

# Western Livestock Journal®

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**HIT THE BRAKES** – Bitterroot halts thinning project to protect endangered species. **Page 9**

**TRADE TURMOIL** – EU imposes tariffs on U.S. ag products in retaliation. **Page 15**

### A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

It's spring! And that means vaccination season for your herds. "As the weather changes and the season turns, spring healthcare and herd management make a reappearance. Vaccinations should play a key part in managing animals that are moved into a herd, are pre-calving, and are being processed in other similar scenarios (such as during pregnancy evaluations, calf processing, or deworming). The purpose of vaccines is to keep an adequate level of resistance to disease by maintaining antibodies in the circulatory system," read the March 21, 2011, WLJ "Vet's Perspective" by Dr. Genevieve Grammer.

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Preston Keres/USDA

The Environmental Protection Agency will revise the "waters of the United States" rule to comply with the Supreme Court's Sackett v. EPA ruling. Pictured here, cattle stay cool near a pond in Lyon County, KS.

## EPA set to revise WOTUS definition

### — Plans rulemaking

Ranchers may be seeing some regulatory relief as the government reworks water rules that have posed challenges in the past.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its intent to revise the "waters of the United States" (WOTUS) definition to better align it with the Supreme Court's ruling in Sackett v. EPA.

Working alongside the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin said the agencies plan to work quickly to revise the definition to follow the law, reduce red tape, cut permitting costs and lower the cost of doing business.

"Given the U.S. Supreme Court's watershed decision in Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency, it is time for EPA to finally address this issue once and for all in a way that provides American farmers, landowners, businesses, and states with clear and simplified direction," the agency said in a news release.

WOTUS guides the implementa-

tion of the Clean Water Act and determines whether permits must be secured before pursuing a project. In Sackett v. EPA, the Supreme Court narrowed the definition of WOTUS and limited federal protection to waters that are relatively permanent, standing or continuously flowing bodies of water forming streams, oceans, rivers and lakes. The ruling also determined that wetlands are covered under WOTUS only when they have a continuous surface connection to waters that are WOTUS in their own right.

EPA said in its announcement that the agency has failed to implement the Supreme Court's holding in Sackett, and it's critical that Americans know which waters are subject to federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act.

The agency plans to begin its revision process by obtaining stakeholder input and identifying information on key challenges. EPA will

**See WOTUS UPDATES on page 11**

## Niman Ranch founder sues NPS over Point Reyes plan

The founder of Niman Ranch, William Niman, and his wife, Nicolette Hahn Niman, have filed suit against the National Park Service (NPS) for its settlement with local ranchers to effectively stop livestock operations on California's Point Reyes National Seashore.

The Nimans filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California on Feb. 25.

Earlier this year, a dozen livestock producers agreed to private settlements to halt beef and dairy cattle ranching on the seashore following conflicts with environmental groups. Under the settlements' terms, six beef ranches and six dairies agreed to cease operations within 15 months in exchange for compensation from The Nature Conservancy. In a separate settlement, the NPS issued a new record of decision (ROD) to establish the previously

designated pastoral zone as a "scenic landscape" zone.

In court documents, Niman and Hahn Niman said the seashore was established to preserve the peninsula's ranching and agricultural heritage and specifically authorized continued operations even if the original ranchers and farmers decided to leave.

NPS and the Department of the Interior "however, have refused to consider allowing farming and ranching to continue in Point Reyes on the lands previously worked by the farmers and ranchers who recently decided to leave," the suit said. Failing to consider allowing farming and ranching to continue is in violation of the law, the suit continued, and will cause significant and irreparable harm to the agricultural heritage, the environment, the community, the

**See NIMAN SUIT on page 9**

## Rabobank reports significant shift in dynamics for beef-producing nations

### — More exports from South America

As the global beef industry navigates shifting economic conditions, trade policies and consumer habits, production dynamics across key beef-producing nations continue to evolve.

According to the latest RaboResearch Global Beef Quarterly Q1 2025 report, South American producers are increasingly prioritizing exports over domestic consumption, while North American markets grapple with rising prices and tightening supplies.

North America continues to experience rising cattle prices due to tight inventory levels and strong demand. U.S. producers also face uncertainty regarding trade policies with Canada and Mexico, which could disrupt supply chains. In South America, production in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Para-

guay is expected to decline, but exports remain strong, primarily fueled by China's increasing demand for beef.

"We expect Brazil, which accounts for 63% of South America's supply, to reduce its production by 500,000 metric tons (mt) this year," said Angus Gidley-Baird, senior analyst of animal protein for RaboResearch.

### South America

Despite beef's historically significant role in South American diets, Rabo said economic pressures and rising prices have shifted consumer behavior.

"Between 2020 and 2024, the volume of beef that could be purchased on the basic wage dropped across all countries," Rabo reports, with Brazil seeing a 20% reduction in the amount of beef an average consumer can afford. The growing

availability of alternative proteins, such as poultry and pork, has further contributed to declining per capita beef consumption.

"We believe this trend will continue in the coming years, making more beef available for the export market," said Gidley-Baird. "Poultry is already the largest consumed protein in Brazil, Paraguay and Argentina. But other proteins such as pork and seafood have smaller shares of the diet than in other markets and therefore in our view have the capacity to increase."

In response to these pressures, many South American processors have prioritized exports over local markets.

According to Rabo, Brazil remains the largest supplier to China, accounting for 46% of its total imports. Production is forecast to drop as the country retains more females to

**See RABO REPORT on page 15**

## Markets climb higher on futures' hot streak

Cattle futures posted significant gains over the week as traders pushed contracts to new highs. With both live and feeder cattle futures on an upward streak, analysts say the momentum shows strong demand and bullish sentiment despite broader market uncertainties.

Live cattle futures gained several dollars. The April contract gained nearly \$6 to close at \$202.05, and the June contract also gained about \$6 to close at \$198.27.

"Today, the cattle market is immune from market uncertainty and declining equities as it surges ever high after bottoming eight trading days ago," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday. "Technically, the market has moved into overbought territory but remains unphased."

Cash trade through Thursday totaled only about 2,000 head. There were no market trends noted on such short supply.

"Packers are stuck watching the red hot futures rally, needing to replenish cash fed cattle inventories and knowing they will be forced to pay up," Fish said. "Higher cattle costs mean margins remain red, despite the cutout rally this week."

