has taken an important step forward on the farm bill. Recently, House Agriculture Chairman Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA-15) released updated farm bill text, and the committee was preparing to mark it up. We’re still reviewing the text of the bill, but this progress is welcome, and it shows momentum is real.

Farmers and ranchers have been waiting far too long for the certainty that only a new, modernized farm bill can provide. While the One Big Beautiful Bill Act included an essential and meaningful investment in the farm safety net, we still need a comprehensive farm bill that modernizes important farm programs. Critical policy updates in conservation, credit, research, rural development and other farm bill titles are still on the line, and delays only add more uncertainty at a time when agriculture can least afford it.

Since the last farm bill was passed in 2018, agriculture has weathered a pandemic, runaway inflation, rising interest rates and historic supply chain and market disruptions. At the same time, farmers are expected to produce more, adapt faster and manage more risk than ever before. Progress on the farm bill is encouraging, but progress only matters if it leads to passage. Congress must finish the job.

We’re also seeing positive movement on trade—and that’s good news for farmers, who depend on reliable export markets. The administration recently concluded trade agreements with Argentina, El Salvador, Guatemala and Taiwan, along with announcing a new framework deal with India. These developments help expand market access, reduce barriers and create more certainty for U.S. agricultural exports. Just as important as reach-

MOMENTUM IS BUILDING FOR AGRICULTURE

ing these agreements is making sure they are enforced, so farmers and ranchers see the full benefits of trade commitments.

Momentum on trade was also evident during a recent Senate Finance Committee hearing on the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Senators highlighted how critical USMCA is to North American agriculture, supply chains and export growth. The hearing also covered the need to address unfinished business, including dairy access to Canada, as the agreement heads into its upcoming review process. Strong trade relationships matter, and it’s essential they continue to work for America’s farmers and ranchers.

Another encouraging sign is the continued movement toward year-round E15. Congress recently established the E15 Rural Domestic Energy Council to advance legislation to deliver year-round E15.

From the moment the council was announced, Farm Bureau was ready to engage and ensure the farmer perspective was part of the conversation. Our staff quickly met with the council’s co-chairs to ensure agriculture has a seat at the table as solutions are developed. To help inform the council’s work, Farm Bureau also joined a broad coalition of E15 stakeholders on a letter outlining potential paths forward.

For farmers, timing matters. Year-round E15 would strengthen domestic demand for American-grown crops, expand consumer choice, and support energy security. Momentum on E15 is encouraging, and it’s crucial we keep moving forward and get this done.

Taken together, these developments show that engagement works. When farmers speak up and stay involved, it leads to real results. Now is the time for lawmakers to hear directly from the people most affected by these decisions. I encourage farmers, ranchers and everyone who cares about the future of agriculture to stay engaged and make their voices heard through our Action Center.

We’re seeing agriculture climb priority lists in Washington. Let’s keep that momentum going and make sure progress turns into lasting solutions that strengthen American agriculture for years to come. — **Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation president**

WLJ

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

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Wildfires burn more than 300K acres across Plains, Midwest

An outbreak of wildfires across multiple states in February left land burnt, cattle dead, structures ruined and feed piles destroyed.

The Ranger Road Fire, which started Feb. 17 in Beaver County, OK, spread into Kansas and burned over 283,000 acres. Other fires have affected another 30,000-plus acres across other states.

and we’re keeping our four injured firefighters in our prayers as they recover after working tirelessly,” said Stitt. He praised the efforts of the firefighters and forestry crews as well as the evacuation of towns that were in the line of the fire. Stitt stressed the importance of everyone staying alert and taking fire warnings seriously.

The eastern Iowa fire traveled across soybean residue and Conservation Reserve Program land, with a lot of tall dead grass serving as fuel for the fire. “Small-town fire departments are pretty amazing,” he added.

Drought conditions continue

The most recent U.S. Drought Monitor shows several areas of severe or extreme drought in these areas. The latest report showed 48.58% of the U.S. is in moderate drought or worse, with 146.3 million people living in

areas of drought conditions. DTN ag meteorologist Teresa Wells said: “Over the last 60 days, precipitation has largely been below average across the Southern Plains, Mississippi Delta and Ohio Valley. Across Nebraska and Kansas, precipitation has been closer to average; however, this hasn’t put the brakes on wildfire risks late this winter across the region. This week, we’ve seen critical fire weather conditions develop across the Plains and Midwest.” Wells said precipitation was limited, and gusty winds contributed to the fire risks.

“Dry conditions, combined with gusty winds and warm temperatures, are a recipe for elevated wildfire conditions, especially when there hasn’t been a green-up in the vegetation,” she added.

Over the next seven days, precipitation was expected to miss the southern Plains, where wildfire activity has been elevated lately. Storm systems from the West will move across the north-central U.S. As these systems move through, they could bring isolated rain and snow showers. A system that moved through the central

Plains and Midwest brought a swath of snow, providing some beneficial moisture.

Fire weather watches and red flag warnings continue for many areas of Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Texas, New Mexico and Colorado.

Several funds have been set up to help producers affected by the recent wildfires:

- Oklahoma Cattlemen’s Foundation Fire Relief Fund: tinyurl.com/5kyjxnva.
- Kansas Livestock Foundation Wildfire Relief: tinyurl.com/3tfyfn72. — **Jennifer Carrico, DTN senior livestock editor**

“Dry conditions, combined with gusty winds and warm temperatures, are a recipe for elevated wildfire conditions, especially when there hasn’t been a green-up in the vegetation.”

— Teresa Wells

The Kansas Department of Agriculture said high winds and dry conditions contributed to wildfires in several locations across Kansas. They suggest farmers and ranchers document any losses they have.

Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly (D) issued a state of disaster emergency proclamation before the fires spread, noting the drying grass, blowing dust and shifting winds cause rapid fire growth and erratic fire behavior.

Ashland, KS, the area affected by the Starbuck Fire nine years ago, was in the line of this fire, as well. Grassland was destroyed and cattle were lost again in the recent fire, but not to the extent of the previous fire.

Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt (R) signed an executive order declaring a state of emergency in Beaver, Texas and Woodward counties due to the destructive wildfires in northwest Oklahoma.

“A few homes were lost,

High winds cause fire spread

Weather conditions, including high winds, caused the spread of a fire in Johnson County, IA, west of Iowa City on Feb. 18. Tyler Rogers, who had 600 acres of ground burnt in the fire, said 60-mile-per-hour winds made it hard to fight the blaze.

“We had 14 fire departments and many farmers and neighbors doing what it took to protect the houses and buildings,” Rogers said. “These fire departments are a top-notch group that never backed down until they got it handled.”

The departments fought with water while farmers brought tractors and discs and other implements to plow the soil to slow the fire.

Joe Burns has a farm about 1 1/2 miles east of the area where the fire happened. He said it jumped a wide paved road twice and three different gravel roads.

Free suicide prevention webinars available

Addressing the wellness needs of those working in agriculture or related areas will be the focus of the upcoming “Question. Persuade. Refer.” (QPR) suicide prevention webinars sponsored by North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension. Two sessions are scheduled: March 25 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. and April 21 from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

The 90-minute webinars will address concerns of high stress levels in agriculture-related jobs and the toll they take on mental and emotional well-being.

Research indicates the suicide rate is significantly higher for those working in agriculture. The QPR trainings will provide participants with skills to recognize warning signs of a mental health crisis or suicidal thinking and to respond in an appropriate and supportive way.

“Ongoing farm and ranch

stress takes a toll on health, including mental and emotional well-being,” said Sean Brotherson, NDSU Extension family science specialist. “We say, ‘Sometimes you need help, and sometimes you are help.’”

NDSU Extension agents Katie Henry (Cavalier County) and Jill Sokness (Cass County), as well as Madeleine Smith, NDSU Extension pesticide specialist, will facilitate the webinars.

Although the training will focus on people working in and around agriculture, anyone interested in the topic can register. There is no cost for the training, which is supported by a USDA grant.

Registration is limited to the first 30 participants per webinar. Register at ndsu.ag/qpr-ndsu-mar2026 for the March session and ndsu.ag/qpr-ndsu-apr2026 for the April session. — **NDSU Extension**

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Lot 1

SITZ Hi-Country 729N

Reg # 21204882

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Claw	PAP	HP
15	-2.3	73	118	1.38	0.34	0.52	12.1
Milk	Teat	FL	CW	Marb	REA	\$M	\$C
30	0.85	1.14	51	0.57	0.96	94	270



Lot 2

SITZ Hi-Country 727N

Reg # 21204880

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Claw	PAP	HP
4	0.8	75	130	2.60	0.30	2.56	9.3
Milk	Teat	FL	CW	Marb	REA	\$M	\$C
36	0.80	1.12	56	0.50	0.93	79	251



Lot 4

SITZ Hi-Country 692N

Reg # 21204852

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Claw	PAP	HP
8	-0.8	71	127	1.05	0.24	-1.04	13.1
Milk	Teat	FL	CW	Marb	REA	\$M	\$C
28	0.85	1.25	55	0.71	0.93	92	290



Lot 60

SITZ Insignia 671N

Reg # 21251753

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Claw	PAP	HP
8	0.7	93	156	0.76	0.33	-0.73	20.4
Milk	Teat	FL	CW	Marb	REA	\$M	\$C
27	0.99	1.08	79	0.79	0.76	116	336



Lot 107

SITZ Heritage 698N

Reg # 21204855

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Claw	PAP	HP
11	-1.5	71	132	0.88	0.45	1.62	13.8
Milk	Teat	FL	CW	Marb	REA	\$M	\$C
28	0.70	1.18	57	0.83	0.60	108	313



Lot 135

SITZ Eternity 597N

Reg # 21204787

CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	Claw	PAP	HP
9	0.7	87	146	1.41	0.39	0.33	14.3
Milk	Teat	FL	CW	Marb	REA	\$M	\$C
31	0.85	1.14	78	0.78	1.00	100	341

To find out more, visit

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124N NJW 151J 3146L WEST 124N ET CED 6.5 BW 2.8 WW 73 YW 112 MILK 36 UDDR 1.50 TEAT 1.50 REA .78 MARB .21



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LEGAL LEDGER

CPW to discuss fur-ban measure

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission is set to discuss a citizen petition on a commercial fur ban at its March 4-5 meeting. On March 4, the commission will consider whether to deny two petitions as recommended by the director: a citizen petition requesting mandatory checks for bobcats, swift fox and beavers; and a citizen petition prohibiting the sale of furbearer furs with some exemptions. "Outside activist organizations are pressuring the CPW Commission to bypass science, ignore voters, and impose a commercial fur ban that Colorado has already rejected," the Colorado Cattlemen's Association said in opposition to the petition in an e-newsletter. In addition to the citizen petitions, the commission will also review five wolf compensation claims and a formal request to delay additional wolf releases.

Farmer Bridge Assistance enrollments open

The USDA has opened the enrollment period for the Farmer Bridge Assistance program, which will provide \$11 billion in one-time bridge payments to row crop producers in response to trade market disruptions and increased production costs. The payments are authorized under the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act. The enrollment period closes April 17, and applications can be submitted at fsa.usda.gov/fba. USDA also announced \$1 billion in assistance for specialty crop farmers with commodities that were not covered under the Farmer Bridge Assistance program. Specialty crop producers have until March 13 to report 2025 acres to USDA's Farm Service Agency.

USFWS authorizes wolf taking for NM ranch

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) granted a permit for the taking of one Mexican gray wolf to a ranch in New Mexico. The permit is valid for 45 days, from Feb. 19 through April 4, and authorizes the lethal removal of a wolf in the act of biting, killing or wounding livestock on federal land within the Cow Springs and Red Hill North allotments in western New Mexico. "This permit is being issued to address chronic depredations within this area and assist the USFWS in completing a control action," the permit read.

\$212M awarded for market access programs

USDA announced it is awarding more than \$212 million through the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) program to help expand agricultural export markets. More than \$181 million will be awarded to 68 nonprofit organizations and cooperatives through MAP, and more than \$31 million will be allocated to 18 trade organizations representing U.S. agricultural producers through FMD. "These programs have a proven track record of delivering critical returns for U.S. farmers, ranchers and the entire red meat supply chain," said U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) President and CEO Dan Halstrom. "USMEF greatly appreciates our inclusion in the programs, and we look forward to further expanding global demand for U.S. red meat in the year ahead."

Clellan appointed as new CPW director

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission voted Feb. 23 to appoint Laura Clellan as the new director of CPW. Clellan has served as acting director since December, following former CPW Director Jeff Davis' departure from the role. "During that time, Clellan provided steady leadership and continuity for the agency while the Colorado Department of Natural Resources and the Commission conducted a formal search process," the commission said. She was previously chief for leadership and employee development for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Lakewood, CO. Clellan has more than 30 years of military service and worked for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, and also served as adjutant general and executive director of the Colorado Department of Military and Veterans Affairs before retiring from the role in October.

Lawsuit seeks monarch ESA protections

The Center for Biological Diversity and Center for Food Safety are suing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to set a date to finalize federal protections for monarch butterflies under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The monarch was proposed for protection in December 2024, making the final listing due in December 2025. "The Service must finalize monarchs' protections from their threats, including and especially pesticides, which have been a major driver of their rapid decline," said George Kimbrell, legal director at the Center for Food Safety and counsel in the case. "The Service's duty is to protect monarchs not corporations."

Cargill, Tyson reach poultry pollution settlement

Tyson Foods and Cargill will settle for more than \$25 million in a poultry litter pollution case that has spanned 20 years in Oklahoma. "For over two decades, Oklahoma has fought to protect the Illinois River Watershed and the natural resources that sustain our communities," said Oklahoma Attorney General Genter Drummond. "The decision to settle by Tyson and Cargill makes one thing unmistakably clear: corporate accountability is not optional, and protecting Oklahoma's water can, and must, go hand in hand with a strong poultry and agricultural industry." The case was originally filed in 2005 and sought to hold poultry companies accountable for alleged phosphorus pollution from poultry waste. Tyson will pay \$19 million for remediation and conservation of the Illinois River Watershed. Cargill and Cargill Turkey Production will pay \$6.5 million.

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Drainage water management workshop on March 18

North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension and University of Minnesota Extension will jointly host a drainage water management workshop on March 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Memorial Union on NDSU's campus in Fargo, ND. The in-person workshop is designed to help farmers and agricultural professionals better understand drainage systems and make informed drainage management decisions.

This one-day event will focus on how subsurface (tile) drainage works, the basics of drainage design,

and the performance and economic returns of drainage investments. Participants will also learn how soil characteristics influence drainage suitability and what factors should be considered before installing drainage systems.

"Properly designed tile drainage systems are long-term investments that can significantly enhance field performance and water management," said Laxmi Prasad, NDSU Extension water engineer. "This workshop brings together leading drainage experts to share science-based knowledge

and practical insights that will help participants make well-informed drainage management decisions."

The workshop is intended for farmers, landowners, crop consultants, drainage contractors and conservation professionals interested in improving field performance while avoiding costly mistakes. Sessions will provide practical, field-based guidance and real-world examples to support effective planning, installation and long-term management of drainage systems. Session speakers will emphasize asking the

right questions and making decisions that support both productivity and water management goals.

Registration details and a full agenda are available at ndsu.ag/drainage-mgmt-26.

The cost to attend is \$35, and lunch and refreshments will be included.

For questions about the workshop, contact Prasad at laxmi.prasad@ndsu.edu. For registration or accommodation questions, contact Julie Bietz at 701-231-7273 or julie.bietz@ndsu.edu. — **NDSU Extension**

USDA seeks farmers' views on its data

USDA is asking farmers and other stakeholders to help examine how USDA can improve its data collection and analysis.

There are growing questions over whether errors in USDA statistics come from changes no one could have predicted or if there are systemic issues with USDA's data collection and reporting.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins announced Feb. 20 at the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum that the department is issuing a Request for Information (RFI) to examine USDA's statistical data collection, analysis and research.

In her speech, Rollins noted some of the goals of the Outlook Forum are to share USDA's forecasts for the agricultural economy, commodity markets, trade and farm income.

"None of these forecasts would be possible without the incredible work of the USDA economists and statisticians who collect and analyze this important data that has historically been considered the gold standard for market reporting," she said.

Still, Rollins said there is room for improvement. Farmers around the country frequently question how numbers come together and what can be done to improve them.

"We want to ensure at USDA that we are framing the status of the market, not driving price outcomes, and that will be a major effort over the next year," Rollins said.

The RFI will include a 45-day comment period that will be used for feedback that USDA will discuss at its 2026 spring data users meeting on April 22 in Kansas City, MO.

At a panel discussion at the Outlook Forum, USDA officials talked about how data flows into the monthly World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates reports as well as how the National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts its surveys and statistical work.

Deputy Secretary Stephen Vaden said USDA expects its data to be the best to ensure farmers have accurate information to make decisions about their operations.

"Our data has to be the best, because if it is wrong, even if that error is—as I'm certain it would be—unintentional, then farmers may be making erroneous decisions because of things that we are telling them," Vaden said.

At the end of the day, Vaden said, USDA economists' job is to provide the truth, even if it is not what people want to hear. "Our economists' job is not to be popular, it is merely to be right—because that's what we ask of them," Vaden said.

For corn farmers, 2025 was frustrating because NASS continued to upwardly adjust corn planted acreage. Last March, USDA projected 94 million acres, then

bumped it up to 95.2 million acres in the June Acreage report. USDA continued to adjust both the corn planted and harvested acreage upward through the January report, coming in at 98.8 million acres planted and 91.3 million acres harvested.

"But obviously, as the year went on, we found out there were a lot more corn acres than that," said Lance Honig, USDA's chair of the Agricultural Statistics Board.

One of the bigger challenges for NASS is that response rates continue to decline for its surveys, especially the longer ones. Surveys are still the primary source of data, but response rates over the past decade have fallen from the 60% range down to 40-50%.

"There are growing demands on farmers' time, right," Honig said. "It's not just NASS that's reaching out to get information from producers. So right off the bat we've just simply got the challenge that we're fighting for their time."

Beyond surveys, NASS used satellite information as well. For larger crops, satellite information can be pretty accurate, but Honig said it is slow to get the information. Yield data is sometimes quicker but less reliable.

"Satellites can only tell you about acreage that is planted," Honig said, noting a soybean field may look great from the sky, but a satellite can't count the pods.

USDA also relies on Farm Service Agency acreage data, but that also comes in over a period of time.

"From a planted acres standpoint, you can't beat the certified acres," Honig said.

The Risk Management Agency also provides yield data, but that information comes in months after the crop is harvested. Honig said it was important for the market to continue providing that new information. Without it, people would continue trading in a market with inaccurate information about the size of the crop, which came in at more than 17 billion bushels after January's revisions.

"Imagine as big a shock it was in January, when we produced a 17-billion-bushel estimate," Honig said. "Imagine if the market had still been trading way down below 16 billion bushels. How big of a shock would that have been? So, bringing new information to market as quickly as possible provides tremendous benefit."

Corn acreage isn't the only crop question that drew complaints at the forum. One speaker raised questions about USDA's forecasts for sugar imports, saying the department frequently forecasts lower sugar imports than what actually occur, bringing down sugar prices for farmers in the process as well.

— **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

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SIRE: AAR Essential
MGS: Square B True North 8052
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MILK +31 \$M +87 \$W +100 \$C +272

LOT 8

LCC Republic 537



AAA 21409523

SIRE: Raven Republic
MGS: Sitz Accomplishment 720F
CED +12 BW +0 WW +73 YW +125
MILK +25 \$M +82 \$W +78 \$C +223

LOT 10

LCC Prolific 560



AAA 21411484

SIRE: Ellingson Prolific
MGS: Riverbend 1682 E219
CED +5 BW +1.7 WW +83 YW +153
MILK +30 \$M +101 \$W +87 \$C +325

LOT 11

LCC Prolific 524



AAA 21411447

SIRE: Ellingson Prolific
MGS: Sitz Resilient 10208
CED -3 BW +3.9 WW +87 YW +158
MILK +29 \$M +84 \$W +82 \$C +302

LOT 17

LCC Eternity 5124



AAA 21411445

SIRE: Sitz Eternity 739L
MGS: Tex Playbook 5437
CED +3 BW +1.7 WW +79 YW +141
MILK +43 \$M +92 \$W +98 \$C +276

LOT 20

LCC Eternity 5108



AAA 21411460

SIRE: Sitz Eternity 739L
MGS: Sitz Stellar 726D
CED +10 BW -.2 WW +78 YW +142
MILK +27 \$M +79 \$W +77 \$C +274

LOT 26

LCC Jameson N45



AAA 21409584

SIRE: Basin Jameson 1076
MGS: Leadore Upward Z23
CED +11 BW +.3 WW +100 YW +165
MILK +36 \$M +73 \$W +117 \$C +303

LOT 40

LCC Craftsman 5154



AAA 21409715

SIRE: Connealy Craftsman 1076
MGS: Sitz Stellar 726G
CED -.1 BW +2.0 WW +80 YW +139
MILK +32 \$M +98 \$W +89 \$C +302

LOT 46

LCC Essential 529



AAA 21440955

SIRE: AAR Essential
MGS: Sitz Stellar 726D
CED +8 BW +.5 WW +71 YW +122
MILK +28 \$M +28 \$W +76 \$C +263

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A snapshot of the cattle feeding industry

The latest USDA Cattle on Feed report showed feedlot inventories at 11.505 million head on Feb. 1, down 1.8% year over year and the 15th consecutive month of declining feed inventories. January placements were down 4.7%

year over year while January marketings were down 13% compared to last year. January marketings were likely hampered by the winter storm at the end of the month, pushing some January marketing into February. The report was well

anticipated and did not contain any surprises for the market. The February Cattle on Feed report also contains a summary of 2025 and a look at the structure of the cattle feeding industry. A total of 26,082

feedlots are reported in the country with 24,000 of those with less than 1,000 head capacity. Those small feedlots, amounting to 92% of all feedlots, only accounted for 12.9% of total feedlot marketings last year. Average marketings from those small feedlots was less than 126 head for the year.

A total of 2,082 feedlots with more than 1,000 head capacity (included in monthly reports) accounted for 87.1% of the 23.483 million head of feedlot marketings. Figure 1 shows the size distribution of feedlots with greater than 1,000 head capacity. Figure 1 shows that 60% of feedlots with 1,000 head or more have between 1,000 and 4,000 head of capacity. However, Figure 2 shows that these feedlots only account for about 9% of marketings.

The largest feedlots included 4% with capacity greater

than 50,000 head and 3% with capacity between 32,000 and 50,000 head. However, the largest feedlots account for 41% of fed cattle marketed along with another 18% for the second largest category (Figure 2). Thus, 7.1% of the largest feedlots marketed 58.8% of fed cattle in 2025. For feedlots with more than 50,000 head capacity, 82 feedlots marketed 8.39 million head, or average marketings per feedlot of 102,317 head in 2025.

USDA also estimates total feedlot capacity in the country at 17.1 million head, down fractionally year over year. Feedlot capacity has averaged 17.07 million head for the past 20 years, ranging from 16.7 million head in 2009 to 17.3 million head in 2017. Total feedlot capacity has varied between 17.1 and 17.2 million head since 2018. The total feedlot inventory on Jan. 1 was

81% of total feedlot capacity; with feedlots with more than 1,000 head capacity utilizing 67% of total feedlot capacity.

