

Western Livestock Journal®

"The Industry's Largest Weekly Circulation"

The National Livestock Weekly

March 10, 2025 • Vol. 103, No. 15

website: www.wlj.net • email: editorial@wlj.net • advertising@wlj.net • circulation@wlj.net

INSIDE WLJ

WOLF WATCH – CDFW reports shifting pack dynamics and rising depredations in California. **Page 8**

OVERTIME OVERDUE – Proposed bill aims to secure overtime for Nevada's farmworkers. **Page 20**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

In 2010, UNR proposed dismantling its agricultural college due to budget cuts, sparking concerns about the future of agricultural education in Nevada. "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 is part of a larger proposal designed to meet budget reductions mandated by the state legislature," read the March 8, 2010, WLJ cover story.

INDEX

Opinion.....	P-2
Markets.....	P-22
Sale Reports.....	P-24
Classifieds.....	P-26
Sale Calendar.....	P-27

Appeals court upholds grazing in Mexican wolf territory

— Wolf numbers climb

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals has upheld the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) handling of livestock grazing

in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests and Gila National Forest in Arizona and New Mexico, ruling that the agency took a "hard look" at its impact on the endangered

Mexican gray wolf.

The decision comes as the latest survey shows the wolf population in Arizona and New Mexico has grown to at least 286 wolves, mark-

ing another year of expansion for the species.

The decision upholds the district court's summary judgment in favor of USFS and rejects claims brought by Western Watersheds Project and Wilderness Watch under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).



Arizona Game and Fish Department

A federal appeals court has upheld the U.S. Forest Service's decision to authorize grazing in the Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests and Gila National Forest in Arizona and New Mexico.

Background

In 2021, Western Watersheds Project and Wilderness Watch filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for Arizona to stop the renewal of livestock grazing permits. The groups claimed the USFS violated NEPA by failing to fully consider alternatives and their environmental impact in its environmental assessment (EA) and findings of no significant impact (FONSI). They argued the allotments lie within the Greater Gila bioregion, a critical ecological area home to the Mexican gray wolf and several endangered species.

The appeals court found that the agency's EA and FONSI provided a "reasonably thorough discussion of the significant aspects of the

See MEXICAN WOLF on page 16

Court overturns BLM horse adoption program

— Rules violations of NEPA, APA

A federal court has overturned the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) wild horse and burro Adoption Incentive Program (AIP), finding it in violation of several federal laws.

The ruling is in response to a lawsuit filed by horse advocacy groups, including the American Wild Horse Conservation and Skydog Sanctuary, and a private citizen and other petitioners. The groups argued the program incentivized suffering and slaughter of wild horses and burros adopted through the program.

"Our wild horses deserve to be protected and treated humanely, not turned into a commodity for profit and abuse. This decision returns to the wild horses that have been removed from our public

lands the protection that they deserve," said wild horse photographer and author Carol Walker, a petitioner in the suit.

Judge William J. Martinez in the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado ruled that the groups have suffered aesthetic injuries as a result of the adoption program, as proven by members' firsthand experiences and a report in the New York Times documenting stories of two adopters who sold their horses for slaughter after receiving the program's incentive funds.

"It is not hard to imagine—nor is it speculative for Petitioners to assert, based on the record evidence—that the slaughter of wild horses by third parties would be 'fairly traceable' to agency action that invites members of the public to obtain title to these untrained animals for a \$1,000 cash incentive

See BLM HORSES on page 9

Millenkamp Cattle nears bankruptcy settlement

— Restructures \$300M in debt

Millenkamp Cattle Inc., one of Idaho's largest cattle and dairy operations, has filed a second amended disclosure statement to restructure its nearly \$300 million in debt while continuing operations.

The company, led by Bill and Susie Millenkamp, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in April 2024. It cited financial struggles related to a massive expansion project and lender disputes as its reasons.

Reorganization plan

The second amended disclosure filed Feb. 5 showed that during its Chapter 11 reorganization, Millenkamp Cattle secured a \$45 million debtor-in-possession loan from Sandton Capital, providing

immediate financial relief. Additionally, the company plans to sell two key properties, Canyonlands and McGregor—appraised at \$16 million and \$4.5 million, respectively—with proceeds going toward debt repayment.

The plan also restructures payments to Metropolitan Life Insurance Company (MetLife) and Rabo AgriFinance. MetLife will receive interest-only payments until December 2027 and then resume regular payments until maturity in 2038 and 2041. Rabo will receive interest-only payments until August 2026, when Sandton is anticipated to be repaid on the loan. Rabo will then receive payments of \$1.35 million per month if the budget allows, until the loan is repaid.

Conterra Capital will initially receive interest-only payments

until the Sandton loan is repaid and then receive \$40,000 monthly until the note is paid in full.

Court documents state it is anticipated Sandton will be repaid on the loan in 2026.

If successful, the reorganization would significantly reduce the company's leverage while preserving operations.

In February, Rabo suggested that the Millenkamp family or new investors inject monies from the sale of the Canyonlands and McGregor properties into the reorganized company and form a new entity to manage the operations.

To resolve these disputes, settlement negotiations between Millenkamp and its creditors were scheduled for March 6-7.

See MILLENKAMP on page 13

Markets trade steady amid economic uncertainty

Cattle markets remained steady over the week as live and feeder cattle futures saw minor fluctuations, cash trade held firm and boxed beef prices posted slight gains.

Live cattle futures traded mostly sideways over the week. The April contract gained 15 cents to close at \$196.27, and the June contract gained 30 cents to close at \$192.62.

Cash trade through Thursday afternoon totaled about 7,000 head. Live steers sold from \$195-197, and there was no trend noted for dressed steers.

"Northern trade was quiet and somewhat impaired by weather after a few early week dressed sales at \$312-313—steady with last week," wrote the Cattle Report on Thursday.

Cash trade for the week ending March 2 totaled 55,893 head. Live steers averaged \$197.86, and dressed steers averaged \$313.13.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 467,000 head, compared to 457,000 head a week earlier. Expected slaughter for a week earlier is estimated at 566,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Feb. 22 was 564,737 head. The average steer dressed weight was 946 lbs., 8 lbs. below a week earlier.

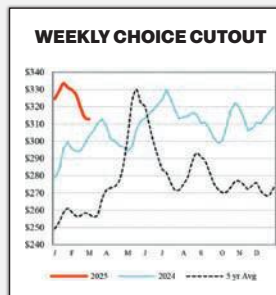
"The fed cattle portion of the weekly slaughter continues to make a larger percentage of the total slaughter than prior years with cow slaughter of both dairy and beef cows in decline," the Cattle Report said.

Boxed beef prices saw some small gains. The Choice cutout gained about \$2 to close at \$313.12, and the Select cutout gained about \$1.40 to close at \$303.51.

"Along with the potential impact of tariffs on the economy, specific industries and commodities, is growing uncertainty about the economy,

specifically as it relates to the consumer," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on

See MARKETS on page 23



↓	↑	↓
LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$195.79	\$310.00	\$277.87
WEEK ENDING: 3-6-25		

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling

COMMENTS

Trust the process

The nervousness across all sectors of agriculture is palpable.

"In life, there are ups and downs. Trust the process and have faith that everything will work out as it should," said renowned pastor and author Joel Osteen. While this is much easier said than done, we must address our surroundings because it's going to impact us all.



IPSEN

The U.S.' three largest trading partners have now entered the beginnings of a trade war by use of tariffs. This same tactical approach was used by President Donald Trump in his first term and was an effective method of producing results. However, this time around is much more aggressive and wide sweeping.

During his campaign, Trump stayed solid on securing the nation's borders, with the deadly drug fentanyl taking a lot of highlights on the list, and he's living up to his word on that front. However, all trade agreements and prior business relationships have been set aside, and all the chips have been moved to the center of the table to address the border issues.

The bold move has the entire world watching our every move, and with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's recent visit to D.C., where talks completely unraveled, everyone on both sides of the aisle are on the brink of panic.

Canada currently exports just over half of its annual calf crop, with 75% of that going into the U.S. That number increases as cattle reach harvest weights and are then exported to the U.S. According to data released by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF), nearly 40% of the U.S. red meat trade happens between Canada, Mexico and China. Overall, 6% of all U.S. cattle slaughter comes from Canada and Mexico while 5% of hog slaughter comes from Canada.

This is just one sector. Now, think about every product that deals with commodities, over-the-counter goods and vehicles. Canada has already responded with tariffs of their own while consumer-level stores have also responded by removing U.S. products off the shelves.

In a statement released by the Canadian Cattle Association last month ahead of the initial tariffs, they said, "Every day, \$3.6 billion CDN in goods crosses the Canada-U.S. border, resulting in a \$1.3 trillion annual trade relationship. Notably, Canadians purchase \$722 USD/person of U.S. agricultural products each year while Americans purchase just \$118 USD/person of Canadian agricultural products annually."

Mexico, on average, has exported 1.15 million head of cattle annually, or just over 3% of the U.S. calf crop, according to livestock marketing specialist Derrell Peel. According to information shared with *WLJ* by USMEF, in response to the U.S. Section 232 metal tariff, Mexico imposed a 20% tariff on U.S. pork cuts in 2018, leading to an estimated \$1.3 billion loss in reduced prices for ham and shoulder cuts and decreased export value. But why was a tariff placed on pork to retaliate metals? Mexico consumers consume nearly 50% of the hams produced in the U.S.

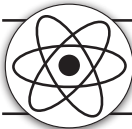
From a value standpoint, Canada, Mexico and China accounted for 37% of hog value and 15% of cattle value last year, according to data shared by USMEF.

So, here's the thing we have to remember. As of today, it's scary and could have lasting impacts. Immediately, the consumer will feel the first impact in the coming weeks, and as time goes on, all sectors will feel the overall impacts, much of which we don't have the answers to at this time. And that is, to me, what is creating the fear. We don't know what this will do to all sectors of agriculture—or even our entire population.

What I personally am relying on, and why I felt compelled to share this in this column, is that I am trusting the process. I am placing a belief that the president and his administration is taking a major leveraging piece and placing that on the negotiating table. While this is one of the most uncomfortable positions to be in knowing our producers' livelihoods are being used in these negotiations, I am trusting this administration to ultimately set the U.S. up for a better future.

For me, I have to look at his track record. Time and time again, he has made statements that didn't make sense at the time, but then later came to be true. I do feel this administration is working to secure better business deals for U.S. producers. The difference between Trump and the rest of us is how he goes about his business. It's not how most people would conduct their dealings, but I have to trust that the outcome will be for the overall betterment and security of this nation and the business dealings will be fair. This isn't a party line negotiation. We are all on the table right now; we just have to wait out the situation for now. — **LOGAN IPSEN**

(Note: This is a rapidly evolving situation. This opinion reflects the latest update as of the morning of March 6.)



RESOURCE SCIENCE

The new presidential administration and Congress make it a good time to consider changing the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The ESA impacts the ranching, farming, mining, oil and gas, and timber industries with heavy regulations and control of activity on private property (see the references at wlj.net).

The federal government decides what science is used in ESA decisions. In my experience, legitimate science that is not in agreement with the federal government bureaucracy is dismissed or ignored in ESA decisions. Prioritizing the ESA over multiple-use, and the selective use of science, has resulted in a bias against natural resources and agriculture in the government agencies and its associates in universities and environmental groups. ESA decisions can be challenged in court, but this is usually ineffective because the government agencies apparently have unlimited funds for legal challenges and are often favored in court. This results in what I believe is a government monopoly of the science used with the ESA.

What is an endangered species? You know what a species is; elk, moose, mule deer, cougars, wolves, grizzly bears, cattle, horses, sheep, cats and dogs are species. Scientifically, species are generally recognized as interbreeding groups that cannot successfully interbreed with other species.

But the ESA definition of species includes species, subspecies and distinct population segments (DPS). Subspecies and DPS are populations within a species, not the entire species. This greatly expands the scope of the ESA to populations in specific geographic areas. I don't think this was the intent of Congress when making the ESA a law.

Subspecies are populations in a geographic area that differ from other populations in traits such as size, color and genetics. Subspecies determinations for the ESA are made by government agencies. For example, the government designated the Mexican wolf as a subspecies different from other wolves, and the northern spotted owl as a subspecies different from other spotted owls. However, the scientific literature shows that subspecies are not scientifically definite, and subspecies designations are often subjective.

A DPS is a wildlife population designated considering its discreteness and significance from other populations. Discreteness refers to populations that are separated from others and is similar to the criteria for subspecies. DPS can also be separated by international borders. Significance refers to the importance of a DPS to the entire species and if a DPS is unique in some way. As with subspecies, DPS discreteness and significance are not scientifically definite and are determined by government agencies. DPS for Pacific salmon have been named evolutionarily significant units (ESU) which further complicates the species definition in the ESA.

What does endangered mean? Species may be listed under

CHANGING THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

the ESA as either endangered or threatened. An endangered species is a species which is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range. A threatened species is a species which is likely to become an endangered species (likely to become endangered with extinction) within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. Government agencies decide if a species is at risk of extinction and what is a significant portion of a range and the foreseeable future.

The ESA is supposed to apply to species that are at risk of extinction. Extinction means there are none (zero) remaining. Whether a species is at risk of extinction is usually not scientifically definite. In some cases, like the California condor, there are only a few remaining and they really are endangered with extinction. In many cases, like gray wolves, there are thousands of animals and they are not really endangered with extinction. Wolf range might be greatly reduced from its original range, but that's not the same as the species being at risk of extinction.

I suggest changes to ESA science and policy. The ESA species definition includes subspecies, DPS and ESU, which are not scientifically definite categories. The ESA species definition can be changed to be only full species. For example, all wolves, all spotted owls, all grizzly bears. Subspecies and populations in specific geographic areas (DPSes) can be managed by the states.

The risk of extinction, significant portion of a species range and foreseeable future are not scientifically definite and a consensus on these is unlikely. Perhaps joint federal and state agreement is a good way to make these designations. The ESA can be changed so the states and federal government have equal co-authority on ESA decisions.

A major policy problem with the ESA is that it applies on private property. I suggest the ESA be changed so it does not apply on private property. Voluntary incentives for landowners can be made to protect and enhance habitat for wildlife.

Another problem with the ESA is the Equal Access to Justice Act by which the government pays environmental groups' legal costs in lawsuits on ESA issues. This act could be repealed or changed so taxpayers are not funding environmental groups.

Maybe the new federal administration can make changes, as I described, to relieve agriculture and the resource industries from unfair ESA regulation while managing wildlife to the satisfaction of all Americans. — **Dr. Matt Cronin**

(Matthew Cronin is a scientist at Northwest Biology & Forestry Co. and a teaching professor at Montana State University, Bozeman. He was a research professor at the University of Alaska.)



GUEST OPINION

TAX SEASON IN BLOOM, BUT KEY PROVISIONS ABOUT TO WILT

With the blustery cold we have seen across most parts of the country in recent days, it's hard to believe that spring is right around the corner. Springtime brings planting, fresh blossoms, and, of course, taxes.

For many farmers, spring is a season of planning and planting. A big part of planning wisely is understanding what tax provisions our farm businesses qualify for. But the challenge this spring is that many critical business provisions are set to expire by the end of the year. We have heard that lawmakers plan to make this a priority this year, and we need to hold them to it, for the future of our farms and our food supply. If key tax provisions are not renewed quickly this year, it will mean billions of dollars in tax increases for farm and ranch families.

Farmers and ranchers face a variety of pressures and unpredictable challenges from changing weather to fluctuating markets. According to the last USDA Census of Agriculture, America has lost 141,000 farms in a five-year period. To put that another way, that is roughly 77 farms per day going out of business. Low commodity prices, rising supply costs, inflation and outdated farm policy provisions threaten to destroy the dreams of thousands more. The tax code shouldn't add to the uncertainty.

Family run businesses need a tax code that encourages investment and helps them remain economically sustainable in all seasons. While the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 made several key tax provisions permanent, farm businesses and rural Americans also rely on provisions that are about to expire, including:

- Reduced pass-through tax rates and expanded brackets.
- 20% business income deduction, or 199A.

- Unlimited bonus depreciation (expensing).
- Doubled estate tax exemption of \$11 million a person/\$22 million a couple.
- Increased Alternative Minimum Tax Threshold for individuals.

In addition to these provisions, the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) also supports continuing an unlimited stepped-up basis for farm and ranch businesses, indexing capital gains for inflation, prohibiting the collection of capital gains at death, and permanently eliminating estate taxes.

Farm and ranch families want to plan not only for the next season, but also for the next generation. It is getting harder for young and beginning farmers to get their start or come back to the farm—especially when they don't know what kind of tax bill might be waiting for them.

America needs the next generation ready and able to take up the mission of growing our nation's food, fiber and renewable fuel, especially as the average age of the American farmer nears retirement. Yet provisions that will expire this year, including lower individual income tax rates and a higher standard deduction, will increase tax liability by \$4.5 billion for all farm households. Our family farms—and the families across this country who are counting on us—deserve better.

At Farm Bureau, we are all hands-on deck to ensure Congress takes swift action to make these tax provisions permanent for our farm and ranch families. Together, let's keep holding our lawmakers to their word. They have promised to make tax reform a priority, and the season has come for them to get it done. — **Zippy Duvall, AFBF president**

<p>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.</p> <p>The national livestock weekly • Since 1922 • Western Livestock Journal LLC • 6021 S Syracuse Way, Ste #103, Greenwood Village, CO 80111 www.wlj.net • 303-722-7600 • Fax 303-722-0155</p>			
<p>PRESIDENT LOGAN IPSEN New Plymouth, ID 916-947-2392 logan@wlj.net</p>	<p>ADVERTISING@WLJ.NET KIRBY BRINCEFIELD Operations Manager 720-716-3363 kirby@wlj.net</p>	<p>FIELD REPS DEVIN MURNIN Director of Field Services Billings, MT • 406-696-1502 devin@wlj.net</p>	<p>CIRCULATION@WLJ.NET HANNAH JACKSON Circulation Manager & Copy Editor 720-370-8275 • hannah@wlj.net</p>
<p>EDITORIAL@WLJ.NET ANNA MILLER Managing Editor 720-372-2353 • anna@wlj.net</p>	<p>MIKE OLDCORN Advertising Coordinator & Graphic Design 720-370-9095 mike@wlj.net</p>	<p>JARED PATTERSON Caldwell, ID 208-312-2386 jared@wlj.net</p>	<p>CLASSIFIED@WLJ.NET TOM WHITE Classifieds Manager 720-370-7977 • tom@wlj.net</p>
<p>CHARLES WALLACE Contributing Editor 805-814-2017 • charles@wlj.net</p>	<p>TRISTAN MARTIN Advertising Coordinator & Graphic Design 720-372-1763 tristan@wlj.net</p>	<p>TY GROSHANS Akron, CO 970-818-6016 ty@wlj.net</p>	<p>PUBLISHER EMERITUS PETE CROW Publisher Emeritus • pete@wlj.net</p>
<p>WESTERN LIVESTOCK JOURNAL (ISSN 0094-6710, USPS 678660) is published weekly (52 issues annually, plus special features) by Western Livestock Journal LLC, 6021 S Syracuse Way, Ste #103, Greenwood Village, CO 80111. Website: www.wlj.net. Email: advertising@wlj.net or editorial@wlj.net. U.S. subscription rate: 1 year - \$55. Periodicals postage paid at Denver, CO, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Western Livestock Journal, P.O. Box 370930, Denver, CO 80237-0930.</p>			

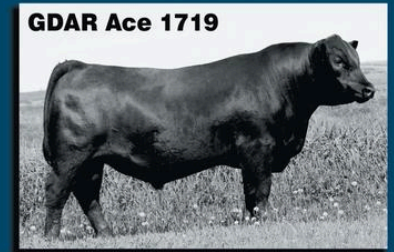
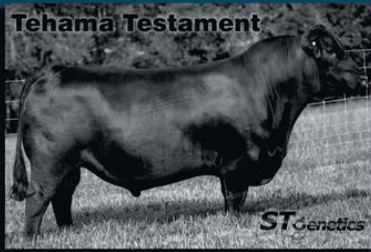
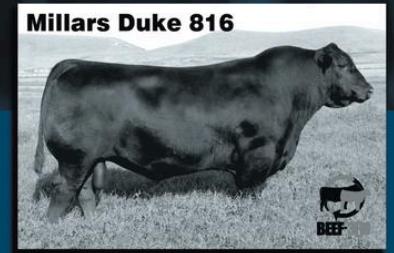
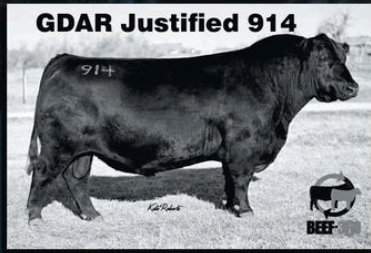
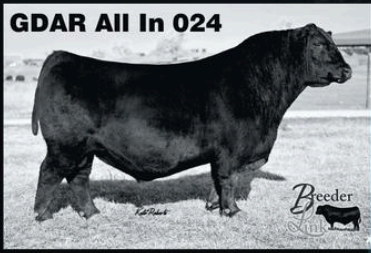
GDAR



Scan Me To Learn More!

www.gdar-angus.com

Building better cows since 1957.



Gartner ~ Denowh
ANGUS RANCH

Mick Denowh 406-489-0172
Paul Denowh 406-480-2761
Chad Denowh 406-489-1762
www.gdar-angus.com

58th Annual Production Sale
March 27, 2025

250 Yearling Bulls
250 Commercial Heifers
1:00 MDT at the Ranch • Sidney, MT

Sterile flies help with screwworm prevention

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is adjusting its New World screwworm (NWS) sterile fly dispersal strategy to help keep the pest out of the U.S., according to a news release from APHIS.

The previous biological barrier was in Panama, but with the recent spread of NWS cases farther north into Mexico, APHIS is shifting its dispersal efforts to the northernmost point of the outbreak in Mexico.

Eradicating NWS is only possible through the sterile insect technique. Iowa's state

entomologist, Robin Pruisner, told DTN the logistics and efficacy of releasing sterile male NWS works well, and the process has been used previously in the U.S. to eradicate the problem.

"The sterile insect technique (SIT) involves sterilizing millions of male insects using ionizing radiation before releasing them into the wild to mate with wild females," she said. "As no offspring can be produced, the SIT leads to a drastic reduction in the wild populations of the disease carrier while minimizing the use of pesticides."

Since the female fly only mates once, this helps eliminate the population.

APHIS said this remains the most effective strategy. The agency has identified two locations for sterile fly dispersal centers in Mexico. Dispersal centers outside of Mexico will continue to ensure program continuity.

"By adjusting dispersal locations, we ensure the greatest number of sterile flies are released in the critical areas," the APHIS news release stated.

While sterile fly dispersal will shift north, APHIS will continue to work with Nicara-

gua, Honduras and regional partners to support surveillance, animal health outreach and early detection efforts.

NWS are fly larvae that infest living tissue of warm-blooded animals, causing infection. According to APHIS, these maggots will burrow into a wound, feeding as they go, doing extensive damage by tearing the host's tissue with sharp mouth hooks. The wound becomes larger and deeper. NWS can cause serious, even deadly damage to the animal.

The adult screwworm flies are about the size of a common housefly with orange eyes, a

metallic blue or green body, and three dark stripes along their backs.

Affected mammals and birds show signs of irritated behavior, head shaking, smell of decay, evidence of fly strike and presence of fly larvae in wounds.

When the first case was found in Mexico in December 2024, imports of live cattle from Mexico to the U.S. were halted. Imports resumed in February with a strict animal health protocol prior to entry. — **Jennifer Carrico, DTN senior livestock editor**

Greenpeace asks to move pipeline trial

Greenpeace has asked the North Dakota Supreme Court to move its Dakota Access Pipeline defamation case out of Morton County, arguing the jury is incapable of rendering a fair verdict.

The request is the culmination of multiple unsuccessful attempts to convince Southwest Judicial District Judge James Gion that Morton County is the wrong venue for the lawsuit.

The case concerns Greenpeace's involvement in the protests against the pipeline in 2016 and 2017, which took place in Morton County roughly 40 miles south of Mandan, ND, and near the Standing Rock Reservation.

Energy Transfer accuses Greenpeace of backing unlawful and destructive behavior by protesters and spreading lies about the pipeline. As a result, construction of the pipeline was delayed for months and a group of banks pulled their funding for the project, the company claims.

Attorneys representing the environmental group have promised to prove these claims false by the end of the five-week trial that started this week. But they also say their evidence may not matter to the jury, many of whom reported holding strong views about the pipeline and the demonstrations.

"Residents of Morton County are not just familiar with the protests—they lived through them," attorneys for Greenpeace wrote in a brief filed with the high court.

Nearly half of the final jury pool told the court they were affected by the protests in some way, according to the petition, while roughly one-third expressed views Greenpeace sees as biased against the environmental group or favorable to Energy Transfer.

The environmental group also cited a survey of 150 Morton County residents it commissioned to gather info about potential jury bias in 2022. Nearly all the residents surveyed said they could not be a fair juror in the case.

Energy Transfer has countered that judges should only move a case in extraordinary circumstances and that doing so would unfairly delay progress in the lawsuit and inconvenience both parties.

The company has also argued that Morton County juries have previously heard cases related to the pipeline without issue.

A survey of Morton County residents paid for by Energy Transfer reported that most were not impacted by the protests and do not hold biases against Greenpeace.

Gion found the results of both surveys inconclusive, leading him to deny Greenpeace's first request to move

the case to a different court. He indicated that he would be willing to revisit the issue at trial.

Greenpeace alleges that Energy Transfer, the pipeline's developer, intentionally filed suit against the environmental group in Morton County to get a sympathetic jury.

If Greenpeace loses the case, it could be ordered to pay Energy Transfer hundreds of millions of dollars. If that happens, Greenpeace may not have enough money left over to appeal the verdict, according to the brief.

The organization wants the Supreme Court to review whether Gion's actions were an abuse of authority.

It also asked the high court to hold oral arguments on its request to change courts as soon as possible.

Greenpeace wrote that shipping the case to Cass County would be ideal, but that it would accept moving it anywhere else the Supreme Court suggests.

According to Greenpeace's 2022 survey, far fewer residents of Cass County, which includes Fargo, reported having ties to the pipeline or the protests compared to Morton County.

The counties' political leanings are also much different. Roughly three-quarters of Morton County residents voted for President Donald Trump in the 2024 election. Trump supported the completion of the Dakota Access Pipeline at the start of his first term in 2017.

By comparison, roughly 53% of Cass County residents voted for Trump in 2024.

Allowing the case to move forward would be a waste of time and resources for the parties, the court, the jurors and other Morton County taxpayers, attorneys for Greenpeace told the high court.

Greenpeace also pointed out in its petition that the case is before Gion—who ordinarily works in Dickinson—because Morton County judges recused over conflicts.

The environmental group has raised concerns about potential efforts by third parties to malign jurors.

In December, it asked Gion for permission to investigate a pro-fossil fuel political mailer circulating in Mandan and Bismarck. In a slew of evidence-related motions filed by both parties, Greenpeace also asked Gion to exclude information about how the protests affected the surrounding community.