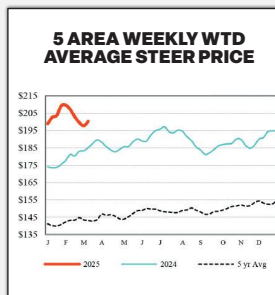
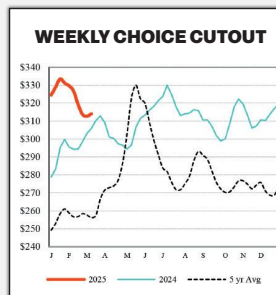
Cash trade for the week ending March 9 totaled 74,437 head. Live steers averaged \$200.47, and dressed steers averaged \$316.54.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 483,000 head, compared to 467,000 head a week earlier. Expected total slaughter for a week earlier is estimated at 578,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending March 1 was 568,747 head. The average steer dressed weight was 942 lbs., 4 lbs. below a week earlier.

Boxed beef prices saw gains over the week. The Choice cutout gained more than \$6 to close at \$313.12, and the Select cutout gained about \$4 to close at \$307.47.

**See MARKETS on page 23**

Time Sensitive  
Priority Handling  
**PERIODICAL:**



| Category                    | Price    |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| LIVE STEERS                 | N/A      |
| DRESSED STEERS              | N/A      |
| CME FEEDER                  | \$278.71 |
| <b>WEEK ENDING: 3-13-25</b> |          |

## COMMENTS

### All eyes on the US

The spring rally is continuing despite the political atmosphere and nervousness surrounding daily announcements as the global trade war navigates its early stages. According to analyst Rob Cook, live cattle futures traded higher in early Thursday action, with April at \$201.75/cwt, up \$0.35, and June at \$198.20/cwt, up \$0.32. Feeder cattle also saw moderate gains, with March at \$281/cwt, up \$0.75, while April edged up to \$281.50/cwt, up \$0.77. The bullish market for feeder cattle helped drive feedlot margins up to \$366.40/head last week from the \$198.44/head feedlots saw in the week prior, according to Sterling Marketing.



IPSEN

While the strong market continues, weather patterns across the country are showing a drought across the U.S. which could have a major impact on heifer retention and herd rebuilding, and this will play heavily into the trade relationship between the U.S. and Brazil moving forward.

Oklahoma State's Derrell Peel says the number of heifers in feedlots at the beginning of the year was slightly down, making up just over 38% of the total cattle on feed.

"The January 1 inventory of beef replacement heifers was down 1% year over year and beef replacement heifers as a percent of the beef cow herd is at the lowest level since 2011. All of these indicate that no heifer retention was underway at the end of 2024," Peel said.

With numbers staying low, and a looming drought, the U.S. inventory looks to stay low for the foreseeable future, which will push this market out even further.

There are two major factors that are going to impact our markets moving forward: our cattle cycle and Brazil's. With data gathered from Agencia IBGE, in 2022, the Brazilian national cow herd saw an increase of 4.3%, the country's cattle herd broke a record in the time series, which began in 1974, and reached 234.4 million head of cattle. This was the fourth consecutive year of growth. An interesting fact: the municipality of São Felix do Xingu in Pará had the largest cattle herd in the country with 2.5 million head.

From a USDA report in August 2024, they claim Brazil is the third-largest cattle producer globally and second-largest beef exporter. The USDA report forecasts decreased slaughter in 2025, due to the anticipated reversion of the cattle cycle. Producers are likely to start retaining cattle in 2025, driving calf prices upwards. Record beef exports are forecasted for 2024 and 2025. In 2025, domestic consumption is forecasted to decrease, as producers will prioritize exports due to strong external demand, devalued local currency and challenges faced by foreign competitors.

In the same report, it claims Brazil accounts for 25% of the global beef exports. Analysts are forecasting a 1% decrease; however, this is on the heels of a year that saw an 8% increase in 2024! Experts are claiming that strong retention in replacements helped drive up supplies and availability across the country but expect the reversion of their cattle cycle to start in 2025. They forecast producers are going to liquidate previously held inventories as prices are expected to slump due to oversupply.

The U.S. beef market has countered the short supply of U.S. cattle by pushing carcass weights into record levels while at the same time, importing record levels of beef from Brazil. In fact, the U.S. imported more pounds through January than we did in all of 2024, which is a 27.19% increase over last year. As cattle producers, the majority of us will immediately cringe when we hear this, so let me explain a little bit more.

My personal position is that this is a necessary evil. While I feel the packer put a multitude of producers out of business on account of their greed and coordinated market collapse, leading to a strong distrust for the deep state they operate in, I also concede that our industry survives if they survive. So, I tread lightly in these areas but try to understand all points and gather all the facts that I can before sharing my opinion.

China is Brazil's largest customer, but this situation fluctuates as much as ours does with China. The U.S. mainly imports lean trim from Brazil, followed by Australia and New Zealand. The intention of this product is to blend U.S. beef with their lean beef to meet consumer demand. Most of the imports from Brazil fall under the "other" category of beef, and they filled their yearly quota as of Jan. 17, so now they will see an additional 26.4% tariff according to a source at the U.S. Meat Export Federation. It remains unclear how this will curb imports, if it does at all.

Why this is important to watch is because demand for U.S. beef has maintained and even grown in nearly every market. At levels we see for U.S. cattle, the packer is losing around \$130/head right now, so they are imploring transactions to help maintain cash flow and operating expenses. Demand for U.S. beef will continue to grow because of the genetic merit of the cattle. Our beef conversion and growth abilities from our sophisticated feeding infrastructure results in a globally sought after product. While I don't like that we import so much beef, I understand the business behind it. — **LOGAN IPSEN**



## DITTMER'S TAKE

Markets are always looking for a reason to be worried. Tariffs are a reason to latch on to in the current climate. Plus, the general media doesn't like the specter of less federal government, doesn't like anything President Donald Trump is doing and has found a new bugaboo in Elon Musk.

Exports have become a more significant part of the equation of beef demand, yes. As for the general economy, imports are around 15% of GDP. While that's significant, it is not a dominating portion of the economy. The beef industry has about the same percentage.

Overhauling the global trading system—which is the Trump administration's intent—is not an overnight project. It will take some time and patience. Critics have none of that patience and no confidence that Trump knows what he's doing. It doesn't help that uncertainty is part of his negotiating strategy. Always keep the other side guessing is part of it. But neither the markets nor the media can handle that.

So, while the jabs and punches keep happening, the result—rebalancing the benefits other nations get from our spending on defense and infrastructure with what we pay for imported goods and services—could be worth the short-term chaos. That is the strategy, even if some refuse to believe there is one at all.

Spending cuts, tax packages, deregulation, tariffs—it's the big picture that's important.

