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## INSIDE WLJ

**VACATE WOTUS** — Ag calls on EPA to vacate latest WOTUS rule. Page 4

**GHG RULE** — Ranchers and farmers not required to report GHG emissions in SEC reporting rule. Page 14

### A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"Both houses of Congress have now passed legislation through committee to allow ranches to defer, for a longer period, capital gains taxes associated with the drought-forced sale of livestock. Most recently, Rep. Scott Melnnis, R-CO, attached an amendment to the Armed Services Tax Fairness Act of 2003 (HR 878) that would allow producers forced to sell cattle because of drought to be exempt from capital gains taxes if they repopulate their herd within four years of the forced sales," read the March 10, 2003, WLJ article.

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## USDA releases latest P&S Act rule

### — Addresses discrimination

USDA has rolled out its latest Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act rule to tackle anticompetition in the marketplace, this time emphasizing discrimination in contracting.

The rule, coined "Inclusive Com-

petition and Market Integrity under the Packers and Stockyards Act," is designed to promote inclusive competition and marketing integrity in livestock, meats and poultry markets, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS).

The rule establishes clearer and effective standards under the P&S

Act related to discrimination, retaliation and deception in contracting, AMS said.

"The rise of concentration and changes in contracting practices in livestock and poultry markets over the last four decades have facilitated and exposed producers and growers to increasing economic harms from

exclusionary, prejudicial, or otherwise discriminatory conduct, as well as deceptive conduct, by packers, swine contractors, and live poultry dealers," the final rule read.

The rule seeks to address the following deceptive practices:

**See P&S ACT on page 18**



K-State Research and Extension

USDA has released the most recent addition to a set of rules designed to tackle anticompetitive behaviors in the marketplace.

## Feds sue Idaho ranch over alleged CWA violation

### — Ranch built river crossings

The Biden administration has filed a civil action against an Idaho ranch, contending it built several crossings over the Bruneau River, violating the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The suit filed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho against Ace Black Ranches LLP contends from 2017-21, the ranch placed sand, gravel and other debris adjacent to the river, altering it and creating pollution.

It also asserts the ranch used heavy machinery to clear and level acres of wetlands on and around the ranch, leading to the installation of roads and center-pivot irrigation systems, which resulted in unauthorized discharges of dredged material and other pollutants into the river and the adjacent wetlands.

"The complaint in this case alleges that Ace Black Ranches treated the Bruneau River and state-owned wetlands along the river as private property that could be damaged or destroyed for sand and gravel mining without any effort to comply with the requirements of the Clean Water Act that protects our Nation's waters from such abuses," said EPA Assistant Administrator David M. Uhlmann in a statement.

The complaint alleges the discharges affected areas on the ranch and neighboring parcels of privately owned and state-owned land, including a section of the C.J. Strike Wildlife Management Area.

### Background

Ace Black Ranches is an 800-acre cattle ranch in Burneau Valley, ID, bisected by the Burneau River. Nearly 40 miles upstream of the Bruneau Valley, a section of the

Bruneau River is designated as a wild river under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, while a part of the C.J. Strike Wildlife Management Area adjoins the ranch to the south.

The management area offers hunting, fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities. However, certain sections, including the area bordering the ranch, are closed to public access for six months annually to support the nesting and rearing of game and waterfowl.

In a video posted last year on the Idaho Farm Bureau Federation website, Terry Black said his family has owned the ranch since 1875. Telby Black explained the problems began in 2019 when a neighbor objected to the ranch installing center pivot irrigation and filed a complaint, first unsuccessfully with state agencies and then with the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps).

**See CWA VIOLATION on page 15**

## Greens: USDA's climate-smart practices unproven

### — Contend IRA funding should not be used

An environmental group has published a report contending USDA's climate-smart conservation practices are unlikely to reduce agriculture's effects on greenhouse gas emissions.

The Environmental Working Group (EWG), a nonprofit advocacy group, found that recently added conservation practices to USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) do little to combat climate change, and funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) should not be used to pay farmers for using the practices.

"USDA says that they have literature showing that these practices have climate benefits," report author and EWG Midwest Director Anne Schechinger told public radio station KCUR. "But they don't actually have any quantifiable data showing that these practices reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

While USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) plans to investigate the potential climate advantages of these added practices in 2024, EWG asserts the practices should be removed from the USDA's climate-smart list and IRA funds should not support them.

EWG disclosed IRA funding totaled about \$19.5 billion, with \$8.45 billion for EQIP practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions or sequester carbon in soil between fiscal years 2023 and 2026.

EWG states that NRCS updated its climate-smart practices for fiscal year 2024 to include 57 EQIP practices intended to cause "quantifiable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and/or increases in carbon sequestration."

EWG continues that many of the recently categorized practices may lack climate benefits. Eight focus on irrigation and livestock management, which are unlikely to reduce

**See CONSERVATION on page 11**

## Packer margins squeezed to cover slaughter needs

Futures closed Thursday on a green note, while cash trade continued to hold out until later in the week. Packers have been slow to purchase cattle, unwilling to sacrifice their margins further than minimal slaughter needs.

Live cattle futures found movement higher over the week. The April contract gained \$2.17 to close at \$188.72, and the June contract gained \$3.37 to close at \$184.60.

Cash trade through Thursday totaled less than 25,000 head. Live steers sold from \$182-186, and dressed steers sold from \$290-292.

"Packers are doing all they can but are still being forced to pay up to cover minimal slaughter levels," Cassie Fish, market analyst, wrote in The Beef on Thursday.

"Packers are caught in the proverbial squeeze, no surprise given where the market is in its supply cycle," she continued. "Packer margins will likely end this quarter red and mark the 6th consecutive month of losses."

Cash trade through the week ending March 3 was 71,697 head. Live steers averaged \$183.25, and dressed steers averaged \$290.34.

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for

the week of Feb. 26 to March 4 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: \$183.16.
- Formula net purchases: \$184.91.
- Forward contract net purchases: \$190.67.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$184.67.

On a dressed basis:

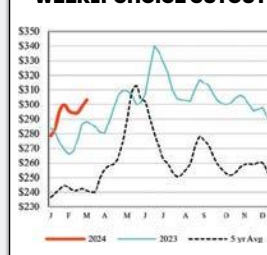
- Negotiated purchases: \$290.59.
- Formula net purchases: \$291.65.

- Forward contract net purchases: \$297.43.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$289.56.

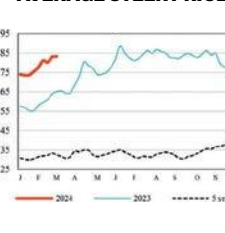
**See MARKETS on page 25**

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### WEEKLY CHOICE CUTOUT



### 5 AREA WEEKLY WTD AVERAGE STEER PRICE



↓	↑	↑
LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$182.38	N/A	\$248.07
WEEK ENDING: 03-07-24		

## COMMENTS

### Slow trade

Fed cattle trade was slow to develop again; Friday trade looks like it will be the norm for a while. April live cattle contracts have been trading at the \$186 level and cattle feeders are wanting that price for their cash fed sales. Midweek, some cattle traded in the South at \$183 live.



CROW

Packers will continue to keep slaughter levels under 600,000 head per week to keep the Choice cutout above \$300—why process more cattle when you lose \$50 bucks per head? I'm afraid we will be in this new market for a while.

Cow-calf operators will be in the catbird seat for a while. I watched some Angus bred heifers sell recently for \$1,975 per head which tells me that producers will be very cautious during herd expansion. We've seen some producers take advantage of this market to get out of this business. I think the average age of *WLJ* readers is around 63 years old. We need to create a beef industry that will attract young players.

Feeder cattle markets were a bit softer but remain very strong. The feeder cattle futures have cattle priced at \$268 for next fall. I would have to imagine that those fall calves on the West Coast will be a hot item in the spring sales.

It's been interesting watching the wildfire situation down in Texas. The major news media is thinking beef production will be even slower and there will be more price hikes. The feedyard country hasn't been affected much, but we've heard about cow and calf losses, and it will take a while to get a total count on that disaster.

David Anderson, Extension economist at Texas A&M, said individual losses could mount very quickly for producers in the fire's path, especially considering cattle values and the cost of infrastructure like fencing, according to an A&M story.

"Cattle prices continue to trend upward and set all-time records. Anderson expects that trend will continue into 2025 because the U.S. and Texas herd has shrunk over the past two years due to drought. "Cattle values range based on factors like age and class, he said. Cull cows, which are cows aging out of calf production, and typically weigh around 1,200 pounds, were selling for \$1 per pound last week. On the other end, a 500-600-pound calf was selling for more than \$3 per pound.

"Calf prices continue to set records. Calves in the 500-600-pound range were averaging \$2.35 per pound this time last year compared to \$3.14 per pound last week.

"Spring calving season is underway, which means the wildfire could have erased the value of a productive cow and future value of any calf lost, Anderson said. "This was a year to make up for a heck of a lot of drought, and the cost of holding on through drought," he said. "I think there was some optimism with conditions improving and record high prices. It's just terrible for producers who lost productive cows and potential record prices for spring calves."

"Infrastructure losses will vary for individual producers as well, Anderson said. Damage can range considerably when considering structures, hay stocks, fences and equipment. Fencing alone costs about \$3 per foot to replace.

"How many miles of fence are in those 1 million acres that burned?" he asked. "It's going to be a big number. Then you have the loss of hay and grass for grazing. The impacts of the fires are going to be felt for a while."

The end of March is generally when the market turns higher going into grilling season and slaughter volume should pick up. Retailers should have many special features for middle meats, which are planned well ahead of time. The Choice cutout has been fairly stable at \$305, but the 90% lean is trading at an all-time high of \$310. Cull cows are getting hard to find.

There is still a lot of dry country; the Corn Belt has had a dry winter and is starting to worry about drought. The western range country seems to be in good shape, but we can always use those spring rains, so start praying for good spring moisture. —

PETE CROW

## GUEST OPINION

Ready or not, most of the country will leap forward into daylight saving time. While stumbling about in a semi-jetlagged state and reaching for that extra cup of coffee, some might be tempted to grumble under their breath and blame farmers. While frustration with this abrupt disruption to time itself is fair enough, blaming farmers is most certainly not.

The idea of springing forward did not begin with farmers. One might argue that farmers understand better than most people that you cannot control when the sun rises and sets, just as you can't control the weather or the changing of the seasons.

So where did the myth about saving daylight for farmers come from? Unclear. What is clear, however, is that agriculture rallied in opposition to imposing daylight saving time in 1919. And they won.

The practice of saving daylight had been adopted in wartime as a way to save energy, but when peace prevailed, farmers called for a sunset on the practice. Daylight saving time rose again in World War II but wouldn't become a permanent practice until 1966 when the Uniform Time Act was passed and signed into law. Every year since, farmers and the rest of the nation have learned to adapt to losing an hour.

Well, everyone except residents of Arizona, Hawaii and the U.S. territories of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, where standard time shines year-round, with an abundance of sunshine nonetheless.

Most farmers are up well before the sun year-round. A later sunset doesn't change when cows need to be milked, when chickens are fed or when crops need to be harvested. If you have pets or children at home, you know firsthand that you cannot just turn back time—or fast-forward for that matter. The same holds true on the farm.

Take dairy farmers, for example. When daylight saving time begins, they must gradually adjust their cows to a new milking time over several days. What about crops, you might ask. Farmers lose out with cutting morning hours short here as well. As Michael Downing noted in his book "Spring Forward: The Annual Madness of Daylight Saving Time," farmers who originally opposed the daylight shift said they lost an hour in getting their crops harvested and to market in time.

Today, farmers in warmer regions rely on those cooler, early morning hours throughout the summer to harvest and beat the heat of late afternoon.

So why haven't we done away with all this jumping back and forth with the clocks? Or didn't we already? Well, almost but not quite. A couple states have attempted to sunset this practice for good, and the Senate passed the Sunshine Protection Act a couple

years ago, which failed to gain traction in the House. Recent attempts like these would make daylight saving time permanent.

On the surface that sounds like endless summer, but remember, as any farmer will tell you, you cannot make the sunshine longer. A sacrifice must be made. And that sacrifice comes at sunrise, or the lack of a sunrise for a while anyway. If the whole country took on daylight saving time year-round, most Americans wouldn't see daylight until well after 8 a.m. in January. For those who live on the edge of their time zones, like Michigan, that means sunrise after 9:00 a.m.

If that seems like a small price to pay for a 6 p.m. sunset in January, your doctor might have a second opinion. The American Academy of Sleep Medicine argues that standard time is better for your overall health and circadian rhythm, if a permanent time change is what you're looking for.

When the clock struck 2 a.m. on March 10, we sprung forward once again. While you cannot thank (or blame) a farmer for any extra daylight that follows, remember they will be out there working hard to grow the food, fiber and fuel we all need. They will be up before the sun and often long after, no matter what time the clock says, to ensure all our pantries remain stocked in all seasons. — **Kari Barbic, American Farm Bureau Federation director of communications**

### HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN



"That's alright, Mr. Commissioner! I've still got a hood, a front bumper, one more fender an' a VOTE!"

## OBITUARY



### Henry Krebs; 1926-2024

Henry Robert Krebs passed away at his home peacefully March 1 with his wife, Robin, by his side.

He was born July 7, 1926,

in Heppner, OR, to Henry and Annie Krebs. He attended school in Cecil, OR, and went on to graduate from Arlington High School in 1944. Henry served in the Army from 1944 until 1946. He received a Purple Heart while serving in the Philippines and then continued his service as part of the occupational force in Japan. After an honorable discharge, he attended and graduated from Oregon State College on the GI Bill. While at college, he met and married Dorothy Durst.

After finishing college, they moved back and part-

nered on the family ranch located in Cecil, OR, and East Glacier, MT, raising their family and producing wheat, cattle, hay and sheep.

During his life, Henry was involved with many organizations, including National Wool Growers Association, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, American Legion, B.P.O.E., Western Range Association, Public Lands Council and a founding member of the Oregon Sheep Commission. He was recognized with a Diamond Pioneer Achievement award and a lifetime member of Oregon Sheep Growers.

After slowing down from working on the ranch, he later married Robin Baker in 1999. They lived in Lone, OR, and enjoyed their property in Montana and traveling to meetings.

Henry is survived by his wife, Robin of Lone; daughter, Jane (Ron) Brinkman; son, Clint (Maureen) Krebs; son, Skye (Penny) Krebs; son, Glen (Roni) Krebs; Bridger (Barbara) Baker, Corey (Gina) Baker, Joey (Kim) Baker, Rosanne (Brian) Jewett and Jeani Baker; 21 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by daughter, Bonnie Jean Krebs.

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**3303**  
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**3333**  
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 Top 1% \$Profit • Top 1% \$Ranch



**3335**  
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 Top 7% \$Profit • Top 7% \$Ranch

**15 ANGUS & HIGH % ANGUS BULLS**



**2303**  
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**2308**  
 Top 2% \$Profit • Top 12% \$Ranch  
 Top 1% \$Feeder



**2316**  
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# States, ag ask court to vacate WOTUS

Attorneys general for 24 states and numerous agriculture and other industry groups asked a federal court on Feb. 26 to vacate the Biden administration's amended waters of the U.S., or WOTUS, rule that removed the so-called significant-nexus standard.

In separate motions for summary judgment filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of North Dakota, the groups and states argue that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers violated the Administrative Procedure Act and did not follow the Supreme Court's ruling in *Sackett v. EPA*.

The Supreme Court in May 2023 ruled that the significant-nexus test previously used to make Clean Water Act (CWA) determinations was unconstitutional. In September 2023, the EPA issued a final amended rule pulling the significant-nexus test. The test involved assessing flow tributary characteristics in combination with adjacent wetlands to determine what degree the two are connected.

In a summary judgment motion, the states said the agency's amended rule was unlawful.

Such a motion asks a court to make a ruling on the undisputed facts in a case. A federal judge in Texas also issued an injunction last year against enforcing the WOTUS rule in Texas and Idaho, bringing the

total to 26 states where an injunction was in place.

"All nine justices unanimously rejected the significant-nexus test on which the agencies' rule partly rested," according to the states' latest motion filed in North Dakota.

"And the high court's majority dislodged load-bearing premises of the agencies' expanded WOTUS definition; among other things, the agencies' broad view was 'inconsistent with the text and structure of the CWA' and bucked key principles of statutory construction. One might have expected the Agencies to return to the drawing board and undertake a full revision. Instead, they shrugged."

The states are Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia and Wyoming. The American Farm Bureau Federation is an intervenor plaintiff in the states' action.

Attorneys general in the 24 states argue the agencies' amended rule left unanswered many jurisdictional questions.

"Before the ink of the Supreme Court's rebuke had dried (and without going through notice and comment), the agencies put out a six-page rule purporting to 'conform' the enjoined rule," the states said in their brief.

"In this 'conforming rule,' the agencies at least excised their heavy reliance on the significant-nexus standard. But they did little to explain what was left of the enjoined rule, much less how they plan to apply it. Beyond that, they adopted a reading different from the one the Supreme Court had just prescribed. And they offered nothing to fix the 'litany' of 'statutory and constitutional concerns' that justified this court's injunction months earlier."

## Ag groups act

Also on Feb. 26, a group of state agriculture, petroleum, real estate, construction and mining interests made essentially the same legal arguments in a separate motion for summary judgment. "For some 15 years, intervenor-plaintiffs' members and their clients had to operate under a definition of waters of the United States that reached virtually every sometimes-damp patch in the country based on a 'significant nexus' test that appeared in the concurring opinion of a single justice and had no basis in the text of the CWA," they said in their motion.

"Despite that resounding defeat, the agencies doubled down in their post-Sackett revision of the rule. Although dropping the significant-nexus test, the agencies—without seeking notice and comment on other effects of Sackett—have promulgated a

definition of WOTUS that still vastly exceeds the authority that Congress conferred on them and flatly contradicts Supreme Court precedent, including *Sackett* itself."

Those groups include the North Dakota and Cass County farm bureaus, Associated General Contractors of North Dakota, Florida Transportation Builders Association, Home Builders Association of Central Arizona, Kansas Livestock Association, North Dakota Association of Builders, North Dakota Petroleum Council, REALTORS Land Institute, South Carolina Association of REALTORS, Southern Arizona Home Builders Association, Tennessee Road Builders Association and the Utah Mining Association.

They said the amended WOTUS rule was inconsistent with the CWA text and "suffers from constitutional flaws."

"It is unconstitutionally vague, subjecting the regulated community to the threat of criminal and civil penalties and activist suits for failure to comply with ill-defined terms that give the agencies unpredictable discretion to determine whether features may be deemed jurisdictional under the CWA," the groups said in their brief.

## Texas court action

In Texas, the states of Texas and Idaho filed a motion for summary judgment on Feb. 2, in the U.S.

District Court for the District of Southern Texas, asking the court to vacate the amended rule and the 2023 rule itself and send it back to the agencies.

In addition, a group of business plaintiffs, including the American Farm Bureau Federation, American Petroleum Institute, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, National Corn Growers Association and the National Pork Producers Council, also filed a motion for summary judgment in federal court in Texas.

"Sackett conclusively rejects inclusion of all interstate waters, regardless of naviga-

bility, as WOTUS, but the rule as amended still purports to grant federal jurisdiction over all interstate waters," the business groups said in a brief.

"And as Sackett makes clear, WOTUS are only 'relatively permanent bodies of water' that are or are connected to 'traditional interstate navigable waters.' But the rule's relatively permanent test fails to provide the clarity Sackett requires, instead forcing landowners to guess whether their property contains jurisdictional features based on vague factors applied at the agencies' broad discretion." — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**



## 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](mailto:editorial@wlj.net).)

**March 31** – Applications are open for the Montana Stockgrowers Association

Marketing & Communications Summer Internship. Details: [www.mtbeef.org/careers](http://www.mtbeef.org/careers).

**May 1** – Angus Foundation scholarship applications are now open. Applicants for undergraduate and graduate scholarships must have, at one time, been a member of the National Junior Angus Association and currently be an active junior, regular or life member of the American Angus Association. Details: [AngusFoundation.org](http://AngusFoundation.org).



## COMING EVENTS

(Send calendar of events information to [editorial@wlj.net](mailto:editorial@wlj.net).)

**March 24** – Join the California Cattlemen's Association at the

43rd Steak and Eggs Legislative and Regulatory Breakfast + Lobby Day. Details: [tinyurl.com/2s76htyd](http://tinyurl.com/2s76htyd).

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45 TWO-YEAR-OLD BULLS  
1 PM WINTER LIVESTOCK

RIVERTON, WYOMING  
Saturday, March 16, 2024

75 TWO-YEAR-OLD  
+ 45 YEARLING BULLS  
1 PM RIVERTON  
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# Wildfires ravage cattle country, threatening TX's ag economy

The largest wildfire in Texas history has devastated the state's agriculture, blazing through more than 1 million acres of land in the Panhandle, killing thousands of livestock, destroying crops and gutting infrastructure.

The agriculture industry, a big driver of the state's economy, was already facing pressures from prolonged and widespread drought that forced ranchers to manage smaller herds, contributing to a decrease in beef production nationally. The series of wildfires in the Panhandle is another blow as many ranchers tried to rebuild their herds and operations during the cooler months of the year.

Over 85% of the state's cattle population is located on ranches in the Panhandle, according to the Texas Department of Agriculture. In 2021, agriculture accounted for 9% of Texas' gross state product, adding \$186.1 billion to the state's economy, according to Texas A&M's Agrilife Extension report.

While numbers on how many cattle were lost in the fires are unknown, experts say ranchers will face significant economic pressure from the damage.

"Even if you were fortunate to be able to get your animals out fast enough, the economic impact on those affected are big," said David P. Anderson, a professor of agricultural economics and extension livestock economist with Texas A&M University Agrilife Extension.

The fires have left little food or water for livestock. Some farmers lost everything. Property fences are gone. Hundreds of miles of power lines have burned, leaving no electricity to pump water from wells—which farmers rely on to hydrate their cattle. And it will take years for the land to recover and grow new vegetation for livestock in the area. Feed stores are already seeing many people in need of cattle food.

Wade Maul, 53, had never seen a fire like this one—a massive dark plume with no end.

