

INSIDE WLJ

UNANIMOUS — Missouri House approves bill for agriculture education programs in elementary schools. Page 6

LAB-GROWN MEAT — South Dakota governor imposes five-year moratorium on lab-grown meat. Page 9

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"Announcement that about 10,000 'surplus' Army horses are to be sold by the Treasury Department comes as a shock to those who have been encouraged to cooperate in the Army Remount program. Some of the Army's closely selected saddle horses have already been sold at auction around \$65 per head—about one-third of the price being paid by the Army earlier in the war," wrote Nelson Crow in his March 1944 "Observations by the Editor."

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Tom Koerner/USFWS
Environmental groups are suing the Trump administration following its plans to open up sagebrush habitat for energy and mineral development. Pictured here, a flying greater sage-grouse at Seedskaadee National Wildlife Refuge in Wyoming.

Greens challenge rollback of sage grouse protections

— Nine western states' plans at issue

A coalition of environmental groups is filing suit over the Trump administration's December decision to open up sagebrush lands for energy and mineral development. The lawsuit covers greater sage-grouse management plans for Montana, Idaho, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nevada, California, Utah and Wyoming. "There's no scientific support for claims that these plans will save sage grouse, and no public support for them either," said Randi Spivak of the Center for Biological Diversity, a plaintiff in the case. "The greater sage-grouse's fate is tied to hundreds of other animals who all rely on the Sagebrush Sea." The lawsuit, brought by seven environmental groups in the U.S. District Court in Montana, alleges the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) violates several federal laws by "disregarding the best available science" that shows energy development causes greater sage-grouse populations to decline.

The lawsuit contends that the new management plans eliminate several sagebrush habitat protections, including the requirement that BLM propose a mineral withdrawal for 11 million acres of sage grouse habitat across eight western states. The new plan also removed requirements that prioritized new oil and gas leasing outside sage grouse habitat. "The limitations on livestock grazing, oil and gas development, and mining in the original plans are now being cast aside in a rush to accelerate industrial and commercial activities and destroy the wild places and wildlife that make the American West unique," said Erik Molvar, executive director of Western Watersheds Project, another suit plaintiff.

Plan details

The BLM's 2025 Records of Decision (RODs) approving Resource Management Plan Amendments for greater sage-grouse management in the nine states at issue in

See SAGE GROUSE on page 10

Beef drives record meat sales growth

— Power of Meat report findings

The U.S. meat department delivered another strong year in 2025, reaching record sales and reinforcing beef's dominant role in consumer purchasing. According to the 2026 Power of Meat report, released at the Annual Meat Conference by the Meat Institute and FMI – The Food Industry Association, retail meat sales climbed to \$111.9 billion in 2025, while volume sales increased 2%. Overall, the report found that more than 98% of U.S. households purchase meat, with Americans buying meat and poultry more than once per week. Combined with larger basket sizes and more

shopping trips, per-household spending on meat rose sharply, averaging \$939.67 per buyer annually. Julie Anna Potts, president and CEO of the Meat Institute, said the data highlights the continued importance of animal protein in American diets. "Americans are more focused on making smart food choices than ever before, and this latest Power of Meat report reinforces meat's clear and irreplaceable role at the center of healthy, convenient, affordable meals today and for generations to come," Potts said.

Beef leads growth

Among all proteins, beef drove

See POWER OF MEAT on page 13

Schumer legislation targets meatpacking concentration

— Industry reacts sharply

Legislation introduced by Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and several Democratic colleagues seeks to dramatically reshape the U.S. meatpacking sector, arguing that increased competition is necessary to lower grocery prices and restore bargaining power for farmers and ranchers. The Family Grocery and Farmer Relief Act aims to address what its sponsors describe as excessive consolidation in the beef, pork and poultry industries. According to the bill's findings, four companies control roughly 85% of the beef market and 67% of the pork market, while more than 60% of chicken processing is concentrated among four firms. In 1970, ranchers received about 70% of the consumer beef dollar, but today that share is closer to 30%, according to the legislation.

Bill summary

A central provision would require large meatpacking companies to operate in only one "line of protein," meaning they could no longer process beef, pork and poultry simultaneously. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) would oversee divestitures to separate those operations into independent companies. The bill also establishes antitrust thresholds for the beef sector. If market concentration exceeds certain benchmarks, such as a Herfindahl-Hirschman Index—a measure of market competitiveness and concentration—above 1,800, a top-four market share above 50%, or a single company controlling at least 30% of the market, regulators would be required to order divestitures to reduce concentration. Another section addresses vertical integration between packers and

large feedlots. The legislation would prohibit a major packer from slaughtering more than 10% of cattle produced by any single large feedlot, a measure designed to prevent long-term supply arrangements that lawmakers say reduce demand for cattle from independent producers. The bill also calls for increased scrutiny of foreign ownership in the U.S. meatpacking sector. It directs regulators to consider divestitures where foreign-controlled companies may undermine competition or food system resilience. Finally, the legislation would expand federal oversight of retail meat pricing practices and provide funding through the Small Business Administration to support farmers' cooperatives and small businesses seeking to acquire or expand meatpacking facilities.

See SCHUMER BILL on page 17

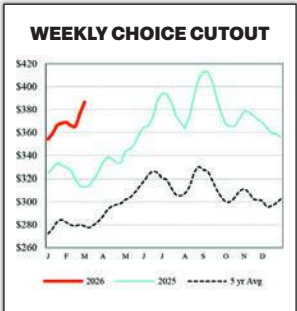
External pressures continue to influence cattle markets

Uncertainty surrounding an impending labor strike at a major beef plant and rising geopolitical tensions weighed on cattle markets over the week. Live cattle futures traded lower. The April contract lost about \$7 to close at \$231.25, and the June contract lost about \$6 to close at \$229.37. Cash trade through Thursday totaled about 35,000 head. Live steers sold from \$233-236, and dressed steers sold from \$372-372.50. Cash trade for the week ending March 8 totaled 75,707 head. Live steers averaged \$239.94, and dressed steers averaged \$379.89. "Yesterday's cash trade was fairly active at lower money, and that, coupled with continued higher boxed beef prices have pushed packer margins back into the black for next week," said Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday. "This has led to expectations of improved throughput going forward, despite the fact that a couple of plants are doing spring cleaning next week and another has on-going labor issues. Throughput has been running at historic lows." The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of March 2-9 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: \$240.01.

- Formula net purchases: \$249.03.
 - Forward contract net purchases: \$235.81.
 - Negotiated grid net purchases: \$250.70.
- On a dressed basis:
- Negotiated purchases: \$379.91.
 - Formula net purchases: \$391.71.
 - Forward contract net purchases: \$369.22.
 - Negotiated grid net purchases: \$384.35.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 425,000 head, compared to 433,000 head a week earlier. Total slaughter for a week earlier is projected at



See MARKETS on page 19

↑	↑	↓
LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$234.70	\$372.05	\$364.80
WEEK ENDING: 3-12-26		

COMMENTS

Fear-driven markets

The amount of risk across the vast landscape in futures trading carries an enormous amount of volatility at the moment. As an article in Sherwood News points out in January, “The best way to approach risk management with futures is not to ask, ‘How much could I profit if all goes as I think it will,’ but rather, ‘How much do I stand to lose if all goes wrong?’” Fear and uncertainty tied together with strikes, global conflict and a changing economy can really destroy the footing of a good market in a hurry. There’s a lot to discuss this week. We’ll discuss only a couple, but understand there are many more situations out there having an impact on our market. It all adds up.

The current conflict with Iran and the Middle East is having an immediate impact across oil markets, driving up barrel costs by 20-30%. By all indications, our military forces are far superior to theirs, and we’ve displayed this in force. Retaliatory efforts have come in the form of destroying oil carriers, facilities and infrastructures to damage this market in any way. Additionally, they are taking warfare to devices. At the time of this writing, headlines showed the first cyberattack on a U.S. medical equipment company named Stryker. This will most likely increase until the conflict is resolved. I call it a conflict because we do not yet know what exactly to call it. It’s been called a war, an expedition, a conflict and a challenge. What we do know is that there are going to be lasting implications because of it.

Oil prices are undoubtedly going to impact our industries negatively. My major frustration is seeing immediate gas pump prices soaring, but the oil in that system was the same oil purchased under normal situations. The price gouging is already on full display. Cattle are going to get more expensive to get from point A to point B. This is reality. Secondly, wars are not cheap. While I appreciate the fact that much of the technology used in today’s conflict keeps human lives safer for our troops, there’s an inherent cost. With a current deficit of more than \$1 trillion, war will definitely add to this burden. The conflict has created a ripple effect across other markets, including stocks, where the Dow fell 570 points in a single day. This is going to be a reality until a resolution is in place.

In the midst of this, an anticipated labor strike at the JBS processing facility in Greeley, CO, will start on March 16 at 5:30 a.m., unless a settlement is reached in the midnight hours after this *WLJ* issue has gone to press. Over 3,800 workers who would process between 5,000-6,000 head per day will be on strike. The union voted 99% in favor of the strike due to unfair labor practices and wages that haven’t kept up with inflation, safety violations, charges for protective equipment and rising health care costs. JBS currently sits as the world’s largest meatpacker and this facility sits as one of their largest capacity facilities. This will have an impact no matter what. JBS responded to the vote by saying they offered a similar contract to the previously passed contract, but over the past eight months have been trying to resolve the expired contract before negotiations fell flat. The company has already made it public knowledge that processing will continue by rerouting production elsewhere to keep up with current beef demand. While this soundbite is positive for the cash market, packers are expected to slow their purchasing activity on top of a weakened market over the past four weeks.

Ripple effects will continue here in the marketplace as buyers will have to account for processing capacity, and now with fuel surging, could create an added pressure for the company as they adjust to the current situation the strike has created. According to a CattleFax report from the prior week, there was a net decrease in open interest contracts by 6,029. This was coming off a high of 346,834 total contracts in late February. The report claims this sits even with a five- and 15-year average. Essentially, there is a massive number of moving parts that are all culminating together to create a very uncertain landscape across the multiple markets. While people like Warren Buffet have claimed, “If you cannot control your emotions, you cannot control your money,” this isn’t possible when the futures markets simply rely on emotionally driven uncertainty or confident aggressive investments. It’s the time of year when fall-born calves are getting preconditioned for marketing and decisions are being made for the financial feasibility for operations that this mixed bag of influencers are going to have on our market for the next little while. Cash markets on lighter calves have held steady so far, but all these situations need monitoring. Over the past 20-plus months, analysts have been saying that even when a correction or downturn happens, this market is still at a profitable level for the cow-calf guy. This is the reality we might be facing this spring. — **LOGAN IPSEN**



IPSEN



DITTMER’S TAKE

A recent opinion column in *WLJ* by R-CALF’s Bill Bullard requires a response.

He points out that many younger cattlemen and cattlewomen do not remember when the national Beef Checkoff started. But that is no excuse for misinforming them about the checkoff’s purpose and history.

Bullard has historically been fixated on cattle numbers and cattle operation numbers. He contends that the checkoff should have resulted in higher cattle numbers and higher beef consumption. Because we have lower cattle numbers and consumption, the checkoff was a failure, he contends, and the checkoff money was wasted.

The effect of the widespread drought on cattle numbers has penetrated even the dullest of the public’s minds, even though they are not familiar with weather’s effects on their meat selection. Bullard correctly mentions the much larger carcass production per cow in recent decades, even more in the last decade. We have fewer cows yet increased beef production today. While we need more cattle than we have right now, we don’t need the numbers of the mid-1970s because each cow produces a lot more beef. And those higher producing cows need more grass than the thousand pound cows of bygone eras.

For many years before the checkoff, the beef industry had, year after year, sold more beef for less money. When I came west in the ’70s—remember cattle numbers peaked in the mid-’70s—cattlemen were hotly debating whether we should get rid of the Cattle on Feed report. Why? Because they were sick of the report coming out showing increased cattle numbers and market prices going down. We were producing more cattle and beef than the demand required. Much of that was because of Sen. George McGovern’s report accusing red meat of causing coronary heart disease. We also were improving genetics and meat production by moving away from the short, dumpy cattle of the ’50s and early ’60s that featured poor cutability and yield. Weather in much of the country was more favorable than the drought of the ’50s and cattle numbers had increased.

The Beef Checkoff was a culmination of cattlemen realizing that we ourselves had to do something about our demand problem. Waiting for retailers or packers or restaurateurs was not an option. There were still some who believed that it was someone else’s responsibility to fix demand problems. But eventually, we decided to take the bull by the horns.

The checkoff was not about increasing cattle numbers. We already had more numbers than the market could handle. Profitability for the entire chain was the goal. How? By assuaging human health concerns, by showing them how to cook and save money by doing so, by recipe development, by merchandising assistance to retailers and foodservice, by improving carcass quality and the palatability, consistency and predictability of our product.

Working cooperatively with other segments of our beef production chain instead of waiting for someone else to do it, we galvanized the industry to improve the situation ourselves. Bullard is fond of reminding people that everything starts at the cow-calf end of the chain. It does. And a lot of the impetus for the checkoff came from those ranchers and farmers seeing their family’s future disappearing and tired of people’s lackluster enthusiasm for beef.

The terrific demand we are enjoying right now didn’t happen easily or overnight. The national Beef Checkoff was a tremendous step forward, but it was not the beginning. Cattlemen’s and cattlemen’s groups began decades before that collecting dimes to educate consumers about beef. Heck, the National Live Stock & Meat Board started in 1922.

It took major efforts from all segments of the industry, working together, trying not to make things difficult for the next step in the chain, concentrating on what everyone in all segments needed to do to meet consumer wants and desires, to get to where we are now.

Many of those folks who believed in making a living by shorting the people behind them or ahead of them in the chain have disappeared. But the industry has been finding better, objective ways to measure live characteristics that resulted in better product, and finding ways to hit those marks and sharing data with the entire chain.

Bullard’s claim that America’s appetite for beef was stronger before the checkoff than it is now is off the mark. He is just trying to find a new way to damage the checkoff by working with numbers in a misleading way. Relevant numbers: Pounds of beef in 1985: 23.7 billion; in 2025: 26.7 billion. Retail price of beef: 1985: 85 cents; 2025: \$8.27.

More beef for more money. — **Steve Dittmer, *WLJ* columnist**

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

GUEST OPINION

Although many farmers don’t often consider gifting or charitable donations, they can be a good tax strategy. I’ve included a few tax benefits of charitable giving in other articles, but a deeper dive might be worthwhile with changes under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA).

Let’s start with what changed under OBBBA. Starting in 2026, if you don’t itemize, you can still take up to a \$1,000 (single) or \$2,000 (married filing joint) deduction for cash contributions to charities. For those who itemize, charitable deductions will be subject to a 0.5% floor. That is, an amount equal to the first 0.5% of adjusted gross income would not be deductible, but anything over that amount would be.

And, for those with high incomes, OBBBA caps the tax benefit for contributions at 35% (even if the taxpayer is in the 37% bracket). Although not a deduction, there is a tax credit of up to \$1,700 for charitable contributions to scholarship-granting organizations for elementary and secondary education scholarships.

Now, let’s talk about some of the benefits of charitable donations. The most frequent donation I see is the qualified charitable donation (QCD) from an IRA. This allows farmers who reach the age of 70 1/2 to donate up to \$111,000 (in 2026) directly to a charity. The benefit of a QCD is that you don’t have to pay tax on the IRA distribution to the charity; however, you don’t get to deduct the amount given to charity (that would be double-dipping). One limitation is that QCDs can’t be made to a donor-advised fund or a private foundation.

With the rise in the stock market, many people have

appreciated stock. You can donate stock and receive a charitable deduction equal to its fair market value. This makes donating stock much more appealing than selling the stock and donating the proceeds.

A great option for farmers is to gift commodities. Instead of selling commodities to an elevator or cooperative, the farmer can deliver the grain in the name of the charity. The charity gets the proceeds, and the farmer does not report the sale of the grain. There are a few benefits to commodity gifting. First, if the farmer does not gift enough to exceed the standard deduction, he or she can still receive a tax benefit. Second, gifting commodities removes them from income and, in turn, reduces self-employment tax. For farmers who give smaller amounts more frequently, commodity gifting may be the best method to donate to charities.

Finally, charitable remainder trusts (CRTs) provide a tremendous ability to transfer a large amount of money to charities. I have previously written about CRTs and the economic benefits for the donors, but in most cases, the remainder that goes to charities is rather large. And, if the donor contributes assets to the CRT with basis, that basis can be used as a charitable deduction. A CRT is not only a good exiting strategy but also a great way to give to charity.