Gion denied the requests. Before the trial started, Greenpeace also unsuccessfully raised concerns about television advertisements and text messages that appeared to be targeting Morton County residents with biased information about the parties, according to the brief. — **Mary Steurer, North Dakota Monitor**

Bull Name	CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MTL	SC	REA	MB	TSI	Other	
LT CAPTAIN 4317 PLD	10.5	-0.8	86	135	23	66	1.0	0.80	0.17	278.33	60% 60% 2% 15% 65% 15% 55% 35% 35%	LT Governor x LT Rushmore #M1002045 DOB 2/11/2024 PAF
LT CUTLASS 4001	17	-3.5	77	128	37	0.72	0.53	109	95	283	CED BW WW YW SC MILK MB RE \$M \$W \$C	LT Reversed x LT Converse DOB 2/23/2024 AAA 21061099
LT BLAZE 4354 PLD	9.8	-2.2	77	154	27	65	2.2	1.00	0.36	297.65	65% 35% 9% 2% 40% 15% 1% 6% 3% 6%	JSR Estrada 52E x LT Affinity x LT Ledger #M1002081 DOB 2/13/2024 PAF / HOP
LT TRACKER 4478	0	1.3	81	157	26	0.40	0.46	62	71	103	CED BW WW YW SC MILK CLAW ANGLE MB RE \$M \$W \$F	LT Foremost x GDAR All Pro x Justified DOB 2/5/2024 AAA 21086642
LT TREMER 4093 PLD ET	17.7	-3.4	65	110	25	57	1.0	0.76	0.24	269.69	5% 20% 45% 60% 50% 50% 55% 40% 15% 45%	LT Powerstroke x LT Blue Value #EM1001975 DOB 1/29/2024 PAF / HOP
LT INFERNO 4504	3	1.3	75	129	31	0.49	0.39	88	83	281	CED BW WW YW SC MILK CLAW ANGLE MB RE \$M \$W \$C	LT Deep Canyon x Roughrider DOB 2/7/2024 AAA 21086652

LINDSKOV'S LT RANCH

BUILDING ON QUALITY & SERVICE SINCE 1981

PO BOX 24 • 13291 SD HWY 65 • ISABEL • SD 57633

BRYCE LINDSKOV • 605.850.3887 • BRYCE@LINDSKOV-RANCHES.COM

TODD LINDSKOV • 605.850.8132 • TODD@LINDSKOV-RANCHES.COM

LINDSKOVSLTRANCH.COM

Tax credit proposed to offset cost of farmworker overtime

California state lawmakers are trying again to find a way to fairly compensate farmworkers for working overtime, this time removing the burden from farmers.

State Sen. Shannon Grove (R-Bakersfield) recently introduced a bill that would create a tax credit for farmers to offset the cost of paying overtime wages.

"California farmers are incredibly resilient, but it is no secret that agriculture faces significant economic challenges," said Shannon Douglass, president of the California Farm Bureau, which sponsored the bill. "Research has shown that placing the burden of overtime wages on farmers came at the expense of both farming operations and the families of farm employees."

Senate Bill (SB) 628 has bipartisan support, with state Sen. Melissa Hurtado (D-Sanger), who chairs the Senate Committee on Agriculture, backing the proposed tax credit for agricultural overtime.

"I fully support it," Hurtado said.

The bill was drafted to address unintended consequences of California's agricultural overtime law.

In 2016, the state adopted Assembly Bill (AB) 1066, which beginning in 2019 phased in a requirement that farmworkers—like workers in other sectors—be paid time-and-a-half when they work more than five days a week or 8 hours a day. Previously, due to the seasonal nature of agriculture, farmers could employ workers for up to 60 hours a week without paying overtime.

AB 1066 was intended to boost earnings for farmworkers. But early research suggests the law has lowered farmworker income as employers cut hours to avoid overtime costs.

During the first two years the law was phased in, the proportion of California farmworkers working more than 50 hours a week—the overtime threshold at that point in the phase-in—dropped by about half, according to a 2023 study by Alexandra Hill, an agricultural and resource economics professor at the University of California, Berkeley, which analyzed data from 2019 and 2020.

Hill encouraged further research on the law's consequences, but she said in her study that available evidence indicated the changes brought about by AB 1066 "may not be benefiting the workers they aim to protect."

The findings align with anecdotes reported by farmers and farmworkers across the state.

Leticia Hermosillo, who has worked as a farm laborer and crew supervisor in the Sacramento Valley for 45 years, said the 2016 overtime law negatively affected her crew.

During the season, which lasts from April to October, Hermosillo rises at 4:30 a.m. to supervise a couple dozen women tending squash, melons, tomatoes or tree crops. Because the season is

only seven months, with little work available the rest of the year, the women historically worked 60-hour weeks to get their hours when they could. "They really need to work," Hermosillo said.

But during the past few years, they saw their hours slashed to 40 hours a week, she said, losing one-third of their income.

"The people on my crew are really affected," Hermosillo said. "If they go to the store, they spend most of their paycheck on groceries. They're working just to pay the bills."

SB 628, which is modeled on similar agricultural overtime tax credits recently adopted in Oregon and New York, aims to restore work hours for farmworkers without passing the cost to farmers or sacrificing the overtime wages guaranteed under current state law.

"California's farmers and farmworkers are the backbone of our agricultural economy," Grove said in a statement. "SB 628 is a commonsense solution that ensures farmworkers have more opportunities to earn, while providing relief to our agricultural businesses who sustain the world's food chain supply."

For farms that have faced challenges adapting to the agricultural overtime law, the relief provided by the tax credit could be significant.

Rob Miller, owner of Dahlstrom and Watt Bulb Farm in Del Norte County, grows Easter lilies and hydrangeas in fields and in a greenhouse.

Because of the labor-intensive nature of caring for hydrangeas, Miller cut his production of the flower in half. He also reduced his field acreage because of logistical challenges related to moving sprinkler lines between rows while allowing enough time to irrigate, a task previously done by irrigators working 10-hour shifts or longer.

"I can't afford to pay the overtime," Miller said, adding that he has been unable to divide the work into more shifts due to a labor shortage in the area. "The price of what I sell my products for has not kept up."

As a result, "I have decreased what I do," he said, with the number of people he employs at peak season declining from around 100 in prior years to fewer than 20.

If adopted, the agricultural overtime tax credit could cost the state budget \$200 million to \$300 million per year, according to an estimate by the California Farm Bureau. The figure does not factor in economic benefits to farm businesses and rural communities the bill may create, or state revenues that would derive from those benefits.

California offers a similar tax credit, capped at \$330 million a year, for film and television production. Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) has proposed increasing the cap on that tax credit to \$750 million.

"There needs to be more support for agriculture," Hurtado said, adding that neglecting the sector has come at the cost of high grocery prices. "I'm hoping folks

begin to see that the support for our farmers and farmworkers needs to be there, because if not, then these are the types of challenges we're going to continue to face."

The introduction of the agricultural overtime tax credit bill comes on the heels of promises by Newsom to prioritize support for rural communities. And it comes as many farmers struggle with low commodity prices and high input costs.

In the Sacramento Valley, poor markets for almonds and walnuts have caused

farmers to cut back on labor spending, according to Hermosillo, who is a former farm labor contractor.

"They're not getting paid enough for what they grow, so they're not able to pay people to do as much pruning," she said, referring to off-season work that used to be easier to find. "The season is getting shorter."

California's famed winegrape sector faces especially steep challenges amid an unprecedented drop in demand, with farmers last year leaving more acreage unharvested than ever before.

"Growers are struggling to stay in business," said Natalie Collins, president of the California Association of Winegrape Growers, which also sponsored the bill. "If legislators genuinely want to increase take-home pay for farmworkers, growers are going to need support from Sacramento."

Hurtado said she has met with Grove and is working with her to address the challenges created by the state's agricultural overtime law. For producers, after years of raising concerns about the overtime law, bipartisan in-

tervention from the two San Joaquin Valley lawmakers may be a breakthrough.

"Sen. Grove's agricultural overtime tax credit bill is a sensible solution that will enable farmers to continue producing food while providing a real and richly deserved boost in take-home pay for farm employees," said Douglass, the California Farm Bureau president. "It is an investment in our food security and rural communities." — **Caleb Hampton, Ag Alert assistant editor, California Farm Bureau Federation**



At **WESTPHAL**

There's
MATERNAL POWER
Generations Deep



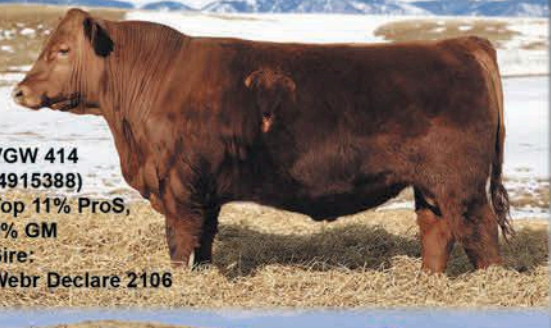
VGW 409
(4915194)
Top 7% ProS,
1% GM
Sire: Webr Declare 2106



VGW 402
(4915378)
Top 3% WW,
2% YW,
1% ADG
Sire:
Webr Declare 2106



VGW 438
(4915274)
Top 1% GM
& MK
Sire:
BLL A163 Mind
Bender 21H



VGW 414
(4915388)
Top 11% ProS,
9% GM
Sire:
Webr Declare 2106



VGW 427 (4915286)
Top 2% GM, 6% ProS Sire: 1DRA Leading Edge 1004



85 Performance Bulls
Performance & Fertility Tested,
Free Delivery to Adjoining States,
Fully Guaranteed

100 Yearling Females
Replacement, Registered
and Commercial
The Picks Sell

ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

MARCH 26, 2025 • 12:30 PM

At the Ranch
Grass Range, Montana



DVAuction
Broadcasting Real-time Auctions

Feeder Procurement
Marketing and Sale Management:

DEICHMANN LIVESTOCK BROKERAGE
Dan & Marilyn Deichmann
P.O. Box 310 • Hobson, MT 59452
406-423-5500 • 406-799-5200
deichmannlivestock@gmail.com



Raising Registered Red Angus Since 1976

For catalogs call or email us:

Vic & Shari Westphal
PO Box 72
Grass Range, MT 59032
406-428-2179
406-366-4069
www.westphalredangus.com
westphal@middrivers.com

Lawmakers consider permanent funding for farmer helpline

For more than a year, Oregonians involved in agriculture, forestry and the fishing industry have had a resource to help them when they're in a mental health crisis.

The AgriStress helpline, which launched in Oregon in September 2023, is geared toward people in those industries, offering a safe option to those who ordinarily might not seek help.

"The pull-yourself-up-by-your-boot-strings mentality often prevents our

community members from seeking help, making resources like the AgriStress helpline vital to breaking that cycle as imperative," Republican state Rep. Bobby Levy of Echo, a longtime farmer and rancher, said during a recent legislative meeting on a bill to keep the line operating in perpetuity.

Senate Bill 779, sponsored by Levy and a fellow Republican rancher, state Sen. Todd Nash of Enterprise, would allocate \$2 million to a helpline en-

dowment, the Rural Mental Health Fund, which is housed in the Oregon State University (OSU) Foundation. The endowment earns 4% interest, enough

to keep the line operating as long as it was needed, supporters said.

Since its launch, specialists have handled more than 50 calls and texts from

farmers, fishermen, loggers and foresters in 28 Oregon counties. Though that might not seem like much, Allison Myers, an OSU extension associate dean and lead supporter of the line, said studies show that every suicide can affect 130 people and can be devastating in small communities. And each call can prevent that from happening.

"Any number of calls is a good number," Myers said in written testimony.

The service is available 24/7, with interpreters available for 160 languages, and every caller receives a follow-up call the next day. That service costs about \$78,000 a year, and Oregon currently has the funding to keep it going for about a year and a half.

Oregon has long had higher suicide rates than the U.S. average. In its 2024 report, Mental Health America, which ranks states, put Oregon last in terms of the prevalence of mental health issues. The ranking showed the state has improved in access to care—it was ranked sixth—but it can still be difficult for people to get help.

Studies show that crisis lines like 988 are effective in helping people feel less depressed, overwhelmed and suicidal. They've also been shown to give people hope. While call takers for 988 and other crisis lines are trained, they don't receive training in the culture, demands and potential stress factors of working in agriculture, forestry and fisheries, as AgriStress specialists are.

The livelihoods of professionals in these industries are often affected by outside factors like the

weather or commodity prices, and the work can be lonely and grueling. And that can lead to people taking their lives. Oregon Health Authority data shows that people in these industries have the highest suicide rates of any profession.

"This is more than just the legislation," Levy said during the Early Childhood and Behavioral Health Committee hearing. "It's a lifeline for the people who feed, clothe and build our state."

The service was developed and launched in 2022 by the AgriSafe Network, a nonprofit that supports health and safety preventive services for farmers and their families. The following year, Oregon signed on with an allocation of \$300,000 approved by lawmakers to launch the service in the state.

Oregon was the seventh state to use the service, which is now available in 10 states besides Oregon—Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut, Missouri, Montana, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia, Washington and Wyoming.

The bill has the support of more than a dozen industry groups, including the Oregon Farm Bureau, Oregon Wine Council and the Oregon Association of Nurseries. It's also backed by Weyerhaeuser, the timber company; the Oregon Water Resources Congress; and the Eastern Oregon Counties Association.

If approved by the early childhood committee, the bill will move to Ways and Means to compete with other bills that need funding. — **Lynne Terry, Oregon Capital Chronicle**

"This is more than just the legislation. It's a lifeline for the people who feed, clothe and build our state."

— Rep. Bobby Levy



2025 Bull Sale

Sale start at 1pm mst

Loma, CO • March 29, 2025

60 head 2 year old Angus & SimAngus bulls

50 head yearling Angus & SimAngus bulls



Diamond Peak Cattle Company

Angelo Raftopoulos - 970.756.8600

www.DIAMONDPEAKCATTLE.com

Guide helps ag drone pilots with efficiency

A new University of Missouri (MU) Extension publication can help farmers and ag drone pilots maximize efficiency and precision in aerial seeding.

Gurbir Singh, state Extension specialist in soil science, agroecology and landscape management, has published a guide on calibrating utility drones for broadcast spreading pattern check.

"Until now, spreading patterns have been a guessing game," said Singh. "This new guide will provide a document for calibration that will save time and money. This will help determine the spreading pattern, and adjustments can be made in the drone settings to correct it."

The guide determines what the spread is going to be—how far the seed can actually go, Singh said. It takes into account the drone height, swath, speed of flying, hopper opening

size and external factors such as crosswinds.

"Whether you're seeding cover crops, forages or specialty crops, this guide is packed with practical, research-backed insights to help farms and ag drone pilots get the most out of their drone applications," he said.

The step-by-step instructions help optimize drone settings, reducing waste and improving seed distribution, ultimately saving time and money in the field, he added.

Singh has been studying drones for three years at the MU Greenley Memorial Research Farm in Novelty, and he will have more insights to share in the future.

"Utility Drones in Agriculture: Procedures for Drone Calibration and Worksheet for Evaluating Spreading Patterns" is available for free download at tinyurl.com/2s48buvh. — **MU Extension**

Can tariffs help level the playing field?

The president and CEO of the National Milk Producers Federation suggests producers and agribusinesses keep an open mind on the way tariffs could be used to help expand U.S. agricultural exports in the coming years.

Gregg Doud, who served as the U.S. trade ambassador for agriculture during the first Trump administration, highlighted how agricultural exports and farm income levels have moved in tandem, and how farm income falls when trade slips.

Net farm income hit a record in 2022 when agricultural exports topped \$195 billion. Net farm income has fallen as agricultural exports have fallen back to \$176 billion for 2024.

"We understand commodity markets and how they work. We understand we go up for a while. We go flat. We go up. Spike, then we plateau again for a while, go down, then we go up, and then we do this again," Doud said during the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum. "This is how commodity markets work. Are we another flat spot? And if we are, how do we get out? How do we get that next leg up?"

Doud then highlighted some of the markets that draw a lot of attention from U.S. agriculture, both good and bad.

One region that has been a thorn in U.S. agriculture's side has been the European Union (EU). U.S. agricultural exports to the EU were \$12 billion in 1980. That was a high-water

mark for sales to the EU until 2023 when the U.S. exported \$13 billion in agricultural products to the European market.

"We've gone almost 25 years where exports to Europe have been flat as a pancake," Doud said.

The trade gap between the U.S. and EU on agricultural products is \$23.6 billion, Doud said.

As the head of a dairy trade group, Doud highlighted the U.S. imports \$3 billion in dairy products from Europe annually while U.S. sales to the EU are just \$115 million.

"We export 15 times more cheese in Guatemala than we do the European Union. Folks, we export more cheese in New Zealand," Doud said.

EU officials have found a variety of ways to maintain protectionism, Doud said, the latest being the Farm to Fork initiative which has certification requirements and protocols regarding how food is grown and processed. "They're designed to keep us out," he said.

Doud added, "I've made a huge mistake this morning if I've said anything nice about the European Union."

EU protocols on biotechnology and pesticides complicate efforts by U.S. companies to develop products over fears that they might not receive EU acceptance. That ends up stalling agricultural investments, Doud said.

"Our challenge is, if we can't get this technology approved

by our government so we can commercialize it, and the people that made the investment can't get a return on that investment, where's that venture capital money? Where's that investment of technology and agriculture? It's going to go somewhere else."

Switching to China, Doud pointed to the trade negotiations during the first Trump administration that led China to buy as much as \$38.1 billion in goods in 2022—a level that helped boost farm income to record levels that year. The commitment was supposed to be for China to buy at least \$40 billion a year in U.S. goods, but China never reached that level. Right now, the Chinese economy is struggling. Still, the demand that comes from China is difficult to replace, he said.

"You can do a free trade agreement with the rest of the world and it does not replace China's demand," Doud said.

Going forward, where are the opportunities with China?

Soybean import demand is probably flat, but looking at commodities such as wheat, corn, soybeans, beef, pork or poultry, Doud added, "I don't see any silver bullets from China."

Doud touched on the prospects of ethanol exports to China but said that requires building out infrastructure. The U.S. took years to build out its own ethanol infrastructure.

"You can't expect the Chinese to just snap their fingers and do something enormous in that capacity," he said.

Looking at Brazil, Doud said, "We have a tremendous opportunity for Brazil in dairy if we can ever crack that nut."

India also remains a market U.S. farmers have longed to fully tap, but India is a reluctant buyer. "We've been mining for gold in the hills of India for 40 years and I still don't think we've found it," he said. "I'm not sure it's there."

Doud also said he is concerned about what is happen-

ing with Mexico and the regulatory ability to manage the screwworm.

"I can't imagine how upset the Mexican ranchers are with the situation," Doud said. He added, "This is an existential threat to the livestock industry in North America."

Looking at protein demand over the next decade, Doud said the supply of protein is going to be nowhere near the demand potential. Globally, where will that expansion come from, the EU, Asia or Brazil? "Where can grow more protein? Where can we grow more beef, more pigs, more chickens, more dairy? Where is it folks? Right here."

Doud touted the investments both U.S. and foreign companies have made in recent years to expand dairy processing production. Doud said companies are currently developing \$8 billion in processing capacity.

"The place to grow is going to be in the United States," he

said.

While the U.S. may be the growth market for protein, Doud said all of the easy trade negotiations have already happened. "This is tough sledding."

For agriculture, there is no alternative but find ways to expand trade, Doud said. He added he gets asked about tariffs all the time. He sees tariffs as a potential strategy to help ensure the U.S. can capture new markets going forward. Doud pointed to views from his former boss, former U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

"So how do we level the playing field? Just a little bit of tariff. And that's a really interesting perspective from an agricultural economist's standpoint."

Doud then wrapped up his talk by pointing back to the \$23.6 billion agricultural trade deficit with the European Union. — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

PETA claims free speech victory in WY

The animal rights group PETA claimed a free speech victory Feb. 27, saying it reached a settlement in a lawsuit against the Rock Springs, WY, airport, which had refused to let it advertise a message criticizing leather luggage.

In the heart of Wyoming's cattle and rodeo country, where cowboys ride leather saddles, cowgirls wear leather boots and most everybody else has leather gloves, airport officials blocked People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) from buying advertising urging fliers not to travel with leather luggage. The airport will pay PETA \$35,000 in legal fees and allow it to advertise as it does others, the animal rights group said.

"PETA is celebrating this victory for the First Amendment and for cows who don't want to be tormented and killed for their skins," Asher Smith, PETA Foundation's director of litigation, said in a statement.

The rejected ad depicts a leather handbag with a cow's head and legs—it looks to be a red-and-white Holstein dairy cow seldom seen in the area. Next to the image is the question, "Was she killed to make your carry-on?"

In its suit, PETA claimed that the airport, which advertised rodeo events on various platforms, invented a reason to reject PETA's carry-on criticism. "[R]ather than allowing

the ad to run, the airport, as alleged, quickly scrambled to create a set of policy guidelines to justify rejecting it," PETA said in a statement announcing the settlement.

An airport official did not immediately respond to a request for comment. However, the airport director responded March 3 saying the settlement allows for the placement of a PETA advertisement in the airport but "sets no precedents" on advertising policies or practices. "No taxpayer dollars were used to settle this case," Director Devon Brubaker wrote in an email. "Our insurance carrier made a payment to settle the case to avoid the accrual of further legal fees."

The organization originally fought the lawsuit. Court filings state that the parties have reached a settlement, but the case, filed in June 2024, appears to need judicial approval before it is completely resolved.

The airport's actions were unconstitutional, the suit asserted. Further, travelers can easily find vegan leather for their carry-ons, the group said.

Cows have friends, hold grudges and mourn, PETA said. Cowboys and cowgirls who no longer want to saddle their consciences with the burden of the leather industry can avail themselves of the organization's empathy kits, the group said. — **Angus M. Thuermer Jr., WyoFile**

The **MISSING** **PIECE**

There is a lot to consider when selecting bulls: performance, fertility, structure, feet, carcass, maternal influence, genetic potential and efficiency. **THE PIECES MUST ALIGN TO PROPEL YOUR CATTLE INTO THE NEEDS OF TOMORROW.**

At Midland, we gather the most individually measured pieces to provide results on more proven information than anyone in the business. For more than 50 years the most astute cattlemen across the nation have turned to **MIDLAND BULL TEST** as the place to assess and **FIND THEIR NEXT VALUED BREEDING PIECE.**

Follow the progress of tomorrow's stock online at MidlandBullTest.com or email us at bulls@midlandbulltest.com to be added to the mailing list.

MIDLAND BULL TEST

FINAL SORT SALE: APRIL 3-4, 2025
 APRIL 3: Gelbvieh • Lim-Flex • Salers • Simmental
 South Devon • Red Angus APRIL 4: Angus

Visit MidlandBullTest.com to view the test progress.

STEVE & AMY WILLIAMS • Cell: (406) 321-7046 • Office: (406) 322-5597
 5 Bull Drive • Columbus, MT 59019 • E-mail: bulls@midlandbulltest.com • Text or e-mail for a catalog!
FIND INFO AT: www.MidlandBullTest.com

CDFW reports changing wolf pack dynamics

—Estimates 50 wolves in CA

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) reported the state currently has seven known wolf packs amid shifting dynamics and new areas of wolf activity. The latest quarterly update, covering October through December, highlights wolf movements, pack consolidations and increasing livestock depredations across multiple regions.

Wolf activity in the Sierra County region significantly changed as the Beyem Seyo Pack's collared female

(LAS23F) moved south into the county, overlapping the former range of the Antelope Pack. The movement raised questions about the Antelope Pack's status. Helicopter surveys conducted earlier this year confirmed that WHA08M, a former Antelope Pack member, is now traveling with LAS23F and younger Beyem Seyo Pack wolves. This suggests the two packs have merged. The Beyem Seyo wolves were linked to two confirmed livestock depredations during the quarter.

Meanwhile, the Whaleback Pack in eastern Siskiyou County remained active, with six

confirmed livestock attacks, the highest number among California's wolf packs. The Yowlumni Pack in Tulare County also saw increased conflicts, with two confirmed and one probable depredation.

The Harvey Pack, located in Lassen and Shasta counties, was responsible for one confirmed attack, while the Diamond, Ice Cave and Lassen packs were not linked to any depredation investigations.

Another notable development occurred in central Lassen County, where two wolves, LAS32F and DIS04M, were detected. These wolves, in-

cluding a male from Oregon, were responsible for six confirmed depredations. In southern Modoc County, three wolves from the Whaleback Pack were identified through genetic analysis at a livestock attack site, though their long-term presence in the area remains uncertain.

The Diamond Pack, which occupies portions of eastern Plumas and southern Lassen counties, continues to be monitored. Biologists have confirmed at least two wolves are in the group.

CDFW reported 18 confirmed wolf depredations for

the quarter and one probable attack recorded in the last quarter. CDFW said the state remains engaged in discussions with ranchers, county officials, and conservation groups to manage conflicts and monitor the expanding wolf presence.

Axel Hunicutt, CDFW state wolf coordinator, said during a rangeland symposium held mid-February at University of California, Davis that the state's confirmed wolf population currently stands at about 50 wolves, the Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) reported. This marks a slight increase from the estimated 49 wolves at the end of 2023, despite the

known birth of 30 pups in the spring of 2024.

"I'm a little concerned by what seems like slower population growth, but the evolving dynamics of California's returning wolves are thrilling as we see wolves meet up with each other to establish or merge packs," said Amaroq Weiss, a senior wolf advocate at CBD. "I'm encouraged by how dynamic these animals are, and it's important to remember that California's wolf recovery is still in its early days."

CDFW plans to release its first annual report on the status of gray wolves in California in April. — Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor

WHOA.

MORE POUNDS. MORE CALVES.
MORE PROFIT.

Herefords are known as the efficiency experts for a reason. Herefords boost pregnancy rates by 7% and add \$30 per head in feedyard profitability in a crossbreeding system.

And Hereford genetics bring unrivaled hybrid vigor, longevity and disposition.

COME HOME TO HEREFORD.



Hereford.org | 816-842-3757

Training for livestock, vehicle emergencies

South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension is hosting a Bovine Emergency Response Plan (BERP) training for anyone who may respond to the scene of an accident involving livestock.

The training is from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. CST on March 22 at the Hanson County School in Alexandria, SD. It is free to attend. Registration is requested by March 14 by contacting Brandon Wingert, Hanson County sheriff, at 605-630-2602 or brandon@hanson.co.sd.us.

Typical first responders include law enforcement, fire departments, EMTs, emergency management and other public safety officials. Robin Salverson, SDSU Extension cow/calf field specialist, said for livestock-related accidents, veterinarians are also an important part of the team. In rural South Dakota, she said farmers and ranchers often respond, as well.

"This training is about bringing teams together so they can develop a quick and safe response plan to accidents involving livestock," she said.

"The national team that developed BERP says, 'The scene of an accident is the not the place to build a team.'"

Training will include hands-on and classroom instruction, including how to assess and secure an accident scene and a walk-through of different kinds of livestock trailers. Throughout the day, participants will learn what is expected in a vehicular-cattle emergency, how to recognize potential hazards, what equipment is needed and how to develop a plan that fits their own community's needs.

"A common response to a training related to livestock is 'I have experience with cattle, I don't need to attend.' After visiting with participants that have been around cattle their whole life, they valued the BERP training," Salverson said.

BERP was developed with grants from the USDA's National Institute of Food and Agriculture and the Beef Checkoff program.

For more information, contact Salverson at 605-374-4177. — SDSU Extension

Calculating Annual Cow Costs course offered

The Nebraska Extension will host another "Calculating Annual Cow Costs" webinar course on March 24, 27 and 31.