The owner of Maul Feed and Seed in Pampa said ranchers' hay supply has burned up and lots of people are in desperate need to feed cows and other animals that didn't get injured.

"It's quite a bit of loss," Maul said. "Any inventory that [ranchers] had saved up, being hay or grass, has gone. They're gonna have to feed them every bite they get for the next little bit."

The store is offering discounts on hay, making free deliveries and taking donations. Maul feels fortunate he doesn't own any cattle and that his land was not impacted.

On various Facebook groups, community mem-

bers are sharing details on where to donate hay to farmers whose land was engulfed by flames so they can feed their cattle. Others are offering shelter to their livestock.

Some ranchers are coming as far from San Angelo to help.

Pierson Sparks, 21, woke up early Friday and loaded two wheat round bales, 50 bales of alfalfa, two tons of cow feed, two pot loads of water and \$300 worth of vet supplies onto two trucks.

Sparks comes from a rodeo family and owns cows, horses, goats and a donkey.

"We have a bunch of livestock as well and so this hit close to home knowing that some of these people are losing all their animals," Sparks said. "We're just trying to reach out because we know if we were in their shoes, we would want the same."

After loading up the supplies, donated by family and friends, Sparks drove more than 330 miles to Canadian, a town near the border with Oklahoma.

At a press conference in Borger, Gov. Greg Abbott (R) said that people who lost livestock and horses are not eligible to receive Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster assistance. But he added that the state is providing many grants to help ranchers in the recovery process and is securing a location in each affected county where ranchers can go and get help from Texas Division of Emergency Management staff to apply for those grants.

"We know that the loss of cattle is extraordinary, but it goes beyond that," Abbott said. "We are looking at the big picture, holistically, ways in which we can assist both the ranchers and the farmers to be able to recover from this."

The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is assisting Texan farmers affected by the wildfires through relief funds, which can be used to rebuild fences and cover other expenses related to agricultural disasters and restarting operations. TDA's Hay Hotline website, [texasagriculture.gov](http://texasagriculture.gov), helps farmers and ranchers in need of hay for their livestock.

Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller estimated that cattle losses are in the thousands, with many more to come. Some farmers might be forced to euthanize cattle due to burned hooves and udders.

"It's a tough situation," he said. "Ranchers' income from crops and livestock is gone. So they'll just have to pull themselves up by the bootstraps and do the best they can."

The Texas A&M University Agrilife Extension is recommending ranchers

to begin inspecting and monitoring cattle that have been displaced by wildfires across the Texas Panhandle for the next several weeks. Some animals may not begin to show signs or symptoms of injuries for days to weeks following the fire.

"A single, immediate evaluation will not be enough, but it is a necessary starting point," said Jason Smith, an AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist in Amarillo and associate professor in the Department of Animal

Science, in a press release.

The last time cattle inventory was this low was in 1951 at 82.1 million head, according to the USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. The 2024 inventory was at 87.2 million, an estimate made about a month before the fire.

Arthur Uhl, president of the Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, a trade organization for cattle raisers and landowners, worries about the fires' impact on the market because they have

wiped out pastureland and cattle feed, which will decrease the ranchers' ability to feed their cows. Female cattle are important for rebuilding and growing herds. Uhl predicts fire-related losses will decrease cattle supply even further.


"Texas is cattle country," Uhl said. "When you lose what I call a significant part of your cow herd, the supply goes down and prices go up."


Anderson, the livestock economist, said it will take years for Texas

ranchers to recover but the wildfires "probably won't have much effect on overall cattle and beef prices" nationally.


"Even a fire that burns a million acres and is as big and terrible as it is, it is a relatively localized thing if we think about cattle production over the whole United States," he said.

Anderson pointed out that the cattle lost in the Panhandle is a very small fraction of the overall cattle herd in the U.S. — **Alejandra Martinez, Texas Tribune**






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# Better data key to informed CA water policy decisions

To adapt to climate extremes and become more water resilient in California, modernizing the state's water data—including the way it is collected, stored, shared and used—may lead to more informed decisions.

Improving data practices to best manage California's water resources helped drive discussions recently as state and local water managers, farmers, environmentalists and others gathered in Sacramento, CA, for the 62nd annual California Irrigation Institute Conference.

"To really understand what that vulnerability is from the headwater to the groundwater to the outflow in a watershed, we need to bring together multiple data layers," said Kamyar Guivetchi, planning division manager for the California Department of Water Resources. "Those same layers will help us come up with adaptation strategies that can help us get in front of and hopefully manage the impacts of climate change."

With a theme of "Fluid Futures: Adapting to Extremes," the Feb. 26-27 event focused on leveraging information and data technology to help with water-management decisions.

Erin Urquhart, water resources program manager for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), offered insights on

the benefits of Earth-observing missions that gather water data from space.

"Over the next decade, NASA is leading an outpouring of information from space," she said. "Many people think of the moon and Mars when they think about NASA. Most people are not aware that we have 34 missions in orbit or in implementation observing our planet, with another seven already in formulation acquisition."

NASA observations look at precipitation, snow cover, groundwater, surface water, soil moisture and water quality around the globe. "It is a complex place where environmental, geological and geophysical processes are happening at once," Urquhart said.

"Water use has grown more than two times the rate that the population increased over the last century. By 2025, approximately 1.8 billion people will live in areas plagued by water scarcity," she said. "Two-thirds of the world population lives in water-stressed regions."

As water becomes scarcer, information becomes more useful and critical, she said. To help with data collection, on Feb. 8, NASA launched the Plankton Aerosol Cloud, ocean Ecosystem, or PACE, mission to observe oceans, terrestrial ecosystems and atmospheres.

"PACE is really going to help us to identify and track harmful algal blooms in our coastal waters, and our large inland lakes and rivers," Urquhart said. "It is going to let us look at the land use and land cover impact on downstream water quality, supply and ecosystems."

She said the Surface Water and Ocean Topography, or SWOT, a satellite system launched in 2022, "is going to give us a digital elevation map of the global waters, so basically the height of water both in surface waters, the ocean and groundwater."

NASA often works with the water-resource community to help solve regional challenges. Examples include mapping field-scale evapotranspiration and working with Gallo Vineyards to improve water-use efficiency.

Thomas Painter, who led development of the program that would become the NASA Airborne Snow Observatory, shared details on advances related to gathering snowpack data.

"Now that we're in a changing climate, we're really going to be suffering without that more advanced knowledge of the water cycle, in particular, the snowpack," said Painter, lead scientist and founder and CEO of Airborne Snow Observatories Inc.

"The reason that we want to map snow-water equivalent and snow albedo (reflectivity), is those are the two most critical properties of the snowpack that control the magnitude and timing of snowmelt runoff," he added.

Snow-water equivalent and snow depth, Painter said, are measured by mapping snow depth from scanning LiDAR, or Light Detection and Ranging, a method of remote-sensing technology.

"Our accuracy for snow-water equivalent is about 1% to 2% and that has to be consistent for our users because they need to know—not in July, but now—how much water there is going to be," Painter said. "Accuracy is paramount. It's really moving us from a fairly fuzzy understanding to a far more quantitative understanding and that is absolutely where we need to go."

To advance open water data in California, the Legislature in 2016 passed Assembly Bill (AB) 1755, the Open and Transparent Water Data Act, to create a first-of-its-kind water data program.

"AB 1755 is not about a data warehouse; we're not trying to suck in everybody's data," Guivetchi said. "We're trying to make the data that's out there discoverable and interoperable by using some common data standards,

and that requires communication and engagement."

As a result of the legislation, the California Water Data Consortium was created. It is working on an open-source groundwater accounting platform, which includes user-scale water budgets and OpenET data on evapotranspiration—the amount of water released from plants, soil and other surfaces.

"We've seen agencies, farmers and other water users increasingly seek out highly granular data to reduce uncertainty in decision making and minimize the risk of wasting precious water supplies due to a lack of precise information," said Alexandra Biering, a California Irrigation Institute board member and senior policy advocate for the California Farm Bureau, which was a sponsor of the conference. "This is especially critical for pivoting quickly on water-management strategies when our climate seemingly boomerangs between drought and floods."

Tulare Irrigation District general manager Aaron Fukuda said the district has a long history of collecting data but is "evolving to data collection that helps inform what we're doing."

"We moved to evapotranspiration measurements and we are doing some effective precipita-

tion calculations to truly know how much demand was being met by surface water and groundwater," said Fukuda, who also serves as interim general manager of the Mid-Kaweah Groundwater Sustainability Agency. He added the district was an early adopter of SkyTEM, which is aerial electromagnetic survey technology that maps groundwater.

Guivetchi mentioned Gov. Gavin Newsom's (D) September 2023 executive order on the state's use of artificial intelligence, technology that enables computers and digital devices to learn, read, write, create and analyze. A related report, Guivetchi said, "will begin laying out guidance for state agencies for how we procure AI software; how we use it and to make sure that we use it in a safe and secure way."

For a more sustainable water future in California, Guivetchi said water sectors must work together and co-manage at the watershed scale.

"What that means is getting all the disciplines together to plan multibenefit projects, and then knit our pots of money together to actually get those projects implemented," he said. — **Christine Souza, Ag Alert assistant editor, California Farm Bureau Federation**



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<sup>1</sup>Mundell, L.R., et al. 2012. Prof. Anim. Sci. 28(1): 82-88.  
<sup>2</sup>Sales, J.N.S., et al. 2011. Livestock Science.  
<sup>3</sup>Stokes R.S., et al. 2017. American Society of Animal Science.  
<sup>4</sup>Preedy, G.W., et al. 2018. Prof Anim. Sci. 34:1-9.  
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 Selenium ..... 5 mg/mL  
 Copper ..... 15 mg/mL

**OTHER SUBSTANCES:**

Benzyl Alcohol 1% v/v  
 (as preservative)

**DOSAGE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

CALVES: Up to 1 year ..... 1 mL/per 100 lbs. bodyweight  
 CATTLE: From 1-2 years ..... 1 mL/per 150 lbs. bodyweight  
 CATTLE: Over 2 years ..... 1 mL/per 200 lbs. bodyweight

**PRECAUTIONS:**

Selenium and copper are toxic if administered in excess. Always follow recommended label dose. Do not overdose. It is recommended that accurate body weight is determined prior to treatment. Do not use concurrently with other injectable selenium and copper products. Do not use concurrently with selenium or copper boluses. Do not use in emaciated cattle with a BCS of 1 in dairy or 1-3 in beef. Consult your veterinarian.

**CAUTION:**

Slight local reaction may occur for about 30 seconds after injection. A slight swelling may be observed at injection site for a few days after administration. Use standard aseptic procedures during administration of injections to reduce the risk of injection site abscesses or lesions.

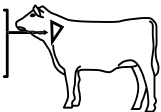
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CALVES	at birth at 3 months and/or weaning
HEIFERS	every 3 months - especially 4 weeks before breeding

(program gives planned dates that can be varied to suit management programs)

DOSAGE TABLE			
ANIMAL WEIGHT (lbs)	CALVES UP TO 1 YEAR 1 mL/100 lb BW	CATTLE 1 - 2 YEARS 1 mL/150 lb BW	CATTLE > 2 YEARS 1 mL/200 lb BW
50	0.5 mL	-	-
100	1 mL	-	-
150	1.5 mL	-	-
200	2 mL	-	-
300	3 mL	-	-
400	4 mL	-	-
500	5 mL	-	-
600	6 mL	-	-
700	7 mL	-	-
800	-	5.3 mL	-
900	-	6 mL	-
1000	-	6.6 mL	5 mL
1100	-	-	5.5 mL
1200	-	-	6 mL
1300	-	-	6.5 mL
1400	-	-	7 mL

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# Chasing the elusive second calf

Getting first-time mother cows bred for the second time is probably one of the strongest challenges for most beef producers. It can be extremely frustrating at the time of pregnancy diagnosis to find a high percentage of those young cows, the future of the cow herd, to be open. More importantly, it is expensive.

In addition to the loss of income from the potential calf crop, is the depreciation of the cow. If a bred heifer is developed or purchased for a value of \$2,800 and is sold as a slaughter cow after one calf for \$1,350 (current market value in Nebraska), then the depreciation cost of that cow is \$1,450. That is a substantial loss.

Producers often express the sentiment that they do not baby their heifers because if a heifer cannot make it in their environment, she does not need to be there. There is value in that statement in that selecting heifers for milk production or maintenance requirements that

do not match what the environment can provide is likely to result in cows not breeding or not breeding on time.

However, the other side of that argument is that mature cows do not have the same requirements as growing, lactating first-calf heifers. It is a little like expecting apple trees and orange trees to both produce apples. One tree can do it rather well, while one cannot do it at all.

Growing, lactating cows have greater nutrient requirements and smaller rums than mature cows making it difficult for them to meet their nutrient needs with the same diet as the cow. Therefore, young cows managed on a different ration, and in a different pasture or pen from mature cows allows them to consume a diet more balanced for their needs and removes competition for feed from older bigger cows.

For example, if all cows and heifers were fed 3.5 pounds of dried distillers as a supplement per day and given the rest of the diet as

good quality meadow hay, this would meet both the energy and protein needs of the mature cow. The heifer, because of her smaller rumen size and increased nutrient requirements would likely be short 2 lbs. of total digestible nutrients (TDN) per day. TDN is used as a measure of energy the cow requires.

While most heifers would be turned out to lush green grass during breeding, and would most likely be able to meet their nutrient needs at that point, it is important they are not below a body condition score (BCS) 5 on a 1-9 scale at that point. Research has shown a young cow in a BCS 4 does not breed back as well as those in a 5 or 6. Therefore, it is important for first-calf heifers to achieve a BCS 6 by calving.

Many heifers are maintained on hay and supplemented two to three months before breeding but after calving. Lactation and growth are large nutrient requirements for the heifer and whether or not those needs are met can

determine whether she is able to stay in the herd or not.

Research from Nebraska has shown that heifers calving earlier in their first calving season remain in the herd longer and produce heavier calves at weaning. These heifers are more likely to be cycling by the start of the subsequent breeding season and more likely to get pregnant which increases profitability and longevity. These data are a good reminder to set up replacement heifers well for this breeding season ensuring that their nutritional requirements are being met as well.

Ensuring that young cows are being set up for success moving into subsequent breeding seasons through adequate nutrition, health and reproductive management will be key to herd profitability and a successful approach in the upcoming breeding season.

Producers who would like assistance with ration balancing can contact their local Extension educator. — **Nebraska Extension**

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# Chlorpyrifos insecticide legal for insect control

In November 2023, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 8th Circuit issued a ruling overturning the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s final rule of August 2021, which revoked all food crop tolerances for chlorpyrifos.

The 8th Circuit Court's decision was based in part on the fact that the EPA had issued a Proposed Interim Decision (PID) in 2020, which included 11 chlorpyrifos crop uses that the EPA determined met safety tolerances. Before the PID could be finalized, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit issued a ruling ordering the EPA to either amend or revoke chlorpyrifos food tolerances and gave the EPA 60 days to comply.

The EPA revoked all chlorpyrifos food tolerances in its final rule in August 2021 (effective Feb. 28, 2022). The 8th Circuit Court held that the EPA could have issued a PID amending tolerances despite the short turnaround time and therefore vacated the order to revoke all food crop tolerances.

"Because of the 8th Circuit Court's ruling, food crop tolerances are restored and producers can now use currently registered chlorpyrifos products on all crops with reinstated tolerances, consistent with directions for use on those product labels,"

said Janet Knodel, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension entomologist.

According to the North Dakota Department of Agriculture Pesticide Product Search site, there are currently two products with the active ingredient chlorpyrifos that are registered for agricultural crop use in North Dakota as of February 2024.

"Those products are Pilot 4E, a liquid formulation used primarily as a foliar insecticide in several crops, and Pilot 15G, a granular formulation used as an at-plant band treatment for control of soil dwelling insects, notably sugarbeet root maggot in sugarbeets," said Mark Boetel, NDSU School of Natural Resource Sciences professor of entomology.

"Be sure to check with your state's department of agriculture for registered chlorpyrifos products," advises Knodel. "Even for registered products, availability may be limited in 2024."

"Chlorpyrifos is an important and valued tool for insect and mite control in many crops including alfalfa, field corn, soybeans, sugarbeets, sunflower, and spring and winter wheat," said Adam Varenhorst, South Dakota State University Extension entomologist. "This has the potential to be beneficial for producers, especially

with the management of certain insecticide resistant insect pests, including pyrethroid resistant soybean aphids, pyrethroid resistant red sunflower seed weevils in South Dakota, and insect pests for which there is no other effective option."

"As a reminder, read, understand and follow the label directions for these products regarding registered crops, application methods, application rates, preharvest intervals and the total seasonal limits for active ingredient per acre. Also, be sure to follow personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements on the product labels, as well as environmental hazard, spray drift mitigation, and agricultural use language," cautions Andrew Thostenson, NDSU Extension pesticide program coordinator.

Chlorpyrifos is highly toxic to bees that are directly exposed to the treatment or to remaining residuals on blooming crops and weeds. Per the Environmental Hazards section on the label, do not apply this product or allow it to drift to blooming crops or weeds if bees are visiting the treatment area.

"This means that application timing must occur when pollinators are not actively foraging on the crop and will not be exposed to residuals during foraging activities," said

Patrick Beauzay, NDSU Extension entomology research specialist. "Application of chlorpyrifos insecticides should occur in the evening after 6 p.m. Do not apply chlorpyrifos or any other pesticide during temperature inversions, as severe off-target drift is likely to occur under these conditions."

"The future of chlorpyrifos is still uncertain. While registered product and crop uses are again legal, the EPA will continue to evaluate chlorpyrifos food tolerance and environmental safety as required by law during the registration review process," said Thostenson.

The EPA likely will issue a new PID for the 11 identified crops from the 2020 PID, including alfalfa, soybean, sugarbeet, and wheat (spring and winter), which could include amended tolerances and new use restrictions, said Knodel. Crop uses that were not identified in the 11 uses specified in the PID are especially uncertain and could have their tolerances revoked entirely. Sunflower and corn were not included in the 11 crop uses.

Producers, crop consultants, pesticide applicators, commodity groups and other stakeholders can and should provide comments to the EPA when they publish decisions, recommends Knodel. — **NDSU Extension**

## LEGAL LEDGER

### Water meeting in CA's Central Valley

The Bureau of Reclamation will hold a quarterly meeting to provide an update on water improvements in California. The meeting will review the status of the Biological Assessment for the 2021 Reinitiation of Consultation on the Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project. The meeting will be held virtually on March 12 from 1-3 p.m. PDT on Microsoft Teams. For meeting materials, visit [www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/bdo).

### New York sues JBS over climate claims

The New York attorney general is suing JBS, alleging it misled the public about JBS' impact on the environment in order to boost sales. New York Attorney General Letitia James said the company has "no viable plan" to reach net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040, according to a news release from her office. "When companies falsely advertise their commitment to sustainability, they are misleading consumers and endangering our planet," James said. "JBS USA's greenwashing exploits the pocketbooks of everyday Americans and the promise of a healthy planet for future generations." The attorney general claims JBS Group and JBS USA did not calculate the company's total greenhouse gas emissions and have no way of knowing whether they could reduce emissions to net zero by 2040. The lawsuit requests JBS stop its "Net Zero by 2040" advertising campaign, conduct a third-party audit of its compliance with New York's consumer protection statutes, and pay disgorgement of all ill-gotten gains by "misleading the public about their business practices as well as penalties of at least \$5,000 per violation."

### CPW confirmations go to Senate

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission nominations were submitted to the Senate for consideration the first week of March. The nominations were previously voted on in the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee a week earlier. Of the three nominations, two are with an unfavorable recommendation and one is with a favorable recommendation. The Colorado Cattlemen's Association (CCA) urged its membership to tell Senate members to reject the three nominees, due to "concerns about their qualifications, backgrounds, potential biases, and the public's trust in CPW's ability to manage our shared public resources in a way that will provide the same opportunities for future generations as we do today." CCA, along with a coalition of Colorado agriculture groups, submitted a letter to the Senate opposing the nominations. "The CPW Commission needs to be a balanced entity with individuals who possess a comprehensive understanding of the intricate balance between conservation, recreation, economic impact, and community needs in Colorado," the letter read.

### NCBA calls for passage of minibus bill

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) called on lawmakers to pass the minibus appropriations bill announced on March 3 to prevent a government shutdown. "While this legislation is not perfect, it advances a number of priorities important to cattle producers, including critical investments in electronic animal ID tags for producers and strengthening oversight of lab-grown protein," said NCBA President Mark Eisele in a statement. USDA is drafting a rule to require electronic ID tags instead of metal tags for certain cattle moving interstate. If USDA finalizes this rule, NCBA supports USDA covering the entire cost of tags for producers.

### USDA aid for CA disasters available

USDA has programs available for producers who have been impacted by recent storms. Producers should contact their local USDA Service Center to report losses and learn about program options to help with recovery. "USDA stands ready to assist California farmers, livestock producers, landowners, and communities clean up and restore farmland, forests and watersheds in the aftermath of these devastating storms," said Robert Bonnie, under secretary for farm production and conservation. Producers with livestock deaths in excess of normal mortality could be eligible for the Livestock Indemnity Program. The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program provides compensation for feed and grazing losses. "Staff at your local FSA county office will connect you with the programs best suited to meet your needs based on your reported losses or damages," said Blong Xiong, Farm Service Agency (FSA) state executive director. For more information, visit [farmers.gov](http://farmers.gov).

### \$195M allocated for national parks

The Department of the Interior has announced \$195 million in funding for climate restoration and resilience projects over the next decade for national parks. "From protecting species to rebuilding outdoors infrastructure, this investment will support ongoing efforts to protect and preserve our nation's most cherished places," said National Park Service Director Chuck Sams. The investment includes an initial \$44 million for work in fiscal year 2023 to advance the Biden administration's 30x30 plan. The investment is part of \$2 billion in overall investments through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act to restore the nation's lands and waters, the agency said.

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Kevin Small, Small Ranches, Dubois, ID

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# Funding bill gives USDA a seat on CFIUS for ag issues

The U.S. secretary of Agriculture will finally get a seat on the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) as part of the funding package released March 3 by congressional appropriators.