Figure 3 shows that the cattle feeding industry has grown relative to the overall size of the cattle industry. As 2026 begins, 16.1% of all the cattle in the country were in feedlots, down slightly from the peak in 2024 and 2025. The Jan. 1 feedlot inventory was 56.5% of the estimated feeder supply of 24.5 million head, implying that there are 1.77 head of feeder cattle available to enter feedlots relative to the current feedlot inventory. With an estimated feedlot turnover rate of 1.99, the current supply of feeder cattle is not sufficient to maintain the current feedlot inventory. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Figure 1. Feedlots By Capacity (Head), 2025
Feedlots >1000 Head

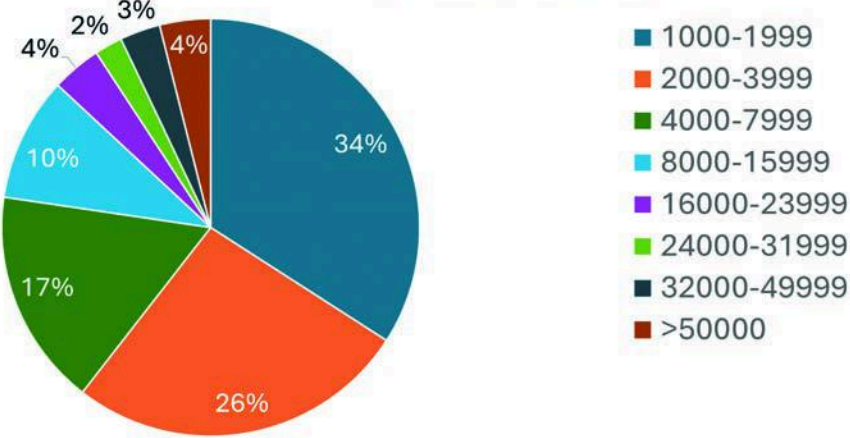


Figure 2. Feedlot Marketings By >1000 Head Capacity, 2025

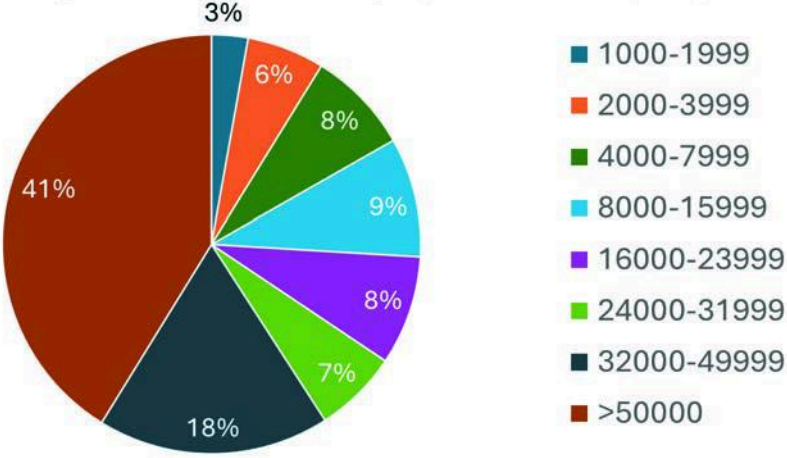
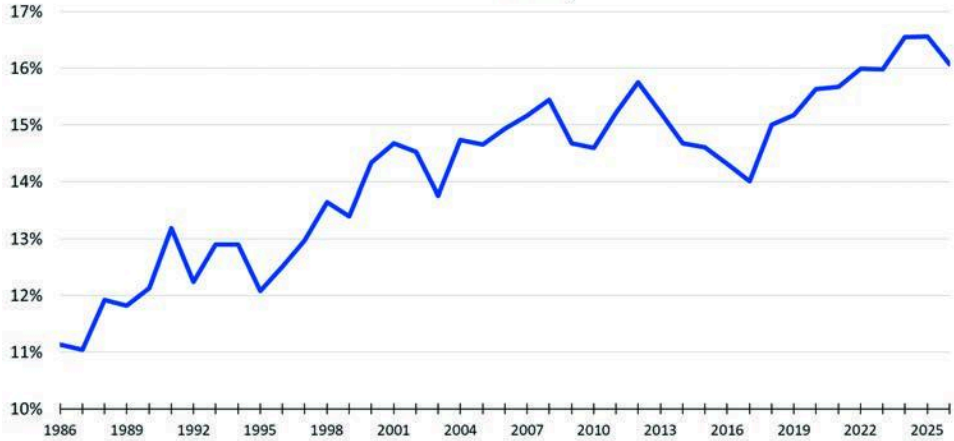


Figure 3. Cattle on Feed as % of All Cattle and Calves
January 1





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Pearce faces questions about public lands as he seeks federal post

Former Republican New Mexico Congressman Steve Pearce faced multiple rounds of questions about his public lands record Feb. 25 during his first U.S. Senate committee confirmation hearing for director of the federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

If the Senate confirms him, Pearce, who represented the state's 2nd Congressional District from 2011 to 2019, would oversee 245 million acres of public lands, including for recreation, cattle grazing and extraction of oil and natural gas.

President Donald Trump nominated Pearce for the

post in November, drawing swift condemnation from environmental groups that pointed to his record in Congress, including his co-sponsoring of bills undermining the Antiquities Act, which allows the president to designate national monuments, and opening national forests to industry.

Senators on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, where U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) is the ranking member, held a roughly two-hour hearing to question three of Trump's nominees. Most of their attention centered on Pearce, who founded

an oilfield services company in Hobbs before getting into politics and serving as the state's Republican party chair until late 2024.

The other nominees who faced questions are Kyle Haustveit, seeking to become the Energy Department undersecretary, and David LaCerte, seeking reappointment to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

The committee won't vote on the nominees for at least a week. After that, Pearce will face a confirmation hearing before the full Senate.

In his opening statement, Pearce drew on his experi-

ence as a Vietnam veteran and time in Congress, and recounted fighting for constituents who sought federal approval or dollars to graze their cattle nearby or clear sediment from the Blue Hole recreational spring in Santa Rosa.

"If confirmed, I fully intend to uphold these same principles as BLM director and ensure local input is a key factor in my decision-making," he said.

Multiple Democratic senators, including Heinrich and U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), asked Pearce whether he disavowed previous statements

about selling off public lands. Wyden pointed to a letter Pearce co-wrote in Congress in 2012 urging for the "disposal of some of the federal government's vast land holdings" to prevent tax hikes.

Pearce noted that while he's not sure his position has changed, he wrote the letter out of "sheer frustration." He added that a "wholesale" sell-off of public land is currently illegal under federal law.

Heinrich told Pearce he'd received concerned letters from local elected officials in southern New Mexico about Pearce's previous opposition to the 2014 designation of Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument and subsequent efforts to shrink the monument's footprint.

Pearce said he does not plan to revisit the "hotly contested issue" if confirmed as BLM director.

"I very rarely look in the rear view mirror, and especially looking at this job and the amount of work ahead of us, I don't anticipate going back and reviewing that at the end of the day," he said.

Pearce would take over at the BLM amid Trump's push to increase domestic energy production, boost domestic oil and gas extraction and roll back the "Public Land Rule," which sought to ensure conservation of public lands re-

ceived due consideration along with mining, timber, grazing, recreation or other uses.

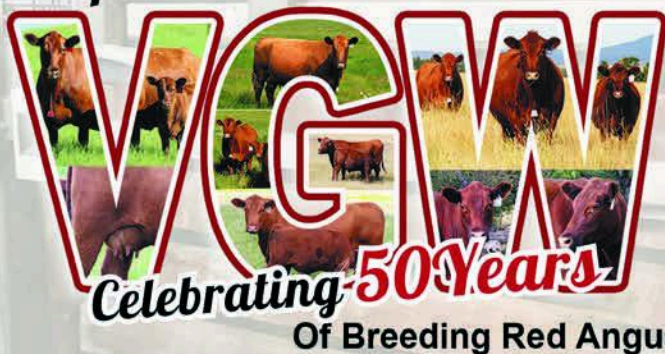
In late December, he committed to the Interior Department's Ethic Office that he would divest within 90 days of being confirmed from several oil and gas leases he held in the Permian Basin, as well as interests in companies like gas company Chevron and chip-maker NVIDIA.

Committee Chair U.S. Sen. Mike Lee (R-UT), who introduced legislation last June that would have mandated the disposal of up to 75% of public lands, said at the end of the hearing that he'd received 18 letters of support for Pearce's nomination.

He identified supporters as the Navajo Nation and the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association also previously expressed support for Pearce's confirmation.

Environmental groups have continued to pressure the Senate to vote against Pearce, including in a statement following the hearing. Mike Carroll, a campaign director for the Wilderness Society, told Source NM that unless he disavows his previous views on public lands, Pearce is unfit to be director. —**Patrick Lohmann, Source New Mexico**

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Lawsuit challenges Interior NEPA rule

NEPA RULE (from page 1)

sections on how lead agencies are chosen when multiple agencies are involved, and how cooperating agencies participate in environmental reviews.

NEPA rescissions

The interim rule removed most of the agency's formal NEPA regulations in favor of departmental guidance. The rule kept and updated several tools in the regulations that Interior agencies use to speed up environmental reviews while still complying with NEPA.

"By shifting most procedural requirements into a Departmental handbook, the Department provides clear, practical guidance to staff while preserving flexibility to meet operational and project needs," DOI said.

The agency expects the reforms to reduce delays and costs for projects on public lands, including energy development, critical minerals, livestock grazing approvals, infrastructure, wildfire mitigation, water projects and conservation efforts.

As part of a Regulatory Impact Analysis, the agency estimates the final rule will save hundreds of millions of dollars, although the DOI notes "little quantifiable information exists on the costs and benefits of completing NEPA analyses."

"These reforms do not eliminate environmental review," the DOI emphasized.

"NEPA remains in full effect, and Interior will continue to consider environmental impacts and other impacts to the human environment, coordinate with tribes, state and local governments, and other partners, and comply with all applicable environmental laws."

Congressional Western Caucus Chair Celeste Maloy applauded the DOI's action. "For far too long, burdensome regulations have slowed progress on critical projects across America," Maloy said. "Thanks to the Trump Administration, these initiatives now have clearer requirements and a more streamlined path forward, removing unnecessary procedural obstacles that once threatened to bring them to a standstill."

Environmental groups sued the DOI in December, alleging the agency failed to follow the law when issuing its interim final rule.

"Interior's revised procedures, adopted in a rushed rulemaking process that sidestepped basic (Administrative Procedures Act) procedural requirements, now make public involvement in nearly all aspects of the NEPA process non-existent or, at best, entirely discretionary," court documents read in a case brought by the Center for Biological Diversity and Sierra Club that is still ongoing.

The agency will begin implementing the updated procedures immediately. —**Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**

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Economics of native beef and beef-dairy steers in yearling systems

The rapid growth of beef × dairy crossbreeding is reshaping feeder cattle supplies across the country. As dairy producers increasingly breed dairy cows to beef sires to capture added value on non-replacement calves, more dairy × beef crossbred steers are entering Oklahoma feedlots. That trend raises an important question: how do these dairy crossbreds compare economically with beef steers in our traditional yearling systems?

A collaborative study conducted by Oklahoma State University's (OSU) Departments of Animal and Food Sciences and Agricultural Economics evaluated profitability of beef steers and dairy crossbred steers in both calf-fed and yearling-fed finishing systems at a commercial feedlot in Buffalo, OK. Calf-fed steers were placed on feed following dry lot backgrounding, while yearlings grazed summer pasture at the OSU Marvin Klemme Range Research Station before feedlot entry.

Performance differed by both breed type and system. Beef steers gained faster than dairy crossbred calves during grazing. However, during finishing, yearling-fed cattle outperformed calf-fed cattle regardless of breed. Dairy crossbred yearlings posted the highest average daily gain in the feed-

lot and exhibited compensatory gain that more than offset prior weight differences relative to beef steers.

Calf-fed beef and dairy crossbred steers had the lowest gains. While yearlings consumed more feed, feed efficiency was similar among treatments. Carcass data favored dairy crossbred steers, which produced fewer Select and more upper Choice and Prime carcasses.

Despite carcass value advantages, total cost of production ultimately determined profitability. Yearling-fed beef steers generated the highest net return—nearly \$485 per head—and the lowest cost of production, with \$112/steer greater net returns than yearling fed dairy crossbred steers and \$126 greater net returns than calf-fed beef or dairy cross steers.

When grazing resources are available, yearling systems reduce cost of gain and improve profitability, which is a hallmark of production systems in Oklahoma. Dairy crossbred steers can compete economically—particularly under current grid structures that heavily discount straight dairy cattle but apply only modest discounts to beef × dairy crosses. However, for retained ownership through stocker and finishing phases under conditions similar to this analysis, beef × dairy steers

should be purchased at approximately a \$20/cwt discount relative to native beef steers.

This research was supported by the USDA Critical Agricultural Research and Extension Award No. 2022-

68008-37102 and provides practical guidance for producers evaluating dairy-beef crossbreds within

Oklahoma production systems. — **Paul Beck, OSU Extension beef cattle nutrition specialist**

Record snow drought persists in New Mexico, across the West

Record-high winter temperatures and ongoing snow drought are leaving New Mexico with a fraction of its typical snow pack and at higher risk of wildfire, even after accounting for February storms, according to a recent briefing from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) scientists.

Like the rest of the West, the state is experiencing a record snow drought resulting from above-average temperatures since November. New Mexico and nine other states experienced the warmest three-month period between November and January in at least 131 years, said Dan McEvoy, a scientist with NOAA's Desert Research Institute, in a video the administration posted online.

The higher temperatures mean western states have experienced far more rain than snow this winter, leaving snow cover at fractions of previous averages. An atypical dry spell that afflicted New Mexico through much of January

meant the Rio Grande Basin's snow-water equivalent, a measure of the amount of water in snowpack, was at about 3.5 inches as of Feb. 17.

That amounts to 6% of the median the basin has experienced each winter since the 1990s, according to McEvoy's presentation, a percentage that increased only slightly after recent storms.

"We do see that the storms over the past week have had some impact on this basin, and this is all good news to get this snow and water in the snowpack," he said. "But again, it's not nearly enough to get close to those median values."

Projections from the National Resources Conservation Service, which don't include current weather forecasts, predict snowpack in the basin won't exceed 10% of the median throughout the rest of the winter. The Rio Grande Basin typically experiences peak snowpack in late February or early March, at median levels of about 8 inches, ac-

cording to the NOAA.

Even with a sharp increase in rain or snow over the coming weeks, both the Colorado and Rio Grande Basins will likely have far-below-normal snowpacks this winter, NOAA scientists concluded.

That lack of snowpack and ongoing drought could result in bigger wildfires across the West, particularly in the grasslands in eastern New Mexico, according to Tim Brown, another Desert Research Institute scientist who spoke at the briefing.

Snowpack compacts tall grasses and makes them less conducive to wildfire spread. Less snow pack makes for a "continuous fuel bed across miles and miles."

"If an ignition begins in there, and you have hot, dry, windy conditions, that will carry that fire. That's what we're seeing currently in some of these parts," he said, referring to ongoing wildfires in Oklahoma, "even in the middle of February."

A National Interagency Fire

Center forecast published earlier in February shows much of eastern New Mexico experiencing above-normal wildfire potential. By March, the wildfire risk will grow to include all of central New Mexico, as well, according to the forecast.

Brown predicted that drought and reduced snowpack will mean fewer opportunities this winter for prescribed burns to remove hazardous fuels, and higher-elevation vegetation could become more fire-prone in the meantime.

Still, he said some precipitation in the coming months could cause a "green-up" that propagates wildfire fuels, the timing and extent of which could spur bigger wildfires than if the region stayed dry through winter.

"It really comes down to what happens in between that snowpack, the runoff, and then when the fire season really kicks in," he said. — **Patrick Lohmann, Source New Mexico**



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MARCH 27, 2026

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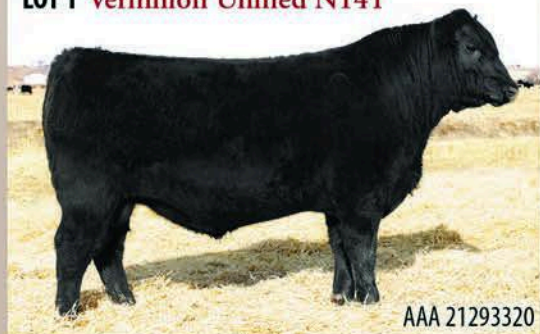
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LOT 1 Vermilion Unified N141



AAA 21293320

DOB: 2/15/25 Sire: Circle L Unified
BEPD +3.6 WEPD +102 YEPD +176 MILK +33
MARB +0.61 RE +1.15 \$M +87 \$C +328

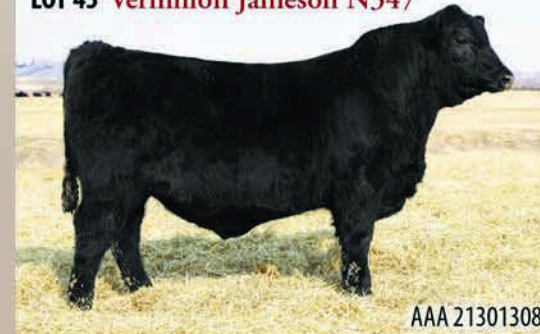
LOT 11 Vermilion Unified N322



AAA 21301284

DOB: 3/12/25 Sire: Circle L Unified
BEPD +3.1 WEPD +85 YEPD +135 MILK +37
MARB +0.85 RE +0.92 \$M +91 \$C +308

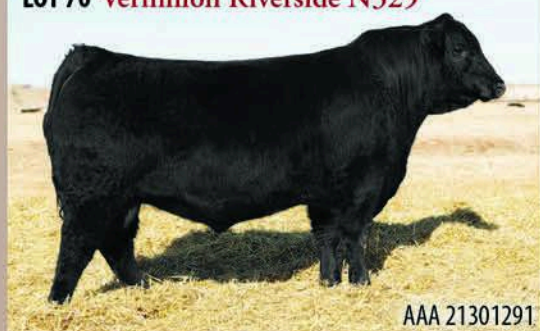
LOT 45 Vermilion Jameson N347



AAA 21301308

DOB: 2/20/25 Sire: Basin Jameson
BEPD +1.3 WEPD +94 YEPD +149 MILK +37
MARB +1.43 RE +0.72 \$M +104 \$C +357

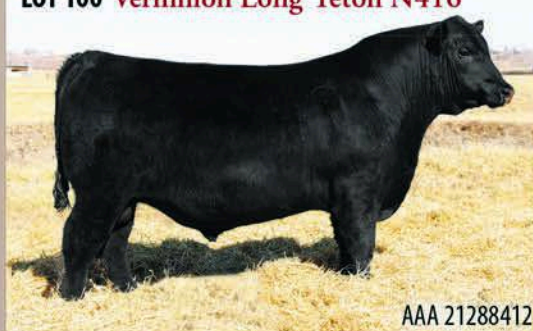
LOT 70 Vermilion Riverside N329



AAA 21301291

DOB: 2/25/25 Sire: Vermilion Riverside
BEPD +1.1 WEPD +89 YEPD +141 MILK +20
MARB +0.13 RE +1.29 \$M +103 \$C +292

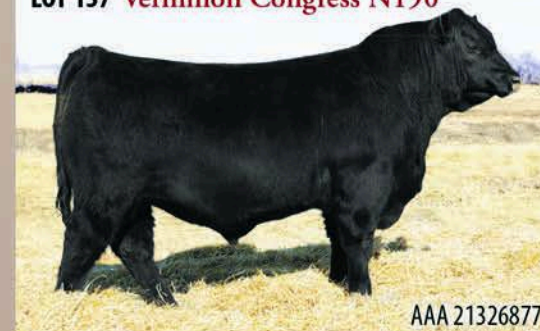
LOT 100 Vermilion Long Teton N416



AAA 21288412

DOB: 2/9/25 Sire: Long Teton 107
BEPD +2.2 WEPD +105 YEPD +191 MILK +37
MARB +1.12 RE +0.86 \$M +80 \$C +355

LOT 137 Vermilion Congress N190



AAA 21326877

DOB: 2/8/25 Sire: Deppe GAR Congress 3044
BEPD +1.3 WEPD +96 YEPD +163 MILK +33
MARB +0.61 RE +1.09 \$M +61 \$C +276



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Bull management from the sale to the pasture

Bull sales are prevalent this time of year, and current sale averages are setting records. Taking care of that bull investment from the time of purchase until he is turned in on pasture for the breeding season is critical. Forage plays an important role in this transition period.

Bulls from weaning to yearling age are often managed to measure their genetic growth potential. The type of feed ration they are developed on during this time can contain a high percentage of concentrates and a low percentage of forage to maximize growth

rate. At the end of this feeding period, some bulls may be “overconditioned,” which can affect their fertility and ability to settle cows.

Bulls that are overconditioned will have a body condition score (BCS) of 7 or higher on a scale of 1-9. Young bulls should be at a BCS of 6-6.5 at the start of the breeding season to compensate for weight loss during the breeding season. Bulls that are actively breeding can lose up to 200 pounds during the breeding period. Bulls at a BCS of 7 or higher can have fat deposits in the scrotum

that interfere with temperature regulation, which can affect semen quality.

Evaluation of overconditioned bulls at the University of Georgia found that only 41% passed a breeding soundness examination compared to an 81% passage rate of bulls in adequate condition. Bulls that are overconditioned may also lack the stamina required to work through an entire breeding season.

There are several management strategies that can ease the transition of bulls from being overconditioned to

breeding-season condition. When new bulls are brought into your operation, consider biosecurity. Ideally, bulls should be quarantined for 30 days or at least two weeks before being introduced to other animals. This reduces the risks of introducing disease into your herd.

- Provide an area where bulls can exercise, with fresh water available.
- Give bulls time. A 90-day transition period is the best. This gives the bull time to adjust to different feeds, surroundings and routines. Another benefit of a 90-day tran-

sition period is that it fits the spermatogenesis cycle, which lasts approximately 60 days. If there are any problems with the bull’s semen quality, 90 days is enough time for a new cycle to complete and resolve any problems.

- Know what the feed ration was that the bull was developed on prior to purchase. Initially, after purchase, if he can continue to be fed a similar ration to what he has been used to, this will reduce stress and help to keep him healthy.
- Avoid rapid and dramatic changes in diet. If bulls have been developed on high-concentrate diets, the change to a forage-based diet should be gradual. Replace concentrate with forage at a rate of 10% a week over several weeks. While we don’t want young bulls to put on excessive condition, we still want them to grow.

A daily weight gain of 1.5-2 lbs. per day should be the target. To do this, bulls will need access to a good supply of quality forage. Forage quality should be 10% crude pro-

tein and 60-70% total digestible nutrients. Good grass hay or a grass legume blend will work well to stimulate rumen microbial development. Avoid feeding pure alfalfa hay that might cause bloat or other digestive issues. Aim to have the bull transitioned to a forage-based diet 2-3 weeks before the start of the breeding season. The goal is for him to be ready to consume and digest pasture and range forages.