"We had exceptional interest in the first Calculating Annual Cow Costs course. So, we decided to offer a second course in late March," said Aaron Berger, Nebraska Extension livestock educator. "Knowing annual cow costs is the foundation for evaluating and making management decisions that can improve profitability for a cow-calf enterprise."

Input costs can challenge producers to examine the cost of production and identify opportunities to adjust the production system. Calculating costs and breaking them into categories can help producers understand where changes may be possible.

The webinar course will cover the fundamentals of knowing and calculating annual cow costs and will include:

- Understanding the economic unit cost of production for the cow-calf enterprise.

- Recognizing the value and cost of both grazed and harvested feed.

- Calculating cow depreciation and replacement development costs.

- Figuring the cost of equipment and labor utilized in the cow-calf enterprise.

- Examining breeding expenses and evaluating the value and cost relationship.

- Reviewing benchmark cost and production data to see how you compare.

The webinar series will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. CST. It is \$70 per person and includes a resource workbook. The course is limited to 40 participants. To register, go to go.unl.edu/cow_costs. Registration is requested by March 17 since materials will be mailed out.

A computer and internet connection will be needed to participate in the webinar series.

For questions about the webinar series or more information, contact Berger at 308-235-3122 or aberger2@unl.edu. — Nebraska Extension

House passes budget bill to press tax cuts

In a nearly party line vote, the House of Representatives on the evening of Feb. 25 passed a budget resolution that will help pass \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts, but the plan calls for steep cuts in social programs such as nutrition, which imperils the likelihood of a farm bill.

The bill, which passed on a 217-215 vote, details specific budget plans for different committees in the House. It presses cuts to an array of social programs such as Medicaid and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) while increasing the budget for immigration enforcement and encouraging lower regulations

in the energy sector.

It sets up Republicans in both the House and Senate to pass a budget reconciliation bill without having to garner 60 votes in the Senate as well.

"This is the first important step in opening up the reconciliation process," said House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA-04) after the vote. "We have a lot of hard work ahead of us, but we are going to deliver the America First agenda. We are going to deliver all of it, not just parts of it. And this is the first step in that process."

The bill sets up a plan to extend the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act by giving the House Ways

and Means Committee authority to pass \$4.5 trillion in tax cuts over the next decade. A slew of provisions in that law are set to expire at the end of 2025. President Donald Trump has pressed to make those tax cuts permanent as well as pass other tax cuts he campaigned on such as ending taxes on Social Security income and taxes on both tips and over-

time. Without an extension of the 2017 tax cuts, U.S. farmers would face nearly \$8 billion in higher taxes next year, according to a USDA Economic Research Service report released in 2024. Farmers would see

higher tax rates, especially with off-farm income, that would increase their taxes by \$4.4 billion. The Qualified Business Income Deduction also provides farmers with nearly \$2.2 billion in tax breaks. Reductions in the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) at \$634 million and the estate tax, at \$647 million, combine for another \$1.3 billion in tax savings for farmers.

National debt

The bill presses for Congress to cut \$2 trillion in spending over the next decade. Still, the budget resolution carries large annual deficits that will push the national debt from \$37.6 trillion in fiscal year 2025 to \$55.6 trillion by fiscal year 2034.

Under the bill, committees that oversees Medicaid and Medicare will be required to cut spending \$880 billion over the next decade. That will likely raise concerns about the finances for rural hospitals that already have been under pressure, especially in states that did not increase Medicaid eli-

gibility under the Inflation Reduction Act.

The House Agriculture Committee must come up with \$230 billion in spending cuts through fiscal year 2034. It's expected Republicans on the committee will press to cut \$23 billion a year from SNAP.

Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN-02), the ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee, criticized the bill for steep cuts to SNAP and Medicaid to pass a package of tax cuts. Craig said the tax package would mainly help the wealthiest Americans at the expense of lower-income people. Craig said the cuts to programs such as SNAP jeopardize any bipartisan support for a farm bill.

"Today, House Republicans voted to increase the national debt, cut health care for children, gut nursing home care for seniors, take food away from struggling families and screw over the middle class—all to lower taxes for billionaire campaign donors and Wall Street bankers," Craig said.

"Cutting \$230 billion from SNAP hurts the farmers who

grow our food, the truckers who haul it, the manufacturers that produce its packaging and the grocery stores that sell it," Craig continued. "These cuts endanger hundreds of thousands of jobs along a food supply chain that starts in rural America and ends at dinner tables in every community across the country. This betrayal of hardworking Americans will hurt the economy and threatens the farm bill coalition necessary to pass a bipartisan farm bill."

Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY-04) was the only Republican to vote against the bill. He said the bill would increase the annual deficit and assumptions made in the bill on economic growth were unrealistic.

"Under the rosiest assumptions, which aren't even true, we're going to add \$328 billion to the deficit this year, \$295 billion next year," Massie said.

Massie added he has seen these proposed 10-year budget plans fail multiple times as well after two or three years. — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

Horse slaughter ban bill introduced

BLM HORSES (from page 1)

after only a year of care and supervision," Martinez wrote in the ruling.

He ruled the BLM violated the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Administrative Procedures Act (APA), writing: "An agency cannot avoid its notice and comment obligations by simply clothing instruction memoranda in permissive language, only to then treat them in practice as mandatory."

Martinez vacated the 2022 instruction memorandum that guided the policies and procedures for administering the program and ordered BLM to conduct the proper APA and NEPA procedures before implementing any similar legislative rules in the future, effectively overturning the current adoption program.

Adoption program controversy

Under the AIP, adopters could adopt a horse or burro and receive up to \$1,000 as an incentive in an effort to reduce the BLM's costs of caring for wild horses or burros on public rangelands. Adopters received \$500 within 60 days of the adoption date and an additional \$500 within 60 days of titling the animal.

Opponents of the AIP have argued that participants adopt animals only to receive the money and then sell them off for slaughter. A 2021 story published by the New York Times shared two alleged such experiences, which led to the petitioners calling for an immediate ban of the program.

In response, BLM announced additional steps to provide further oversight and protection of adopted animals. These included working with stakeholders to improve the program, requiring adopters to vow not to sell animals with the intention of going to slaughter, improving adopter screening, conducting inspections within six months of

adoption, and having a veterinarian certify all titles before incentive payment is remitted.

The payment timing was also changed to be made within 60 days of the titling, rather than half at the time of adoption and half at the title date. In addition, the minimum adoption fee increased from \$25 to \$125.

"We have an unwavering commitment to the humane care and placement of America's wild horses and burros," said Tracy Stone-Manning, BLM director at the time. "By and large, the Adoption Incentive Program has provided the boost people have needed to support their dream of adopting and appropriately caring for a wild horse or burro."

Bill to ban horse slaughter

In related news, lawmakers introduced legislation at the end of February to permanently ban the slaughter of horses for human consumption. The Save America's Forgotten Equines (SAFE) Act would also prohibit the export of live horses to Mexican and Canadian slaughterhouses to be sold overseas. Legislation was introduced into both the House and Senate.

"Although the practice of slaughtering horses for human consumption is currently illegal in the United States, the ban is temporary and subject to annual congressional review and no federal law exists to prohibit the transport of horses across America's borders for slaughter in Canada or Mexico," the lawmakers said in a statement.

The legislation is cosponsored by more than 100 bipartisan members of Congress. Lawmakers hope to include the SAFE Act as part of the 2025 Farm Bill. The bill is supported by numerous horse advocacy and animal groups, including the Humane World Action Fund, American Society for the Prevention of Cru-

elty to Animals, the Animal Welfare Institute, the U.S. Harness Racing Alumni Association, the Jockey Club and Return to Freedom Wild Horse Conservation. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

Valley View Charolais

170 TWO-YEAR-OLD BULLS

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



This sale will be broadcast live on the internet.
DVAuction
Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions
Real time bidding & proxy bidding available.

110 of our purebred heifers graded 96% Prime/Choice with 66% cutability

Mature • Easy Traveling • Stout • Polled



Visit our website at
WWW.VVCRBULLS.COM

CALL ABOUT DELIVERY

Valley View Charolais

Buddy Westphal

44601 Valley View Road

Polson, MT 59860

50 miles north of Missoula, MT

Call or Text (406) 270-0222
email: buddy@vvcrbulls.com

Auctioneer
Rick Machado • (805) 501-3210



COMING EVENTS

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

March 15 – The Montana Stockgrowers Association (MSGA) is accepting applications for its Young Cattlemen's Conference program. The conference will take place May 29

through June 6. Details: www.mtbeef.org/advocacy/ycc.

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

Federal buildings may be put up for sale

The General Services Administration (GSA) released a list March 4 of more than 440 buildings owned by the federal government that it may sell off in the months ahead.

The GSA wrote in its announcement the agency would decide whether the government should sell off the buildings "in an orderly fashion to ensure taxpayers no longer pay for empty and underutilized federal office space, or the significant maintenance costs associated with long-term building ownership—potentially saving more than \$430 million

in annual operating costs."

The press release didn't say where the federal employees who work in the hundreds of buildings would go if they are sold.

The buildings that could be put up for sale in Washington, D.C., currently house the departments of Agriculture, Health and Human Services, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Labor, State and Veterans Affairs.

The Federal Aviation Administration, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Social Security Administration also have

their headquarters slated as potential new additions to the real estate market, according to GSA's list.

Alaska, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Iowa, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Maryland, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, North Dakota, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee,

Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wyoming all have buildings cited as non-essential, though some states have dozens more than others.

The GSA appeared to remove the list as of the morning of March 5.

Cost-cutting

The announcement came as the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) continues cost-cutting in the Trump administration. The entity, which is not an actual

department, keeps a running list of savings it claims to have achieved, including lease terminations. The New York Times has reported the DOGE "wall of receipts" has had to delete some claims that were in error.

GSA wrote that employees in its Public Buildings Service didn't include buildings on its list that "are needed for critical government operations, such as: courthouses, land ports of entry, and facilities critical to our national defense and law enforcement."

"These core assets are intrinsically significant to the mission of the federal government and will be retained for long-term needs," the press release states.

But Minnesota Sens. Amy Klobuchar and Tina Smith, both Democrats, sent a letter to the acting GSA administrator on March 4, raising concerns the agency placed the Edward J. Devitt U.S. Courthouse and Federal Building in Fergus Falls on its list.

"In addition to serving as the only federal courthouse outside Minnesota's largest metropolitan areas of Minneapolis-St. Paul and Duluth, the building is home to (the) U.S.

Marshals Service and the U.S. Probation Office," they wrote.

"Each of the occupants of the Devitt Building provide essential services, including law enforcement and public safety, for the entire Western Minnesota region and along the northern border with Canada," they added. "With an abrupt and unplanned closure, these essential services will be disrupted, putting communities at risk."

The more-than 440 buildings and assets that made the list for potential sale comprise nearly 80 million square feet and represent more than \$8.3 billion in "recapitalization needs," according to GSA.

"Decades of funding deficiencies have resulted in many of these buildings becoming functionally obsolete and unsuitable for use by our federal workforce," the GSA press release states. "We can no longer hope that funding will emerge to resolve these longstanding issues. GSA's decisive action to dispose of non-core assets leverages the private sector, drives improvements for our agency customers, and best serves local communities." — **Jennifer Shutt, Colorado Newswire**



LEACHMAN CATTLE

BULLS THAT BUILD BETTER COW HERDS

SPRING BULL & FEMALE SALE

MERIDEN, WYOMING - MARCH 23-24, 2025

OFFERING 570 STABILIZER BULLS & 324 ANGUS, RED ANGUS, CHAROLAIS AND STABILIZER FEMALES



MM013 - LOT 610 (HEIFER)



M280L - LOT 1 (BULL)



S165M - LOT 31 (BULL)

NEW SALE LOCATION - LEACHMAN \$PROFIT CENTER

MERIDEN, WYOMING



Planning summer grazing needs

While we are still just in late winter, it is never too early to start thinking about the coming spring and summer's grazing and forage plans. Last fall and this winter have been dry, leaving most parts of Nebraska in some level of drought. While we do not know for certain how much moisture lies ahead, long-term forecasts into this spring and summer suggest the possibility of drier than normal conditions.

With the possibility of droughty conditions for the coming season, an important first step is to develop or adjust a good forage and grazing drought plan for your operation. Some components of this might include things like stocking rates, turnout dates to summer pastures, purchasing any supplemental hay or feed, securing additional pasture, fertilizer decisions on introduced grass pastures or seeding of any annual forages. For spring or cool-season

annual forages, the recommended planting period of late March to early April will be here soon. Forages would include things like oats, spring barley, spring triticale and field peas. With that planting date, these would provide grazing beginning in late May through early July.

For the summer annual forages, the planting period is typically late May and on into the summer months. This would include things like forage sorghum, sudangrass, sorghum-sudan hybrids, pearl millet and foxtail millet. Additionally, other species or legumes that are typical of some cover crop mixes could be part of the package as well. With late-May or early-June planting of a summer annual, grazing should be available in July.

Planning ahead can help make your forage season run smoothly. — **Jerry Volesky, Nebraska Extension**

HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN



"If you were frequently late to school because you had to clear the road of cattle."



SCAN TO VIEW CATALOGS

WWW.LEACHMAN.COM | (970) 568-3983

JERROD WATSON (CO) - 303-827-1156
AARON RASMUSSEN (NE) - 308-763-1361
KURT SCHENKEL (OH) - 740-503-6270



LEGAL LEDGER

Tariffs go into effect on Mexico and Canada

On March 4, 25% tariffs were imposed on Mexican and Canadian imports, though Canadian energy imports were levied at a lower rate of 10%. The tariff previously placed on China in February was also doubled to 20%. On March 6, President Donald Trump announced tariffs on most goods imported from Mexico were on hold for a month after discussions with Mexico President Claudia Sheinbaum. A one-month exemption was also granted on imports from Mexico and Canada for U.S. automakers following conversations with Ford, General Motors and Stellantis. China and Canada each announced retaliatory measures following the tariffs, with China imposing additional 10-15% tariffs on U.S. ag imports and Canada adding 25% tariffs on more than \$30 billion of U.S. imports, including numerous ag products. Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund (R-CALF) USA supports the new tariffs and has called for additional tariffs on beef imports from Australia, New Zealand and South America. "R-CALF USA may be the only major agriculture organization that is publicly supporting tariffs," the group said in a statement. "Both major farm groups have publicly denounced these tariffs and other groups are maintaining silence." The American Farm Bureau Federation expressed concerns about the toll tariffs could take on rural America. Meanwhile, the U.S. Meat Export Federation warned that tariffs could affect competition in key export markets such as China, Mexico and Canada.

Corporate Transparency Act suspended... Again

The Treasury Department announced March 2 that it will not enforce any penalties or fines associated with the beneficial ownership information (BOI) reporting rule under the Corporate Transparency Act (CTA). The department plans to issue a proposed rulemaking by the end of March to narrow the scope of the rule to foreign reporting companies only. The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network plans to solicit public comment on potential revisions to existing BOI reporting requirements, which will be used to develop a rulemaking to be issued later this year. CTA reporting requirements have been in back-and-forth litigation and suspension over the past several months. "For over a year, cattle producers have been extremely concerned with the ever-changing direction of the Corporate Transparency Act and the steep punishment associated with non-compliance," said National Cattlemen's Beef Association Executive Director of Government Affairs Kent Bacus.

BlackRock to buy Panama Canal ports

Hong Kong-based CK Hutchinson has agreed to sell its stake in two Panama Canal ports to an investment group led by BlackRock. CK Hutchinson is selling the ports as part of a larger deal with BlackRock that includes control of 43 other ports in 23 countries. The deal is valued at \$22.8 billion. The move comes following concerns raised over Chinese influence in the region, with President Donald Trump saying in his inauguration speech, "China is operating the Panama Canal, and we didn't give it to China." Frank Sixt, co-managing director of CK Hutchison, asserted in a statement, "I would like to stress that the transaction is purely commercial in nature and wholly unrelated to recent political news reports concerning the Panama Ports."

Argentina lifts ban on live cattle exports

Argentina has lifted its 52-year ban on exporting live cattle for slaughter. The ban was originally imposed in 1973 due to supply issues. "The export of cattle on the hoof is an active and important market in the world," wrote Deregulation Minister Federico Sturzenegger on X, in a post translated from Spanish. "Most cattle-producing countries allow it (92 countries export cattle on the hoof)." In September, USDA projected Argentine beef exports in 2025 to reach a record 860,000 tons following a larger herd and calf crops.

UK advised to restrict meat consumption

The United Kingdom's (UK) Climate Change Committee is advising the government to restrict the public's meat consumption, private car ownership, air travel and other lifestyle changes, alleging their contributions to climate change. The committee is tasked with advising the UK government on climate change and was established in 2008 under the Climate Change Act. In its seventh report released Feb. 26, the group recommended the carbon budget be set at 535 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent for 2038-2042, which would require emissions to fall to 87% below their 1990 levels. "Choices such as meat and dairy consumption and flying make smaller, but important contributions," the committee wrote in its report.

A-PLUS Act reintroduced

A group of lawmakers has reintroduced the Amplifying Processing of Livestock in the United States (A-PLUS) Act in the House of Representatives. Under the bill, livestock auction market owners would have the ability to own or invest in a small or regional packer or meat marketing business. The Livestock Marketing Association (LMA) applauded the bill's reintroduction. "Livestock auction market owners deserve the freedom to operate," said Brody Peak, LMA chairman of the government and industry affairs committee. "If they choose to supplement their marketing business by owning a local meat locker or investing in a regional packer, this should be encouraged, not banned."

Ways to reduce unit cost of production

Unit cost of production is a ratio where costs in the numerator are divided by the units produced in the denominator.

There are five ways to reduce unit costs of production in a cow-calf enterprise.

- Decrease costs while keeping production the same. An example of this would be to sell unneeded equipment or reduce equipment expense while keeping calf production the same. Costs decrease while production is maintained, decreasing unit cost of production.

- Hold costs the same while increasing production. The use of hybrid vigor in cow-calf production is an example of this strategy. Research shows that a crossbred cow will be more productive over her life than the females of the straight bred contemporaries used to create her. An example of this would be an F1 Hereford x Angus cross cow. Costs of production would likely be the same, but productivity is expected to increase, decreasing unit cost of production.

- Decrease costs while increasing production. An example of this could be the moving of a calving date for a cow herd to better match the availability of significantly lower cost feed resources. This move of calving date could also potentially improve calf survivability if weather is more favorable, resulting in an increase in the number of calves weaned. Costs decrease while production increases, reducing unit cost of production.

- Increase costs with an expected greater percentage increase in production. The strategic use of a protein supplement for spring-calving cows grazing low-quality forage is an example of this. The protein supplement can increase the ability of cows to utilize low-quality forage, resulting in improved body condition scores at calving, greater survivability of calves, greater calf weaning weights and increased pregnancy rates for cows. The percent increase in productivity exceeds the cost of the protein supplement, reducing unit cost of production.

- Significantly decrease costs with a smaller percentage decrease in expected production. An example of this would be the decision to select for a genetically adapted cow that better fits her environment and requires fewer supplemental feed inputs. Pounds of calf produced would likely decrease with the cow requiring fewer inputs, but the cost to produce those pounds of calf is expected to decrease at a proportionally faster rate, resulting in a decrease in unit cost of production.

For producers weighing opportunities to reduce unit cost of production, evaluate the potential ripple effects of the proposed change to the whole cow-calf production system. Some questions to ask in evaluating the possible impact of those changes include:

- Does this proposed change increase the vulnerability of the cow-calf production system to extreme weather events?

- Does the proposed change build greater resiliency to the production system or increase

risk?


- What may be some of the unintended consequences of this change?

- Who are people that have already made these changes or have the proposed production system in place that I can learn from?

- What impacts do the proposed changes have on the expected price to be received from products produced?

Think creatively about how you might address unit cost of production in your cow-calf operation. Sometimes a little "out of the box thinking" can open the doors to changes that can significantly impact unit cost of production.


Would you like to grow your knowledge base and skill set in understanding unit cost of production for a ranch operation? In person and on-line workshops are being planned for the fall and winter of 2025-26. If you would like more information about these programs contact Aaron Berger at 308-235-3122 or aberger2@unl.edu. — Aaron Berger, Nebraska Extension



ARNTZEN ANGUS RANCH

**POWER OF
PREDICTABILITY**
What does 69 years of
breeding with the same goal
in mind get you?
**A consistent, predictable
product that has stood the
test of time.**

A A R-Justified 4031




Lot 1
Reg. 21038058

BW	WW	Milk	YW
-0.2	+84	+24	+148

Justified x Creed
Last set of Justified sons and this one is a dandy.

A A R-Midas M075




Lot 2
Reg. 21037176

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+0.9	+83	+24	+134

Midas x Landmark
Top 1% SM of 108

A A R-Load Up 4580



Lot 3
Reg. 21038077

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+2.2	+81	+19	+134

Load Up x Capitalist
Top 1% SM

A A R-Load Up M055



Lot 5
Reg. 21069336

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+1.8	+84	+24	+146

Load Up x Landmark
Weaning Ratio 121

A A R-Goalkeeper 4406



Lot 7
Reg. 21188149

BW	WW	Milk	YW
-0.2	+70	+34	+134

Goalkeeper x Consensus
Loaded with cow power.

A A R-Load Up M118



Lot 4
Reg. 21037182

BW	WW	Milk	YW
-0.1	+80	+26	+129

Load Up J277 x Justified
Elite Dam, 5 WR 106

A A R-Bridger 4910




Lot 39
Reg. 21038081

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+1.5	+67	+28	+110

Bridger x Breakthrough
Stacked up cow line.


A A R-Goalkeeper M150



Lot 8
Reg. 21039689

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+1.2	+97	+21	+171

Goalkeeper x Magnum
Top 2% WW and YW



View bulls
and
bid online

APRIL 3RD, 2025 • 1:00 P.M.

49th Annual Production Sale at the ranch

Selling 210 Bulls & 20 Top End Yearling Heifers

All bulls have genomically enhanced EPDs.

Brad Arntzen: 406.350.4000
Kevin Arntzen: 406.350.1612
Derik Arntzen: 406.350.1728
577 Arntzen Lane
Hilger, MT 59451
arntzen@mtintouch.net
www.arntzenangus.com

CO bill would roll back farmworker protections

Colorado lawmakers are moving forward with bipartisan legislation that would roll back a protection in state law for farmworkers after an adverse U.S. Supreme Court ruling, over the objections of some advocates who question whether the repeal is necessary.

Members of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee voted 5-2 to advance Senate Bill (SB) 25-128, with two Democrats, state Sens. Jessie Danielson of Wheat Ridge and Janice Marchman of Loveland, opposed.

The bill would repeal a provision in state law guaranteeing access by “key service providers”—including medical personnel, attorneys, legal advocates and clergy—to farmworkers on private agricultural properties during off hours. That protection was passed by Democratic majorities in the legislature in 2021 as part of a larger piece of legislation

known as the Farmworkers Bill of Rights.

SB 128’s Senate sponsors, Democratic Sen. Dylan Roberts of Avon and Republican Sen. Byron Pelton of Sterling, say the “cleanup bill” is needed after a 2021 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in the case Cedar Point Nursery v. Hassid, which found a similar access provision enacted in California unconstitutional.

“This isn’t a fun bill to run,” said Roberts. “It’s not something that Sen. Pelton and I are celebrating as a big, exciting thing to do here at the legislature. But it’s the responsible thing to do, my opinion, to protect the spirit of the larger law, and also honor the oaths we take to the Constitution.”

The bill would leave intact the vast majority of the wide-ranging 2021 farmworkers’ rights measure, which also guaranteed agricultural employees the right to unionize, mandated meal breaks and rest periods, and much more.

But some farmworker advocates argued in the committee hearing that it’s premature to fully strip the key service provider protection from state law. The Supreme Court’s ruling in the Cedar Point case specifically concerned access for union organizers, making Colorado’s access law meaningfully different, especially given its inclusion of health care providers.

“A lot of these farmworkers are in remote locations and working incredibly long hours, so it simply is not an option to run to the pharmacy on your lunch break or to go to the doctor,” said Valerie Collins, an attorney with progressive group Towards Justice.

Instead of repealing the protections, Collins said, lawmakers should direct the state’s labor department to craft new rules “based on the holding in Cedar Point, and based on the need of workers to access health care providers,” and potentially let further litigation

play out from there.

“That could address some of the nuances that we’re seeing here, and try to shape some of the parameters, rather than just wholesale eliminating all of these options,” said Collins.

But Jim Manley, state policy chief at the Pacific Legal Foundation, the conservative property-rights group that challenged the California access law in the Cedar Point case, insisted in testimony before the committee that the Supreme Court’s ruling clearly invalidates Colorado’s version of the law.

“The holding in Cedar Point

is quite broad,” Manley told lawmakers. “The court held that the access regulation ‘appropriates for the enjoyment of third parties ... the owners’ right to exclude.’ So it applies in a broad array of contexts, even though the factual situation there was narrower.”

Before advancing the bill, the committee adopted an amendment proposed by Roberts at the request of farmworker advocates, which included language to preserve service providers’ access to employer-provided housing.

Following the Cedar Point ruling, the Colorado Livestock

Association challenged the key service provider law in state court in 2023. That lawsuit is pending, and Roberts argued that a legislative fix now could prevent “collateral damage” to other parts of the Farmworkers Bill of Rights in the future.

“There is (a) likelihood that at some point a court here in Colorado will hear this case on the merits,” he said. “It could go all the way up and could result in a decision that strikes (down) more of this law than we’re trying to fix here, which would be worse for workers.” — **Chase Woodruff, Colorado Newsline**

Chicken meat prices hold steady despite rising egg costs

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts say several factors make meat pro-

duction broiler farms more resilient to outbreaks, keeping prices relatively stable.

Greg Archer, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension poultry specialist and associate professor in the Texas A&M Department of Poultry Science, said highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) outbreaks in broiler houses have not impacted meat prices for a few reasons.

Broiler chickens that end up in grocery stores and on restaurant menus are produced in five-to-seven-week cycles. Compared to egg-laying hens, which can be in production for years, broiler chickens have a much shorter window of time to potentially be exposed to the pathogen that causes avian influenza.

Broiler farms also hold fewer birds, he said. Farms typically consist of four to six production houses that may hold 40,000 birds. That means any outbreak could impact 160,000-240,000 birds whereas a commercial egg production farm might house over 1 million birds.

It also takes broiler farms much less time to resume production after an outbreak, Archer said. Following an outbreak, the production houses are cleaned, sanitized and monitored to ensure the pathogen is not present on the farm. This process could take a few months, and the farm could then begin the production cycle.

It could take six months for a commercial egg farm to resume production and even longer to reach full capacity, he said.

“The impact on chicken meat just hasn’t showed up in the grocery store and people’s pocketbooks so far because of the nature of the poultry industry,” he said. “Avian flu is impacting farms and farmers, but it would take widespread outbreaks to impact production and supplies.”

David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension economist and professor in the Texas A&M Department of Agricultural Economics, said chicken prices have gone up year over year, but production has not been the reason.

“It comes down to the scale of the losses within the context of production,” he said.

“We’ve had outbreaks at broiler farms, but it’s relatively small compared to the number of chickens in production.”

For perspective, U.S. broiler farms produced 796 million chickens in January. The USDA January livestock report showed around 2.2 million broilers were lost to HPAI in December.