After months of stalled funding bills, the chairs and ranking members for appropriations released funding packages for USDA, the Food and Drug Administration and related agencies, along with five other major funding bills for federal departments as well.

Congress was again under a quick deadline. The funding bills released must be passed by March 8, after *WLJ* press time, or yet another stop-gap measure will be needed to avoid a shutdown.

The funding bill makes the USDA secretary a member of CFIUS when it comes to dealing with transactions involving agricultural land, biotechnology and industry. The bill also requires USDA to notify CFIUS of agricultural land transactions under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act that may pose a risk to national security. Under the deal, USDA receives \$1 million to improve its collection and reporting of foreign transactions as well.

The CFIUS and foreign-land reporting issues have become a hot topic as lawmakers from both parties have responded to Chinese ownership of foreign land in both the federal and state levels. USDA records foreign ownership, but that

typically requires those buying foreign land to submit information to USDA and it is often a paper trail. Earlier this year, it was reported that USDA missed nearly 200,000 acres of Oregon timber owned by a Chinese investor for nearly a decade.

A key point of debate in the USDA funding bill was tied to the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) bill. Despite House efforts to cut WIC, the bill instead boosts the program by \$1 billion for the year. The bill also does not include any new restrictions on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

The funding agreement touches on an array of issues, including addressing "rising cybersecurity threats to our nation's agricultural systems." The bill directs USDA to report to committees on collaborations with colleges and the department and other federal agencies to deal with threats to supply chains from foreign adversaries.

In areas such as animal traceability, the bill also provides \$15 million for electronic identification tags and related infrastructure to help cattle producers comply with animal traceability rules.

USDA also has 90 days to provide a plan to Congress for improving staffing at Farm Service Agency (FSA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the Rural Development mission areas at the county level, including recommendations to Congress for actions that could

boost staffing levels as well. The funding deal requires USDA to prioritize staffing of positions outside of the Washington, D.C., region.

## Staffing challenges

Staffing issues came up multiple times at the recent Commodity Classic meeting in Houston, TX, as USDA agency officials met with commodity groups. Members of the National Association of Wheat Growers said FSA offices were short-staffed and even temporary workers could not keep their

jobs even though the offices were swamped with work. Zach Ducheneaux, the FSA administrator, said some of those job losses were a function of Congress not passing a budget on time.

"The reality is our money ran out at the end of last September and we've had to kick the can down the road six weeks at a time," Ducheneaux said. He added, "We don't have the money to plan for what we're going to do for the rest of the year because Congress hasn't acted on budget for 2024 yet."

Ducheneaux added the

funding woes also impact pay and tenure to the point "where we have to exploit people's passion for this work because we can't properly compensate them to do it."

Later, Terry Cosby, the NRCS chief, also talked about staffing challenges. To implement the Inflation Reduction Act money set aside for conservation programs, Cosby said he needs to hire more than 4,000 people over the next two years. Cosby said a problem he faces nationally is that students lack basic knowledge of soils

coming out of college.

"Soils are a limiting factor," Cosby said. "For the life of me, I can't believe that colleges and universities are offering agricultural curriculum and majors don't have a soils course. Most of these students coming out of college now don't have a soils course, but they are ag majors. So, we've got to fix that because most of the time they aren't qualified to come work for NRCS in the technical positions that we have." — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

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## Why some calves have an aversion to silage

When working with animals, often their caretakers have to use clues to understand what might be leading that individual to react differently than expected. And with feed resources, the experts at the Kansas State (K-State) University Beef Cattle Institute recommend slowly changing feeds, especially when introducing silage.

In answering a listener's question about why calves were not willing to eat silage, the "Cattle Chat" podcast experts suggested following the cues of the cattle.

"When introducing silage, you are going to have to watch the calves closely to know when you can start increasing the amount in the diet. And with some groups, you may need to move more slowly," said K-State veterinarian Bob Larson.

One reason that calves might have an aversion to eating silage is its smell, beef cattle nutritionist Phillip Lancaster said.

"Silage is a fermented feed resource, so it has a different taste and smell than calves are used to," Lancaster said. "To make the silage more palatable, producers can add silage to the top of a feed source that the calves like. That way the calves have to work through the silage to get to what they prefer to eat."

Because it is a fermented product, there can be variability in the batches, Lancaster said.

"If it is too wet, then it has a butyric fermentation that gives it a nasty odor that really turns cattle off on eating it," Lancaster said. "If it is too dry, it can be moldy."

Lancaster recommends that producers take a sample of the silage and have a fermentation analysis done to make sure there is the right balance of acetic acid, lactic acid and butyric acid. He also said silage inoculates added at the time the silage is made can provide bacteria at a high enough concentration to get an optimum fermentation.

If cattle are inconsistent in their willingness to eat the silage, K-State veterinarian Brian Lubbers said it is important for producers to take and store samples as they work through the feed so when they go off feed they can pull the appropriate sample to test.

"There are microclimates within a silage pit, and so take the samples as you are feeding so that you have a representative sample to help you figure out what is actually causing them to stop eating the silage," Lubbers said. — **K-State Research and Extension**

# SD House leader: Pipeline opposition could derail landowner protections

With most of this year's legislative session in the rearview mirror, some lawmakers are making a final push on a trio of bills they describe as an effort to balance the interests of both opponents and proponents of a carbon dioxide pipeline.

In Republican-dominated South Dakota, the bills have pitted the party's traditional support for economic expansion and lower regulatory burdens against its commitment to property rights and local governance. The issue becomes even more complex and contentious when Republican views on federal spending to combat climate change are factored in.

Those complex motivations led some Republicans to file and support bills that would block or significantly hinder carbon pipelines. That legislation failed. House Majority Leader Will Mortenson (R-Fort Pierre) said if lawmakers don't pivot to support the remaining bills—which

would bolster protections for landowners, without blocking projects—they risk accomplishing nothing on the issue this session.

"All this opposition can lead us to a place where we get nothing done for farmers, nothing done for ethanol, that we get nothing done for counties, nothing done for regulatory certainty," Mortenson said Thursday during a leadership press conference. "If we want to kill everything, that's where we're headed."

Mortenson is a prime sponsor on the three remaining bills, along with Senate Majority Leader Casey Crabtree (R-Madison).

One of their bills, Senate Bill 201, was sent to a conference committee Feb. 29 that will work to reconcile the House and Senate differences, while the other two bills in the package underwent amendments in the Senate Commerce and Energy Committee. That left all three bills pending with just one week left in

the legislative session, aside from a day later in March to consider vetoes.

All the bills are related to a multi-billion-dollar pipeline proposed by Summit Carbon Solutions, which is headquartered in Iowa. It would collect carbon dioxide from ethanol plants in South Dakota and some neighboring states and pipe it to North Dakota for underground storage. The project would take advantage of billions in available federal tax credits that incentivize the removal of heat-trapping carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

Summit plans to apply again for a permit in South Dakota after its initial application was denied by utility regulators, in part due to conflicts with county ordinances that require minimum distances known as "setbacks" between pipelines and other features.

The project has also faced opposition from landowners concerned about safety, including risks associated

with potential leaks, and property rights. Summit could go to court and use the power of eminent domain to gain access to land from unwilling South Dakota landowners. Bills to prevent Summit from using eminent domain have failed each of the past two legislative sessions.

## Setbacks, county surcharges

As currently written, Senate Bill 201 would force the state's Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to overrule counties if their pipeline rules are too burdensome. The commission of three elected officials is responsible for pipeline permitting in the state.

The House of Representatives approved its version of the bill 40-30 after a nearly two-hour debate.

Current law says the PUC "may" overrule counties' setbacks. The legislation says the commission "must" overrule setbacks if they "are

unreasonably restrictive in the view of existing technology, factors of cost, or economics, or needs of parties," or if the county actions are preempted by federal law.

As originally introduced, the bill would have removed counties' power to impose setbacks on projects including carbon pipelines. The bill was amended by a House committee.

The bill also allows counties to impose a surcharge on pipeline companies of \$1 per linear foot.

Proponents say the bill balances economic development with property rights. Opponents fear it undermines those rights and local control.

Predicting a bumpy road ahead for the bill, Rep. Chris Karr (R-Sioux Falls) said during the House floor debate, "I can about imagine what's going to happen to this thing when it goes to conference."

## Surveying protections

Three bills considered Feb. 29 by the Senate Commerce and Energy Committee would add protections for private property owners when pipeline companies conduct surveying, ensure better terms for landowners in agreements with pipeline companies, and add financial protections for landowners subjected to eminent domain.

Two of the bills were amended and one was defeated.

One bill that passed the committee 8-1 would amend the state's laws regarding land surveys on private property for public utility projects.

The bill stipulates that any person or entity looking to conduct an examination or survey on private property must have a pending or approved siting permit application with the state.

Secondly, the bill mandates a 30-day written notice to the property owner. The notice must include a detailed description of the property areas to be examined, the anticipated date and time of entry, the duration of presence on the property, the types of surveys and examinations to be conducted, and the contact information of the person or agent responsible for the entry.

Furthermore, the bill introduces financial compensation for landowners. As originally introduced, any utility seeking to enter private property for surveys would have to make a one-time payment of \$500 to the property owner, in addition to covering any damage caused during the examination. The bill was amended Feb. 29 to say the \$500 requirement would only apply to carbon pipelines.

Property owners would also be given the right to challenge the survey or examination by filing an action in circuit court within 30 days of receiving the written notice. Additionally, upon request, the results of the survey or examination

would have to be shared with the property owner.

The legislation excludes the state or its political subdivisions from the requirements, focusing instead on private entities.

## Easements

Another bill that passed 7-2 specifies how carbon pipeline easements are to be granted, recorded and terminated. An easement is an agreement to access private land. Summit says it has easements with about 75% of the landowners on its route in South Dakota.

As originally written, the bill said carbon pipeline agreements would not be allowed to exceed 50 years and would automatically terminate if not used for the transportation of carbon dioxide within five years from their effective date. Plus, landowners would be entitled to annual compensation for granting the easement, set at a minimum of \$1 per foot of pipeline each year the pipeline is active.

However, both the 50-year easement cap and the minimum \$1 per-foot compensation were removed by the committee.

Sen. Casey Crabtree (R-Madison) said "we know the lifetime of this is 50 years, easily," and therefore a more reasonable cap should be determined at a later date. He said the \$1 per linear foot surcharge for counties in Senate Bill 201 would translate to \$42 million for all impacted counties "that can be used to offset property taxes" for landowners.

Pipeline opponents felt the changes were unfair, with Chase Jensen of Dakota Rural Action calling the amended legislation "lip service bills" that do not accomplish a true compromise between pipeline opponents and proponents.

Another bill was defeated 6-3. It would have required entities using eminent domain to cover some legal costs for landowners.

## A divided party

Comments on the House floor showed how far apart some Republicans are on the legislation and the broader issues in play.

Rep. Scott Odenbach (R-Spearfish) said proponents of Senate Bill 201 are "rolling over for Biden's Green New Deal." He said the pipeline and carbon sequestration are part of "an effort to define carbon as a building block of life and to be able to regulate everything we do."

Mortenson later reminded fellow lawmakers that "we're not setting federal climate policy today." He said during Feb. 29's leadership press conference that if what comes out of a conference committee is not an authentic compromise that helps landowners, he will back out of the deal.

"If there's not real benefit in this for the farmers, then I'm out," he said. "There's definitely a line in the sand for me." — **South Dakota Searchlight**



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**Lot 4**

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Big performance backed with great cow production.

**AAR Tahoe L114**  
Reg. 20795605



**Lot 7**

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+1.8	+85	+30	+143

*Tahoe x Matrix*  
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**AAR Knockout 3066**  
Reg. 20790045



**Lot 8**

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+0.8	+72	+36	+132

*Knockout x Breakthrough*  
Pathfinder dam and Grandam

**AAR Scale Crusher L100**  
Reg. 20767366




**Lot 10**

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+1.4	+73	+28	+129

*Scale Crusher x Matrix*  
Scale Crusher out of the great donor Blackbird 9044.

**AAR Load Up 3551**  
Reg. 20790071



**Lot 30**

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# NMCGA Southwest Regional Meeting to be held March 27

The New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association (NMCGA) will host its 2024 Southwest Regional meeting on March 27 in Reserve, NM, at the Catron County Fair Grounds in conjunction with the Catron County Extension Service "Cattle and Natural Resources Management Update." Registration

is from 9:30-10 a.m. The program will start at 10 a.m.

Ranch Management Updates will include Beef Quality Assurance (BQA), vaccine protocols, Drymaria, Loco Weed and brush control. Speakers include Dr. John Wenzel, NMSU Extension veterinarian and recent recipient of the BQA Nation-

al Educator of the Year Award and Tracy Drummond, Catron County Extension agent.

"The meeting will allow producers to receive credits towards BQA recertification," Drummond said.

Lunch is being hosted by Williams Ranch Supply and Depot Farm and Ranch

Agency. New Mexico legislators for Southwestern New Mexico are invited. Over the noon hour, they will offer comments about the recent legislative session.

During the afternoon session, representatives from the County Livestock Loss Authority will review the new Mexican wolf compensation

program. NMCGA President-Elect and Wildlife Committee Chair Tom Paterson will address Mexican wolf, gray wolf and elk management issues facing area ranchers.

Rounding out the afternoon, NMCGA will review the 2024 legislative session and preview the 2025 session. Roy Farr, NMCGA Southwest

regional vice president, said "We strongly encourage livestock producers from Catron, Dona Ana, Hidalgo, Luna, Sierra, and Socorro counties to join us for this meeting."

Reservations for lunch are requested. Please register at [www.nmagriculture.org](http://www.nmagriculture.org) or by calling the NMCGA office at 505-247-0584. — **NMCGA**

## USDA calls study 'flawed, speculative'

### CONSERVATION (from page 1)

emissions, and one, based on USDA data, potentially increases emissions, the group claimed.

The new practices added were:

- Brush management.
- Composting facility.
- Feed management.
- Fuel break.
- Herbaceous weed control.
- Irrigation pipeline.
- Irrigation system, micro.
- Irrigation system, sprinkler.
- Pumping plant.
- Prescribed burning.
- Waste facility cover.
- Waste storage facility.
- Wildlife habitat- restore and management.
- Woody residue treatment.

According to available USDA data, the report states structures like "waste storage facilities" that contain animal waste are associated with increased greenhouse

gas emissions. EWG asserts that EQIP funding to manage large amounts of livestock in concentrated facilities may perpetuate this emission-intensive model rather than promoting alternatives like pasture-raising, which could reduce emissions.

EWG further asserts while EQIP irrigation practices may enhance water use efficiency, their effectiveness in reducing overall water consumption remains uncertain, particularly in regions like the West where "use it or lose it" water rights policies prevail. In such cases, water rights holders are incentivized to maximize water usage to avoid forfeiting unused allocations. This makes installing more efficient irrigation systems potentially ineffective in water conservation efforts.

"So calling the livestock and irrigation practices climate-smart, provisionally or not, is problematic since the IRA states that its agricul-

tural funding should go to conservation practices that reduce emissions or sequester carbon," EWG said.

USDA spokesperson Allan Rodriguez told KCUR the findings from EWR were "fundamentally flawed, speculative, and rest on incorrect assumptions around USDA's selection of climate-smart practices." Rodriguez said the agency used "rigorous, science-based methodology" to determine eligible practices.

Rodriguez continued that the extra funding from IRA is broadening the scope of farmers served by EQIP and funding initiatives for monitoring and verifying the efficacy of new practices. These endeavors aim to quantify the influence of conservation practices on greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration, ensuring that resources are allocated to the most impactful practices.

— **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

## Idaho pushing feds to delist grizzly bears

### — USFWS rejected earlier petition

Idaho is seeking court approval for a proposed settlement mandating U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to issue a final rule by Jan. 1, 2026, revising or eliminating the current listing of "lower 48" grizzly bears as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

"Idaho and neighboring states have worked for more than 40 years in a broad-based effort to support and sustain healthy and reasonable grizzly populations in our states, but legal and bureaucratic gridlock has kept robust populations of grizzly bears unnecessarily under ESA protection," Idaho Gov. Brad Little (R) said in a statement. "The settlement provides a path to escape regulations that are not necessary in Idaho."

The settlement arises from legal disputes surrounding Idaho's petition to delist grizzly bears, submitted in March 2022 and rejected by

USFWS in February 2023.

The petition stated that the state's contributions to the grizzly bear population in the Greater Yellowstone Area and northern Panhandle have been integral to one of the most successful conservation efforts. The petition points out the recovery of bear populations from a few hundred in 1975, when the bear was listed under the ESA, to over 2,000 today in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, and Washington.

The petition continued that it is vital to the future success of conservation efforts that the ESA functions as intended, allowing federal protections to be lifted for healthy populations. This would demonstrate the value of sustained investments in conservation for rural communities and enabling federal resources to prioritize species in greater need of protection, the petition read.

Attorney General Raúl Labrador said the proposed settlement provides legal direction "for Idaho to escape burdensome ESA regula-

tions that are simply unnecessary for grizzly bear population success in our state."

The proposed settlement does not guarantee the delisting of all grizzly bears. However, the January 2026 deadline provides a potential avenue for delisting in Idaho by addressing the flawed premise of the 1975 listing. Additionally, the settlement maintains Idaho's existing protocol of obtaining a USFWS agreement before euthanizing troublesome grizzly bears that pose safety concerns but not immediate dangers.

USFWS has opened a public scoping period until March 18 to restore grizzly bears to the Bitterroot Ecosystem in Idaho and Montana. In late 2000, the agency issued a plan to reintroduce bears to the ecosystem but has yet to take any action. Comments may be submitted by searching for docket ID FWS-R6-ES-2023-0203 at [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov). — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

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# Noem signs ban on foreign-owned ag land

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem (R) signed a bill March 4 that bans ownership of agricultural land in South Dakota by people, companies and governments from six countries, while legislators sent her a flurry of other bills as the annual legislative session's final week began.

The ban on foreign ownership includes China.

dating to 1979, foreign people and governments were already barred from owning more than 160 acres of agricultural land in the state—with exceptions for land that's inherited or held as security for debt, for foreign people and governments whose right to hold land is secured by treaties, and for foreigners who've established residency in the U.S.

The bill also bans those countries from leases and easements, with exceptions for agricultural research on land up to 320 acres, or contract livestock feeding "at an animal feeding operation, by a family farm unit, a family farm corporation, or an authorized farm corporation."

The bill says there is no limit on the acreage of easements or leases for other countries. An easement is a voluntary agreement granted by landowners for access to their land.

Recent federal data says foreigners have 380,000 acres of ag land holdings in South Dakota; however, the same data lists the foreign "percent of ownership" as zero for 266,000 of those acres, suggesting they may be easements or leases. Some of those easements are for wind energy projects undertaken by companies from Europe and Canada.

This year's lawmaking

session ended March 7, except for a day later in the month to consider any gubernatorial vetoes.

## Forest grants

After a lengthy debate, the House narrowly rejected a bill to use \$6 million in remaining federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) money on grants for loggers and sawmill operators in the Black Hills, where logging has declined in the face of changing forest conditions.

Some House members noted that the governor's Bureau of Finance and Management has cast doubt on whether the use of the funds is a qualifying one under ARPA rules. Improving the spending could put the state on the hook later if the federal government disapproves, some representatives said. — **Joshua Haiar, Makenzie Huber and Seth Tupper, South Dakota Searchlight**

"Their goal is to dominate the world, and the way they do that is by taking out America."

— Kristi Noem

"Their goal is to dominate the world, and the way they do that is by taking out America," Noem said during a bill-signing ceremony at the Capitol. Under an existing state law

The new bill goes further, adding a total ban on any agricultural land ownership in South Dakota by China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, Cuba and Venezuela.

## STORY SHORTS

### Animal movement waivers offered in TX

Amid the 2024 Texas Panhandle wildfire crisis, the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) collaborated with state veterinarian offices in Oklahoma and New Mexico to facilitate a waiver of animal movement documentation for livestock producers. In case of emergency evacuation of livestock to neighboring states, animal owners or producers are urged to contact the TAHC program records department at 512-719-0777 to register animal movement across state lines. TAHC recommends promptly providing necessary information to facilitate a smooth and secure process for crossing state borders, including livestock species, number of head, movement and destination information.

### Mexican wolf population grows

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced survey results showing an increase in the Mexican wolf population in 2023. USFWS showed the population was a minimum of 257 wolves distributed across Arizona and New Mexico, marking the eighth consecutive year of expansion, the longest continuous streak since recovery efforts commenced. Jim deVos, Arizona Game and Fish Department Mexican wolf coordinator, said the 2023 data highlights significant progress in Mexican wolf recovery since the initial release, with yearly increases in the free-roaming population and expansion of their occupied territories. Additionally, genetic management efforts, including strategically placing selected pups from captivity into wild dens, have shown promising results, fostering hope for continued progress toward recovery. Michael Robinson, a senior conservation advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity, acknowledged that the increasing population of Mexican wolves provides resilience against various threats, but expressed concern about the persistently low numbers. Although the immediate risk of extinction has diminished, Robinson warned that genetic mismanagement by the government jeopardizes the long-term survival of this distinct subspecies.

### Raw meat recalled due to contamination

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) announced that MF Meats is recalling approximately 93,277 pounds of various raw meat cuts and ground meat. These products may have been contaminated with non-food-grade mineral seal oil, which is not approved for use in meat processing. The meat produced between Nov. 26, 2023, and Feb. 16, 2024, consisting of various weights of meat cuts and ground meat, are subject to recall. These products are labeled with Julian dates ranging from 330 to 365 (Nov. 26 to Dec. 31) and 1 to 47 (Jan. 1 to Feb. 16) and bear establishment number "EST. 569" inside the USDA mark of inspection. The products were shipped to New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania restaurants.