Once bulls are out on pasture, they should be monitored for excessive weight loss or physical problems that can prevent them from breeding. If possible, provide bulls with supplementation to keep them growing and in good breeding condition.

If you buy bulls that are overconditioned and turn them straight out into pasture for breeding, you may not recognize them at the end of the breeding season. Time spent getting bulls into breeding-season shape is time well spent, just like an athlete training for a sporting event. — **North Dakota State University Extension**

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MRB	1.67
SC	340

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T/D CLEAR VIEW 4596 21046296

CED	7
WW	79
YW	146
MRB	1.46
SC	301

GC CLEARVIEW X401 X CASINO BOMBER N33

T/D DOUBT ME NOW 4712 21052020

CED	1
WW	88
YW	153
MRB	1.04
SC	325

T/D DOUBT ME NOW 0171 X T/D DOC RYAN 049

T/D DOC RYAN 4698 21052009

CED	6
WW	82
YW	142
MRB	1.19
SC	325

T/D DOC RYAN 049 X HOOVER NO DOUBT

T/D DOC RYAN 4621 21041963

CED	11
WW	85
YW	152
MRB	1.35
SC	321

T/D DOC RYAN 049 X BASIN DEPOSIT 6249

T/D DOC RYAN 4613 21040832

CED	5
WW	91
YW	159
MRB	1.09
SC	355

T/D DOC RYAN 049 X B/R MVP 5247

T/D CLEARVIEW 4721 21052026

CED	4
WW	74
YW	124
MRB	1.28
SC	353

GC CLEARVIEW X401 X MUSGRAVE 316 EXCLUSIVE

T/D JAMESON 4757 21068167

CED	11
WW	94
YW	165
MRB	1.47
SC	345

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Cattlemen's Beef Board releases 2025 report

The Cattlemen’s Beef Board (CBB) released its 2025 Impact Report. This report follows an updated format introduced in 2024, including the CBB’s annual financial statement and Beef Checkoff program evaluations all in one document.

“Even in a period of historically tight cattle supplies and higher retail prices, consumers continue choosing beef,” said Ryan Moorhouse, 2025 CBB chair. “That sustained demand doesn’t happen by chance. It reflects decades of strategic investment through the Beef Checkoff to promote beef, build consumer trust and reinforce its value in a competitive protein marketplace. The 2025 Impact Report highlights the measurable results of that work and the return it delivers to producers.”

The 2025 Impact Report provides a comprehensive overview of the fiscal year 2025 Authorization Requests supported by the Beef Checkoff across its six program areas: Promotion, Research, Consumer Information, Industry Information, Foreign Marketing and Producer Communications. For each Authorization Request, the report details the responsible contractors and subcontractors, allocated budgets, program objectives and documented outcomes. It also outlines specific tactics, progress toward defined performance goals, key insights gained and measures of efficiency. Together, this information offers beef industry stakeholders a transparent, results-driven view of how Checkoff investments are being put to work.

Colorful graphics provide interesting data about producer attitudes on the Beef Checkoff, as well as current consumer trends and behaviors. Easy-to-scan QR codes quickly link to online resources

about the CBB and the Beef Checkoff, including organizational structure, audited financials, governing documents, contractors, webinars, meetings and events, and the award-winning producer newsletter, The Drive.

Readers of the Impact Report will also find results from an independent review conducted by Agralytica Consulting in 2025. The firm assessed the breadth and depth of Checkoff-funded nutrition research and evaluated how effectively those findings are communicated to consumers. Additionally, Agralytica examined the research design, data management and application processes used in the Consumer Market Research and Meat Demand Monitor programs to ensure they meet high standards of rigor and relevance.

“I encourage anyone who wants a deeper understanding of how the Beef Checkoff is working on behalf of producers and importers to spend time with the 2025 Impact Report,” said Greg Hanes, CEO of CBB. “It offers a clear, data-driven look at the programs and partnerships advancing beef promotion, research and education, while also identifying insights that will help guide our work in the years ahead.

“The Checkoff’s success is built on collaboration, and this report underscores the essential role it plays in strengthening beef demand and keeping beef the protein of choice,” Hanes said.

For more information about the Beef Checkoff and its programs, including promotion, research, foreign marketing, industry information, consumer information and safety, contact CBB at 303-220-9890 or visit drivingdemandforbeef.com. — **CBB**

STORY SHORTS

Lubbock Feeders closing after 70 years

After 70 years in operation, Lubbock Feeders of Texas will close, marking the end of a major chapter in the southern Plains' agricultural economy. According to Everything Lubbock, the feedyard, established in 1955, fed more than 5 million head of cattle and celebrated its 70th anniversary in 2025. Manager and CEO Kyle Williams called the decision "tough and emotional," noting the legacy built by generations of cattle feeders and employees. Everything Lubbock cited economic and regulatory pressures, including USDA's closure of the southern border to Mexican cattle imports due to New World screwworm concerns, which cut off 60-70% of the supply. Williams says the yard will finish feeding out the remaining cattle currently on site before ceasing operations.

JBS expands with Middle East investment

JBS announced the creation of a new multiprotein production platform in Oman, investing \$150 million to serve the global halal market of roughly 2 billion consumers. JBS acquired an 80% stake in a new food holding company alongside Oman Food Capital, which retains a 20% stake, JBS said. The investment will complete A'Namaa's poultry plant in Ibri and expand Al Bashayer's beef and lamb facility in Thumrait, JBS noted. JBS expects annual capacity of 300,000 tons, processing 1,000 cattle, 5,000 lambs and 600,000 chickens daily. JBS said the project will create 3,000 jobs and marks its first upstream investment in the Middle East.

USDA announces \$263 million food purchase

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins announced USDA's intent to purchase up to \$263 million in dairy and agricultural products from American farmers to support food banks and nutrition assistance programs nationwide. Funded through Section 32 of the Agriculture Act of 1935, the purchases will supply USDA Foods to the Food and Nutrition Service, including the Emergency Food Assistance Program. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service will procure \$75 million in butter, \$32.5 million in cheddar products, \$10 million in Swiss cheese, \$30.5 million in milk, plus chickpeas, black and pinto beans, lentils, split peas, pears, pecans and walnuts.

CRSB launches Certified Producer Incentive

The Canadian Roundtable for Sustainable Beef (CRSB) launched the CRSB Certified Producer Incentive, recognizing producers who invest in certification under its Sustainable Beef Production Standard. In 2026, eligible producers who maintain certification as of June 30, 2026, or were certified between Jan. 1, 2025, and June 30, 2026, will receive a \$400 payment after meeting all qualifying cattle requirements. Incentives will continue annually, with future payments tied to CRSB Certified beef sold and dependent on available funds. Payments for the first year are expected to be distributed by October. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/yu23m6s5.

Multiple cattle theft cases spark arrests

A Colfax, ND, man faces felony charges after two ranchers reported more than 130 head of cattle missing from his care, according to Valley News Live. Daniel Wayne Dockter is charged with two counts of theft over \$50,000, unlawful transport of livestock and providing false information to law enforcement. Court documents state the ranchers entrusted Dockter with 93 cows and three bulls in 2019 and 40 cows in 2021 under share agreements, but the cattle allegedly vanished. Losses total roughly \$650,500. Investigators found no brand inspection records and no evidence supporting Dockter's claim that the cattle were at a South Dakota feedlot. In a separate case, Texas authorities arrested Kaleb Roberson on livestock theft charges after recovering two stolen calves that had been sold locally. The Brazos County Sheriff's Office encouraged producers to enroll in the HEART (Help End Agriculture and Ranch Theft) Program to prevent ranch theft.

Loblaw, DU Canada expand partnership

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) announced an expanded partnership with Loblaw Companies Limited, building on a collaboration launched in 2025 to advance sustainable food systems and support Canadian farmers. Loblaw's support will enable DUC agronomists to work directly with grain and livestock producers to rehabilitate marginal cropland, establish perennial cover and implement beneficial management practices that strengthen soil health, biodiversity and farm resilience. Loblaw Vice President Emma Race said the partnership supports farmers while protecting the environment, calling it "a win for farmers, a win for nature and a win for our food system." Learn more about the collaboration at tinyurl.com/7yunah5u.

Temporary Klamath River flows announced

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), coordinating with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries, will implement temporary flow adjustments at Link River Dam and Keno Dam to reduce salmon disease risk in the Klamath River. From Feb. 20 to March 3, flows below Keno Dam will peak at 4,640 cubic feet per second (cfs) for 24 hours, then taper to 750 cfs. According to BOR, the flushing flow meets Endangered Species Act requirements under the 2024 Biological Opinions and state law.

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Sale

Thursday, 1:00PM MST + ON THE RANCH
MARCH 19, 2026

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5001 - HOMO POLLED

BAR STAR ENTERPRISE 5001

BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	BMI\$	CHB\$
-0.1	60	99	34	0.35	0.27	455	144

5005 - HORNED

BAR STAR PRINCE 5005

BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	BMI\$	CHB\$
3.9	62	95	29	-0.13	0.35	358	135

5011 - HETERO POLLED

BAR STAR 3031 DIVERSE 5011

BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	BMI\$	CHB\$
2.6	56	92	27	0.27	0.04	253	103

5041 - HOMO POLLED

BAR STAR CLOUDY SKY 5041 ET

BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	BMI\$	CHB\$
-1.0	48	74	39	0.44	0.34	481	128

5052 - HETERO POLLED

BAR STAR VENGEANCE 5052 ET

BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	BMI\$	CHB\$
6.8	88	141	21	0.88	0.06	383	187

5061 - HETERO POLLED

BAR STAR NEMESES 5061

BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	BMI\$	CHB\$
5.6	73	118	18	0.74	0.20	326	182

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UT to produce more fuel, ID agrees to protect shared water

Utah refineries committed to increasing their production by 23,500 barrels a day within the next five years as part of the state's deal with the petroleum industry and Idaho to lower gas prices and to avoid an interstate clash.

The announcement comes a week after a Utah House bill became public revealing the state's short- and long-term plans to increase its gas supply, notably deleting an initially proposed provision that would have canceled a long-standing tax break for refineries exporting fuel out of state.

The move to end the export tax break was ultimately deleted after the Idaho Legislature expressed dismay and suggested it could block water flow to the ailing Great Salt Lake to put pressure on Utah, according to FOX 13 and Idaho News 6.

The new plan is a "bold goal" that Gov. Spencer Cox (R) said during a signing ceremony at the Utah Capitol "not only benefits Utahns, but it will benefit the entire Intermountain Region."

"We're protecting the reliability of our energy supply for long-term economic growth and security across the state," Cox said during the event. "Utah invites bold engagement so we can control our own destiny, rather than letting outside forces dictate it."

That was a nod to California, a state that Republican leaders have blamed for bal-

looning prices at the pump. It's all about "simple economics," said Utah House Speaker Mike Schultz (R-Hooper). Increasing supply will help lower prices.

"Utah doesn't operate in a vacuum because of the crazy, crazy regulatory environment in California being pushed by Democrats, refineries are shutting down, and it's tightening supply across the entire region, and when supply tightens, prices go up," Schultz said.

Amid California's commitment to step away from fossil fuels and to expand its clean energy sources, refineries within the state have shut down, a trend the state says is happening globally. Utah has instead passed legislation in recent years that would make it harder to shut down energy sources deemed to be reliable, which often includes fossil fuels.

Utah is uniquely positioned to increase supply, Schultz said. The state already has the infrastructure and expertise to do so in the Uinta Basin and refineries in North Salt Lake.

In the short term, if the Utah Legislature approves the legislation sponsored by Draper Republican Rep. Cal Roberts, the state will temporarily lower the gas tax Utahns pay at the pump by 15%, going from the current \$0.379 per gallon to \$0.319 per gallon beginning on July 1 and ending on Dec. 31.

But, eventually, legislative

leaders hope the policy streamlines permitting for new pipelines and directs strategic investment in storage to allow refineries to work at full capacity year-round.

After many comments from Utah House leadership criticizing petroleum industry lobbyists for being obstacles on the original legislative proposal and providing inaccurate information to Idaho, Rikki Hrenko-Browning, president of Utah Petroleum Association, was at the table signing the agreement with state leaders.

"We are an industry of problem-solvers. We have a

demonstrated track record of working together with the state on critical challenges,” Hrenko-Browningsaid, referring to a state mandate to convert to cleaner, Tier 3 gas.

"Just as we committed to Tier 3 and major emission reductions a decade ago, today, we are excited to announce the statement of economic prosperity and a goal to grow our finished product supply," she said.

And, equally as important, Schultz said, it's legislation that Idaho agrees on.

"We've secured something even bigger. Because Idaho wanted to be part of the dis-

cussion," Schultz said laughing, "it forced important conversations, conversations that ultimately brought people to the table and are going to help us secure additional water protections and resources for the people of Utah."

The governor and legislative leaders agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding with Idaho to secure long-term water supply on the Bear River system.

The states are now poised to honor past Bear River agreements, to maintain existing storage water delivery commitments from Bear Lake, and to continue invest-

ing in advanced cloud seeding in the river. After many ups and downs in the negotiations, executive director of the Utah Department of Natural Resources Joel Ferry praised the outcome.

“This agreement is designed to protect your water security for tomorrow,” Ferry said. “We’re doubling down on our joint investment in things like cloud seeding. This is all about that abundance mindset, using technology to actually increase the amount of water available to agriculture, to municipal and industrial users.” — **Alixel Cabrera, Utah News Dispatch**

Twentieth YSA class meets in Topeka

Young cattlemen and women from across Kansas met in Topeka from Feb. 16-17 for the first installment of the 2026 Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) Young Stockmen's Academy (YSA), which marks the program's 20th year. Merck Animal Health remains the exclusive program sponsor, partnering with KLA to host members for an in-depth look into KLA and the beef industry. A series of four seminars are held throughout the year across Kansas.

In their first gathering, YSA members were introduced to the array of member services provided by KLA, heard about

the importance of being an advocate for the livestock industry, learned about lobbying at the Kansas Capitol and took part in the annual KLA Legislative Meeting & Dinner. Additionally, YSA members toured the capitol with KLA lobbyists, viewed the House of Representatives in session and participated in a financial planning seminar conducted by Pinion.

KLA communications staff, Riley County beef producers and entrepreneurs Andy and Sara Larson and WIBW-Topeka farm broadcaster Greg Akagi gave the group an overview of various outlets available to help tell the beef pro-

duction story, inspired them to get involved in their communities as a representative of the beef industry and shared information on how to handle media inquiries.

The Larsons talked about their experience in launching their own direct-to-consumer beef business, 1880 Beef, and their interactions with consumers. Akagi led the class in mock radio and television interviews.

Members of the 2026 YSA class are James Brack, Moscow; Sierra Cargill, Medicine Lodge; Gatlin Clawson, Meade; Brooke Falk, Harveyville; MaKala Fitzsimmons, Cunningham; Shane

Flach, Manhattan; Casey Giffing, Ulysses; Hannah Grund, Wallace; Nick Higgason, Olmitz; Justine Johns, Minneapolis; Luke Kaiser, Grinnell; Adalaide Kline, Colby; Brady McComb, Pratt; Nick Nowak, Ellis; Quinton Porter, Hays; Jack Roenne, Great Bend; Skye Schumaker, Pratt; Baylee Shultz, Berryton; Teagan Sturdy-Milliken, Lyndon; and Taylee Velasquez, Hugoton.

The class will meet again in May for the second installment of the 2026 program. Members will have the opportunity to learn more about the agribusiness and beef retail industries in the Kansas City area. — **KLA**

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Selecting free-choice supplementation for grazing cattle

For cattle on pasture, free-choice supplementation using tubs, blocks or loose mineral provides a convenient means of delivering nutrients that complement existing forages. Selecting the best matched supplement and managing it to achieve the desired intake is key to seeing the benefits of supplementation. Free-choice supplements are formulated to target specific nutritional requirements, but only when the specified intake range is achieved.

For instance, a 20% protein tub with vitamins and minerals consumed at 1.25 pounds per head per day supplies 0.25 lbs. additional protein to the animal. For a cow consuming 25 lbs. total dry matter feed, this will raise the protein of the total diet by 1%. However, if less than 1.25 lb./head/day supplement intake occurs, protein as well as vitamin and mineral intake may be insufficient for the animal depending on the nutritional goal. It is important to recognize there is a lot of variation around labeled intake range of free-choice supplements, and it may be necessary to select a supplement with a different nutrient composition or manage placement to achieve the desired intake if cattle are consistently not consuming within the labeled range.

Below are some considerations for selecting and managing free-choice supplements.

Production goals
Before selecting a supplement, consider the type of cattle being grazed and stage of production or intended growth rate for that animal as this will determine nutrient requirements. Additionally, the nutrient profile of a pasture changes as growing season progresses. These factors go into determining which supplement is most appropriate for the situation and whether different supplements are needed throughout a grazing season.

Tag nutrients
It is important to pay attention to the tag. Depending on the supplement, it may provide only vitamins and minerals, only protein, or vitamins, minerals and protein. The tag is required to provide the user with which nutrients are supplied and how much is there. The tag also will list sources of ingredients which should be listed in order of highest to lowest inclusion.

Protein supplements may include only natural protein sources such as corn distillers grains or soybean meal, but some also may include non-protein nitrogen (NPN) sources such as urea or slow-release nitrogen products. Grazing cattle can utilize some NPN to grow rumen microbes and improve forage fermentation, but it is important to prevent over consumption which poses a risk of ammonia toxicity. Additionally, minerals may

be supplied from inorganic sources (oxides and sulfates) or organic sources (amino acid complexes, proteinates, glycinates or oligosaccharides).

Tag feeding directions
The tag also should provide recommended feeding practices and an expected intake range. Free-choice loose mineral intake is often achieved with salt level and/or inclusion of carriers such as processed grain product. Salt can be an attractant as well as a limiter. Loose mineral is often formulated with a salt content that entices intake but prevents over consumption. For blocks and tubs, degree of hardness also will impact intake.

While manufacturing can be used to target intake range, there is a bit of an art to free-choice feeding that is specific to each in-field operation. Supplement intake will fluctuate throughout a grazing season depending on condition

of the pasture, weather and cattle behavior. However, if consistent over or under consumption is occurring, positioning tubs, blocks, or mineral feeders in areas that are frequented by cattle (watering or loafing areas) can increase intake, whereas moving them to less frequently visited places can be used to control over consumption.

Placing a sufficient number of loose mineral feeders, blocks, or tubs for the number of cattle in the pasture will ensure mineral access to all cattle. Placing too much loose mineral for the number of cattle can result in unconsumed mineral that can accumulate moisture, crust over, and eventually spoil.

For tubs, having enough cattle consistently feeding keeps the surface condition of that tub such that desired intake is achieved. Also, be aware that intake rate of the same supplement may differ

between young stockers and mature cows.

Supplement maintenance
While free-choice supplements are low maintenance to feed, they do require consistent attention. Regardless of the type of free-choice supplementation, consumption needs to be monitored frequently to ensure targeted intake is being achieved. Free-choice supplements are subject to weather elements.

Given the salt content of loose mineral, moisture can accumulate and nutrient leaching or crusting can occur. Loose mineral is also subject to wind loss. Using a weatherized mineral and covered mineral feeders help minimize these losses. For tubs, excessive rainfall can cause the top surface of some tubs to soften. In most cases, cattle readily eat the surface, but if that water sits too long, the softened material can spoil and cattle will not consume.

Dumping excess surface water and scraping any spoiled surface material after significant rainfall allows the remainder of the tub to be useful. Additionally, as tubs are consumed, they become lighter and can be overturned by cattle or wind preventing consumption. Regular attention to make sure tubs are properly positioned and in good surface condition is important to achieve desired intake.

Free-choice supplementation can be a powerful option for meeting the nutrient needs of grazing cattle where daily feed delivery is a challenge. Selecting a supplement that meets the nutritional goals of the operation and then managing feeding of that supplement to achieve the targeted intake range is key to meeting the nutrient requirements of grazing cattle and fully utilizing pastures. — Iowa Beef Center



VIDEO AUCTION

Great Plains Classic video auction
Feb. 18-19, Hudson Oaks, TX
Superior Livestock Auction hosted their Great Plains Classic video auction live Feb. 18-19 from the Superior Livestock Auction Studio in Hudson Oaks, TX. Cattle producers sold 49,358 head of calves, yearlings and bred stock totaling 435 lots from 26 states for this offering. Strong buyer participation from several bidders throughout the auction resulted in 157 different successful buyers. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through October. Regions 3/4/5/6 feeder steers were met with strong buyer demand and increases of \$5-10 over the last offering. Feeder heifers from the same regions remained steady. Regions 1/2 feeder steers and heifers saw moderate to good interest and remained solid during a strong market. Regions 1/2 steer calves were \$10 higher, and heifers were steady with the last auction. Regions 3/4/5/6 steer calves saw the highest advances at \$10-20 higher. A robust buyer demand was seen across both auction days.



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A11299804878

Paul Hill to be inducted into Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery

It is formally announced that Paul H. Hill is the 2026 inductee into the prestigious Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery. A special induction ceremony dinner and portrait presentation is scheduled for Sunday evening, Nov. 15, during the North American International Livestock Exposition and the National Angus Convention, at the Kentucky State Fairgrounds, Louisville, KY.

Hill's record-breaking success with leading Angus seedstock operations throughout the past half century is well documented. He was managing partner of Champion Hill, Bidwell, OH, from 1990-2017, and previously led Northcote Farm, Cobble Pond Farm, Hayes Star Ranch, South Fork Angus Ranch and Briarhill Angus Farm.

In his youth, he was herdsman for Malloy Polled Herefords and was involved in 4-H and FFA livestock judging and land evaluation. He has not only bred and developed many leading Angus cattle but also positively influenced the cattle business through interactions with partners, customers, em-

ployees, competitors, industry professionals and of course his favorite, Angus youth.

Hill's work ethic, wisdom and personality have always distinguished him as a unique leader throughout his life. This Florida native served in the U.S. Army from 1968-70, and received the Army Commendation Medal for Exceptionally Meritorious Service in 1970 and was twice Battalion Soldier of the Month in 1968-69. He was both student and instructor at the American Herdsman Institute from 1966-68.

As a skillful breeder and exhibitor of Angus cattle, his life-long record of awards is unsurpassed with hundreds of national champions, yet his key to success is perhaps in his slogan, "Where winning is only the beginning." He exhibited at the All-American every year since 1966 except during military service of 1968-69, and every year at the Atlantic National since its founding in 1987.

He attended the North American International every year since it was founded in 1974 and the National Western

nearly every year for approximately 50 years, most years of which he was a competitive exhibitor. His experience, enthusiasm and mentorship has helped build generations of future Angus leaders.

His leadership roles with the American Angus Association include serving as president from 2007-08, vice-president from 2006-07, treasurer from 2005-06, and on its board of directors from 2000-08. During that time, he was instrumental on the cabinet for the Vision of Value Campaign for Angus Leadership from 2006-11, and served as chairman of the Angus Foundation board from 2004-07 and as chairman of the Angus Productions Inc. board from 2006-07. He co-founded the Atlantic National Angus Show in 1987 and has served as the chairman of the board since 2002, as well as being member of the board of directors of the All-American Angus Breeders Futurity since 1977.