As I'm writing this, a government "shutdown" of some functions is possible. For once, there are different dynamics at work. The Republicans pushed a continuing resolution through the House first and then recessed, maneuvering to put the "onus" of a government "shutdown" on the Senate Democrats. The public has become much wiser to the media misrepresenting things. So, the Democrats relying on the media to blame Republicans for stopping government functions may not work this time.

However, the Senate Democrats may try to force a short-term continuing resolution, to avoid increased defense spending and non-defense spending in the Republican bill.

The real key to the economy—and thus to keeping demand for beef so strong—is Congress passing a reconciliation bill with very important tax provisions in it. While there is lots of discussion, one fact seems undeniable. If Congress does not extend the tax structure we have been operating under for the last seven years, the economic growth we've had from the 2017 tax cuts will come crashing down. Business investment, the stock market—and taxpayer expectations if they are pay-

## TURBULENT BEGINNING TO SPRING

ing attention—is treading water until everyone knows what the rules will be after 2025. Economic forces respond to certainty and abhor uncertainty.

If Congress can get a good tax package by this spring using the reconciliation process, i.e. with requiring only 51 votes in the Senate instead of 60, the economy and American optimism will ignite.

What's a good tax package? The 2017 tax cuts are a starting point: having cut the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% (which boosted real wages for the first time in many years), increasing the standard deduction for middle class taxpayers, cutting tax rates for Subchapter S corporations and LLC pass-through small businesses from 43.4% to 15%, and expensing and accelerated depreciation for capital equipment, were key.

Discussions this time around include further reducing the corporate tax rate to 15%, making 100% immediate expensing of capital expenditures permanent rather than gradually phased out—including for new factories and not taxing tips, overtime and any Social Security, are important additions being discussed.

Making a new structure permanent rather than "for a limited time" is essential.

Hovering over everything is the status of inflation. Inflation is caused by government spending borrowed money. Government spending involves tax money taxpayers must pay. Tariffs are essentially voluntary expenditures by taxpayers. They may have some effect on prices, depending on how exporters and importers respond, but they are not inflationary like government spending.

It is critical that Congress ends the spending spree it has been on for years. The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) is a good start in uncovering things we can't afford. Deregulation to unleash the power and innovation of the private sector is crucial.

The Trump administration's breakneck early pace was great but turning around the entire economy and the global trading system will take some time. What is the time-honored military motto? The difficult we do right away; the impossible takes a little longer.

Remember the Incredible Receding Recession in 2023 and 2024? — **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.)*



## OBITUARY



**David G. Abel; 1946-2025**

Dave was born on Aug. 28, 1946, in Merced, CA, to William H. Abel and Gloria M. Abel. He attended Merced Grammar School and Middle School. Dave's family moved to Lovelock, NV, in 1960. He attended Pershing County High, where he played football, basketball, baseball and participated in high school rodeo.

Following graduation, he enrolled in California Polytechnic College in San Luis Obispo, CA. There, he met Susan Sparrow. He graduated from Cal Poly with a bachelor's degree in animal husbandry. Dave and Sue married on Dec. 7, 1968, in Santa Barbara, CA. The couple moved to Lovelock, where Dave's

family ranch. In 1969, they moved to Fallon, where Dave worked at the Fallon Feedlot. He attributed a lot of his "cow sense" to his time spent with manager Sam Broyles.

In 1971, Dave and Sue made their home in Elko, NV, and he went to work for the Nevada Cattlemen's Association as their executive secretary where he was a staunch supporter and participant in the Sagebrush Rebellion. Dave traveled across Nevada, Oregon, Idaho and California for 35 years as a field representative of Tri-State Livestock Credit Corporation. His years at Tri-State led to many friendships and an unprecedented knowledge of ranch backroads. He retired in 2011.

Dave is preceded in death by his parents, Bill and Gloria. Dave is survived by Sue, his wife of 56 years. He also leaves behind daughters, Gloria (Brian) Hutchison, of Spring Creek, NV, and Sarah (Gabe) Fogarty of Lone Pine, CA; grandchildren, Hillary Hutchison of Elko, Abby (Bradley) Ashby of Reno, NV, David Hutchison of Spring Creek, NV, Tommy and Rissa Fogarty of Lone Pine; brothers, Bill Abel of Missouri and Will Abel; and step-mother, Jeanie Abel of Templeton.

Dave enjoyed braiding rawhide and collecting Spanish style bits and bridles. He always rode nice

horses and raised his girls to appreciate the Western lifestyle. This summer, Dave's ashes will be spread over the Lovelock Desert where he and his family ranch, with a birthday celebration to follow. The family would like to thank

the many people who cared for Dave in his final years, especially the nurses and staff at Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital and the superb dialysis staff at DCI. We appreciate the love that you showed him.

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# WLJ

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# SD governor signs eminent domain ban on carbon pipelines

South Dakota Republican Gov. Larry Rhoden announced that he signed a bill banning the use of eminent domain for carbon dioxide pipelines, delivering a victory to property-rights activists who spent several years advocating for the bill.

Eminent domain is the right to access private property for projects that benefit the public, with compensation determined by a court. It's commonly used for projects such as electrical power lines, water pipelines, oil pipelines and highways.

The legislation passed the

state Senate after passing the House in late January. It prohibits carbon pipeline developers from using eminent domain to acquire land. The issue has been at the center of a contentious debate over Iowa-based Summit Carbon Solutions' proposed \$9 billion carbon capture pipeline.

The project would transport carbon dioxide from more than 50 ethanol plants in five states, including eastern South Dakota, to an underground storage site in North Dakota. It would qualify for billions in federal tax

credits incentivizing the sequestration of heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions.

In a letter explaining his decision, Rhoden, a western South Dakota rancher and former legislator, emphasized his longstanding commitment to property rights and framed the bill as a way to restore trust between landowners and developers.

"I am no stranger to discussions about eminent domain and property rights," Rhoden wrote. "I've fought for private property rights in this Capitol for over 20 years. When I was a legislator, I was

the prime sponsor of legislation that reformed eminent domain to protect property rights. I don't just care about landowners—I am a landowner."

Supporters of the bill have argued that private companies like Summit should not be able to access land against the will of its owners. Opponents, however, contended that the measure could harm the ethanol industry, which is seeking ways to lower its carbon footprint as some states and countries limit sales of carbon-intensive fuels.

Rhoden said voluntary land-access agreements known as easements should be the path forward. He said his signature of the bill "does not kill the proposed project."

"I encourage Summit and others to view it as an opportunity for a needed reset," he wrote. "Voluntary easements for this proposed project will still be able to move forward."

Summit, in a statement, said the ban "changed the rules in the middle of the game."