As you can see, gifting and charitable donations can provide a tax benefit while fulfilling a charitable intent. If you have a tax bill and a charitable intent, look at some options with your tax professional. — **Rod Mauszycki, DTN tax columnist**

WLJ

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

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Top 8% \$Feeder



5342

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5290

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5392

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Top 5% \$Feeder • 4-Star Calving Ease

40 HEAT TOLERANT INFLUENCED BULLS



5181

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Top 11% \$Feeder • 3-Star Calving Ease



5101

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Top 37% \$Feeder



5263

Top 16% \$Profit • Top 32% \$Ranch
Top 13% \$Feeder



5424

Top 22% \$Profit • Top 10% \$Ranch
Top 56% \$Feeder • 4-Star Calving Ease

30 ANGUS AND HIGH % ANGUS BULLS



2514

Top 3% \$Profit • Top 13% \$Ranch
Top 3% \$Feeder • 3-Star Calving Ease



2515

Top 3% \$Profit • Top 25% \$Ranch
Top 1% \$Feeder



5041

Top 0% \$Profit • Top 3% \$Ranch
Top 0% \$Feeder



5111

3% \$Profit • Top 12% \$Ranch
Top 2% \$Feeder



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Herd Consultants and Development

An update on seasonal beef demand

Wholesale beef prices have moved higher thus far in 2026, reflecting both strong beef demand and typical seasonal patterns. Choice boxed beef prices averaged \$386.41/cwt the first week of March, up 9.1% from the beginning of the year, and up 23% year over year.

Boxed beef prices normally increase through the first half of the year, peaking in June before declining to the end of the year (Figure 1). Boxed beef prices usually begin to increase more sharply in April as retailers build inventories for the coming summer demand that begins in late May.

The average seasonal price index indicates that boxed beef prices typically increase by over 11% in the first half of the year. This year, boxed beef prices have already increased over 9%, earlier than usual. It is not clear if boxed beef prices will increase more than seasonally this year or simply move to seasonal peaks sooner than usual. Both are possible.

The boxed beef seasonal price pattern in Figure 1 is the net effect of many beef products included in the composite boxed beef measure. Across many beef products from the various carcass primals, different beef products have varied and unique seasonal price patterns reflecting different seasonal demands. While many beef product prices are increasing in the first half of the year, some products have lower prices early in the year

and higher prices later in the year.

Figure 2 shows the seasonal price pattern for three middle meat cuts. High-valued middle meats drive much of the seasonal increase in cutout values. Strip loins lead the seasonal increase with the most variable seasonal pattern of any wholesale beef product, increasing an average of 30% from January to May. Strips are a popular summer grilling item as well as for restaurant menus.

es typically increase and peak in the second quarter with stronger summer demand. Round values have been very strong the last two years as a result of declining nonfed beef production and demand for additional lean. Round prices are typically strong from the second quarter through the third quarter as a result of seasonal ground beef demand.

Prices for chuck rolls usually decrease into warmer weather. Chuck products have

The boxed beef cutout has increased faster than seasonally normal and suggests that beef demand remains strong in the face of tightening beef supplies.

Ribeye prices also increase modestly in the first half of the year due to seasonal retail along with food service demand. Tenderloins are more popular for food service menus and the seasonal bump in the second quarter may be largely due to Mother's Day demand. Prices of these steak items drop in the heat of summer with ribeye and tenderloin demand rebounding to seasonal peaks in the fourth quarter due to restaurant and holiday demand.

Figure 3 shows the seasonal price patterns for some end cuts and briskets. Brisket prices

higher demand for roasts and crock pot cooking in cooler weather with prices reaching a seasonal peak in the fall. Chucks are also popular export items.

All wholesale beef cuts are higher year over year with most following seasonal patterns thus far in the year. The boxed beef cutout has increased faster than seasonally normal and suggests that beef demand remains strong in the face of tightening beef supplies. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Figure 1. Boxed Beef Seasonality
Choice, 2019-2024 Index

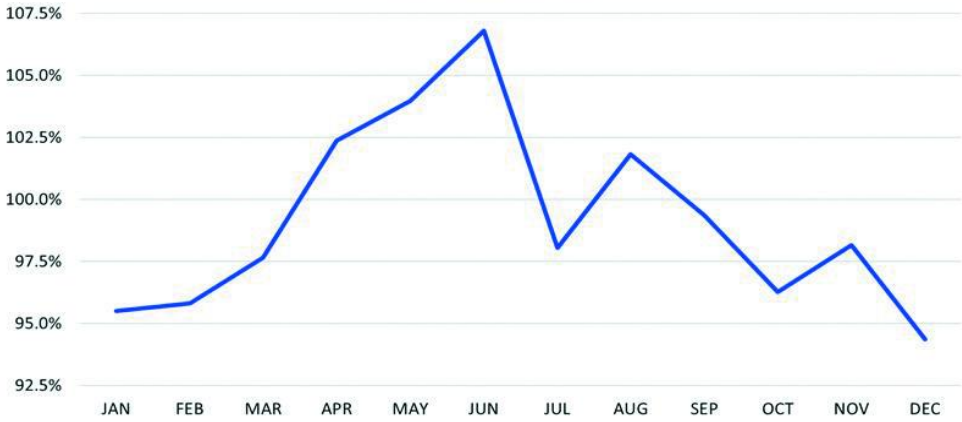


Figure 2. Steak Cuts Seasonality
Choice, 2019-2024 Index

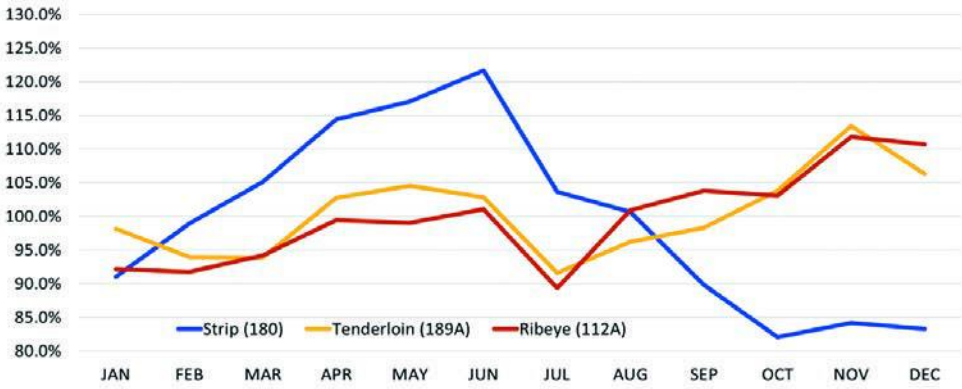
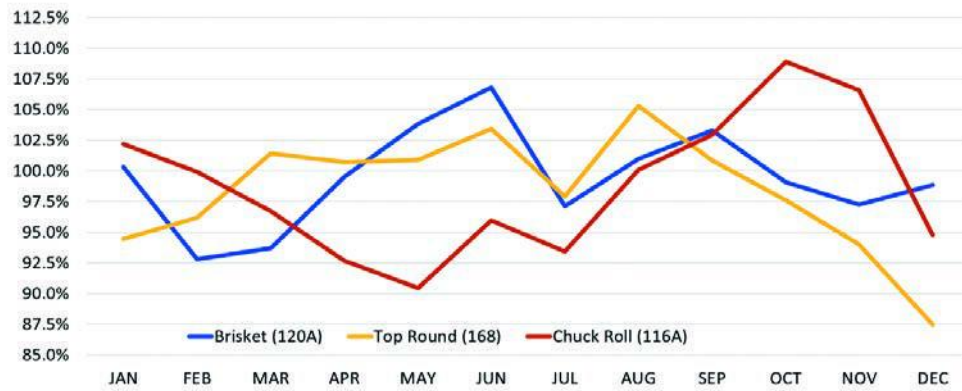


Figure 3. End Cuts Seasonality
Choice, 2019-2024 Index





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LEGAL LEDGER

Strike at Colorado JBS plant set for March 16

Colorado labor union UCFW Local 7 set plans for union workers to begin an unfair labor practice strike at the JBS processing plant in Greeley, CO, beginning March 16 at 5:30 a.m. MDT. The labor union said the strike was a result of JBS’ “unlawful and bad-faith conduct.” Union workers voted Feb. 4 to authorize a strike, and the labor union said its bargaining committee met with JBS more than two dozen times, but failed to reach a mutually agreeable contract. “The company needs to give them an offer that takes life saving safety equipment seriously, provides wages which meet the rising cost of living in Colorado and ensures rising health care costs do not consume workers’ wages,” UCFW Local 7 said.

CPW Commission advances fur-ban petition

At its March meeting, the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission voted 6-4 to initiate rulemaking on a citizen petition seeking to amend regulations to “prohibit the commercial sale of wildlife fur in Colorado.” CPW Director Laura Clellan said the vote does not mean the entirety of the petition has been approved. CPW staff will draft a proposed rule to begin the rulemaking process in the coming months, which will then be brought back to the commission for consideration. The Colorado Cattlemen’s Association (CCA) said that the action should concern “anyone who values science-based wildlife management and fair public process.” CCA Executive Vice President Erin Karney Spur said in an emailed Member Communications notice that “increasingly, the Commission appears willing to advance activist-driven policy despite recommendations of its own professional staff and despite strong public opposition.” The proposed prohibition could apply to Colorado’s 17 hunted and trapped furbearer species.

FDA approves topical spray to treat NWS

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on March 10 issued an Emergency Use Authorization for F10 Antiseptic Wound Spray with Insecticide for the prevention and treatment of New World Screwworm (NWS) infestations. The spray contains benzalkonium chloride, polyhexanide and cypermethrin, and is the first product authorized by FDA to be used for species outside of cattle, dogs and cats. The spray may be effective for cattle, horses, minor species of hoof stock (e.g., sheep, goats, deer), raptors and other wild birds, pet birds and captive wild, exotic and zoo mammals, but may not be used for domestic cats or dogs. Livestock have a withdrawal period of 30 days prior to slaughter. The spray is available over the counter without a prescription.

US, Mexico launch USMCA review

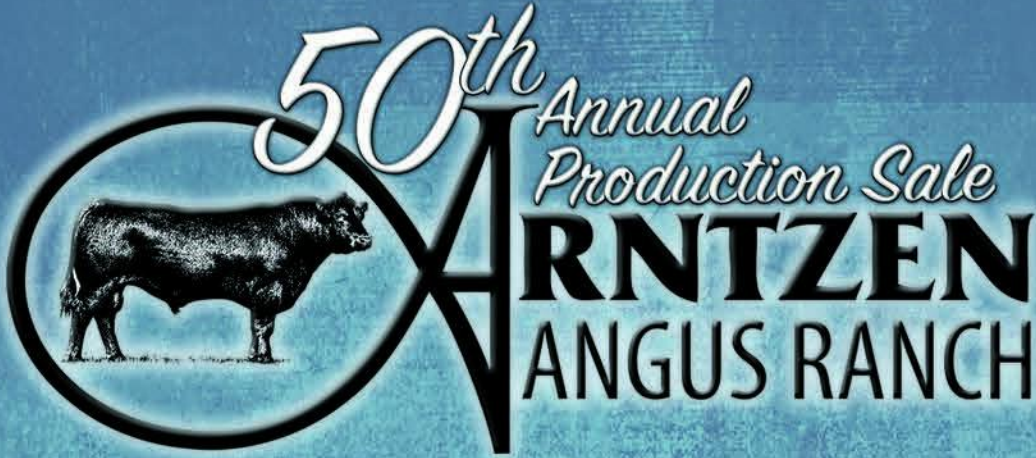
On March 5, U.S Trade Representative Jamieson Greer and Mexican Secretary of Economy Marcelo Ebrard announced the first round of discussions in preparation for the Joint Review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). The ministers instructed negotiators to begin scoping discussions on agreement measures, such as reducing dependence on outside imports, strengthening rules of origin and enhancing North American supply chains. Negotiators were expected to meet the week of March 16 and meet regularly after as part of the joint review.

Contract signed for NWS production facility

USDA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced on March 9 a construction contract with Mortenson Construction to build a new sterile fly production facility at Moore Air Base in Edinburg, TX. “Combining our engineering expertise with USDA’s mission expertise brings us one step closer to alleviating this biological threat,” said Lt. Gen. William H. “Butch” Graham, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers commanding general. At the facility, New World screwworm (NWS) flies will be raised and sterilized before being released into target areas. Female NWS flies mate only once in their lives, and if they mate with a sterile male, they will lay unfertilized eggs that do not hatch. USDA is currently producing about 100 million sterile flies per week at a facility in Panama. The new facility is expected to begin producing flies this summer. By November 2027, the facility is expected to reach its goal of 100 million sterile flies per week, with a long-term goal of 300 million sterile flies per week.

CBD seeks stronger CO wolf regulations

The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) on March 9 submitted a formal rulemaking petition to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife, seeking “commonsense updates” to regulations that outline when wolves can be taken. “This petition is about clarity, fairness and prevention, and making sure lethal control is truly a last resort,” said Ali Henderson of the Center for Biological Diversity. The group contends that the current rules aren’t clear enough about what reasonable conflict minimization measures are, and also lack clarity about reasonable use before authorizing a lethal taking.



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MO bill to create agriculture education program gets unanimous support

Hoping to grow the next generation of farmers, the Missouri House unanimously approved a bill March 2 to create an optional agriculture education program for elementary schools.

“We need to educate and encourage growth in agriculture and spark that interest, both in rural and in urban areas,” the bill’s sponsor, state Rep. John Martin, a Republican from Columbia, said in a House debate.

The legislation would require the state’s education department to work alongside agricultural commodity groups to create instructional models and support schools that opt into the program.

The idea builds on a pilot program that ran from 2020 to 2023, which gave teachers lesson plans and hands-on activities to teach students about growing crops and raising livestock. Groups like Missouri Farmers Care also run agriculture education programs in partnership with public schools.

The bill now heads to the Missouri Senate.

State Rep. Adrian Plank, a Columbia Democrat, has filed the bill since 2024, saying he hopes to get kids from “playing in the dirt” to “growing their own food” someday.

The USDA ranks Missouri 11th for the value of its agricultural production, between both crops and livestock. But the number of farms in Missouri has been steadily de-

creasing from 106,500 in 2008 to 85,700 in 2024, according to a report by the USDA’s Economic Research Service Farm Income Team.

Plank said the bill will “combat” the loss of family farms, encouraging more children to take an interest in farming and join groups like 4-H and FFA.

State Rep. Willard Haley, a Republican from Eldon and former agriculture teacher, said he saw the decline in family farms through his students. At the beginning of his teaching career, “many of the students” had experience on the farm. But toward the end of his time in the classroom, students spoke more about their grandparents’ farms.

“With the student not being able to have that firsthand agriculture experience, (agriculture education) is more important than ever before,” he said.

State Rep. Yolanda Young, a Democrat from Kansas City, spoke about teaching kids in the city about growing produce. The children didn’t know where carrots came from, she said, so she helped them grow a garden.

“The joy on the faces of the children that actually got their hands in the dirt, planted seeds and saw their food grow,” she said. “It was just a wonder to see the kids eyes’ open, knowing where their food came from.”

The bill’s requirements are not subject to appropriation,

meaning the state’s education department would be obligated to support the pro-

gram even without state funds directed to it. The state’s fiscal note estimates

that the program may not require any additional funds but could cost up to \$119,000

annually for teacher training. — **Annelise Hanshaw, Missouri Independent**

Genetic selection can help producers advance their operation

Focusing on the improvement of cattle genetics, cow herds, animal welfare and generational transfers were focal points of the 113th Cattle-men’s Day, which was hosted on March 6 by Kansas State (K-State) University’s Department of Animal Sciences and Industry.

Among several presentations geared towards advancing the cattle industry, one researcher presented the idea of using genomics to improve one’s herd.

Jamie Courter, an assistant professor and beef extension specialist at the University of Missouri, said that utilizing genomics can help producers formulate a business plan to continue to move ahead.

“There is no business that goes to the bank to ask for a loan without a plan,” Courter said. “Producers need a business plan for the future of their herd, whether they are selecting replacement heifers or bulls. Genomics is a way to help implement that plan.”

Genomics is the application of DNA analysis to evaluate an

animal’s entire genetic makeup, allowing them to predict performance, health and profitability traits.