He was named Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Seedstock Producer of the Year in 2009 and received BIF Roll of Excellence honors in 2009

and 2006. In 2017, he was inducted into the Honorary Angus Foundation, received the Atlantic National Merit Award, was recognized with Proclamation of Paul & Lynn Hill Day by the Gallia County Commissioners and received the Ohio Cattlemen's Association Storyboard Recognition of Service Award.

He was also named among Pioneer Angus Breeders From Around the World 1824-2016, received the USDA Certificate of Appreciation for Gallia-Lawrence Counties in 2011, was inducted into the Angus Heritage Foundation in 2009, received the Distinguished Service Award of the Ohio Angus Association in 2009, was featured as the Angus Journal November 2008 cover story, received Proclamation of Carroll County Angus Day from the Carroll County Commissioners in 2008, was named the Seedstock Producer of the Year from the Ohio Cattlemen's Association in 2006, as well as recognitions at the All-American Angus Breeders Futurity as Pioneer Breeder in 2017, Master Breeder in 1997, Manager

of the Year in 1987 and Outstanding Herdsman in 1973.

Widely renowned as an astute judge of livestock, he accepted livestock evaluation assignments at the All-American, North American International, Atlantic National, National Western, American Royal, Canadian Royal, Argentina National Angus Show & Sale and the Brazil National Angus & Livestock Shows along with numerous state &

regional livestock shows and conferences.

Paul and his wife, Lynn, reside in Martinsville, IN, and have two adult daughters, both of whom were active as Angus juniors, Dr. Sarah Hill Schaffer, private practice pediatrician, and Neenah Hill Jain, partner and chief financial officer of Armory Square Ventures. They also have three grandchildren.

— **Paul Hill Saddle & Sirloin Portrait Gallery Committee**

USDA projects total farm debt at \$624.7B in 2026

FARM FINANCES (from page 1)

with family farms further grouped by size: small (less than \$350,000 GCFI, including low sales under \$150,000 and moderate sales of \$150,000-349,999), midsize (\$350,000-999,999), large (\$1 million-4.9 million) and very large (\$5 million or more).

Farm receipts

ERS reported total cash receipts for all commodities nationwide reached \$513.6 billion in 2024. California led the nation with \$61.1 billion in receipts, representing 11.9% of U.S. receipts. Iowa followed at \$38.4 billion (7.5%), Nebraska at \$32.1 billion (6.2%), Texas at \$30.4 billion (5.9%), and Kansas at \$24.3 billion (4.7%). The top 10 states together accounted for 53.9% of total U.S. receipts.

Cattle and calves receipts reported by ERS show the geographic concentration of livestock production. Nebraska ranked first at \$17.8 billion (15.9% of U.S. cattle receipts), followed by Kansas at \$14.8 billion (13.2%) and Texas at \$13.6 billion (12.2%). Colorado, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Idaho and Missouri also ranked among the top 10 cattle-producing states.

Financial risk and income

Despite strong aggregate receipts, profitability remains strained. USDA-ERS reports that 71% of farms operated in the high-risk category in 2024, defined as having an operating profit margin below 10%, up from 69% in 2023.

Small family farms were especially vulnerable. Eighty-two percent of low-sales farms, 75% of off-farm occupation farms and 62% of retirement farms fell into the high-risk zone. Very large family farms were the most financially resilient, with 76% operating in low- or medium-risk categories.

Debt levels also rose with scale. The report reported that very large family farms carried an average conditional debt of \$3.9 million in 2024, but maintained a relatively low debt-to-gross cash farm income ratio of 0.4. Smaller farms had lower absolute debt but, in many cases, higher leverage relative to income.

Farm household wellbeing continues to reflect a contrast between income and wealth. In 2024, 42% of family farm households had incomes below the U.S. median of \$83,730, yet only 2% had wealth below the national median. Across all family farms, 86% of households earned more than half their total income from off-

farm sources. Among small family farms, at least 90% of retirement, off-farm occupation and low-sales operations relied primarily on off-farm earnings.

Small family farms received 46% of all government agricultural payments in 2024, including 73% of Conservation Reserve Program payments. Large-scale family farms received 46% of countercyclical payments tied to commodity programs.

Federal crop insurance participation was concentrated among larger operations. Large family farms received 45% of indemnities and mid-size farms 22%, while off-farm occupation farms accounted for 18% of participants but just 3% of indemnities.

Bankruptcies show strain

The broader financial pressures are also reflected in bankruptcy data compiled by the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF). Chapter 12 farm bankruptcies rose for the second consecutive year, reaching 315 filings in 2025—a 46% increase from 2024.

According to AFBF, the Midwest and Southeast were hardest hit, with 121 and 105 filings, respectively. Arkansas led the nation with 33 filings, more than double the prior year. Georgia followed with 27 filings, up 145%, while Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Wisconsin and Minnesota all posted sharp increases.

AFBF notes that the growing reliance on credit reflects tightening margins, with USDA projecting total farm debt to climb 5.2% to a record \$624.7 billion in 2026, as farmers expand operating lines primarily to cover higher input costs rather than for new investments.

Citing Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City data, AFBF reports that nearly 40% more new operating loans were opened in the fourth quarter of 2025 compared to 2024, while the average operating loan grew 30% larger and extended three months longer in maturity.

Machinery and equipment loans are also stretching out to the longest repayment terms since 2021, even as interest expenses are expected to hit a record \$33 billion in 2026, further tightening cash flow.

AFBF warns that with Chapter 12 bankruptcies rising and farm income projected to decline for a fourth consecutive year, mounting debt and limited eligibility for bankruptcy protections could accelerate both farm closures and consolidation across rural America.

— **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

Pasture To Plate Performance Sale, Vol. III

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Reminders on livestock care during wildfire season

As Oklahomans and their nearby neighbors in Kansas endure wildfire season, Oklahoma State University (OSU) Extension specialists offer tips to keep your livestock safe, as well as help with recovery efforts.

Livestock welfare after a fire

Monitoring surviving animals is crucial in the days after a wildfire, said Dr. Rosslyn Biggs, OSU Extension beef cattle specialist.

“We need to be thinking about long-term repercussions,” she said. “Thermal injuries, burns can be a big issue on these animals. We also need to be thinking about smoke inhalation and the systems that those affect.”

Enhanced monitoring of the surviving animals is crucial after a wildfire, Biggs explained. In addition to nutrition, hydration is key. Cows that are in the later stages of pregnancy need to be thought about, too. Consider their capacity to care for either calves on the ground or those they will soon birth.

Post-wildfire evaluation can lead to difficult decisions, too.

“It’s very important in these disaster-type situations that animal welfare

needs to be our first consideration,” Biggs said. “How are those animals that have survived going to be able to recover from those injuries? In many cases, unfortunately, euthanasia may be the most humane decision that we have to make.”

Protecting horses during wildfires

Have your horses loaded and ready to go before you see a wildfire reach your property, said Dr. Kris Hiney, OSU Extension equine specialist.

“So many animals, when fire is coming, it causes panic,” Hiney said. “They may be harder to handle, so if trouble is coming, have the horses already up in a small lot where you can catch them. In a burning building, horses won’t want to leave, but now we’re talking about a threat to human safety as well.”

Horses will often be reluctant to leave an environment they deem safe, Hiney said. Keep the horses together and avoid isolating one horse at a time, as this could cause further panic.

“The calmer the handler can be, the better the horses will act,” Hiney said.

Preparation is also key. Maintaining your property, like mowing fence lines and

creating fire breaks, is important. Be aware that fire structures, such as hay storage, can be extremely dangerous for animals to be near. Have photographs and records of all your horses, Hiney said.

If smoke is high in the air, even if not directly where fire is impacting your land, respiratory health in horses is important. Hiney recommends not working the horses when the smoke particulate matter is high.

Emergency cattle nutrition

Wildfires can ravage forage, requiring producers to pivot in the aftermath.

There are several strategies to minimize weight loss until hay can be secured. One option is to provide a commercial “creep feed” product for four to five days. Commercial creep feeds will generally contain 12-14% protein and are an easily accessible op-

tion, with this feed bagged and ready to ship immediately.

The feeding rate is equivalent to 8 pounds of feed per day, assuming cows weigh 1,200lbs. If hay is more abundant, 15 lbs. of grass hay fed with 5 pounds of a 28-32% range cube can maintain a 1,200-lb. cow in the last trimester of pregnancy.

Mineral supplements with a high calcium level are essential to offset the high phosphorus levels in concentrate feeds. Work with your local Extension educator to ensure a well-balanced diet for your cattle in limit-feeding scenarios.

The priority is to meet nutritional needs while stretching hay supplies.

Documenting losses

After a wildfire, documenting losses will be crucial for producers. Review your existing records and then create a line of documentation on a

day-to-day basis after a disaster.

“Having documentation becomes very important from a financial aspect,” Biggs said. “It can be as simple as, if we have losses, documenting those with photographic evidence. Most people can use their cellphones to take pictures that can be time-stamped. For many emergency-type programs, it’s going to be necessary to have verifiable records.”

Carcass disposal

Burial will be the best option for disposing of livestock carcasses, said Dr. Doug Hamilton, OSU Extension water management specialist.

“You need to be in a high spot,” Hamilton said. “You need to be well above a flood plain. You’re going to have to dig a hole 4-6 feet deep and be at least two feet above where the water table may rise.”

It is also important to keep burial sites at least 300 feet away from water sources.

The state of Oklahoma has five methods for disposing of livestock: landfilling, rendering, incineration, composting and burial. Finding a landfill to take a dead animal will be difficult, even in an emergency. Rendering will be hard if the animal has been dead for several days and incineration requires expensive and specific equipment.

Composting is viable, but it will require wood shavings or sawdust and management. An advantage of composting is that once you’ve completed it, the land site will be viable for use again.

If you are affected by the wildfires and have agricultural, livestock care or forage questions—or wish to donate or receive hay—contact OSU Extension by calling 405-780-4569 or emailing disastersupport@okstate.edu. — OSU Extension

Lecture will address agriculture solutions

Fostering constructive dialogue about food and agriculture will be the focus of the March 3 Heuermann Lecture by Tamar Haspel, food columnist for The Washington Post. The presentation at Nebraska Innovation Campus will be part of the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture’s IMPACT 2026 Conference.

The title of Haspel’s presentation is “The Elephant in the Room: Building Bridges for Better Agricultural Solutions.”

Her Post column, “Unearthed,” addresses a broad range of food issues, commenting on agriculture, nutrition, obesity, the food environment and do-it-yourself tangents. In 2015, her commentary earned a James Beard Award for exceptional reporting and analysis in food writing.

On March 3, the Nebraska East Union will host the Water and Integrated Cropping Systems Conference from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. CST. At 4 p.m., Haspel will deliver the Heuermann Lecture in the Nebraska Innovation Campus Conference Center, 2021 Transformation Drive.

Following her presentation, the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture invites faculty, staff, students and stakeholders to remain on Nebraska Innovation Campus to attend the Agronomy and Horticulture IMPACT 2026 Conference kick-off mixer at 6 p.m. and the

full conference on March 4.

The conference, with the theme “Innovation and Partnerships for the Future” is 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST on Nebraska Innovation Campus. The department-wide showcase and strategy conference will highlight the Department of Agronomy and Horticulture’s collective achievements in teaching, research and extension while fostering collaboration across disciplines and with industry, agencies, commodity boards and community stakeholders.

Haspel has written for The Atlantic, Discover, Vox, Slate, Fortune and Eater. At home, she and her husband grow their own tomatoes, catch their own fish, hunt their own venison and raise their own chickens.

The Heuermann Lecture series in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources focuses on providing sustainability in the areas of food, natural resources and renewable energy for people, as well as securing the sustainability of rural communities where the vital work of producing food and renewable energy occurs.

The series is made possible through a gift from B. Keith and Norma Heuermann of Phillips, NE, as an enduring commitment to Nebraska’s production agriculture, natural resources, rural areas and people. — Nebraska Extension

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Why dental care matters for horses

Dental problems are common in horses and can affect nearly every aspect of their daily life—from eating, grazing and maintaining body condition to performing comfortably under the saddle.

Because horses spend the majority of each day chewing and grinding fibrous forage, their teeth are constantly wearing. While this process is a normal part of equine life, uneven wear can lead to sharp points, fractures and other abnormalities that can cause pain and can interfere with overall health and well-being if left untreated.

Complicating matters, as prey animals, horses instinctively hide signs of discomfort, allowing dental issues to progress unnoticed until they begin affecting chewing, digestion, behavior or performance. Without care, dental disease can progress and can jeopardize the health of the horse.

This delayed recognition is especially concerning be-

cause a horse’s teeth do not grow endlessly, as is commonly believed. Rather, each adult tooth has a fixed reserve that gradually erupts over time to replace what is worn down. Once that reserve is depleted, there is no way to replace it, making early detection and routine dental care essential for preserving long-term oral health.

Dr. Kyle Johnson, a clinical assistant professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, explains the most common dental concerns seen in horses and why routine dental care with a veterinarian is essential to your horse’s health.

Common dental problems

One of the most common dental issues in horses is sharp points that develop on the cheek side of upper teeth and the tongue side of the lower teeth.

“These sharp points form

naturally over time as a result of jaw shape and the way horses chew,” Johnson said. “If left uncorrected, these points can cause trauma inside the mouth, mainly the cheeks and tongue, and can be a considerable source of pain for horses.”

To address these sharp points, veterinarians perform a procedure known as “floating,” which smooths the teeth using a specialized, battery-operated instrument.

Horses can also experience other dental issues, including fractured teeth and periodontal disease.

“Because of the unique anatomy of the equine skull, dental disease can advance and affect the sinuses,” Johnson said. “These cases can require prolonged, and often expensive, treatment.”

Signs of dental disease

Dental problems in horses can be difficult to detect, but one of the earliest warning

signs is a behavior known as quidding, when partially chewed feed or hay is dropped while eating.

“Quidding occurs when a horse cannot chew properly and is often the first sign that there’s an issue in the mouth,” Johnson said. “The dropped food often looks like a small bird’s nest on the ground.”

When chewing is impaired, horses may also swallow feed before it’s adequately broken down, which can result in long pieces of hay or grass in the manure.

“Poor chewing can be particularly problematic, as it can cause a horse to choke or increase the risk for certain types of colic,” Johnson said.

In more advanced cases of dental disease, horses may lose weight or show discomfort while being ridden, including head shaking, reluctance to the bit, or holding the head in an abnormal position to avoid pain.

Additional signs of dental disease may include:

- Chewing with the head tilted to one side.
- Making a slurping sound while eating.
- Halitosis (bad breath).
- Nasal discharge.
- Swelling along the nose or under the jaw.

The right care

Unlike dogs and cats, horses have limited options for at-home dental care. As a result, working with a veterinarian is essential for ensuring a horse’s teeth and oral health are properly managed.

“Oral and dental health are extremely important to a horse’s overall health and welfare,” Johnson said. “Dental exams should be part of their routine wellness program, alongside regular vaccinations and deworming.”

Most horses should receive an oral examination once a year as part of their routine care. However, senior horses—generally those over 15 years old—should be examined every six months, as dental problems become more common with age.

Because horses have a fixed amount of tooth, routine dental care plays a critical role in preserving how long their teeth remain functional. Regular examinations allow veterinarians to identify and correct uneven wear early, helping teeth wear more evenly and reducing unnecessary loss of tooth structure.

When it comes to dental care, Johnson cautions horse

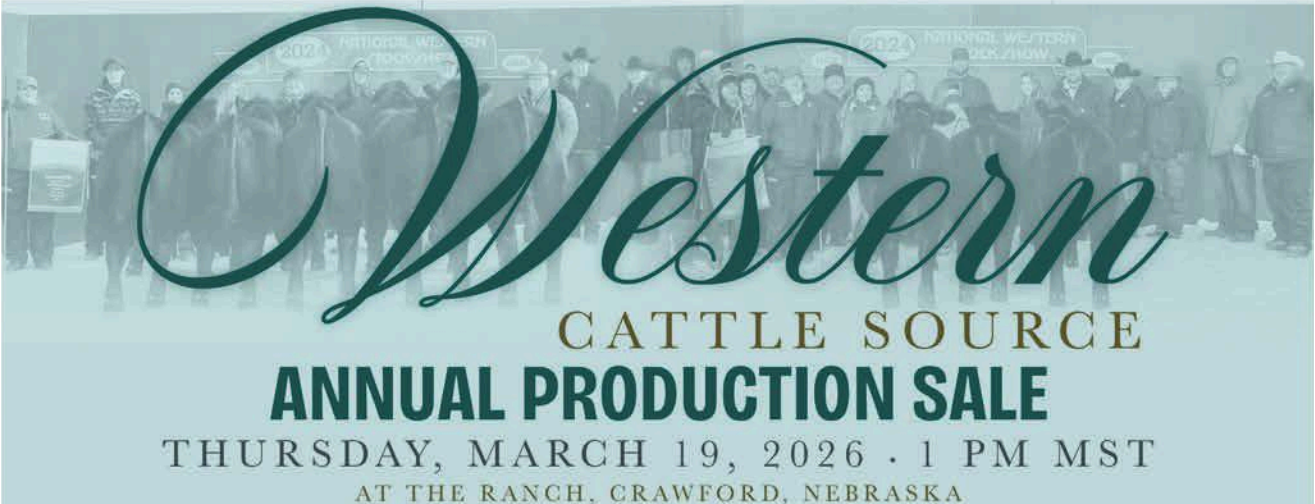
owners to carefully consider who is providing these services. Some individuals claim to be equine dentists without being licensed veterinarians, often performing treatments without proper sedation—a practice that can put both horses and handlers at risk.

“Horse owners should be wary of non-veterinarians offering dental care services,” Johnson said. “Only veterinarians who’ve completed extensive training after veterinary school and are board certified by the American Veterinary Dental College can claim the title of equine dentist.”

That said, most horses do not need to see a board-certified equine dentist for dental care.

“Your veterinarian is best suited to provide for your horse’s oral and dental health,” Johnson said. “They have both the knowledge and equipment, including appropriate sedation, needed to thoroughly examine a horse’s mouth and safely provide treatment as necessary.”

With routine veterinary care, dental issues can be identified and managed early, helping preserve tooth function and prevent unnecessary pain. By making dental exams part of a horse’s wellness routine, owners can help ensure their horses remain comfortable, healthy and able to do their jobs well throughout their lives. — **Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences**



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Elite 11 supports path to rural vet medicine

For students who dream of serving rural Nebraska as a veterinarian, the Elite 11 program offers financial support, direction and connection.

Now in its early stages, the Elite 11 program supports students pursuing careers in large animal veterinary medicine. One of those students is Cameron Berliner, a first-year University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) student from Stapleton, NE, who joined the Elite 11 program in fall 2025. Growing up in a rural community played a huge role in shaping his career goals.

“I always wanted to make a big impact on agriculture while helping others in my community,” he said. “From there, I decided to become a veterinarian.”

Berliner’s interest in veterinary medicine solidified during a job shadowing experience at Stockman’s Veterinary Clinic in North Platte, a mixed animal practice. That experience gave him a realistic view of the profession and confirmed that large-animal veterinary medicine was what he wanted to pursue.

“I needed to know what the job was really like, the lifestyle, and how it supports agriculture,” Berliner said. “After my internship, I knew this is something I would enjoy and decided to become a large animal veterinarian so I could serve my community.”

The Elite 11 program stood out to him because of its focus on reducing students’ finan-

cial stress, which remains one of the biggest barriers to entering veterinary medicine.

“This program felt like an open-door opportunity, as it relieves the financial burden.”

So far, his first year in the program has exceeded expectations as Berliner continues to seek out opportunities across campus.

“I am connecting with professors, getting research opportunities, and gaining experience both in and out of the classroom,” he said. “UNL has opened so many doors for me.”

Berliner credits his fellow Elite 11 cohort for providing support and encouragement throughout his first year.

“We all have a common goal, so we build each other up and help each other when needed,” he said.

Berliner hopes to practice large animal veterinary medicine with a focus on equine and bovine health, potentially specializing in chiropractic care or embryology. His long-term goal is to work in rural areas where veterinarians are needed most.

Programs like Elite 11, Berliner believes, are essential to strengthening the future of animal health and agriculture in Nebraska.

“I would love to see this program expand and reach more students who are passionate about animal health and production,” he said. — **Nebraska Extension**

Subpar snowpack pushes back crop plans for farmers

Despite a strong start to California's wet season, snowpack conditions remain below average.

A deficient snowpack could mean less water available for summer irrigation, threatening to cut surface water deliveries to farmers.

Rainfall at the end of last year helped boost water supplies, enough so that the U.S. Drought Monitor reported no drought conditions anywhere in the state in mid-January.

The rain also helped fill reservoirs throughout California and are currently at levels that meet or surpass their historical average for this time of year.

But in January, conditions dried up. State officials reported the snowpack was at 59% of average by the end of last month.

Andrew Schwartz, director of the University of California (UC), Berkeley, Central Sierra Snow Lab, said the state still saw rainfall during this dry period. But Schwartz said that rain will not improve water supplies as much as precipitation that sticks around as snowpack.

thirds of his farm's water comes from snowpack storage.

The uncertainty has already begun to impact his planning—particularly with cotton, which he has grown since 1988.

"This would be the first year that we are actually thinking about not having any acres," Barcellos said.

He said the decision seems likely given the current outlook for water allocations and the overall economics of cotton, which he described as "rough" for California farmers the past two or three years.

"That could change if pricing gets better or if we get a better allocation than we're expecting right now," Barcellos said. "But right now, we have no evidence of that."

"I can't afford to take the risk from an economic standpoint that I'm going to put a valuable water resource on a crop that may not end up having enough water to finish," he added.

Like other farmers in his position, Barcellos said his first priority is to irrigate permanent crops such as al-

monds that demand a lot of water. Other tree crops such as olives and pomegranates, which are more drought tolerant, come next in line.

Kings County farmer Brian Medeiros said his area historically depended on groundwater, which meant there was less of a need to rely heavily on snowpack. But with ongoing changes required by the state's 2014 Sustainable Groundwater Management Act, he said he is relying much more on snowpack when deciding which crops to plant for the year. The wintertime oscillation between wet and dry periods has added uncertainty to his crop planning.

"To tell you we have a plan would be a lie," Medeiros said. "My plan is not set at this point in the year. I've never had a year where it's been this late."

Up until the beginning of January, Medeiros said rain gauges at his farm showed similar amounts of rainfall seen last year, though there was much more snowpack stored up then.

"It doesn't do me a whole lot of good here," he said of the rainfall on his farm. "I need it to snow up in the mountains, so that way I can keep the wells off during the summertime."

Like Barcellos, Medeiros said his priority will be ensuring his almond crop gets watered. He also planted wheat in November, with

hopes that there would be enough winter precipitation to ward off the need for much irrigation.

During a dry spell that lasted from partway through January into February, Medeiros said he was worried

he'd have to begin irrigation to make sure the crop survived. But he noted a mid-February storm came just in time to stave off the need.

Lund, the UC Davis researcher, said the wintertime fluctuation between wet and

dry conditions isn't unusual for California. The variable weather makes it hard to know where the snowpack will be by the season's end.