"This kind of regulatory uncertainty creates real challenges—not just for our project, but for the ethanol plants in South Dakota that now face a competitive disadvantage compared to their counterparts in neighboring states," Summit said. "While this presents obstacles, our project moves forward in states that support investment and innovation, and we will have more news on that soon."

In response to a question from South Dakota Searchlight about whether the company might challenge the new law in court, Summit provided a statement that said "all options are on the table but we remain focused on working with stakeholders to support the long-term success of the ethanol industry and support the president's goals of American energy dominance."

"It's unfortunate that a piece of legislation has been framed around a single company rather than addressing broader infrastructure and economic policy," the company added.

Summit has not yet received a permit from the South Dakota Public Utilities Commission. The compa-

ny's initial application was denied in 2023, largely due to the route's conflicts with local ordinances that mandate minimum distances between pipelines and existing features. The company has since made some adjustments to its route and reapplied, and that application is pending.

The project has received permits in Iowa, Minnesota and North Dakota, while Nebraska does not have a permitting process, and some of the permits have been challenged in court.

The bill's passage follows a shift in the South Dakota's political landscape, with opponents of eminent domain gaining influence in the Legislature. Last year, lawmakers passed a compromise bill that imposed new restrictions on carbon pipelines and implemented new protections for landowners and counties, but did not ban eminent domain. That measure faced fierce opposition. It was referred to the ballot in November and defeated, and 14 Republican incumbents lost their legislative seats in the June primary. This legislative session, some prominent critics of eminent domain were elevated into leadership positions.

Sen. Joy Hohn (R-Hartford) is among the new crop of legislators who supported the eminent domain ban.

"The use of power of condemnation by a private company for the benefit of potential future markets is not worth the dangerous precedent it sets for future generations," Hohn said. "On behalf of South Dakota citizens and property owners across our great state, we are so grateful to Gov. Rhoden." — **Joshua Haiar, South Dakota Searchlight**



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## January US beef exports above 2024

Exports of U.S. beef trended higher than a year ago in January, according to data released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF).

January beef exports reached 102,840 metric tons (mt), up 3% year over year, while value increased 5% to \$804.6 million. Growth was driven in part by larger exports to China and Canada, while exports to South Korea were steady in volume but higher in value.

Strong value increases were also achieved in other key markets, including Taiwan, the Caribbean, Central America and the ASEAN. Exports of beef variety meat were the largest in nearly two years, led by larger shipments to Mexico, Egypt, Canada and China/Hong Kong.

"Demand for U.S. beef came on strong in the Asian markets late last year, and that momentum largely continued in January," said USMEF President and CEO Dan Halstrom. "The performance in Korea is especially encouraging, given the coun-

try's political turmoil and slumping currency. It is also gratifying to see exports trending higher to China, though we are concerned about access to the market moving forward, as many U.S. beef and pork plants are awaiting word on their eligibility beyond mid-March."

### Lamb exports fairly steady

January exports of U.S. lamb fell 7% from a year ago to 282 mt, while value was down 1% to \$1.68 million. But muscle cut exports increased slightly in both volume (255 mt) and value (\$1.46 million), led by robust growth in Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago and the Netherlands Antilles. These gains were partially offset by sharply lower shipments to Canada.

A detailed summary of the January export results for U.S. pork, beef and lamb, including market-specific highlights, is available from the USMEF website, usmef.org. — **USMEF**

## THE VIEWPOINT

with Jay Nordhausen

*This exclusive column found only in WLJ features unique perspectives from some of the nation's top producers, marketers, animal health experts, economists and more.*

From growing up around the Ogallala Livestock Auction Market to becoming a prominent leader in the region, Jay Nordhausen's journey has been shaped by generational mentorship, business acumen and a passion for live auctions.

Born and raised in Ogallala, NE, Jay was immersed in the livestock business from a young age. His father, Errol, worked at Ogallala Livestock for 36 years and Jay spent much of his childhood tagging along to sales and absorbing the intricacies of the auction ring. His upbringing included time spent at the family ranch north of Imperial.

"I didn't come from a wealthy upbringing by any means, but we got by," Jay told *WLJ*. "My dad always wanted me to do something better, but the auction market was in my blood."

Jay's academic and competitive pursuits led him to Colby Community College and the University of Nebraska, where he excelled in livestock judging.

"I judged competitively for 10 years, from 4-H to college," Jay said. "That experience taught me to think fast and defend my decisions, which helps me every day in the auction business."

His success in livestock judging eventually led to coaching, and working for the American Angus Association after he graduated from the University of Nebraska.

"Working for the Angus Association was an incredible experience. I got to travel across the country, meet producers from all walks of life and gain insight into the challenges and opportunities in the purebred cattle business," Jay said.

His role involved marketing, sales and producer relations, allowing him to see firsthand how genetics, branding and consumer demand shaped the cattle market. Although his time there was valuable, Jay always knew he wanted to return home.

"I wanted to be back in Ogallala, but I don't think I'd be as effective in my role today if I hadn't spent those years with the association," Jay said. "It gave me a broader perspective on the industry."

Two figures played a crucial role in shaping Jay's skills and mindset: Matt Ellicott and Dean Schow. "Matt Ellicott was my judging coach, pushing me to be better every day. He taught me to think critically and never settle for being average."

Schow, an auctioneer and cattleman, also left a lasting impression. "Dean was a guy I looked up to in the ring," Jay said. "He knew the flow of an auction like no one else, and I learned a lot

just by watching him."

Today, Jay and his wife, Abbie, are raising three daughters, all born on the same day in different years. "That's my one claim to fame," he said with a laugh. "Aug. 27 is a big day in our house."

His family remains his greatest source of motivation and support, particularly as he has taken on ambitious business ventures over the past five years.

### Business ventures

Jay's return to Ogallala Livestock was driven by an aspiration to be part of the auction market. In 2020, that dream became a reality when he partnered with Lance Van Winkle to purchase Ogallala Livestock Auction. Just as they were stepping into ownership, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, sending markets into turmoil.

"It gave me a few gray hairs," Jay recalled. "The market was crashing, we didn't know if we could have crowds, and everything was uncertain. Thankfully, Dwayne and Scott stayed on to help us through it."

Dwayne Mays and Scott VanWinkle, who started their careers at Ogallala Livestock in the '70s, have been integral to the company for decades.

"Dwayne and Scott were pillars of the barn," Jay said. "They knew this business inside and out, and their leadership kept things running smoothly for years."

Jay explained that Dwayne was known for his sharp business sense and deep understanding of market trends. Scott, the father of Jay's business partner, Lance Van Winkle, brought a lifetime of hands-on experience and dedication.

"Buying them out was a big moment for us," Jay said. "They were ready to retire, and we wanted to carry on what they had built."