Wholesale boneless, skinless chicken breasts are higher, \$1.75 per pound, compared to \$1.26/lb. this time last year, Anderson said.

Another factor that weighs on chicken prices is the demand for different production weights for grocer and restaurant markets, Anderson said. Restaurants serving chicken sandwiches want breast cuts that are specific to the product they serve, and regional farms may be contracted to meet that demand.

Anderson believes the slight increase is related to a combination of demand dynamics and chicken’s competitive price in relation to beef alongside a historical upward seasonal price trend in the spring and summer.

“It’s interesting what chicken offerings from chain restaurants have done to the poultry market over the past 10 years,” he said. “If they roll out something new or special, it can be a market-moving event because there is so much volume.”

Uncertainty still ahead

Anderson and Archer said the U.S. poultry industry may still face significant challenges before warmer temperatures end the avian flu season. HPAI strains continue to be found in migratory birds and other species, including dairy cattle.

Egg production flocks dropped to 291.5 million birds as of Feb. 1 compared to 304.1 million on Jan. 1, Anderson said. He expects to see similar losses in the March 1 report.

“Everyone is waiting to get past flu season and get a little bit of respite from summer,” he said. “If there is one positive, it is that broiler production has gone relatively unscathed so far.” — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

DON'T MISS IT!

70 head of Big Two Year Old Bulls Sell!

LEE'S CATTLE COMPANY ANNUAL BULL SALE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025

AT THE RANCH IN STERLING, CO

Selling Over 100hd of Simmental & Angus Bulls & Females!

70 [coming two-year-old bulls] 20 [yearly bulls] +20 [first calf-pairs]

watch and bid online at

LiveAuctions.TV

SONS OF THESE HERD SIRES WILL BE FEATURED ON MARCH 26...



KCCI FOLSOM 512F



WLE UNO MAS X549

WATCH OUR SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITE FOR ALL SALE UPDATES

LEE'S
CATTLE COMPANY

John Lee, Owner
602.541.8826 | leescows@gmail.com
Humberto Montes, Ranch Mgr.
602.541.9791

LEESCATTLE.COM

Follow us!

Sale Information...



MT sheep grower explores value-added options

In the rangelands of eastern Montana, Ben Lehfeltd shepherds thousands of sheep over hill and dale near the Musselshell River. As a fifth-generation rancher, his herds are reminiscent of centuries past.

Lehfeltd's great-great-grandpa first settled these rolling grasslands in 1885, at the beginning of Montana's sheep boom. As of Jan. 31, about 185,000 sheep and lambs were raised in Montana, ranking it eighth for sheep-growing in the nation, according to the American Sheep Industry (ASI).

Lehfeltd is proudly continuing his family's legacy as a

sheep and wool grower. He is teaching his two sons and four nieces and nephews the ins-and-outs of ranching.

Plus, as a director of the Montana Wool Growers Association and vice-president of ASI as well as the industry's representative on the National Grazing Lands Coalition, Lehfeltd is a mentor and a voice for 89,000 sheep producers around the nation.

His goal is to ensure the ranch remains profitable enough to support his children's families. "But that takes work, it doesn't just happen," Lehfeltd said.

Like some other Montana

ranchers, Lehfeltd raises both sheep and cattle on his family's deeded and leased rangelands.

"Sheep can bring diversity because they graze different plants from cattle. They can also help to manage invasive species," said Tom Watson, state conservationist for Montana Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Sheep yield annual profits from selling their wool. When cattle prices drop, selling lambs can help make up the difference. Sheep also tolerate Montana's cold winters well and tend to cost less than cattle to raise.

"We've always stressed dual purpose to get the value from both lambs and wool," Lehfeltd said.

For instance, Lehfeltd sells the merino wool from his Rambouillet ewes to clothing companies like Ibex and Duckworth. The family also spreads out the sale of their lambs to capitalize on niche markets around different holidays.

Another innovative income stream Lehfeltd taps into is using his herds to graze noxious weeds on public or private lands in the summer. In exchange, Lehfeltd can keep his sheep on those parcels for free or for reduced rates during the fall.

This year, he's experimenting with virtual fencing on his cattle to see if it's more cost-effective than rebuilding old fences. Down the road, Lehfeltd is interested in using virtual fencing for sheep to maximize their weed-eating powers.

To keep his ranch sustain-

able long-term, Lehfeltd is also mindful of stewarding water, soils and native plants. He received technical and financial assistance through the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI), an NRCS effort that provided partial funding for grazing practices, for Lehfeltd to create smaller pastures and rotate livestock more frequently between them.

This type of grazing management helps the grasses flourish, which benefits his livestock, sage grouse, and hundreds of other species that rely on native plants. Researchers from Montana State University even studied his pastures to learn how sustainable grazing can boost populations of native bees.

Through SGI, Lehfeltd also received funds to construct a water pipeline that better distributes water for livestock. This project included building fenced water gaps that protect fragile streamsides. "Without the cost-share from SGI, this was something we would

have had to space out over 30 or 40 years," Lehfeltd said.

When landowners keep rangelands productive and vibrant, the positive impacts ripple out well beyond their ranches. It helps communities thrive and protects vital ecosystem services for people around the region.

"In Montana, more than 38 million acres of private land are used for grazing. Families like the Lehfeltds are critical for managing a huge portion of our state's natural resources," Watson points out.

Lehfeltd offers this advice to other livestock producers: "You've got to keep trying new things. You can't be doing the same old. In order to be sustainable, you've got to look at all the pieces. Every bit counts."

For more information on available assistance to voluntarily conserve western rangelands, visit tinyurl.com/mr2c2hcx. — **Julia Debes**, NRCS Working Lands for Wildlife

\$250M expansion project led to financial challenges

MILLENKAMP
(from page 1)

Financial challenges

Court documents reveal that financial difficulties for Millenkamp Cattle began with a \$250 million expansion project launched in 2019. The project aimed to double the company's dairy capacity with state-of-the-art milking parlors and a manure separation facility. The expansion was expected to be funded through a mix of short-term loans from Rabo and long-term real estate financing from MetLife.

However, financial tensions began to mount in 2022 when Rabo altered the company's borrowing terms, tightening credit availability and imposing new conditions. MetLife, which had historically refinanced the company's real estate loans, unexpectedly declined to provide additional funding. The strain led to multiple defaults, and by mid-2023, Rabo had begun sweeping cash proceeds from cattle sales, leaving the company with little working capital to sustain operations, documents read.

Rabo was fully aware that milk checks and custom calf-raising funds were insufficient to cover the shortfall created by these actions, court documents contend. Had Rabo allowed the Millenkamps to reinvest the proceeds from steers and cull cows, they could have maintained their financial obligations and remained profitable, the documents continued.

On Jan. 22, 2024, Rabo filed a petition to appoint a receiver in the 4th Judicial District of Idaho. After weeks of negotiations, the Millenkamps and Rabo reached an agreement, and on Feb. 16, 2024, an Order Appointing Receiver was issued. The order gave Millenkamp Cattle a 60-day window to file for Chapter 11 bankruptcy while allowing them to continue managing daily operations.

"The issues that led to this filing were not the result of operational failures," the company stated in court documents. "Rather, they were caused by financial institutions refusing to work cooperatively."

In April 2024, Millenkamp Cattle and its divisions filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, listing the number of creditors between 200-299 and estimated liabilities of \$500 million to \$1 billion.

As of the bankruptcy filing, Millenkamp Cattle faced substantial debt, including:

- MetLife: Over \$180 million across multiple loans secured by farmland and facilities.
- Rabo AgriFinance: \$96.47 million in outstanding credit.
- Conterra Capital: \$18.88 million in secured loans.
- Unsecured trade debt: Approximately \$27.92 million.

Millenkamp background

The Millenkamps began operations in 1996 with 40 acres in Jerome, ID, a handful of calves and a small operating line of credit.

The company has grown significantly. Its calf ranch in Jerome spans several hundred acres and houses approximately 50,000 calves. In 2006, the family added a dairy heifer feedlot in Declo, ID, raising around 60,000 head of dairy cattle.

The business employs around 513 people and comprises five divisions: Idaho Jersey Girls Dairy, a calf ranch, farming operations across multiple counties, a feedlot and cow-calf operation, and a custom harvest and trucking division. Across these divisions, the company manages approximately 110,000 head of cattle, including 37,000 Jersey and Jersey-mixed milking cows that produce around 2 million pounds of milk daily.

The Idaho Jersey Girls Dairy spans approximately 11,688 acres and is bordered by the 4,640-acre Moonshine Ranch, creating a contiguous land area of roughly 16,328 acres in Declo, ID. This expansive operation supports around 65,000 head of dairy cattle and youngstock, while Moonshine Ranch maintains a 1,000-head Angus cow-calf operation. The calf ranch covers approximately 782 acres, receiving about 250 calves daily and housing around 50,000 calves.

Additional revenue streams come from feedlots, cow-calf operations, the trucking division and custom silage har-

vesting partnership. — **Charles Wallace**, *WLJ* contributing editor

12TH ANNUAL - HUNTLEY, MONTANA

CUSTOMER-ORIENTED

BULL SALE

April 5

FAMILY OWNED & FAMILY RAISED

DVAuction
Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions

AAA 20985241 **OZZIE** son
CED +3 BW +2.9 WW +72 YW +125
MILK +29 MARB +.66 RE +.69 SW +67

Selling

**100 STOUT YEARLING
AND 15 TWO-YEAR-OLD ANGUS BULLS**

SALE 1:00 PM
LUNCH SERVED AT 11:30 AM

BULLS RAISED AND DEVELOPED AT THE BASE OF THE BIG HORNS.

AAA 21119517 **OZZIE** son
CED +6 BW +3.3 WW +72 YW +134
MILK +11 MARB +.60 RE +.67 SW +43

AAA 21119507 **OZZIE** son
CED +6 BW +1.2 WW +80 YW +143
MILK +28 MARB +.73 RE +.64 SW +78

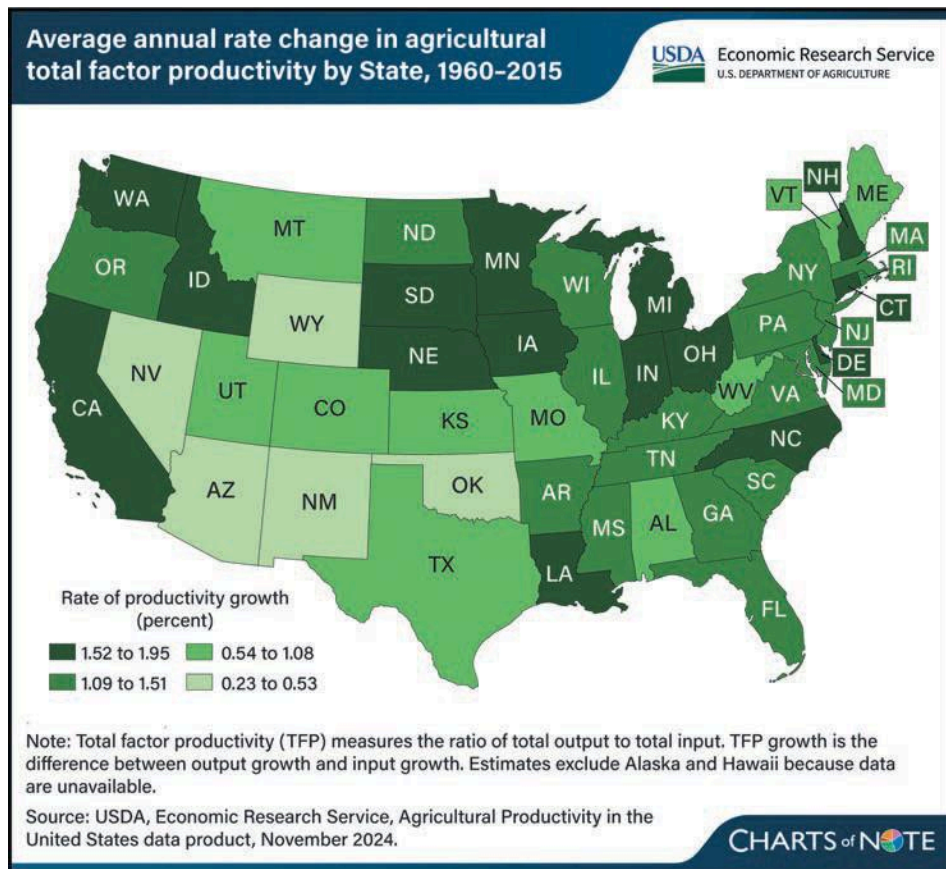
AAA 20985281 **LOGO** son
CED +6 BW +.2 WW +71 YW +121
MILK +32 MARB +.52 RE .17 SW +80

RFM
RON FRYE MARKETING
406.600.7514

BEAU AND KRISTIN BOTTS
BEAU CELL (541) 263-0988
KRISTIN CELL (541) 263-0589
LANE CELL (541) 263-1048
BOTTSAUGUSRANCH@GMAIL.COM
CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL FOR A SALE BOOK.

BOTTS Follow us on Facebook
ANGUS RANCH bottsangusranch.com

Ag productivity growth is uneven across the US



Agricultural productivity grew in every U.S. state from 1960 to 2015, but the growth rates varied widely.

The USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) estimates annual growth and relative levels of agricultural inputs used and outputs produced as well as total factor

productivity for the 48 contiguous States.

Total factor productivity measures the amount of agricultural output produced from the combination of land, labor, capital and material resources employed in farm production. If total output grows faster than total inputs,

then total factor productivity increases.

From 1960 to 2015, average annual productivity growth rates ranged from 0.23% in New Mexico to 1.95% in Ohio. The median total factor productivity growth rate from 1960 to 2015 was 1.34% a year. — USDA ERS

BeefTech Producer Summit features insights for cattle producers

The beef market outlook, cow herd expansion, the benefit of data collection and the value of harnessing the right technology in cattle production were highlighted during the BeefTech Producer Summit. Kevin Good of CattleFax and Dr. Dan Thomson of Production Animal Consultation headlined the event, recently hosted by Performance Livestock Analytics (PLA).

Designed to support inde-

pendent cattle producers, the event drew more than 250 producers, nutritionists, veterinarians and allied industry representatives from across the country to Sioux City, IA, Feb. 26-27. Participants learned from experts, made new connections, heard from PLA's chief operating officer and explored what's new with Performance Beef, the company's cattle management software.

ary care for 30% of the cattle on feed in the U.S. Thomson also hosts "DocTalk," a weekly RFD-TV show.

He challenged cattle producers to think differently, embrace the right technology and look for every opportunity for passive data collection.

"Robotics, automation, passive information and passive data is the future," he said.

"We have to use the data and have the ability to interpret the data to make changes, whether it's on the fly or at a set point in time."

Thomson reassured cattle producers that technology won't replace them. "Technology is going to bring more people into agriculture, not less. We're just going to have different jobs and different routines."

View video highlights from Thomson's presentation at youtu.be/Lja-ql7qESg.

Company roadmap

PLA Co-founder Dustin Balsley shared the company's vision and progress since PLA gained its independence from Zoetis in 2023.

"Our focus is the independent cattle producer. We're committed to doing what's best for them because they're the people I answer to—my dad, my neighbors and you," Balsley said.

During the summit, PLA's sales and customer success team answered questions and helped attendees better use Performance Beef technology. Balsley shared newly released features, including customizable dashboards and invoicing upgrades.

"Our goal is to make more usable features while keeping it simple, and expanding data insights for decision-making," Balsley said. "Looking forward, we'll continue to look at the ecosystem and partnerships. We're talking to other innovative companies, figuring out what is the best way for us to integrate data and provide services back to our customers."

Attendees brought their devices and ended the day with a Performance Beef walk-through, exploring new features, tips and an in-depth dive into key features to maximize their software investment.

"I expected this to be mainly an educational event, which it definitely was," said Annie Doer, a nutritionist for Kent Feeds. "But it was also a very motivational event that touched me on a personal and professional level."

View highlights from Balsley's presentation at youtu.be/kAAzC55Cdrw. — PLA

Market outlook

Good, vice president of market analysis and industry relations at CattleFax, discussed the current cattle market and factors affecting prices today.

"We're sitting here with record-high values this last month, month and a half. I think the question is, will these values continue?" Good said.

He anticipates market highs are approaching, likely in the next year or two. However, cattle feeders may pay more than they'd like to for yearlings and calves, he said.

"Demand is great today, but we need to recognize we still have a consumer out there respecting and loving our product because it is a better product as long as they have dollars to spend," Good said. "If that changes, then we have to reassess and say, well maybe the market high is pretty much in place."

Cow-calf expansion

Year to date, beef cow slaughter is down 21%, dairy cow slaughter is down 4% and the cow market is within a few cents of the highs from last summer, Good said. Those cow market figures suggest cow herd expansion; however, heifer numbers tell a different story.


"Heifers that were either bred or intended to be bred coming into this year are at a record low," Good said. "Will we have a bigger cow herd on the first of 2026 or not? Cow slaughter says yes, but at the same time we don't have the heifers in the system and because of that we might be flatter for another year."

Unless drought eases significantly, Good indicated cow herd expansion will be very slow.

View video highlights from Good's presentation at youtu.be/6W3-2L44pj0.





Technology holds promise

Thomson, Ph.D., DVM, is a feedlot veterinarian and CEO of Production Animal Consultation, which provides veteri-



SELLING 80 BULLS, 15+ FEMALES
& 4 RANCH HORSES

ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE
THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025
1 PM MST - CRAWFORD, NEBRASKA

J

JOCK, BRENDA & SKYE BEESON

100 Wohlers Drive - Crawford, NE 69339
Brenda. 308-430-2117 - Jock. 308-430-0668
wcsbeeson@bbc.net - www.westerncattlesource.com

INNOVATION
AgMarketing, LLC

SALE MANAGED BY - INNOVATION AGMARKETING

GRAHAM BLAGG - 530-913-6418 JERED SHIPMAN - 806-983-7226
TIM ANDERSON - 605-682-9343 WWW.INNOVATIONAGMARKETING.COM

DVAuction
Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions



WCS TRIFECTA 425M

ASA# 443673 - 3/4 SM 1/4 AN
S: MR W/C TRIFECTA 975J
MGS: ES/WC INTEGRITY FA117-3

The flush brothers from the W/C Miss Werning 1002J donor read with massive herd bull quality.



WCS INNOVATOR 424M

ASA# 4436738 - PB SM
S: CCS/JS INNOVATOR 29G
MGS: W/C SON OF A BISCUIT 83E

This high growth purebred is bound to inject hybrid vigor in the first generation!



WCS JOURNEYMAN 401M

ASA# 4436740 - PB SM
S: OMF JOURNEYMAN J24
MGS: LRS ELEVATE 213B

A son of the 6019D from the exciting OMF Journeyman J24, this sire group will be a favorite of ranchmen.



WCS MS TALLADEGA 3803L

ASA# 4282181 - PB SM
S: NGDB STRUCTURE 34D
MGS: LRS ELEVATE 213B

Maternal sisters to this trio are working for the most progressive Simmental operations in the nation.

She comes bred to Mr W/C Trifecta 975J.

STORY SHORTS

Beyond Meat cuts workforce

Beyond Meat is laying off 6% of its workforce, or about 44 employees, to cut costs, according to Food Dive. The company is also suspending operations in China, eliminating 20 jobs, or 95% of its local workforce. Beyond Meat reported that net revenue in 2024 fell 4.9% to \$326.5 million, with projected revenue between \$320 million and \$335 million. However, Beyond Meat reported some gains in the fourth quarter, showing net revenue rose 4% to \$76.7 million and gross profit was 13.1% compared to a loss of 113.8% last year.

Japan's beef imports lower in January

Japan's total beef imports in January fell 17% month on month to 32,576 metric tons (mt), marking the lowest level since February 2024, Foodmarket reported. The decline of 6,651 mt was driven by reduced shipments from Australia and the U.S., though increased imports from New Zealand helped offset further losses. Foodmarket wrote that imports plunged 24.7% (-10,682 mt) year over year due to weakened household consumption, economic pressures and a declining yen. The Agriculture & Livestock Industries Corporation estimated imported beef stocks at 129,801 mt in December, down 5.1% from the previous month. Despite harsh winter conditions limiting restaurant traffic, strong tourism from China, Korea and Taiwan helped support beef consumption, particularly in dining establishments.

Greater Omaha launches Hereford affidavit

Greater Omaha Packing has introduced a new Hereford affidavit to expand opportunities for producers and ensure Hereford-influenced fat cattle qualify for program premiums. Developed in partnership with the American Hereford Association, this initiative recognizes the genetic merit of Hereford-crossed cattle. Traditionally, increased pigmentation within the Hereford breed has made it difficult for some cattle to meet the 51% white-face requirement, preventing them from earning premiums. Greater Omaha said the affidavit allows cow-calf producers to certify the Hereford genetics of their calves, ensuring eligibility and making them more desirable to feedlots. Producers interested in participating can contact Greater Omaha Packing, the American Hereford Association or their seedstock supplier for more information.

New EPDs published on every Simmental animal

The American Simmental Association (ASA) announced that Dry Matter Intake (DMI) and \$Gain EPDs are now officially published on every animal on Herdbook. ASA said these new trait predictions help producers select cattle that balance intake and growth for improved biological and economic efficiency. DMI EPD reflects the difference in pounds of daily dry matter intake, while \$Gain EPD indicates the difference in daily profitability based on DMI and Average Daily Gain. ASA said that seedstock and commercial producers can enhance feedlot performance by incorporating these traits into selection strategies. For more information, contact ASA Geneticist Lane Giess at lgiess@simmgene.com.

Deere announces layoffs at IA facility

John Deere announced plans to lay off 119 workers at its Des Moines Works plant in Ankeny, IA, due to reduced demand and a weakened farm economy, local outlet KCCI reported. The layoffs will occur in three phases as customer orders decline. Deere told KCCI that the USDA forecasts a decrease in row-crop cash receipts for 2024, impacting demand for the plant's sprayers, grain and tillage tools, and cotton equipment. Despite employing nearly 1,500 workers at the facility, Deere faces financial challenges. The company reported a first-quarter net income of \$869 million, down from \$1.75 billion a year earlier, with worldwide net sales dropping 30% to \$8.5 billion.

NWSS announces new president and CEO

The National Western Stock Show (NWSS) named Wes Allison its next president and CEO. As NWSS prepares for its next chapter, including the opening of The Legacy Building and the Sue Anschutz-Rodgers Livestock Center in 2026, the organization said Allison's decades of leadership and agricultural experience will be instrumental. "Wes is a proven, innovative leader in the livestock industry and his deep roots in agriculture—coupled with his commitment to youth scholarships and vast experience in event development—make him the perfect fit to lead National Western into the future," said Douglas Jones, NWSS board chairman. Allison previously led the Heart O' Texas Fair and Rodeo for 23 years, expanding its reach and agricultural education programs.

ASI releases targeted grazing book

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) released Targeted Grazing 101: Starting and Sustaining a Grazing Service Enterprise, a comprehensive guide for those new to the industry. Based on interviews with over three dozen experienced targeted grazers, the 300-page manual provides practical insights on thriving in the field. Unlike the original 2006 handbook, this edition focuses on real-world expertise rather than academic research. Topics include business logistics, animal husbandry and seasonal plant management. The book is available as a hardcover for \$39.95 or as a PDF on a USB flash drive for \$14.95 at SheepUSA.org/shop.

Flavor kept in check after longer aging of round steaks

Kansas State (K-State) University graduate student Lauren Frink and her research team have evaluated consumer's perceptions of the flavor of three muscles in the round after extended periods of wet aging as part of a larger project to highlight less popular cuts of meat.

Frink's results were set to be included in the annual research report for K-State's 112th annual Cattlemen's Day on Mar. 7.

Researchers examined the gluteus medius, semimembranosus and biceps femoris muscles within this project—cuts located in the hindquarter of a beef carcass and not typically eaten as steaks but rather as roasts. Meat scientists designate cuts thicker than two inches as roasts.

"Roasts from the biceps femoris are called cou-

lottes or picanhas and are a commonly consumed cut," Frink said. "Yet, because these are muscles of locomotion, they are not as tender as some of the support muscles located in the loin like the longissimus dorsi, so they do not get eaten commonly as steaks, which requires a dry cooking method."

She added: "In turn, we don't typically see steaks from the round being promoted to consumers. The goal is to eventually market these cuts for a similar amount of money to muscles from the loin that get sold at a premium because of their palatability."

To achieve that task, the K-State researchers studied wet aged steaks from the round to make them more tender and ensure the flavor did not deteriorate, which may heighten

their notoriety among beef eaters. The wet-aging process consists of vacuum sealing cuts and placing them in refrigerators.

The meat industry practices aging to a standard of 14-28 days. Taking advantage of a natural process called proteolysis, aging breaks down the connective tissues within the meat, making it more palatable.

"The point of the study was to evaluate the flavor as we aged these muscles for longer periods," Frink said. "Overall, we found that the flavor wasn't hindered; we can age these steaks up to 70 days and that flavor is still acceptable to the consumer."


Moreover, Frink said that consumers were less likely to favor cuts that were aged for less time.

"We saw an acceptability

cutoff from a consumer standpoint at around 14 days," she said. "Those steaks aged in a shorter timeframe are not quite as tender because proteolysis has not occurred in full within that first week of aging."

Frink said the team's research findings may lead to the ability to store fresh beef for longer durations while selling favorable products to consumers at the same price—an advantage for the industry.

"Typically, these muscles aren't consumed in this fashion, so I think it could also open some sales avenues from a producer standpoint and encourage consumers to try new cuts that may be more economical with still as much flavor and tenderness," she said. — **K-State Research and Extension**



Because family matters

**DEBRUYCKER
CHAROLAIS**



**600 PRIME BULLS
APRIL 5, 2025**



Try Our App!

PLC testifies on wolf recovery programs

MEXICAN WOLF (from page 1)

probable environmental consequences" of the grazing project.

The environmental groups contended that USFS failed to adequately consider the effects of livestock grazing on the Mexican gray wolf, including potential increases in wolf removals and disruptions to prey populations. However, the appeals court determined that the agency had reasonably assessed these concerns and concluded that the proposed grazing would not likely affect the species adversely.

The ruling highlighted that the grazing area lacked documented wolf packs, dens or territories and that past wolf-livestock conflicts in the region had not resulted in removals. Additionally, the court noted that the Mexican gray wolf population nearly doubled between 2016 and 2020, despite higher grazing

levels than those authorized under the Stateline Project.

The Stateline Range Project spans 14 allotments along the Arizona-New Mexico border within the Apache-Sitgreaves and Gila national forests. According to USFS, these allotments allow 45,867 animal unit months of grazing. The project area covers approximately 271,665 acres, including over 30,000 acres in the Blue Range Primitive Area.

The court also rejected the plaintiffs' argument that the USFS failed to assess the cumulative effects of wolf removals on genetic diversity, stating that there was no evidence the project would lead to such removals. Without this link, the court said the plaintiffs could not demonstrate that genetic impacts were a potential cumulative effect requiring further analysis.

Furthermore, the court upheld the USFS' decision not to conduct a complete environmental impact statement, rul-

ing that the agency had properly considered both the context and intensity of the project's possible effects and provided a "convincing statement of reasons" for its determination.