“By taking DNA samples from cattle, we can estimate how much marbling they will have and how big their rib eye will be,” Courter said. “It can also help us determine how big their calf will be at birth or at weaning.”

“Using genomics as a tool and combining it with previous records and an animal’s phenotype, will allow producers to better implement a plan of action when it comes to their breeding program,” Courter said.

She said genomics allows producers to take a deeper look at an animal’s genetics, information that they can then use to help select sires that will benefit the cow’s genetic makeup and create a more profitable generation.

“Using EPDs as another resource for selection criteria can help producers make those sire selections on whether they have a more terminal or maternal breeding objec-

tive,” Courter said.

When discussing heritable traits, Courter highlighted that hair shedding is a phenotypic trait that can help producers determine whether a cow will wean a heavier calf or not.

“Cows that shed their coat earlier will wean an older, heavier calf,” Courter said.

Hair shedding is scored on a level of one to five, with one being completely slick and five being a full winter coat.

“Research from the University of Missouri showed that cows that had a hair shed score of one weaned a calf that was over 40 pounds heavier than a cow that had a hair shed score of five at weaning,” Courter said.

When thinking about hair coats, Courter said to think about it as wearing a coat during the summer months, which creates extra heat stress on the body. These extra stressors could also be linked to fertility issues.

“We haven’t proven this from a fertility standpoint, but what we think is happening is that cows that shed early are

more likely to get pregnant earlier in the breeding season due to the lack of the extra stress,” Courter said.

These questions lead researchers to further investigate the relationship between hair shedding and temperature, as well as the length of the day.

“When they looked at the relationship between hair shedding and temperature, less than 20 SNPs showed up. But when they looked at the relationship between hair shed score and length of day, it was over 1,000,” Courter said. “So, we think that cows are not shedding their hair in relation with temperature, but rather to length of day.”

Courter added: “Hair shedding is an important trait to select for as it is an indicator of the animal’s adaptability to sense and response to their environment.”

More information on understanding hair shedding and the impacts it has on cattle production is available online from the University of Missouri Extension. — **K-State Research and Extension**

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Lot 73 — DEEP CREEK SON

BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MB
3.3	70	116	38	.65	.26

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Lot 65 — POLLED ARLO

BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MB
3.6	64	101	32	.50	.17

OUT OF EXPEDITION’S MOM



LOT 5018 — STANFIELD DAUGHTER

BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MB
4.1	73	122	44	.83	.13

LONG, DEEP, CORRECT



LOT 5003 — TRANSLATOR DAUGHTER

BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MB
2.7	73	123	34	1.03	.31

DEEP, THICK, LONG, CORRECT



Lot 137 — FALL SON OF STARDANCE

BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MB
2.5	59	97	44	.44	.48

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California Ag Leadership Program continues to cultivate future leaders

Kevin Voorhees is a mid-career ag lending professional who felt ready for a next-level leadership development program at a time when California agriculture is facing significant economic, regulatory and generational challenges.

Out of nearly 40 programs he could choose from, it quickly became clear that the best program for him would be the California Agricultural Leadership Program. Launched in 1970 by the California Agricultural Leadership Foundation (CALF), the program has now trained over 1,500 leaders in agriculture and related fields.

Voorhees, a vice president for AgWest Farm Credit in Paso Robles, said he was talking one day to a colleague who had participated in the program and was encouraged to look into it.

"I'd always heard of it, but I wasn't aware of the focus. So I researched it and talked to a ton of alums and everyone spoke highly of it—each person said it was a life-changing program. That was enough to make it my No. 1 choice," he said.

After an intense application process, he was accepted into Class 55 of the program and is immersed in the 17-month program designed to provide leadership development to up-and-coming professionals in the state's agricultural sector.

The goal is to build a pow-

erful network to keep agriculture a viable and important part of the state's economy, said Lesa Eidman, a member of the Program's Class 49 who became CALF's president and CEO in February 2025.

"We're one of the premier leadership development programs in the U.S.," Eidman said. "Our mission is 'growing leaders who make a difference' by providing sessions in leadership theory, communications, motivation and change management. But most importantly, it is focused on self-analysis and self-reflection to help participants learn about themselves."

CALF partners with Cal Poly Pomona; Cal Poly San Luis Obispo; California State University, Fresno; California State University, Chico; and University of California, Davis to deliver an integrated curriculum throughout the program's seminars in collaboration with CALF's education team, led by the Director of Education Dane White. Participants learn from top educators, subject-matter experts and leaders from diverse fields who challenge them to think differently and grow as influential voices in agriculture.

AgWest Farm Credit California President Kevin Ralph said the program has made a major difference since it was launched in 1970.

"Farm Credit is proud to support the program because

participants become lifelong leaders who individually and collectively make a significant difference in the agricultural industry, their businesses, communities and families," Ralph said.

"We're also pleased that while CALF focuses on up-and-coming leaders in the production side of agriculture, they also select participants who are ag-adjacent, like our own team member Kevin this year. Lenders, processors, advisors and suppliers play an important role in ag's future as well."

Farm Credit associations supporting CALF are AgWest Farm Credit, American AgCredit, CoBank, Golden State Farm Credit and Yosemite Farm Credit. These organizations are part of the nationwide Farm Credit System—the largest provider of credit to U.S. agriculture.

The foundation was created in 1962 by the Council of California Growers (CCG), and the program was launched after a group of Michigan farmers visited California in the late 1960s as part of an ag leadership program sponsored by the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The CCG leaders and staff agreed a similar program would be tremendously beneficial for the state's ag industry.

Applications opened in January and program alumni are very involved in the three-series application process. A total of 24 participants are

selected each year out of more than 100 applicants.

Multiple-day sessions are held at each of the five participating universities, where participants build enhanced critical thinking skills that will help graduates develop creative solutions.

Eidman added that participants engage in learning experiences grounded in the program's Diamond Model approach that expand their thinking and perspective. These experiences encourage openness to diverse viewpoints and strengthen participants' ability to listen and learn from others, while naturally building strong camaraderie within the cohort.

The program also includes a trip within the U.S.—this year to Chicago and Washington, D.C.—and an overseas visit to broaden their horizons. Last year's overseas trip was to southern Africa.

Jacob DeBoer, a senior regional marketing manager with American AgCredit said the program is unique because participants engage in situations and discussions focused on complex social and cultural issues.

"For example, key questions for the current class in their first seminar were, 'Who are we?' and 'What does it mean to belong?' Outside-the-box thinking like this helps shape effective leadership and as importantly helps participants grow as individuals," DeBoer said.

CALF invests around \$70,000 in each participant. The applicants pay a \$1,000 fee but money raised by foundations, alums and supporters, and organizations like Farm Credit provide the bulk of the funding.

Voorhees said the investment is well worth it.

"The program is very well run. I don't think a minute of the sessions have been wasted," he said.

"I'm going to get all the leadership skills you can think of, but the bigger aspect will be my growth as a person. I'm being forced out of

my comfort zone but that's like on an airplane—you have to have your mask on before you can help someone else. I want to learn to be confident that I can lead and be authentic and give back and have an impact on people's lives."

Applications are now being accepted for the Class 56. The deadline for phase one of the three-phase application process must be completed by March 27. Information and the application form are available at agleaders.org/class56apply. — **Farm Credit**

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ASI’s annual DC Fly-In advances producer priorities

Approximately 50 producers and state leaders from the nation’s oldest livestock organization, the American Sheep Industry (ASI), met with key congressional offices, including Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman John Boozman (R-AR), professional staff of the House Agriculture Committee majority under Chairman Glenn “GT” Thompson (R-PA-15) and professional staff for the Senate Agriculture Committee minority under Ranking Member Amy Klobuchar (D-MN).

Conversations focused on issues critical to sheep producers, including risk management tools, trade issues, animal disease prevention, wildlife services and challenges related to bighorn sheep interactions on grazing allotments.

“ASI shows up with substance, year after year,” said ASI President Ben Lehfeldt. “This is not a one-week effort. It’s a continuation of the

work we’ve been doing for producers—advancing sheep priorities, moving policy, pressing for outcomes, and working alongside our agriculture partner to push results that make a difference for sheep producers nationwide.

“You can see it in concrete steps like Rep. Jackson’s amendment directing USDA to study a lamb risk management option, and the action we’ve taken with USTR regarding the 201 investigation on lamb imports. That’s what progress looks like: turning producer priorities into action and keeping them moving until they’re across the finish line.”

Fly-In callouts

- The 2026 “skinny farm bill” advanced out of House Agriculture Committee.
- ASI members met with House and Senate Agriculture Committee leadership and staff as the Farm, Food,

and National Security Act of 2026 (also referred to as the “skinny farm bill”) advanced through House Agriculture Committee markup. The bill passed out of committee with bipartisan support by a 34-17 vote.

In total, seven Democrats joined ranks with Republicans to vote for the bill as amended: Reps. Jim Costa (D-CA-21), Sharice Davids (D-KS-03), Don Davis (D-NC-01), Gabe Vasquez (D-NM-02), Adam Gray (D-CA-13), Kristen McDonald Rivet (D-MI-08) and Josh Riley (D-NY-19).

ASI continues encouraging producers to contact their elected officials prior to mid-terms and reinforce the importance of sheep and lamb priorities as the bill moves through the legislative process.

- Jackson amendment directs USDA to study lamb risk management options.
- ASI applauds an amendment offered by Rep. Ronny

Jackson (R-TX-13) directing USDA to study the feasibility of an insurance or risk management program for domestic lamb producers to protect against market and input cost volatility.

During the farm bill markup, the amendment was offered and passed by a voice vote. ASI emphasized that this is a meaningful step while noting the farm bill still must move through the House, the Senate and final conference before it can be sent to the president.

- U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) meeting and continued engagement with Ambassador Julie Callahan.

During its recent Fly-In, ASI advanced its federal trade efforts by holding a follow-up meeting with the USTR. The meeting reinforced ASI’s formal request that USTR initiate a global safeguard investigation into rising U.S. lamb meat imports under Sections 201-202 of the Trade Act of 1974.

The request was submitted on behalf of ASI’s 42 state associations and more than 100,000 sheep farms and ranches nationwide.

In October 2025, ASI delivered both public and confidential reports to USTR documenting the sharp growth in imported lamb, the resulting financial harm to domestic lamb processing companies, and the serious economic injury facing American sheep producers. Since filing the request, ASI has continued working closely with congressional offices and USTR officials to underscore the impact of these imports on the U.S. sheep industry and the urgent need for federal action.

ASI leadership emphasized that securing a formal federal review remains a top priority to ensure fair mar-

ket conditions and long-term stability for American lamb producers.

While in D.C., state association leaders also met directly with their respective members of Congress to highlight the importance of sheep production in their home states and to reinforce the industry’s policy priorities. ASI concluded the Fly-In by hosting its annual American Lamb Reception, bringing together members of Congress, staff, and partners to continue discussions and strengthen working relationships.

A highlight of the evening included attendance by Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY), the Senate Republican whip, along with Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS) and Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI-01). — ASI

Bull fertility preparation for the breeding season

The development of sperm cells in bulls depends on several factors. A key factor is temperature regulation of the testes. Bovine testes must be maintained at a temperature around 90 F. This means that bull testes are kept around 7 to 11 degrees F below normal body temperature. Any insult to the scrotum that damages the testes and/or impairs their ability to move freely within the scrotum will disrupt temperature regulation of the testes. This will result in improper development of the sperm cells.

Damage to the bull’s scrotum may occur in a variety of ways. One way is frostbite. In a study performed in Canada, severe frostbite was associated with reduced satisfactory bull breeding soundness exams (BSE). The authors of the study suggest that frostbite resulted in inflammation to the testes, which increases testicular temperature.

Frostbite is not a common problem with bulls in Oklahoma; however, Oklahoma cattle are not accustomed to the extreme temperatures seen during the winter storm in late January. Without proper protection, bulls may have suffered damage to their scrotums or testes. Damage to these tissues may result in poor semen quality.

The wildfires that burned over 300,000 acres in north-west Oklahoma may have resulted in some hidden reproductive consequences for bulls. Minor thermal injury or burns to the scrotum might be severe enough to interfere with scrotal temperature regulation. Again, this may result in nonmotile sperm and/or abnormal sperm.

With this information in mind, cattle producers need to have their bulls evaluated before spring turnout. A BSE performed by a veterinarian should alleviate any concerns about infertility. The exam has three parts. Part one is a physical examination to ensure that the bull is in good health. Bulls impacted by wildfires may have sustained injuries to their feet which

would impair their ability to breed.

Part two is the examination of the internal and external reproductive organs. During this part of the process, the scrotum will be measured and evaluated for any abnormalities such as frostbite or burns. Lastly, the semen will be evaluated for motility and morphology (normal and abnormal sperm). Any abnormalities in any part of the exam are cause for concern.

Bulls meeting the minimal standards for each part of the BSE will be classified as a “satisfactory potential breeder.” Any issues discovered will result in a bull being classified as “deferred” or “unsatisfactory potential breeder.”

Bulls with signs of frostbite or burn damage to their scrotum and with poor semen will most likely be classified as “deferred.” The evaluator will probably suggest a re-check in a few weeks. One study indicated that most problems improve after six weeks of rest; however, according to the study in Canada, the fertility of some bulls with frostbite damage never improves.

A BSE does not detect infectious diseases that might be present in the bull. These diseases may cause infertility or other reproductive problems. Testing for diseases such as trichomoniasis or persistently infected bovine virus diarrhea might prevent unwanted infections in the cow herd. If bulls were commingled with other cattle during the wildfire, producers may want to test for these diseases.

A BSE is just one step in preparing for the spring breeding season. Hopefully, it will prevent any unwanted surprises during pregnancy testing this fall. For more information about BSEs and issues associated with frostbite and burn injuries, producers should consult their local veterinarian and/or county agriculture educator. — **Barry Whitworth, DVM, Oklahoma State University senior Extension specialist**

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SD governor signs lab-grown meat moratorium

Gov. Larry Rhoden (R) signed a compromise bill imposing a five-year moratorium on lab-grown meat in South Dakota after rejecting a permanent ban last month.

"By talking to producers, legislators, and other stakeholders, we worked together to chart a strong path forward," Rhoden said in a press release.

The new law bars the sale, manufacture or distribution of "cell-cultured protein" products from July 1 this year through June 30, 2031. Viola-

tions are punishable by up to 30 days in jail, a fine of up to \$500, or both.

Rhoden previously vetoed another bill that would have effectively banned lab-grown meat by adding it to a list of adulterated foods. In his veto letter, Rhoden said "it's against our values to ban products just because we don't like them" and instead backed a moratorium to allow for more study and for litigation over bans in other states to play out.

Lawmakers then sent him a

bill doing exactly that. They have not yet acted on his veto, which would require a two-thirds majority of each chamber to override.

The moratorium bill was one of many Rhoden signed on March 11, including those listed below. He has signed 147 bills into law and vetoed one so far this legislative session, which ended March 12 except for a day on March 30 to consider vetoes.

'Bossly Bill'

Senate Bill (SB) 88 states that if a property owner denies per-

mission, only an "examination," not a "survey," is permitted by an entity asserting a right to access land via the power of eminent domain. Developers will need a pending or approved siting permit application detailing where and when they plan to enter, how long they plan to be there, and what they'll be doing.

The bill defines an "examination" as a minimally invasive procedure that causes no more than minor soil disturbance, while defining a "survey" as a more detailed investigation.

The bill was dubbed the "Bossly Bill" for Jared Bossly of

rural Aberdeen. He became a prominent opponent of Summit Carbon Solutions' proposed carbon dioxide sequestration pipeline after confrontations with the company during its attempts to access his land for surveys. Lawmakers and Rhoden adopted a law last year banning eminent domain for carbon pipelines, and the project remains stalled.

National security bills

SB 40 aims to tighten compliance with South Dakota's foreign-owned ag-land restrictions by allowing the attorney

general to seek civil penalties for those failing to file federal ownership reports.

SB 60 bans China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia or Venezuela from holding property in South Dakota.

SB 130 appropriates \$8 million from the state general fund to the South Dakota Ellsworth Development Authority for roads and other infrastructure near Ellsworth Air Force Base, which is undergoing heavy construction in anticipation of the arrival of B-21 bomber planes. — **Joshua Haiar, South Dakota Searchlight**

NDSU sets dates for youth farm safety camps

According to the National Children's Center for Rural and Agricultural Safety and Health, young workers were 7.8 times more likely to be fatally injured in agriculture when compared to all other industries combined in 2016. Tractors and all-terrain vehicles are the leading sources of fatal events.