Despite the rocky start, Jay and Lance pressed forward, also acquiring North Platte Stockyards in 2022. Located 50 miles east of Ogallala along I-80, the North Platte yards complemented their operations by providing greater flexibility for customers.

"Having both locations allows us to serve producers in a broader region, and it all ties together with our logistics," Jay explained. "We're pulling cattle from Utah, Idaho, Nevada, Wyoming, Colorado and Kansas. It's a big footprint."

In 2024, Jay and Lance expanded their footprint in the livestock marketing world by becoming a stakeholder in Western Video Market. "Ogallala has repped cattle on Western Video Market since 1992," he said. "We've been with them for over 30 years, and we've always been loyal. When the Peek family was looking to transition ownership, it made sense to keep it within the industry."

Jay said the investment brought a group of like-minded cattlemen. "There are a lot of us in our 30s involved, and we're all

forward-thinkers. We'll be in this business for the next three decades, and it's good to be aligned with people who want to see the industry thrive."

### Commitment to auctions

Despite the rise of video sales, Jay remains a staunch advocate for live auctions.

"There's nothing better than a live auction," he said. "It's the communion of the livestock business—fellowship with neighbors and old friends. I hope we never lose that."

As Jay continues to build upon Ogallala's storied history—dating back to the cattle drives of the 1880s—he is mindful of the responsibility he carries.

"Ogallala still moves about the same number of cattle each year as it did 150 years ago. That's pretty amazing," he reflected. "I never thought I'd own this barn. I just wanted to prove to Dwayne that I was serious about coming back.

Now, I want to make sure we keep it strong for the next generation."

Looking ahead, Jay's goals include expanding the reach of their auctions, continuing to modernize marketing strategies and ensuring that both large and small producers feel valued. "We want to grow, but not at the expense of losing who we are," he said. "Customer service is at the core of what we do, and I want to make sure we never lose sight of that."

Jay is also focused on fostering young talent in the industry. "The next generation is crucial to keeping this business thriving. I want to mentor and support young people who have the same passion for livestock that I do."

His commitment to leadership, innovation and maintaining the integrity of live auctions ensures that Ogallala Livestock and its affiliated businesses will continue to thrive for years to come. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**



*Courtesy photo*  
Jay and Abbie Nordhausen with their daughters, Ava, Lottie and Millie.

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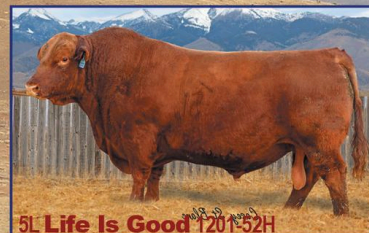
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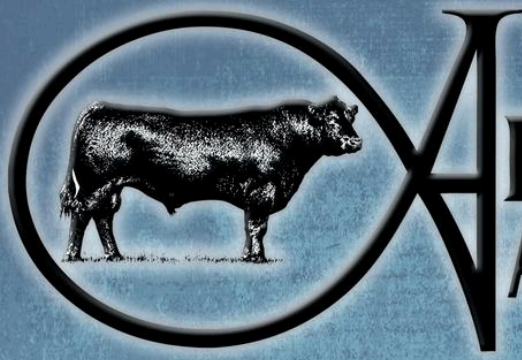
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**Lot 1**  
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Justified x Creed

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

## A A R Midas M075



BW  
+1.0  
WW  
+84  
Milk  
+24  
YW  
+136

**Lot 2**  
Reg. 21037176

Midas x Landmark  
Top 1% SM of 108

## A A R Load Up 4580



BW  
+2.4  
WW  
+81  
Milk  
+19  
YW  
+136

**Lot 3**  
Reg. 21038077

Load Up x Capitalist  
Top 1% SM

## A A R Load Up M118



BW  
+0.0  
WW  
+82  
Milk  
+26  
YW  
+133

**Lot 4**  
Reg. 21037182

Load Up J277 x Justified  
Elite Dam, 5 WR 106

## A A R Load Up M055



BW  
+1.9  
WW  
+85  
Milk  
+24  
YW  
+149

**Lot 5**  
Reg. 21069336

Load Up x Landmark  
Weaning Ratio 121

## A A R Goalkeeper 4406



BW  
-0.1  
WW  
+71  
Milk  
+34  
YW  
+136

**Lot 7**  
Reg. 21188149

Goalkeeper x Consensus  
Loaded with cow power.

## A A R Bridger M214



BW  
-0.5  
WW  
+79  
Milk  
+23  
YW  
+133

**Lot 31**  
Reg. 21069374

Bridger x Outside  
Top 2% SM and top 10% SC

## A A R Bridger 4910



BW  
+1.6  
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Milk  
+28  
YW  
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**Lot 39**  
Reg. 21038081

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## LEGAL LEDGER

### Klamath water supplies likely to meet demand

The Bureau of Reclamation announced in early March that irrigation supplies from the Upper Klamath Lake are anticipated to meet demand this year. In a letter dated March 6 to the Klamath Water Users Association (KWUA), Reclamation said current and anticipated hydrologic conditions in the Upper Klamath Basin are likely to satisfy irrigation demand of the Klamath Project. Confirmation of favorable water delivery will be dependent on hydrologic conditions between March and April 1, but the agency expects water to be available at the start of April. "While specific details on projected demand and total supply were not provided, this update is encouraging news," KWUA said.

### Tariffs scaled back for some, added for others

On March 4, tariffs were implemented on imports from Canada, Mexico, China and Hong Kong. Just two days later, President Donald Trump scaled back tariffs on Canada and Mexico. Products that were not included under the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement signed under Trump's first term will still face 25% tariffs, but tariffs on potash and Canadian energy products were reduced to 10%. The 10% increase to 20% tariffs on goods imported from China and Hong Kong remains in place, resulting in a 15% tariff on American ag products in retaliation. On March 12, Trump also increased tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports to 25%, removing exemptions from his 2018 tariffs and increasing the tariffs on aluminum from 10%. The European Union retaliated with new duties on \$28 billion worth of American goods, including ag products, textiles and home appliances.

### Budd-Falen appointed to serve in DOI

Karen Budd-Falen, a Wyoming property rights lawyer, is anticipated to head back to the Department of the Interior (DOI) to serve again under the Trump administration. In a report by the Cowboy State Daily, Budd-Falen told the outlet she was asked to serve as DOI's associate deputy secretary. Budd-Falen primarily represents private property owners and ranching and farming groups at her law firm, Budd-Falen Law Offices. She previously served under President Donald Trump's administration as deputy solicitor for wildlife and parks, and in the Reagan administration as special assistant to the assistant secretary for land and minerals management.