### New OK processing plant to open

The Choctaw Nation, in collaboration with local investors, will inaugurate Three Rivers Meat Company on April 4, aiming to bolster food availability and employment opportunities in the southern LeFlore County region of Oklahoma. The facility will offer custom meat processing, value-added products, a café and a retail store under one roof. With a focus on sustainability, the facility will process a variety of meats, including beef, hogs, lambs and goats, with seasonal wild game processed separately. Additionally, Three Rivers Meat Company will handle Choctaw Nation beef destined for local schools and other entities, providing a vital link between the community and its food sources while fostering economic growth and food security, the Nation said. It will contain state-of-the-art smokers and a rotisserie capable of accommodating up to 900 pounds of meats, including its award-winning jerky for sale on-site in its storefront and other retail establishments, including Choctaw Nation businesses. The facility will be USDA-inspected, with a full-time inspector on site. Products will be eligible to be shipped throughout the U.S.

### JBS Australia to double beef production

JBS Australia recently announced the expansion of beef processing capacity at its Dinmore facility in Queensland by adding a second shift and hiring 300 new employees. Over the next 4-5 months, the site is expected to double its daily processing capacity with a gradual production ramp-up. "Our investments in the Dinmore Meat Processing Plant underscore our commitment not only to produce superior quality beef products but also to generate meaningful employment opportunities and contribute to the fabric of the local economy," said Brent Eastwood, CEO of JBS Australia. According to FeedInfo, the increase in Australian beef production positions the country as a crucial supplier to address the deficit in the U.S. market, which has seen a decline in production and cattle populations. This provides an opportunity for Australian exporters to enhance margins, particularly from the sale of trimmings, as noted by Junie Lin, Mintec red meat market analyst, Asia Pacific.

## Vermilion Ranch 5,500 ANGUS SELL



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# Williams to be inducted into Saddle and Sirloin Portrait Gallery



Jim S. Williams

Courtesy photo

Jim S. Williams, Boling, TX, has been named the 2024 inductee of the prestigious Saddle and Sirloin Portrait Gallery. His portrait will be unveiled at an induction banquet, Nov. 17 during the North American Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY. Williams will be the 379th member added to this historic gallery of livestock standouts. The award is the highest honor bestowed on an animal agriculture leader who has made major contributions to the livestock industry in the U.S and abroad as

judged by their peers.

Williams has had one home his adult life and that is on the V8 Ranch, one of the world's premier registered Brahman operations. He represents the sixth generation to continue a commitment to excellence in the seedstock segment and continues a legacy initiated by his great-great-grandfather, J.D. Hudgins, who is the founder of the renowned J.D. Hudgins Inc. Brahman Ranch.

Williams was a gifted athlete in high school and after a career-ending in-

jury in college, he transferred to Texas A&M University. His interest in cattle became his passion, as his knowledge and understanding of animal genetics and breeding flourished. He graduated in 1976 with a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science and he returned to the ranch and began to make his mark in the industry.

Under his leadership, V8 Ranch has been a trailblazer for adopting advanced technologies such as the incorporation of performance measurements in the 70s, embryo transfer and IVF, as well as use of DNA based genomics. V8 has also been a leader across breeds in the marketing of purebred genetics with many firsts to their credits in this area.

Visual appraisal is also paramount to Williams in making mating and herd selections and the show ring has been a major force in the growth and popularity of the V8 Ranch. Since 1976, V8 Ranch has exhibited 66 national or international grand champions, which tops Brahman history records.

V8's reach extends far beyond the U.S. and the ranch's genetics can be found in more than 50 countries and on six con-

tinents. Along with his dad, Sloan, V8 Ranch satellite herds were established in Brazil and Zimbabwe.

In addition to the Brahman herd, V8 Ranch is home to a 1,500 head Brahman based commercial cattle operation along the Gulf Coast of Texas. In the early 2000s, Williams founded and managed V8 Shorthorns, where the operation exhibited national and junior national champions, as well as three Shorthorn show heifers of the year. His daughters were heavily involved in the junior association on a national level, also.

Williams has continually given back to the industry and served in many leadership capacities. He is a two-term past president of the American Brahman Breeders Association, a three-term past president of the American Shorthorn Association and has held executive board positions on the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, U.S Meat Export Federation and was chairman of the Texas Beef Council.

For 48 years, he has been judging cattle across all breeds and has presided over more than 1,500 shows at all levels. He has judged 33 national breed shows, 44 state fairs,

as well as the most prestigious junior nationals and steer shows in the nation. His judging ability has also been sought after in shows in Brazil, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Colombia and Thailand.

His expertise and knowledge as also made him a sought-after speaker and panel member across many forums in the U.S., as well as five foreign countries.

His contributions and love for cattle has earned him considerable recognition including the 2012 Beef Improvement Federation Seedstock Producer of the Year, Builder of the Breed honor from the American Shorthorn Association, honorary member status for Texas A&M University Saddle & Sirloin Club, Texas Junior Livestock Association and the Texas Shorthorn Association Progressive Breeder Award.

In addition, he has received the Premier Breeder Award, an honor jointly presented by the San Antonio Livestock Exposition and Canadian Western Agribition. He was inducted in the Showtimes Magazine Hall of Fame in 2009. In 2013 the Best of the Barns contest selected him as the Best Livestock Judge and in 2023 V8 Ranch was acknowledged as the Best

Show Cattle Operation.

Williams and his wife, Luann, his high school sweetheart reside on the ranch in Boling, TX, about an hour outside of Houston. He has also made time to lead his family and serve in various leadership capacities in his church, local school board and Farm Bureau. He has served on various committees and councils for Texas A&M University's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

He is also a strong believer in youth programs and can always be found supporting 4-H, FFA and sports activities, as well as visiting with students of all ages in the beef industry. The Williams family has created an endowed scholarship at Texas A&M University for graduate students interested in researching and improving Bos indicus cattle.

An oil portrait of Williams has been commissioned by renowned artist, Richard Halstead, and will be framed and hung when the award is presented in November. Texas A&M University, American Brahman Breeders Association and the American Shorthorn Association collaborated to nominate Williams for this prestigious honor. — **Kentucky Venues**

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# Ag escapes SEC emission reporting rule

The U.S. Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) on March 6 voted to finalize a climate-disclosure rule that dropped a requirement for U.S.-listed companies to disclose Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions, including farms and ranches.

The final rule is considered a victory for farmers and ranchers who spoke out against the "Enhancement and Standardization of Climate Related Disclosures for Investors" rule.

The final rule relieves a significant burden on food companies that rely on agricultural commodities across their supply chains. That rule was touted by the SEC as a way to protect

investors in publicly traded companies by requiring those companies to report data about their entire supply chains.

When the rule was proposed in April 2022, a group of more than 100 agriculture interest groups expressed concern that the rule could have required farms and ranches to report personal and business-related information to the SEC.

Groups like the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) said the rule was potentially dangerous to ag because nearly all ag products eventually touch publicly traded companies.

AFBF President Zippy Du-

vall said it was good to see the SEC withdraw an "overreaching" Scope 3 requirement.

"Farmers are committed to protecting the natural resources they've been entrusted with, and they continue to advance climate-smart agriculture, but they cannot afford to hire compliance officers just to handle SEC reporting requirements," he said in a statement.

"This is especially true for small farms that would have likely been squeezed out of the supply chain."

The state of California also passed a law requiring companies conduct-

ing report Scope 3 emissions.

"Now that the SEC has thoughtfully evaluated the issue, AFBF urges California to follow the SEC's lead by withdrawing its Scope 3 reporting requirement for any company doing business in the state," AFBF said in a news release.

Environmental groups, including Friends of the Earth, said in response that the SEC's commission's 3-2 decision to leave agriculture and other industries out of the reporting rule was a mistake.

"SEC gutting its final climate disclosure rule is a massive giveaway to big ag and big oil, delivering a blow to invest-

ors," said Erich Pica, president of Friends of the Earth.

"Amid escalating climate-related financial risks, these rollbacks signify a profound failure to ensure fair, orderly and efficient markets. This is a huge miss for the Biden administration. By caving to the big ag lobby, SEC allows some of the world's biggest, most climate-destructive corporations to conceal their massive greenhouse gas footprints."

The group said in a news release that Scope 3 emissions from upstream supply chains or downstream product consumption make up the vast majority of overall emissions for the food and agriculture sectors.

"For example, a recent analysis estimated that Scope 3 emissions from JBS (the world's largest meat company) constitute 97% of the company's emissions," FOE said in a news release.

"This decision by SEC exposes investors to financial risk from incomplete information about a company's climate-risk profile."

Still, the SEC rule also had critics claiming the agency did not need to highlight climate challenges. Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) said in a news release that existing security regulations already require public companies to annually disclose material risks and financial effects.

"The SEC's final climate disclosure rule is the definition of federal overreach," Cramer said.

"Congress didn't give the SEC any authority for this mandate, nor is the commission an environmental regu-

lator. Not only is this outside their legal bounds, forcing publicly traded companies to report their emissions data opens them up to new liabilities while giving a competitive edge to dirtier foreign producers who have no such burdensome requirements."

The rule breaks emissions into three categories. Companies with more than \$75 million in revenues would have to report so-called Scope 1 and 2 emissions directly from their operations. Scope 3 covers emissions from customers and supply chains.

SEC Chairman Gary Gensler said in a statement the rule gives investors the power to decide what risks they want to take.

"These final rules build on past requirements by mandating material climate risk disclosures by public companies and in public offerings," he said.

"The rules will provide investors with consistent, comparable, and decision-useful information, and issuers with clear reporting requirements. Further, they will provide specificity on what companies must disclose, which will produce more useful information than what investors see today."

Once the rule is published in the Federal Register, it will take effect within 60 days.

Before adopting the final rule, the SEC considered more than 24,000 comment letters in response to the rule's release in March 2022.

Back in September 2022, more than 80 members of the U.S. House of Representatives introduced legislation to end the rule. — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

## Evaluating cow efficiency during calving season

Does our selection and breeding program result in a cow herd that is suited to our resources? Can our available resources support our current cow herd or are we attempting to make a highly productive cow function in an inadequate environment? Calving season can be an excellent time to answer these questions.

Calving sequence analysis can reveal useful information about your cows, your management and how well your existing cow herd fits your production environment. A characteristic of sound reproductive management is a short calving season, usually 60-65 days in length. Split the calving season into three 21-day intervals.

If you are having 70%, 20% and 10% of all calves born from mature cows in the first, second and third intervals, without excessive energy supplementation (during the previous breeding season), it indicates a practical match of cow genotype (mature size and milk production) and your production environment (forage/feed resources).

Following are other potential indicators of a mismatch of cow genotype to available forage/feed resources:

1. Yearling replacement heifers that fail to reach puberty and/or breed by 13-15 months of age and calve by 24 months of age.
2. Infertility of 2-year

old first calf heifers during a defined breeding season, (the most common reproductive challenge).

3. Excessive weight/body condition loss after calving.

4. Decline of percentage of cows calving early (less favorable calving sequence analysis).

5. Reduced overall conception rate.

In operations with a good herd health program, any of these problems is a signal that cows are too big and/or give too much milk to fit the production system they are in. There are a number of factors entering the decision about optimum mature size and milk production. Ultimately, the reproductive rate of the cow herd determines the practical limit or optimum combination of each. Selection programs to improve the fit can be accomplished through using bulls with lower EPDs for Mature Weight, Mature Height and Milk.

Production environments vary a great deal in beef production. Fertility is low in heritability and largely influenced by environment. A cow herd of optimum mature size and milk level relative to a given production environment creates the potential to increase revenue in the form of increased reproductive efficiency. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

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# Ranch contends EPA's claims are unfounded

## CWA VIOLATION (from page 1)

The Blacks explained the decision to convert from flood irrigation to pivot was to save water and prevent runoff into the Turneau River.

Telby Black continued they received a letter in February 2021 from the Corps asking questions, which he said "did not pertain to the operation at all." He called the Corps and was told the EPA would also be sending questions and if those were answered, the Corps would be satisfied.

According to the complaint, the Black family initially consented to having EPA and the Corps visit the ranch in May 2021. However, the evening before they were scheduled to arrive, the Black family withdrew their consent and filed a complaint and a motion for preliminary injunction in the district court seeking to prevent the agencies from entering the ranch. The court dismissed the complaint on Feb. 4, 2022.

Government officials served a warrant to search the ranch in May 2021 and inspected the ranch for three days. Telby Black explained they did not hear anything from the agencies after attempts to contact them until April 2023, when 14 people from EPA conducted another inspection for five days.

The complaint claims aerial imagery revealed sand and gravel mining operations and equipment, and during their inspections, the EPA and Corps saw evidence of "mechanical scraping, pushing, or pulling of earth in and next to the Bruneau River and adjacent wetlands, and observed large piles of sand and gravel near the Bruneau River, along its banks, and in adjacent wetlands."

The complaint further states the ranch attempted to stabilize the bank of the Bruneau River by using heavy machinery, to discharge dredged material into the river and adjacent wetlands.

EPA seeks to enjoin unauthorized discharges of pollutants, including sediment, sand, gravel and dredged material, as well as stormwater, to the Bruneau River and adjacent wetlands. Additionally, the federal government aims to compel Ace Black Ranches, at its own expense and under EPA direction, to restore affected waters on the site, obtain necessary permits, and pay civil penalties as mandated by Section 309(d) of the CWA.

## Ace Black Ranches' response

Ace Black Ranches issued a statement they

are disappointed by the actions of the EPA and the claims asserted by the agency are unfounded and the ranch is committed to stewardship.

*"EPA's misguided attempts to expand its jurisdiction and reach over agricultural farm and ranch activities are bound to fail, based on the facts and the law in this case."*

— Ace Black Ranches

"Ace Black Ranches' long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship is unwavering," the statement read. "EPA's misguided attempts to expand its jurisdiction and reach over agricultural farm and ranch activities are bound to fail, based on the facts and the law in this case."

The statement asserts that gravel on farms for roads and tracks for pivot irrigation are a common agricultural practice and do not require a CWA permit. The statement continues the conversion to pivot irrigation is promoted by the federal government and its claims the installation destroyed wetlands are invalid. The ranch said the alleged wetlands on the property are distinguishable from the river and the EPA has no basis for jurisdiction citing the recent decision by the Supreme Court in the Sackett v. EPA case.

In the opinion of the court for the Sackett case, Justice Samuel Alito argued the definition of "waters of the United States" proposed by the late Justice Scalia was the correct one, which implies that wetlands lacking a direct surface connection to another federally protected water body should not receive the same level of protection.

Ulmann said in the statement that EPA will hold companies accountable for conducting "illegal activities" in rivers and adjacent wetlands that threaten fisheries, neighboring properties, and downstream communities. — Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor

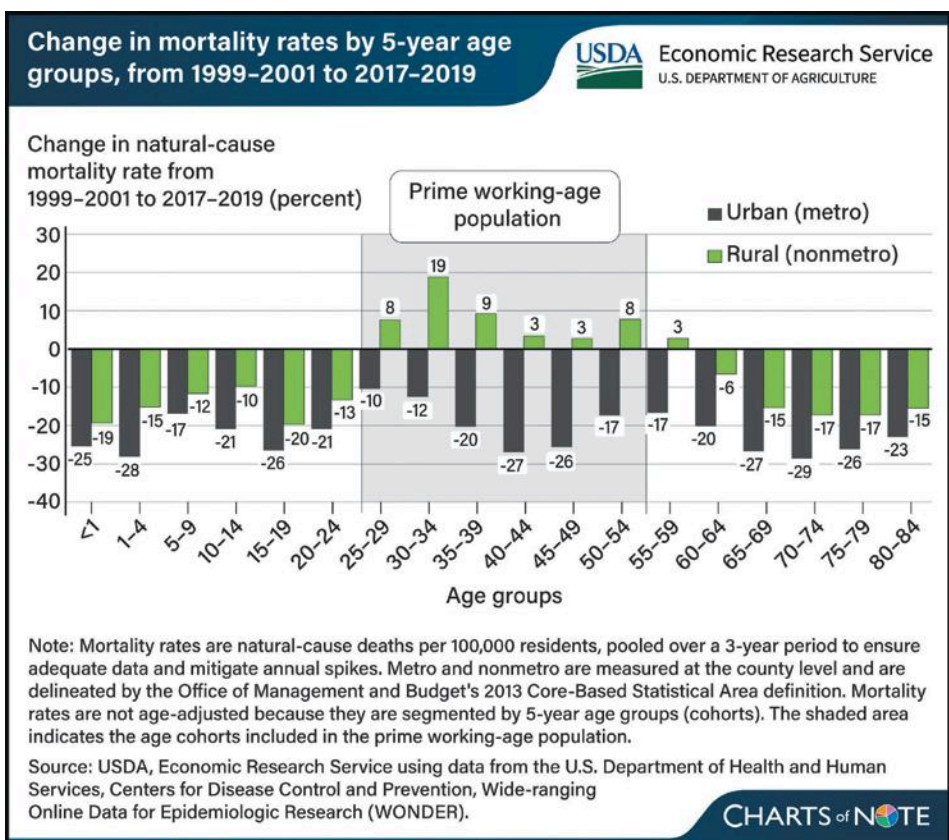
# Mortality gap grows between rural, urban areas

Over the last two decades, disease-related (natural-cause) mortality rates have widened between rural and urban areas, especially for the prime working-age population (aged 25-54).

Researchers with USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) compared natural-cause mortality in rural and urban areas between two 3-year periods, 1999-2001 and 2017-19. They found the gap between rural and urban natural-cause mortality rates widened between the two time periods.

Natural-cause mortality rates decreased across all age groups in urban areas. In rural areas, mortality rates decreased for most age groups (although not as much as for the same groups in urban areas) but increased for the prime working-age population.

The rural group with the largest increase (19%) in natural-cause mortality rates was 30- to 34-year-olds. Increased mortality



rates for people who are of prime working age are an indicator of worsening

population health, which could have negative implications for rural families,

communities, employment, and the economy. — USDA ERS

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# An outlook for the 2024 grazing, haying season

This winter has provided warmer than average temperatures, which are much appreciated after last winter. However, these mild temperatures have been accompanied by slightly below normal moisture through early March and the expansion of drought conditions.

Factors that will influence forage production in 2024 are last year's fall moisture, last year's grazing management and this year's April through June precipitation.

"In 2023, the timing of rain in each region is what drove forage production, with the western regions of North Dakota having an outstanding forage year and the northern and northeastern regions having a poor year," said Kevin Sedivec, North Dakota State University (NDSU) rangeland management specialist.

The 2024 forage outlook starts with 2023 fall moisture. Cool-season grasses, which make up over 95% of grass hay and 70-80% of pasture forage in North Dakota, de-

velop new tillers in September and October that become the first growth in the spring. The absence of fall tillers can delay spring green-up by up to two weeks and can impact overall forage production by over 50%, added Sedivec.

Tillers that develop in the spring come from buds that broke dormancy in the spring, usually when soil temperatures stay about 40 F for three or more days. The tillers established in the fall will grow as soon as temperatures reach 32 F for five consecutive days.

## Impacts of fall moisture

With the exception of the northcentral, northeastern and southeastern regions of North Dakota, most of the state received 80-150% of normal precipitation in September through October. This fall moisture would have created new fall growth, setting up much of the state to have a normal forage production year.

However, the northern regions of the state—especially the northeastern section—were in a drought for much of 2023 that continued into the fall. These areas of the state will more than likely have a below normal outlook for both hay and grazing forage this year.

## Fall grazing management

Although much of the state should have had good fall tiller production, fall and winter grazing management can override this benefit. If these tillers are eaten or die due to drought, then spring growth must occur from new tillers developed in April and May.

Heavy grazing during the fall and/or winter that resulted in the removal of the growing point (between the bottom two leaves) from tillers will cause additional stress and tiller mortality. In the event of high fall tiller mortality, grasses will need to develop a new tiller in the spring, delaying growth two to three weeks.

Heavy grazing use in the fall not only delays growth but causes reductions in overall plant growth and forage production. Data collected by NDSU Extension found that severe grazing use, greater than 80% removal of available forage, reduces growth of cool-season grasses and forage production. Forage production was reduced by as much as 57% on sites evaluated as having severe grazing use the previous fall.

"So, if you grazed your tillers short last fall or during the winter months, expect a delay in green-up and forage production in 2024," said Sedivec. "Plan to defer these pastures from grazing in the spring of 2024."

## Impacts of winter snow, spring rain

As of Feb. 27, 87% of the state is experiencing some level of drought. Although snow is important for refreshing water sources, most years snow only adds about 25% of the total

moisture for plant growth. Because the ground is usually still frozen when snow melts, most of the moisture flows overland into water bodies.

"Spring rain is still the most important moisture for overall forage production," said Miranda Meehan, NDSU Extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist. "April through June precipitation drives forage production in North Dakota. Due to the dominance of cool-season grasses, rains during this period are responsible for 80-90% of forage production in the state."

## Plan for the 2024 grazing season

NDSU Extension developed the following scenarios based on spring precipitation and management:

- If spring precipitation is normal, the region received near normal fall moisture, and no overgrazing occurred in the fall, expect a normal turn-out date for grazing with normal pasture and hay production.

- If spring precipitation is normal, but the plants didn't produce many fall tillers (such as in northeastern and northcentral North Dakota and northern regions of Minnesota), expect a delay in plant development and lower production due to a loss in tiller development following a dry growing season and fall. Further reductions will occur if pastures were grazed heavily in the fall.

- If spring precipitation is 130% or more above normal, expect normal to above normal forage production in most of the state. However, the areas impacted by severe drought will more than likely still experience below normal production in 2024 unless moisture is

above 150% of normal.

- If spring precipitation is below normal, expect reduced forage production and a decline in forage quality earlier in the season.

Regardless of spring precipitation, to prevent reductions in plant health and production, pasture turnout should occur when the dominant forage species in a pasture reach grazing readiness, said Meehan. Grazing readiness for most domesticated pastures, such as smooth brome, crested wheatgrass and orchardgrass, is at the three-leaf stage, whereas grazing readiness for most native range grasses is the three-and-a-half-leaf stage. For more information on evaluating grazing readiness contact your local NDSU Extension agent or refer to [ndsu.ag/grazing2024](https://ndsu.ag/grazing2024).

"When production is low due to delayed tiller development, it becomes easy to run out of forage quickly if you go to full stock too early, leading to overuse," said Sedivec. "This overuse during early green-up leads to reduced plant vigor and reduced leaf area, impacting photosynthesis and reducing food (carbohydrate) stored in roots. In the end, you may sacrifice 45-60% of forage production for the year by grazing too early."