When it comes to youth fatalities on the farm, 47% involved transportation, which includes tractors, 20% involved contact with machinery and 13% involved violent contact with animals on a farm. In 2021, the annual cost of childhood agriculture-related deaths was \$605 million, with nonfatal agriculture-related injuries at \$1.4 billion.

"These sobering statistics highlight the need for more training and education when it comes to having youth work on farms," said Angie Johnson, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension farm and ranch safety specialist. "NDSU Extension provides youth farm worker certification training that meets the U.S. Department of Labor Hazardous Occupations Order in Agriculture (HOOA) requirements for 14-to-15-year-olds to be able to legally work on a farm other than their own family's operation."

Youth will be able to learn about safe farm and ranch practices and earn their certifications at three statewide farm safety camps hosted by NDSU Extension in 2026.

Camp dates and locations are the following:

- May 27-29, Lake Region State College, Devils Lake.
- June 2-4, Dickinson State University, Dickinson.
- June 23-25, Bismarck State College and Joann Hetzel Memorial 4-H Building, Bismarck.

The three-day, two-night camps cover the basics of safe tractor and machinery operation, general farm hazards, livestock handling, use of personal protective equipment, and basic first aid and first-response procedures.

"These camps help teens become familiar with the most serious hazards associated with operating tractors, skid steers, ATVs and agricultural machinery, along with the fundamentals of safe operation and maintenance," Johnson said, who is collaborating with NDSU Extension agents to conduct the camps.

Participants will receive hands-on experience and learning opportunities:

- Safe tractor operation, including a tractor-driving obstacle course.
- Livestock handling.

- All-terrain vehicle safety, including ATV certification.
- Skid steer operation.
- Roadway safety using rules of the road.
- Farm first aid and emergency preparedness.
- Laws related to youth working in agriculture.
- Equipment operation and maintenance.
- Farm stress management skills.

Youth will have opportunities for hands-on learning, including utilizing farm equipment on obstacle courses to simulate actual farm situations. Livestock handling sessions will allow participants to interact with animals and learn more about animal behaviors and safety when working with animals. ATV certification and Stop the Bleed certification are also included.

Federal law under the HOOA requires that youth under the age of 16 receive certification of training before employment on farms operated by anyone other than a parent or guardian. The program is for youth between the ages of 14 and 15. Youth who are 13 can participate, and the certification they receive will become valid when they turn 14.

By successfully passing this program, which includes a final exam, participants will receive official certification to operate tractors over 20 horsepower and some pieces of farm machinery when working for a farmer or rancher outside of their family's operation.

"While this certification is not required for youth to work on their own family farm, we encourage all teens who plan to work on a farm to participate in this program," Johnson said. "These camps are designed to strengthen communication skills between parents, employers and teen workers on the farm. Farm safety training prepares the next generation of the workforce with the safety skills needed to prevent injuries and fatalities on the job."

Camps are open to youth from all counties in North Dakota. Youth do not need to be enrolled in 4-H to participate.

The deadline to register is April 7. The cost of each camp is \$300. Registration for all three camps is available online at ndsuhq.org/safefarmyouth26.

Sponsorships from businesses and organizations provide personal protective equipment and farm safety supplies for camp participants. Contact Johnson at angela.b.johnson@ndsuhq.org to learn more about current sponsorship opportunities. — **NDSU Extension**

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MT, USFS move forward on forest plan

Montana and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) recently announced they were moving ahead on a shared agreement between the two to do forestry work in large swathes of the state.

Last summer, the state and USFS signed an agreement formalizing closer cooperation between federal forest management operations and the state Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC). That came about two months after a Trump administration executive order seeking to increase domestic timber production.

Gov. Greg Gianforte (R), DNRC Director Amanda Kaster and USFS Chief Tom Schultz said that two large areas have been selected for state and federal work. The focus of the work will be on approximately 213,910 acres in the Flathead and Kootenai national forests and 200,000 acres within the Bitterroot National Forest.

The project areas were selected due to wildfire risk and

how close they are to being implemented.

“These are landscape scale commitments, which means that these places are where we are aligning planning, funding, staffing and authorities for sustained restoration and timber production,” Schultz said during the press conference. “This is how we move from projects to programs.”

Schultz also highlighted the work USFS does through the “Good Neighbor Authority Program” which was part of the 2014 Farm Bill.

This agreement supports the timber harvesting industry, including targeted logging, construction of fuel breaks and a variety of other activities directed toward reducing wildfire risk.

The money from the timber sales then gets directed back toward new forest restoration and management programs throughout the state.

Since the program began in Montana in 2016, about 234 million board feet of timber have been pulled from the

state’s forests, Schultz said. The first initiative under the 2025 agreement will include the Good Neighbor Authority and is a project in Flathead National Forest called the Blacktail Powerline Project, which is looking to protect infrastructure.

“By coordinating our planning and resources, we’re going to be able to get more work done on the ground,” Gianforte said. “The reality is, we need more of these sorts of projects. Over 60% of our forests are at high risk of wildfire and disease. Keeping these landscapes healthy is critical to protecting our water supply, supporting our economy and preserving our Montana way of life.”

A body of research by the USFS has called for landscape-scale treatments of land, but the idea has mostly been studied more than implemented. That appears to be changing and some Montana politicians have called for this type of work, including House Speaker Brandon Ler (R-MT-35).

Schultz said landscape-scale projects are no longer an “academic exercise” and said some Forest Action Plans (a guiding document each state creates to drive forest policy) have not been implemented.

“We are woefully short of implementing forest plans,” Schultz said. “We have a renewed commitment to implementing forest plans. And if we implement every forest plan around this country, we would go from selling about 3 billion board feet to about seven-and-a-half billion board feet, just if we implemented forest plans.”

Both large areas the USFS and DNRC plan to work on in Montana are of major concern, especially the Bitterroot Valley, which is considered at high risk for wildfire events.

“These landscapes represent exactly what we’re trying to achieve, nationally accelerated forest restoration, wildfire risk reduction at scale, expanded sustainable timber production, support for road mills and communities and healthier forests for future generations,”

Schultz said during the press conference.

Kaster added the collaboration should make projects move faster.

“By aligning early with our federal and local partners, we can reduce duplication, streamline planning, and ensure that treatments are strategic and effective across ownership boundaries guided by the Montana forest action plan, we will track progress publicly and hold ourselves accountable for results,” Kaster said.

But not everyone believes the forests are too dense, including some researchers and

advocacy organizations.

“Both of these projects will result in more knapweed filled clearcuts and less bull trout, big game, lynx, wolverines, and grizzly bears,” said Mike Garritty, the executive director for the Alliance for the Wild Rockies. “The federal government is required by law to work to recover species listed under the Endangered Species Act and the ecosystems upon which they depend. Instead the Forest Service and the state of Montana are working together to do the opposite.” — **Jordan Hansen, Daily Montanan**

Ag groups commended sage grouse plans

SAGE GROUSE (from page 1)

the lawsuit encompass 71 million acres of BLM-managed land. The agency last amended the land use plans in 2015 to strengthen sage grouse protections against oil and gas drilling, mining and livestock grazing.

The December ROD included eight states, while plans for Colorado and Oregon were completed earlier in the year. The lawsuit does not challenge the Oregon ROD, which is already subject to a preliminary injunction and ongoing litigation in the case Oregon Natural Desert Association v. Raby.

Across the 10 western states, the 2025 RODs amended goals, objectives and management plans for 77 resource management plans. Agency officials said the amendments strengthened conservation efforts while allowing flexibility for energy and mineral develop-

ment.

“The updated approach makes more acres available in some areas for development than the 2015 plans allowed while continuing to protect key habitat across approximately 65 million acres of sagebrush lands that sustain more than 350 wildlife species,” BLM said in a December news release.

Opponents argue the greater sage-grouse is still in decline despite a decade of management under the 2015 plans. The lawsuit contends that populations have dropped nearly 80% since 1966.

Industry groups applauded the final amendments, saying the plans recognize the role of cattle producers and follow the best science. Conservation groups vowed to challenge the plans in court from the beginning, arguing the plan amendments stripped critical protections from the greater sage-grouse. — **Anna Miller, Forto, WLJ managing editor**

Controlling winter weeds

Record-high winter temperatures are causing earlier weeds emergence, so now is the time to control winter annual weeds in alfalfa. Thin field stands combined with open soil surfaces and adequate moisture can result in high weed pressure.

So, prior to alfalfa shoot green-up or dormancy break, scout fields for early green winter annual weed patches of pennycress, downy brome, mustards, cheatgrass and shepherd’s purse. Left unchecked, these weeds can lower first cutting hay yield, quality and palatability. Also, excessive weeds can extend dry-down and lengthen harvest time.

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

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

nated.

Aim herbicide will control early growing broadleaf weeds but not control grassy weeds. Poast herbicide will control most growing weedy grasses but not downy brome. Pursuit and Raptor herbicides control growing henbit well during early alfalfa green-up, but control weeds best when air temperatures are warmer.

Glyphosate products like Roundup Weathermax/Pow-ermax will control growing weeds with warmer temperatures too; however, they must be used with Roundup-Tolerant alfalfa varieties.

Other new alfalfa field products include: Balan, Trust, Moxy, Arrow, Select Max, Velpar, Karmex, Sinbar, Pursuit, Butyrac and Raptor. The University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension publication EC 130, “Guide for Weed, Disease, and Insect Management in Nebraska” provides additional information.

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

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STORY SHORTS

CDFW releases wolf compensation details

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) posted an update on social media regarding the Livestock Compensation Program that assists ranchers affected by wolves. Since the program began in 2022, more than \$3.52 million has been distributed to producers across several Northern California counties. The funding supports three categories: direct livestock losses, pay-for-presence payments and deterrent tools designed to reduce wolf conflicts. According to CDFW, the largest share of funding has gone to Siskiyou County, where payments exceed \$2 million across the three categories. Smaller but notable amounts have been distributed in Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra and Tulare counties. CDFW also released a summary of investigations documenting ongoing wolf-livestock conflicts. In 2026, 25 depredation investigations were conducted, with 16 livestock confirmed or probably killed or injured by wolves, according to the department’s investigation summary. The Whaleback Pack has been linked to the largest share of livestock losses, while other incidents have been attributed to packs such as the Harvey, Grizzly and Ashpan packs, as well as dispersing wolves moving through the region.

ND feedlot under investigation

Authorities in Ward County, ND, are investigating a rural feedlot after reports of improper livestock disposal and possible environmental violations. According to the Minot Daily News, Ward County Sheriff Robert Roed said the site northeast of Surrey houses an estimated 8,000-9,000 head of cattle. Investigators initially discovered about 200 dead cattle piled in the open. After obtaining a search warrant, officials removed 472 deceased cattle from an open pit and disposed of them according to state law. North Dakota statutes require livestock to be properly disposed of within 36 hours. The Department of Environmental Quality was notified, and potential permitting and water pollution concerns remain under review.

EU limits labels on plant-based food

The European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union (EU) have agreed to new rules restricting how plant-based foods can be labeled and marketed. Farmers Guide reported the decision was finalized on March 5 after negotiations. The rules would prohibit the use of 31 animal-related names and cuts for plant-based alternatives. Terms such as “beef,” “pork,” “chicken,” “breast,” “thigh” and “bacon,” along with “steak” and “liver,” will no longer be allowed on plant-based labels. However, widely used product descriptors including “burger,” “sausage” and “nuggets” will remain permitted if clearly identified as plant-based. The restrictions may also apply to emerging products developed through cellular agriculture, even though those foods are not yet widely available in European markets.

Beyond drops ‘Meat’ amid market shift

Beyond Meat is dropping the word “Meat” from its brand name as the company broadens its focus beyond plant-based burgers and sausages. According to the Associated Press (AP), the company has rebranded as Beyond The Plant Protein Co., or simply Beyond, and updated its website, packaging and social media. The shift comes as Beyond expands into new products, including a sparkling protein drink called Beyond Immerse, introduced in January, and a protein bar planned for release this summer. AP said the company will continue to make plant-based burgers, chicken and other products. AP reported Beyond’s net revenue fell 14% in the first nine months of 2025, while U.S. retail sales of plant-based meat have dropped 26% over the past two years as consumers question ingredients and nutrition.

Three arrested in livestock fraud, theft cases

Authorities in Texas, Missouri and California recently arrested three individuals in separate cases involving livestock theft and agricultural fraud. Brandon Wiginton of Tyler, TX, was arrested on felony theft charges tied to more than \$96,000 in stolen hay and related revenue in Cherokee and Smith counties. Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association special rangers led the multi-year investigation, which resulted in grand jury indictments for theft and misapplication of fiduciary property. Wiginton later surrendered and was released on bond. In Missouri, Melvin Fincher of Rolla was arrested following an investigation into multiple cattle thefts across several counties. Authorities say evidence connected him to livestock theft incidents in Polk, Barry and Phelps counties. Separately, federal authorities arrested Joshua Link at Los Angeles International Airport for his alleged role in a nationwide cattle contract fraud scheme with Agridime that reportedly caused \$115 million in losses to more than 2,000 buyers. Link was charged with 10 counts of wire fraud, one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud and two counts of money laundering.

Idaho removes wolves to boost elk numbers

The Idaho Department of Fish and Game removed three wolves from Unit 4 in the Panhandle elk zone during targeted management actions on Feb. 21 and 22. The effort aims to reduce predation and help improve elk survival in a herd that has struggled to grow. Officials say the goal is not to eliminate wolves but maintain a smaller, self-sustaining population while continuing habitat improvements and expanded hunting opportunities for predators.

Seasonal supply squeeze drives sheep and goat prices higher

Texas sheep and goat producers are seeing strong prices this spring as seasonal supply patterns tighten markets while demand remains steady, said a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

Premium lamb and goat prices at Texas sale barns recently exceeded \$4 per pound and in some cases, approached \$5/lb., said Jake Thorne, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension sheep and goat program specialist and assistant professor in the Texas A&M Department of Animal Science.

“Those are extremely strong prices for live animals,” Thorne said. “They reflect a time of year when supply is limited, but demand remains consistent.”

Most sheep and goat producers follow seasonal breeding patterns that naturally create fluctuations in supply. Most animals breed in the fall, so lambs and kids are born in the spring, increasing the number

of animals available later in the year.

Because of that cycle, fewer animals are typically available during late winter and early spring, which drives prices higher.

Off-season production

Texas producers sometimes take advantage of the state’s relatively mild winters by adjusting breeding schedules so lambs and kids are born in the fall.

That timing allows animals to be marketed during winter and early spring, when supply is more limited across much of the U.S.

“In Texas, producers have the flexibility to shift production timing,” Thorne said. “If they can market animals during this off-season window, they often benefit from stronger prices.”

West Central Texas plays a

key role in the national market. San Angelo hosts one of the largest sheep and goat auctions in the country, and several regional sale barns provide a consistent weekly supply of animals.

That steady supply attracts buyers who ship lambs and goats to major metropolitan markets, particularly along the East Coast.

Demand can also rise around cultural and religious holidays, including the Muslim observance of Ramadan, when consumption of lamb and goat meat increases.

Imports and disease concerns

Domestic producers also compete with imported lamb in the U.S. marketplace.

The U.S. does not produce enough lamb to meet consumer demand, and most imported product comes from Australia and New Zealand. Those

countries often produce lamb at a lower cost, and imported product can sell for 15-20% less than domestic meat at retail.

“Imports are necessary to meet demand,” Thorne said. “But they can also affect how high domestic prices go.”

Industry groups have discussed the possibility of tariff rate quotas that would limit the volume of imported lamb while still allowing enough product to meet U.S. demand, he said.

Producers are also monitoring the potential re-emergence of the New World screwworm near the U.S. border. The parasitic fly historically affected livestock by laying eggs in open wounds, including the navels of newborn animals.

If cases occur in Texas, animal health authorities could temporarily restrict livestock movement in affected areas, potentially disrupting livestock markets. — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

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“I have been buying Silver Bit bulls for over 30 years and have always been happy with how they put pounds on calves, produce mother cows with good bags and mothering ability, hold up on our range that is over 6000’ altitude. Scott and Gwen are always great to deal with and always stand behind the bulls they sell.”