### Bill would repeal OR brand inspection program

Oregon Senate Bill 1019 would make significant changes to the state's brand inspection program for livestock, going as far as eliminating the state-level oversight structure by 2028. The bill would authorize county governments to take over brand inspections and also exempt dairy cattle from inspection requirements. In addition, the bill would increase the maximum activation fee for brand recording from \$100 to \$150 and raise the brand inspection fee on cattle from \$1.35 to \$1.75 per head. Feedlots over 500 head would also be required to pay additional licensing fees. Oregon Cattlemen's Association President Matt McElligott submitted testimony against the bill, saying the industry asked for simple increases in fees, not to disband the program at the state level, exempt dairy cattle or add feedlot fees.

### Dietary Guidelines are still in the works

The 2025-2030 Dietary Guidelines for Americans are still under development. The public comment period on the guidelines closed in mid-February, and the USDA and Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are now conducting a review of the Scientific Report of the 2025 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee released in 2024. The departments plan to release the final guidelines by the end of the year. "We are going to make sure the dietary guidelines will reflect the public interest and serve public health, rather than special interests," HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. said in a statement.

### Bill to help young farmers secure loans

A group of bipartisan lawmakers recently reintroduced the Farm Ownership Improvement Act, which would launch a pilot program for a pre-approval or pre-qualification process for USDA direct farm ownership loans. The legislation would require USDA to provide Congress with an annual update report and work with stakeholders to spread awareness about the program. Supporters say the bill would help level the playing field for applicants seeking land, especially for young or new entrants to agriculture. "This legislation will help make farm loans more accessible and timely for producers, preventing costly delays and helping young and beginning farmers secure needed capital on a quicker basis," said Sen. John Hoeven (R-ND), a co-sponsor of the bill.

### Greens intervene in lizard suit

The Center for Biological Diversity filed a request to intervene in a suit brought by Texas against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove protections awarded to the dunes sagebrush lizard. Last summer, the agency listed the lizard as endangered. Several months later, Texas filed suit to remove the lizard's Endangered Species Act protections. "We've been fighting for decades to get these little lizards protected and we're not going to stop now," said Jason Rylander of the Center for Biological Diversity.

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25% Santa Gertrudis  
3-Star Calving Ease

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Top .1% \$Profit • Top 2% \$Ranch  
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Top 3% \$Feeder



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# CA Senate hears about response to bird flu outbreak

With California's robust investment and experience in animal disease surveillance and detection, there's little disagreement in agricultural circles that the state was well prepared for bird flu.

But agricultural officials, farmers and other industry representatives also acknowledge that the latest outbreak—which began in 2022 and has become the largest in U.S. history—has been no cakewalk.

They spoke during an informational hearing recently on the state's response to bird flu, which has led to the destruction of more than 166 million birds nationwide, record-high egg prices and the disease infecting most of the state's dairies.

The hearing was held by the state Senate agriculture and health committees, with testimony from those who provided on-the-ground updates on the outbreak, steps being taken to

contain it and suggestions on how to prevent future outbreaks.

California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross said the state took an integrated approach to protecting human and animal health. Despite best practices and scientific expertise, she said, "it has become an unprecedented outbreak of an animal disease."

Ross praised the USDA's \$1 billion plan to fight bird flu and stabilize egg supplies. The plan includes funding to enhance biosecurity on farms and to speed development of vaccines and therapeutics.

The good news, State Veterinarian Annette Jones said, is that quarantines on dairies are now being lifted faster than new ones are being imposed, meaning "we are getting ahead of the virus."

In total, there have been 754 bird flu cases in dairies

as of March 10, with four new cases confirmed as of March 7, according to USDA. More than 23.7 million birds in California have been affected, including 105 commercial flocks and 39 backyard flocks, with the last detection on Feb. 13—in one commercial flock and one backyard flock.

Though poultry producers have improved their biosecurity and have managed to keep wild-bird strains of the virus out of their farms, there were "too many infected dairies around the poultry producers for their biosecurity to work," Jones said. Egg prices have soared, she said, because "this has been the worst outbreak this country has ever seen."

To better understand the outbreak and how the disease spreads, she said the state has completed more than 600 biosecurity audits and continues to do epidemiological questionnaires

with farmers. There are also close to 40 ongoing studies related to bird flu, thanks to federal funds made available for emergency research.

To stop bird flu, "we just need to stay steady," Jones said. Biosecurity and testing must be kept up, she said, and reducing virus load is key "because the best biosecurity in the world will not keep out the virus" if it overwhelms the environment. In poultry, rapid euthanasia will need to continue unless there's a vaccine, which is being considered for cows if it is shown to work and is approved.

Bill Mattos, president of the California Poultry Federation, which represents the broiler sector, said vaccines are problematic for meat birds because of rejection from foreign markets.

As vaccines become available, Ross said the state must ensure they can be deployed without causing

"unintended consequences" and harm to markets and export trade.

Mattos asked lawmakers to find ways to speed the process of depopulating birds and disinfecting farms so that farmers can restart production.

"There's got to be a way that we can work together and try to get back into business quicker," he said.

Even with tight biosecurity measures, David Will, vice president of sales for Chino Valley Ranchers, said many egg producers have been impacted by bird flu two or more times. The company produces cage-free, organic and pastured-raised egg in Riverside, San Diego and San Bernardino counties and Texas. He said the California ranches followed the state order and kept their organic hens inside during the outbreak. However, one farm still became infected in December, forcing the euthanasia of 180,000 birds.

"Clearly, the strain of the virus is different, and we need help," Will said, suggesting there should be "strong dairy movement restriction" and vaccines given to cows and egg layers in locations where the virus is hot. Infections from dairies to poultry farms "cannot be overlooked," he said, as more than 30 million egg layers since October 2024 have been infected with the dairy strain of bird flu.

Doreen Dyt, a field representative for California Dairies Inc., the state's largest dairy cooperative, acknowledged the frustration felt by dairy farmers due to the lack

of understanding of how the virus was being transmitted from farm to farm. There was also frustration that testing could not be done locally, with milk samples being sent to Davis and then out of state for confirmation, adding "a logistical bottleneck that I think should be addressed moving forward at the state level," she said.

Jones said the lab in Tulare, which was flooded in 2023, is still not back online, though a new lab in Turlock is expected to open by the end of the year.

Dyt said testing milk through handlers rather than at the farm helped streamline the process and placed infected dairies on quarantine faster. She praised state and local efforts to distribute free personal protective equipment, or PPE, to farms to keep employees safe.