Timely precipitation is critical to forage growth and production, the specialists say. Equally critical is the use of management practices that maintain healthy, vigorous plant communities that can withstand disturbances.

"Regardless of what spring brings, we encourage you to have a drought plan in place with well-defined trigger dates to reduce risk on your ranch," Meehan said. — NDSU Extension



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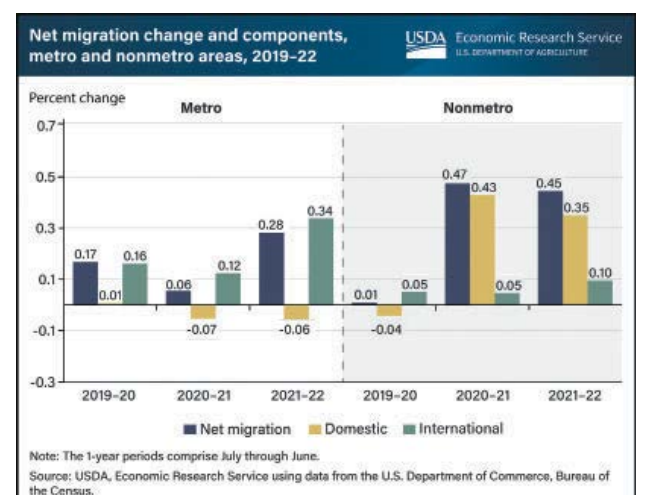
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## Urban area migration spurs rural populations



Both rural (nonmetro) and urban (metro) populations grew because of increased migration over the last few years; however, the sources of the increased migration are different. In 2020-21 and 2021-22, rural areas experienced an increase in population because more people moved from urban to rural areas than in the opposite direction, a reversal of domestic migration trends from the previous decade.

Domestic migration occurs when people move among areas within the U.S. Net domestic migration in rural areas jumped from near zero in

2019-20 to more than 0.35% in the last two years. Fear of exposure to COVID-19 in urban areas and the subsequent increase in remote work contributed to this dramatic shift in migration patterns.

Conversely, urban areas increased their population through migration from other countries. International migration to urban areas reached a peak of 0.34% in 2021-22. The growth in migration rates for both urban and rural areas are somewhat offset by elevated death rates (which are falling from pandemic highs) and lower birth rates. — USDA Economic Research Service

# 'Dimming' genes brings transformative potential to ag

Until the 1992 advent of a tomato that could delay softening, the fruit was picked green to withstand shipping. The delayed-softening trait was an example of the gene-silencing technique RNA interference (RNAi) before the underlying mechanism was understood and the term was created.

Through the years, scientists across the globe have developed a greater understanding of RNAi. One team, through the Council for Agricultural Science and Technology (CAST) has published a thought piece on RNAi's transformative potential in modern agriculture. Its title is "RNA Interference in Agriculture: Methods, Applications and Governance."

Keerti Rathore, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Research plant biotechnologist in the Texas A&M Department of Soil and Crop Sciences, was one of six scientists who joined lead authors Ana María Vélez Arango, assistant professor, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Kenneth Narva, head of entomology, GreenLight Biosciences Inc. on the paper.

waii's papaya industry. Additional RNAi research has been conducted using some commercially available virus-resistant squashes.

"People didn't know about the underlying mechanism (RNAi), but they were already using it," he said.

Rathore explained that RNAi silences a targeted gene in a plant or animal in a unique way. It differs from the better-known CRISPR, which completely targets and knocks out genes.

"CRISPR is like the on/off switch," Rathore said. "The entire function of the gene is gone upon its knockout. In contrast, RNAi is like a dimmer switch used to adjust the lighting in the room, but, in this case, it dims the level of gene expression."

Genes and their products have useful roles in the life of the plant or animal, he said. If that gene is totally knocked out, there might be unexpected or unwanted effects. "If you use RNAi to reduce gene expression level by 50-90%, you can avoid the detrimental effects of a total knockout. Also, you can target a gene for silencing with RNAi in a highly tissue-specific manner."

specificity like you can with RNAi. The tissue-specific gene silencing allowed us to create this ultra-low gossypol cottonseed. If we totally eliminated it, insects would target that plant much more."

Tissue-specific targeting of another gene using the RNAi has also allowed Australian scientists to increase the oleic level in cottonseed oil, making it almost as good as olive oil, Rathore said.

## RNAi acceptance worldwide

The authors of the paper, supported by the USDA's

Agricultural Research Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, believe it can serve as a resource for regulatory agencies, policymakers and the public.

Rathore said interest continues to grow in RNAi technology to control pests and diseases. The paper outlines the current applications of RNAi in agriculture, provides regulatory perspectives on RNAi-based pesticides, and discusses the challenges and prospects of the technology in

commercial agriculture.

"As people become more familiar with the technology, I'm optimistic that it will become more widely accepted," he said. "There are more products already coming through. RNAi silencing has been used to reduce the level of caffeine in the coffee plant, where it is possible now to have coffee with a low level of caffeine without the need for chemical extraction. We want to educate people about this technology and the benefits it can deliver."

Another area where RNAi technology is taking

off and has hit markets is in the control of corn rootworms. Instead of creating the trait within the plant, researchers are testing a spray to control specific insect pests by inhibiting their growth and development.

"This technology is one tool that can help us maintain our productivity by lowering the cost of growing a crop and providing safety for humans and the environment by reducing the need for toxic chemicals," Rathore said. — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

"If you use RNAi to reduce gene expression level by 50-90%, you can avoid the detrimental effects of a total knockout."

— Keerti Rathore

RNAi is a gene-silencing mechanism commonly found in plants, animals and fungi. It's believed to serve as a natural defense against viruses and other cellular invaders. However, researchers have discovered many applications of RNAi for health and agriculture. The authors of the paper say RNAi has become a powerful crop protection and enhancement tool. The technique targets specific messenger RNA, or mRNA, in organisms and offers an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional pesticides. Its high specificity minimizes unintended effects on nontarget organisms, improving safety and efficacy.

## RNAi technology explained

Rathore said RNAi technology has been used to benefit agricultural products for years. But the mechanisms underlying desirable traits produced by the previously unnamed technology needed to be better understood.

Papaya was the first crop showing virus resistance due to RNAi technology. As the papaya ringspot virus ravaged Hawaii's papaya production in the late 90s, researchers at Cornell University sought to develop a resistant variety. Rathore said these researchers might not have known how it worked at the time, but they used RNAi to save Ha-

Texas A&M and researchers like Rathore are among those doing research to improve the quality of food products. Rathore's gossypol work is a prime example. Ultra-low gossypol cottonseed is the first product using RNAi that has come out of a university and gone through deregulation— approved by the USDA and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

Gossypol, which is a toxic compound, is present throughout the cotton plant and is valued for the protection it provides the plant from insects and some diseases, Rathore said. But because gossypol is also present in the seeds, they can't be used as food or feed for nonruminant animals despite their high protein and oil content. Rathore said this is especially important because many cotton-producing countries, particularly in Asia and Africa, suffer from hunger and malnutrition.

But, in 2019, the FDA gave the green light for ultra-low gossypol cottonseed to be used as human food and in animal feed based on Rathore's work to remove the toxicity in the seed, something he had been working on for nearly 25 years.

"RNAi allows us to silence that gossypol gene in the seed, but when the seed grows into a plant, everything goes back to normal in the plant except for the next generation of seeds," he said. "With CRISPR, you cannot achieve tissue

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15.4	-3.9	73	124	27	63	1.7	0.93	0.24	268.41
15%	15%	15%	25%	35%	20%	3%	9%	15%	25%

LT Atlas x LT Blue Value | AICA EM989731

**LT Shortcut 342**



CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MILK	CLAW	ANGLE	MB	\$M	\$W
9	-0.5	70	119	+1.09	28	+0.44	+0.42	+0.71	77	70

Sitz Resilient x Styles Exchange Rate (Barstow Cash) | AAA 20699592


**LT Seamless 3552 PLD**



CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MTL	SC	REA	MB	TSI
11.7	-0.3	81	148	29	70	1.4	0.75	0.15	286.67
45%	65%	4%	2%	20%	4%	15%	40%	40%	4%

Powerstroke x Rushmore | AICA M989545

**LT Falcon 3011**



CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MILK	CLAW	ANGLE	MB	RE	\$M	\$W
12	-0.2	74	128	1.55	26	0.23	0.28	0.40	0.69	104	77

S Armstrong x U-2 Coalition | AAA 20781694


**LT Landslide 3410 PLD**



CE	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MTL	SC	REA	MB	TSI
5.8	1.3	91	156	29	75	1.6	0.75	0.01	283.49
90%	90%	1%	1%	20%	1%	5%	40%	90%	6%

LT Governor x Fargo | AICA M989808

**LT Fireball 3172**



CED	BW	WW	YW	SC	MILK	CLAW	ANGLE	MB	RE	\$M	\$W	SC
4	2.1	69	124	0.66	19	0.35	0.42	0.71	0.52	71	57	256

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# Saving the cattle herd with milo grazing

Missouri cattle producer John Chamberlin didn't want to sell his cows when drought lingered and hay supplies and forages dwindled last year.

With more than 600 head of Angus cows, Chamberlin looked to the internet for ideas. A University of Missouri (MU) Extension video on the benefits of grazing standing milo intrigued him.

He called the video's creator, agronomist Rusty Lee in Montgomery County, to learn more. With the help of Pettis County livestock specialist Gene Schmitz, they set up one-on-one Zoom training for Chamberlin at the MU Extension Center in Pettis County.

In spite of the drought, Chamberlin grew 115 acres of milo that made 80 to 90 bushels per acre. Lee and Schmitz then visited Chamberlin's Henry County farm to see his operation, assess the grain yield and make recommendations on carrying capacity and daily allocation area size.

Lee, a longtime proponent of grazing of standing milo, wanted to help Chamberlin implement the alternative feeding plan that has worked for nearly a decade on Lee's own farm and others in east-central Missouri.

Chamberlin was ready to take a leap of faith. "I have no feed," he told them. "If this milo thing doesn't work, I'm going to have to sell cows."

His gamble paid off.

Milo's drought resistance and low cost make it a good option, especially when hay is scarce and expensive. It also solves the challenge of making hay in May, the month typically with the most rainfall. No longer do you

have to worry about curing hay when there are clouds in the sky. "You just sit there and watch your milo grow," said Lee.

Milo does best for grain production when planted May to early June. Planting can follow winter wheat, but Lee recommends allowing the full growing season. Using polywire electric fencing, the producer moves cows daily to a fresh paddock. Lee describes it as "taking the cows to the feed rather than taking the feed to the cows."

Producers also see another benefit. The herd's urine and manure retain soil nutrients taken up by the plants, so the nutrients are not exported off the farm as bushels of grain.

Lee gives some math lessons in milo. An average milo yield of 120 bushels per acre is 6,720 pounds of grain. Taking into consideration the observed feeding losses of 25% as the cattle graze, that leaves 5,040 lbs. per acre into the mouths of cows. Allocating 12 lbs. of grain per cow per day yields a carrying capacity of 420 cow days per acre.

Waiting two weeks after the fall killing frost before grazing avoids prussic acid concerns. Typically, a Nov. 1 start allows grazing all winter until the planted acres are consumed. While it is possible to graze milo until spring green-up of pastures, March winds combined with deteriorating stalk strength make it a good idea to conclude milo grazing by Valentine's Day.

Chamberlin said cows adjust to moving to a new paddock each morning. They are ready and waiting for their owner to move the poly wire at daybreak. Cows with a "healthy respect" for electric fence do best in this setup, said Lee.

Chamberlin said the process is remarkably short—20 minutes. That's far less time than he would spend putting hay into rings or rolling it out on the ground.

Infrastructure needs such as water and fencing for rotational grazing remain, and fields may require some spring discing after cattle trample them. Milo shows little disease pressure in most of the state, although southwestern Missouri has seen some aphids.

Composite forage tests of all plant parts consumed show total digestible nutrient values of 73-75% and crude protein of 7%. That is adequate energy, but requires protein supplementation, said Lee. Various commodity feeds like soybean meal or high-quality hay can provide this.

Chamberlin said he moved cows off milo to shelter and fed them hay during extreme cold spells this winter.

At the end of the season, Chamberlin found that he got 375 cow days per acre on the 115 acres of milo he planted. Lee estimated yield between 80 and 90 bushels per acre.

"Milo grazing is economical compared to buying hay, especially this year," said Chamberlin. "It's always going to be a part of my program." His only regret is that he didn't plant more milo this year. In spring, he plans to broadcast a mix of cover crop seeds before planting milo again.

"It was a home run for me," he said. Chamberlin said milo grazing saved him from buying 1,400 bales of hay this winter. Hay sold on the low end this year at \$65 for a big

bale, which would have cost \$91,000. On the higher end, at \$125 per bale, that's a savings of \$175,000 for his herd. He also saved time and labor.

That's why milo grazing is a practice you can bank on, said Lee. "He's really putting money in his pocket."

Lee gives these tips for planting milo for grazing:

- Wait until soil temperatures reach 60 F or

more to plant.

- Don't plant too thick. Your goal is to grow grain, not forage.

- Use a pre-emergent herbicide for weed control. Once weeds emerge in milo, they are difficult to control.

- Have a fertility plan in place. A split application of 120-150 lbs. of nitrogen does well. Test soil for phosphorus and potassi-

um needs.

- Don't force cows to graze to the dirt. Ideally, cows eat to about 18 inches of stalk residue within two hours.

- Lee's experience shows that milo for grazing performs best when planted in 30-inch rows.

- Choose milo varieties for closed heads and good stalk strength or lodging scores. — **MU Extension**

## P&S Act rule goes into effect in May

### P&S ACT (from page 1)

- Discriminatory prejudices relating to a producer's characteristics.

- Retaliation for engaging in certain acts as part of being a producer.

- False or misleading statements or material omissions in certain contexts.

Regarding discrimination, the final rule will prohibit actions that inhibit market access based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, marital status or age. In addition, the rule prohibits actions that interfere with lawful communications, assertion of rights, associational participation and other protected activities.

The rule also prohibits companies from making false or misleading statements or omitting information in contract formation, performance or termination. Additionally, the rule prohibits companies from giving false or misleading representations regarding refusal to contract.

Finally, the rule mandates recordkeeping to support USDA monitoring, evaluation and enforcement of compliance.

"This final rule also affirms the importance of a clear and direct regulatory

framework with respect to prohibited conduct, thus protecting producers in the marketplace," the rule read.

The rule goes into effect May 6. More information on the final rule can be found at [tinyurl.com/3ckwacud](https://tinyurl.com/3ckwacud).

### Industry reactions

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) said it is concerned with the rule's unforeseen impacts on standard business practices.

"We have remained consistently opposed to any discriminatory practices in the marketplace," said NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Ethan Lane in a statement.

"We continue to urge USDA to ensure this rule remains focused on its stated objective—with which we wholeheartedly agree—and does not stray into extraneous, unrelated subject matter discussed in the proposal's preamble."

The North American Meat Institute (NAMI) said the updated rule does nothing to encourage competition and instead gives the USDA more authority to exert control over business contracts.

"These changes are simply an attempt to assert even more federal authority to regulate the equities of indus-

try business practices, clogging the federal courts with every contract dispute," said Julie Anna Potts, NAMI president and CEO in a statement. "Congress never intended to give the agency such broad-ranging authority over meat industry contracts and practices, regardless of their effect on competition—and the courts have agreed."

Andy Green, senior adviser for fair and competitive markets at USDA, said the P&S Act stands for the basic proposition that producers should be able to compete in the marketplace without fear of retaliation. "To deliver the best products and the most competitive prices, we need competitive markets and markets with integrity," Green said. "That's what this final rule is designed to deliver."

The final rule is the latest in a series of rules USDA has been working to finalize since pledging in 2021 to update P&S Act enforcement. USDA announced the first rule in the summer of 2022, which was directed mostly at the poultry industry. The second rule came later in the fall, which prohibited prejudices against "market-vulnerable individuals." — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**



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# Emergency cattle nutrition strategies after a wildfire

Wildfire can leave a ranching operation without forage, requiring a sudden and radical change in management to maintain animals immediately after the event.

alternatives are intended to minimize stress and weight loss in cases where standing forage or hay is limited or non-existent.

These emergency nutritional management pro-

“Limiting the amount of hay that is fed dramatically reduces hay waste and stretches the forage supply.”

Fortunately, the ruminant animal is resilient and can adapt to a wide range of diet composition and feeding management levels. David Lalman, Oklahoma State University (OSU) Extension beef cattle specialist, and Dana Zook, OSU Extension west district livestock specialist, suggest the stop-gap nutritional management strategies provided below. These

grams are based on a limit feeding strategy because digestive upset and founder can occur when concentrate feeds are overfed to unadapted animals, and it is assumed the hay resource will be limited for the next several months until pasture green-up occurs. Limiting the amount of hay that is fed dramatically reduces hay waste and stretches the forage supply.

## Strategy No. 1

Creep feed for four to five days. In cases where there is no forage immediately available, a low-protein, low-starch commercial feed product can be used for a short period to minimize weight loss until hay can be secured. Many commercial feed companies produce and inventory calf creep feeds or a growing ration/feed with similar characteristics. These products will generally contain around 12-14% protein and 8-12% crude fiber. Some of these feeds are pelleted and some are textured.

Another advantage of this program is that many companies keep an inventory of this type of feed bagged and ready to ship immediately. Feeds with these characteristics can be fed daily at around 0.6% of body weight to minimize weight loss in pregnant beef cows. This

feeding rate is equivalent to 8 pounds of feed per day assuming cows weigh about 1,200 lbs. The low feeding rate is intentional because a sudden switch from free-choice forage to a grain (or concentrate) diet can result in digestive upset and founder. The risk is increased tremendously if the concentrate is overfed to animals that are not adapted.

Therefore, this program should be used no more than four or five days because weight loss will occur (due to the limited feeding rate), minerals will not be balanced, and the roughage component in the diet is not adequate to maintain long-term health of the cattle. The cattle should be fed every day and at about the same time each day. Weight loss should be limited to about 0.75 to 1 lb. per day until hay or another forage source can be provided.

Once hay is available, priority should be given to providing enough long-stemmed hay to keep the rumen healthy and provide a balanced diet to sustain the animals until adequate spring forage is available. If hay supplies are limited, the inventory can be stretched by using a limit feeding strategy.

## Strategy No. 2

Feed limited hay with creep feed. One method is to provide very limited hay (about 0.5% of body weight) plus about 1% of body weight concentrate feed like creep feed. Cattle must be fed both hay and concentrate every day. Be sure both feed sources are distributed far enough to allow all animals abundant access. Begin feeding about 8 lbs. of concentrate, and gradually increase to 12 lbs.

If hay is more abundant, 15 lbs. of grass hay fed with 5 lbs. of a 28-32% range cube can maintain a 1,200-lb. cow in the last trimester of pregnancy. Again, the hay should be rolled out to ensure each animal has equal opportunity to consume their share of the limited hay resource. The cattle

must be fed every day, and again, it is recommended that cattle be fed about the same time each day.

In both cases, the priority is to meet nutritional needs while stretching the hay supply.

## Supplements and wheat pasture

Producers should consider working with their feed industry professional and/or Extension educator to ensure a well-balanced diet for their cattle. In most of these limit-feeding scenarios, a mineral supplement with a high level of calcium is essential to offset high levels of phosphorus in concentrate feeds.

Wheat pasture mineral is a good option for this, but producers should also ensure that salt and vitamin A are also included in the diet. As always, a source of clean, fresh water is paramount to all other feed sources.

For more information, contact Dana Zook at [dana.zook@okstate.edu](mailto:dana.zook@okstate.edu) or David Lalman at [david.lalman@okstate.edu](mailto:david.lalman@okstate.edu). — OSU Extension

## Determining when cooked meat is safe to eat

The form of myoglobin and other factors contribute to cooked meat color and make color a poor indicator of if meat is safe to eat.

Have you ever eaten a hamburger that is brown in color and actually undercooked? What about one that is still pinkish in color and safe to eat? If you are scratching your head thinking this is not possible, purchase and use a meat thermometer and see what happens. Michigan State University (MSU) Extension indicates that using a meat thermometer is the only safe way to determine doneness of meat.

Color is not an indicator of doneness, especially in ground meats. Ground meat needs to be cooked to 160 F, whole muscle meats to at least 145 F, and poultry to 165 F.

Myoglobin breaks down during cooking and causes meat to be brownish in color when cooked to well done (170-plus F). Meat at lower degrees of doneness such as rare (140 F) and medium rare (145 F) has not fully denatured and still provides some red or pinkish red color to the cooked meat. For the most part, this holds true for whole muscle fresh meat purchased at retail, however this is not always the case. The presence of oxygen and the state that the iron attached to the myoglobin protein can determine what cooked color actually appears.

Premature browning is what happens when the inside of a ground beef patty is completely brown but not cooked to a high degree of doneness (around 130-135 F). This can pose a significant food safety problem, especially for consumers who rely on color as an indicator of doneness in ground beef.

Ground beef that has a higher amount of oxidized myoglobin in the metmyoglobin form is more apt to result in premature browning. Other factors that can contribute to premature

browning include exposure to oxygen during packaging, pH, freeze-thaw dynamics of patties, the length and temperature meat was stored at, type of muscles that were used in grinding and the addition of salt to the meat.

Since metmyoglobin is brown in color, it is not surprising that hamburger containing metmyoglobin will be brown in patties regardless of the endpoint temperature. The important part to remember is that cooked ground beef must be cooked to an internal temperature of 160 F for one second, regardless of its internal color.

Persistent pink is when portions of fully cooked meat have red or pink appearance to them. Persistent pinking is found on the inside of a ground beef patty and when not all of the myoglobin breaks down during cooking. This occurs more when the iron on the myoglobin protein is in the reduced state and is purplish (deoxymyoglobin) or red (oxymyoglobin) in color, if the meat has high myoglobin content (from cows or bulls), and if muscle pH is higher.