Herb Whitworth, Elkhorn Ranch, Mackay, ID

“We have bought bulls from Scott & Gwen for several years and never been disappointed with the cattle. Being able to buy a set of bulls in volume that are full and half brothers from one place is great for us. We come back year after year for these bulls because they survive on the high desert we run on and that has also carried over and helped put longevity into our replacements. Since implementing Silver Bit Angus bulls, we have noticed our carcass reports getting better & better, that has earned us repeat buyers on the calves. The docility of the bulls has improved greatly over the years, and anyone can appreciate that. These are truly good bulls from outstanding people.”

Pat Hendren & McCall Hopkins, Hendren Farms, Montevieu, ID

“Small Ranches have bought bulls from Silver Bit for more than 25 years. The bulls are easy to handle and produce some really nice calves. The calves have always done very well for us. They are easy to handle, they have good confirmation & gain well. The replacement heifers do well in our mountainous terrain. We have been very satisfied with the bulls we have purchased & plan on continuing to add their lineage to our herd.”

Kevin Small, Small Ranches, Dubois, ID

For More Information Contact.....

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How fast is mature cow size increasing?

Over the past 60 years, mature cow body weight has increased at an annual average of 7.7 pounds per year, but it has not increased at a constant rate.

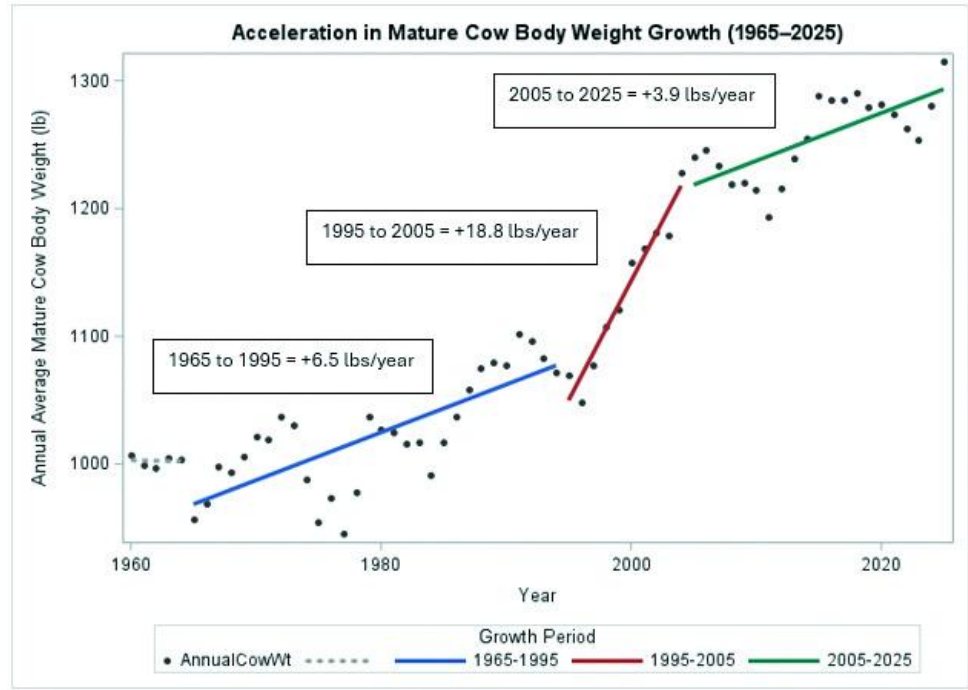


Figure 1. Average annual cow bodyweight estimated from cull cow slaughter data from 1960 to 2025.

The chart shows the average annual estimated cow live weight estimated from USDA reports for monthly cow carcass weights. When we look at annual average live weight data, we see that the major structural shift in cow size began in the mid-1960s when selection for larger framed growthier cattle became popular. Prior to that, mature cow weight was relatively stable and even slightly declining. After 1965, cow size began a steady upward climb increasing by approximately 6.5 lbs. per year until 1995. However, the rate of growth in cow size has not been uniform throughout the years. During the 1960s and 1970s, cow size really changed very little. The increase in cow mature size began with the introduction of larger frame Continental genetics into the U.S. cow herd in the 1980s. This resulted in the rapid accelera-

tion in cow weights of nearly 19 lbs. per year from 1995 to 2005. During the '80s, mature cow weight increased roughly 8 lbs. per year and 80 lbs. in 10 years. Along with the widespread adoption of larger framed genetics and Continental breed influence across commercial herds, the increased emphasis on growth EPDs has increased cow mature size but is also important to modern increases in post-weaning beef production and efficiency. Selection pressure for growth, heavier weaning weights and changing market signals all contributed to that trend. After 2005, cow weights have shown a moderate increases of around 4 lbs. per year, which is essentially a plateau relative to the “acceleration decade” from 1995 to 2005. The recent moderation in the increase in cow size indicates our efforts to improve maternal efficiency have been fruitful. Cow size remains substantially larger than in the 1960s. Over the six decades, that translates to over 450 additional lbs. per cow. That increase in cow size has consequences on ranch sustainability and risk tolerance. If stocking rates are not adjusted for the increased cow size, long term range-land productivity will suffer from overgrazing and weather disruptions such as drought will have greater impacts. Bigger cows require more forage, greater maintenance energy and influence stocking rates. While larger cows can wean heavier calves, they are often not as efficient. The cow efficiency question remains critical: are we adding pounds where they generate greater returns? Understanding how cow size has changed can help producers evaluate whether their current cowherd aligns with forage resources and profitability goals. Bigger cows are not inherently good or bad—but cows must fit the production environment or we will be required to fit the environment to the cow by providing more supplemental feed from harvested forage and concentrates. As always, the most efficient cow is the one that matches her environment and pays her own way. — **Paul Beck, OSU Extension beef cattle nutrition specialist**

Understanding the cow herd's mineral needs

With spring and summer grazing months upon us, a Kansas State (K-State) University beef cattle expert explains the importance of understanding what minerals a producer needs to provide a cow herd, and where to find that information to make the best decision. Justin Waggoner, a beef systems specialist with K-State Extension, said that with the information listed on the mineral tag, some knowledge of the mineral requirements of the cowherd can be used to help producers make mineral supplement decisions. “There's a tremendous amount of information that can be found on mineral tags in terms of mineral levels, including target intake or consumption levels,” Waggoner said. Waggoner explains that if a producer takes a picture of the tags of mineral they are considering, those can easily be shared with an Extension specialist or a nutritionist to be able to help them better understand which product would fit their herd's needs. Waggoner said that one of the main reasons producers provide minerals to cattle in grazing systems is to supply phosphorus which is a common deficiency in grazing. “Early vegetative spring grass is going to be higher in phosphorus content, and forage phosphorous content will steadily decline as that forage matures, and it's going to be at its lowest during the dormant period during the winter months,” Waggoner said. While making sure that the cow herd has access to phosphorus, Waggoner warns about over-supplementation. “If we greatly exceed the requirements of that animal, they're going to be excreted. Phosphorus is one of those where we certainly need to be aware of over-supporting,” Waggoner said. Alongside the caution and management of over-supplementing, Waggoner said other important considerations are intake and consumption. “We also want to look at those target consumption levels on the mineral tag,” he said. “We commonly see mineral supplements formulated based on two to four ounces of intake. That's another good bit of information that can be utilized or found on the mineral tag.” Waggoner adds that producers need to acknowledge and be aware of their herd consumption levels. “We often look at the average, right? How much minerals did they go through,” Waggoner said. “We put out a sack, put out another sack, and how long did it last, right?” He said producers should understand that there is also variability in intake among a herd, as some will eat more than others, but also should make sure that their herd is consuming the mineral at a level relatively close to the intake listed on the mineral tag. More information on cattle management and mineral supplements is available online at ksubeef.org. — **K-State Research and Extension**

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IDENTITY X X-FACTOR X NEXTPECTION
171PRO, 88HB, 83GM, 18CED, -6.5BW, 75WW, 117YW,
29MILK, 17HPG, 10CEM, 17ST, 0.78MB,
0.34RE, \$27,783\$P, \$142\$R
One of the Top Identities to Sell Anywhere!

Lot 2 • 5115N • #5083495 • 1/20/25
CENTERFIRE X X-FACTOR X VICTORY
110PRO, 40HB, 70GM, 19CED, -5.4BW, 73WW, 120YW,
31MILK, 12HPG, 10CEM, 13ST, 0.73MB,
0.13RE, \$21,810\$P, \$115\$R
Fresh Genetics that offer so much more!

Lot 4 • 5227N • #5083689 • 2/13/25
HERDSMAN X X-FACTOR X BOURNE
154PRO, 70HB, 84GM, 15CED, -3.5BW, 81WW,
144YW, 24MILK, 14HPG, 8CEM, 17ST, 0.59MB,
0.47RE, \$18,344\$P, \$71\$R
Big Time Herdbull that does it all!

Lot 7 • 5102N • #5083469 • 1/15/25
COMPLETE X COMMANDER X X-PORTER
136PRO, 62HB, 74GM, 17CED, -4.0BW, 76WW,
122YW, 24MILK, 14HPG, 9CEM, 14ST, 0.85MB,
-0.05RE, \$25,235\$P, \$89\$R
A Complete son that checks all of the boxes!

Lot 15 • 5109N • #5083483 • 1/16/25
CONFIDENT X GENUINE X FRANCHISE
119PRO, 33HB, 85GM, 16CED, -2.8BW, 90WW,
142YW, 35MILK, 11HPG, 9CEM, 12ST, 0.96MB,
0.31RE, \$21,756\$P, \$123\$R
The Best Confident Son to sell this Spring!

Lot 22 • 5019N • #5083385 • 2/10/25
CENTERFIRE X X-FACTOR X PARAMOUNT
144PRO, 63HB, 81GM, 14CED, -0.9BW, 79WW, 1
30YW, 31MILK, 14HPG, 7CEM, 17ST, 0.70MB,
0.46RE, \$21,643\$P, \$100\$R
Solid Balanced herd bull that puts it all together!

Lot 23 • 5175N • #5083615 • 2/13/25
PATENT X NIGHT CALVER X BIG SKY
169PRO, 79HB, 90GM, 12CED, -2.7BW, 74WW,
127YW, 24MILK, 15HPG, 6CEM, 19ST, 0.60MB,
0.36RE, \$18,058\$P, \$54\$R
Outcross herd bull in a great package!

Lot 26 • 5096N • #5083459 • 2/26/25
CONCORD X PRESIDENT X DEFENDER
143PRO, 66HB, 76GM, 15CED, -2.8BW, 74WW,
118YW, 35MILK, 11HPG, 7CEM, 17ST, 0.75MB,
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Lot 31 • 5145N • #5083555 • 1/25/25
EXACTLY X GENUINE X RANCHER
146PRO, 43HB, 102GM, 13CED, -2.5BW, 83WW,
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Bigger cattle, greater need for animal welfare, management

Since 2010, the USDA has reported that the U.S. beef cattle herd has declined 12%, from 31.7 million in 2010 to 27.9 million in 2025, though producers are still able to meet beef demands through efficient cattle.

But a Kansas State (K-State) University researcher suggests that producers need to take a closer look at the management of their cattle, as they progressively get larger in the next gen-

eration.

A.J. Tarpoff, an associate professor and beef veterinarian with K-State Extension, suggests that producers need to take a deeper look at how cattle are managed while in transportation and in finishing facilities, considering that they are bigger and more efficient than ever before.

"As an industry we are using less feed, less water, and less time to be able to

get these animals on a per-pound-of-beef basis," Tarpoff said. "We're doing better than we ever have before."

He suggests that even though the individual welfare of the animals themselves is not the major concern, there are concerns in the facilities and management when transporting and finishing these cattle.

"From our beef quality audits, we have seen an increase in bruising issues on the carcass," Tarpoff said. "We are seeing a lot of bruising on our middle meats, the ribeye, the strips and the sirloin. These three major cuts are seeing a majority of these bigger bruises and are having to get trimmed off at the processing plant."

The cuts that are trimmed cannot be processed into a finished product, and the beef that remains after the trimming tends to be downgraded.

"It's a huge financial dis-

count to our industry dealing with some of these bruising issues," Tarpoff said.

He said that bruises often are caused during transportation. As cattle grow to a larger size and live weight, trailer compartments have been known to not be conducive to a 1,600- to 1,800-pound steer. Tarpoff urges producers and others who manage the cattle to be aware of these issues when loading and unloading the animals.

Tarpoff also suggests taking into account animal welfare, even past the producer's control.

"Even in basic facilities at the processing facility, there are some animals that may not necessarily fit through the working facilities," Tarpoff said.

He emphasized that even processors can prepare their facility and transportation plans to prepare for larger, more efficient cattle.

"We need to prepare for

the future. We don't anticipate that we're going to take a drastic 90-degree turn and go to a much smaller framed animal, not in today's marketplace," Tarpoff said. "We're going to make them bigger. We're making them more efficient. We're going to continue down that path."

Alongside the management of these animals, Tarpoff said producers need to manage the welfare of cattle while finishing them once they are off the farm.

"It's important in our industry looking forward, that we need to be nimble enough to make individual decisions at a population level," Tarpoff said. "If there's an individual within a pen that probably shouldn't go to 1800 pounds, we want to make sure that it gets marketed before there's a locomotion (the movement, gait and ability of cattle to walk, stand and move from place to place)

concern."

He adds: "We need to be making sure our pen floor is as comfortable and structurally sound as possible, so our animals don't have any issues. We should be asking ourselves whether we are moving those animals in an appropriate way to make sure that we are maintaining their locomotion, that we're monitoring that regularly before an issue becomes larger."

Tarpoff said the locomotion of the animal does not always derive from the farm of origin; better decisions need to be made on the feedlot to understand when they need to go; and when they can continue to feed the animals.

"We just want to challenge the industry to make sure everyone is aware of the concerns that if we're going to move forward and plan for the future, I think this is where we start," he said. — **K-State Research and Extension**

Fresh meat sales reached \$79.5B in 2025

POWER OF MEAT (from page 1)

the majority of retail meat department gains in 2025, generating 71% of dollar growth and 57% of pound growth across the category.

Fresh beef sales reached approximately \$45 billion, accounting for 40% of total meat department dollars, a share that exceeds the entire processed meat segment. Volume sales totaled about 6.2 billion pounds, up 4.3% from the previous year.

The report also found that beef purchases increased across several key retail metrics, including household penetration and shopping trips. Consumers made about 7% more beef purchasing trips compared with the previous year, highlighting strong demand even amid continued financial pressure from higher food prices.

Chicken remained the largest protein by volume, with 6.5 billion lbs. sold, followed by beef at 6.2 billion lbs. However, beef significantly outpaced other proteins in dollar growth.

Pork sales totaled \$8.7 billion, while turkey reached \$3.3 billion. Lamb represented a much smaller share of the category, with sales of roughly \$959 million, though it posted moderate dollar growth despite a slight decline in volume.

Overall, fresh meat sales reached \$79.5 billion, increasing more than 9% year over year, while processed meat generated \$33.4 billion in sales.

Meat remains a household staple

The report finds that meat and poultry remain staples in American households despite continued financial pressure from higher food prices. About 68% of consumers consider meat and poultry either non-negotiable or important when making grocery trade-offs, meaning they are more likely to cut spending elsewhere before removing meat from their meals.

The report also found that consumption trends remain positive overall. While 17% of consumers said they are eating less

meat and poultry than the previous year, 25% reported eating more, indicating a net increase in consumption.

At the same time, cost remains the primary reason some consumers reduce meat consumption. Among those eating less meat and poultry, 54% cited the price of meat and poultry, and 50% pointed to the overall cost of groceries and living expenses as key factors.

Rather than abandoning meat entirely, many shoppers have recalibrated their approach to purchasing it. According to the report, consumers are using a range of strategies to manage budgets while continuing to include meat in meals. The most common approach is waiting for sales or promotions, cited by 50% of shoppers, followed by 46% who shop at lower-price stores. Many consumers also reduce portion sizes, buy ground meat or less expensive cuts, or switch between proteins such as beef, chicken or pork to find better value.

Despite careful budgeting for everyday meals, consumers still make room for premium purchases when the occasion calls for it. Nearly half report spending more during holidays, while others cite celebrations, entertaining guests or purchasing favorite cuts as reasons to trade up.

The Power of Meat report concludes that the meat department remains one of the strongest performers in grocery retail, driven by strong consumer demand for protein, convenience and meal flexibility.

Rick Stein, vice president of fresh foods for FMI, said the category's continued success reflects strong alignment with consumer priorities.