Erica Pan, director and state public health officer of the California Department of Public Health, said more than 4.6 million pieces of PPE have been distributed to 18 counties, including more than 800,000 respirator masks, 3.5 million gloves, 200,000 goggles and face shields, and nearly 80,000 disposable caps.

In Tulare County alone, more than 1.7 million pieces of PPE were distributed, according to Karen Elliot, the county's public health director. She said the county's ability to act quickly "was made possible in large part by the state investment provided to our department."

— **Ching Lee, Ag Alert editor, California Farm Bureau Federation**



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## Determining proper bull-to-female ratios

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

The first goal of breeding season is to get cows bred early in breeding season resulting in more calves born earlier in calving season, shorter breeding/calving seasons, older calves at weaning and ultimately, more pay weight at weaning due to calf age.

The typical beef calf gains about two pounds a day up until weaning; accordingly, a calf born one heat cycle (21 days) earlier will wean off about 40 lbs. heavier. How do we get this accomplished? By having an adequate number of bulls to get cows serviced.

The following shows a conservative expectation of the number of cows we

should expect bulls to cover in a defined breeding season:

- 12-15-month-old bulls = 10-12 females.
- 15-18-month-old bulls = 12-18 females.
- 18-24-month-old bulls = 18-25 females.
- 24 months and older = 25-35 females.
- 2-6-year-old-bulls = 25-35 females.

A good rule of thumb: One female per month of age at turnout (after passing a yearling breeding soundness exam). For example: If I have 60 heifers to breed and plan to turn out 15-month-old bulls, I will need four bulls.

What is the typical life expectancy of a breeding bull? Typically, up to the age of six is "prime of life" for breeding bulls. This isn't to say that all bulls will break down at this age but it is more likely to happen after age six. Often when an older bull goes bad, it isn't discovered until after breeding season when we are doing pregnancy checks. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

# Bitterroot National Forest hits brakes on thinning, prescribed burning project

The Bitterroot National Forest is hitting the brakes on a 4-year-old proposal to use thinning and prescribed burning to remove vegetation across a vast swath of the Bitterroot Valley following pushback about impacts to threatened and endangered species.

Citing its commitment to gather more information about the proposal's impact on grizzly bears, wolverines and bull trout—all of which are federally protected under the Endangered Species Act—the

U.S. Forest Service (USFS) sent a letter to project opponents saying it won't move forward with the Eastside Forest and Habitat Improvement Project until consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is complete.

In 2021, the Bitterroot National Forest pitched the project as an effort to mitigate wildfire risk, promote forest restoration and improve wildlife habitat for elk and other species. The area identified for thinning and prescribed burn-

ing stretches along the eastern edge of the Bitterroot Valley from Stevensville to Sula.

Friends of the Bitterroot, WildEarth Guardians, Alliance for the Wild Rockies, Native Ecosystems Council and the Center for Biological Diversity took issue with the project's anticipated impact on wildlife habitat and lack of detail about the "precise location, timing and scope of the treatments."

Without such information, USFS and USFWS are "unable to adequately assess the Projects' effects to bull trout, bull trout critical habitat, grizzly bears, wolverine and Canada lynx in violation of the ESA," the groups wrote in a notice of intent to sue submitted to the Forest Service on Jan. 7.

The Bitterroot National Forest used a 30-page categorical exclusion to forward the proposal, relying on a process that offers less analysis and fewer opportunities for public comment than other environmental reviews.

In that document, USFS highlighted the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes'

historical use of fire to improve wildlife habitat and grazing for horses, rejuvenate native plants and clear travel corridors. The forest developed non-lethal fire regimes and fire-adapted vegetation as a result of those intentionally set fires, the agency wrote, adding that a century of fire exclusion has created thicker forest cover "favorable for insects, disease and stand-replacing wildfire."

According to its March 7 letter to the environmental groups, USFS now considers the threatened lawsuit moot given the agency's commitment to study the plan's effects on threatened and endangered species before moving forward.

In a press release about the USFS' commitment to postpone the project, the conservation groups highlighted the area's biological diversity and the Bitterroot Range's value to hunters, hikers and other recreationists.

"The Forest Service approved a project that spans nearly a half-million acres without taking a hard look at

how road use was going to harm grizzly bears in the Sapphire Mountains and returning to the Bitterroot ecosystem," WildEarth Guardians rewilding manager Adam Risien wrote in the release, referring to the outer boundary of the area that could be treated over the project's life. "Approved under what is called a 'categorical exclusion,' the agency was clearly pushing beyond the bounds of its authority, and we're pleased it's reversing course to comply with the law."

The Bitterroot National Forest has not responded to questions from Montana Free Press (MTPF) regarding its decision.

The Ravalli County Commission penned a letter in 2023 encouraging USFS to move forward with the Bitterroot Front project, a sister proposal slated for the western edge of the Bitterroot Valley. Unlike the East Side project, the Bitterroot Front project involves commercial timber harvest.

An email to Ravalli County Commissioner Jeff Burrows seeking comment on the

USFS' decision to reconsider the East Side project was not returned before publication.

The Bitterroot National Forest has a long history of fighting wildfires in southwestern Montana's increasingly populated wildland-urban interface. The current conflict over vegetation management and wildfire risk in the valley comes nine years after the Roaring Lion Fire consumed 16 structures near Hamilton and eight years after a 29-year-old firefighter died while responding to the Lolo Peak Fire.

The proposal's reconsideration also comes as the Trump administration pursues dramatic revisions to the National Environmental Policy Act, the decades-old law directing federal agencies to study and disclose environmental impacts associated with timber sales and other large projects. In a similar vein, the White House on March 1 issued an executive order broadening the federal government's authority to skip Endangered Species Act consultations for logging projects. — **Amanda Eggert, MTPF**

## Nimans ask court to set aside NPS' new ROD

### NIMAN SUIT (from page 1)

regional food supply and the health of the nation.

The couple said they have spent years working to protect sustainable and responsible ranching in the seashore, whether practiced by themselves or others. "Plaintiffs' interest in sustainable and responsible ranching and agriculture, whether practiced by themselves or by others, is directly harmed by the decisions challenged in this complaint," the suit said.

The suit asks the court to set aside the NPS' 2025 ROD and order the government to analyze the alternatives of leasing ag lands in Point Reyes to other farmers and ranchers, along with developing a management plan for tule elk.

### Background

Niman and Hahn Niman raise grassfed cattle and heritage breed chickens in the Point Reyes National Seashore. Niman founded the sustainable meat company Niman Ranch in the '70s but left in 2007 and is also co-founder of a grassfed beef and pasture-raised poultry company. Hahn Niman previously worked as the senior attorney for the Waterkeeper Alliance where she led the group's campaign to reform the livestock industry.