Increasing the endpoint temperature of this kind of meat may decrease the pinkness, but it may never turn completely brown. Persistent pink also can occur in the first few millimeters of the surface of a meat product. This is most common in meat grilled on charcoal or gas and shows up as a pink ring. The gas nitrogen dioxide may be present during the cooking as the fuel combusts. This creates a pigment from myoglobin called nitrosylhemochrome. The pink ring that forms near the surface of the cooked meat often fades or disappears after it is exposed to air or light. The bottom line regarding persistent pinking in cooked meat is that it is safe to consume providing the endpoint temperature is confirmed with a thermometer.

The majority of the original research conducted on

premature browning and persistent pinking was conducted at Kansas State Uni-

versity. — Jeannine Schwehofer, MSU Extension

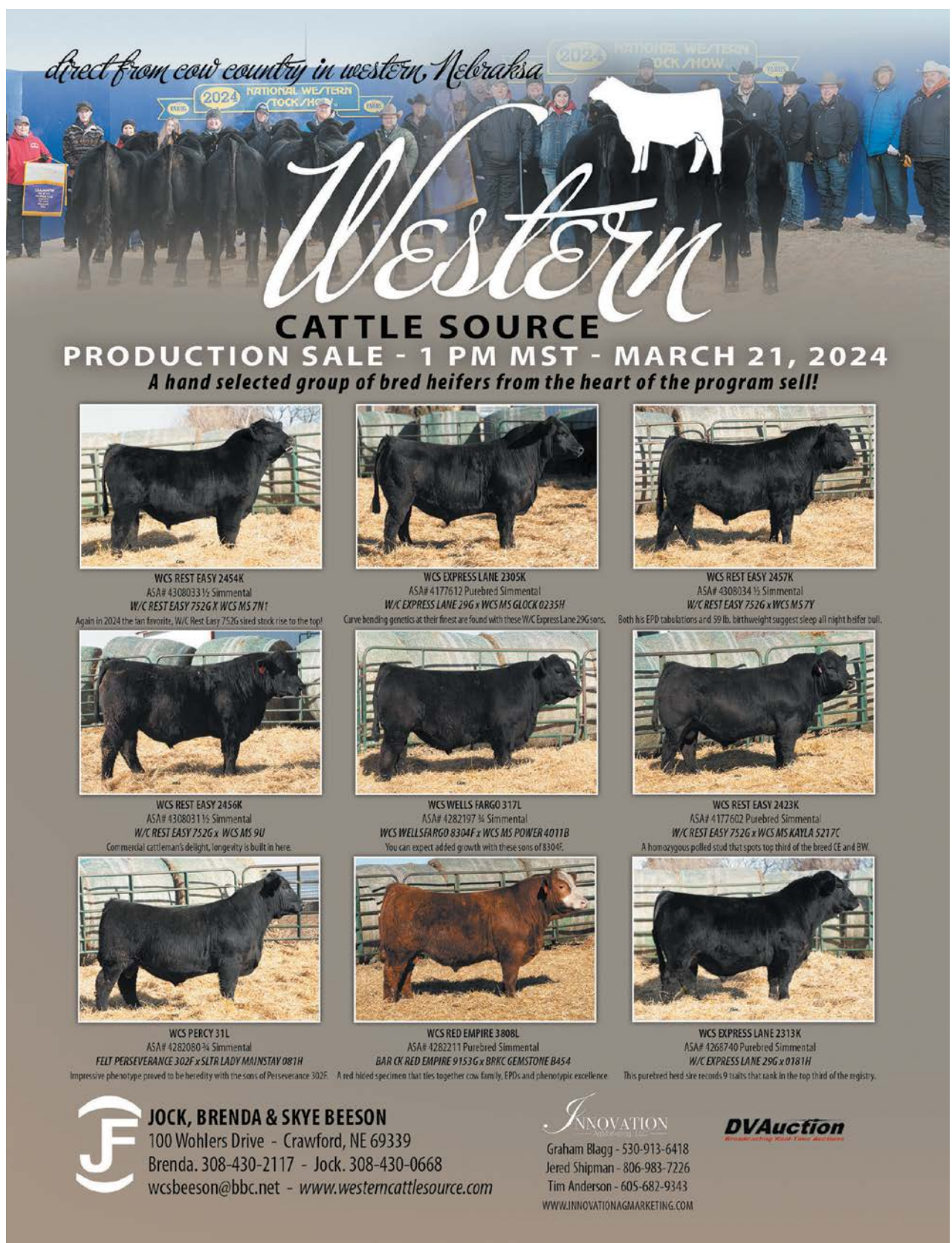
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# Sunsetting tax provisions would increase farms that owe taxes

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) made significant changes to federal individual income and estate tax policies, though some policies were temporary. In 2018, the TCJA increased the estate tax exemption amount from \$5.49 million to \$11.18 million. This increase is set to expire at the end of 2025.

The exclusion amount will revert in 2026 to the pre-TCJA level, adjusted for inflation, of \$6.98 million per deceased person. For married couples, a portability provision in estate tax law allows the surviving spouse to use any unused portion of the deceased spouse's exemption.

Researchers with the USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) estimated the expiring increased exemption would be \$13.95 million per person at the time of the expiration. Lowering the level of the estate tax exemption in 2026 is estimated to increase the percent of farm operator estates taxed from 0.3 to 1.0. This means that of the estimated 40,883 estates that are expected to be created in 2026, the expiration of the increased exemption would raise the number of estates that owe tax from 120 to 424.

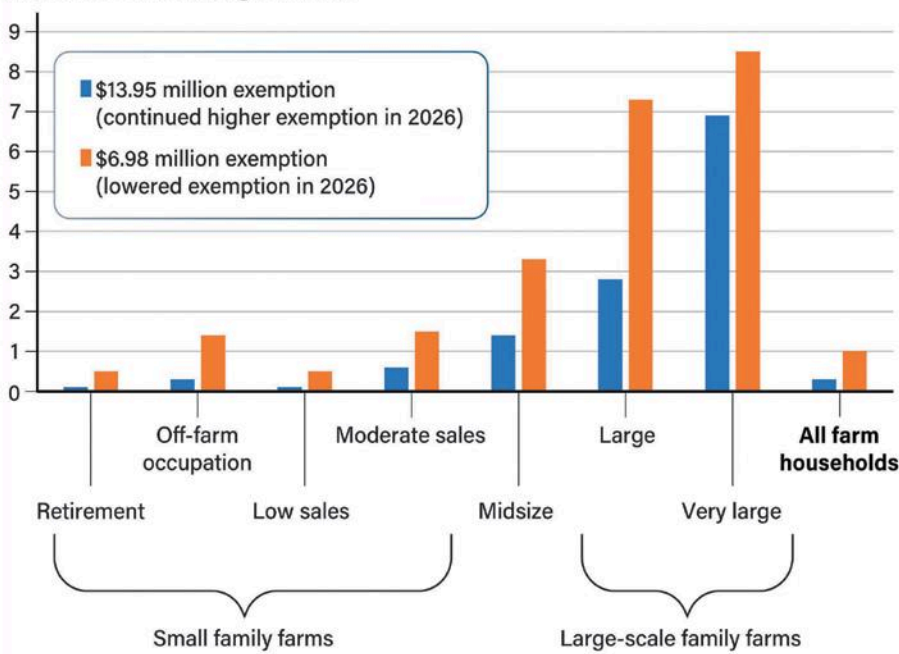
Large farms (gross cash farm income between \$1-5 million) would experience the largest increase in the share of estates owing estate tax, increasing from 2.8% to 7.3%. Total federal estate taxes for farm estates would be expected to more than double to \$1.2 billion if the provision were allowed to expire.

— USDA ERS

## Forecast results of sunseting the increased estate tax exemption, 2026

USDA Economic Research Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Percent of estates owing estate tax



Note: Small family farms have gross cash farm income (GCFI) less than \$350,000 and principal operators who report they are retired. Off-farm occupation farms have GCFI of less than \$350,000 and principal operators who report a primary occupation other than farming. Low-sales farms have GCFI less than \$150,000. Moderate-sales farms have GCFI between \$150,000 and \$349,999. Midsize family farms have GCFI between \$350,000 and \$999,999. Large family farms have GCFI between \$1 million and \$4,999,999. Very large family farms have GCFI greater than \$5 million. The 2026 exemption levels are based on forecasted inflation levels from the U.S. Congressional Budget Office.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from Agricultural Resource Management Survey 2018-21, USDA's 2021 June Area Survey, Social Security Administration's 2019 Actuarial Life table, Internal Revenue Service's 2021 Farm Credit System Bank Loan Interest Rates chart, and Yeris Mayol-Garcia, Benjamin Gurrentz, and Rose M. Kreider, "Number, timing, and duration of marriages and divorces: 2016." Washington, DC: US Census Bureau (2021).

# Beef spokespeople join Trailblazers

The Trailblazers program, developed by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), a contractor to the Beef Checkoff, takes advocacy to an unprecedented level by giving participants the tools and training they need to promote beef to new audiences while addressing and correcting myths. After a competitive application process, 10 Trailblazers have been selected for the program's third cohort of beef community spokespeople, including:

- Mandy Atterholt, Ohio.
- Amanda Hall, Kentucky.
- Cara Henri, California.
- Jessie Jarvis, Idaho.
- Sierra Jepsen, Montana.
- Katey Johnson, Oklahoma.
- Anna Kobza, Nebraska.
- Max Krupp, Texas.
- Lettie McKinney, Kansas.
- Arlie Reeves, Washington.

"It's evident that producers are seeking community across the industry as we received almost 50 applications for this year's program, a 76% increase from last year," said Chandler Mulvaney, director of grassroots advocacy and spokesperson development at NCBA. "The newly selected cohort will join efforts with previous Trailblazers, building community, providing opportunities for mentorship, and collaborating with other experienced grassroots advocates."

Trailblazers receive in-depth training to become expert communicators, ex-

cel in media interviews and understand how to build confidence in beef-related practices when talking to consumers. Throughout the year, Trailblazers will receive advanced training from subject matter experts, learning how to effectively engage on various social media platforms, interact with the media, and enhance public speaking skills.

Sebastian Meija Turcios of California, participant in the inaugural class of Trailblazers, said the following about his experience, "The Trailblazers program has provided me with invaluable opportunities to find my role as a leader in the beef industry and to make connections that will endure the test of time. As a scientist, Trailblazers has provided me with the tools and skills that will help me be a stronger communicator."

Trailblazers will meet online and in person to foster constant growth and refinement of skillsets when speaking about beef. Upon joining the advanced advocacy program, Trailblazers serve as industry spokespeople and inform beef advocates at the local and state levels on advocacy, media, and spokesperson best practices. Every year, 10 new Trailblazers are accepted into the community building program.

For more information on the Trailblazers program and other beef advocacy efforts, contact Chandler Mulvaney at [cmulvaney@beef.org](mailto:cmulvaney@beef.org). — NCBA

# Planting alfalfa this spring

Alfalfa can be successfully seeded in the spring or fall depending on field weed pressure, moisture conditions and timing. Once established, perennial alfalfa plants can compete well with weeds. However, first-year stand establishment can be a challenge when moisture is limited and weed pressure is high.

If herbicide-resistant weeds are currently growing in fields, then light tillage may be needed to control these weeds while creating a firm seedbed for alfalfa drilling. Also, combining light tillage plus herbicide may be a best management seedbed preparation practice.

Since new alfalfa seedlings are susceptible to injury from many herbicides, it is critical to follow all chemical label instructions. Usually, alfalfa will need at least two to four trifoliate leaves before herbicides are applied and 2,4-D usage is not recommended. Glyphosate-tolerant or Round-up Ready alfalfa varieties provide more flexibility for controlling weeds currently growing in fields.

Initial glyphosate application should occur between alfalfa emergence and fourth trifoliate leaf alfalfa growth stages to remove non-glyphosate tolerant alfalfa seedlings and control weeds that are present.

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln "Seeding Alfalfa" NebGuide G2247 lists other steps for successfully establishing new alfalfa stands. For example, alfalfa grows best at 6.8 soil pH with a pH range from 6.5 to 7.5. Seed alfalfa between Apr 1 and May 15 in eastern and southern Nebraska and sow seed between April 15 and May 15 in western and northern regions.

Overall, establishing a firm seedbed is critical for alfalfa seedlings. Target seeding depth is one-quarter to one-half inch for fine-textured soils and three-quarter of an inch depth in sandy soils. Seedlings placed too shallow will dry out rapidly and die due to poor roots, while seeds planted more than 1 inch deep may be unable to emerge after germinating. — Todd Whitney, Nebraska Extension

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# Modest improvement made in farmer sentiment

The latest Purdue University/CME Group Ag Economy Barometer reveals a modest increase in farmer sentiment

compared to the previous month, though concerns remain regarding farm financial performance in the year ahead.

The February barometer reading reached 111, marking a 5-point rise from last month. The small uptick is attributed

to producers expressing increased optimism about the future, with the Future Expectations Index climbing 7 points to 115. However, the Current Conditions Index remained unchanged. Despite their improved outlook for the future, farmers' financial performance expectations did not keep pace. February's Farm Financial Performance Index registered at 85, a slight dip from January and notably lower than its recent peak in December. The February survey was conducted from Feb. 12-16.

"Weak crop prices continue to weigh heavily on financial expectations, with mid-February eastern Corn Belt cash prices for corn and soybeans declining by 7% and 8%, respectively, compared to two months earlier," said James Mintert, the barometer's principal investigator and director

of Purdue University's Center for Commercial Agriculture.

When producers were asked about their primary concerns for farm operations in the upcoming year, the top concern cited by 34% of respondents was "high input costs," closely followed by "lower crop/livestock prices," chosen by 28% of respondents. Worries about rising interest rates among producers seem to have diminished somewhat, with only 18% of February respondents citing it as a top concern, down from 26% who did so in November.

The Farm Capital Investment Index remains weak at 34 points, 9 points lower than last year. Producers expressing reluctance toward making large investments highlighted concerns over high production costs and weak output prices. The percentage of farmers worried about farm profitability has tripled since last October. This month, 22 out of every 100 farmers pointed to farm profitability concerns, while last fall only 7 out of every 100 farmers felt the same way.

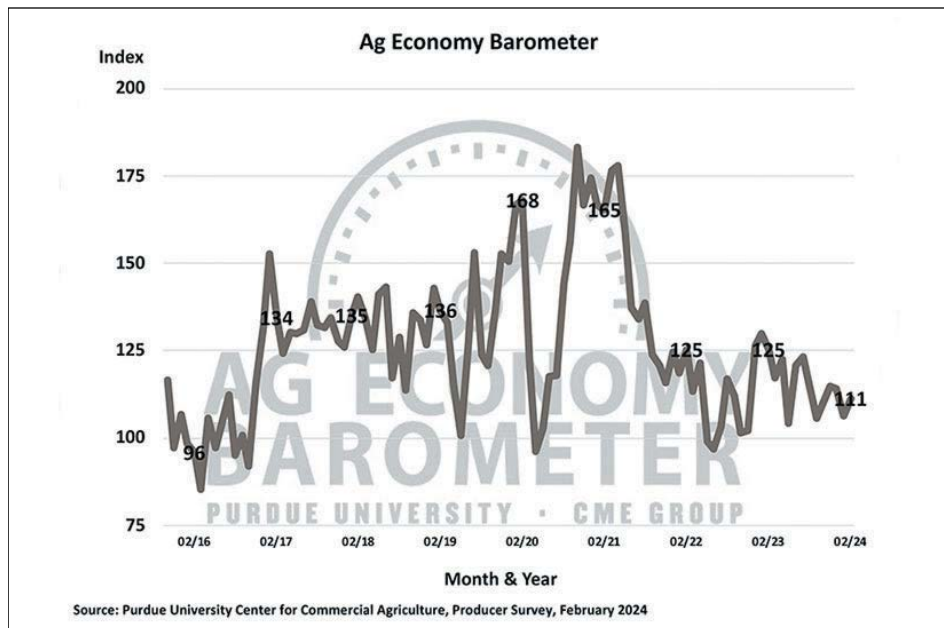
The Short-Term Farmland Values Expectations Index held steady in comparison to January but declined by 4 points from a year ago and by 30 points from two years ago. Although the farmland index remains positive, it is clear that overall sentiment regarding future increases in farmland values is weaker than it was a couple of years ago. Among producers who expect

values to increase in the next year, the top reason cited for their optimism was demand from non-farm investors.

Each February, the barometer survey asks producers about growth plans for their farm operation in the upcoming five years. This year, 4 out of 10 respondents expressed no plans for growth, with 14% saying they plan to exit or retire. Alternatively, just over 3 out of 10 respondents anticipate their farm's annual growth rate to exceed 5%. Responses to this question, which have been consistent in recent years, point to further consolidation among farm operations.

"To put growth rates into perspective, consider that a farm operation growing at a 5% annual rate will double in size in about 14 years, whereas a farm growing at an annual rate of 10% will need just seven years to double," Mintert said.

Interest in leasing farmland for solar energy development remains strong, with 10% of respondents having discussed such projects in the last six months. Rates varied widely, but over half of the respondents reported being offered lease rates of \$1,000 per acre or more. The top end for solar lease rates appears to be rising over time. When this question was posed in June 2021, just 27% of respondents reported a lease rate offer of \$1,000 or more per acre, compared to 56% of respondents this year. — Purdue University



## Hay, feed, fencing supplies needed to support TX Panhandle

Donations of hay, feed, fencing supplies, cow feed and milk replacer are needed to support livestock owners impacted by the devastating wildfires that have scorched rangeland across a large portion of the Texas Panhandle.

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service is establishing Animal Supply Points in several locations in the region to accept the donations. The purpose of the Animal Supply Point is to meet area producers' most critical needs such as providing feed for cattle while they assess their individual operation's other needs.

The ongoing wildfires, fueled by dry, windy conditions, have exceeded 1 million acres, according to the Texas A&M Forest Service. The Forest Service will continue to update the size and containment of these and other fires in the Texas Panhandle.

"These donations will go directly to those who need them as soon as possible," said Monty Dozier, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension Disaster Assessment Recovery (DAR) program director. "Texans are known for their generosity and deep values of Texas agriculture during times of need. This is certainly a situation where our neighbors and friends are needing assistance after these fires have threatened their livelihoods."

### Supply points for livestock

General questions about donations or relief efforts can be made at 806-354-5800.

Several Animal Supply Points are being set up through AgriLife Extension's DAR program. Those with hay, feed or fencing materials to donate, or with equipment to help haul hay, should contact the following supply points and coordinators:

- East Location Animal Supply Point: Clyde Carruth Pavilion, 301 Bull Barn Drive, Pampa. Contact Marcus Preuninger at 806-669-8033.

- North Location Animal Supply Point: Canadian AH&N Ranch Supply, 100

Hackberry St., Canadian. Contact Andy Holloway at 806-323-9114.

- West Location Animal Supply Point: Industrial Park, 407 Industrial Boulevard, Borger. Contact Hanna Conner, 806-878-4026.

### Relief resources

Donations of other types can be made at the following locations:

- Hemphill County General Donations: Send to AgriLife Extension, Hemphill County, 10965 Exposition Center Road, Canadian, TX, 79014 or call 806-323-9114.

- Hutchinson County Relief Fund: Hutchinson County United Way fund at the Amarillo National Bank or [tinyurl.com/yc4wbk8u](http://tinyurl.com/yc4wbk8u).

- Potter County: Donations can be mailed to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service, Attn: Potter Ag, 3301 SE 10th Building 1, Amarillo, TX, 79104. Checks should be made out to Potter Ag.

- Monetary donations in Gray County should be sent to: City of Pampa, Attn: Finance, Box 2499, Pampa, TX, 79066-2499, reference 02/27/2024 Fire, or made by phone or in person at First-Bank Southwest-Pampa at 806-665-2341. Reference City of Pampa donation for Smokehouse Creek Fire.

- To make donations for people who lost their homes in Hemphill County, go to First Baptist Canadian at [fbccanadian.org/firehelp](http://fbccanadian.org/firehelp) or Hemphill County Agriculture Wildfire Relief, Box 300, Canadian, TX, 79104.

Donations of hay can also be made through the Texas Department of Agriculture Hay Hotline. And a relief fund has been established through the STAR Fund Disaster Assistance through the Texas Department of Agriculture. Both resources can be found at [texasagriculture.gov](http://texasagriculture.gov).

### Continuing outreach, education

AgriLife Extension will provide more educational

information as it becomes available on the losses and needs of those affected by the wildfires.