"We've had years that have been very, very dry, and then it gets very, very wet. And

we've had years that have been very, very wet, and then it gets very, very dry," Lund said. "We don't really know until the end of March." —

Manola Secaira, Ag Alert staff writer, California Farm Bureau

homa Cattlemen's Foundation at 2500 Exchange Ave, Oklahoma City, OK 73108, or emailed to mlayton@okcattlemen.org and mkelsey@okcattlemen.org. For questions about the Fire Relief Fund application, contact the OCA office at 405-235-4391.

The OCF was founded in 1979 and is funded by personal contributions. For more information about OCA membership or activities visit okcattlemen.org. — **OCA**

OCF releases fire relief fund application

The Oklahoma Cattlemen's Foundation (OCF) released the Fire Relief Fund application for cattle producers impacted by recent wildfires across northwest Oklahoma.

The application is intended to help OCF identify the extent of wildfire-related losses and distribute relief funds directly to producers who experienced damage to their cattle operations. Eligible losses include livestock loss or injury, damaged or destroyed infrastructure, fence replace-

ment, lost forage and hay, and increased feed or veterinary costs related to the fires.

"We want to make sure we're reaching producers who were impacted and getting assistance to those who need it most," said Michael Kelsey, Oklahoma Cattlemen's Association (OCA) executive vice president. "This application allows us to better understand the scope of the damage and move forward with distributing relief funds in an equitable and timely way."

All cattle producers impacted by the wildfires are eligible to apply. Landowners incurring fence replacement costs are encouraged to file separately from tenants. Producers are asked to complete the application and include any available documentation to support their claim, such as USDA Farm Service Agency forms, veterinary receipts or estimates for fence repair and replacement.

Completed applications may be mailed to Okla-

"We need to have a good snowpack to ensure that the water releases that we're doing from reservoirs and other management projects can be replenished."

— Andrew Schwartz

"It's been so warm that most of that has come in as rain, and we don't have a lot of snowpack storage," Schwartz said. "Then on top of it, over the month or so of dry conditions, (snowpack) actually melted quite a bit as well because of the warm conditions."

Recent storms have helped.

Jay Lund, vice director of the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences, said there is still a chance more storms will boost snowpack levels to average before April, when they typically peak. With March and some of April ahead, Lund said California "can still get some decent-sized storms."

California's snowpack supplies about 30% of the state's water needs. Agriculture requires a chunk of that, accounting for about 40% of the state's total water use and 80% of all water used by homes and businesses, according to the California Department of Water Resources.

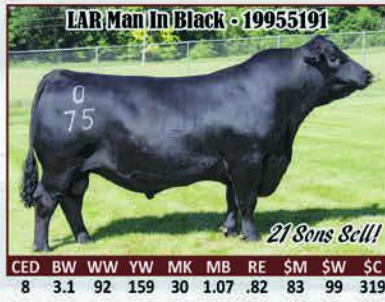
"We need to have a good snowpack to ensure that the water releases that we're doing from reservoirs and other management projects can be replenished," Schwartz said.

San Joaquin Valley farmer Aaron Barcellos said he's concerned about what water supplies he will be able to get from this winter's snowpack, especially since about two-

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Grassroots Carbon joins CSU consortium to advance soil carbon modeling

The Ecosystem Modeling and Data Consortium (EMDC) at Colorado State University (CSU) announced that Grassroots Carbon, a leading developer of soil carbon removal projects on U.S. grasslands, has joined the Consortium as an industry member. The partnership brings large-scale, real-world project insights into academic ecosystem modeling efforts focused on improving land management, climate solutions and agricultural sustainability.

Grassroots Carbon partners directly with ranchers to implement and scale regenerative grazing practices and advance credible, science-backed soil carbon removals. The company currently works with ranchers across more than 2 million acres in 22 states and has delivered over 1.9 million tons of verified carbon removals for leading corporate partners.

Since 2022, Grassroots Carbon has paid \$40 million directly to ranchers, incentivizing land stewardship

practices that deliver measurable climate outcomes. Through its model, Grassroots Carbon brings large-scale project data from across millions of acres of U.S. grasslands into research efforts aimed at understanding carbon sequestration, ecosystem health, and land productivity.

“U.S. grasslands represent one of the largest untapped carbon solutions in the world, with unmatched economic and ecological benefits for ranching operations and working land communities,” said Brad Tipper, CEO of Grassroots Carbon. “At Grassroots Carbon, we are generating meter-deep, field-verified soil carbon data across more than two million acres of working grazing lands.

“By partnering with the Ecosystem Modeling and Data Consortium, we are working alongside some of the leading scientists to strengthen the ecosystem models that underpin high-integrity soil carbon out-

comes. Together, we can build the scientific foundation required to scale credible carbon solutions and ensure that America’s working lands play a central role for generations,” Tipper said.

measurement approach is grounded in rigorous field science and informed by the latest academic research.

The EMDC brings together scientists, non-governmental organizations and indus-

”*“U.S. grasslands represent one of the largest untapped carbon solutions in the world, with unmatched economic and ecological benefits for ranching operations and working land communities.”*

—Brad Tipper

Grassroots Carbon’s Data and Soil Science team is led by Dr. Jay Weeks and includes Ph.D.- and master’s-level experts in soil science and related disciplines, ensuring that the company’s

try leaders to advance cutting-edge modeling and data-driven approaches that improve land management, climate solutions and agricultural sustainability. By welcoming Grassroots Car-

bon, the Consortium strengthens its ability to integrate applied insights and real-world project data into the scientific foundations used for soil carbon markets and nature-based climate solutions.

“Partnering with Grassroots Carbon offers a great opportunity to support the testing, refinement, and validation of models and data collection strategies to address the challenges of real-world application in diverse environments,” said Dr. Corinne Walsh, Consortium lead at the Ecosystem Modeling and Data Consortium.

“High-quality ecosystem modeling depends not only on data collected through academic research, but is strengthened by deployment at commercial scale,” Walsh said. “Grassroots Carbon has been highly engaged in supporting our community-focused efforts to improve data and modeling tools that could ultimately support a

variety of approaches for deploying high quality land-based climate solutions.”

This partnership reflects CSU’s land-grant mission and long-standing commitment to building bridges between academia, industry and policy to address pressing challenges related to food security and ecosystem resilience. By fostering pre-competitive collaboration and transparent science, the EMDC aims to ensure that ecosystem models and data systems used in climate decision-making are robust, credible, and responsive to real-world conditions.

Grassroots Carbon’s participation in the Consortium will contribute industry perspective and operational experience to EMDC working groups, infrastructure development, and community discussions focused on improving the integrity, scalability, and impact of soil-based climate solutions. — **CSU Extension**

Final action taken on key KS bills prior to deadline

The Kansas Legislature spent the bulk of its time in mid-February taking final action on several bills before the turnaround deadline Feb. 19, signifying the halfway point of the session, when nonexempt bills must pass their chamber of origin. Committees in the opposite chamber began to hear bills the last week of February that passed the chamber of origin.

Agricultural corporations

The Senate Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources passed Senate Bill 465. The bill would amend the Kansas corporate farm statutes to prohibit the use of a limited liability partnership (LLP) to own agricultural land in Kansas. The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) opposed the bill because it would be an unnecessary government intrusion that would limit the ability of farmers and ranchers to choose the best operating entity for their business.

The committee amended the bill to add a grandfather clause to protect existing LLPs, making the prohibitions prospective. The bill failed to be brought up for consideration by the full Senate and is no longer eligible.

Water

The House approved House Bill (HB) 2114. Originally opposed by KLA, the bill was amended in committee to resolve the association’s concerns. The bill amends numerous statutes pertaining to regulation of dams and other water structures. The bill, as amended, passed the House 103-13.

KDWP

The House approved HB

2505, a bill originally opposed by KLA, that was amended in committee to resolve the association’s concerns. HB 2505 would create an exception for Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks (KDWP) records regarding the location of any species that is threatened, endangered or in need of conservation from the disclosure requirements of the Kansas Open Records Act.

It was amended to create an exception to allow landowners to request this information about their own property. The bill passed 124-0.

The House also approved HB 2511, a bill that would permit monies received from agricultural production on state-owned property by KDWP to be used for the management of all such properties. KLA originally opposed the bill. However, it was amended in committee to specify that funds must be used for “habitat management,” which resolved KLA’s concerns. HB 2511, as amended, passed 122-2.

Rural veterinarians

The House failed to consider HB 2582, which would create the Developing Veterinary Medicine for Rural Kansas Program, and it is not eligible for further consideration this session. HB 2582 proposed a loan repayment program for licensed veterinarians in rural communities or those whose practice is made up of at least 50% food animal patients.

Applicants would be eligible to receive up to \$100,000 or the balance of their educational debt load, whichever is less. The program would sunset after six years. The bill was not advanced over concerns about how much it could increase annual expenditures from the state general fund. — **KLA**

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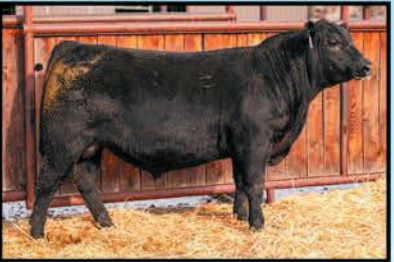
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Supreme Court rejects Trump tariffs

Responding to the Supreme Court decision rejecting his tariffs under one law, President Donald Trump announced Feb. 20 he is imposing a universal 10% tariff under a different law and launching more investigations to impose tariffs on other imported products.

Trump lashed out after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-3 that the president doesn't have authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to set sweeping tariffs against trade partners.

Trump immediately threatened he would impose a potentially different set of tariffs going forward. Trump signed a new order on Feb. 20 imposing a 10% global tariff under Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974. The president also said he would press for more trade investigations under Sections 232 and 301 under the same law.

"It's a little more complicated, the process takes a little more time, but the end result is going to get us more money," he said.

Trump also praised the dissent by Justice Brett Kavanaugh, saying it gave him more authority to impose new trade restrictions. Defending his tariffs, Trump said his ask for other countries "was very modest" given what he could have done.

The tariffs would remain, "but other alternatives will now be used to replace the ones the court incorrectly rejected," Trump said.

Trump speculated a new regime of tariffs would take in even more money.

"Their decision is incorrect, but it doesn't matter because we have very powerful alternatives," Trump said.

The president also said the Supreme Court's ruling gave him more authority to restrict imports from coming into the country under IEEPA.

Asked about how he has used money from tariffs, Trump said he "just gave \$12 billion to farmers"—which is the basis for the \$11 billion Farmer Bridge Assistance program and \$1 billion for specialty crops. Still, USDA states the \$12 billion in aid came from

the annual Commodity Credit Corporation funding.

The ruling will immediately generate questions about trade pacts reached by the Trump administration, including announcements that include greater market access for agricultural commodities in agreements with the United Kingdom, Japan, India, Indonesia and China. Tariffs initially prompted China to stop buying U.S. soybeans then an agreement was reached last October that assured China would buy 12 million metric tons (mmt), followed by years with 25 mmt in purchases.

The high court rulings spelled out Congress has historically delegated tariff authority explicitly and with limits, which it did not do in IEEPA. Along with that, Trump's interpretation would grant sweeping, unlimited tariff power without clear congressional authorization.

The ruling comes a week after the New York Federal Reserve Bank issued a report citing that nearly 90% of the tariff costs were borne by U.S. consumers and businesses. The tariffs also affect only certain sectors in some countries. For instance, the U.S. set a 35% tariff on Canadian imports, but 83% of Canadian imports are exempt from U.S. duties under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement, the New York Fed noted.

Rollins touts trade agenda

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, declined to weigh in on the tariff ruling before Trump spoke on Feb. 20. At the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum, Rollins said she was at the White House when the decision came down.

In her Outlook speech, Rollins pressed that the agricultural trade deficit that the Trump administration inherited is declining "because of all of the new trade deals and open markets." She said Trump's trade agenda has moved to "open up more markets than ever before" for farm products. Trump's agricultural trade deals, Rollins said, have come with countries that

amount to roughly 50% of the world's economy. She also noted Trump struck the deal with China. Trump announced early Feb. 20 he would be going back to China in March as well.

"President Trump will not allow our American farmers to be used as pawns in the tariff regimes of other countries," Rollins said.

The ruling also comes just days before Trump was slated to give the annual State of the Union speech.

Industry reactions

Scott Metzger, an Ohio farmer and president of the American Soybean Association, noted farmers rely on imports for "fertilizer, seeds, pesticides, and agriculture equipment." Metzger called on Trump to avoid using other tariff powers to negotiate trade deals.

"Moving forward, certainty and dependable market access are essential for U.S. soy to remain competitive globally," Metzger said. "Because

farmers are caught in a cost-price squeeze and ag input costs remain high, we urge the president to refrain from imposing tariffs on agricultural inputs using other authorities. We look forward to working with the Trump administration and Congress to strengthen market opportunities and support a stable farm economy for generations to come."

Kip Eideberg, senior vice president of government relations for the Association of Equipment Manufacturers, said the Supreme Court rule is welcome news for equipment manufacturers, who have been dealing with higher input costs and trade uncertainty over the past year.

"The industry supports the administration's efforts to bring manufacturing back to the United States and secure domestic supply chains, but tariffs on critical parts and components have significantly raised the cost of domestic manufacturing and have made U.S.-made equipment

less competitive in America as well as in foreign markets," Eideberg said. "This has resulted in disrupted supply chains, delayed capital investments, reduced investment in R&D, and a slowdown in the expansion of domestic manufacturing capacity."

Still, Eideberg also noted equipment manufacturers still face tariffs on steel and aluminum under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. Those tariffs still raise the costs of importing equipment not produced in the U.S.

"We urge the administration to use today's ruling as an opportunity to chart a new course for tariff policy and secure more trade agreements that expand market access for America's equipment manufacturers," Eideberg said. "Fair, balanced, and mutually beneficial trade relationships with our allies and partners keep supply chains resilient, commerce flowing, and support millions of equipment manufacturing jobs across the country."

Demands for immediate refunds

The ruling will open the door for businesses filing for potentially \$175 billion in tariff revenue refunds.

The Wall Street Journal had reported, for instance, that Deere & Co. said just under \$600 million in tariff costs were tied to Trump's use of the IEEPA.

Following the Supreme Court decision, a small-business group calling itself "We Pay the Tariffs" called on the Trump administration to provide refunds to them.

Dan Anthony, executive director of the group, said in a statement the court's ruling was important to small businesses that have been "bearing the crushing weight" of tariffs. The group is a coalition of more than 800 small businesses launched in 2025.

"They've taken out loans just to keep their doors open," he said. — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

UW Extension to offer lambing webinar series

On March 17, the University of Wyoming (UW) Extension Sheep Task Force will host a free webinar about managing flock health around lambing season. The webinar, which is the first of two episodes, will discuss strategies for mitigating ewe and lamb stress from late gestation through docking.

The second webinar will be hosted March 26. Both webinars will be held 6-7:30 p.m. on Zoom.

Topics

- March 17: Colostrum and orphan lamb management.
- March 26: Metabolic stress of ewes through late gestation and early lactation.

The sessions will be led by members of the UW Extension Sheep Task Force and feature guests from the industry. The Sheep Task Force supports

Wyoming's sheep producers facing current industry challenges through evidence-based research and on-the-ground implementation.

"Lambing is the first opportunity to have a positive impact on the success of the lamb crop, which makes proper preparation super important and beneficial," said Jedidiah Hewlett, Converse County Extension educator.

To register for the webinar, visit bit.ly/uwo-sheep-26. A Zoom link will be emailed to participants after registration.

Both webinar sessions will be recorded and posted on UW Extension's YouTube page (@UWyoExtension) for viewing after the live session. For additional info, please contact Hewlett at jhewlett@uwyo.edu or 307-358-2417. — **UW Extension**

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CSU project uses AI to turn soil data into actionable insights

An interdisciplinary research team at Colorado State University (CSU) is using artificial intelligence (AI) to help farmers better understand soil health by turning varied agricultural data into practical, decision-ready insights that are easy to access.

Healthy soil is key to farming success, supporting water retention, root growth and nutrient cycling. However, tracking conditions and understanding how management choices affect them over time remains difficult—especially amid challenges such as drought, increasing weather variability and maximizing crop yields.

The newly funded TerraScope project at CSU addresses that gap. In it, the team plans to use AI to combine on-the-ground measurements and remote sensing data; paired with advanced simulations, this will reveal patterns and relationships farmers can act on that would otherwise be invisible when viewed in isolation.

The \$1 million project is funded by the USDA. The CSU

team includes computer scientists from the College of Natural Sciences as well as soil and outreach experts from the College of Agricultural Sciences. The researchers hope to connect key data points on a unified platform that is useful, responsive and built on feedback from agricultural producers on their needs for soil management.

A key aspect of the project is organizing data that comes from a variety of sources. Professor Shrideep Pallickara said a challenge will be aligning formats, resolutions and even terminology from different settings as they relate to aspects such as soil moisture.

“The data we will be using to train these AI-informed models is both diverse and voluminous,” he said. “That makes it a challenge to work with, but by combining information from traditional observations or on-the-ground records provided directly by farmers with data collected remotely by satellites, we hope to address gaps in understanding.”

Megan Machmuller is a re-

search scientist at CSU and co-director of university’s Integrated Rocky Mountain-region Innovation Center for Healthy Soils. She said the project includes a strong outreach element and that the team is dedicated to including feedback from agricultural producers in their work.

“Too often, tools like this are created without considering usability or the reality of what producers need. TerraScope will be crafted in collaboration with the agricultural community, and that guarantees it will be practical, reliable and attuned to the real-world challenges faced by producers in Colorado and beyond,” she said.

Machmuller added that this work embodies a fundamental tenet of the university’s land-grant mission to advance science that directly benefits and serves people.

“Colorado’s diverse agricultural landscape, climate, soils and topography provide an ideal environment for the launch and refinement of this platform,” she said. “The rich

legacy of soil research here also provides a robust foundation for advancement, including comprehensive datasets and ecosystem models that will be instrumental in this project. This work will strengthen decision-making capacity across the state and enhance the long-term resilience of agricultural systems.”

The CSU team also includes professors Eugene Kelly and Keith Paustian from the Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, Sangmi Pallickara from

Computer Science, and Jay Breidt from Statistics. James Hale, the research director of community food systems and social sustainability in the Department of Sociology, is also part of the project. — **CSU Extension**

Consult vets in spring management decisions

“As spring approaches, cattle operations face a range of important management decisions,” said Patrick Davis, University of Missouri (MU) Extension livestock field specialist. Engaging your local veterinarian can provide guidance, as they possess the expertise required to support sound management choices that enhance productivity and profitability.

Davis addresses how you can effectively utilize veterinar-

ians to advise on management strategies that contribute to the success of your cattle operation.

“Reproductive efficiency is a critical component of successful cattle operations,” Davis said.

Pregnancy checks and timely removal of non-pregnant cows enhances both reproductive outcomes and operational cost management. Prebreeding examinations for heifers, including the culling of those with inadequate pelvic dimensions and/or unsound reproductive tracts prior to the breeding season, enables resource allocation toward productive females, thereby supporting long-term operational success.

breeding season to arrange breeding soundness exams and inquire about available programs offering discounted rates for bull vaccinations and parasite control.

“Calf weaning management and health are important and impacting the calf’s future performance,” Davis said.

He recommends doing calf processing procedures such as dehorning and castration before weaning to minimize stress during weaning and prevent later health and performance issues. Vaccinations should also be administered preweaning to strengthen immunity and reduce postweaning health problems.

Additionally, early pregnancy assessments of prospective replacement heifers, followed by the culling of open heifers, further improves resource utilization and overall productivity.

Davis recommends regularly involving a veterinarian in these processes to support effective herd management.

“Bull management plays an essential role in the overall productivity of cattle operations,” Davis said.

Given the current market conditions for calves and herd bulls, any factor adversely affecting bull performance or calf crop percentages can significantly hinder operational success. Conducting bull breeding soundness examinations prior to each breeding season is crucial to confirm that only bulls with optimal fertility are selected for breeding pastures.

Additionally, this period presents an opportunity to update vaccinations. Davis advises consulting your veterinarian 30 to 60 days before the

Davis suggests working closely with your veterinarian to create a tailored vaccination and processing plan prior to weaning that promotes proper immunity, reduces postweaning stress and contributes to long-term calf success.

“Cowherd health is essential for success of any cattle operation,” Davis said.

Spring is an ideal time to update vaccinations as cows pass through the chute, helping to build optimal immunity within the herd.

MU Extension offers guidance on cowherd vaccinations, available in MU Extension guide G2044, Herd Health Programs and Reproductive Efficiency of Beef Cattle. Davis recommends using this guide in collaboration with a veterinarian to create a vaccination plan that supports peak performance, health, and contributes to a successful cattle operation.

For more information on topics discussed, contact Davis at 417-276-3313 or davismp@missouri.edu, or contact your local Extension livestock field specialist. — **MU Extension**

Relief efforts underway for KS wildfire victims

The Ranger Road Fire that started in northwest Oklahoma before moving into Kansas burned an estimated 283,283 acres, according to the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food & Forestry. The agency also reports that the Stevens Fire burned an estimated 12,428 acres in Oklahoma and Kansas.

Ranchers in the hardest-hit areas have lost fence, livestock and forage resources. The Kansas Livestock Association (KLA) is helping organize hay and fencing donations for delivery to affected areas in Kansas. To make in-kind donations, call KLA at 785-273-5115. Cash donations can be made through the Kansas Livestock Foundation (KLF), KLA’s charitable arm, at tinyurl.com/3tfyfn72 or sending a check with “wildfire relief” written in the memo line, to 6031 S.W. 37th, Topeka, KS 66614. KLF is a 501 c(3) organization. Donations to the foundation are tax-deductible.

Monetary donations also can be made to the Ashland Community Foundation at tinyurl.com/2ffhkf2p or sending a check to P.O. Box 276, Ashland, KS 67831. Checks can be dropped off at the Stockgrowers State Bank (622 Main Street, Ashland, KS 67831), as well. Be sure to put “wildfire relief” in the memo line. Donations will be used to help fire victims in all five counties affected: Meade, Clark and Comanche counties in Kansas, and Beaver and Harper counties in Oklahoma. — **KLA**



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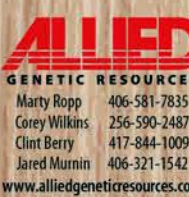
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T-HEART RANCH

Build smarter deworming plans with diagnostics

Incorporating diagnostics into deworming plans gives cattle producers a clearer handle on parasite pressure and product performance. It helps confirm when treatment is needed, when it isn't, and when a protocol might need adjusting.

For operations like Leaning Oak Ranch in Okemah, OK, that clarity has become a key advantage. And it starts with putting real numbers behind decision-making.

Turning data into decisions

Diagnostics provide a straightforward view of the parasite burden in your herd. A fecal egg count reduction test (FECRT) is the most reliable method for measuring deworming efficacy.

"We had a group that didn't look right, and I assumed it was a worm is-

sue," shared Buck Rich, owner of Leaning Oak Ranch. "But the fecal tests came back clean, and confirmed our LongRange (eprinomectin) was working the way it should. Running diagnostics saved us from reworking the cows unnecessarily."

The results also highlighted the economic value of testing.