Wolf population

The Arizona Game and Fish Department and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish recently released the results of the 2024 annual survey of Mexican gray wolves, revealing a minimum of 286 wolves across Arizona and New Mexico. This marks the ninth consecutive year of population growth, the longest sustained increase since recovery efforts began. The 2024 count reflects an 11% rise from the 257 wolves recorded in 2023, with at least 162 wolves in New Mexico and 124 in Arizona.

By the end of 2024, 60 wolf packs were documented—37

in New Mexico and 23 in Arizona—with each pack consisting of at least two wolves maintaining an established home range. The survey also found that 164 pups were born in 2024, with 79 surviving to year-end, representing a 48% survival rate. Additionally, the survey recorded at least 26 breeding pairs—16 in New Mexico and 10 in Arizona—and 112 collared wolves, accounting for 39% of the total known population.

Conservation groups said the increasing population is a positive sign, but warn of a genetic crisis threatening the species' long-term recovery. They assert that scientists have long recommended establishing three subpopulations of at least 200 wolves each, with a total of at least 750 wolves, distributed throughout the southwestern U.S., including the Grand Canyon Ecoregion and the southern Rockies.

Second challenge

Attorneys for conservation groups were set to present oral arguments on March 5 before Judge Scott Rash of the U.S. Federal District Court of Arizona in defense of Mexican gray wolves.

The Center for Biological Diversity and Defenders of Wildlife, represented by Earthjustice, filed suit against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in July 2022. The groups argue that the agency's Mexican wolf management rule undermines conservation efforts by restricting the wolves' range and failing to address genetic diversity concerns. The groups claim the agency rule sets an inadequate population target and prevents wolves from accessing key recovery habitats, such as the Grand Canyon Ecoregion and the southern Rockies.

According to the groups, the rule ignores scientific recommendations to establish multiple populations in additional regions by setting a population target of 320 wolves in a single area of eastern Arizona and western New Mexico. Although the rule calls for releasing captive wolves to enhance genetic diversity, it measures success based on survival rates rather than breeding outcomes, leaving genetic issues unresolved, the groups said.

They asked the court to require USFWS to revise the rule to align with the scientific recommendations of three subpopulations.

PLC testifies

Meanwhile, livestock pro-

ducers have raised concerns about the challenges posed by wolf recovery programs. Robbie LeValley, secretary of the Public Lands Council (PLC), testified before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, highlighting the regulatory burdens placed on ranchers when USFWS introduces experimental populations under Section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

LeValley pointed out that while Section 10(j) theoretically allows broader use of deterrents and lethal control, these measures are rarely implemented in practice. As a result, livestock producers face significant regulatory challenges that hinder their ability to protect their families and animals from species like the gray wolf, Mexican gray wolf and grizzly bear, which have been introduced into areas where they were not historically found, she said.

"Across the country, the ESA has become a barrier to sound management of land and wildlife resources," LeValley said. "Populations introduced under Section 10(j) have all of the burdens of the Act, without any of the regulatory certainty. In a time where Congress is considering how best to reduce ESA burdens and make recovery more effective, there is huge opportunity to address landowner concerns and make the existing tools provided by the Act work for both wildlife and the ranchers that interact with these animals the most." — Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor

SILVER
BIT

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
SCOTT & GWEN WHITWORTH
208.940.0433
SILVERBIT_RANCH@YAHOO.COM

ANGUS RANCH
34TH ANNUAL BULL SALE
MARCH 31, 2025
LUNCH AT NOON, SALE AT 1PM

SELLING SONS OF:



SAV CHECKMATE 8158



SAV GRAND CANYON 0969



SAV SCALEHOUSE 0848



SITZ INCENTIVE 704H



SITZ RESILIENT 10208



SAV RENOVATION 6822

SUPERIOR
LIVESTOCK VIDEO SALES

Silver Bit Bulls sire calves that gain, convert, & grade at the top end of thousands of calves in feedlots they've gone to. Silver Bit sired calves have consistently been the top selling calves on the summer Superior Livestock Video Sales.

Silver Bit Bulls come from one of the strongest herds of Angus cows anywhere. Wide based, easy fleshing, good footed, good milking, with tight udders & small teats. Lots of generations of breeding like kind to like kind for a consistent maternal package.

Embryo Program based on the best proven Angus Genetics

Silver Bit Ranch AI's to only the Best Proven Sires!

Low to Moderate birth weights for consistent, easy calving!

PAP TESTED ~ SEMEN TESTED ~ ULTRASOUND CAR-CASS TESTED ~ BVD PI FREE TESTED

Controlling winter annual weeds

Now is the time to control winter annual weeds in alfalfa. Thin field stands combined with open soil surfaces and adequate moisture can result in high weed pressure. So, prior to alfalfa shoot green-up or dormancy break scout fields for early green winter annual weed patches of pennycress, downy brome, mustards, cheatgrass and shepherd's purse. Left unchecked, these weeds can lower first cutting hay yield, quality and palatability. Also, excessive weeds can extend dry-down and lengthen harvest time.

However, before applying any herbicide, scout to determine current and potential weed pressure. Verify that fields have enough weeds to justify herbicide spray applications and then determine the best management options.

Winter annual weeds can grow during cooler spring temperatures better than alfalfa, so dormant alfalfa herbicides such as MCPA Amine, metribuzin (Sencor) and Gramoxone can still be applied. Pre-emergent herbicides such as Warrant, Chateau and Prowl H2O can be applied soon after green-up, but these chemicals will not control weeds which have already germinated.

Aim herbicide will control early growing broadleaf weeds but not control grassy weeds. Poast herbicide will control most growing weedy grasses but not downy brome. Pursuit and Raptor herbicides control growing henbit well during early alfalfa green-up, but control weeds best when air temperatures are warmer. Glyphosate products like Roundup Weathermax/Powermax will control growing weeds with warmer temperatures too but must be used with Roundup-tolerant varieties.

Other products for new alfalfa fields include Arrow, Select Max, Velpar, Karmex, Sinbar, Pursuit, Butyrac and Raptor.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension publication "Guide for Weed, Disease, and Insect Management in Nebraska" may provide additional information or visit cropwatch.unl.edu.

Winter annuals can quickly establish in hay fields, so early season weed control is important for quality hay production. Timing is essential, so control winter annuals before alfalfa breaks dormancy and before weeds render economic losses. — Todd Whitney, Nebraska Extension

Pesticides, homesteading, livestock loss and water

With transmittal looming, the pace of the legislative session is picking up substantially. Saturday was even set to be a busy business day for legislators with many hearings scheduled. From pesticides to predators, Montana Farm Bureau Federation (MFBF) lobbyists were busy testifying on bills all over the spectrum.

The House Agriculture Committee held several action-packed hearings. Bills supported include House Bill (HB) 504: "Expand livestock loss eligibility to include domestic bison" sponsored by Rep. Eric Tilleman (R-23) and HB 522: "Provide pesticide warning label laws" sponsored by Rep. Jerry Schillinger (R-04).

HB 504, sponsored by Tilleman, adds domestic bison to the livestock loss reduction and mitigation program. Currently, the Livestock Loss Board reimburses ranchers for cattle, sheep, goats, mules, horse, swine, llamas and livestock guard dogs that are killed by mountain lions, grizzly bears or wolves. The reimbursement value would be

valued at twice the value of the same age and same class of cattle, based on the USDA market report at the time of predation; the bison rancher must also pay per capita fees on their stock to be eligible for the reimbursement. MFBF supported this bill as the Livestock Loss Board is financially stable and adding bison would create consistency for livestock that are subject to per capita fees being eligible for reimbursement.

HB 522 was an exciting bill in House Ag and earned an extensive discussion with many proponents, opponents and questions from the committee. The basis of the bill is to provide continued access to safe and effective agriculture chemicals, such as glyphosate, a critical piece of legislation for Montana's agriculture economy. This bill works to simply protect the tools that have already undergone significant review and testing from the EPA and codifies that pesticides labels serve as warnings for users.

A lack of legislative certainty

around the labeling requirements of pesticides has posed a risk to these products and allowed the litigation industry to make a fortune targeting manufacturers of pesticides with scientifically unsound lawsuits. MFBF members discussed the idea behind the legislation this fall and passed policy to support. Along with MFBF's testimony, an Action Alert on the bill was shared with members to express their need for crop protection products on their farm or ranch to ensure continued farming success, sustained food security and provide a stable economy.

During the robust discussion in the committee hearing, MFBF presented the facts regarding the intricate creation of these products. It takes on average 11 years for a chemical product to go through the full Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) certification process that ensures it safe and effective for use; all products must be scientifically proven safe by outside sources; after certification they are closely watched by the EPA and Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act; products must be re-registered every 15 years, unless new science is found, then it will be required to sooner, and only one out of every 10,000 discoveries make

it out of the certification process.

Passage of this bill and continued access to these important tools will ensure that expenses do not rise for our ag producers and consumers. In addition, farmers will continue to be able to modernize and improve their agriculture practices, ensuring they will not go back to pulling a plow to rid fields of weeds, and be able to remain supplying the world's safest and most abundant food supply. HB 522 was passed out of committee the same day as it was heard and will be on the House floor soon.

Senate Bill (SB) 381: "Provide for Montana's future homesteading act" sponsored by Sen. Daniel Emrich (D-11) had its hearing in Senate Natural Resources based on the idea to allow for state land tracks under 100 acres to be broken up into five-acre tracks and sold for building sites for "homesteaders."

MFBF and other ag organizations opposed the bill due to there already being a process in place for the state to sell land that is fair for both the state and lessees and the concern that thousands of acres would be taken out of agricultural production. Approximately 11,000 acres of state land are

considered in agriculture use, a crop or hay, and 79,000-plus additional acres are grazing lands would be eligible for sale should this bill pass.

It was also pointed out that the state has a responsibility to raise money to fund the school trust with the leasing of state land. Many questions were also brought up regarding the bill, like what happens if the "homesteaders" default? Who will clean up the state land left behind if these people are unable to prove up? When it comes down to it, MFBF stands to keep working agriculture lands working.

SB 357: "Extend perfection deadline for certain Missouri River water reservations" sponsored by Sen. Wylie Galt (R-39), was also heard in Senate Natural Resources and had a short positive discussion. SB 357 extends the deadline to perfect reserved water rights that many conservation districts and municipalities hold.

These reserve water rights were set aside for future municipal and agricultural uses 30 years ago. The expectation is over time those rights would be put to use and ultimately perfected. Many of those rights are not fully perfected and this bill will allow more time for that. MFBF shared that it support setting aside water for the

future of municipalities and agriculture.

To follow up on previous weeks' bills, HB 356: "Allow livestock loss reimbursement for black bear predation" had its Senate hearing in Senate Agriculture. Tilleman opened his bill stating that this "beautiful piece of legislation" will help Montana ranchers and these state-managed large carnivores coexist smoothly. Cascade County Farm Bureau President Merrill McKamey was present to testify in support of the bill and received many excellent questions from the committee.

MFBF shared its support, expressing that because of the expansion of grizzly bears, black bears have expanded their normal range. Because of this, farmers and ranchers need the addition of the black bear to the Livestock Loss Board to add consistency when it comes to managing predator losses.

It has been incredible to watch MFBF policy in action on this legislation. It shows how a wise idea can arise at a local county Farm Bureau and culminate in successful legislation. We are honored to be a part of this process and look forward to passage of this bill. — Karli Johnson and Nicole Rolf, MFBF

KS leadership program has sizable impact

A survey that touches on 35 years of experiences by graduates and supporters of a rural leadership program in Kansas indicates evidence of its progress in strengthening the state's communities.

Officials with the nonprofit Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership (KARL) program said the results portray an "overwhelming response that the KARL program has built capacity to lead change, expand personal and professional networks, increase community engagement and increase knowledge of Kansas agriculture and issues impacting rural Kansas communities."

"My experience changed my path in life," said Sara Dawson, KARL Class XII rancher and business owner from Florence, KS. "Through KARL, I began learning about business structures and now had the business exposure to ask myself some tough questions and to think outside the box. Rather than rely on just our generational family business, my husband and I started our own business. It was a time in my life full of new thinking, approaches, and growth. You can't be afraid of change."

Established in 1990, the first KARL Class was launched in 1991. Since then, more than 450 leaders have graduated from the program. The 17th class was named in June 2024.

"For decades, we've known—intuitively and through countless stories—just how transformative the KARL experience is," said Jill Zimmerman, KARL president. "To mark the 35th anniversary, we felt it was time to take a deeper, more detailed look at how those leading, supporting, and going through the KARL program have made a lasting impact on our communities, industries and state."

The study conducted surveys of 154 KARL graduates and supporters. It held 29 in-depth interviews to capture the stories of how a leadership

program can encourage positive growth in Kansas communities and industries. All 16 KARL classes were represented in the surveys, with 77% identifying as living in a rural area, and 81% as program graduates.

The impact study noted dozens of KARL graduates who have risen to state and national service, including multiple state legislators, business owners, agriculture association CEOs, and board directors. Responses highlighted how the program's seminars, experiences in communities, and interactions with industry leaders provided a foundation for expanding perspectives and new ways of thinking.

"KARL teaches humility and the importance of a team," said Ken Rahjes, KARL Class III, District 110 state representative, and president of Authentic Ag, Inc. "The program helps us learn to diffuse situations and be better listeners. Before we make our opinion known, we listen. In Topeka, this skill has helped me communicate with those different than myself."

KARL officials note that the results indicated that it is not only the immersive and relevant program curriculum, but also the quality of the people they experience it with that makes the KARL experience valuable.

"KARL friends, fellows, staff and the volunteer board of directors, work to create an environment where leaders can grow alongside peers who challenge and inspire them," said Bill Brown of Wamego, board chair. "The impact of the KARL program over the past 35 years is a testament to the power of leadership, collaboration and grassroots support."

To learn more about the KARL program, read the impact report and follow along with Class XVII seminars, visit karlprogram.com or call 785-532-6300. Applications for KARL Class XVIII will be posted in January 2026. — K-State Research and Extension

Gray's Angus Ranch

A Family Tradition Since 1898

Second Century Bull Sale


MARCH 31, 2025
1:30 MST

Selling
150 ANGUS BULLS

Sired by Accomplishment, S Wrangler, Architect, Resilient, Three Rivers, True North
Semen tested, Ultrasounded, First Breeding Season Guarantee

NEW SALE LOCATION

Sale will be held at our new headquarters south of Harrison
6801 Highway 29 - Harrison, NE



BW +1.5 WW +81 YW +138 MILK +21

Rod & Laura Gray Family / 4281 Henry Road / Harrison, NE 69346
Office: 308-668-2525 / Home: 308-668-2520 / grayangus@bbcwb.net
GRAYSANGUSRANCH.COM DVAuction
Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions

Farmer sentiment rises as current conditions improve

U.S. farmer sentiment continued its upward trend in February, as the Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer rose 11 points from the previous month to a reading of 152. The boost was primarily driven by the stronger sentiment among producers, with the Current Conditions Index climbing 28 points to 137—marking a significant rebound from its low of 76 in late summer and early fall 2024.

In contrast, the Future Expectations Index saw only a modest increase,

rising 3 points to 159. The recent upswing in sentiment reflects a combination of factors, including a sharp recovery in crop prices, expectations for disaster payments authorized by Congress and continued strength in the U.S. livestock sector. Despite the notable improvement in current conditions, farmers remain more optimistic about the future, as the Future Expectations Index continues to outpace the Current Conditions Index by 22 points. This month's survey was con-

ducted between Feb. 10-14.

The Farm Capital Investment Index jumped 11 points in February to a reading of 59, reaching its most positive level since May 2021. This month's increase also placed the index 4 points above its November postelection reading.

Compared to previous months, where future expectations primarily led investment sentiment, February's increase was driven by farmers' improved assessment of cur-

rent conditions. Meanwhile, the Farm Financial Performance Index held steady at 110, nearly unchanged from January's reading of 111. Although the index saw little movement this month, it remains well above last fall's low of 68.

The Short-Term Farmland Value Expectations Index modestly increased in February to 118, a 3-point increase from January and 8 points higher than December. This month's reading was also 3 points above its level from a year ago and nearly the same as two years ago.

While producers remain less optimistic about farmland values than they were during the winters of 2021 and 2022, sentiment has improved compared to the more cautious outlook seen in late summer and early fall 2024. While sentiment about the future remains strong, as reflected in the Future Expectations Index, there's growing interest in making larger investments in farm operations, suggesting that farmers are feeling more confident about their ability to grow despite the challenges ahead.

Each February, the barometer survey asks producers about their five-

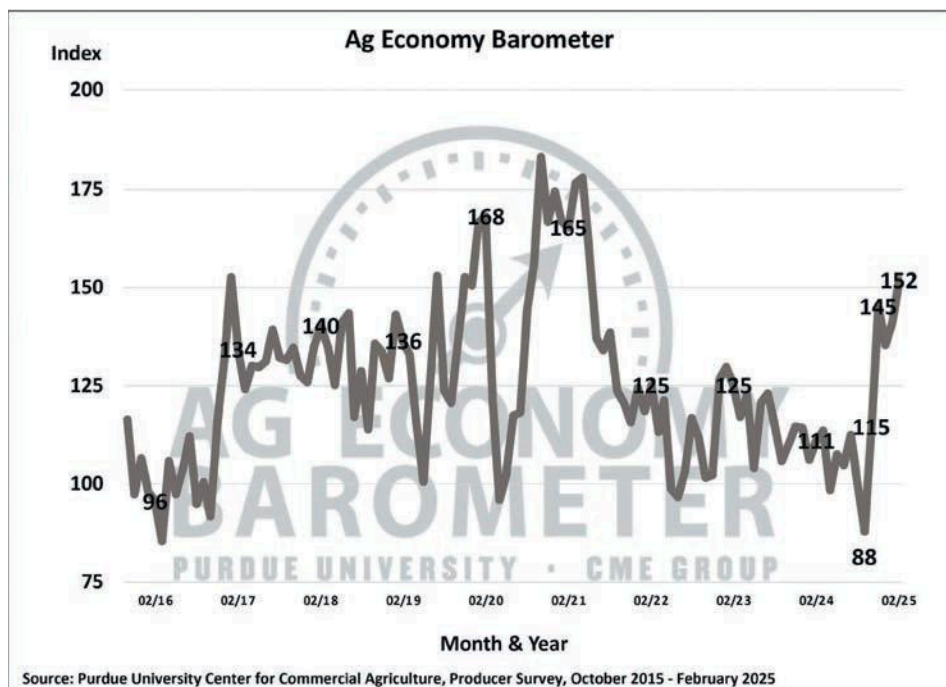
year growth expectations for their farm operations. In the 2025 survey, 50% of respondents indicated they either have "no plans to grow" (37%) or "plan to exit or retire" (13%), nearly unchanged from 52% in 2024. Since 2016, the share of producers in these two categories has ranged from a low of 43% in 2016 to a high of 61% in 2022.

This year's biggest shift came from a decline in the percentage of producers expecting slow growth (less than 5%) and a corresponding increase in those anticipating higher growth rates. Nineteen percent of respondents noted expectations for their farm to grow by 10% to 15% or more annually—more than double the 9% who projected similar growth last year.

Policies impacting agriculture are top of mind for U.S. farmers. Sixty-two percent of survey respondents in February indicated that passing a new farm bill in 2025 is either "important"

(25%) or "very important" (47%). When asked about the most crucial policies for their farm over the next five years, 44% cited "trade policy" as their top concern, followed by "crop insurance program" at 18%.

Concerns about trade policy were also evident when producers were asked about the likelihood of a "trade war" that results in a significant drop in U.S. agricultural exports. Forty-eight percent of farmers in this month's survey believe a trade war is either "likely" (29%) or "very likely" (19%). While the current outlook for U.S. agriculture has improved, farmers are closely watching trade policy and the potential for a new farm bill, both of which are key factors shaping their long-term expectations. These ongoing policy concerns will likely play a critical role in shaping producer sentiment in the months ahead. — **Purdue University/CME Group**



CBB unveils 2024 Impact Report

The Cattlemen's Beef Board (CBB) released its 2024 Impact Report. Unlike previous annual reports, this format includes CBB's annual financial statement and Beef Checkoff program evaluations—all in one document.

"Over the past few years, we've continued to face diminishing Checkoff dollars, the spread of misinformation from opposing groups and increasing competition in the protein marketplace," said Andy Bishop, 2024 CBB chair. "This new Impact Report is designed to better demonstrate how, even in the face of those challenges, the Beef Checkoff continues to promote beef to consumers, conduct essential research and educate the public about beef's incredible benefits and value."

The 2024 Impact Report outlines each of the fiscal year 2024 Authorization Requests funded by the Beef Checkoff in the program areas of promotion, research, consumer information, industry information, foreign marketing and producer communications. Information provided for each Authorization Request includes the contractors/subcontractors handling the work, available funding, description/purpose, accomplishments and results.

The report also details each Authorization Request's tactics, progress toward measurable objectives, key learnings and performance efficiency measures. In this way, beef

industry stakeholders can get a clearer picture of their Beef Checkoff dollars at work.

Within the new report, readers will also find numerous colorful and engaging infographics that share interesting data from the annual Producer Attitude Survey, the Consumer Beef Tracker and the 2024 Return on Investment (ROI) and Broader Economic Impact Study. Easy-to-scan QR codes quickly link to websites with additional information about the CBB, the Beef Checkoff and the award-winning producer newsletter, The Drive.

"I hope everyone who wants to know more about the Beef Checkoff will take a few minutes to explore the 2024 Impact Report," said Greg Hanes, the CBB's CEO. "This report provides a true snapshot of the incredible work Checkoff contractors have done over the past year, while also sharing insights that will shape our efforts in 2025 and beyond. The Beef Checkoff and its programs are truly a collaborative effort, and it's clear the Checkoff is funding essential work to keep beef the protein of choice."

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**

ANGUS BULLS / BALANCER BULLS / ANGUS HEIFERS

BASIN BULLFEST

MARCH 29th

KLAMATH FALLS

OREGON

BASINBULLFEST.COM

DON'T MISS THE 7TH
ANNUAL BASIN BULLFEST

- Many Calving Ease Bulls Sell
- First Year Breeding Guarantee
- Free delivery for the first 500 miles on total purchases of \$4,000 or more
- DNA and BVD PI Tested
- Live bidding is available on liveauctions.tv

DOUBLE J FARMS
13383 Harpold Road, Klamath Falls
Lunch 11:30 / SALE 1:00

Maximizing irrigation efficiency in 2025

With declining Ogallala Aquifer levels and rising input costs, efficient irrigation is more critical than ever for Kansas farmers. Since 1989, irrigated acres in western Kansas have dropped by nearly 11%, making water efficiency a growing priority for producers. Experts say optimizing irrigation systems can cut water waste by up to 25% while maintaining or improving crop yields.

Jonathan Aguilar, Kansas State (K-State) University Research and Extension water resource engineer, estimates that based on numbers from recent field evaluations, more than 50% of irrigation systems in Kansas are not operating at peak efficiency, leading to yield losses and excessive water use. Common issues include worn-out pressure regulators, uneven water distribution, and outdated scheduling methods.

"Many farmers assume their systems are working as designed, but testing often reveals pressure drops, clogged or missing nozzles, and regulator failures that reduce performance," Aguilar said. "A well-maintained system can significantly improve water use efficiency while ensuring crops get the moisture they need at the right time."

Center pivot irrigation systems represent a significant financial investment for producers. Each pivot system is engineered for a specific field, but small changes and wear over time can lead to subpar performance and higher water costs.

Aguilar said one of the most common issues is low operat-

ing pressure, which results in uneven application depths—especially in fields with elevation changes. Poor water distribution can reduce yields by up to 15% in water-sensitive crops like corn and soybeans.

Before planting, farmers should evaluate their system's performance by comparing actual flow rates and pressure readings to the original sprinkler package design. Even a 10 PSI pressure drop can reduce water application uniformity by 30%, leading to uneven coverage and possible reduced yields. Checking system pressure at the pivot point and the last nozzle can help identify these issues before they affect productivity, according to Aguilar.

Regular equipment inspection is also essential. Pressure regulators should be replaced every 5-10 years to maintain consistent performance. Poor regulation can result in under-watering by as much as 20% in some field areas. Farmers should also inspect nozzles for misalignment or blockages, which can create dry spots and uneven crop growth.

Effective irrigation scheduling can also save water and reduce costs. Many producers still rely on fixed schedules rather than real-time soil conditions, leading to overwatering.

Using soil moisture sensors and weather-based scheduling tools can reduce irrigation by 15-20% while maintaining yields, "particularly if we can use these tools to maximize rain events," Aguilar said.

Farmers should also consider adjusting pivot speed to apply between 0.8 and 1.2 inches per pass, improving infiltration and reducing water waste.

Because irrigation systems consist of interconnected components, Aguilar said adjusting one part may require recalibrating others to maintain efficiency. Conducting a distribution uniformity test by placing measuring cups along the pivot's path can help detect variations in water application. Adjusting flow and pressure settings accordingly can prevent unnecessary water loss and ensure consistent crop performance.

With Kansas losing irrigated acreage due to declining water availability, efficiency is no longer optional; Aguilar says it is necessary for long-term profitability and sustainability.

"Even a 5% improvement in irrigation efficiency can translate into thousands of gallons of water saved per pivot each season," Aguilar said. "Farmers who optimize their irrigation systems will be better positioned to handle future water constraints and maintain yields."

Farmers seeking technical assistance can contact the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) for help connecting with certified technical service providers. K-State Research and Extension irrigation specialists are available to help assess system performance and recommend improvements. — **K-State Research and Extension**

Beef imports set to retreat from their recent highs

U.S. beef production and trade are closely linked, and changes in production typically have a contrasting effect on the pattern of U.S. beef imports. Beef production tends to follow a cycle of eight to 12 years driven by cattle producers' response to price fluctuations and pasture conditions.

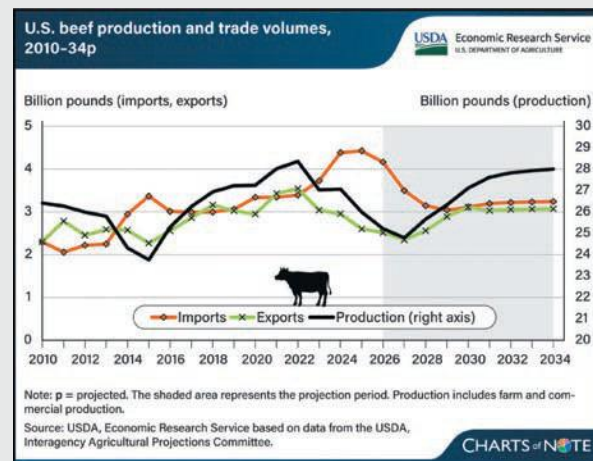
In 2022, U.S. beef production reached a peak of 28.4 billion pounds. Production is projected to hit a low of 24.8 billion lbs. in 2027 before climbing through 2034, the final year of USDA's Agricultural Baseline projections.

As domestic beef production falls, import volumes are expected to increase, peaking in 2025 at 4.4 billion lbs. Imports are expected to begin a steep decline, reaching a 10-year low in 2029 of 3

billion lbs., as production climbs to better meet domestic beef demand.