More preparedness and recovery information may be found on the Disaster Assessment and Recovery website, [tinyurl.com/3pkxb5ya](http://tinyurl.com/3pkxb5ya). Safety tips and wildfire resources are also available on the Texas Ready website, [texasready.gov](http://texasready.gov), and the Texas A&M Forest Service website, [tfsweb.tamu.edu](http://tfsweb.tamu.edu). — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

com/3pkxb5ya. Safety tips and wildfire resources are also available on the Texas Ready website, [texasready.gov](http://texasready.gov), and the Texas A&M Forest Service website, [tfsweb.tamu.edu](http://tfsweb.tamu.edu). — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

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# SALE REPORTS

**REYES & RUSSELL  
ANGUS BULL SALE**  
Feb. 26, Wheatland, WY  
226 Older bulls . . \$7,961  
Auctioneers: Lex Madden  
& Lander Nicodemus  
TOPS: MR General 35172,  
6/13/22 by MR General 2566,

\$36,000. MR Outside 33272,  
5/29/22 by KR Outside 7687,  
\$25,000. MR Cowboy 36742,  
6/19/22 by Kesslers Cowboy  
Up 8029, \$20,000. MR  
Cowboy 37082, 5/27/22 by  
Kesslers Cowboy Up 8029,  
\$20,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

**HAYNES CATTLE CO.  
SALE**  
Feb. 27, Ogallala, NE  
122 Yearling  
bulls. . . . . \$7,204  
Auctioneer: Kevin Schow  
TOPS: Haynes Surpass  
357, 1/9/23 by BJ Surpass;

to Troy Dubs, Ashby, NE,  
\$17,000. Haynes Headliner  
3261, 1/26/23 by Haynes  
Headliner 1267; to Hunt  
Angus, Milburn, NE, \$16,000.  
Haynes Exponential 3297,  
1/27/23 by K C F Bennett  
Exponential; to Kent Wedel,

Madrid, NE, \$11,500. Haynes  
Man In Black 3100, 1/13/23  
by LAR Man In Black; to Zane  
Connell, Tryon, NE, \$11,000.  
Haynes Dynamic 330,  
1/6/23 by BAR Dynamic; to  
TK Angus, Wood Lake, NE,  
\$10,500. — **TY GROSHANS**

**LUCKY 7 ANGUS  
ANNUAL BULL SALE**  
March 2, Riverton, WY  
255 Older bulls . . \$7,487  
52 Fall yearling  
bulls. . . . . 9,048  
50 Bull calves. . . 9,505  
357 Total bulls . . 7,997  
Auctioneer: Lander  
Nicodemus and Colby  
Hales

TOPS: Lucky 7 Cushman  
2535, 10/12/22 by Lucky 7  
Alliance 187 7185; to Harding  
Ranch, Meriden, WY, \$21,000.  
Lucky 7 Upward 2568,  
10/8/22 by Lucky 7 Upward  
8157; to Harding Ranch,  
Meriden, WY, \$16,000. Lucky  
7 New Standard 293, 4/3/22  
by Lucky 7 New Standard  
4540; to McDonnell Angus,  
Columbus, MT, \$16,000.  
Lucky 7 Special Focus 2133,  
3/20/22 by Lucky 7 Special  
Focus 9085; to DeGrand  
Angus, Baker, MT, \$16,000.  
Lucky 7 Confidence Plus  
2029, 4/8/22 by Sterling  
Confidence Plus 804; to  
Harding Ranch, Meriden, WY,  
\$16,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**TC RANCH BULL SALE**  
Feb. 28, Franklin, NE  
75 Yearling bulls . . \$6,127  
25 Open heifers . . 2,760  
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins  
TOPS: TC Home Town  
394, 1/1/23 by G A R Home  
Town; to Fairview Farms,  
Moorefield, WV, \$25,000. TC  
Thedford 301, 1/1/23 by  
Hoffman Thedford; to Braden  
Werth, Ogallah, KS, \$20,000.  
TC Justification 330, 1/9/23  
by Boyd Justification; to Gary  
McPherson, Watonga, OK,  
\$18,000. TC Strong Hold 321,  
1/6/23 by TC Strong Hold  
190; to Fairview Farms,  
Moorefield, WV, \$15,500. —  
**TY GROSHANS**

**PARRY ANGUS BULL  
AND FEMALE SALE**  
March 1, Sterling, CO  
49 Angus yearling  
bulls. . . . . \$5,790  
7 Sim-Angus yearling  
bulls. . . . . 5,214  
17 Angus registered  
open heifers . . . 3,352  
1 Sim-Angus registered  
open heifer . . . . 3,250  
Auctioneer: Dave Mullins  
TOPS—Bulls: PAR  
Treasure 3P52, 1/24/23 by  
MGR Treasure; to Riverside  
Farms, Idalia, CO, \$8,500.  
PAR Huckleberry 3P45,  
1/20/23 by DVAR  
Huckleberry 871; to Riverside  
Farms, Idalia, CO, \$8,000.  
Heifer: PAR McSusan  
911-Wall St-302, 1/4/23 by  
Deer Valley Wall Street; to  
Point Pleasant, Bland, VA,  
\$11,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

**REID ANGUS RANCH  
ANNUAL  
PRODUCTION SALE**  
Mar. 5, Brush, CO  
46 Bulls. . . . . \$5,043  
18 Registered  
open heifers . . . 2,289  
Auctioneer: Tyler Knode  
TOPS—Bull: RAR Stunner  
L19, 2/12/23 by JHC Stunner  
191; to Matt Ward, Ft Lupton,  
CO, \$7,500. Heifer: RAR  
AADL51, 3/15/23 by Styles  
Amendment Z55; to  
Richard Pitts, Axtell, UT,  
\$5,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

**SUTHERLIN FARMS RED  
ANGUS ANNUAL SALE**  
March 1, Stevensville, MT  
70 Yearling bulls . \$4,610  
145 Commercial  
open heifers . . . . 1,911  
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins  
TOPS: 3C Energize 3112,  
2/10/23 by Bieber CL  
Energize F121; to TJB Reds,  
Powell, WY, \$12,000. SUTH  
Brunswick L359, 2/13/23  
by Feddes Brunswick D202;  
to Quigley Ranch Co, Avon,  
MT, \$10,000. SUTH  
Commonsense 424L,  
2/21/23 by Fischer  
Commonsense; to Jim and  
Julie Jorgenson, Broadview,  
MT, \$7,500. SUTH Prime  
Plus 412L, 2/19/23 by LSF  
SRR Prime Plus 0111H; to  
Woods V-X Red Angus,  
Sandpoint, ID, \$7,000.  
SUTH Private Storm 353L,  
2/12/23 by Six Mile Private  
Stock 32H; to Jim and Julie  
Jorgenson, Broadview, MT,  
\$7,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**KIMM ANGUS BULL SALE**  
March 2, Three Forks, MT  
53 Yearling bulls . . 5,534  
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs  
Sale Manager: Ron Frye  
Marketing

TOPS: KA Black Mass 093,  
1/6/23 by B Bar Black Mass  
3045; to Crouthamel Cattle  
Co., Touchet, WA, \$13,000.  
KA Winston 773, 1/22/23 by  
VDAR Winston 2150; to Greg  
Lucht, Bozeman, MT, \$9,500.  
KA Black Mass 103, 1/6/23 by  
B Bar Black Mass 3045; to  
Eagle Ridge Ranch, Wilsall, MT,  
\$8,500. KA Black Mass 323,  
1/11/23 by B Bar Black Mass  
3045; to Eagle Ridge Ranch,  
Wilsall, MT, \$7,500. KA Black  
Mass 113, 1/7/23 by B Bar Black  
Mass 3045; to Colton Live,  
Buffalo, WY, \$7,500. KA  
Winston 123, 1/8/23 by VDAR  
Winston 2150; to Roger  
Sanderson, Toston, MT,  
\$7,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**3C CATTLE 13TH  
ANNUAL BULL SALE**  
March 2, Stevensville, MT  
42 Yearling bulls . . \$5,571  
40 Commercial  
open heifers . . . . 2,125  
Auctioneer: Collin Gibbs

TOPS: 3C 406 Full Power  
3121, 2/11/23 by Schaefer Full  
Power 1803; to Two Feathers  
Ranch, Darby, MT, and Marvin  
Wetzstone Ranch, Sula, MT,  
\$10,500. 3C 406 National  
3066, 2/6/23 by Connealy  
National 390C; to Leadore  
Angus, Leadore, ID, \$10,000.  
3C National 3003, 2/19/23  
by Connealy National 390C;  
to Leadore Angus, Leadore,  
ID, \$8,000. 3C National 3012,  
1/23/23 by Connealy National  
390C; to Fort Logan Ranch,  
White Sulphur Springs, MT,  
\$7,750. 3C 406 Commodore  
3060, 2/5/23 by Kesslers  
Commodore 6516; to Steve  
Seleg, Rosebud, MT, \$7,500.  
— **DEVIN MURNIN**

**REDLAND RED ANGUS  
AND GELBIEH SALE**  
March 2, Hysham, MT  
Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe  
61 Bulls . . . . . \$5,352  
50 open  
commercial . . . . 2,300  
TOPS: Red Spartacus  
368, 2/2/23 by Bieber  
Spartacus A193 x 3C  
Cherokee Squall 04W; to  
Flint and Jana Hance, Circle,

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**STEVENSON ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE**  
**March 3, White Sulphur Springs, MT**  
**75 Two-year-old bulls . . . . . \$8,730**  
**99 Yearling bulls . . 7,173**  
**187 Total bulls . . . 7,844**  
**13 Open registered heifers . . . . . 7,615**

**Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs & Joe Goggins**  
**TOPS—Bulls:** Stevenson Salvation 2074, 4/12/22 by SG Salvation; to Schelske Angus, Virgil, SD, \$20,000. Stevenson Incentive 2191, 4/30/22 by Sitz Incentive 704H; to Bear Mountain Angus, Palisade, NE, \$16,000. Stevenson Salvation 2014, 4/7/22 by SG Salvation; to a commercial buyer, MT, \$15,000. Stevenson Incentive 2132, 4/24/22 by Sitz Incentive

704H; to a commercial buyer, WY, \$15,000. Stevenson Justification 31004, 1/21/23 by Boyd Justification; to a commercial buyer, MT, \$15,000. Stevenson Incentive 31023, 1/24/23 by Sitz Incentive 704H; to a commercial buyer, MT, \$14,000. **Female:** Stevenson Pride Lady 3026, 1/26/23 by Sterling Pacific 904; to Jocko Valley Cattle, Arlee, MT, \$17,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**MCCANN RED ANGUS 4TH ANNUAL BULL SALE**  
**March 4, Billings, MT**  
**63 Yearling bulls . . . . . \$5,238**

**Auctioneer: Bill Cook**  
**TOPS:** McCann American Dream 3077, 2/7/23 by Laso American Dream G117J; to Weber Land and Cattle, Lake Benton, MN, \$15,000. McCann Blue Collar 3115, 2/10/23 by Red U2 Blue Collar 295E; to Cathy Stalcup, Gillette, WY, \$13,000. McCann Mega 3141, 12/17/22 by Crump Mega 8849; to Cathy Stalcup, Gillette, WY, \$10,500. McCann American Dream 3007, 3/16/23 by Laso American Dream G117J; to Dustin Evans, Whitman, NE, \$9,000. McCann Energize 3107, 2/3/23 by Bieber CL Energize F121; to Cathy Stalcup, Gillette, WY, \$9,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**APEX ANGUS ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE**  
**March 5, Valier, MT**  
**101 Yearling bulls . . 6,849**

**160 Commercial open heifers . . . 1,975**  
**Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs**

**TOPS:** Apex Black Rifle 303, 1/13/23 by MATH Black Rifle 5099; to Freeman Ranch, Augusta, MT, \$21,000. Apex Black Rifle 263, 1/12/23 by MATH Black Rifle 5099; to Freeman Ranch, Augusta, MT, \$17,000. Apex Liberty 193, 1/10/23 by Connealy Liberty 837A; to Huechert Willow Creek Ranch, Hensel, ND, \$16,000. Apex Black Rifle 203, 1/11/23 by MATH Black Rifle 5099; to Jay Vasboe, Cut Bank, MT, \$13,000. Apex Pacific 1933, 1/27/23 by Sterling Pacific 904; to Huechert Willow Creek Ranch, Hensel, ND,

\$12,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**SANDHILL RED ANGUS**  
**March 5, Sidney, MT**  
**Auctioneer: Joe Goggins**  
**81 Bulls . . . . . \$5,543**  
**103 Commercial bred heifers . . . 3,067**

**TOPS:** RJJ Leading Edge 3018, 2/27/23 by 5L Leading Edge 15383-117C x Red T-K Ten Speed 52F; to Clear Bent Bars Inc., Leiter, WY, \$17,500. SRJJ First Fuel 3089, 3/21/23 by DVO Right of First Refusal x Red U2 Fortunate Son 382F; to David Kennedy, Oakland, OR, \$10,500. SRJJ Cutting Edge 3090, 3/27/23 by Red T-K Cutting Edge 127D x Red T-K Untapped 21Z; to Dennis Bradshaw, Oklahoma City, OK, \$10,000.

SRJJ Slowburn 3027, 3/11/23 by Red Lwnbrg Slowburn 102H x Red T-K Cutting Edge 127D; to Wade Smith, Froid, MT, \$8,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**OX BOX RANCH ANNUAL BULL SALE**  
**March 6, Wolf Creek, MT**  
**68 Yearling bulls . . . \$7,493**  
**24 Older bulls . . . . . 7,615**  
**92 Total bulls . . . . . 7,524**

**Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs**  
**Sale Manager: Andras Cattle Services**  
**TOPS:** OX Spur 3615, 2/19/23 by Crouthamel Spur 1011; to Eagle Ridge Cattle Co, White Horse, SD, \$13,500. OX Outrider 3121, 1/19/23 by HA Outrider 9672; to Dan and

Bobbi Lavine, Wolf Creek, MT, \$12,000. OX Vindicator 2170, 1/28/22 by OX Vindicator 0017; to Shotgun Ranch, Post, OR, \$11,500. OX Tribute 2041, 1/28/22 by Grygiel Tribute 017; to Prime Ranches, Central, OR, \$11,000. OX Vindicator 3515, 1/22/23 by OX Vindicator 0017; to Prime Ranches, Central, OR, \$11,000. OX Vindicator 3507, 1/18/23 by OX Vindicator 0017; to Shotgun Ranch, Post, OR, \$11,000. OX Spur 3510, 1/19/23 by Crouthamel Spur 1011; to Shotgun Ranch, Post, OR, \$11,000. OX South Dakota 3152, 2/6/23 by Crouthamel South Dakota 0111; to Shotgun Ranch, Post, OR, \$11,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

## Grazing management after a wildfire

There have been several wildfires this spring that have affected range and pasturelands across Nebraska and that threat will continue until we have new, green grass growth later this spring. Although the immediate aftermath of a fast-moving fire can look quite devastating, the perennial pasture grasses are resilient and will recover, especially since they are still dormant.

On sandy soils, one of the key impacts of a wildfire is the loss of plant residue and litter that protects the soil

surface. This residue is important for reducing wind and water erosion and the loss of soil moisture.

An important grazing management recommendation following a wildfire is to delay turnout, possibly as long as one month, but this can be adjusted depending on rainfall. This simply allows grasses to accumulate more growth before being exposed to grazing.

Secondly, stocking rates should be reduced with the objective of leaving adequate residue, which will become

litter on the ground. This is to replace what was lost in the fire. Rainfall in May and June will be most critical and should be the guiding factor affecting any of the above management decisions.

Confounding any grazing management plans we might have are the fences that may have been significantly damaged. Additionally, there are pastures that may have been only partially burned. On a pasture that has been partially burned, it is known that cattle will prefer to graze the burned por-

tion resulting in much heavier grazing on that area compared to the unburned portion. Temporary fencing to exclude burned areas early in the season may be a solution but is often impractical.


It is not uncommon to see a greater number of annual weeds show up in a pasture after a fire. While this may look concerning, these weeds can be useful and have some forage value or will turn into residue and cover at the end of the season. — **Jerry Volesky, Nebraska Extension**

**27<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**  
**OFT ANGUS RANCH**  
**PERFORMANCE SALE**

**PRODUCERS LIVESTOCK VALE, OR**

**THURSDAY, MAR. 21, 2024**  
**1 P.M. MST**  
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**OFT ANGUS RANCH**  
**TERRY OFT**  
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*Annual Bull Sale*

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# MARKET NEWS

## MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 3/7/2024	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	182.38 ▼	182.85	164.81
CME Feeder Index	248.07 ▲	246.26	188.72
Boxed Beef Average	306.61 ▲	304.20	284.60
Average Dressed Steers	N/A ▲	290.00	262.64
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,386 ▲	1,377	1,396
Weekly Slaughter**	599,000 ▲	593,000	629,000
Weekly Beef Production***	496.9 ▲	491.8	518.4
Hide/Offal Value	11.40 ▼	11.64	13.1
Corn Price	4.26 ▲	4.16	6.19

\*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	
March 1	6,276	300.66	209	322.37	1,191	304.49	1,925	299.07	624	288.67	2,327	272.64
February 23	6,358	296.36	227	320.47	1,269	298.49	1,921	294.51	603	284.77	2,338	267.45
February 16	6,197	294.37	217	319.68	1,254	297.33	1,841	293.13	616	283.67	2,268	266.22
February 9	6,650	296.59	234	323.06	1,289	300.10	2,005	293.86	771	283.37	2,351	265.22

CUTOUTS						FED BOXED BEEF					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN	90% LEAN					
Mar 7	306.61	296.26	244.94		96.05	302.31					
Mar 6	304.91	295.09	254.17		105.00	318.50					
Mar 5	304.79	294.87	243.07		103.92	313.73					
Mar 4	306.30	295.17	242.09		97.72	313.49					
Mar 1	305.28	295.74	240.00		102.40	308.95					

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	3/1	3/4	3/5	3/6	3/7	High*	Low*
Apr.	18845	18668	18800	18725	18873	19633	15310
Jun.	18400	18258	18353	18328	18460	19975	16853
Aug.	18270	18193	18278	18240	18350	18410	16668
Oct.	18580	18515	18603	18540	18675	18675	17005

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	3/1	3/4	3/5	3/6	3/7	High*	Low*
Mar.	25298	25155	25230	25103	25103	26833	21280
Apr.	25800	25575	25718	25588	25630	25723	21608
May	26018	25778	25870	25778	25845	26208	21920
Aug.	26965	26810	26960	26868	26943	27095	22268

\*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.

FED CATTLE TRADE			
Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price	
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

WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
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

SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	9,530	1,437	182.85
Live FOB Heifer	10,363	1,321	182.81
Dressed Del Steer	413	961	290.00
Dressed Del Heifer	120	883	288.67

SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	1,480	1,472	164.81
Live FOB Heifer	112	1,327	164.71
Dressed Del Steer	179	971	262.64
Dressed Del Heifer	64	775	262.63

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: FEBRUARY 25, 2024		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	18,889	3,443
Formula	257,646	6,223
Negotiated Cash	88,103	170
Negotiated Grid	36,490	1,206
Packer Owned	9,824	N/A
<b>Total</b>	<b>410,952</b>	<b>11,052</b>

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,836
Mar. '24	131,512	Neg. Sales 21+ days	674
Apr. '24	186,866	Formula sales	3,640
May '24	96,508	Forward contract sales	126
Jun. '24	83,025	Domestic sales	5,672
Jul. '24	63,510	NAFTA Exports	71

CANADIAN LIVESTOCK PRICES & FEDERAL INSPECTED SLAUGHTER FIGURES			
Alberta Direct Sales (4% shrink)	Price	Weekly Change	
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	N/A	N/A	
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	160.48	-0.81	

Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	177.36	+0.47	
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	175.88	+0.46	
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	102.98	+0.92	

\*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, February 23, 2024				
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario	
501-600 lbs	314.46	317.11	287.12	
601-700 lbs	285.25	285.34	267.86	
701-800 lbs	259.99	253.87	242.92	
801-900 lbs	237.58	232.18	239.32	

Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	297.78	298.44	234.04
501-600 lbs	275.82	274.46	243.58
601-700 lbs	252.24	242.44	230.49
701-800 lbs	234.59	227.82	215.01

USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS				
Feeder cattle imports weekly and yearly volume.				
Species	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Year-to-date	Previous Year-to-date
	2/26/2024	2/19/2024		
Feeders	22,234	27,774	216,076	209,803

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
March 6, 2024			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 9,350	Week Ago EST: 9,100	Year Ago Act: 12,840	
<b>Douglas, AZ</b>		<b>Columbus, NM</b>	
Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-600 lbs.		Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-600 lbs.	

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2			
300-400 lbs	258-268	300-400 lbs	258-268
400-500 lbs	248-258	400-500 lbs	248-258
500-600 lbs	238-248	500-600 lbs	238-248

Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2			
300-400 lbs	318-328	300-400 lbs	318-328
400-500 lbs	298-308	400-500 lbs	298-308
500-600 lbs	278-288	500-600 lbs	278-288

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

Selected Auction Week Ending March 7, 2024										
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
March 1	Blackfoot, ID	N/A		240-311	250-296	230-286	200-270	190-232	98-114	
February 29	Burley, ID	672	347.50-382.50	333-343	185-323	177-293	234-235.50	211.50	91-121	
No report available	Emmett, ID								121-142	
March 2	Eugene, OR	329	310-340*	330-374*	260-290*	226-254*	175-218*		87-115	1,175-2,600
March 4	Madras, OR	206	220-280*	195-259*	190-237*				113-139	1,150-1,400
No report available	Vale, OR								100-125	
March 5	Davenport, WA	205	332-375	358-400	320-376				115-127	
February 29	Toppenish, WA	1,030	356-365	331-360	275-348					
No report available										
March 5	Davenport, WA	205	275	250	200-294	207.50-257.50	221-252.50	200-232.50	117.50-212.50	75-171
February 29	Toppenish, WA	1,030	250-272.50	162.50-281	187.50-247.50	177.50-241		150-221	94-149.31	119-175
No report available			380*	340*					101-115.50	1,700-1,800
No report available								145*	116-127	

February 29	Orland, CA	1,761	300-408	285-398	275-361	240-280	210-231	190-237	110-131	2,200-3,700
March 4	Escalon, CA	N/A	280-395	265-356	255-310	220-271	190-226	170-223	100-144	
February 26	Famoso, CA	257	300-377		250-260		200-270	135-160	80-92	
February 28	Galt, CA	626	300-342		250-320		150-220	110-140	80-105	
March 5	Turlock, CA	783	225-310	230-310	230-287	200-250	185-240		90-130	
February 27	Salina, UT	796	200-270	200-270	200-280	160-270		160-185	90-120	
No report available			330-400	275-385	270-355	230-310			80-135	
March 5	Turlock, CA	783	270-350	280-365	265-300	240-268	200-230	190-217	95-118	
February 27	Salina, UT	796	270-350	275-320	250-292.50	220-277.50	190-214	185-214	108-134	
No report available			310-435	300-360	280-332	265-306	229-263	157.50-236	105-135	
No report available			240-295	250-312.50	245-310	215-275	205-240	155-215	182.50-196.25	

March 4	Iowa	7,508	415	375-405	317.50-397.50	285-367.50	260-314	230-274	199-249.75	89-128
March 5	Miles City, MT	1,659	367.50	305-357.50	275-340	235-315	221-275.50	211.50-250	180-220	111-166
No report available	Bassett, NE				355-370	319-342	285.50-292.25	267-268	212.50-231.75	99-122.50
March 2	Ericson, NE	3,780			326-338	275-322.50	274	265.50		104-135
No report available	Imperial, NE									1,800-2,850
No report available	Kearney, NE									
March 1	Lexington, NE	2,978			362-383	348	319.50-337	266.50-299.50	254.75	204-253.75
February 29	Ogallala, NE	6,000			328-346	302.50-320	267-304	239-256.50	228.50-244.50	193-224.75
No report available	Valentine, NE									
March 1	Herreid, SD	3,985			337.50	358-387.50	327.50-346.50	280-325	246.50-285	223.50-254
February 28	Torrington, WY	2,785				319-342.50	282-317	245.50-294	225.50-256.50	210-213
No report available										
March 1	Herreid, SD	3,985				330-350	316-349.50	271-320	252.75-283.50	217-254.75
February 28	Torrington, WY	2,785				277.50-322.50	264-300	248-277.50	225.50-255	226-232.50
No report available						342	312-335	291-315	248-285	229-237
No report available						329-336	300-325	276-322	255-284	232-245.50

No report available	Willcox, AZ									
March 4	Colorado	6,104	410-4							

# Understanding beef byproduct values

The beef industry produces an enormous set of products. Among the thousands of different products are a wide range of edible and inedible byproducts. USDA reports byproduct values in several daily and weekly reports for steers,

quite varied and includes edible offals, inedible offals, meat, bone and blood meal, edible and inedible tallow, hides and pharmaceutical products. Edible beef byproducts include a variety of muscle and organ meats (e.g. liver, tongue, tripe, tripas, heart,

ed. Some products, such as gallstones and fetal blood serum, are harvested infrequently but have very high values.