"From an economic standpoint, that would have been wasted money on more dewormer, and wouldn't have helped our problem," Rich continued. "Diagnostics are an important tool, and can definitely help get you on the right path more quickly."

Rich works closely with his herd veterinarian, Tyler Thomas, DVM, owner and operator of Prague Veterinary Clinic in Prague, OK.

"It's very easy to check fecals, and it's a valuable tool," said Thomas. "The data lets us know where a

deworming program sits, and if we need to take action or not."

"You don't know where to go until you know where you're at. Diagnostics tell us if treatment is even necessary, and whether what we've done is working."

— Tyler Thomas

How to implement diagnostics

Routine FECRTs establish a baseline on product performance, and track resistance over time. Even a few well-placed tests each year can support better decisions. Testing before spring turnout, during grazing or at weaning are all good options.

"Without diagnostics, it's

easy to point the finger at the product," explained Jody Wade, DVM, Boehringer Ingelheim. "But if you're not testing, you might be treating the wrong issue or not seeing the whole picture."

To conduct the test, two manure samples are needed from the same animal: one collected before or at the time of treatment, and another collected after a specified period following treatment. The timing of the second sample depends on

the product used, as each medication requires a different interval after treatment to assess its effect.

When running diagnostics, Wade emphasizes the importance of working with trusted laboratories.

"Samples should be collected per rectum, stored properly and processed by reliable labs," he added. "Your veterinarian can help ensure everything is handled correctly, so the results are meaningful."

An egg reduction of 95% or more indicates the dewormer performed well. When results fall short, it may signal that parasites are surviving treatment. In these situations, a herd veterinarian may recommend adjusting the timing, incorporating combination treatment, modifying the grazing rotation, or reevaluating which cattle receive treatment. The goal is always a plan rooted in evidence—not assumption.

A sustainable deworming

plan includes diagnostics and three other proven parasite management tools: combination treatment, pasture management and refugia.

"We want our deworming practices to be sustainable, and the four pillars are about helping producers get the most from the tools we already have," said Wade. "Diagnostics are where it all begins."

For Thomas, diagnostic results shape how he builds treatment plans for Leaning Oak Ranch and other operations.

"You don't know where to go until you know where you're at," he asserted. "Diagnostics tell us if treatment is even necessary, and whether what we've done is working."

Reviewing deworming protocols with your veterinarian at least once a year is an essential step in maintaining herd health and productivity. — **Boehringer Ingelheim**

Nebraska BQA 2026 certification schedule

Nebraska Beef Quality Assurance has released the 2026 schedule for Beef Quality Assurance (BQA) and BQA Assurance Transportation certification events.

The trainings allow attendees to earn both certifications during the same session.

BQA is a national program that provides science-based information and practical guidance to beef producers on best management practices for raising cattle under optimal conditions. Core principles include proper animal husbandry, prevention of violative residues and reduced injection site damage. The program has expanded to include cattle handling, facility design, transportation practices, recordkeeping and overall herd health management.

The mission of BQA is to strengthen consumer confidence in beef by focusing on everyday production practices that influence the safety, quality and wholesomeness of beef products. The program's principles guide the management of more than 80% of the U.S. cattle supply.

Nebraska BQA encourages all segments of the beef industry, including producers and cattle transporters, to maintain current certifications, which demonstrate a commitment to responsible management practices and continuous improvement.

Benefits of certification include staying current on industry standards, strengthening consumer trust and supporting cattle health and operational efficiency. Analyses of online calf sales have also shown that certified cattle often bring a premium in video auction markets.

Certification is valid for three years. Individuals certified prior to 2023 may need to renew their certification.

To learn more about Nebraska BQA or to find a certification event near you, visit bqa.unl.edu. To register for an event, visit the website or contact Dr. Lindsay Waechter-Mead at 308-633-0158.

Additional certification events may be added to the 2026 schedule as they become available. Producers are encouraged to check the website periodically for updates.

The 2026 schedule (all times are Central Daylight Time unless otherwise noted):

- North Platte: April 13, 4 p.m., West Central Research and Extension Center, 402 W. State Farm Road.
- Plainview: April 22, 4 p.m., Plainview Public Library, 209 N. Pine St.
- Ithaca: April 23, 4 p.m., Eastern Nebraska Research and Extension Center, 1071 County Road G.
- Imperial: May 6, 1 p.m. MDT, Lied Imperial Public Library, 703 Broadway St.
- Holdrege: May 7, 4 p.m., Phelps County Ag Center, 1308 Second St.
- St. Paul: May 13, 1 p.m., St. Paul Library Community Room, 1301 Howard Ave.
- Bladen: June 2, 6 p.m., Webster County Fairgrounds, 459 N. Crescent St.
- Albion: July 8, 5:30 p.m., Town and Country Veterinary Clinic, 2572 State Highway 14.
- Bridgeport: Sept. 9, 4 p.m., Prairie Winds Community Center, 428 N. Main St.
- Tecumseh: Dec. 1, 1 p.m., Johnson County 4-H Building, 633 N. First St. — **Nebraska Extension**

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Guides to help manage alpha-gal syndrome

As cases of alpha-gal syndrome continue to surface across the Show-Me-State, University of Missouri (MU) Extension has released five new publications to help individuals and families understand, prevent and manage the condition.

Alpha-gal syndrome (AGS) is a potentially life-threatening food allergy triggered by the bite of the lone star tick. The tick can transmit a carbohydrate known as alpha-gal (galactose-alpha-1,3-galactose), which is found in meat and products derived from mammals such as beef, pork and venison. Symptoms, which typically occur two to six hours after eating, range from hives and digestive distress to severe anaphylaxis.

Missouri has one of the higher reported rates of

AGS, making public awareness especially important. MU Extension's interdisciplinary alpha-gal syndrome team is led by Eden Stewart, MU Extension nutrition and health specialist. They are available in print and as free downloadable PDFs.

"Together, the guides are designed to provide practical, research-based information that helps reduce confusion and give people clear next steps," Stewart said.

Alpha-Gal Syndrome Awareness, by MU Extension nutrition and health specialist Rachel O'Halloran, explains what AGS is, how it develops and how it is diagnosed. The guide details common symptoms, including hives, nausea, diarrhea, swelling, breathing difficulties and drops in blood pressure.

Because there is no cure, prevention is emphasized. The guide provides step-by-step tick-avoidance strategies, including protective clothing, use of EPA-approved repellents, permethrin-treated gear, post-outdoor tick checks and proper tick removal techniques.

Cooking with Alpha-Gal Syndrome, by former MU assistant extension professor Sarah Wood, outlines common trigger foods, including red meat, organ meats, certain dairy products, gelatin, broths and gravies made from mammalian sources.

It explains that sensitivity varies widely. Some individuals react only to red meat, while others must avoid dairy or even cross-contact from shared cooking surfaces. The publication describes areas where cross-contact may occur, such as grills, fry oil, meat slicers, cast iron pans and shared utensils.

The guide offers lists AGS-friendly options such as poultry, fish, eggs, legumes, nuts, seeds, soy products and plant-based dairy alternatives. A detailed chart helps readers understand how to meet daily protein needs without red meat.

The publication also encourages open communication when dining out and with family members, reinforcing that education and planning can reduce risk and stress.

For many people, the grocery store becomes one of the biggest challenges after diagnosis. Shopping for Alpha-Gal Syndrome, by MU Extension nutrition and health specialist Eden Stewart, focuses on reading labels carefully and identifying hidden ingredients.

The guide explains how ingredients such as gelatin, collagen, glycerin, lard, suet, beef or pork broth and certain "natural flavors" may contain mammal-derived components. It provides examples of where these ingredients may be present unexpectedly, in-

cluding poultry products, snack foods, baked goods, pantry staples and protein powders.

In addition to food, the publication addresses personal care items and medications. It advises individuals to inform physicians, dentists and pharmacists of their diagnosis, since some capsules, supplements, vaccines or ointments may have mammalian byproducts.

For those who enjoy cooking and baking, Alpha-Gal Syndrome Food Substitutions, by former MU Extension community health specialist Shelby Yake, provides practical alternatives for commonly used mammalian ingredients.

It suggests poultry, fish, shellfish and plant-based proteins as substitutes for beef and pork. For baking and sautéing, it lists options such as olive oil, coconut oil, vegan butter and other plant-based fats. It provides alternatives for milk, buttermilk, cheese, cream cheese and meat broths, including plant-based milks, vegetable stocks and creative flavor enhancers like miso, nutritional yeast and vinegars.

The guide encourages readers to try substitutes in small amounts, research proper ratios and explore different grocery stores or ethnic markets for allergy-friendly products. It also reminds readers to check labels every time, since processing methods and ingredients can change.

When people eliminate red meat or dairy, nutritional gaps can occur. Alpha-Gal Syndrome Nutrients of Concern, by MU Extension community health specialist Emily Poncher, explains which nutrients may be affected, including iron, vitamin B12, zinc, calcium, vitamin D and protein.

The guide describes why each nutrient matters and lists AGS-friendly sources. For example, iron can be found in beans, leafy greens and seafood; vitamin B12 in fortified cereals, eggs and fish; and calcium in fortified plant milks and certain vegetables. Practical tips are included to help incorporate these foods into everyday meals.

A practical path forward

"While an AGS diagnosis can feel overwhelming, informed choices can significantly reduce risk and improve quality of life," Stewart said. "By combining prevention strategies with practical guidance on shopping, cooking, substitution and nutrition, the new publications aim to give Missourians tools they can use immediately."

All five guides are available through MU Extension as free downloadable PDFs and as print handouts at extension.missouri.edu/publications. — MU Extension



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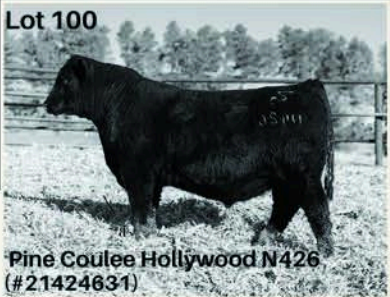
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Meat Demand Monitor shows shifting consumer priorities since 2020

Across nearly six years of monthly data, the Meat Demand Monitor reveals a U.S. consumer base that remains strongly committed to meat, increasingly attentive to nutrition and health and responsive to financial realities.

The newly released February 2020 to December 2025 summary report from Kansas State University documents how consumer demand, purchasing drivers and financial sentiment evolved through pandemic disruptions, inflation spikes and shifting health trends.

Meat consumption

One of the most consistent findings in the Meat Demand Monitor is the durability of meat consump-

tion. Self-declared meat consumer rates have increased over time, while vegan and vegetarian rates peaked early in the survey period and subsequently declined.

When the monitor began, 68% of respondents reported they regularly consume meat, and 14% said they were vegetarians and vegans. By 2025, 75% reported regularly consuming meat, and 7% were vegan/vegetarians. The report further notes that many respondents who self-identify as vegan or vegetarian also report consuming meat in prior-day meals, suggesting actual non-meat diet prevalence is lower than labels alone imply. The number of respondents reporting as flexitar-

ians remained constant at 10-12% during the reporting period.

Where consumers source protein has remained consistent. For at-home meals, grocery stores account for more than 60% of protein sourcing across breakfast, lunch and dinner in each year studied. Mass merchandisers and club stores follow behind at 21% and 7%, respectively, in 2025.

Away-from-home, the report noted quick service (fast-food restaurants) restaurants led breakfast and lunch, gaining share from 2020 levels, while casual dining (Applebee's, Olive Garden, Outback Steakhouse, etc.) leads dinner and remains closely followed by quick service (Panera, Chipotle, Panda Express, etc.) at roughly one-third of away-from-home meals.

The divergence between retail and foodservice becomes more pronounced when examining willingness-to-pay (WTP), a direct

demand measure captured in the report. Retail WTP rose sharply from 2020 to 2025.

For example, consumers' indifference price for ground beef increased from \$7.26 per pound in 2020 to \$9.18/lb. in 2025. During that same period, the Consumer Price Index All Items Index—the broad inflation index—increased 24%, yet several retail protein WTP measures rose by more than that rate. In contrast, none of the eight foodservice dinner WTP measures rose by 20%.

Purchasing priorities, sentiment

Purchasing priorities have been stable overall, but notable shifts occurred within the ranking of factors. Taste and freshness consistently rank as the top considerations when consumers buy protein, the report noted. However, nutrition and health have increased in relative impor-

tance since 2020, aligning with what the report describes as a broader "pro-protein" environment.

Meanwhile, environmental impact, origin/traceability, animal welfare and hormone/antibiotic-free claims have declined in relative importance.

Financial sentiment trends help explain widening differences across households. The Meat Demand Monitor reports that financial optimism peaked in 2021, then deteriorated from 2022 through 2025 amid inflation and broader pessimism. Households reporting improved finances reported eating beef and pork more frequently, consistent with meat being a "normal good."

At the same time, the report said that price rose in relative importance among financially strained households, with the gap across financial cohorts most pronounced in 2025. According to the report, households reporting improved

finances ("better") increased weekly food spending from \$101 in 2020 to \$114 in 2025, while those reporting worse finances rose more modestly from \$96 to \$99 over the same period.

Meanwhile, the share of weekly food spending allocated to at-home meals remained consistently higher for financially strained households—rising from 66% in 2020 to 67% in 2025—compared to 58% in both 2020 and 2025 for households reporting improved finances.

Emerging health trends are also shaping demand. The report highlights growing use of GLP-1 medications, particularly in southeastern states, and notes that research using Meat Demand Monitor data finds that GLP-1 users are less price-sensitive. The report notes that dynamic remains a key area for monitoring. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

BLM proposal does not identify new permittees

STEENS (from page 1)

would not resume until riparian conditions demonstrate significant progress toward the standards and guidelines, with a graze-and-rest rotation thereafter to reduce the risk of trampling Redband Trout redds.

Environmental opposition

The proposal is drawing renewed opposition from conservation groups. Western Watersheds Project (WWP) submitted a formal protest, arguing the plan would increase grazing by 96% across the four allotments and allow temporary grazing permits to capitalize on high-forage years, potentially compounding ecological harm.

"The agency's environmental analysis for this project is written to paper over the harmful and deleterious effects from livestock grazing in one of the most biologically rich and beloved areas of Oregon's high desert," said Adam Bronstein, Oregon director with WWP. "It is clear that ecological recovery and species' protection of the last 12 years of limited livestock use is taking a back seat to special interests."

WWP maintains that the allotments have been recovering since 2014, when grazing was halted after the former permittees, Hammond Ranches Inc., lost their permits after being convicted of arson on public lands. According to BLM, the Bridge Creek Area has remained largely ungrazed since 2014, with only limited grazing occurring in 2019.

Background

The permitting history has been contentious. In 2014, BLM declined to renew the Hammond Ranches' permits and removed grazing preference from the base property. The Hammonds appealed. In 2018,

President Donald Trump pardoned Dwight and Steven Hammond for their arson convictions. On his last day in office in January 2019, then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke directed BLM to reissue the grazing permit under a categorical exclusion. Later that year, the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon vacated the reissued permits and remanded them to the agency for further review.

In 2020, BLM initiated a new environmental assessment process. After protests, the Interior secretary issued a Notice of Final Decision on Jan. 19, 2021, apportioning forage and authorizing range improvements. That decision was appealed by environmental groups in February 2021. In December 2022, U.S. Magistrate Judge Andrew Hallman allowed most claims in the lawsuit to proceed.

In 2023, an interdisciplinary team conducted updated rangeland health assessments. While earlier 2020 findings identified unmet standards, the 2023 review determined that livestock grazing under the pre-2014 permit was not a causal factor in most instances where standards were not achieved. In January 2025, BLM released a draft EIS evaluating five alternatives for the allotments.

BLM argues the approach balances ecological safeguards with economic stability for ranching families, emphasizing wildfire risk reduction through biological thinning of fine fuels and adaptive management flexibility. However, critics contend that expanded grazing and non-renewable AUMs during high-production years could reverse ecological gains made during the past decade of limited use.

At present, the proposed decision does not identify who would receive the new permits. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

50th Annual Production Sale

ARNTZEN ANGUS RANCH

A-A-R Justified-N100

Lot 1
Reg. 21385428

BW	WW	Milk	YW
-0.2	+81	+31	+127

Justified K012 x Frontman
Dam posts 5 WR 107

A-A-R Axell-5507

Lot 34
Reg. 21442918

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+0.5	+86	+28	+157

Axell x Stellar
4 star calving ease with big performance

A-A-R Padre-N121

Lot 45
Reg. 21403920

BW	WW	Milk	YW
-0.5	+74	+32	+131

Padre x Outside
Maternal brother to Genex sire Reservoir

A-A-R Axell-N023

Lot 3
Reg. 21403681

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+2.3	+94	+32	+156

Axell x Duke
WR of 115 and YR of 118

A-A-R Hilger-5919

Lot 38
Reg. 21427712

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+0.6	+70	+30	+118

Hilger x Justified
Dam posts 6 WR 107

A-A-R Stryker-5129

Lot 47
Reg. 21427644

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+0.5	+72	+30	+120

Stryker x Frontman 4504
Dam posts 7 WR 104

A-A-R Midas-N075

Lot 31
Reg. 21385422

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+0.4	+93	+32	+147

Midas x Tahoe
Super thick, high SM of 131

A-A-R Bridger-5403

Lot 43
Reg. 21480380

BW	WW	Milk	YW
-0.9	+67	+32	+118

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RIVERBEND CLARITY K1062
SPRING COVE GRANT 200K
V A R CONCLUSION 0234

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Support shown for permanent AEWB reform

An overflowing room of agricultural producers, association leaders and policy-makers gathered Feb. 24 for the Ag Wage Reform press conference and roundtable discussion, underscoring the urgency and national scope of the need for permanent reform to the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR).

Speakers representing dozens of commodities across six states addressed the crowd, collectively urging Congress and federal policy-makers to codify the interim final rule related to the AEWR and enact permanent changes that allow farms to plan with certainty, secure seasonal labor and protect domestic food production.

The coalition now represents 36 agricultural organizations across nine states, speaking on behalf of more than 20,000 farmers who rely on over 380,000 temporary H-2A workers nationwide, at a cost exceeding \$5 billion annually in wages.

Throughout the roundtable, growers detailed:

- Rapidly escalating wage mandates that outpace market realities.
- The inability to plan multi-year crop cycles under fluctuating wage formulas.
- Increased financial risk to family farms and rural communities.
- Growing dependence on imported food when domestic production becomes unsustainable.

Producers emphasized that American farmers are not seeking lower wages, they are seeking fair, predictable and stable wages that protect:

- Farms.
- Farmworkers.

• Main Street rural economies.

• The integrity of the U.S. food system.

In addition to the press conference and roundtable, coalition members spent the day meeting directly with policymakers to reinforce the urgency of action. Representatives conducted meetings with more than 30 Senate and House offices, as well as with officials at the U.S. Department of Labor and members of the Senate Agriculture Committee. These conversations further highlighted the immediate need for clarity and permanence in federal wage policy for agriculture.

Without permanent reform, speakers warned that domestic fruit and vegetable production, along with specialty crop industries including horticulture and tobacco will continue to decline, food imports will increase, farms will close and consumer food prices will rise.

Sam Watson, a farmer from Georgia remarked, “This is not a partisan issue, it is a food security issue.”

Jason Rodgers of Titan Farms in South Carolina reiterated, “We are asking for stability. We are asking for certainty. And we are asking for policies that allow American farms to remain viable while continuing to provide lawful employment for hundreds of thousands of workers.”

Ag Wage Reform will continue engaging lawmakers from both parties to advance permanent legislative solutions that codify the interim rule and restore long-term planning certainty to the specialty crop industry. — **Ag Wage Reform Coalition**

Webinar on confinement feeding cow-calf pairs

Nebraska Extension will host a webinar titled “Confinement Feeding Cow-calf Pairs in the Face of Limited Perennial Grass Options” on March 17 at 6:30 p.m. MDT.

As drought continues to expand across Nebraska and the western Great Plains, pasture rental and purchase prices remain high while many harvested feed commodities are moderately priced. The webinar will explore the potential of adding a confined cow operation to an integrated cattle and crop system, along with nutritional and management considerations when drought limits or delays perennial grass growth.

“Both the feed needs of the cow and calf have to be accounted for,” said Karla Wilke, Nebraska Extension cow-calf systems specialist. “Either the calf needs to be fed in a separate creep area, or the feed delivered to the pair needs to be increased as the calf grows to meet its needs.”

Wilke said lactation requires significantly more protein and energy than gestation.

“While we can use low-quality forages or residues in confinement diets, we have to

add a source of energy and protein to meet the needs of the pair appropriately,” she said.

The webinar will provide practical information producers can use this spring and summer as they evaluate drylotting operations. Wilke will highlight lessons learned from university research and from producers who have utilized drylot systems for cow-calf pairs.

Topics will include:

- Logistics for drylotting pairs, including needed bunk space, water, fence, shade and creep access for calves.
- Ration examples and feed cost estimates based on current commodity prices.
- Limit feeding versus full feeding.
- Use of annual forages to complement drylot feeding.
- Health considerations for cows and calves.
- Breeding strategies in a drylot setting.

A computer and internet connection are required to participate in the webinar.

The webinar is free, but registration is required. To register, contact Aaron Berger at aberger2@unl.edu. — **Nebraska Extension**

NCA seeking 2026 Teacher of the Year nominations

The Nevada Cattlemen's Association (NCA) has started its annual quest for Teacher of the Year candidates and is asking for your help in soliciting nominations. The deadline for submitting nominations is May 6. Teachers may also nominate themselves for the Teacher of the Year award.

Nominees must be elementary, junior high, or high school teachers who incorporate agriculture into their regular curriculum. For example, a teacher who teaches a one-week segment on agriculture and its

importance to Nevada. Current agricultural education teachers are not eligible. Nominees may also include teachers considered in previous years but were not selected for the award. Nominations must include a completed NCA Teacher of the Year application form and an attached short essay describing why you/the teacher is being nominated.

The winner of this award will receive a \$1,000 school supply stipend courtesy of the Nevada Agriculture Foundation. The award recipient will also be recog-

nized during the 2026 Nevada Cattlemen's Association Annual Awards Banquet in Elko, NV, on Nov. 12-14.

Anyone may submit a nomination form which is available at nevadacattlemen.org. For any questions, please contact the NCA office at 775-738-9214. Nominations may be submitted by email to nca@nevadacattlemen.org with "2026 Teacher of the Year Nomination" in the subject line or sent by mail to Attn: Research & Education Committee. — NCA

The length of gestation in beef cattle

The gestational length of cows is commonly believed to be 283 days. The topic of gestation length often comes up among cattle breeders during calving season. These conversations often pertain to calving artificially inseminated cows or recipis carrying embryo transfer calves because exact breeding, implant and expected calving dates are known. It is the observation of many that we have shortened the gestation length of modern beef cattle over the generations.

An article from the Journal of Animal Science in 1952 reported significant differences in the average gestation length of Angus (281.7 days), Hereford (286.1 days) and Shorthorn (284.3 days). Also, bull calves tended to be carried longer, and are heavier at birth, than heifer calves. This study also reported a significant positive relationship between birth weight and gestation length.