U.S. beef export volumes typically are more stable than imports, although exports do tend to follow the same general direction as

domestic production. U.S. beef exports are projected to gradually rise starting in 2027 and continue to grow through 2030 before leveling off for the rest of the projection period. — **USDA Economic Research Service**



ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE / FRIDAY, MARCH 28, 2025
1:00 PM / AT THE RANCH NEAR BANCROFT, IDAHO

OFFERING 70 REGISTERED YEARLING BULLS
(Negative BVD-PI Tested, Performance Tested, Fertility Tested and PAP TESTED)

25 HOME-RAISED AND SIRE IDENTIFIED COMMERCIAL HEIFERS
2 DRAFT HORSE TEAMS

PROFITABLE BALANCED BREEDING, SUPERIOR IN FUNCTION

PAP TESTED & PROVEN
ANGU / FLECKANGUS / FLECKVIEH



Lot 2 - VE ROSTER EVEREST 4M
½ SM ½ AN / ASA #4491308
VE Juneau Roster x Mountain Boys Guerrero
Fleckvieh Influenced SimAngus



Lot 25 - VE EUREKA ERVING 23M
PB Angus - PAP 38
OCC Eureka 865E x Dream of Hague 618
Stout Herd Sire Quality



Lot 35 - VE HALFBACK STEELE 37M
100% Fullblood Fleckvieh
Polled, Red Bellied
WR 99 | YR 101 | PAP 37



Lot 84 - DRAFT HORSE TEAM
3 year Old Belgian Geldings
1 of 2 Teams on offer.

Others sires represented - VE Meyer Forte,
VE Cut R Eclipse, OCC Exceptional Blaze,
OCC Best Yet, OCC Gulf Stream, IPU Romano 90X

Dirk & Marnie Johnson
Cell: 208-390-6619 / Cell: 208-540-2697
2055 Ivins Road • Bancroft, ID 83217
simroot57@yahoo.com

Call or email to join our mailing list. Stay tuned to website for pictures & videos.

www.verticaledgegenetics.com



SCALE BUSTIN' BULL SALE

Volume II
MARCH 19, 2025 • NOON
Sterling Livestock Commission • Sterling, Colorado

SELLING 61 BULLS

36 Limousin & Lim-Flex Bulls • 25 Red Angus Bulls

WATCH & BID ONLINE **DVAuction**
Broadcasting Real-Time Auctions

Lot 1

TFOR MILE MARKER 155M
02/11/2024 | LIM-FLEX 44%
Homo Pld | Dbl Blk | LFM3135980
Wulfs Joint Venture G579J x TFOR Karmen 037K

Lot 32

J6RA 381M
02/27/2024 | 100% AR CAT. A
Pld | Red | 5042329
MANN Red Box 55C x J6 Guinevere 106G

SCHEDULE

9 a.m. Bulls Available for Viewing
11 a.m. Sterling Livestock Special Cow Sale
Noon T4 Scale Bustin' Bull Sale

SALE MANAGEMENT
Kiley McKinna, 402-350-3447
Wiley Fanta, 320-287-0751
mcmarketingsales@aol.com
www.mcmarketingsales.com

Livestock
Tadd, Nan, Tyla & Trotter Thomas
Sterling, CO • Tadd, 970-590-3725

ORIGINAL N-BAR GENETICS | *Sharing the Legacy* | WORKING FOR YOU

21ST ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

SAT MARCH 22, 2025 1 PM BUFFALO LIVESTOCK MARKETING, BUFFALO, WY
SELLING 140+ YEARLING ANGUS BULLS 10 REGISTERED HEIFERS 70 COMMERCIAL HEIFERS



SINCLAIR RITO N008
AAA 21151023 DOB 02/22/24
SIRE R R Rito 707 MGS N Bar Prime Time D806



SINCLAIR RITO N010
AAA 21151024 DOB 02/24/24
SIRE R R Rito 707 MGS N Bar Prime Time D806



SINCLAIR EXPLOSION N615
AAA 21143487 DOB 02/07/24
SIRE N Bar Explosion MGS Sinclair Powder River OFL7



SINCLAIR LONGMIRE N403
AAA 21143559 DOB 02/25/24
SIRE Reisig Longmire 8326 MGS Connealy Spur



SINCLAIR BOB N226
AAA 21148305 DOB 03/06/24
SIRE Sinclair Bob 7BX4 MGS Sitz Traveler 043



SINCLAIR JUSTIFIED N773
AAA 21183568 DOB 02/28/24
SIRE Sinclair Justified J506 MGS Vermilion Spur G356



SINCLAIR CATTLE COMPANY, INC.

Live Broadcast on Cattle USA and DV Auction

Fred Saunders
406-788-9331

Logan Baker
307-254-1477

Lance Cline
785-564-1744

Steve Blankley II
240-625-5415

Mike Bazzle
540-421-7411

For More Information: SINCLAIRCATTLE.COM

NV could be next to require farmworker overtime pay

Some Nevada agriculture workers are subjected to grueling 12-hour days without overtime pay, living in shabby employer-provided housing, and dealing with unsafe work environments, state lawmakers were told March 2.

Senate Bill (SB) 172, heard Monday at the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee, seeks to bolster protections for farm workers and amend Nevada's overtime pay laws to include agriculture workers.

Democratic state Sen. Edgar Flores, who sponsored the bill, said the legislation would establish an Agricultural Workers' Bill of Rights similar to versions passed in Colorado, Oregon, California and Washington.

SB 172, if passed, would mandate break time requirements, raise standards for employer-provided housing, outline protections for whistleblowers, allow workers to collectively bargain and create an advisory committee to oversee implementation.

In its most recent biennial report, the Nevada Department of Agriculture estimates there are 8,000 agricultural workers in the state.

Make the Road Nevada

has recently collected stories from farmworkers in Nevada to better understand some of the working conditions, which prompted several provisions included in the bill.

Noé Orosco, the government affairs manager with Make the Road Nevada, read a letter by an anonymous farm worker to lawmakers on Monday describing 10 workers being forced to share a two-bedroom trailer provided by the employer that lacked heating and air conditioning.

The worker omitted his name out of fear of retaliation.

Orosco said one of the workers the organization interviewed told their employer about living conditions, which included the trailer deteriorating, seeking to get the problem remedied.

"We were given just 15 days to vacate the premises," Orosco read to lawmakers. "However, only two days later, we were abruptly told that we had to leave immediately. Just like that, we were left unemployed and unhoused."

Make the Road provided Nevada Current with three additional letters of workers describing living and working conditions at unnamed farms.

One worker wrote that they rarely had access to protective glasses, gloves or other basic equipment needed to handle hazardous chemicals.

"A former coworker once voiced concerns about the lack of protective gear, hoping for a safer work environment. Instead of addressing the issue, the boss fired him," according to another letter.

Another letter described being pressured to work through break times.

"When we do take breaks, we are sometimes rushed back to work before we have had a chance to properly rest or eat," one worker wrote.

Flores said while he knows there are agricultural employers who are treating their workers fairly, "we've heard from other workers that they are not getting the same kind of love and treatment."

Agricultural workers are exempted from federal overtime law, although some states have enacted their own requirements. Nevada law exempts agriculture workers from the state's minimum wage and overtime pay laws, which requires workers to be paid one and a half times their pay rate if working more than eight hours a day or 40 hours a week. The legislation would remove agricultural workers from the list of exemptions.

Flores said he expects the overtime pay provisions to be "the biggest point of contention" with-

in the legislation.

Numerous agriculture employers and farm owners opposed the bill and urged lawmakers to reject the legislation, warning of economic harm if it were to pass.

Charles Turner, who owns Desert Hills Dairy in Lyon County, said agriculture workers are exempt from overtime laws due to the unique nature of agriculture work." He said that if the state removed the exemption it "would place undue financial and logistical strain on farmers and ranchers."

"Nevada's agricultural industry operates on tight margins, competing with states and countries that have lower labor costs," Turner said.

While Flores said he was open to making changes to the language, he argued the state needs to address the issue of overtime pay for farm workers.

"As a business owner, I have been in that situation where I paid my staff and not myself, and it was scary," he said. "It's something employers do often. I think all of us in those circumstances can agree that the right answer is not to say we're not going to pay employees what they are owed."

Republican state Sen. John Ellison of Elko said many business owners, including him, allow workers who need to leave early to make up time later in the week to ensure they get 40 hours.

Cecilia Alonso with the National Farm Workers union said Nevada's overtime laws fail to acknowledge workloads carried by farm workers.

"Unlike other industries, Nevada's farm workers are not entitled to the same overtime wage protections, despite working 10-to-12-hour shifts, six or even seven days a week," Alonso said. "These are grueling, physical, demanding jobs without proper compensation."

Ellison also objected to some of the bill's housing provisions, saying they would effectively require employers to tear down buildings and construct new facilities.

"Right now, advocates and service providers are not allowed to visit farm worker housing to provide information on legal rights, health care and worker protections," Alonso said. "Many farm workers live in employer farm worker housing, where their isolation makes them more vulnerable to exploitation, wage theft and unsafe conditions."

The bill, she said, merely seeks to offer additional protections.

The committee took no action on the bill. — **Michael Lyle, Nevada Current**

CARTER CATTLE CO

THURSDAY
MARCH 20, 2025
1:00 PM • LUNCH AT NOON
@ THE RANCH PINGREE, ID

26th ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

- 130 Registered Angus Yearling Bulls
- 50 Registered Angus PAP Tested Fall Bulls
- 50 Open Commercial Angus Heifers

Sitz Logo 8148

Reference Sires include:

- Sitz Logo 8148
- Sitz Legacy 11508
- Sitz Accomplishment 720F
- Sitz Stellar 726D
- Brookdale Brutus 390
- Tehama Patriarch F028
- Carter Extraordinary 100H
- Carter Abundance 741
- Carter Power Surge 915
- Spring Cove Commitment 8J

VAL CARTER 208-390-4811 • LEX CARTER 208-681-9711 • COLTER CARTER 208-681-8859
E-MAIL- cartercattle@gmail.com • lex@breederlink.com • coltercarter5@gmail.com
WEBSITE- WWW.CARTERCATTLECO.COM

Novel methane-reducing fungi for livestock discovered

In a world-first, Australian scientists have discovered specific fungi that assist in significantly reducing methane emissions from livestock, offering a breakthrough solution for agriculture to cut emissions.

The discovery provides livestock producers with a naturally derived, scientifically validated feed additive that can be integrated into existing operations and supply chains to drive methane reduction at scale.

Discovered by Loam Bio's Dr. Abed Chaudhury, with validation and research and development (R&D) led by Matthew Callaghan, this breakthrough was enabled by Loam Bio's extensive library of soil fungi.

In Chaudhury's research across a wide range of fungi, he found that a very small

selection of naturally occurring species in the U.S. and Australia have both the genetic capability and expression required to significantly cut methane produced by livestock.

"This is a true breakthrough, and an exciting moment in microbiology to make such a profound discovery," Chaudhury said. "With this finding, I believe it to be imminently achievable to accelerate the way we offer agriculture the pathways to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Fungi make this possible in an elegant, and highly scalable way."

Supported by the Australian government's Methane Reduction in Livestock (MERiL) program and validated through partnerships with CSIRO, Queensland University of Technology and the

University of Western Australia, the research has paved the way for a dedicated spin-off from Loam Bio, called ROAM Agricultural.

This independent venture will drive the commercial impact of this naturally occurring, fungal-derived technology, establishing ROAM as a market leader in climate tech solutions while complementing Loam Bio's groundbreaking work in carbon sequestration.

ROAM Agricultural CEO Derek Peterson said the breakthrough would provide the livestock industry—which is essential for feeding the global population—with the right set of tools to mitigate enteric methane emissions.

"ROAM's proprietary naturally occurring, non-GMO fungal-based methane reduction technology has been de-

veloped for seamless integration into existing livestock management practices," Peterson said. "Leveraging our patent-pending innovation, a facility no larger than a microbrewery can efficiently produce enough to supply a significant proportion of Australia's national herd."

The scientific breakthrough has been independently validated through a peer-reviewed publication, demonstrating that fungal derived feed additive technology can reduce livestock methane by more than 90%, as cited in Biotechnology Reports.

Research Professor Dr. Zoey Durmic, from the University of Western Australia Ag-GHG Research Hub, has been involved in the initial testing

in an artificial rumen using fungal extracts from the new technology.

"In early stage testing, the fungal extracts had considerable impact on reducing methane, including almost complete inhibition, without having negative impacts on rumen fermentation characteristics," Durmic said.

"While the efficacy may reduce under less controlled conditions, we are excited about the potential of this to translate into high levels of methane reduction in trials with livestock under a variety of diets and production systems."

Loam Bio Co-founder and COO Tegan Nock said there is untapped potential for fungi to deliver practical solutions

to some of the world's big challenges, and Loam Bio is providing the pathway for these discoveries to be made and commercialized.

"We use Loam's rich microbial library, combined with our proprietary bioinformatics platform, to create impactful global climate solutions," Nock said. "Loam's focus is on our products that sequester and stabilize carbon in agricultural soils, our R&D platform holds enormous value, demonstrated here by the discovery of a fungal solution for methane. We are proud to now spin out ROAM Agricultural to commercialize this fungal technology, for scalable impact for agriculture and our food system." — **ROAM Agricultural**

Red meat exports' impact on corn, soybean a bright spot

In the wake of a challenging year for U.S. corn and soybean producers, an updated study shows how exports of pork and beef provide support to their bottom lines.

In 2024, U.S. pork and beef exports of \$19.1 billion—an increase of \$1 billion over 2023 and down just 2% from the 2022 record—had a significant impact on the corn and soybean industries, according to an independent study conducted by the Juday Group and released by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). The study quantified the returns that beef and pork exports brought to U.S. corn and soybean producers.

Nationally, U.S. pork and beef exports accounted for \$2.24 billion in market value to corn, \$525 million to dried distillers grains with solubles (DDGS), and \$1.12 billion to soybeans in 2024.

"Domestic feed usage is critical to our industries and the continued growth in red meat exports is encouraging. A significant share of the corn and soybeans we grow locally is ultimately exported through pork and beef," says

USMEF Vice Chair Dave Bruntz, who raises corn, soybeans and fed cattle in south-central Nebraska. "This study demonstrates how beef and pork exports drive value directly back to producers."

Corn and soybean growers support the promotion of U.S. pork, beef and lamb by investing a portion of their checkoff dollars in market development efforts conducted by USMEF.

Key findings from the study, which utilized 2024 statistics provided by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service and calculations by the Juday Group, include:

Exporting corn through U.S. beef and pork

- Beef and pork exports accounted for 525.1 million bushels of U.S. corn usage, which equated to a market value of \$2.24 billion (at an average 2024 corn price of \$4.27 per bushel).

- Beef and pork exports accounted for 3.04 million tons of DDGS usage, equating to \$525 million (at an average 2024 price of \$172.56 per ton).

- Beef and pork exports


contributed an estimated total economic impact of 14%, or \$0.59, of bushel value at an average price of \$4.27 per bushel in 2024.

Exporting soybeans through U.S. pork


- Pork exports accounted for 100.7 million bushels of U.S. soybean usage, which equated to a market value of \$1.12 billion (at an average 2024 soybean price of \$11.11 per bushel).

- Pork exports contributed an estimated total economic impact of 13.2% of bushel value, or \$1.46, at an average price of \$11.11 per bushel in 2024.


For questions, please email John Herath at jherath@usmef.org or call 574-440-9345.—USMEF



DUFF BOSS 20102



AXTELL RED KNIGHT 6249



AXTELL WIDESCREEN 2032

Look for sons and daughters in the sale!

AXTELL CATTLE COMPANY

Annual Production Sale

March 31, 2025

1:00 p.m. (MST)

Sterling Livestock Commission
Sterling, Colorado

Sale offering includes:
65 Yearling Red Angus Bulls
15 Registered Red Angus Heifers
PLUS several large lots of commercial heifers

Brian and Jamie Jo Axtell
PO Box 21 - Anton, CO 80801
H 970-383-2332 C 970-554-1132
www.axtellcattlecompany.com
or follow us on Facebook

DVAuction
Real Estate Selling & Buying Solutions

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 14 – The Livestock Marketing Association is proud to announce the opening of its 2025 scholarship program application period. Nine deserving students will each be awarded a one-time \$2,500 scholarship to assist with their academic pursuits. Details: lmaweb.com.

March 15 – The Nebraska Cattlemen Research and Education Foundation is accepting scholarship applications for the 2025-26 academic year from qualified youth in Nebraska with an

interest in the beef industry. Details: tinyurl.com/y3apsn3m.

April 15 – The Montana Farm Bureau Foundation and Women's Leadership Committee are once again offering more than \$7,000 in scholarships to students pursuing higher education. Details: mfbf.org/Foundation/Foundation-Scholarships.

April 15 – The Agricultural Communicators Network is offering three scholarships to undergraduate students pursuing careers in agricultural communications. Details: agcommnetwork.com/scholarships.

April 15 – The Colorado CattleWomen's Heather Hays Stinnett Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a Colorado woman pursuing a graduate or undergraduate degree in agriculture or a related field. Details: tinyurl.com/bhyv53kw.

Saturday, April 5th, 2025

Big Country Genetics Bull Sale

Cody, WY • Sale at 1 PM

Development Program

Developed in large pastures of 150+ acres, fed long stem hay, Muggli Brothers cake and Bio-Reg tubs. **NO** corn, distillers grain or silage. There's no need to worry about transitioning their diet from a feedlot fat cattle ration that most of today's seedstock bulls are fed. Kick them on grass and watch them breed everything in sight!



Three Year Breeding Guarantee



Big Country Summit - 60 Sons Sell



Volume Bull Discounts

180 Bulls PAP Tested at 5,700 ft. of Elevation & Averaged a PAP Score of 37
- Selling 100 Commercial Replacement Females -

www.bigcountrygenetics.com | Jimmy & ShayLe Stewart | 231.878.1908



MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 3/6/2025	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	195.79 ▼	197.00	182.38
CME Feeder Index	277.87 ▼	279.37	248.07
Boxed Beef Average	313.12 ▲	311.18	306.61
Average Dressed Steers	310.00 ▲	N/A	N/A
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,440 ▲	1,437	1,386
Weekly Slaughter**	566,000 ▲	563,000	599,000
Weekly Beef Production***	494.4 ▲	491.1	496.9
Hide/Offal Value	11.80 ▼	11.92	11.40
Corn Price	4.53 ▼	4.81	4.26

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

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef												
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price	
February 28	7,038	317.18	237	357.75	1,288	318.47	2,280	316.04	801	303.49	2,431	288.96
February 21	7,105	317.56	239	364.15	1,334	320.69	2,233	313.66	733	304.55	2,656	289.38
February 14	6,804	324.40	216	373.09	1,299	327.51	2,000	320.37	655	310.19	2,634	295.23
February 7	6,661	329.68	220	383.59	1,238	332.49	1,985	325.06	699	316.58	2,519	300.65

Cutouts						FED BOXED BEEF					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN	90% LEAN					
Mar. 6	313.12	303.51	296.45		109.34	380.50					
Mar. 5	313.54	302.53	297.02		103.30	382.13					
Mar. 4	314.85	304.02	295.14		106.73	N/A					
Mar. 3	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A					
Feb. 28	311.83	302.05	294.49		102.76	380.52					

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	2/28	3/3	3/4	3/5	3/6	High*	Low*
Feb.	19773	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	20935	16853
Apr.	19265	19225	19495	19723	19670	20773	16668
Jun.	18878	18810	19043	19305	19300	20165	17005
Aug.	18793	18718	18888	19138	19140	19790	18068

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	2/28	3/3	3/4	3/5	3/6	High*	Low*
Mar.	27498	27403	27418	27645	27563	28225	21920
Apr.	27300	27205	27293	27650	27590	27998	22268
May	27113	27020	27133	27528	27518	27900	22460
Aug.	27405	27335	27438	27788	27770	27788	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	896	1,381	195.79
Live FOB Heifer	1,230	1,348	196.37
Dressed Del Steer	208	921	310.00
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
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
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	1,596	1,539	182.38
Live FOB Heifer	153	1,400	183.00
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: MARCH 2, 2025		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	29,221	6,555
Formula	259,934	5,076
Negotiated Cash	55,461	959
Negotiated Grid	34,236	2,164
Packer Owned	6,364	N/A
Total	385,216	14,754

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	2,115
Mar. '25	157,564	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,028
Apr. '25	205,718	Formula sales	3,683
May '25	105,389	Forward contract sales	212
Jun. '25	112,472	Domestic sales	6,121
Jul. '25	80,833	NAFTA Exports	122

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		193.78	-0.09
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		192.29	-1.03
Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		121.69	-79.68
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		N/A	N/A

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, March 4, 2025			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	366.80	363.09	304.10
601-700 lbs	329.18	322.69	295.55
701-800 lbs	291.53	288.78	281.77
801-900 lbs	267.13	258.61	269.77
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	330.57	349.74	278.62
501-600 lbs	313.64	315.78	281.27
601-700 lbs	291.59	284.02	253.18
701-800 lbs	265.36	260.48	247.16

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
Feeder Cattle	10,707	6,870	24,416	213,446

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
March 5, 2025			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 9,450	Week Ago EST: 6,000	Year Ago Act: 9,350	
Santa Teresa, NM -	Douglas, AZ -		
Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers traded steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 500-800 lbs.	Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers traded steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 500-800 lbs.		
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2		
300-400 lbs	N/A	300-400 lbs	N/A
400-500 lbs	N/A	400-500 lbs	N/A
500-600 lbs	270-280	500-600 lbs	265-275
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2		
300-400 lbs	N/A	300-400 lbs	N/A
400-500 lbs	N/A	400-500 lbs	N/A
500-600 lbs	305-315	500-600 lbs	295-305

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

Selected Auctions										Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2	
DATE	MARKET	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS	PAIRS	
										SLAUGHTER BULLS	REPLACEMENTS
NORTHWEST											
No report available	Blackfoot, ID										
February 28	Burley, ID	470	402 366-370	343.50-362.50 344	332-342 328.50-349	287-325.50 267-299	265-281 242-250	255	98-147 138-192		
No report available	Emmett, ID										
March 1	Eugene, OR	984		280-367* 285-340*	261-330* 250-295*	210-250*	210-268* 190-222*		140-174 159-178		925-1,750
No report available	Madras, OR										
March 5	Vale, OR	657		325-346	325-390 300-330	280-345 272-398	260-281	248-268	121-154 160-187		
March 3	Davenport, WA	293		302.50 300-362.50	280-360 250-352.50	222.50-322.50 150-316	275-282.50 210-287	260 195-238	154-242.50 152.50-190	91-181 135-235	1,800-2,500
February 27	Toppenish, WA	840			325*	295.50*		270	242		
February 27	Orland, CA	648		300-373	245-325 225-305	255-300	250-306 230-270		125-159 130-189		
March 3	Escalon, CA	N/A	250-300		250-260		180-230	150-190	88-139		800-1,725
March 3	Famoso, CA	205	280-320	280-300	275-300	250-270	225-252	200-245	80-170		700-1,300
No report available	Galt, CA										
No report available	Turlock, CA										
March 4	Salina, UT	1,094	382.50-445 365-420	340-430 325-407.50	270-390 220-335	265-382.50 215-335	240-332.50 215-296	220-269.50 185-261	220-260 155-248	126-148 153.38-245	2,300-2,475
March 3	Iowa	11,357	400-485 369-422	363-427 332.50-420	325-395 292-341	291-358 261-313	253-313 230-314	235-295.50 220-284	114-187.50 141.50-187.50		
March 4	Miles City, MT	2,451	462.50	392-420 348-377.50	352-398 325-347.50	314-337 288.50-321	278-281.50		114-145 130-166		2,300-3,750
No report available	Bassett, NE										
March 1	Ericson, NE	1,120									2,600-3,950 1,950-3,900
No report available	Imperial, NE										
March 5	Kearney, NE	4,100	365	385-407 347-354	367.50-392 303-338	313-612 261-308.50	290-311 253.50-280	249-281.75 238.25-278.25	128-145.50 138-180		
February 28	Lexington, NE	3,110	394	382.50-421 352.50-354	357-380 313-332	309-355 278-304.85	288.50-303.75 271-306	251.50-277			
February 27	Ogallala, NE	6,706		415-441 367.50-412.50	368.50-400 317-345	306-364 278-332	281-321 264-305	258-285.50 269.50-271.50			
February 27	Valentine, NE	3,825	460-517.50 437.50	425-445 351-400	349-392.50 314.50-378	321-353 286-334	306.50-318 261-337	277.50 259			
February 28	Herreid, SD	4,742	420-433 425	402.50-450 344-380	350-407.50 325-357	213-359 270-305.50	292-320.75 263.25-286	238-291.50 219-263.50			
March 5	Torrington, WY	1,849	414 371-400	385-420 354-362	351-392.50 315-349	310-354.50 293-308	296-305				
February 27	Willcox, AZ	N/A	384-450 205	406.50-495 344.50-417.50	351.50-397.50 300.50-340	296-377.50 290-312.50	246.50-310 247-275		105-139 140-168		1,800-1,900 1,950-2,250
March 3	Colorado	3,670	432.50-435 395-415	415-485 380-405	385-442.50 335-396	330-377.50 292.50-352	277-334 251-316	261-299 227.50-247.50	201-269 187.50-245	82.50-185 125-187.50	3,400-3,750 1,125-2,700
No report available	La Junta, CO										
March 3	Loma, CO	425	390-445 385-410	365-410 350-390	330-375 300-345	290-320 265-295	265-295 240-290	210-265 190-240	120-150 150-175		
March 5	Dodge City, KS	3,644	427.50-560 470	387.50-422.50 335-372.50	334-386 320-352	317.50-347.50 269-312	270-302 247-273	240-274 222.50-250.50	114-150 148-193		1,500-2,600
February 27	Pratt, KS	6,312	401-440 347.50-435	397.50-427.50 335-385	342-390 296-337.50	300-352 267-309	273-315 250-285	249.50-286.50 219-261	130-155 141-188		1,950-2,925
February 27	Salina, KS	4,022	425-485 370-380	385-450 312-365	355-412 300-334	301-356 274-313	269-313 254-271	245.50-286.75 234-249			
March 6	Clovis, NM	1,690	495-500 455	380-482 332-452	350-422 325-375	320-410 280-326	280-318 253-304	256-283 230-263	172-262.50 247	130-165 145.50-170	1,475-2,8

The role of stockers in today's cattle market

Shrinking cattle inventories in recent years leads to a wide range of impacts on the multi-sectored cattle industry. Figure 1 shows the rising feeder prices and changes in price relationships that impact economic incentives of the various cattle production activities. As feeder cattle prices have risen, the prices for lightweight animals have increased faster and more than heavy feeder cattle. This has particular implications for stocker producers.

The cattle industry includes several production sectors, all of which contribute to the singular objective of producing slaughter-ready cattle. Broadly speaking, the cow-calf sector is the primary sector producing the supply of calves for the entire industry. At the other end, the feedlot sector ensures that cattle are finished with carcasses producing high-quality beef. In between, the stocker (or backgrounding) sector consists of many varied and flexible activities and arbitrage that serve several different functions for the cattle industry.