"The meat department is outperforming because it delivers what shoppers want right now: protein, flexibility, value and taste," Stein said. "Retailers that balance convenient ground options with premium, indulgent cuts will be best positioned to capture both budget-conscious and experience-driven shoppers." — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

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Proper grain storage crucial in late winter and spring

As outdoor temperatures begin to warm, the potential for grain storage problems increases. With the likelihood for issues going up, the need for grain monitoring and management does as well, says Ken Hellevang, grain drying expert and retired North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension agricultural engineer.

During a winter day, the outdoor air may fluctuate by 25 to 30 F. This warms the bin and the grain next to the wall during the day, but they cool at night. The result is that the bin and grain near the bin wall will be near the average temperature. The same will occur during an extended warm period that is followed by a cool or cold period: the temperature will be near the average of the two periods.

Grain is an insulator, so grain temperature fluctuation is limited to the grain next to the bin wall. Dry grain that has been cooled to 20 to 30 F in northern regions is not expected to be affected by these temperature fluctuations.

“The stored grain temperature increases in parts of a bin in the spring due to solar heat gain on the bin,” Hellevang said.

Solar energy produces more than twice as much heat gain on the south wall of a bin in spring as it does during the summer. This, along with solar heat gain on a bin roof, can create an environment conducive to grain spoilage. A 10-degree temperature increase reduces the allowable storage time of grain by about half. For example, the storage time of corn at 17% moisture is reduced from about 130 days at 50 F to about 75 days at 60 F, and further, only 45 days at 70 F.

If the stored grain is dry, Hellevang recommends periodically running aeration fans in the spring to keep the grain below 40 F as long as possible through the beginning of summer. In northern states, night air is normally near or below 30 F in April and 40 F in May.

Frost and ice can block bin vents when the fan is operated at temperatures near or below freezing, which may lead to roof damage. Leave the fill and access door open as a pressure relief valve when operating the fan at temperatures near or below freezing.

Cover the fan when it is not operating to prevent warm air from blowing into the bin or being drawn in by a chimney effect, which could heat the stored grain to temperatures more prone to spoilage and insect infestations.

Hellevang also recommends ventilating the top of the bin to remove the solar heat gain that warms the grain. Providing air inlets near the eaves and exhausts near the peak allows the top of the bin to ventilate due to the warm air rising—similar to what occurs in an attic—as does a roof exhaust fan.

Monitoring grain storage

Stored grain should be monitored closely to detect storage problems early, advises Rob Proulx, NDSU Extension ag technology and grain systems specialist. Grain temperature should be checked every two weeks during the spring and summer, as a temperature increase may indicate a storage problem.

Grain should also be examined for insect infestations. Checking the moisture content of stored grain determines if it needs to be dried. Proulx recommends verifying that the moisture content measured by the meter has been adjusted for grain temperature.

“Verify the accuracy of the measurement by warming the grain sample to room temperature in a sealed plastic bag before measuring the moisture content,” Proulx said. “Remember, moisture measurements of grain at temperatures below about 40 F may not be accurate.”

Some in-bin cables estimate grain moisture content by measuring temperature and air relative humidity, then calculating it using grain equilibrium moisture content equations. The measured moisture may differ by 1-1.5% from the true moisture content, so Proulx advises verifying it with another moisture measurement method.

Corn needs to be dried to 13-14% moisture for summer storage to prevent spoilage. Soybeans should be dried to 11-12%, wheat to 13%, barley to 12% and oil sunflowers to 7-8%. The allowable storage time for 13% moisture soybeans is less than 100 days at 70 F.

If grain stored in grain bags isn’t dry, it will spoil, and molds will grow. Grain in the bags will be at average outdoor temperatures, so grain will deteriorate rapidly as outdoor temperatures increase unless it is at the recommended summer storage moisture contents.

Grain bags that run east-west will have solar heating on the south side, creating a temperature variation that will move moisture to the north side. Continue to frequently monitor grain stored in bags.

In addition to storage practices, Hellevang stresses the importance of knowing the safety hazards associated with handling grain and applying recommended safety practices to decrease the risk of injury or death. — NDSU Extension

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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Study examines practicality of methane-reducing seaweed for grazing cattle

Previous studies have shown that adding red seaweed (*Asparagopsis taxiformis*) to beef cattle rations could reduce methane produced by the animals by up to 90%. But those results were in controlled settings—not wide-open rangelands.

“The challenge now is finding a reliable method of delivering the seaweed product to cattle grazing on pasture,” said Andrea Warner, a University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) livestock and natural resources advisor for Sutter, Yuba, Placer and Nevada counties.

“Cattle in feedlots or dairies are being fed a total mixed ration every day and they’re in a more controlled environment,” Warner explained, “whereas out here [on rangelands] we could have cattle grazing on several hundred acres of pasture.”

Scientists added red seaweed to a salt-based mineral supplement mix, which they put in “free choice” feeders—covered metal troughs—in the pasture. When they tried to measure results, they discovered two things. One, actual consumption of the supplement was inconsistent, with seemingly less efficacy in decreasing methane output. And two, their conclusions were limited by significant shortcomings in their data.

“Our results really said that we needed better capabilities to make measurements,” said Sheila Barry, UCCE livestock and natural resources advisor for the San Francisco Bay Area.

Barry is the first author of a study published last year, funded by the Russell L. Rustici Rangeland and Cattle Research Endowment, UC Davis. The authors concluded that additional research—with improved equipment and methods—was needed to better understand how seaweed additives could realistically be incorporated into grazing systems.

That’s why Barry, Warner and their collaborators are back with a new project at UC Agriculture and Natural Resources’ (ANR) Sierra Foothill Research and Extension Center (REC) in Browns Valley, Yuba County. This study is funded by the California Department of Food and Agriculture’s Livestock Enteric Methane Emission Reduction Research Program.

The first phase of the project is running “palatability trials,” to gauge whether the addition of seaweed affects the cows’ consumption of the mineral. That will help the scientists determine optimal mineral mixtures. Subsequent phases will assess consistency of the cows’ consumption, verify any reductions in methane and measure impacts on livestock performance (weight change and body condition).

Research probes practicality

While methane produced by ruminants (cattle, sheep,

goats, etc.) comprises only 6% of global human-related greenhouse gas emissions, curbing that methane is regarded as the “single most effective target for near-term climate change mitigation strategies.”

“Given that it’s a short-lived greenhouse gas, there’s an opportunity—if we can reduce the amount of methane that’s coming from ruminants—to contribute more quickly to reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere,” Barry said.

Livestock grazing, primarily by beef cattle, occurs across 34 million acres in California—about 33% of the state’s total land area. But those rangelands, which provide 70% to 80% of forage for the state’s grazing beef cattle, lack essential nutrients such as selenium, copper and zinc.

Thus, those minerals—usually in the form of a salty, sand-like product—are regularly provided to grazing cattle by ranchers. And that mineral supplement is a promising way to incorporate red seaweed (as well as bromoform, the active ingredient that reduces methane production) into the cattle diet.

But the first study of this approach conducted at Sierra Foothill REC ran into several problems. The amount of seaweed and bromoform consumed by the animals appeared to be highly variable.

Furthermore, the “laser methane detector”—a device that emits a laser beam and measures how much light is absorbed by methane—had its drawbacks. It required each animal to be confined to a chute for at least four minutes so their breath and burps could be measured, and this limited the number of cattle that actually produced usable readings.

Importantly, the study also didn’t track or account for individual consumption patterns—instead producing only averages. The “supplement consumed by each animal” was calculated by dividing the total amount of supplement consumed by the number of days in the feeding period and the number of heads in the test group.

“We didn’t have any way to measure individual intake or control individual intake,” Barry said.

The solution? Give the cattle electronic IDs.

The researchers’ new study of the cow-calf system at Sierra Foothill REC uses a “Smart Feeder,” which features a shed-like structure that controls cattle’s access to the mineral supplement housed inside. It can provide four different treatments—two with plain mineral (no seaweed), and two with different formulations of the seaweed additive-mineral supplement mix.

When a cow puts its head into a feed bin to consume the mineral, a scanner reads the RFID (radiofrequency identification) tag on the animal’s ear, lowers a gate

for access and weighs the feed bin before and after the cow’s snack time.

“The Smart Feeder records exactly how much mineral each individual animal is consuming, which will also allow us to calculate how much red seaweed they are ingesting,” Warner explained.

Secondly, to replace the laser methane detector, the team is deploying a “Green Feeder,” which acts like a bovine vending machine. The scientists are training the cows to approach and stay next to the machine for treats in the form of alfalfa pellets.

With the cow’s head comfortably in the “chamber” (which looks like a range hood), the device reads its RFID tag and dispenses the pellets, one small serving at a time, to keep the animal close to the feeder. Sensors continuously measure concentrations of carbon dioxide and methane and the system calculates overall

gas emissions from the cattle.

“The Green Feeders measure methane but, in order to do that, the animals have to use these feeders for about three to five minutes,” Barry said.

Getting the cows to stay put for accurate methane readings—and getting them accustomed to two different machines—are just some of the struggles that the researchers are working through.

“Using this technology on rangeland is proving to be very challenging, so we have had to go through a lot of troubleshooting,” Warner said.

Located in a remote area of the vast 5,700-acre Sierra Foothill REC, the Smart Feeders and Green Feeders rely on solar panels. The string of rainy, overcast days in early winter forced the team to use a generator.

Because the systems must be controlled and monitored remotely, an In-

ternet connection also was required, which necessitated the installation of a “mini Starlink”—also solar-powered.

Various delays then pushed the timeline into calving season—a less-than-ideal time to start a study of the cows, most of which had calves.

“Cows, rugged terrain, weather events, research and technology are all tough to get on the same page, but we are getting there,” Warner said.

The researchers highlighted the team effort on the project, especially the contributions of UC Davis’ Jordan Munson, who manages the cow herd. The team also praised the Sierra Foothill REC staff for keeping the project on track.

“We have the machinery, we have the brain power, we have the passion, and we have the employees with the stick-to-it-iveness—so we’re able to have a full-service research center here

in Browns Valley,” said Nikolai Schweitzer, Sierra Foothill REC agricultural operations manager.

Indeed, Barry acknowledges that their project would not even be possible without the resources available at the REC.

“The fact that we have livestock there—and people who can manage the livestock—that’s just instrumental,” she said. “You couldn’t do this elsewhere; we wouldn’t have been successful in getting funding to do a project like this without the research center.”

The study is slated to run through the end of 2027. Barry is the project lead, and UC ANR collaborators include Warner; Josh Davy, UCCE livestock and natural resources advisor for Tehama, Glenn and Colusa counties; and Gaby Maier, UCCE specialist for beef cattle herd health and production at the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. — UC ANR

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Westphal inducted into Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame

The Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame celebrated the 18th class of inductions into the Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame Feb. 14 at the Heritage Inn in Great Falls, MT. The inductees were chosen from a

field of candidates nominated by the general public. Inductees are recognized for their contributions to the history and culture of the state of Montana. T. E. "Buddy" Westphal is

the 2026 Living Inductee for District 10. Buddy was born Feb. 3, 1946, in Colorado Springs, CO, to Virgil and Evelyn Westphal. He is the youngest of four brothers. Known for top Cha-

rolais cattle and performance horses for over 50 years, Buddy has a colorful lifelong history, traveling thousands of miles showing, competing, judging and enjoying the company of ranching and cowboy leaders

of the world. He has judged major cattle, cutting horse and rodeo competitions including Calgary, Houston, San Francisco, Kansas City, Augusta, Jackson and Orlando, and is one of a few to ever judge both the horse and cattle shows at the Denver National Western Stock Show. He has also judged at the National Cutting Horse Association (NCHA) World Finals, the National High School Rodeo Finals and the World Cutting Horse Futurity and Finals in Italy.

Buddy grew up in Limon, a small rural town in Colorado, and eagerly embraced football and rodeo as the best options for entertainment and involvement. His high school football team was crowned state champions three of his four years. He participated in Little Britches and Junior Rodeos starting at six years old and later earned a college rodeo scholarship from the National Champion College Rodeo team in Casper, WY, where he competed in five events. His rodeo team won consecutive national championship titles.

Buddy reflects on how rodeo has changed in the years since he was a competitor and recently remarked, "Each year, the rodeo athletes get better and train harder, both in the arena and in the gym. More people watch, understand and like rodeo and there are more fans today than ever." He stays involved and especially appreciates the family aspects of rodeo, noting that patriotism and prayer remain key components.

Buddy transferred to Colorado State University where he served as an officer in both the student senate and AGR fraternity. His future was set in motion when his influential genetics professor stressed the merits of the Charolais cattle breed for crossing on Angus and Herefords to gain hybrid vigor, better weaning weight and carcass quality. Post-graduate study in reproductive physiology further convinced Buddy to search for a herd of Charolais cattle to launch his purebred Charolais production career. He was fortunate to find the ideal herd located in beautiful Montana and was eager to put down roots in this perfect location. Buying the cowherd led to purchasing the ranch and now there are three generations working together at Valley View Charolais Ranch, which sits at the base of the Mission Mountains along the Flathead River south of Polson. The ranch held its 58th annual bull sale in March and sells over 180 bulls to 15 to 20 states annually.

Over the years, Buddy has sold over 10,000 bulls across the U.S., as well as several cows and bulls internationally. His customers have come to be more like family, including ranches that have purchased bulls for three and four generations. Fostering those long-standing relationships has always been important to Buddy, so he and his wife, Lin, personally deliver most of the sale bulls to many top ranching operations—a journey that crisscrosses multiple states and upwards of 20,000 miles every year.

Buddy considers himself fortunate to have the support of family and others enabling him to be involved in many broader aspects of the cattle, horse and agriculture indus-

tries. At the ranch, there is a case packed full of rodeo buckles, grand champion cattle trophies, cutting awards including Reserve World Champion Amateur and multiple Montana state open and non-pro champion saddles. Buddy considers his real "trophies" to be the exceptional family and crew at home he feels blessed to live and work alongside at the ranch.

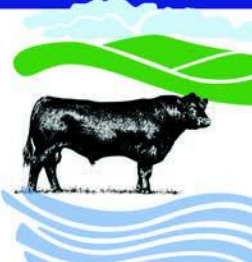
Twenty-six years ago, Buddy met Lin, who exchanged her role as senior vice president in banking to devote full-time to ranching. She is the partner and glue that helps hold things together. With her business acumen, Lin manages bookkeeping and a multitude of other support for the ranch—and also works hard taking good care of Buddy most every day!

Buddy is grateful to have lived a fulfilling life immersed in the Montana Western heritage and cowboy culture that he embodies and promotes daily. He contributes to this lifestyle in myriad ways—from personally coaching and mentoring others in cattle, horses and ranching, and providing guidance and insight through interviews printed in a variety of Western publications. Buddy has served for decades on the NCHA Board of Directors, national committees, as a 4-star judge, and is a lifetime member. He served on the American International Charolais Association Board of Directors and several committees. He was a founding member and director of the Montana Cutting Horse Association, an officer of the Montana Quarter Horse Association and served as a judge for the American Quarter Horse Association. He served on committees for the American National Cattlemen Association and was appointed by Gov. Tom Judge for a term on the Montana Livestock Task Force.

Buddy enjoys active involvement with the local ranching community. His ranch has donated one of their top purebred Charolais heifers annually for eight years to the Western Montana Stockman's Association (WMSA) Scholarship Heifer Program, awarding deserving youth applicants with a heifer to own and show at their county fair. The WMSA program is described as "the best program in Montana for promoting ranching, encouraging future generations into agriculture, and developing opportunities for youth in the livestock industry program."

In 2018, Buddy and Valley View Charolais Ranch were honored on the 50th anniversary as "a national leading breeder of Charolais cattle for 50 years," with recognition and commendation by the U.S. Senate as noted in the U.S. Congressional Record by Sen. Steve Daines (R-MT). Buddy also received a Certificate of Recognition from the American International Charolais Association.