Each of the many byproduct items operates in a separate market with variable values and market conditions. These impact the total by-

product value over time. For example, the high byproduct values in 2014-15 (Figure 1) were largely driven by very strong hide values. The more recent high prices in 2021-22 were the result of very strong demand for tallow used for biodiesel production.

The steer byproduct value for March 1 was \$11.64/cwt and shows that tallow is the largest contributor to byproduct value at 20.3% of the total, hides were second at 18.4%, tongues at 15.2% and tripe at 11.9% of the total byproduct value.

Current byproduct values represent about \$165/head of total fed cattle value. With tight supplies driving beef and cattle prices higher, byproducts currently represent a smaller percentage of total cattle value (6.4%) than the long-term average (9.5%).

Byproducts are a significant value component for the cattle and beef industry. Byproduct markets are varied and complicated and typically require significant volume. Capturing the value of byproducts is challenging, especially for small packers. When byproducts cannot be captured for value, they typically represent an additional cost for disposal. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Figure 1. Steer By-Product Values



cattle and cows. There are additional reports for detailed variety meat, hide and tallow values.

Over the last fifteen years, steer byproduct values have averaged \$11.77/cwt on a liveweight basis. That is roughly \$165/head, or about 9.5% of the total value of a fed steer. In the 2009-23 period, steer byproduct values have varied from a monthly low of \$5.90/cwt to a high of \$16.59/cwt (Figure 1). As a percent of total fed steer value, the byproduct value has varied from a low of 6.2% to a high of 13.1%.

The set of products included in total byproduct values is

quite varied and includes edible offals, inedible offals, meat, bone and blood meal, edible and inedible tallow, hides and pharmaceutical products. Edible beef byproducts include a variety of muscle and organ meats (e.g. liver, tongue, tripe, tripas, heart,

oxtail, sweetbreads, edible tallow, and cheek and head meat, much of which is exported or used in processed products. Edible tallow is used for cooking and processed foods and bones are the source of gelatin used in many products (think gummy bears). Some tallow that is equivalent to edible grade is also used for cosmetics and soaps.

Organs that are inedible are used primarily for pet food, including lungs, trachea, inedible livers and melts (spleen). Inedible tallow is used for industrial use and, more recently, for biodiesel production. Hides are a significant part of the total byproduct value of cattle. Most hides are export-

product value over time. For example, the high byproduct values in 2014-15 (Figure 1) were largely driven by very strong hide values. The more recent high prices in 2021-22 were the result of very strong demand for tallow used for biodiesel production.

The steer byproduct value for March 1 was \$11.64/cwt and shows that tallow is the largest contributor to byproduct value at 20.3% of the total, hides were second at 18.4%, tongues at 15.2% and tripe at 11.9% of the total byproduct value.

Current byproduct values represent about \$165/head

## Corn higher; feeder demand continues

### MARKETS (from page 1)

Slaughter through Thursday was estimated at 484,000 head, about 11,000 head short of a week earlier. Projected total slaughter for the week prior is 599,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Feb. 24 was 590,486 head. The average steer dressed weight was 914 lbs., the same as the week prior.

"Balancing feedlot supplies, weekly slaughter, and finally beef demand is a work in progress. It remains unknown if a slaughter rate of 590,000 a week is going to back up cattle in the nation's feedlots," the Cattle Report wrote on Thursday.

"Processors' margins continued to struggle with box prices gaining ground, but the improvement failed to match the necessary margin for a profit," the Cattle Report continued.

Boxed beef prices were a couple dollars higher over the week. The Choice cutout gained \$2.41 to close at \$306.61, and the Select cutout gained just over \$2 to close at \$296.26. The Choice-Select spread was \$10.35.

"The first estimates for the Feb. 22, USDA Cattle on Feed (COF) report are being circulated and as expected, placement estimates are above a year ago while marketing numbers are boosted above a year ago only the extra slaughter day," Fish said. "Total COF numbers will be slightly above a year ago hovering around the fourth highest Feb. 1 COF in the last 10 years."

### Feeder cattle

Feeder futures gained several dollars. The March contract gained just over \$2 to close at \$251.02, and the April contract gained about \$2.60 to close at \$256.30.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index gained \$1.81 to close at \$248.07.

Corn futures have continued their momentum and were back with another week of gains. The March contract gained 11 cents to close at \$4.26, and the May contract gained 9 cents to close at \$4.38.

"All in all, the corn market's upturn shouldn't gravely affect the feeder cattle complex as demand still remains strong in the countryside," ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, wrote on Thursday.

She added, "Just Wednesday afternoon, four-weight calves were selling for \$1,800 in South Dakota—this market is hot even though the futures complex is posting a weaker day."

**Colorado:** Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 2,155 head on Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers under 550 lbs. sold unevenly steady, while steers over 550 lbs. sold mostly \$2-13 higher. Feeder heifers sold \$3-8 higher, with instances of sharply higher across all weight classes. Benchmark steers averaging 724 lbs. sold between \$252.50-260.50, averaging \$255.05.

**Iowa:** Russell Livestock in Russell sold 3,782 head on Monday. Compared to the last

auction, steers under 650 lbs. sold sharply higher, while steers 650 lbs. and heavier sold \$5-16 higher. Heifers sold steady to \$11 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 730 lbs. sold between \$260-285, averaging \$276.40.

**Missouri:** Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 10,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers under 725 lbs. sold \$5-15 higher and heavier weights sold steady to \$4 higher. Feeder heifers sold \$2-8 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 768 lbs. sold from \$238-258, averaging \$247.23.

**Oklahoma:** Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 8,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week prior, feeder steers and heifers sold \$3-6 higher. Steer and heifer calves traded \$8-10 higher. Demand was moderate to good. Benchmark steers averaging 775 lbs. sold from \$245-268, averaging \$250.73.

**South Dakota:** Sioux Falls Regional in Worthing sold 4,878 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, steers 600-700 lbs. sold \$5-9 higher, and 750-950 lbs. traded mostly \$1-5 lower. Heifers 450-650 lbs. were mostly \$5-10 higher, with instances of sharply higher, especially in the 450-550 lbs. range. Heifers 700-800 lbs. sold mostly \$2 higher, and 850-900 lbs. traded mostly steady. Benchmark steers averaging 774 lbs. sold between \$235-259.50, averaging \$248.19. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

HOME OF CHOICE SANDHILL & WESTERN NEBRASKA CATTLE

Ogallala LIVESTOCK AUCTION MARKET

OGALLALA, NE ~ 308-284-2071

## Special Stocker & Feeder Sale

THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2024

SEWARD CATTLE CO. (900) - SimAng str., 550-675#

SCHUSTER RANCH (520) - Ang, Ang X str & hfrs., 575-775#, hfrs. replacement qty.

BILL, MARIE & LEVI FARR (515) - Ang, BWF & herf str & hfrs., 700-950

HOATSON LAND & CATTLE (510) - Char Ang X & Ang str & hfrs., 600-775#

HAYNES RANCH / DALE, RUDY & RANDY (370) - SimAng hfrs., 450-625#.

Age & Source, NHTC only BQA & BeefCare thru IMI Global

RIVERSIDE FARMS (230) - Ang & SimAng str., 550-650#

SHAW RANCH (230) - Red Ang str & hfrs., 575-725#, Cert. Red Ang., hfrs. replacement qty.

MARTIN FLAMING (205) - Ang & BWF str., 825-925#

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## April 1, 2024

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Arthur, Nebraska

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Yearlings & 18-Month-Olds

### 20 Red Angus Yearling Bulls

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## DVAuction

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 Housing, salary + bonuses, benefits.  
**For more information: Genoa Livestock.com**

## Cattle For Sale 10

9 black bred cows, due to calve late April to mid May. All current on vaccinations. From a negative BVD herd. Ranch raised, thrifty cows.  
 Near Nyssa, Oregon.  
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 Please leave number, or text.

79 bred Blk Angus & Sim Angus heifers  
 Due April-mid May  
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 Blk Angus & Sim Angus cows  
 Due April - mid May  
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**2 Bar Angus**  
**Hereford, Texas**  
**806/344-7444**  
**877/2BAR-ANG**  
**www.2barangus.com**

## Dogs For Sale 14

Blue Red Heeler puppies AKC.  
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## Livestock Supplies 18

**POWDER RIVER LIVESTOCK EQUIP.**  
*Best prices with delivery available.*  
 Conlin Supply Co., Inc.  
 Oakdale, CA  
 Ask for Larry or Albert  
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## Pasture Available 23

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26,000 plus Blocked acres. ADG last 3 years ± 1.5 pounds per day.

- Huge stockpile 2023 Forage after grazing 1,500 Bred Heifers May through November.
- 38 Fenced pastures
- Well watered
- 700 tons of 2023 Hay on-site
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- Good Access
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- Full Care

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## Pasture Wanted 24

Pasture wanted for 45 pair. May thru November 2024, in northern California or southern Oregon.  
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## Irrigation 27

**HDPE PIPE for Ranch Water Systems**  
 Fair Prices - Good Service - Rancher Owned  
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**CALL TODAY: 775-657-1815**

## Equipment For Sale 30

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**KB RANCH** - Kenney Co., TX - KB Ranch is a low fenced 802± acre property that is surrounded by large ranches. The ranch has abundant whitetail and is also populated with turkey, dove, quail, hogs and varmint species. Axis are in the area and have been occasionally seen. The ranch lies approximately 9 miles south of Bracketville on TX 131 and is accessed by all weather Standart Road.  
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# SALE CALENDAR

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

## ALL BREEDS

**Mar. 15** — Intermountain Genetic Alliance, Bull Sale, Baker, NV  
**Mar. 16** — UBIA, Bull Sale, Salina, UT  
**Apr. 4** — Midland Bull Test, Columbus, MT  
**Apr. 16** — Treasure Bull Test, Great Falls, MT

## ANGUS

**Mar. 11** — Pine Coulee Angus, Bull Sale, Hardin, MT  
**Mar. 11** — Spring Cove Ranch, Bull Sale, Bliss, ID  
**Mar. 12** — Veltkamp Angus, Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT  
**Mar. 12** — Wagon Wheel Ranch, Bull Sale, Yuma, CO  
**Mar. 13** — Hornung Livestock, Bull Sale, Stratton, CO  
**Mar. 13** — Sitz Angus, Bull Sale, Dillon, MT  
**Mar. 13** — Udy Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Rockland, ID  
**Mar. 14** — Sunny Okanogan Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Omak, WA  
**Mar. 15** — Caywood Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Tendoy, ID  
**Mar. 15** — J Lazy S, Online Bull Sale, Salmon, ID  
**Mar. 15** — Montana Performance Bull Co-op, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT  
**Mar. 15** — TD Angus, Bull Sale, North Platte, NE  
**Mar. 16** — Nelson Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Salmon, ID  
**Mar. 16** — South Montana Angus Association, Bull Sale, Butte, MT  
**Mar. 16** — Ward Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Gardnerville, NV  
**Mar. 18** — Angus in the Basin, Bull Sale, Duchesne, UT  
**Mar. 18** — Herd Builder, Bull Sale, Othello, WA  
**Mar. 18** — Whistling Winds Angus, Bull Sale, Hingham, MT  
**Mar. 19** — Blevins Angus, Bull Sale, Charlo, MT  
**Mar. 19** — ELK Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY  
**Mar. 20** — Luffkin Cattle, Bull Sale, Tendoy, ID  
**Mar. 20** — Wagonhammer Ranches, Bull Sale, Albion, NE

**Mar. 21** — Carter Cattle, Bull Sale, Pingree, ID  
**Mar. 21** — Oft Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR  
**Mar. 21** — Vermilion Ranch, Commercial Female Sale, Billings, MT  
**Mar. 22** — Vermilion Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT  
**Mar. 23** — Currant Creek, Bull Sale, Miles City, MT  
**Mar. 23** — Sinclair Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY  
**Mar. 24-25** — Leachman Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Ft. Collins, CO  
**Mar. 26** — Bar JV Angus, Bull Sale, Sidney, MT  
**Mar. 27** — Peterson Grain and Cattle, Bull Sale, Havre, MT  
**Mar. 28** — Gartner-Denowh Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Sidney, MT  
**Mar. 29** — Silver Bit Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, May, ID  
**Mar. 30** — Basin Bull Fest, Klamath Falls, OR  
**Mar. 30** — Diamond Peak Cattle, Bull Sale, Loma, CO  
**Apr. 1** — FBA Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Havre, MT  
**Apr. 2** — Hinman Angus, Bull Sale, Malta, MT  
**Apr. 4** — Arntzen Angus, Bull Sale, Hilger, MT  
**Apr. 6** — Botts Angus, Bull Sale, Huntley, MT  
**Apr. 6** — Brooks Chalky Butte, Bull Sale, Bowman, ND  
**Apr. 8** — C-Spear Angus, Bull Sale, Billings, MT  
**Apr. 9** — Hilltop Angus, Bull Sale, Denton, MT  
**Apr. 11** — Jocko Valley Angus, Bull Sale, Missoula, MT  
**Apr. 17** — Milk River Genetics, Bull Sale, Chinook, MT  
**Apr. 19** — DeGrand Angus, Bull Sale, Baker, MT  
**Apr. 19** — Timberline Angus, Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT

## BALANCER

**Apr. 13** — Bar T Bar Ranches, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ

## CHAROLAIS

**Mar. 12** — Romans Ranches Charolais, Production Sale, Harper, OR  
**Mar. 20** — Wagonhammer Ranches, Bull Sale, Albion, NE  
**Mar. 23** — Valley View Charolais, Bull Sale, Polson, MT  
**Mar. 24-25** — Leachman Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Ft. Collins, CO  
**Apr. 5** — Brevig Charolais, Bull Sale, Lewistown, MT  
**Apr. 6** — DeBruycker

Charolais, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

## HEREFORD

**Mar. 11** — Holden Herefords, Bull Sale, Valier, MT  
**Mar. 12** — Cooper Herefords, Bull Sale, Willow Creek, MT  
**Mar. 13** — Udy Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Rockland, ID  
**Mar. 21** — Bar Star Cattle, Bull Sale, Musselshell, MT  
**Mar. 27** — NJW Herefords, Bull Sale, Sheridan, WY

## RED ANGUS

**Mar. 11** — Lautenschlager Red Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Othello, WA  
**Mar. 12** — Loosli Red Angus, Bull Sale, Ashton, ID  
**Mar. 13** — Udy Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Rockland, ID  
**Mar. 16** — Iron Lorenzen Cattle, Bull Sale, Madras, OR  
**Mar. 16** — Milk Creek Red Angus, Bull Sale, Plevna, MT  
**Mar. 19** — Green Mountain Red Angus, Bull Sale, Logan, MT  
**Mar. 20** — Klompier Red Angus, Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT  
**Mar. 24-25** — Leachman Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Ft. Collins, CO  
**Mar. 25** — Axtell Cattle Co., Production Sale, Sterling, CO  
**Mar. 27** — Westphal Red Angus, Bull Sale, Grass Range, MT  
**Apr. 4** — McCann Red Angus, Bull Sale, Billings, MT  
**Apr. 9** — Beckton Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, WY  
**Apr. 12** — 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT  
**Apr. 13** — Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Shepherd, MT

## SALERS

**Apr. 2** — Doubet Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT

## SIMANGUS

**Mar. 30** — Diamond Peak Cattle, Bull Sale, Loma, CO

## SIMMENTAL

**Mar. 15** — Black Summit Cattle, Bull Sale, Powell, WY  
**Mar. 29** — Open Gate Simmental, Bull Sale, Augusta, MT

## STABILIZER

**Mar. 24-25** — Leachman Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Ft. Collins, CO  
**Apr. 13** — Bar T Bar Ranches, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ

## COMMERCIAL

**Apr. 11** — Western Video Market Internet Sale, CA

# Saturday, April 6th, 2024 Big Country Genetics Bull Sale

Cody, WY · Sale at 1 PM

Selling 200 PAP Tested Bulls

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*Bulls developed in a 150+ acre pasture!*



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Big Country Summit x Emulation  
Reg# 4282751 | API: 152 TI: 86



Indreland EXT x Spartan  
Reg# 4310334 | API: 128 TI: 71



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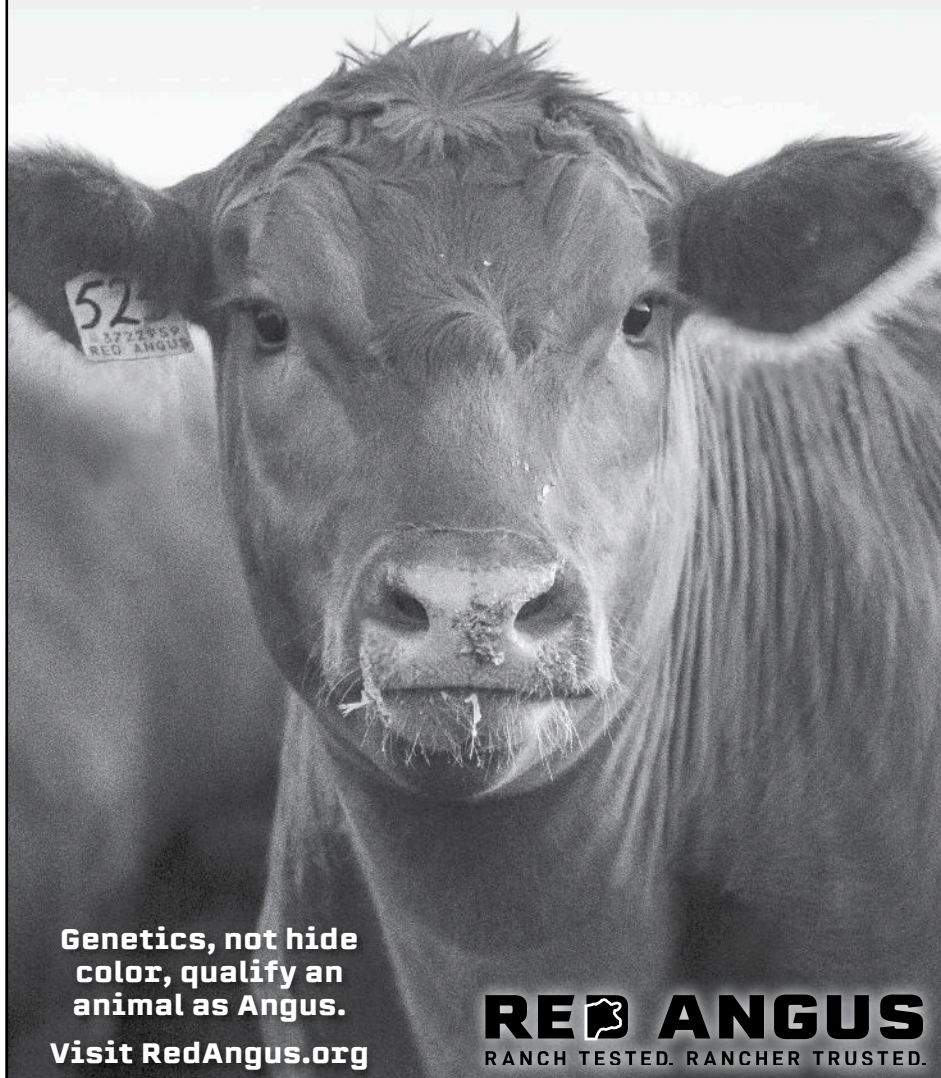


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## AXTELL CATTLE COMPANY

### Annual Production Sale

March 25, 2024

1:00 p.m. (MST)

Sterling Livestock Commission  
Sterling, Colorado

*Sale offering includes:*  
70 Yearling Red Angus Bulls  
20 Registered Red Angus Heifers  
PLUS several large lots of commercial heifers



DUFF BOSS 20102



RED SSS ACTION 907G



AXTELL WIDESCREEN 2032

Look for brothers in the sale this year and his offspring to sell next March!

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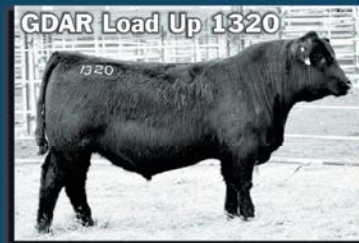
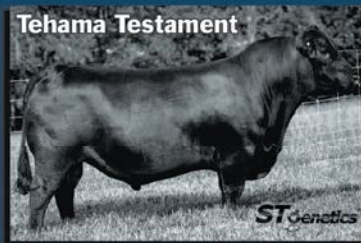
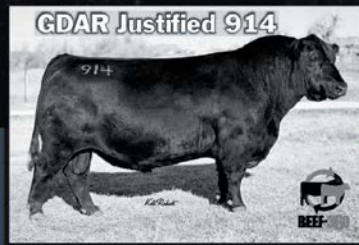
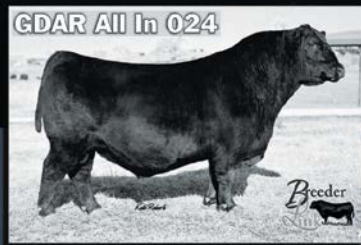


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5<sup>th</sup> Annual Production Sale  
March 28, 2024

250 Yearling Bulls

200 Commercial Heifers

1:00 MDT at the Ranch • Sidney, MT