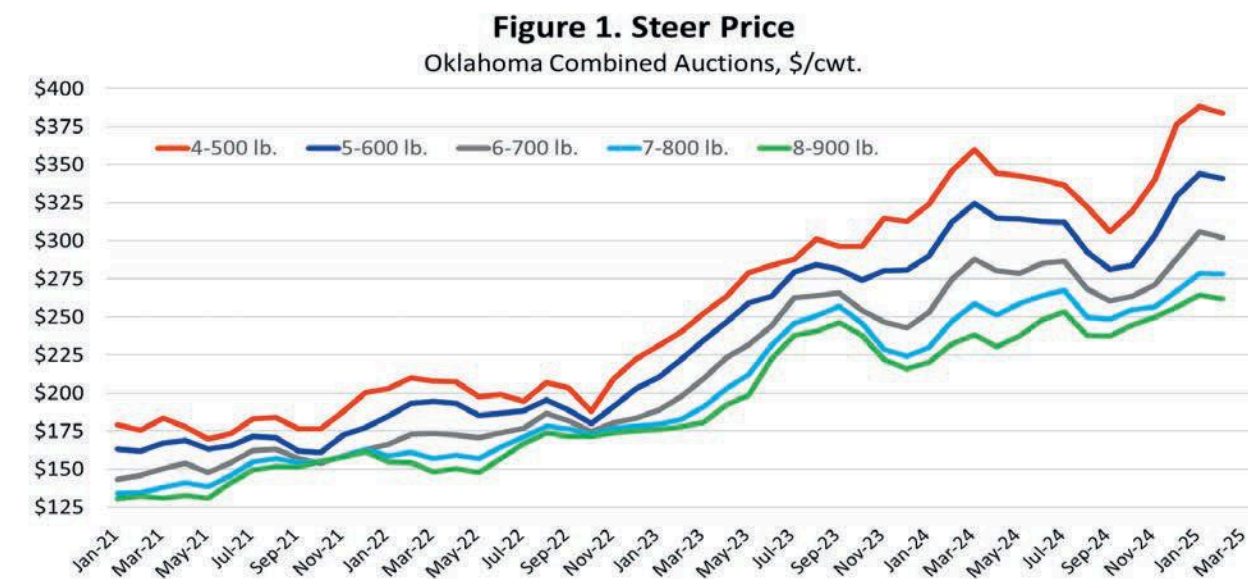
The stocker sector provides basic production value for the cattle industry. Calves and lightweight feeder cattle are grown to increase size and weight prior to feedlot placement. Stocker production also helps balance forage and feedgrain values. Cheaper forage-based stocker gains help keep the cattle industry competitive. When

grains are expensive relative to forage, more weight can be put on feeder cattle prior to feedlot production.

On the other hand, when cattle numbers are limited, feedlots can place lighter feeder cattle to help maintain feedlot inventory. This is especially true when feedlot cost of gain is relatively low due to cheaper grain prices. From the cow-calf perspective, forage is used for calf production but can be used for stocker production. Retained stocker production is an option for forage use when calf prices are relatively low and the value of added gain on stockers is relatively higher. Stocker production also plays an important role in spreading out cattle production seasonally and across years.

The current market is characterized by tight feeder cattle supplies and relatively low feedlot cost of gain. The role of the stocker industry gets squeezed in this environment. On the one hand, high calf prices are encouraging herd rebuilding and increased calf production. In other words, the market is indicating that the highest and best use of forage is for calf production rather than forage-based stocker production.

On the other hand, low feedlot cost of gain and tight feeder supplies are encouraging feedlots to place animals sooner and at lighter weights, effectively bidding



them away from stocker production. Both of these influences are reflected in the wide spread in feeder prices from light to heavy (Figure 1), which means a large roll-back and relatively low value of gain for stocker production.

Stocker production will still occur but the opportunities will be fewer, and the margins will be trickier. However, when heifer retention begins, feeder supplies will be further squeezed from a feedlot perspective, but many of those heifers will need a growing phase as part of their development for breeding and thus provide a stocker role. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Boxed beef prices see small gains

MARKETS (from page 1)

Thursday. "Consumer confidence is in decline, auto loan delinquencies are record high and Walmart and others have hinted that some consumers are struggling."

She continued that with retail beef prices record high and more expensive than pork and chicken, there is reason for at least some concern.

"There is no shortage of fed beef despite popular perception," Fish said. "But demand in 2024 was excellent and that needs to continue to keep the bull market alive."

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures lost a couple of dollars over the week. The March contract lost about \$2 to close at \$274.02, and the April contract lost about \$1 to close at \$275.42.

"Unless the live cattle complex begins to trade higher (which would most likely happen if the cash cattle market is able to trade higher) then feeders may follow suit, but without the live cattle market's support higher trade isn't likely," said ShayLe Stewart, market analyst, in her Thursday midday comments.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost \$1.50 to close at \$277.87.

Corn futures continue to see declines. The March contract lost 15 cents to \$4.49, and the May contract lost 17 cents to \$4.64.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 13,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold from \$3 higher to \$8 lower. Feeder heifers sold from \$8 higher to \$10 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 773 lbs. sold from \$264-282, averaging \$273.31.

Nebraska: Tri-State Livestock in McCook sold 2,644 head on Monday. There were not enough comparable sales for an accurate trend. Benchmark steers averaging 743 lbs. sold for \$288.50-306, averaging \$291.73.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 11,500 head on Monday. Compared to the last sale, feeder steers and heifers sold steady to mostly \$3 lower. Stocker steers and steer calves sold \$10-15 higher. Stocker heifers and heifer calves sold mostly steady. Benchmark steers averaging 775 lbs. sold from \$271-282.50, averaging \$279.44.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional in Worthing sold 3,418 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers and heifers sold unevenly steady. There was very good demand, and the market was very active on lighter weight cattle.

Benchmark steers averaging 767 lbs. sold from \$277.50-285, averaging \$281.24. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

OGALLALA SANDHILL & WESTERN NEBRASKA CATTLE

OGALLALA, NE - 308-284-2071

Special Stocker & Feeder Sale

THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH, 2025

XA CATTLE / BILL, MARIE & LEVI FARR (500) (300) Ang, BWF & Herf str, 700-950#, (200) Ang, BWF & Herf hfrs, 700-800#

5-J FARMS LLC (450) (385) Ang & BWF str, 800-900#, (65) Char X str, 800-900#

TERRELL RANCH (375) Char-Ang X hfrs, 675-750#

ALVA DETERDING (199) Ang str & hfrs, 750-800#

GINGERICH FARMS (144) SimAng str & hfrs, 650-850#

CURTIS GRUBBS (132) (120) Ang, BWF & Red str, 575-725#, (12) Ang hfrs, 650-700#

SUNRISE COMMODITIES LLC (120) Ang, few BWF str & hfrs, 600-750#

JESSE & WILLARD CRUMRINE (110) Ang & BWF str & hfrs, 550-700#

KEVIN MCDANIEL (110) Ang & Char str & hfrs, 600-700#

FRANCIS LENZEN (100) Ang, BWF & few RWF str & hfrs, 650-800#

Many more valued and high-quality consignments can be viewed at www.ogallalalive.com

Jay Nordhausen 308-289-1548 Lance Van Winkle 308-874-4435 Scott Van Winkle 308-289-0249

TURLOCK LIVESTOCK AUCTION YARD

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

EARLY SPRING FEEDER SALES

TUESDAY, MARCH 11 - TUESDAY, APRIL 1, 15, AND 29

SPECIAL SPRING FEEDER SALES FEATURING SMALL PRODUCERS WITH 50 HEAD OR LESS

TUESDAY, MARCH 18

FEATURING PAIRS AND BRED FEMALES

Watch for upcoming special showcase feeder sale dates soon.
Stanislaus San Joaquin Contra Costa Alameda Counties

2025 Upcoming WESTERN VIDEO MARKET Sales

MAR. 21 COTTONWOOD, CA **APR. 10** COTTONWOOD, CA **MAY 1** COTTONWOOD, CA

Call today to consign your cattle!

Max Olvera 209-277-2063	John Bourdet 831-801-2343
Steve Faria 209-938-7180	Celeste Settrini 831-320-1527
Justin Ramos 209-844-6372	Matt Miller 209-914-5116
John Luiz 209-430-5101	Brandon Baba 209-480-1267
Jake Bettencourt 209-262-4019	Bud Cozzi 209-652-4480
Travis Johnson 209-996-8645	Eddie Nunes In Memory of 1944-2024
Tim Sisil 209-631-6054	

SALE DAY IS PAY DAY

When marketing your calves at LMA, don't forget how essential the 2nd round of shots is. Make sure to include a modified live vaccination.

Online Bidding at www.LMAAuctions.com

209-634-4326 • 209-667-0811 • WWW.TURLOCKLIVESTOCK.COM



SALE REPORTS

SHAW CATTLE BULL SALE
Feb. 19, Caldwell, ID
273 Angus bulls ... \$9,717
31 Red Angus
bulls 8,887
174 Hereford
bulls 8,235
60 Commercial spring
pairs 3,996
54 Commercial open
heifers 2,455
Auctioneers: Rick
Machado & Trent Stewart
TOPS—Angus bulls: Shaw Barricade 33716, 9/22/2023 by Sitz Barricade 632F; to Tennessee River Music, Fort Payne, AL, \$19,000. Shaw Right Kind 33331, 8/28/2023

by MMP Right Kind J08; to Thomas Cattle, ID, \$29,000. Shaw Caldwell 35507, 9/3/2023 by Shaw Caldwell 11432; to Desert View Ranch, ID, \$18,000. **Hereford bulls:** /S Distinct 44041 ET, 1/14/2024 by H B Distinct; to ST Genetics, TX, Frederickson Ranch, SD, and Topp Herefords, ND, \$50,000. /S Canyon 33275 ET, 8/24/2023 by Canyon Gem 33Z C211 342G ET; to Stellpflug Cattle, Glenrock, WY, \$39,000. /S Distinct 44036 ET, 1/13/2024 by H B Distinct; to Rausch Herefords, SD, and Topp Herefords, ND, \$34,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

SMALL LIVESTOCK BULL SALE
Feb. 20, Winnemucca, NV
122 SimAngus
bulls \$7,275
90 Charolais
bulls 6,542
28 Red Angus x Charolais
bulls 6,025
Auctioneers: Jake Parnell
& Dennis Metzger
Sale Manager: Parnell
Dickinson Inc
TOPS—Charolais bull: RS About Time 3029, by OW About Time 9502 PLD ET; to Hebbert Charolais, Hyannis,

NE, \$20,000. **SimAngus bull:** BarCKG1123143L, 11/20/2023 by KBHRTBEF/BarCKReticle G112; to Ronnie Kelly, OR, \$10,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

BUCHANAN ANGUS BULL SALE
Feb. 23, Klamath Falls, OR
61 Angus bulls \$7,254
4 Angus open
heifers 4,937
Auctioneer: Butch Booker
Sale Manager: M3
Marketing
TOPS: Algoma Golden Rawhide B816, 12/17/2023 by Poss Rawhide; to David Ken-

nedy, Oakland, OR, \$15,000. David Kennedy, 12/19/2023 by Poss Rawhide; to David Kennedy, Oakland, OR, \$12,500. Algoma Gold Reliance B837, 12/22/2023 by Cherry Crk Blue Collar G275; to Paul Dolby, Alturas, CA, \$12,500. — **JARED PATTERSON**

COLYER HEREFORD & ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE
Feb. 24, Bruneau, ID
115 Hereford
bulls \$10,330
84 Angus bulls 10,208
19 Hereford open
heifers 4,271
13 Angus open
heifers 3,161
Auctioneers: Butch
Booker & Kyle Colyer
TOPS—Angus bulls: CCC 0166 Craftsman 3223 ET, 8/17/2023 by Connealy Craftsman; to GKB Cattle Co., TX, \$21,000. C Republic Lad 4150, 1/22/2024 by Raven Republic 1564; to GKB Cattle Co., TX, \$20,000. C Republic Lad 4065, 1/17/2024 by Raven Republic 1564; to GKB Cattle Co., TX, \$18,000. C Whitewater 4023 ET, 2/20/2024 by HCC Whitewater 9010; to Wakely Ranch, NV, \$17,500. **Hereford bulls:** C 79H Sherman 4202 ET, 1/4/2024 by Churchill W4 Sherman 2157K ET; to Bowling Ranch, OK, \$70,000. C 8019 Sherman 4196 ET, 1/2/2024 by Churchill W4 Sherman 2157K ET; to Bowling Ranch, OK, \$57,500. CD83 Arlo 4230 ET, 1/10/2024 by C Arlo 2135 ET; to Hurricane Hefty Ranch, OK, \$40,000. C Sherman 4189, 1/2/2024 by Churchill W4 Sherman 2157K ET; to GKB Cattle Co., TX, \$35,000. C 79H Sherman 4025 ET, 1/5/2024 by Churchill W4 Sherman 2157K ET; to Mike Rogan, TN, \$30,000. C Bar1 1008 4017 ET, 1/27/2024 by C Barracuda 0114 ET; to T Bone Ranch, CO, \$27,500. C 8140 Barracuda 3352 ET, 8/27/2023 by C Barracuda 0114 ET; to Stangle Herefords, NE, \$25,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

Chestnut Angus Farm, Pipestone, MN, \$23,000. RAML Pacific 46100, 12/30/2023 by Sterling Pacific 904; to Roger Schwartz, Estelline, SD, \$14,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY BULL & FEMALE SALE
Feb. 15, Fort Collins, CO
6 Angus bulls \$6,875
17 Hereford bulls ... 6,823
10 Commercial bred
heifers 5,450
2 Hereford bred
heifers 4,750
Auctioneer: Justin Stout
TOPS—Angus bull: CSU Republic RAM M727, 3/22/2023 by Raven Republic 1564; \$11,500. **Hereford bulls:** CSU King Ram 3203, 4/23/2023 by GoKing E33; to Jerry Nickelson, Waynoka, OK, \$10,500. CSU 1254 RAM 3260, 6/30/2023 by CSU PERFECTO RAM; to Paul Arignac, Templeton, CA, \$10,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

WEAVER RANCH ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE
Feb. 17, Fort Collins, CO
50 Angus 2-year-olds \$5,700
Auctioneer: Lander
Nicodemus
TOPS: Weaver Justified 3413, 4/13/2023 by KG Justified 3023; to 14 Ranch, Cheyenne, WY, \$13,750. Weavers Mytty S7-3848, 4/22/2023 by Sheldons Mytty-87; to Flying X Cattle Co., Saguache, CO, \$11,500. — **TY GROSHANS**

HOFFMAN RANCH SPRING BULL SALE
Feb. 21, Thedford, NE
123 Angus yearling
bulls \$12,132
24 Angus older
bulls 10,041
219 Hereford
bulls 8,035
70 Commercial open
heifers 2,350
1 Quarter Horse ... 30,000
1 Stock Dog 2,100
Auctioneers: Rick
Machado & Joe Goggins
TOPS—Angus bulls: Hoffman Bold Ruler 4008, 12/16/2023 by BA7 Oaks Bold Ruler; to Elwood Ranches, Montague, CA, \$150,000. Stellpflug Republic 4500, 1/28/2024 by Raven Republic 1564; to Genex Beef, Shawano, WI, and Lazy JB Angus, Montrose, CO, \$60,000. Hoffman Marshall, 1/26/2024 by Bear Mtn North Star; to Thiel Ranch, SD, and Frederickson Ranch, Spearfish, SD, \$47,500. Hoffman Thedford 4440, 2/4/2024 by Hoffman Thedford; to David Craig, Calhoun, GA, \$40,000. **Hereford bulls:** Stellpflug Monument 4014, 1/10/2024 by KCF Bennett Monument J338; to Genex Beef, Shawano, WI, \$64,000. Hoffman New Standard 4451, 2/8/2024 by Birdwell New Standard 2912 ET; to Lucas Stumpf, Columbia, IL, \$50,000. Hoffman 0159H Advance M137 ET, 1/14/2024 by HH Advance 0159H; to Powell Herefords, San Angelo, TX, \$35,000. Hoffman Thomas County M123, 1/13/2024 by H WMS Thomas County 1443 ET; to Vanderwork Herefords, Taloga, OK, \$32,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

REYES/RUSSELL ANGUS BULL SALE
Feb. 24, Wheatland, WY
238 Angus older
bulls \$9,936
Auctioneers: Lander
Nicodemus & Kyle Shobe
TOPS—Older bulls: MR

Learning, Improving and Advancing the Family Legacy

BAR T BAR FIELD DAY

“Looking to the Future and Honoring the Past”

Friday, April 11 • 9 a.m. PDT

9 a.m. Trade Show and Bull Viewing Begins

12 noon Lunch • Complimentary, but please RSVP. See below for details.

2 p.m. Speaker Presentations

Jim Sprinkle, Ph.D. • University of Idaho
Grazing Behavior of Efficient and Inefficient Cattle on Rangeland

Dan Bell, ZZ Cattle Co. • Drew McGibbon, Santa Rita Ranch
The Future of Virtual Fence

Dave Daley, Ph.D. • Public Lands Council Board of Directors & 5th Generation California Rancher
The Challenges and Opportunities of Public Land Grazing

Kent Anderson, Ph.D. • Zoetis
The Future of DNA and Economically Relevant Traits

Moderator: Lee Leachman • CEO, Leachman Cattle

5:00 p.m. Social with Heavy Hors d'oeuvres

6:00 p.m. Centennial Customer Awards

Thank you to our sponsors!

AgWest Farm Credit	Merck
Animal Health Express	Multimin
AZ SRM	NRCS
Cowbellies	Producers Livestock Marketing-AZ
Elanco	RanchBot
FerAppease	Superior Livestock
Halter Virtual Fence	Sweet Pro
Headquarters West	Western Video
Maid Rite Feeds	Zoetis

ANNUAL BULL SALE

Saturday, April 12 • 1:00 p.m. PDT

Selling 225 Bulls

Out of the most proven range cow herd in the southwest.

R.S.V.P. appreciated by April 1, 2025 to info@bartbar.com or to Bob at 928-380-5149 or Judy at 928-699-8587

REDS RISING

Escalate Your Prosperity

Scan the QR code for real rancher stories about the rising power of Red Angus.

RED ANGUS

RANCH TESTED. RANCHER TRUSTED.

RedAngus.org

WERNING CATTLE COMPANY PRODUCTION SALE
Feb. 11, Emery, SD
153 Simmental
bulls \$12,160
3 Simmental donor
cows 29,667
82 Simmental bred
heifers 12,332
69 Simmental
embryos 1,128
229 Simmental semen
lots 250
Auctioneers: Dustin
Carter & Jered Shipman
Sale Manager: Innovation
AgMarketing

RAML CATTLE BULL & BRED FEMALE SALE
Feb. 14, Goodwin, SD
44 Simmental
bulls \$8,090
21 Red Angus bulls ... 7,952
101 Angus yearling
bulls 7,850
46 Angus bred
heifers 6,190
25 Angus bred
cows 5,320
36 Simmental bred
heifers 5,250
Auctioneer: Dustin Carter
TOPS—Bred cow: RAML Ruby 718, 1/3/2017 by Barstow Cash; to Mike Hudlow, Watts, OK, \$12,000. **Yearling bulls:** RAML Craftsman 4832, 12/26/2023 by Connealy Craftsman; to Circle R Angus, Correll, MN, \$37,000. RAML Flagstone 4710, 1/2/2024 by Baldrige Flagstone F411; to



SALE REPORTS

Gus 40243, 6/16/2023 by Simonson Gus 1731; \$37,000. MR Stunner 38313, 5/28/2023 by SRS Stunner 8235H; \$34,000. MR Inside 35733, 5/2/2023 by MR Inside 23659; \$27,000. MR Progressive 33833, 6/3/2023 by MR Progressive 30040; \$24,999. **Yearling bulls:** KMR Extra 953, 12/8/2023 by KMR Exclusive 532; \$25,000. KMR Steward 904, 2/6/2024 by Musgrave Statesman; \$22,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

HAYNES CATTLE CO. BULL SALE

Feb. 25, Ogallala, NE
119 Angus yearling bulls \$7,539
Auctioneer: Kevin Schow
TOPS: HAYNES News Alert 423, 1/14/2024 by 44 Good News 1130; to Hansen Farms, Elsie, NE, \$14,250. HAYNES Good News 4132, 1/24/2024 by 44 Good News 1130; to Zane Connell, Hyannis, NE, \$13,750. HAYNES Dynamic 435, 1/16/2024 by BAR Dynamic; to Troy Dubs, Ashby, NE, \$11,750. HAYNES News Fact 473, 1/20/2024 by 44 Good News 1130; to Darin Robertson, Elsie, NE, \$11,750. — **TY GROSHANS**

TC RANCH BULL SALE

Feb. 26, Franklin, NE
64 Yearling bulls... \$7,003
6 Older bulls..... 5,500
21 Open heifers 3,804
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS—Open heifer: TC Ruby 4008, 1/1/2024 by High Point Werner Cut Above; to Corey Bender, Lexington, NE, \$6,500. **Yearling bulls:** TC Bold Ruler 481, 1/2/2024 by BA7 Oaks Bold Ruler; to OK Bar Ranch, McPhearsen, KS, \$16,000. TC Congress 401, 1/1/2024 by Crouch Congress; to Braden Werth, Ellis, KS, \$14,000. TC Justification 446, 1/31/2024 by Boyd Justification; to Wayne Sievers, Walnut, IA, \$13,500. TC Craftsman 410, 1/1/2024 by Connealy Craftsman; to Jerry Fouts, Naponee, NE, \$13,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

MEYRING CATTLE CO. PRODUCTION SALE

Feb. 27, Alliance, NE
45 Simmental yearling bulls \$7,780
21 Simmental females..... 7,647
Auctioneer: Jered Shipman
Sale Manager: Innovation AgMarketing
TOPS—SimAngus yearling bulls: MCC - Craftsman Y015M, 3/8/2024 by Connealy Craftsman; to Travis Goings, Pine Ridge, SD, \$18,000. MCC - Countertime G303M, 3/10/2024 by KCC1 Countertime 872H; to Tim Seedorf, Cygnet, OH, \$17,000. **Simmental yearling bull:** MCC - Diligence Y063M, 3/12/2024 by LCDR Diligence 215J; to Werning Cattle Co., Emery, SD, \$18,000. **First-calf heifer pair:** Miss MCC - R852L, 3/11/2023 by So Remedy 7F; to Walrod Cattle Co., Randolph, KS, \$15,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

SKINNER RANCH SEEDSTOCK BULL SALE

Feb. 28, Hall, MT
107 Angus bulls.... \$9,215
23 Salers bulls..... 7,185
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS: SRS FairNSquare 9204, 1/27/2024 by Myers Fair-N-Square M39; to Gartner-Denowh Angus Ranch,

Sidney, MT, and Arntzen Angus Ranch, Hilger, MT, \$25,000. SRS Keynote 4244M, 2/22/2024 by SRS Keynote 1047K; to Whistling Winds Angus, Hilger, MT, \$21,000. SRS South America 8128M, 2/13/2024 by Hummel South America; to Rafter T Angus, Gillette, WY, \$21,000. SRS Renovation 6152M, 1/30/2024 by SAV Renovation 6822; to Mike Kaminski, Loup City, NE, \$17,000. SRS Legitimate 5129M, 1/23/2024 by Deep Creek Legitimate 203; to Sauerbier Ranches, Alder, MT, \$16,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

3C CATTLE CO. PRODUCTION SALE

March 1, Stevensville, MT
53 Angus bulls \$7,524
45 Commercial open heifers 2,683
Auctioneer: Collin Gibbs
TOPS: 3C 406 Man In Black 4055, 2/3/2024 by LAR Man In Black; to Leadore Angus, Leadore, ID, \$36,000. 3C Man In Black 4068, 2/4/2024 by LAR Man In Black; to Leadore Angus, Leadore, ID, \$16,500. 3C Dynamic 4011, 1/21/2024 by BAR Dynamic; to Leadore Angus, Leadore, ID, \$14,500. 3C 406 Dynamic 4094, 2/7/2024 by BAR Dynamic; to McFadgen Ranch, Stevensville, MT, \$12,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

KIMM ANGUS BULL SALE

March 1, Three Forks, MT
59 Angus bulls \$5,825
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs
TOPS: KA U-2 Coalition 374, 1/17/2024 by U-2 Coalition 206C; to 21 Angus, New England, ND, \$20,000. KA Black Mass 064, 1/7/2024 by B Bar Black Mass 3045; to Timberline Ranch, Belgrade, MT, \$10,000. KA U-2 Coalition 124, 1/8/2024 by U-2 Coalition 206C; to Roger Sanderson, Toston, MT, \$9,000. KA U-2 Coalition 724, 1/26/2024 by U-2 Coalition 206C; to James Hendricks, Ekalaka, MT, \$9,000. KA U-2 Coalition 284, 1/15/2024 by U-2 Coalition 206C; to Jason Smith, Deer Lodge, MT, \$9,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

LUCKY 7 ANGUS BULL SALE

March 1, Riverton, WY
50 Yearling bulls \$10,040
58 Fall yearling bulls 8,534
268 2-Year-old bulls 8,112
Auctioneers: Lander Nicodemus and Colby Hales

TOPS: Lucky 7 Special Focus 3196, 4/19/2023 by Lucky 7 Special Focus 9071; to Charles Price, Daniel, WY, \$25,000. Lucky 7 Alliance 3087, 4/29/2023 by Lucky 7 Alliance 187 7185; to Harding Ranch, Meriden, WY, \$21,500. Lucky 7 Special Focus 3152, 4/22/2023 by Lucky 7 Special Focus 448; to Dean Zimmerman, Mountain View, OK, \$19,000. Lucky 7 Special Focus 3067, 4/4/2023 by Lucky 7 Special Focus 113; to DeGrand Angus, Baker, MT, and Stepler Ranch, Culbertson, MT, \$19,000. Lucky 7 Special Focus 423, 1/30/2024 by Lucky 7 Special Focus 9071; to Sand Mesa Angus, Riverton, WY, \$17,000. Lucky 7 Maternal Plus 444, 2/21/2024 by 9 Peaks Maternal Plus J738; to Sand Mesa Angus, Riverton, WY, \$17,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

REDLAND RED ANGUS BULL SALE

March 1, Hysham, MT
61 Red Angus bulls \$5,980
Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe
TOPS: Red Stockmarket 459, 2/1/2024 by Bieber CL Stockmarket E119; to Redding Ranch, Hysham, MT, \$14,000. 1/2 Interest. Red Fritzzy 4064, 2/18/2024 by Fritz Impeccable 005; to Sutherlin Farms, Stevensville, MT, \$14,000. Red Prime Time 464, 2/1/2024 by LSF SRR Prime Plus 0111H; to Green Leaf Livestock, Colstrip, MT, \$11,500. EMM Relentless 4015, 2/9/2024 by STRA Relentless; to Broken Chain Ranch, Sumatra, MT, \$10,000. Red Intensity 462, 2/1/2024 by Lost Crk Intensity 1900; to Broken Chain Ranch, Sumatra, MT, \$9,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

STEVENSON ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE

March 2, White Sulphur Springs, MT
82 Angus 2-year-old bulls \$9,012
85 Angus yearling bulls 7,829
15 Angus open heifers 4,767
5 Commercial bred heifers 4,300
11 Commercial bred cows 3,900
80 Commercial open heifers 2,400
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins and Roger Jacobs

TOPS: Down T Man In Black 3173, 4/29/2023 by LAR Man In Black; \$16,500. Down T Man In Black 3065, 4/18/2023 by LAR Man In Black; \$14,500. Down T Rawhide 3321, 4/6/2023 by Poss Rawhide; \$14,500. Down T Man In Black 3161, 4/29/2023 by LAR Man In Black; \$14,000. Down T Payweight 3043, 4/15/2023 by DA CF Payweight 513 812; \$14,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

APEX ANGUS BULL SALE

March 4, Valier, MT
101 Angus bulls \$7,065
190 Commercial open heifers 2,553
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs
TOPS: Apex Hollywood 6444, 1/29/2024 by Mohnen Hollywood; to Heuchert Willow Creek, Hensel, ND, \$15,000. Apex Fair-N-Square 704, 1/21/2024 by Myers Fair-N-Square M39; to Shipwheel Cattle Co., Chinook, MT, \$15,000. Apex Jumbo 764, 1/21/2024 by Basin Jumbo 1315; to Flesch Angus, Shelby, MT, \$14,000. Apex Rainmaker 644, 1/20/2024 by LAR Rainmaker 773 596E; to Raleigh King, Winner, SD, \$14,000. Apex Rainmaker 3844, 1/28/2024 by Shipwheel Rainmaker 0538; to Raleigh King, Winner, SD, \$12,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

SANDHILL RED ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE

March 4, Sidney, MT
66 Red Angus bulls \$5,598
100 Commercial spring pairs 4,061
98 Commercial bred heifers 3,443
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS: SRJJ Magnum 4101, 3/16/2024 by SRJJ Kick-Start 2189; to Clear Bent Bar, Leiter, WY, \$23,000. SRJJ King 4201, 3/28/2024 by SRJJ King 2016; to Dennis Leeuwenburgh, Lethbridge, AB, \$17,000. SRJJ Max 4989, 3/25/2024 by SRJJ Kick-Start 2189; to Clear Bent Bar, Leiter, WY, \$11,500. SRJJ Kraft

4093, 3/14/2024; to Dennis Leeuwenburgh, Lethbridge, AB, \$11,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

OX BOW RANCH BULL SALE

March 5, Wolf Creek, MT
66 Angus yearling bulls \$10,469
22 Angus 2-year-old

bulls 10,273

21 Commercial open heifers 2,245

Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs
TOPS: OX Prolific 4147, 1/30/2024 by Ellingson Prolific; to Skyline Angus, Stevensville, MT, \$45,000. OX 1236 4108, 1/20/2024 by OX Mytty; to Bidwell Ranches, Central, OR, \$16,500. OX Vin-

indicator 4517, 1/27/2024 by OX Vindicator 0017; to Shotgun Ranch, Post, OR, \$16,500. OX Vindicator 4501, 1/16/2024 by OX Vindicator 0017; to Bidwell Ranches, Central, OR, \$15,500. OX Vindicator 4515, 1/26/2024 by OX Vindicator 0017; to Bidwell Ranches, Central, OR, \$15,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

BRENT CATTLE COMPANY

REFERENCE Sires

BASIN DEPOSIT 6249

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	M	CW	Marb	RE	SB	SC
+5	+2.7	+90	+144	+127	+22	+67	+1.59	+3.7	+189	+315

BASIN JAMESON 1076

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	M	CW	Marb	RE	SB	SC
+9	+2.4	+110	+174	+114	+27	+92	+1.71	+0.89	+224	+377

BASIN RAINMAKER 8584

CED	BW	WW	YW	HP	M	CW	Marb	RE	SB	SC
+6	+8	+56	+108	+15.4	+29	+46	+0.98	+0.87	+171	+299

ANNUAL BLACK ANGUS BULL SALE
APRIL 7, 2025
@ 1PM CT

Selling...