In 2024, Buddy was honored to receive the WMSA Lifetime Achievement Award. With a twinkle in his eye, Buddy expressed, "I've been lucky for 50 years, but I guess we've also worked hard to prepare for our luck. I definitely have the best life that anyone can ask for. When you are doing what you love and loving what you do it really makes life special." — **Montana Cowboy Hall of Fame**



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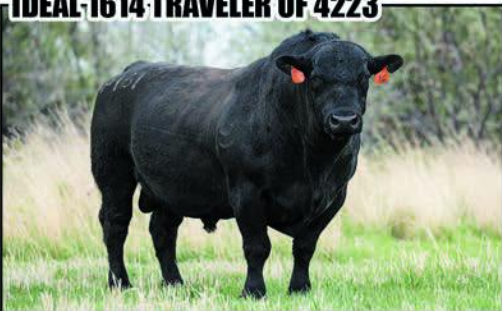
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Grounded Ag supports farmers with mental health issues

How does a wheat plant survive the Kansas winter? Among other things, it must be well-grounded in the soil. What about the farmer who plants and grows that wheat? In order to withstand the stresses of modern times, he or she must also be well-grounded in a supportive environment.

Today we'll meet a young Kansas farmer who is working to assist farmers with mental health issues by grounding them with the support they need.

Thomas Eisenbarth is the founder of Grounded Ag, a

mental health assistance enterprise focused on agricultural producers and families.

Eisenbarth grew up on the family farm near Onaga, earned a degree from Kansas State (K-State) University in ag technology management, and returned home. He is now a farmer and rancher in Onaga while also serving as the precision agriculture instructor at the Highland Community College Western Center at Baileyville. Baileyville is a rural community of 182 people. Now, that's rural.

Eisenbarth is familiar with the intense stresses that farm families can experience. In 1997, his uncle took his own life.

"It left a lasting impact," Eisenbarth said. "As painful as that experience will always be for me and my family, it put it into to my heart to turn that pain into purpose."

After coming back to the farm, Eisenbarth experienced intense pressures himself. He finally went to see a therapist and realized there was great need for mental health outreach in the ag community.

Eisenbarth became a certified Mental Health First Aid provider. He founded Grounded Ag to provide public speaking, training, workshops, writing and consulting to help producers and communities navigate these difficult issues.

"Mental health and agriculture seem like opposite ends of the spectrum," Eisenbarth said. "Mental

health sounds like taking a deep breath, peace of mind, taking care of one's physical health, and simple rest. Agriculture can be just the opposite: Stress, long hours, no sleep, and mental chaos. The two don't mix."

Often such conflicts are true for family dynamics in farm families as well. "You might have the two extremes," Eisenbarth said. "There's the grandpa who was raised by parents who survived the Depression, and the youth who are totally immersed in technology. It's a generation gap."

Eisenbarth sees the big picture of society. "In a way, we're the most connected that we've ever been, but we're the most disconnected too," he said.

In 2025, his partner, Rachelle Coe, founded Wild Haven. That is a rural women's initiative rooted in healing and growth. Its goal is empowering women to embrace their worth, resilience and leadership poten-

tial. Both Coe and Eisenbarth are actively sharing their experiences with farm and rural groups.

Their down-to-earth experiences relate with rural audiences.

"The nervous system is like a tractor," Eisenbarth said. "You're not flipping switches, you're adjusting dials."

This means that a problem is not fixed by just flipping a switch, but there needs to be ongoing calibration.

"I talk about V-squared: vulnerability and validation," Eisenbarth said, noting that both are essential for healing.

His message to farmers is simple: "If you think you're the only one feeling this way, you're wrong," he said. "The worst thing is suffering in silence. You are not alone."

In 2025, Eisenbarth was selected for the Kansas Farm Bureau Rural Minds Matter Young Advocate of

the Year award.

"I've lived the tension between agriculture and mental health, and I know firsthand how easily isolation and burnout can take hold," Eisenbarth said. "But I also know there's another way forward. Through training, conversation and connection, we can bridge these two worlds and equip rural communities with the tools they need to thrive."

"Help is closer than you think, and connection and conversation can save lives."

Just as a wheat plant survives the Kansas winter, producers must be well-grounded as well. We salute Thomas Eisenbarth and Rachelle Coe for making a difference by helping farm and ranch men and women find support and resilience in times of stress.

Such efforts can result in a healthy harvest. — **Ron Wilson, director of the Huck Boyd National Institute for Rural Development at K-State**

Meat industry pushes back on Schumer's bill

SCHUMER BILL
(from page 1)

Industry reaction

The legislation immediately drew criticism from the Meat Institute, with President and CEO Julie Anna Potts stating the proposal would disrupt the industry and increase costs for consumers.

"This proposal is absurd," Potts said. "Schumer's bill and other efforts to villainize meat packers is simply reckless election year pandering that threatens to damage a crucial industry at the center of every American meal."

Potts argued the legislation would force companies operating across multiple species to divest major business lines, creating uncertainty throughout the supply chain.

"The solution to reducing beef prices is to encourage cattle producers to retain heifers and rebuild the herd," she said.

Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA) CEO Bill Bullard expressed measured support for the legislation, stating it highlights concerns long raised by independent producers.

"For decades, R-CALF USA has been rigorously fighting on behalf of cattle feeders and ranchers for free and fair competition in the cattle markets," Bullard said. "We welcome Congress's recent effort to address the competition crisis plaguing our nation's cattle markets."

Bullard noted that the legislation mirrors broader federal scrutiny of the beef

"Schumer's bill and other efforts to villainize meat packers is simply reckless election year pandering that threatens to damage a crucial industry at the center of every American meal."

— Julie Anna Potts

"Imagine the federal government mandating that Ford only manufacture trucks while forcing them to sell off all their other vehicle lines," she said. "It is unthinkable in a free market."

Potts also questioned whether there are buyers capable of operating divested facilities and warned the proposal could reduce processing capacity. According to the Meat Institute, the broader meat and poultry industry contributes \$347.7 billion in value added, supports more than 3.2 million jobs, generates \$205.3 billion in labor income and produces \$911.7 billion in total economic output.

Potts added that current beef prices are largely driven by supply constraints, noting the U.S. cattle herd is at its smallest level in decades.

sector, including investigations and task forces examining potential price manipulation and market distortions.

Other advocacy groups also expressed support. Carrie Balkcom of the American Grassfed Association said the proposal could help remove barriers faced by independent producers seeking market access.

Similarly, Nidhi Hegde, executive director of the American Economic Liberties Project, said the legislation represents a broader effort to address concentrated market power.

"This is a common-sense, pro-market reform that would benefit all Americans, and it should be a bipartisan no-brainer in Congress," Hegde said. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**



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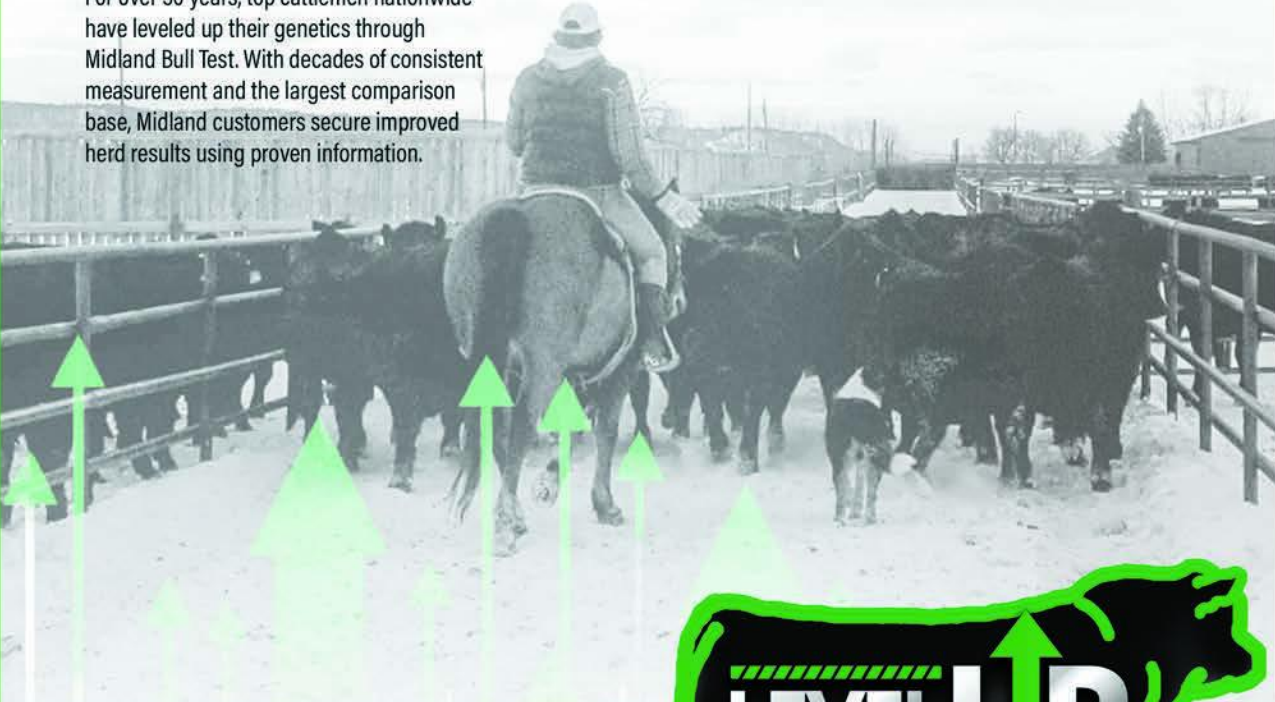
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The role of estrus expression in reproductive success

Beef cattle experts at Kansas State (K-State) University say estrus expression plays an important role in reproductive success for beef cattle herds.

On a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast hosted by the Beef Cattle Institute (BCI) experts say recognizing heat activity and pairing it with effective synchronization strategies can help producers improve breeding outcomes and manage their breeding season more efficiently.

The episode featured guest Adrienne Lulay of Lulay Livestock Company, who shared insights on monitoring estrus behavior.

"When cows show strong estrus expression, it is often an indication that hormone levels are where they should be for successful breeding," Lulay said.

Synchronization protocols are commonly used to help align the reproductive cycles of multiple cows, allowing producers to breed animals at a more predictable time. These programs can improve efficiency, especially for operations using artificial insemination or focused breeding windows.

However, the experts emphasized that successful reproduction goes beyond timing alone. Nutrition, body

condition, herd management and overall animal health all play a role in ensuring cows cycle properly and conceive.

The discussion also highlighted estrus detection technologies that help producers identify cows in heat more accurately. These tools can improve breeding timing and help producers better manage their reproduction programs.

To hear the full discussion on bull buying decisions and other industry insights, visit the BCI website or listen to the latest "Cattle Chat" episode on your preferred podcast platform. — **K-State Research and Extension**

Workers set a strike date at JBS beef plant

MARKETS (from page 1)

521,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending Feb. 28 was 528,642 head. The average steer dressed weight was 981 lbs., down 2 lbs. from the prior week.

"The packers are deploying the only weapon they have to restore margins—sharply downsize the slaughter," the Cattle Report said on Thursday. "The sharp slaughter decline for three weeks, and the accompanying rise in box prices, have combined with lower fed prices to sharply narrow the negative margins at the beef plants."

Colorado labor union UCFW Local 7 planned for about 3,800 union workers at the JBS processing plant in Greeley, CO, to begin an unfair labor practice strike on March 16 at 5:30 a.m. The plant has the capacity to process about 5,000-6,000 head per day, but JBS planned to maintain supply by shifting production to facilities with extra capacity available.

"This causes great anxiety for the cattle complex as the market is already seeing minimal throughput from packers as they try to manage their margins to the best of their ability," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Monday midday comments.

Boxed beef prices continue to see gains. The Choice cut-out gained about \$11 to close at \$398.34, and the Select cut-out also gained about \$11 to close at \$392.14.

"Boxed beef values have advanced about \$11/cwt in the past week to the highest level since September 2025 and the highest for any March in history," Fish said. "Fresh beef 90s made a new all-time daily high yesterday at \$437.98 at a time seasonally when demand for grinding material does nothing but increase."

Increased throughput could add some stability to the cash market, Fish said. "It would also mean more product availability for the end user who has been struggling

with limited offerings for several weeks. So beef demand will be tested."

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures also plummeted lower over the week. The March contract lost about \$14 to close at \$348.22, and the April contract lost about \$16 to close at \$343.

"The onset of weaker market fundamentals in the cash sector is why the feeder cattle complex is trading significantly lower and is currently even pressuring the market's 100-day moving average in the spot April contract," Stewart said on Wednesday.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost about \$4 to close at \$364.80.

Corn futures were slightly higher, up 7 cents on the March contract to \$4.48 and up 9 cents on the May contract to \$4.62.

Colorado: Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 7,166 head on Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers sold mostly \$1-3 higher, with instances of sharply higher across all weight classes. Feeder heifers sold sharply higher across all weight classes. Benchmark steers averaging 711 lbs. sold between \$380-390, averaging \$387.81.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 6,341 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold \$2-8 lower, with the exception of four-weight steers, which sold \$10-15 higher. Feeder heifers sold steady to \$8 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 781 lbs. sold from \$360-365, averaging \$362.58.

New Mexico: Roswell Livestock in Roswell sold 1,009 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers and heifers sold \$5-20 lower, except for 700-750 lbs. steers, which were steady to \$2 higher, and 450-500 lbs. heifer calves, which traded steady. Benchmark steers averaging 724 lbs. sold between \$347-367 and averaged \$365.41.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 4,303 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers and heifers sold \$10-20 lower. Steer and heifer calves were lightly tested. Benchmark steers averaging 775 lbs. sold from \$340-357, averaging \$349.99. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**



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SALE REPORTS

KEARNS CATTLE CO. BULL SALE
Mar. 5, Rushville, NE
74 Simmental bulls\$9,826

Auctioneer: Jered Shipman
Sale Manager: Innovation AgMarketing
TOPS—SimAngus bulls:

KCC1 Next Phase 5001N, 2/15/2025 by KCC1 3BCC Next Phase 4L; to Moriondo Farms & MM Cattle Company Co., Mt Vernon, MO, and Wal-

rod Cattle Co., Randolph, KS, \$27,500. KCC1 Countertime 5219N, 3/22/2025 by KCC1 Countertime 872H; to Huffman Land & Cattle, Whitney,

NE, \$17,000. KCC1 Living Proof 5096N, 2/28/2025 by JWC 2/F Living Proof 283L; to Doug Nelson, Gordon, NE, \$16,500. Simmental bull: KCC1 Living Proof 5519N, 2/28/2025 by JWC 2/F Living Proof 283L; to Lee's Cattle Co., Brush, CO, \$22,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

PARRY ANGUS BULL SALE
March 6, Sterling, CO
66 Angus yearling bulls\$9,098
5 Angus older bulls8,600
4 SimAngus yearling bulls7,250
26 Angus open heifers4,557
3 SimAngus open heifers4,083
Auctioneer: Dave Mullins
Sale Manager: Compass Livestock Solutions
TOPS: PAR Next Level -5P08, 1/7/2025 by Spring Cove Grant 200K; to Hunt Angus, Milburn, NE, \$21,000. PAR Big Country-5P12, 1/8/2025 by Kraye Big Country 0179; to TJ Martin, Keystone, NE, \$17,000. PAR Atlantis -5P54, 1/18/2025 by Square B Atlantis 8060; to Nathan Andrews, Kirk, CO, \$16,500. PAR Network -5P21, 1/10/2025 by Spring Cove Grant 200K; to Steve & Arlene Penner, Chappell, NE, \$16,500. — **TY GROSHANS**

DAL PORTO LIVESTOCK BULL SALE
Mar. 9, Anselmo, NE
70 Angus bulls\$10,171
Auctioneer: Greg Goggins
Sale Manager: Rance Long
TOPS: Dal Porto Flintstone D06, 1/22/2025 by Boyd Bedrock; to Ward Ranches, Gardnerville, NV, \$44,000. Dal Porto Broadcast D17, 1/17/2025 by Connealy Broadcast; to Morgan Sandhills Ranch, Atkinson, NE, \$21,000. Dal Porto Chamber D13, 1/28/2025 by Bear Mtn Justice; to Monahan Cattle Co., Hyannis, NE, \$20,000. Dal Porto Transmit D23, 1/30/2025 by Connealy Broadcast; to Bass Ranch, Brewster, NE, \$18,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

WAGON WHEEL RANCH BULL SALE
Mar. 10, Yuma, CO
33 Angus bulls\$7,955
Auctioneer: Dustin Carter
TOPS: WWR Endeavor N7, 1/15/2025 by RR Endeavor 9005; to Dave Blach, Yuma, CO, \$12,500. WWR Rawhide N1, 2/5/2025 by Poss Rawhide; to Trent Fonte, Wray, CO, \$12,000. WWR Endeavor N11, 1/10/2025 by RR Endeavor 9005; to Shawn Gray, Ordway, CO, \$11,500. — **TY GROSHANS**