A 2024 abstract from the Journal of Animal Science analyzed a total of 10,037

records obtained from reproductive data collected from fall of 2011 through spring of 2018, from 14 herds from the Virginia Department of Corrections beef cattle operations and the Virginia Tech Beef Center research herd. Cows used to measure gestation length were all pregnant to AI and only pregnancies that resulted in a live birth were included in the dataset. The objective of this study was to perform an analysis to determine gestational length and evaluate cow and calf parameters that influence gestational length of Bos taurus beef cows.

The average age of cows in this study was 5.5 years, with a minimum of 2 years and a maximum of 18 years of age. The average gestation length was 280.2 days. The shortest and longest gestation lengths recorded were 253 days and 300 days, respectively. Gestation length was affected by calving season with a significantly shorter gestation length for fall calvers (279.1

days) than spring calvers (281.1 days).

Calf sex also had an impact on gestation length. Bull calves were gestated almost a day longer (280.8 days) than heifers (279.6 days). Correlation coefficients (r values) were calculated between gestation length and other variables. Cow age ($r = 0.2136$), calf birth weight ($r = 0.3834$), calf weaning weight ($r = 0.1438$) and calf adjusted weaning weights ($r = 0.0253$) were correlated with gestation length of beef cows.

In conclusion, the average gestation length of Bos taurus beef cows was 280 days, which is shorter than the commonly used 283 days, and it was affected by calving season (fall or spring) and calf sex. Further, while correlations exist among gestation length, cow age and calf traits, these correlations were weak to moderate. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

Establishing perennial grasses

Are you considering establishing a new field of perennial forage grasses this spring or renovating an existing field? Seed selection, seedbed preparation, fertilization, methods of seeding, time and rate of seeding, and weed control are all an important part of the process.

For cool-season grasses such as smooth brome, wheatgrass or orchardgrass, the planting period is typically mid-March into April. Planting in late April or May is suggested for warm-season grasses like big bluestem or switchgrass.

The seedbed for grasses should be firm, well-packed and free of large clods with just enough loose surface soil for proper seed coverage. Good seed-to-soil contact is essential to maintain adequate moisture near the seeds. This moisture is nec-

essary for germination and for the small root systems of young grass seedlings.

A companion crop such as oats with cool-season grasses can be used for seedling protection and to reduce soil erosion. Sandy soils or hilly sites are most likely to benefit from companion crops.

Grass seedlings grow slowly and compete poorly with weeds. The most frequent cause of seeding failure and slow establishment of warm- and cool-season grasses is poor weed control. If weeds are abundant, mowing can be used to reduce competition. Broad-leaf weeds can be controlled in grass seedings using 2,4-D ester at a rate of 1 pt/A (4 pounds of acid equivalent/gal). Do not spray 2,4-D until grass seedlings have at least five leaves. — **Jerry Volesky, Nebraska Extension**

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These stops are a preview into the agenda planned for the 2026 Livestock Tour's journey through roughrider country. Join us for a week packed with real-world insights and firsthand knowledge you can take back to your own operations, along with lots of fun and good company too.

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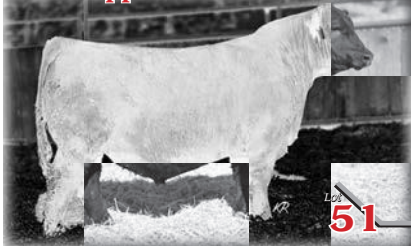
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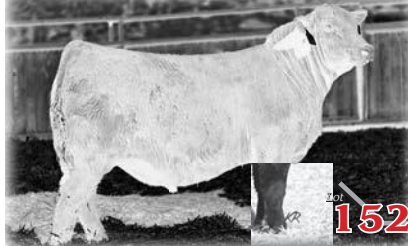
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MARKET NEWS

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 2/26/2026		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	245.00	▲	N/A	197.00
CME Feeder Index	374.79	▼	376.02	279.37
Boxed Beef Average	377.89	▲	N/A	311.18
Average Dressed Steers	N/A	▲	N/A	N/A
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,468	▲	1,467	1,437
Weekly Slaughter**	516,000	▼	541,000	563,000
Weekly Beef Production***	461.2	▼	483.1	491.1
Hide/Offal Value	11.96	▲	11.92	11.92
Corn Price	4.34	▲	4.28	4.81
*Average weight for previous week. **Total slaughter for previous week. ***Estimated year-to-date figure in million pounds for previous week.				

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle						
	2/20	2/23	2/24	2/25	2/26	High* Low*
Feb.	24658	24498	24575	24678	24650	24775 16853
Apr.	24200	23925	24005	24190	24003	24830 16668
Jun.	23753	23545	23610	23808	23653	25018 17005
Aug.	23498	23335	23388	23585	23450	25093 18068
CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle						
	2/20	2/23	2/24	2/25	2/26	High* Low*
Mar.	36803	36430	36620	36850	36663	38103 21920
Apr.	36505	36135	36343	36620	36410	38280 22268
May	36100	35798	35998	36290	36065	38020 22460
Aug.	36070	35763	35970	36255	36050	37860 24118
*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.						

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	510	1,650	245.00
Live FOB Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Live FOB Heifer	139	1,330	249.00
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	210	1,451	197.00
Live FOB Heifer	179	1,225	197.00
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: FEBRUARY 23, 2026		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	29,193	3,723
Formula	222,714	1,069
Negotiated Cash	68,059	125
Negotiated Grid	21,283	1,826
Packer Owned	7,599	N/A
Total	348,848	6,743

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,730
Feb. '26	155,025	Neg. Sales 21+ days	918
Mar. '26	146,144	Formula sales	3,547
Apr. '26	182,852	Forward contract sales	98
May '26	82,258	Domestic sales	5,653
Jun. '26	96,334	NAFTA Exports	101

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	228.52	+3.79
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	227.04	+3.81
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	233.32	+1.58
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	231.38	+1.57
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	148.12	+2.01
*Price comparison from one week ago.		

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, February 24, 2026			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	509.85	523.29	456.23
601-700 lbs	458.27	447.07	429.31
701-800 lbs	404.84	399.45	403.44
801-900 lbs	366.27	371.04	368.47
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	507.96	519.07	402.78
501-600 lbs	462.80	463.22	379.21
601-700 lbs	415.73	407.69	362.41
701-800 lbs	366.55	369.77	324.58

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
	2/16/2026	2/9/2026		
Feeders	IMPORTS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE		0	230,638

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
February 26, 2026			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: N/A		Week Ago EST: N/A	Year Ago Act: 6,000
THIS REPORT WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED AFTER MAY 12TH 2025. THE BORDER WILL BE CLOSED FOR LIVESTOCK IMPORTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.			
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	N/A
600-700 lbs	N/A	600-700 lbs	N/A
700-800 lbs	N/A	700-800 lbs	N/A
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	N/A
600-700 lbs	N/A	600-700 lbs	N/A
700-800 lbs	N/A	700-800 lbs	N/A

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

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef											
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price
February 20	6,294	367.12	257	381.45	1,190	369.97	2,014	365.62	516	358.29	2,317 343.67
February 13	6,409	366.87	275	380.68	1,214	368.66	1,895	365.30	512	360.11	2,513 345.19
February 6	6,607	366.50	272	379.84	1,170	371.37	2,102	362.90	587	359.82	2,475 346.06
January 30	6,803	366.55	304	379.63	1,216	372.15	2,058	362.18	512	358.79	2,712 343.98
Cutouts			FED BOXED BEEF								
DATE	CHOICE		SELECT		COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN		90% LEAN		
February 26	377.89		370.79		333.50		160.27		433.00		
February 25	379.23		367.07		331.31		149.07		428.42		
February 24	377.43		366.01		331.73		153.19		432.90		
February 23	369.22		364.31		329.13		147.40		426.22		
February 20	366.70		360.74		331.82		149.27		433.14		

Selected Auctions Week Ending February 26, 2026						Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2					
DATE MARKET		200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS	
February 20 Blackfoot, ID	N/A		520-570	480-560 470-522	420-519 390-502	380-457 365-430	310-406	290-346	140-171 164-191	NORTHWEST	
February 19 Burley, ID	415		626	490-612 452-525	452-472 412-480	400-425 364	387-390 333	336-358	130-177 189-198		
No report available Emmett, ID											
February 21 Eugene, OR	732		420-515* 385-507*	360-480* 434-477*	360-480* 355-472*	360-382* 370-381*			155-177 170-190		2,300-3,900 1,800-3,500
February 23 Madras, OR	191		450-500 442-500	500-550 450-480	435-455 381-440	335-350 337-346	331-362.50 337-346	332-357	150-170 170-211		
February 18 Vale, OR	1,693		570-624	525-567 497-561	455-529 425-517	420-469 375-440	372-428 340-388	321-374 310-335	172-183 178-203		
No report available Davenport, WA											
February 19 Toppenish, WA	1,239				462.50*	385-405*	300		145-168 147.50-189		3,300-4,600
February 19 Orland, CA	539			400-573	350-505 320-450	300-420 280-405	300-375 280-344	300-347	140-177 174-190		FARWEST
No report available Escalon, CA											
No report available Famoso, CA											
No report available Galt, CA											
February 24 Turlock, CA	564		500-575 414-520	465-535 410-485	410-505 390-425	345-434 330-367.50	312.50-345 300-330	326.50-386 290-312.50	130-178 162-190		
No report available Salina, UT											
February 23 Iowa	13,012	580	545-627.50 480-600	467.50-600 425-567.50	435-535 401-532.50	375-477.50 366-415	330-426.50 327-424	307-398 280-367	130-300 115-247		
February 24 Miles City, MT	624			488-520	492.50 431-480	415-417 365-422			150-175 171-187		
February 18 Bassett, NE	5,670		635-680 605	532.50-603 540-552.55	480-560 442.50-515	423-494 381-440	386-446 362.50-460	349-394 345-347.50			
February 21 Ericson, NE	4,340			565-600 514-525	480-580 443-505	440-472.50 380-448	369-437.50 338-407	343.50-389 309-329			
No report available Imperial, NE										NORTH CENTRAL	
February 18 Kearney, NE	2,600		645 555-580	527.50-560 504-535	500-516 441-480	414-491 386-443	406-418 350-369	306-382 316-394.50	163-176.50 182-200		
February 20 Lexington, NE	999				455	437-443 404-430	390.50-409 355.50-392	326.50-386 315-342.50			
February 19 Ogallala, NE	5,610			580-590 513-550	497.50-559 456-511	429.50-499 388.50-452.50	387.50-439 366-414	317-393.50 329-376			
February 19 Valentine, NE	2,530		640	540-637.50 480-529	525-565 428-507.50	430-490 375-447	373-436 351-435	366.50 362-396			
February 20 Herreid, SD	1,906		560-595	520-540	480-528 425-479	411-467.50 406-430	387-411 361.50-407.50	336-389			
February 25 Torrington, WY	3,084		695 575-585	580 520-570	479-559 468-520	414-470 362-445	395-408 365-380	361-379 356			
February 19 Willcox, AZ	946	617.50-675 446-500	537-600 431-510	444.50-504 459-500	379-438 394-427	340-370 358-394			130-163 165-204	SOUTH CENTRAL	
February 23 Colorado	2,677	707.50-750 735	597.50-705 520-630	540-645 465-555	405-537 407.50-480	380-440 361-422.50	358-396 349.50-351	282.50-367.50 307.50-332.50	128-178 157-206		
February 18 La Junta, CO	1,096		585-705 520-575	517.50-587.50 475-535	435-512.50 372.50-480	397.50-440 302.50-422.50	327.50-370 315-342.50	312.50-365 315-342.50	161-178 179-206		
February 23 Loma, CO	999		575-650 525-605	505-590 445-525	460-510 425-475	385-460 360-425	350-405 320-345	260-350 250-330	165-185 185-210		
February 25 Dodge City, KS	3,727		632.50-647.50 550-577.50	532.50-559 488-520	496-510 420-459	416-454 371-402	369.50-409 343-368.50	345-378 301-345.50	135-187.50 151-217		
February 26 Pratt, KS	1,505		640-700 571	589-638 498-525	521-538 362.50-475	415-468 391-414	368-407 334-367	320-361 299-332.50			
February 19 Salina, KS	2,886	645 670	640-665 575-620	550-627 490-608	519-550 410-502.50	420-492.50 365-466	367.50				

Beef exports continue to feel pinch of China lockdown

December beef exports were the largest in eight months, but full-year shipments fell substantially year over year, largely due to the ongoing trade impasse with China according to year-end data released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). Exports of U.S. lamb muscle cuts were the largest in more than a decade.

December beef exports totaled 98,595 metric tons (mt), down 10.5% from a year ago but the largest since April (access to China was largely lost in March). Export value was \$809.2 million, down 10% but also the highest since April. December shipments increased year-over-year to Taiwan, the Middle East, ASEAN, Caribbean, South America and Hong Kong, were steady to Japan and fell only modestly to Korea, Mexico and Canada.

But exports to China were minimal, offsetting gains elsewhere. When excluding China, December beef exports increased 4% year over

year in volume and were 6% higher in value.

For the full calendar year, beef exports were down 12% from 2024 in volume (1.14 million mt) and were 11% lower in value (\$9.33 billion). But excluding China, 2025 exports were down 3% in volume and just 0.4% in value.

“Global demand for U.S. beef—where it’s available to the millions of consumers who love it—has remained strong despite tight supplies and numerous headwinds,” said USMEF President and CEO Dan Halstrom. “USMEF is encouraged by recent market access gains in some markets, but implementation remains key and the industry looks forward to capitalizing on these wins. But for U.S. beef exports to hit on all cylinders and help maximize the value of every animal, it is imperative that access to China is fully restored.”

For both U.S. beef and pork, December was an especially strong month for variety meat exports. Beef

variety meat shipments achieved the highest-ever monthly value of \$122.1 million, while pork variety meat exports were valued at nearly \$105 million—the highest since March.

Lamb exports gained momentum

December exports of U.S. lamb muscle cuts totaled 188 mt, down 10% from a year ago, but export value increased 11% to \$1.1 million. Value growth was driven primarily by Mexico and the Bahamas.

For the full year, lamb muscle cut exports totaled 2,765 mt, up 38% and the largest since 2013. Export value climbed 29% to \$15.2 million, the highest value since 2014. Shipments posted strong year-over-year growth in Mexico, Canada, Central America and Trinidad and Tobago. Mexico’s demand continues to expand to a wider range of items, including underutilized cuts from the breast and shoulder. — **USMEF**

Cattle on feed lower another month

MARKETS (from page 1)

“Hard to reason that a late February rally of that magnitude had anything other than to do with ‘buying just in case,’” Fish said. “After all, slaughter disruptions historically have meant a big rally in boxes and the Greeley plant is one of the larger capacity fed cattle plants in the U.S. If there is a strike, the duration of the disruption is the key to determining its short and long-term impact.”

USDA released its latest Cattle on Feed report on Feb. 20. As of Feb. 1, the number of cattle and calves on feed was 2% lower than a year earlier. Placements were 5% lower, and marketings were 13% lower. Total disappearance was 8% lower.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures closed lower over the week. The March contract lost about \$9 to close at \$361.65, and the April contract also lost about \$9 to close at \$358.75.

“Without seeing the live cattle contracts trading higher—and still no reassurance as to what’s going to come of this week’s fed cash cattle trade—the feeder cattle contracts are left to trade sharply lower,” ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, wrote in her Thursday midday comments.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost over a dollar to close at \$374.79.

Corn futures traded higher, up 8 cents to \$4.33 on the March contract and up 8 cents to \$4.43 on the May contract.

Colorado: Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 1,389 head on Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder

steers under 600 lbs. sold \$5-6 lower, and those over 600 lbs. sold \$5-7 higher, with some sharply higher. Feeder heifers sold mostly \$7-8 higher, with instances of sharply higher across all weight classes. Benchmark steers averaging 730 lbs. sold between \$388-400, averaging \$390.96.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 10,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, at the mid-session, feeder steers sold from \$10 lower to \$15 higher. Feeder heifers under 550 lbs. sold \$5-10 lower, and heavier weights sold steady to \$10 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 783 lbs. sold from \$360-396, averaging \$371.68.

New Mexico: Roswell Livestock in Roswell sold 1,131 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, steer and heifer calves sold steady to lower, and feeder steers 700-900 lbs. sold higher. There were no comparable sales or numbers of feeder heifers for an accurate comparison. Benchmark steers averaging 709 lbs. sold between \$375-388, averaging \$386.15.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards sold 6,200 head on Monday. Compared to the sale held a week earlier, feeder steers and heifers sold steady to \$3 lower and 600-700-lb. steers sold \$10-15 higher. Steer calves sold steady to \$5 higher, and heifer calves sold up to \$25 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 772 lbs. sold from \$350-377, averaging \$371.55.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional in Worthing sold 5,689 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers and heifers sold \$3-5 lower, with instances of \$10 lower. Benchmark

steers averaging 726 lbs. sold between \$375-420, averaging \$399.07. — **Anna Miller For- tozo, WLJ managing editor**

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N261, PB SM ASA: 4624569
YARDLEY LUXURY X SFI ACHIEVEMENT
BW: 66 WW: 675



N320, ANGUS
MUSGRAVE AMBITION X O'REILLY FACTOR
BW: 78 WW: 700

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SALE REPORTS

**WEAVER RANCH
ANGUS PRODUCTION
SALE**
Feb. 16, Fort Collins, CO

**45 Angus older
bulls\$6,867**
Auctioneer: Lander
Nicodemus

TOPS: Weavers Math 92-
18-4203, 3/14/2024 by
Weavers Math 92-18; to Fly-
ing X Cattle Co., Saguache,

CO, \$15,500. Weavers Math
0801-4059, 5/9/2024 by
Weavers Math 650-0801; to
Flying X Cattle Co., Saguache,
CO, \$11,500. Weavers
Math 92-18-4211, 3/17/2024
by Weavers Math 92-18; to
14 Ranch, Glendo, WY,
\$11,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

**KREBS RANCH BULL
SALE**
Feb. 19, Gordon, NE
47 Angus older
bulls\$15,202
170 Angus yearling
bulls15,041
Auctioneer: Joe
Goggins

TOPS—Angus bulls: KR
Nexus 5406, 1/20/2025 by
HF Nexus 208K; to Thomas
Ranch, Harrold, SD,
\$55,000. KR Surplus 5109,
1/2/2025 by Connealy Sur-
plus; to Lazy JB Angus,
Montrose, CO, \$45,000. KR
Top Gun 5059, 1/3/2025 by
KR Top Gun 0914; to Hunter
Angus, Fair Grove, MO,
\$40,000. KR Academy
5158, 1/8/2025 by 8N Acad-
emy 2102; to Hutson Angus,
Elk City, OK, \$31,000. **Year-
ling bull:** KR Faithful 5151,
1/9/2025 by 44 Faithful
2764; to Uhlenhake Cattle
Co., Loyal, OK, \$65,000. —
TY GROSHANS

**HOFFMAN RANCH
BULL SALE**
Feb. 20, Thedford, NE
229 Angus yearling
bulls\$17,131
64 Hereford older
bulls11,867
148 Hereford yearling
bulls10,859
Auctioneers: Joe
Goggins & Rick
Machado

TOPS—Angus bulls:
Stellpflug Bedrock 5572,
1/5/2025 by Boyd Bedrock;
to Grimmus Cattle, Hand-
ford, CA, \$360,000. Stellp-
flug Prolific 5665, 1/14/2025
by Ellingson Prolific; to ST
Genetics, Navasota, TX,

\$170,000. Hoffman Lakota
5301, 1/1/2025 by Ellingson
Lakota; to ST Genetics, Na-
vasota, TX, \$160,000. Stellpflug
Bedrock 5676, 1/15/2025 by
Boyd Bedrock; to Six Mile
Ranch, Glentworth, SK, \$95,000.
Stellpflug Prolific 5650, 1/12/2025
by Ellingson Prolific; to Linz
Heritage Angus, Byars, OK,
and Abernathy Ranches,
Lander, WY, \$80,000. **Her-
eford bulls:** Stellpflug Monu-
ment 5061 ET, 1/10/2025
by KCF Bennett Monument
J335; to Blue Chip Here-
fords, Oxford, NE, \$90,000.
Stellpflug Monument 5053
ET, 1/8/2025 by KCF Monu-
ment J335; to Upstream
Ranch, Taylor, NE, and Coy-
ote Ridge Ranch, LaSalle,
CO, \$70,000. — **TY GRO-
SHANS**

**CSU BULL & FEMALE
SALE**
Feb. 21, Fort Collins, CO
14 Hereford
bulls\$11,357
12 Angus bulls 7,229
3 Hereford bred
heifers 5,916
9 Commercial bred
heifers 5,638
Auctioneer: Justin
Stout

TOPS: CSU 085H 4242,
5/26/2024 by KJ Nella 919E
Leader 085H; to Tim Barth,
Pilger, NE, \$20,000. CSU
Ground Breaker 4230,
4/20/2024 by OR L574
Groundbreaker B945; to
Nichols Farms, Bridgeport,
NE, \$19,500. CSU Harvest
4209, 3/23/2024 by SHF
Harvest D287 H033 ET; to
Nichols Farms, Bridgeport,
NE, \$18,500. — **TY GRO-
SHANS**

**SCHIEFELBEIN FARMS
BULL & FEMALE SALE**
Feb. 21, Kimball, MN
55 Angus older
bulls\$15,754
285 Angus yearling
bulls14,961
42 Balancer
bulls 14,702
57 Angus total
registered
females 10,627
Auctioneers: Lynn
Weishaar & Ty
Thompson
Sale Manager: Rance
Long

TOPS: Schiefelbein Jus-
tify 165, 1/17/2025 by Boyd
Justification; to Pine View
Angus, Garber, IA, \$80,000.
Schiefelbein CEO 3375,
2/21/2025 by Schiefelbein
Executive 1423; to Prairie
View Farm, Gridley, IL, and
Bush Angus, Britton, SD,
\$62,000. Schiefelbein Top
Dog 3745, 2/23/2025 by
Schiefelbein Executive
1423; to Grimmus Cattle,
Hanford, CA, \$59,000.
Schiefelbein Chairman 345,
1/20/2025 by Schiefelbein
Executive 1423; to ABS
Global, De Forest, WI,
\$55,000. — **TY GRO-
SHANS**

**HAYNES CATTLE CO.
BULL SALE**
Feb. 24, Ogallala, NE
131 Angus yearling
bulls\$11,618
Auctioneer: Kevin
Schow

TOPS: HAYNES Con-
gress 5130, 1/19/2025 by
Crouch Congress; to T&T
Angus, Dillon, MT, \$41,000.
HAYNES Man In Black 5194,

1/24/2025 by LAR Man In
Black; to Connell Ranch, Hy-
annis, NE, \$20,500. HAYNES
RiseAbove 5135, 1/20/2025
by Stellpflug Hoffman
RiseAbove; to Chuck Lan-
ning, Lebanon, TN, \$18,000.
HAYNES Dynamic 564,
1/14/2025 by BAR Dynam-
ic; to Caleb & Kari Schultz,
Kirk, CO, \$18,000. — **TY
GROSHANS**

**ELLINGSON ANGUS
PRODUCTION SALE**
Feb. 7, St. Anthony, ND
342 Angus
bulls\$19,409
47 Angus bred
heifers 18,030
180 Commercial bred
heifers 5,446
53 Commercial bred
cows 4,898
605 Commercial spring
open heifers 3,487
Auctioneers: Joe
Goggins and Greg
Goggins