33 YEARLING ANGUS BULLS
4 2-YEAR OLD ANGUS BULLS
4 RED ANGUS BULLS
1 HEIFER

Matthew Brent
719-740-3268
matthewbrent@hotmail.com

47049 S. Highway 83
Maywood, NE 69038

WWW.BRENTCATTLECOMPANY.NET

28TH ANNUAL

OFT ANGUS RANCH

· PERFORMANCE SALE ·

PRODUCERS LIVESTOCK VALE, OR

THURSDAY, MAR. 20, 2025

· 1 P.M. MST ·

SELLING REGISTERED ANGUS BULLS

One of the west's premier selections of older bulls

OFT ANGUS RANCH

Ontario, Oregon

OFT ANGUS RANCH

TERRY OFT

208-741-0824

LiveAuctions.TV

CLASSIFIED CORRAL

WESTERN LIVESTOCK JOURNAL

WWW.WLJ.NET

720-370-7977

1-303-722-0155

CLASSIFIED@WLJ.NET

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING GENERAL INFORMATION

ADVERTISING RATES

BY THE WORD: 90 cents per word for each insertion.

MINIMUM WORD RATE: 17 words or fewer, \$15.30 one time.

MAD RATES: (Bold headline) \$2 more per insertion for your phone number, email and/or website, plus first 2 or 3 words in bold print. (Applies to word ads only)

BOXED AND BOLD: (Boxed with bold text) \$5 more per insertion. (Applies to word ads only)

BLIND BOX AD: We will assign your confidential number and forward replies to you. **Cost is \$12 per 3 issues** for mail and handling service.

BOXED DISPLAY ADS: \$30 per column inch for each insertion.

MINIMAL ARTWORK: No additional charge.

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTO: \$10, LIMIT OF ONE.

COLOR PHOTO: \$35 EACH.

DISCOUNTS: 5% for running your ad 3 to 5 times; 10% for 6 times or more; up to 35% for 52 times.

SUGGESTION FOR CORRECT WORD COUNT: Be sure to include your name, address and phone number in the count, as well as all initials and abbreviations. Hyphenated words count as two.

TEARSHEETS: Available upon request only. Can be faxed or mailed.

CONDITIONS

EMPLOYMENT WANTED ADS: Must be paid in advance.

DEADLINE: Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. MT, the week prior to publication date. Newspaper is published on Mondays.

LIABILITY: Advertiser is liable for content of advertisement and any claims arising therefrom made against the publication.

Publisher is not responsible for errors in phoned-in copy. Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertising not considered in keeping with the publication standards.

COMMISSIONS: Classified advertising is NOT agency commissionable.

CLASSIFIED INDEX

1..... Employment Wanted	20H..... Northeast Real Estate For Sale
2..... Help Wanted	20I..... Foreign Real Estate For Sale
3..... Situations Wanted	21..... Real Estate Wanted
4..... Distributors Wanted	22... Real Estate Rent/Lease/Trade
5..... Appraisers	23..... Pasture Available
6..... Auctions	24..... Pasture Wanted
7..... Auctioneers	25..... Mineral Rights
8..... Feedlots	26..... Hay/Feed/Seed
9..... Lost Cattle	27..... Irrigation
10..... Cattle for Sale	28..... Ag/Industrial Supplies
11..... Cattle Wanted	29..... Fencing/Corrals
12..... AI/Semen/Embryos	30..... Equipment For Sale
13..... Brands	31..... Equipment Wanted
14..... Dogs for Sale	32..... Building Materials
15..... Horses/Mules	33..... Trucks/Trailers
16..... Bison/Bufallo	34..... Tractors/Implements
17..... Sheep/Goats/Hogs	35..... Business Opportunity
18..... Livestock Supplies	36..... Loans
19..... Ranch/Livestock Services	37..... Insurance
20..... Real Estate Opportunities	38..... Financial Assistance
20A..... Pacific Real Estate For Sale	39..... Tech/Books/Art/Etc.
20B..... Intermountain Real Estate For Sale	40..... Miscellaneous
20C..... Mountain Real Estate For Sale	41..... Lost/Found
20D..... Southwest Real Estate For Sale	42..... Personal
20E..... Plains Real Estate For Sale	43..... Schools
20F..... Midwest Real Estate For Sale	44..... Auctioneering Schools
20G..... Southeast Real Estate For Sale	

CLASSIFIED CORRAL

720-370-7977 • Fax: 303-722-0155
www.wlj.net • classified@wlj.net

DO NOT PHONE IN RESPONSES TO BLIND BOX ADS. ADVERTISERS' NAMES AND LOCATIONS ARE CONFIDENTIAL. INCLUDE THE AD DEPARTMENT NUMBER IN YOUR EMAIL RESPONSE OR ON YOUR ENVELOPE AND YOUR REPLY WILL BE PROMPTLY FORWARDED.



2 FOR 1

 PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD, SEE IT IN PRINT & ONLINE

CLASSIFIED ADS WORK!
www.wlj.net

Call & schedule your classified ad today!
720-370-7977

classified@wlj.net
303-722-0155 Fax

Cattle For Sale 10

Excellent selection of Angus bulls for sale.
AI-sired from proven cow families.
Westwind Angus
(530) 736-0727

150 Bulls For Sale
Home of 2 Bar Twenty X
2 Bar Angus Hereford, Texas
806/344-7444
877/2BAR-ANG
www.2barangus.com



Dogs For Sale 14



MCNAB PUPPIES BORDER COLLIE
Established respected bloodlines from working parents. Exceptional trainability, extreme stamina and keen noses.
\$700.
Call Walt: 707-362-1383

Livestock Supplies 18

POWDER RIVER LIVESTOCK EQUIP.
Best prices with delivery available.
Conlin Supply Co., Inc.
Oakdale, CA
Ask for Larry or Albert
209/847-8977

Real Estate Pacific 20A

KNIFE LAND
(208) 345-3163
knipland.com

LOST VALLEY CREEK
1,962± acres of good cattle grazing and hunting land with live year-round water in Ironside, Oregon.
\$2,150,000

ADRIAN CATTLE RANCH
126± acres with gravity-pressurized pivots, a creek, 130± head cattle set-up, and two remodeled homes.
\$1,275,000. Owner may carry.
janey@knipland.com

Pasture Wanted 24

Ranch lease wanted for pairs. 2025 and beyond. Up to 1500 pairs but would consider smaller deals. Anywhere in the western states. Full care or our care
541-377-3942

Ag/Industrial Supplies 28

NEW & USED PIPE
Saw Cut Post, used sucker rod, used guard rail.
Conlin Supply Company, Inc
Call Larry 209-847-8977
Delivery available.

Visit www.wlj.net today!

Equipment For Sale 30

VIRDEN Perma-BILT
We manufacture tank coating for concrete, rock or steel tanks:
Call for our free catalog.

Virden Perma Bilt Co.
806-352-2761
Amarillo, TX



www.virdenproducts.com

Loans 36

RATES AS LOW AS 5.5%!
Business & Financial Consulting.
Designed for the Farmer/Rancher (Not the Banker)
www.agrionefinancial.com
303-773-3545
You Call Steve, I'll Come to You.
AGRI-one Financial

Schools 43

GET THOROUGH PRACTICAL TRAINING IN:
Pregnancy testing—A.I. herd health—calf delivery and care. Many additional subjects.

CATTLEMEN

Our business is to help you improve your business.
Learn more by working with live animals under expert supervision.

GRAHAM SCHOOL, INC.
641 W. Hwy 31 Garnett, KS 66032
785/448-3119
www.grahamschoolforcattlemen.com
Over 100 years of continuous service

Real Estate Mountain 20C

HALL AND HALL
SALES | AUCTIONS | FINANCE
MANAGEMENT | APPRAISALS
Dedicated to Land and Landowners Since 1946

EE RANCH
FALL RIVER, KANSAS
This 6,420± acre tallgrass ranch is highly improved as it formerly was run as a purebred cattle operation with a significant recreational component. The lush open pastures lead down into tree-lined draws with large rock formations. Outstanding grazing, exceptional infrastructure, and trophy deer and wildlife hunting.

OFFERED AT \$25,681,160
Contact: John Wildin | jwildin@hallandhall.com

WWW.HALLANDHALL.COM | INFO@HALLANDHALL.COM | 620.662.0411

Real Estate Southwest 20D

HOW HEADQUARTERS WEST, LTD.
ST. JOHNS OFFICE | TRAGEN KNIGHT

MILKY RANCH
Apache County, Arizona
450 AU including 37,518 deeded acres with an additional 7,680 acres of Arizona State grazing lease located between Holbrook and Saint Johns, Arizona all behind locked gate providing privacy.
\$14,000,000

HAY HOLLOW PROPERTY
Navajo County, Arizona
19,458 deeded acres located between Holbrook and Snowflake, Arizona along the Little Colorado River. This could be a great investment or development property for solar, wind or residential use.
\$6,500,000

80 ACRE MOUNTAIN RETREAT
Apache County, Arizona
80 deeded acres located in the foothills of the White Mountains and overlooking the town of Eagar.
\$799,000

(602) 228-3494 WWW.HEADQUARTERSWEST.COM
info@headquarterswest.com

Scott Land Company, LLC

RANCH & FARM REAL ESTATE
We need your listings on any types of ag properties in TX, NM, OK & CO.

NEW LISTING! COCHRAN CO., TX. - 160± ac. native grass, existing oil production. The tract is located roughly 21 miles north of Plains, Texas and 32 miles southwest of Whiteface, Texas. Mule deer in the area. Good small hunting, grazing ranch.

UNION CO., NM - Divided into three tracts for rotational grazing of 1,822± ac. enrolled in the new Grasslands Conservation Reserve Program & 120± ac. of the property in the standard CRP program. GCRP can be grazed year-round each year. Excellent fencing, one mile of hwy. frontage together with all-weather roads on the remainder, equipped with almost new set of steel working pens with scale, a second set of almost new working pens, watered by subs on electricity with pipelines furnishing water for drinkers in each pasture. Gramma & buffalo grasses. Broker owned.

UNION CO., NM - Just out of Clayton, a large feedyard w/four circles irrigated by ¼ mile sprinklers, six irr. wells & just across the hwy. an 800 ac. grass lease.

www.scottlandcompany.com • 800-933-9698 day/eve
Ben G. Scott - Broker • Krystal M. Nelson - NM QB



WLJ Classified Ads
LIST YOUR CLASSIFIED VIEW ALL LISTINGS
CATEGORY Auctions

There's a new and improved way to list your classifieds online!

www.wlj.net

Western Livestock Journal

Trusted Since 1922. Reimagined for 2025.



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. 15 – Iron Lorenzen Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Mar. 19 – Western Breeders Association, Bull Sale, Eltopia, WA
Apr. 3 – Midland Bull Test, Columbus, MT

ANGUS

Mar. 10 – Dal Porto Livestock, Bull Sale, Purdum, NE
Mar. 10 – Pine Coulee Bulls, Bull Sale, Hardin, MT
Mar. 10 – Spring Cove Ranch, Bull Sale, Bliss, ID
Mar. 11 – Veltkamp Angus, Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT
Mar. 11 – Wagon Wheel Ranch, Bull Sale, Yuma, CO
Mar. 12 – Hornung Livestock, Production Sale, Stratton, CO
Mar. 12 – Sitz Angus, Bull Sale, Dillon, MT
Mar. 13 – Leadore Angus, Bull Sale, Dillon, MT
Mar. 13 – Sunny Okanogan Angus, Bull Sale, Omak, WA
Mar. 13 – Wheeler Mountain Ranch, Bull Sale, Whitehall, MT
Mar. 14 – Rollin' Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Pilot Rock, OR
Mar. 14 – SHB Angus with GPAR, Bull Sale, Rearden, WA
Mar. 14 – Thomson Land & Livestock, Bull Sale, Blackfoot, ID
Mar. 15 – Chundy Land & Cattle, Bull Sale, Imperial, NE
Mar. 15 – Nelson Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Salmon, ID
Mar. 15 – R & R Genetics, Bull & Female Sale, Willard, UT
Mar. 15 – Ward Ranches, Bull

Sale, Gardnerville, NV
Mar. 17 – JR & Sackmann, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Mar. 17 – Rancho Casino/Cox Ranch, Bull Sale, Purdum, NE
Mar. 17 – Whistling Winds Angus, Bull Sale, Hingham, MT
Mar. 18 – 7n7 Ranch, Bull Sale, Enterprise, OR
Mar. 18 – Bartels Angus, Bull Sale, Riverton, NE
Mar. 18 – ELK Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Mar. 19 – Lufkin Cattle Bull Sale, Tendoy, ID
Mar. 19 – Wagonhammer Ranches, Bull Sale, Albion, NE
Mar. 20 – Carter Cattle, Bull Sale, Pingree, ID
Mar. 20 – Oft Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Mar. 20 – Western Cattle Source, Bull Sale, Crawford, NE
Mar. 21 – TD Angus, Bull Sale, North Platte, NE
Mar. 21 – Caywood Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Tendoy, ID
Mar. 21 – Montana Performance Bull Co-op, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Mar. 22 – Sinclair Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Mar. 25 – Bar JV Angus, Bull Sale, Fairview, MT
Mar. 26 – Peterson Grain and Cattle, Bull Sale, Havre, MT
Mar. 27 – Vermilion Ranch, Production Sale, Billings, MT
Mar. 27 – Gartner-Denowh Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Sidney, MT
Mar. 28 – Vertical Edge Genetics, Production Sale, Bancroft, ID
Mar. 31 – Silver Bit Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, May, ID
Apr. 1 – Hinman Angus, Bull Sale, Malta, MT
Apr. 1 – MJB Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Apr. 2 – Nissen Angus, Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Apr. 3 – Arntzen Angus, Bull Sale, Hilger, MT
Apr. 5 – Brooks Chalky Butte Ranch, Bull Sale, Bowman,

ND
Apr. 7 – FBA Ranch, Bull Sale, Havre, MT
Apr. 8 – Hilltop Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Denton, MT
Apr. 12 – Bar T Bar, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ
Apr. 12 – Fink Beef Genetics, Production Sale, Randolph, KS
Apr. 15 – Treasure Bull Test, Great Falls, MT
Apr. 16 – Milk River Genetics, Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Apr. 18 – Timber Line Ranch, Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT
Apr. 18 – DeGrand Angus, Bull Sale, Baker, MT
Apr. 19 – Lindskov's LT Ranch, Bull Sale, Isabel, SD
Apr. 22 – Dunn Ranches, Bull Sale, Eaton, CO
Apr. 29 – Currant Creek Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Miles City, MT

BALANCER

Apr. 12 – Bar T Bar, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ

CHAROLAIS

Mar. 11 – Romans Ranches Charolais, Bull Sale, Westfall, OR
Mar. 22 – Valley View Charolais Ranch, Bull Sale, Polson, MT
Apr. 5 – DeBruycker Charolais, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
Apr. 5 – Pitchfork Charolais, Bull Sale, Loma, CO
Apr. 12 – Fink Beef Genetics, Production Sale, Randolph, KS
Apr. 12 – Hebbert Charolais, Bull Sale, Hyannis, NE
Apr. 19 – Lindskov's LT Ranch, Bull Sale, Isabel, SD

FLECKVIEH

Mar. 28 – Vertical Edge Genetics, Production Sale, Bancroft, ID

HEREFORD

Mar. 10 – Holden Herefords, Bull Sale, Valier, MT
Mar. 11 – Cooper Hereford Ranch, Bull Sale, Willow Creek, MT
Mar. 12 – Udy Cattle, Production Sale, Rockland, ID

Mar. 20 – Bar Star Herefords, Bull Sale, Musselshell, MT
Mar. 26 – NJW Herefords, Bull Sale, Decker, MT
Apr. 19 – Stuber Ranch, Bull Sale, Bowman, ND

OPTIMIZER

Apr. 1 – MJB Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT

RED ANGUS

Mar. 11 – Loosli Red Angus, Bull Sale, Ashton, ID
Mar. 14 – Leland Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sidney, MT
Mar. 18 – Green Mountain Red Angus, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT
Mar. 22 – Lautenschlager Red Angus, Bull Sale, Othello, WA

Mar. 26 – Westphal Red Angus, Bull Sale, Grass Range, MT
Apr. 3 – Northern Lites Red Angus, Bull Sale, Glasgow, MT

Apr. 8 – Beckton Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, WY
Apr. 11 – 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
Apr. 12 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Park City, MT
May. 8 – Koenig Ranch Reds, Bull Sale, Glasgow, MT

SALERS

Apr. 1 – MJB Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT

SIMANGUS

Mar. 15 – R & R Genetics, Bull & Female Sale, Willard, UT

Mar. 21 – Black Summit Cattle, Bull Sale, Powell, MT
Mar. 22 – T-Heart Ranch, Bull Sale, La Garita, CO
Mar. 28 – Vertical Edge Genetics, Production Sale, Bancroft, ID

SIMMENTAL

Mar. 21 – Black Summit Cattle, Bull Sale, Powell, MT

STABILIZER

Mar. 23-24 – Leachman Cattle, Bull & Heifer Sale, TBD

Apr. 12 – Bar T Bar, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ

COMMERCIAL

Apr. 19 – Visalia Livestock, Bred Cow & Pair Sale, Visalia, CA

12:30 PM MARCH 21 TENDOY, ID

Lot 3
LEADORE STELLAR 444 SIRE: SITZ STELLAR 726D

Lot 5
LEADORE RESILIENT 418 SIRE: SITZ RESILIENT 10208

Bulls from these great sires sell:

SITZ RESILIENT 10208	BASIN TRUE GRIT 1021
SITZ STELLAR 726D	DEER VALLEY OPTIMUM 9246
SITZ ACCOMPLISHMENT 720F	

FMI: 605-868-1031 • CAYWOODJ@HOTMAIL.COM • FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

CA's Leadership Farm Bureau class announced for 2025

Eight agricultural professionals have been chosen for the California Farm Bureau's 2025 Leadership Farm Bureau program.

Leadership Farm Bureau class members will participate in a yearlong educational and development initiative that prepares them for leadership roles in Farm Bureau and agriculture. The program includes 200 hours of instruction, with seminars on key issues affecting California farmers, ranchers and agricultural businesses.

Program participants will learn about government and legislation, media and communications, public speaking and team building. They will also attend lobbying sessions in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., and meet with lawmakers and administrative and regulatory officials.

Members of the Leadership Farm Bureau class are:

- Tharvin Gill of Sutter County, the western region vice president relationship manager for Conterra Ag

Capital.

- Alexis Harvey of Solano County, a crop consultant for Grow West, an account manager for Dixon Bee Co., a pollination consultant for Bee-wise and the manager of Bedoya Orchards.

- Miranda Jachens of El Dorado County, the membership and marketing manager for the California Farm Labor Contractor Association.

- Alicia Muhr of San Diego County, the office manager at San Diego County Farm Bureau.

- David Perry of Glenn County, a fourth-generation rice farmer and owner of a trucking company that hauls rice, nuts, fruit, aggregate and cement powder.

- Samantha Piehoff of Sonoma County, the Sonoma County Farm Bureau operations manager and a fourth-generation agriculturist.

- Harley Ramirez of Shasta County, the manager for Sunbelt Rentals, where he helps provide rental equipment to local and regional farmers,

ranchers, contractors and others.

- John Tamayo of Imperial County, an outside sales representative for Rain for Rent, working with farmers and ranchers to provide irrigation solutions. — **California Farm Bureau Federation**

THE BULL PEN

• BUYING SELLING TRADING OFFERING ANIMALS PRODUCTS SERVICES EQUIPMENT •

OFT ANGUS RANCH



28th Annual Performance Sale
 Selling Registered Angus Bulls
Thursday, March 20, 2025 • 1pm
 Producer's Livestock • Vale, OR
 Terry Oft 208-741-0824

DeGrand Angus

Baker, MT

Raising Registered Angus Since 1974

"Concentrating on the Basics"

Annual Bull Sale
April 18, 2025
 Baker, Montana

Bulls will be on a ration to gain two pounds a day
 Bulls will not be fat with a target of having 1/10 of an inch of Back Fat
 Bulls are developed in large pastures to ensure soundness

DeGrand Family • 406-775-8861 • P.O. Box 937 • Baker, MT 59313
 Cows and heifer calves for sale this fall • www.degrandangus.com

Vermilion Ranch Spring Performance Sale



MARCH 27, 2025

MARCH 28, 2025

Heifers sell at 12:00 PM South Pryor Development Center

Bulls sell at 11:00 AM at Public Auction Yards, Billings, MT



5,500 ANGUS SELL
500 BEEF BULLS
5,000 OPEN COMMERCIAL ANGUS REPLACEMENT HEIFERS
50 FANCY TWO-YEAR-OLD PAIRS

Vermilion Jameson M285
AAA 21062210
DOB: 3/9/24 Sire: Basin Jameson 1076
BEPD +4.6 WEPD +121
YEPD +195 MILK +22
MARB +.46 RE +1.51 SC +319



Vermilion Riverside M192

DOB: 2/12/24 Sire: Vermilion Riverside
BEPD +9 WEPD +97 YEPD +158 MILK +22
MARB +.23 RE +.87 SC +279



5,000 Fancy Open Commercial Replacement Angus Heifers

All One Iron - Bangs Vaccinated - Ready to Breed - Montana's Best

50 Fancy Two-Year-Old Pairs

All with half-brother King Air bull calves.

4th Annual Online Embryo Sale MARCH 27

5:30 PM at Public Auctions Yards and online northernlivestockvideo.com

FEATURING EMBRYOS OUT OF THE TOP PRODUCING VERMILION COWS AND SOME OF THE BEST SIRES IN THE ANGUS BREED. ALSO SELLING 30 FANCY BRED HEIFERS FROM THE HEART OF THE FALL PROGRAM.

500 Total Performance Bulls **ANGUSGS**
Powered by Waggen GenesCook

Sired by Riverside, Jameson, Leo, Teton, Badlands, Tahoe, Glory Days, King Air and Influence.

- Free delivery in Montana and adjoining states
- Volume discounts
- Large sire groups
- First breeding season guarantee
- All fertility measured and soundness evaluated



Vermilion Jameson M228

DOB: 2/19/24 Sire: Basin Jameson 1076
BEPD +.1 WEPD +96 YEPD +151 MILK +33
MARB +1.18 RE +.85 SC +319



Vermilion Leo M416

DOB: 1/31/24 Sire: Vermilion Leo
BEPD +2.4 WEPD +93 YEPD +165 MILK +17
MARB +1.27 RE +1.29 SC +356



Vermilion Long Teton M078

DOB: 1/29/24 Sire: Long Teton 107
BEPD +0.0 WEPD +92 YEPD +151 MILK +25
MARB +.22 RE +.88 SC +286



Vermilion J012 Bomber M674

DOB: 3/9/24 Sire: Vermilion G017 Bomber J102
BEPD +3.2 WEPD +85 YEPD +156 MILK +16
MARB +.38 RE +.77 SC +263



Vermilion E Three Rivers M145

DOB: 2/11/24 Sire: Ellingson Three Rivers M145
BEPD +4.1 WEPD +103 YEPD +172 MILK +20
MARB +.97 RE +1.06 SC +317



Vermilion King Air M118

DOB: 2/2/24 Sire: Connealy King Air
BEPD -1.0 WEPD +59 YEPD +106 MILK +29
MARB +.28 RE +.95 SC +256



Vermilion Jameson M205

DOB: 3/8/24 Sire: Basin Jameson 1076
BEPD +1.5 WEPD +97 YEPD +158 MILK +20
MARB +1.26 RE +.86 SC +321



Vermilion Ranch

Pat Goggins Family

Bob Cook - Records & Sales
Cell: 406-670-0078

Jeff Mosher - Vermilion North
Brandon Mosher - Pryor Creek

Jake Kading - Herdsman
Cell: 406-672-5844

Bill Shaules - South Pryor
Will Ecord - Diamond Ring

PO Box 30758
Billings, MT 59107
Email: bcook@cattleplus.com
www.vermilionranch.com

Sale book requests bcook@cattleplus.com



Sale broadcast and videos available online through Northern Livestock Video Auction
www.northernlivestockvideo.com