WINNEMUCCA RANCH HORSE SALE
Feb. 28, Winnemucca, NV
22 Horses.\$16,250
Auctioneer: Eric Duarte

SAMARIA HILLS BULL SALE
Feb. 27, Malad, ID
66 SimAngus bulls\$9,768
11 SimAngus bulls.9,318
15 SimAngus open heifers4,950
15 Commercial open heifers3,383
Auctioneer: Rick Machado
Sale Manager: M3 Marketing
TOPS: PCC Man In Black 518 ET, 3/18/2025 by LAR Man In Black; to Lazy 3X Cattle, Mack, CO, \$23,000. Mills Commodore 4020, 3/7/2024 by Kesslers Commodore 6516; to Riverside Ranch, Fielding, UT, \$19,500. PCC Republic 508 ET, 3/21/2025 by Raven Republic 1654; to Werning Cattle Co., Emery, SD, \$14,500. — **JARED PATTERSON**

BAKER ANGUS BULL SALE
Feb. 28, Vale, OR
150 Angus bulls. . . \$10,055
Auctioneer: Rick Machado
Sale Manager: M3 Marketing
TOPS: Baker Architect 8092, 9/16/2024 by S Architect 9501; to Canyon Cattle, White Bird, ID, \$21,500. Baker Identified 6478 8261, 9/23/2024 by Baker Identified 6478; to Canyon Cattle, White Bird, ID, \$19,000. Baker Commerce 8220, 9/20/2024 by Connealy Commerce; to JL Cattle, Melba, ID, \$18,500. — **JARED PATTERSON**

LYMAN LIVESTOCK BULL SALE
Feb. 28, Salina, UT
123 SimAngus bulls\$10,898
Auctioneer: Charly Cummings
Sale Manager: Allied Genetics

CAMAS PRAIRIE ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE
Mar. 1, Lewiston, ID
58 Angus bulls\$7,906
Auctioneer: Jake Parnell
TOPS: AA Deadwood 435, 8/29/2024 by Poss Deadwood; to Double Ace Angus, Bellingham, WA, \$20,000. Camas Prairie Rawhide 4218, 3/15/2024 by Algoma Gold Masterpiece B578; to Connie Anderson, Cottonwood, ID, \$15,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

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Sterling Livestock Commission
Sterling, Colorado

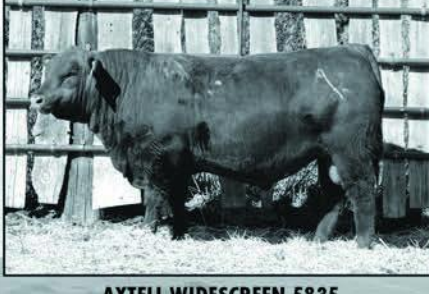
Sale offering includes:
69 Yearling Red Angus Bulls
6 Black (Red Gene) Yearling Bulls
PLUS
several large lots of commercial heifers and pairs



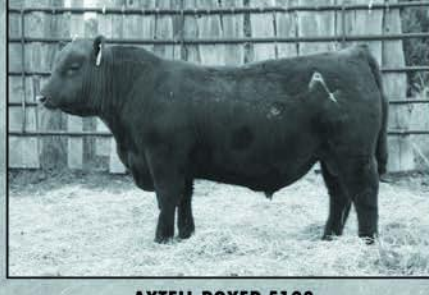
AXTELL CRAFTSMAN 5311
Lot 14



AXTELL BOXER 5204
Lot 1



AXTELL WIDESCREEN 5835
Lot 3



AXTELL BOXER 5103
Lot 34



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VIDEO AUCTION

March 5, Hudson Oaks, TX
Superior Livestock Auction hosted their video auction live on March 5 from the Superior Livestock Studio in Hudson Oaks, TX. Cattle producers sold 23,432 head of calves, yearlings and bred stock totaling 198 lots from 23 states for this offering. Strong buyer participation from several bidders throughout the auction resulted in 91 different successful buyers. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through October. Despite intension outside pressures, the March 5 video auction was met with an upwardly trending market report. Regions 3/4/5/6 feeder steers saw strong demand and were rewarded at \$6-10 higher. Feeder heifers from the same regions were steady to \$2 higher. Regions 1/2 feeder steers were well received at \$10 higher. Feeder helpers were only lightly tested but saw steady demand. Regions 3/4/5/6 steer and heifer calves saw increased buyer participation as much of the middle of the country has received rain. Bred stock was only lightly tested but saw strong demand.

Southern Nevada water pipeline bill passes Senate

A proposed water pipeline project that would tunnel under the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area is one step closer to construction after a unanimous Senate vote on Feb. 26.

The Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Pipeline Act, introduced by Nevada Democratic U.S. Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto, directs the Department of the Interior to grant the Southern Nevada Water Authority rights-of-way for the construction and operation of a 40-mile water pipeline beneath the Sloan Canyon National Conservation Area.

The pipeline would have the capacity to carry 375 million gallons of water per day to Henderson, NV, and the southern Las Vegas Valley. Members of the state's congressional delegation say the measure will improve water reliability and protect against future disruptions.

Cortez Masto's legislation

would also increase the size of the national conservation area by more than 9,000 acres on the southwestern portion—increasing its size by nearly 20% and bringing its total size to nearly 58,000 acres.

Henderson and southern valley residents currently rely on a single 27-mile water pipeline, making the area vulnerable to disruptions. Once constructed, the pipeline is expected to add a redundancy to the valley's water systems if one of the pipelines needs to be reduced or turned off for a prolonged period of time.

"Right now, almost 40% of Las Vegas residents and businesses depend on the South Valley Lateral pipeline. That's one single pipeline for nearly 3 million people," said Cortez Masto. "The bill I passed today will allow the Southern Nevada Water Authority to build a new water pipeline that will improve the reliability and capacity of our existing water

system and will protect the water supply for nearly half of Las Vegas residents and businesses."

The route through the national conservation area was chosen to avoid constructing the pipeline through the city of Henderson, which would have cost an additional estimated \$200 million. Cortez Masto said the final route was determined to be the safest, most effective, and least disruptive route.

In total, the pipeline is expected to cost between \$2 billion and \$2.5 billion. It would be funded through infrastructure and commodity charges paid by Southern Nevada Water Authority ratepayers.

A companion bill in the House sponsored by Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV-01) passed last year. The bill now heads to President Donald Trump's desk for signature.

Critics of the bill say the construction of the pipeline

could introduce new urban sprawl in the valley, especially if passed in coordination with the Southern Nevada Economic Development and Conservation Act which would make about 25,000 acres of public lands south of

Las Vegas available for development.

Referred to as the Clark County Lands bill, also introduced by Cortez Masto, has struggled to pass both the House or the Senate despite being reintroduced several

times. But the latest version of the bill did gain support from the Clark County Commission, the non-profit affordable housing developer Nevada HAND, and a few environmental groups. — **Jeniffer Solis, Nevada Current**



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Feeder Cattle.....12pm

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APRIL 15

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APRIL 10 - COALINGA, CA

CONSIGNMENT DEADLINE APRIL 1

MAY 1 - PASO ROBLES, CA

CONSIGNMENT DEADLINE APRIL 23

Temperature variation and baby calf health

After the extremely cold temperatures across Oklahoma a few weeks ago, we are now seeing daytime highs of 70 F (or higher). It is important to remember that the calves born in single digit temperatures need to be monitored closely as the weather becomes dramatically warmer.

A calf's health is significantly impacted by ambient temperature. The most comfortable range for young calves being between 55 and 70 F. This range is considered the thermoneutral zone for young calves where a calf can maintain its body temperature without expending extra energy. Heat or cold stress results in direct economic losses because of increased calf mortality and morbidity, as well as indirect costs caused by reduced weight gain, performance, and long-term survival.

Thermic stress in calves is observed not only with extremely high or low temperatures, but also extreme temperature variations. Variables such as relative humidity and wind speed can also contribute to thermic stress. Heat stress is actually harder on

young calves than cold stress. When calves are heat stressed they lose appetite, eat less and are quicker to become dehydrated.

Thermoregulation in calves is similar to that of adult cattle, but newborn calves have an immature "thermostat" and accordingly have more problems regulating body temperature during weather extremes.

Thermoregulation is the ability of homeothermic animals to keep their body temperature within a certain range despite being exposed to different ambient temperatures. A physiological core temperature is maintained by generating metabolic heat as well as exchanging heat with the environment. Cattle are able to adjust to adverse climate by means of acclimatization and adaptation. Extreme climatic conditions that cannot be compensated by thermoregulatory mechanisms result in thermic stress.

As the weather becomes more pleasant and daytime highs exceed 70 F, keep an eye on your young calves soaking up the sun. The signs of overheating may not be as dramatic as the signs of cold stress

but can be just as damaging to a calf's health. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

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calved: 02/13/25 tattoo: 344N reg: 21450469

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$M	\$W
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Hilltop Bar None 229N

calved: 02/05/25 tattoo: 229N reg: 21450547

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$M	\$W
+9	+0.1	+78	+122	+33	+64	.68	+102	+99



Hilltop Rapport 214N

calved: 01/27/25 tattoo: 214N reg: 21450454

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$M	\$W
+9	+0.9	+74	+135	+30	+68	+3.33	+64	+81



Hilltop Bar None 208N

calved: 01/23/25 tattoo: 208N reg: 21450450

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$M	\$W
+10	+0.0	+90	+153	+24	+64	+6.7	+81	+92

Annual Production Sale

Tuesday

APRIL 14th 2026

Lunch at Noon
Sale at 1:00 p.m.

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COMING EVENTS

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

April 21-22 – Registration is now open for the Public Lands Council 2026 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Details: tinyurl.com/5cwkhaj7.

April 21-23 – The U.S. Roundtable for Sustainable Beef will host its 2026 General Assembly meeting in Tampa, FL. Details: tinyurl.com/3x6axz7j.

May 21-22 – The Stockmanship & Stewardship event in Farmington, NM, will help ranchers gain practical, hands-on knowledge that strengthens animal care, enhances cattle handling skills and supports the sustainability of their operations. Details: stockmanshipandstewardship.org.

June 1-3 – The International Year

of the Woman Farmer ACE Summit in Washington, D.C. will empower, equip and connect women farmers, ranchers and agribusiness professionals. Details: tinyurl.com/2unszpen.

June 16-18 – Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, USA will host its 2026 National Convention and Trade Show at The Monument in Rapid City, SD. Details: rcalfconvention.com.

Sept. 15-17 – The Stockmanship & Stewardship event in Grand Island, NE, will help ranchers gain practical, hands-on knowledge that strengthens animal care, enhances cattle handling skills and supports the sustainability of their operations. Details: stockmanshipandstewardship.org.

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SALE CALENDAR

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

ALL BREEDS

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

ANGUS

Mar. 16 – JR Ranch & Sackman Cattle, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Mar. 16 – Rancho Casino/Cox Ranch, Bull Sale, Purdum, NE
Mar. 16 – Whistling Winds Angus, Bull Sale, Hingham, MT
Mar. 17 – 7n7 Ranch & Curtiss Cattle, Bull Sale, Enterprise, OR
Mar. 17 – Bartels Angus, Bull Sale, Riverton, NE
Mar. 17 – ELK Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Mar. 18 – Lufkin Cattle, Bull Sale, Tendoy, ID
Mar. 19 – Carter Cattle, Bull Sale, Pingree, ID
Mar. 19 – Oft Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR
Mar. 20 – Caywood Angus, Bull Sale, Tendoy, ID
Mar. 20 – Montana Performance Co-op, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Mar. 21 – Chundy Land & Cattle, Bull Sale, Ogallala, NE
Mar. 21 – Nelson Angus Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Salmon, ID
Mar. 21 – South Montana Angus Association, Bull Sale, Butte, MT
Mar. 24 – Bar JV Angus, Bull Sale, Fairview, MT
Mar. 25 – Peterson Grain and Cattle, Bull Sale, Havre, MT
Mar. 26 – Vermilion Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Mar. 28 – Basin Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Klamath Falls, OR
Mar. 28 – Diamond Peak Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Loma, CO
Mar. 28 – Sinclair Cattle, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Mar. 28 – Star Gate Ranch, Bull Sale, Twin Falls, ID
Mar. 30 – Silver Bit Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, May, ID
Apr. 1 – Nissen Angus, Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Apr. 2 – Arntzen Angus, Bull Sale, Hilger, MT
Apr. 2 – Midland Bull Test, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Apr. 4 – Botts Angus, Bull Sale, Huntley, MT
Apr. 4 – Brooks Chalky Butte, Bull Sale, Bowman, ND
Apr. 6 – Brent Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Maywood, NE
Apr. 6 – FBA Ranch, Bull Sale, Havre, MT
Apr. 7 – Hinman Angus, Bull Sale, Malta, MT
Apr. 13 – C Spear Angus, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Apr. 14 – Hilltop Angus, Bull Sale, Denton, MT
Apr. 15 – Milk River Angus, Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Apr. 17 – DeGrand Angus, Bull Sale, Baker, MT
Apr. 17 – Timberline Angus, Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT
Apr. 18 – Lindskov's LT Ranch, Bull Sale, Isabel, SD
Apr. 21 – Treasure Test, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
May. 9 – Queen Ann Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Loma, CO

BALANCER

Apr. 2 – Midland Bull Test,

Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
CHAROLAIS
Mar. 24 – Romans Ranch, Bull Sale, Westfall, OR
Mar. 28 – Valley View Charolais, Bull Sale, Polson, MT
Apr. 2 – Midland Bull Test, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Apr. 3 – Brevig Charolais, Bull Sale, Lewiston, MT
Apr. 11 – Hebbert Charolais, Bull Sale, Hyannis, NE
Apr. 18 – Lindskov's LT Ranch, Bull Sale, Isabel, SD
HEREFORD
Mar. 19 – Bar Star Cattle, Bull Sale, Musselshell, MT
Mar. 25 – NJW Polled Herefords, Production Sale, Decker, MT
Apr. 6 – Stuber Ranch, Bull Sale, Bowman, ND

LIMOUSIN

Mar. 21 – Ochsner Limousin, Bull Sale, Kersey, CO

LIM-FLEX

Mar. 21 – Ochsner Limousin, Bull Sale, Kersey, CO

OPTIMIZER

Apr. 2 – Midland Bull Test, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Apr. 7 – Doubet Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT

RED ANGUS

Mar. 18 – Klompein Red Angus, Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT
Mar. 21 – Iron Lorenzen, Bull Sale, Madras, OR
Mar. 25 – Westphal Red Angus, Bull Sale, Grass Range, MT
Mar. 30 – Axtell Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Sterling, CO
Apr. 2 – Midland Bull Test, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Apr. 2 – Northern Lites Red Angus, Production Sale, Glasgow, MT
Apr. 11 – Redd Ranches, Bull Sale, Paradox, CO
May. 7 – Koenig Ranch Red Angus, Bull Sale, Glasgow, MT

SALERS

Apr. 2 – Midland Bull Test, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Apr. 7 – Doubet Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT

SIMANGUS

Mar. 19 – Western Cattle Source, Bull Sale, Crawford, NE
Mar. 20 – Black Summit Cattle, Bull Sale, Powell, MT
Mar. 21 – Chundy Land & Cattle, Bull Sale, Ogallala, NE
Mar. 24 – Open Gate Simmentals, Bull Sale, Augusta, MT
Mar. 28 – Diamond Peak Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Loma, CO
Mar. 28 – Star Gate Ranch, Bull Sale, Twin Falls, ID
Apr. 4 – Big Country Genetics, Bull Sale, Cody, WY

SIMMENTAL

Mar. 19 – Western Cattle Source, Bull Sale, Crawford, NE
Mar. 20 – Black Summit Cattle, Bull Sale, Powell, MT
Mar. 24 – Open Gate Simmentals, Bull Sale, Augusta, MT
Apr. 4 – Big Country Genetics, Bull Sale, Cody, WY

STABILIZER

Mar. 23 – Leachman Cattle, Bull Sale, Meriden, WY
Apr. 11 – Bar T Bar, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ
May. 2 – Leachman Cattle, Bull

& Female Sale, Meriden, WY
COMMERCIAL
Mar. 20 – Western

Video Market Auction, Cottonwood, CA
Apr. 10 – Western Video Market Auction,

Cottonwood, CA
May. 1 – Western Video Market Auction, Coalinga, CA

HORSE

May. 2 – Cattle Barons, Horse Sale, Pendleton, OR

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