TOPS—Fall yearling bull:
Ellingson Badlands 0285,
8/8/2024 by Ellingson Bad-
lands 0285; to Fortune's
Rafter U Cross Ranch, SD,
\$60,000. **Yearling bulls:** El-
lingson Badlands 5017,
2/8/2025 by Ellingson Bad-
lands 0285; to Select Sires,
OH, Arntzen Angus, MT, and
Meadow River Angus, WV,
\$170,000. Ellingson Lakota
5317, 2/26/2025 by Elling-
son Lakota; to Katus X7
Ranch, SD, Carlson Angus,
ND, and Van Zee Cattle
Company, IA, \$110,000. El-
lingson Prosper 5054,
2/11/2025 by Ellingson Pros-
per; to Riverbend Ranch, ID,
\$95,000. Ellingson Prosper
5063, 2/11/2025 by Elling-
son Prosper; to Vermilion
Ranch, MT, \$75,000. Elling-
son Bold 5068, 2/12/2025
by Ellingson Bold; to Circle F
Farms, GA, \$70,000. Elling-
son Tradition 5499,
2/26/2025 by Partisover
Tradition 241; to Van Zee
Cattle Company, IA, Maher
Cattle Company, SD, and
Hager Operating, MT,
\$50,000. Ellingson Lakota
5172, 2/16/2025 by Elling-
son Lakota; to M Diamond
Angus, WY, \$47,500. Elling-
son Prosper 5417, 3/3/2025
by Ellingson Prosper; to Ab-
ernathy Ranches, WY,
\$45,000. Ellingson Prosper
5071, 2/12/2025 by Elling-
son Prosper; to Circle F
Farms, GA, \$42,500. **Angus
bred heifers:** EA Blacklass
4106, 2/14/2024 by Elling-
son Hi-Range; to Badlands
Angus, ND, \$80,000. EA
Queen 4020, 2/8/2024 by
Ellingson Hi-Range; to Circle
F Farms, GA, \$60,000. EA
Queen 4308, 3/3/2024 by
Vermilion Riverside; to Katus
X7 Ranch, SD, \$55,000. EA
Bells Girl 4725, 2/29/2024
by Ellingson Bold; to Circle F
Farms, GA, \$35,000. EA
Emblynette 4173, 2/19/2024
by Ellingson Badlands 0285;
to Circle F Farms, GA,
\$35,000. — **KEVINMURNIN**



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Tuesday, MARCH 24

Tuesday, APRIL 7

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Clostridial 2x
Mannheimia / Pasteurella 2x
Dewormer
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**HAYNES CATTLE CO.
BULL SALE**
Feb. 24, Ogallala, NE
131 Angus yearling
bulls\$11,618
Auctioneer: Kevin
Schow

TOPS: HAYNES Con-
gress 5130, 1/19/2025 by
Crouch Congress; to T&T
Angus, Dillon, MT, \$41,000.
HAYNES Man In Black 5194,

**BRUNER ANGUS
RANCH PRODUCTION
SALE**
Feb. 15, Drake, ND
79 Angus yearling
bulls\$10,465
36 Angus 2-year-old
bulls 9,306
55 Angus bred
heifers 5,001
20 Angus bred
cows 4,675

97 Commercial bred heifers 4,673
117 Commercial spring open heifers 3,438

Auctioneer: Greg Goggins

Sale Manager: Frey Livestock Sales

TOPS: BAR Classic 5182, 3/18/2025 by Hoover Classic B26; to SB Ranch, Bismark, ND, \$24,000. BAR Prosper 5064, 3/5/2025 by Ellingson Prosper; to Kyle & Kristi Jensen, Denhoff, ND, \$22,000. BAR Classic 5174, 3/16/2025 by Hoover Classic B26; to Kyle & Kristi Jensen, Denhoff, ND, \$21,000. BAR Prosper 5088, 3/5/2025 by Ellingson Prosper; to Jim and Mike Rott, Anamoose, ND, \$21,000. BAR Bandit 5021, 2/28/2025 by Mohen Bandit 3202; to Ryan Bruner, Anamoose, ND, \$18,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

BULLS OF THE BIG SKY PRODUCTION SALE
Feb. 16, Billings, MT

237 SimAngus bulls \$8,871

Auctioneer: Ty Thompson and Jace Thompson

Sale Manager: Allied Genetic Resources

TOPS—SimAngus yearling bulls: 118LN, 1/18/2025 by Basin Jameson 1076; to Cory Brown, Orofino, ID, \$17,500. 204KJCN, 1/19/2025 by Basin Jameson 1076; to John Giacometto, Broadus, MT, \$16,500. Rymo Kenworth Cinch

914N, 1/16/2025 by EGL Cinched 116F; to Doug Stritmatter, Parma, ID, \$15,000. CLRS King James 616K, 1/19/2025 by CLRS King James 616K; to Pocket Creek Ranch, Custer, MT, \$15,000. **Simmental yearling bulls:** MFSR Genesis 109N, 1/15/2025 by LBRS Genesis G69; to Joh Giacometto, Broadus, MT, \$16,500. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

COLEMAN ANGUS BULL SALE

Feb. 17, Charlo, MT

116 Angus bulls \$24,563

Auctioneer: Joe Goggins

TOPS: Coleman Program 593, 1/24/2025 by Hummel Palermo SA; to Schaff Angus Valley, St. Anthony, ND, \$270,000. Coleman Authentic 5103, 1/21/2025 by Hummel Palermo SA; to Ingram Angus, Pulaski, TN, \$200,000. Coleman Grassland 592, 1/26/2025 by Coleman Resource 708; to Fintail Ranch, Twin Bridges, MT, \$140,000. Coleman Core 5197, 1/28/2025 by Coleman Platinum 2622; to Ingram Angus, Pulaski, TN, and South Hall Angus, Franklin, TN, \$110,000. Coleman Revenue 5142, 1/21/2025 by Coleman Glacier 841; to Ingram Angus, Pulaski, TN, and Bear Mountain Angus, Palisade, NE, \$100,000. Coleman Currency 566, 2/23/2025 by

Ellingson Prosper; to Trey Conley, Clarksdale, MO, \$60,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

SKYLINE ANGUS BULL SALE

Feb. 18, Stevensville, MT

80 Angus yearling bulls \$12,594

3 Angus spring open heifers 17,167

50 Commercial spring open heifers 4,241

Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe

TOPS: Skyline Rolling Stone 5134, 2/18/2025 by Coleman Rock 7200; to Rafter B Cattle, Hamilton, MT, \$100,000. Skyline Grant 5015, 3/11/2025 by Spring Cove Grant 200K; to Sherman Angus, Ronan, MT, \$28,000. Skyline Mainline 5166, 2/25/2025 by Coleman Resource 003; to Cole and Cavin Clements, Biddle, MT, \$27,000. Skyline Axis 5107, 2/13/2025 by Coleman Universal 3189; to Tate Gentry, Heppner, OR, \$20,000. Skyline Resource 5145, 2/20/2025 by Skyline Resource 5145; to Tim Schrock, St. Ignatius, MT, \$19,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

YV RANCH NIXDORFF GENETICS BULL SALE

Feb. 19, Airdrie, AB

9 Angus 2-year-old bulls \$16,722

55 Hereford 2-year-old bulls 14,345

Auctioneer: Ryan Hurlburt

TOPS—Angus 2-year-old bull: YV Sooner 334M, 2/28/2024 by Brookings Sooner 0052; to Kingston View Farms, PEI, \$21,000. **Hereford 2-year-old bulls:** YV 234F Forty Creek 73M, 4/8/2024 by BR 213B Forty Creek 234F; to Stuber Ranch, Bowman, ND, and Van Newkirk Herefords, Oshkosh, NE, \$30,000. YV 4K MR West Keeper 69M, 4/7/2024 by AGA 2YMOLE

Domino Keeper 4K; to David Valnes, Eadin, SD, \$26,000. YV 234F Forty Creek 48M, 3/28/2024 by BR 213B For-

ty Creek 234F; to Muirhead Cattle Co., Shellbrook, SK, \$24,000. YV 33K Kingston Credit 68M, 4/8/2024 by

PCL 22G Kingston 33K; to CO Johnson Ranches, Scandia, AB, \$24,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**



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 At the Public Auction Yards, Billings, MT
 Lunch at 11 AM • Sale at 1 PM
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S Armstrong Reg: *20143639
 BW: 0.8 | WW: 86 | YW: 143 | M: 26 | \$B: 181



Lot 3 - HE SELLS!



Lot 11 - HE SELLS!



RAR Commerce 1403 Reg: 21008681
 BW: -.7 | WW: 75 | YW: 139 | M: 24 | \$B: 160



RAR Statesman 4121 Reg: 21006310
 BW: 0 | WW: 72 | YW: 139 | M: 25 | \$B: 188

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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

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

March 13 – The Livestock Marketing Association has announced that applications are now open for its 2026 scholarship programs, offering two distinct opportunities to support students pursuing education and careers connected to the livestock marketing industry. Details: lmaweb.com.

March 15 – The Montana Stockgrowers Foundation is encouraging students to apply for scholarships through its Heritage Scholarship Program. Applications: mtbeeffoundation.org.

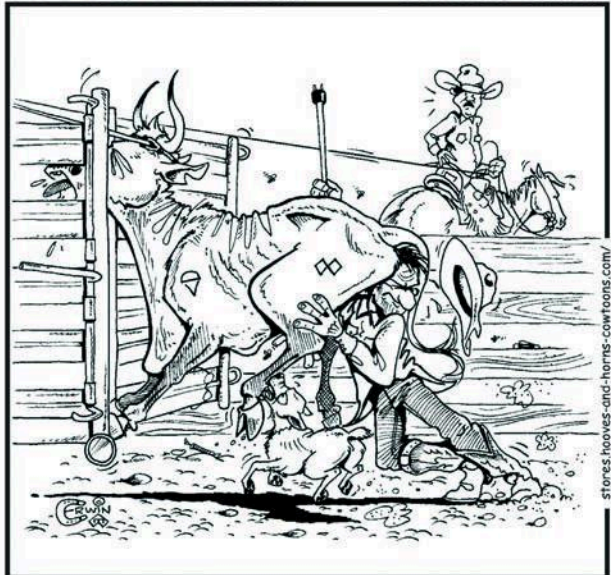
March 15 – The Montana Stockgrowers Association is now accepting applications for the 2026 Young Cattlemen's Conference. This national leadership and advocacy program will be held May 28 through June 4. Details: mtbeef.org.

April 15 – Undergraduate college students pursuing agricultural communications careers can apply now for up to \$3,000 in scholarships from the Agricultural Communicators Network. Details: agcommnetwork.com/scholarships.

Spring – The National Cattlemen's Beef Association has opened applications for summer 2026 semester internships in the association's Colorado headquarters and Washington, D.C. office. Details: jobs.keldair.com/ncba.

HOOVES & HORNS

BY A.W. ERWIN



"She's a female,..... Tell her we're goin'shoppin' an'she'll load right up!"

GENETIC OPPORUNITY ANGUS BULL SALE

March 16, 2026 | 1PM | Purdum, NE



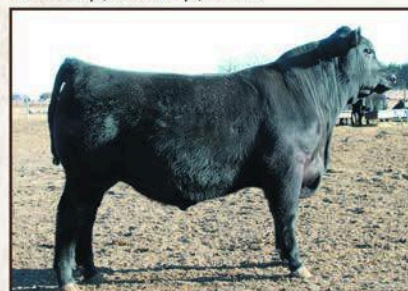
LOT 1 - CR DOMINATOR S101
 Reg #21402351 - Sire: Poss Dominator
 BW -2.2 | WW +77 | YW +134 | Marb +1.25 |
 RE +.65 | \$M +107 | \$W +90



LOT 3 - CR MT VARSITY S148
 Reg #21429746 - Sire: S A V Varsity 2750
 BW +3.4 | WW +86 | YW +153 | Marb +.94 |
 RE +1.12 | \$M +75 | \$W +72



LOT 6 - CASINO O'CONNOR Y170
 Reg #21417000 - Sire:Yon O'connor H146
 BW +.9 | WW +85 | YW +138 | Marb +.49 |
 RE +1.21 | \$M +95 | \$W +89



LOT 7 - CASINO BROADCAST Y176
 Reg #21417003 - Sire: Connealy Broadcast
 BW +2.9 | WW +89 | YW +160 | Marb +.69 |
 RE +.42 | \$M +66 | \$W +76



LOT 10 - CR MT MAN IN BLACK S135
 Reg # 21404010 - Sire: LAR Man In Black
 BW +.9 | WW +81 | YW +138 | Marb +.98 |
 RE +.8 | \$M +107 | \$W +82



LOT 17 - CASINO CONSTABLE Y182
 Reg # 21417005 - Sire: Casino Constable T34
 BW +1.7 | WW +89 | YW +150 | Marb +.93 |
 RE +.68 | \$M +88 | \$W +83



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 41053 W North Loup Rd
 Purdum, NE 69157
 David (209) 765-0508
 Carol (209) 604-9089
david37691@aol.com

COX RANCH

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SALE CALENDAR

Sale Calendar is a service to our advertisers. There is a minimum advertising requirement to be eligible to be listed in the Sale Calendar. Contact your fieldman for more information or to have your date added to the Sale Calendar. We will only run auction sale dates or private treaty start dates.

ALL BREEDS

Mar. 6 – Intermountain Genetic Alliance, Bull Sale, Heber City, UT
Mar. 18 – Western Breeders Association, Bull Sale, Eitopia, WA

ANGUS

Mar. 2 – Clear Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Mar. 2 – Harrell Ranch, Bull Sale, Baker City, OR
Mar. 3 – Allen Brothers Cattle, Bull Sale, North Powder, OR
Mar. 3 – Ipsen Cattle, Production Sale, Online
Mar. 4 – Ox Bow Ranch, Bull Sale, Wolf Creek, MT
Mar. 4 – Snake River Valley Genetics, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Mar. 5 – Cannon Angus, Bull Sale, Preston, ID
Mar. 5 – Split Diamond Ranch, Bull Sale, Dillon, MT
Mar. 6 – Crouthamel Cattle, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 6 – Leadore Angus, Bull Sale, Leadore, ID
Mar. 6 – Parry Angus, Bull Sale, Sterling, CO
Mar. 7 – 3C Cattle, Bull Sale, Stevensville, MT
Mar. 7 – Kimm Angus, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT
Mar. 7 – Loya/Wardell Angus, Bull Sale, Platteville, CO
Mar. 7 – Lucky 7 Angus, Bull Sale, Riverton, WY

Mar. 9 – Dal Porto Livestock, Bull Sale, Anselmo, NE
Mar. 9 – Pine Coulee Angus, Bull Sale, Hardin, MT
Mar. 9 – Spring Cove Ranch, Bull Sale, Bliss, ID
Mar. 10 – Wagon Wheel Ranch, Bull Sale, Yuma, CO
Mar. 11 – Hornung Livestock, Bull Sale, Stratton, CO
Mar. 11 – Udy Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Rockland, ID
Mar. 12 – Leadore Angus, Bull Sale, Dillon, MT
Mar. 12 – Sunny Okanogan Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Omak, WA
Mar. 12 – Wheeler Mountain Angus, Bull Sale, Whitehall, MT
Mar. 13 – Rollin’ Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Mar. 13 – SHB Angus & GPAR, Bull Sale, Rearden, WA
Mar. 13 – Thomson Land & Livestock, Bull Sale, Blackfoot, ID
Mar. 14 – Koberstein Farms Angus, Ogallala, NE
Mar. 14 – Riverbend Ranch, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Mar. 14 – Yardley Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Beaver, UT
Mar. 16 – JR Ranch & Sackman Cattle, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Mar. 16 – Rancho Casino/Cox Ranch, Bull Sale, Purdum, NE
Mar. 16 – Whistling Winds Angus, Bull Sale, Hingham, MT
Mar. 17 – 7n7 Ranch & Curtiss Cattle, Bull Sale, Enterprise, OR
Mar. 17 – Bartels Angus, Bull Sale, Riverton, NE
Mar. 17 – ELK Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Mar. 18 – Lufkin Cattle, Bull Sale, Tendoy, ID
Mar. 19 – Carter Cattle, Bull

Sale, Pingree, ID
Mar. 19 – Oft Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Mar. 20 – Caywood Angus, Bull Sale, Tendoy, ID
Mar. 20 – Montana Performance Co-op, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Mar. 21 – Chundy Land & Cattle, Bull Sale, Ogallala, NE
Mar. 21 – Nelson Angus Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Salmon, ID
Mar. 21 – South Montana Angus Association, Bull Sale, Butte, MT
Mar. 24 – Bar JV Angus, Bull Sale, Fairview, MT
Mar. 25 – Peterson Grain and Cattle, Bull Sale, Havre, MT
Mar. 26 – Vermilion Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Mar. 28 – Basin Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Mar. 28 – Diamond Peak Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Loma, CO
Mar. 28 – Sinclair Cattle, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Mar. 28 – Star Gate Ranch, Bull Sale, Twin Falls, ID
Mar. 30 – Silver Bit Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, May, ID
Apr. 1 – Nissen Angus, Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Apr. 2 – Arntzen Angus, Bull Sale, Hilger, MT
Apr. 2 – Midland Bull Test, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT

BALANCER

Apr. 2 – Midland Bull Test, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT

CHAROLAIS

Feb. 17 – V-A-L Charolais Ranch, Bull Sale, Nyssa, OR
Feb. 19 – Small Livestock, Bull Sale, Winnemucca, NV
Mar. 6 – Crouthamel Cattle, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 24 – Romans Ranch, Bull Sale, Westfall, OR

Mar. 28 – Valley View Charolais, Bull Sale, Polson, MT
Apr. 2 – Midland Bull Test, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Apr. 3 – Brevig Charolais, Bull Sale, Lewiston, MT

HEREFORD

Mar. 2 – Clear Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Mar. 2 – Harrell Ranch, Bull Sale, Baker City, OR
Mar. 9 – Holden Hereford, Production Sale, Valier, MT
Mar. 9 – Northwest Hereford Breeders, Bull Sale, Stanfield, OR
Mar. 10 – Cooper Herefords, Production Sale, Willow Creek, MT
Mar. 11 – Udy Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Rockland, ID
Mar. 19 – Bar Star Cattle, Bull Sale, Musselshell, MT
Mar. 25 – NJW Polled Herefords, Production Sale, Decker, MT

LIMOUSIN

Mar. 4 – Snake River Valley Genetics, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Mar. 21 – Ochsner Limousin, Bull Sale, Kersey, CO

LIM-FLEX

Mar. 4 – Snake River Valley Genetics, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Mar. 21 – Ochsner Limousin, Bull Sale, Kersey, CO

MAINE ANJOU

Mar. 14 – Yardley Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Beaver, UT

OPTIMIZER

Apr. 2 – Midland Bull Test, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT

RED ANGUS

Mar. 3 – Dille Red Angus, Bull Sale, Buhl, ID
Mar. 3 – Sandhills Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sidney, MT
Mar. 7 – Redland Red Angus, Bull Sale, Hysham, MT
Mar. 10 – Loosli Red Angus, Bull Sale, Ashton, ID
Mar. 11 – Udy Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Rockland, ID
Mar. 13 – Leland Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sidney, MT
Mar. 18 – Klompein Red Angus, Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT
Mar. 21 – Iron Lorenzen, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Mar. 25 – Westphal Red Angus, Bull Sale, Grass Range, MT
Mar. 30 – Axtell Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Sterling, CO
Apr. 2 – Midland Bull Test, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Apr. 2 – Northern Lites Red Angus, Production Sale, Glasgow, MT

SALERS

Apr. 2 – Midland Bull Test, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT

SIMANGUS

Mar. 3 – Allen Brothers Cattle, Bull Sale, North Powder, OR
Mar. 5 – Kearns Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Rushville, NE
Mar. 7 – Powerline Genetics, Bull Sale, Castle Dale, UT
Mar. 7 – Trinity Farms, Bull Sale, Ellensburg, WA
Mar. 11 – Hornung Livestock, Bull Sale, Stratton, CO
Mar. 13 – Powerline Genetics, Bull Sale, Arapahoe, NE
Mar. 14 – Yardley Cattle Co.,

Bull Sale, Beaver, UT
Mar. 19 – Western Cattle Source, Bull Sale, Crawford, NE
Mar. 20 – Black Summit Cattle, Bull Sale, Powell, MT
Mar. 21 – Chundy Land & Cattle, Bull Sale, Ogallala, NE
Mar. 24 – Open Gate Simmentals, Bull Sale, Augusta, MT
Mar. 28 – Diamond Peak Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Loma, CO
Mar. 28 – Star Gate Ranch, Bull Sale, Twin Falls, ID

SIMMENTAL

Mar. 5 – Kearns Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Rushville, NE
Mar. 7 – Powerline Genetics, Bull Sale, Castle Dale, UT
Mar. 13 – Powerline Genetics, Bull Sale, Arapahoe, NE
Mar. 14 – Yardley Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Beaver, UT
Mar. 19 – Western Cattle Source, Bull Sale, Crawford, NE
Mar. 20 – Black Summit Cattle, Bull Sale, Powell, MT
Mar. 24 – Open Gate Simmentals, Bull Sale, Augusta, MT

STABILIZER

Mar. 23 – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Meriden, WY

COMMERCIAL

Mar. 20 – Western Video Market Auction, Cottonwood, CA

HORSE

Mar. 2 – Harrell Ranch, Bull Sale, Baker City, OR
Mar. 3 – Ipsen Cattle, Production Sale, Online

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Production Sale

March 18th

75 Big, Stout, Age-Advantage Fall Bulls

Lot 702



CED	+10
BW	-.6
WW	+78
YW	+138
HP	+13.6
MILK	+19
Marb	+.72
RE	+.047
\$W	+72
\$B	+187
\$C	+327

Diamond Galactic M405

Bulls on display

6 miles south of

Hobson along

highway 400.

Sale Starts

4:30-p.m. at

Tallboys Tavern

in Hobson

6 Hereford Bulls

Lot 902



Diamond Masterplan 09N8

CED	BW	WW	YW	RE	Marb
+3.9	+1.5	+67	+111	+0.57	+0.24

Lot 701



Diamond Galactic M406

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$W	\$B	\$C
+7	+2.6	+103	+172	+.40	+.64	+96	+161	+288

Lot 705



Diamond Armstrong 930M MM

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$W	\$B	\$C
+14	-2.4	+89	+145	+.44	+.88	+98	+318	+318

Lot 706



Diamond Armstrong 092M MM

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$W	\$B	\$C
+6	+1.9	+88	+156	+.58	+.78	+82	+191	+323

125 Yearling Bulls

Lot 776



Diamond Cavalry 1535

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$W	\$B	\$C
+7	-.7	+84	+142	+.76	+.58	+152	+165	+295

Lot 780



Diamond Galactic N099L BR

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$W	\$B	\$C
+8	+.8	+87	+158	+.91	+1.07	+92	+190	+326

Lot 826



Diamond Expo 470N

CED	BW	WW	YW	Marb	RE	\$W	\$B	\$C
+11	-2.2	+77	+124	+.91	+.82	+106	+172	+303

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