The ranching couple was not party to the settlement negotiations with The Nature Conservancy.

When NPS released its 2020 draft environmental impact statement (EIS) reviewing six alternatives on the seashore's management, none of the alternatives studied leasing lands within the seashore for agricultural or ranching purposes to people other than those currently farming or ranching the lands, the suit said. The Nimans submitted comments in support of continuing agriculture.

"Ranches are equally important to this region's environment; animal impact is essential to ecosystem function," the Nimans wrote in their comments. "We urge that the General Management Plan Amendment reflect a National Park Service commitment to the long-term continuation and support of the Seashores ranches. Remember, It's not the COW, it's the HOW."

NPS issued a ROD in 2021 that updated the seashore's plan to authorize ranching for at least the next 20 years, and

potentially longer, by the existing ranching families on the seashore.

Shortly after, in 2022, environmental groups filed suit against the decision, saying the park service prioritized ranchers over the environment and the public's use of the seashore. The Nimans were not parties to the lawsuit.

In January of this year, all of the ranchers except the Nimans and one other family entered into private settlements with The Nature Conservancy to leave by 2026.

NPS also entered into an agreement to settle the litigation brought by environmental groups in 2022. The agency approved a new decision to replace the 2021 ROD, which would redesignate the lands ranching by the departing ranchers in the pastoral zone as a new "scenic landscape" zone where ranching or other agricultural activities would not be allowed.

The 2025 ROD did not propose to offer the lands ranching by the departing ranchers for lease and did not select any of the alternatives considered in the 2020 EIS, the suit said. NPS also did not conduct any further environmental review in support of the new ROD, and did not study the alternatives of leasing the lands to others for ag operations. A public comment period was also not offered on the 2025 decision.

"The 2025 ROD affects the Nimans' interests. The 2025 ROD will only allow the Nimans to continue operating if they enter into new 'Ranch Operating Agreements' (ROAs) that are required to contain restrictions that the Nimans were not consulted on and to which they object," the suit said.

The couple cited the example of ROAs containing restrictions on the number of animals at levels they said will make continued ranching economically difficult if not entirely nonviable. The ROAs also contain restrictions on composting and cover cropping that will make regenerative agriculture practices difficult, if not entirely impossible, the suit said.

In addition, the 2025 ROD "contains no real management plan for tule elk in Point Reyes," the suit continued. If ranching is "to survive in the Seashore, and on the Nimans' ranch, tule elk need to be properly managed."

The government does not comment on pending litigation. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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# Real estate values, ag transitions in CA's Central Valley

In California's Central Valley, the value of farmland is closely tied to agricultural production, which relies on water. Crop-land prices can range from less than \$10,000 per acre to over \$60,000 per acre. These values vary based on many factors, such as soil suitability, the types of crops grown and water availability. Location is important and can account for development pressures.

Microclimates and proximity to markets or production facilities can influence profitability. Land sales also fluctuate with changing economic trends in real estate or the agricultural sector. If commodity prices fall, there can be reduced demand for production from current fields.

Land prices can also be influenced by longer-term changes in water scarcity and environmental factors. For instance, implementation of the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA), passed in 2014, will likely require reductions of intense agricultural production in ar-

reas of long-term groundwater overdraft.

If less irrigation water is available, how will cropland production and acreage be affected? Are long-term regulatory changes already getting incorporated into farmland values in the state? Parsing out these influences from the many factors affecting farmland values requires lots of data, especially to detect both spatial and temporal trends.

Two types of analysis can help investigate these questions. First, we can understand the trajectory of farmland values over several decades to give context to recent trends since 2014. Analyzing historical data on cropland and agricultural land cover from the USDA shows that across California, from 2001 to 2021, both the acreage and average value of sold farmland increased significantly. For instance, in the Central Valley, farmland sales averaged \$8,150/acre in 2001, but by 2021, average prices had risen to over \$52,200/acre, which equates to more than a

530% increase.

During the same period, farmland productivity, based on sales per acre, increased by over 330%, with net farm income rising from \$300/acre to over \$1,800/acre throughout the state. Cropping trends also changed in the Central Valley, with high-value perennial crops replacing low-value annual crops. Since 2008, the share of land in cultivation with perennial crops has increased by 40% or more, with corresponding decreases in annual crop acreage. Widescale adoption of efficient irrigation technologies likely allowed for this expansion.

Second, more detailed data and visualizations can find correlations in farmland values, irrigation water sources, and crop types. Based on data compiled by Acres Inc., between 2018 to 2023, the monthly amount of cropland sold for annual crops varied widely, with only 8,000 acres sold in April 2023, but more than 30,000 acres April 2021, when farmland sales totaled over

\$600 million.

The distribution of values for land sales of annual crops also varied across the valley, with areas of the western San Joaquin Valley seeing less than \$20,000/acre, and areas near Stockton and Merced selling for more than \$40,000/acre. Acreage of farmland sold under permanent crop cultivation was larger, ranging from 20,000 acres to more than 60,000 acres in the spring months of 2019, 2020 and 2021.

Access to water sources also significantly influenced farmland values. Several studies have pointed to the intersection of surface water availability, groundwater dependence and socioeconomic vulnerability that are driven by SGMA implementation. Newly published data from Acres classifies irrigation districts in two tiers: Tier 1 irrigation districts that have access to surface water sources, and Tier 2 irrigation districts that rely primarily on groundwater.

The cost of irrigation for crop production on Tier 2 farmland

is likely to be higher than on farmland in Tier 1. From 2018 to 2023, median farmland values in the Tier 1 districts rose by 30%, from \$31,000/acre to \$40,000/acre. In contrast, farmland values in Tier 2 irrigation districts were largely flat, starting and ending at \$24,000/acre. Ties between farmland values and agricultural productivity emerge.

For instance, in the case of almonds, Tier 1 irrigation districts averaged around \$40,000/acre of transactions from 2022 to 2024, but transactions in Tier 2 irrigation districts declined steadily to just over \$20,000/acre. While it can be difficult to eliminate the effects of land tenure, commodity prices, and speculative hedge fund investments, the trends remain clear.

These revealed trends indicate potential emerging effects of water scarcity on farmland values in the Central Valley. We also know that other environmental factors can influence land values. For instance, while dust cover is correlated with land values (indicating productive agricultural lands in California's dusty Central Valley), higher levels of dust tend to decrease farmland values. For example, an increase in dust levels from the fifth percentile to the 75th percentile in the Central Valley can potentially lead to a loss in farmland value in the range of \$1,365 to \$1,524 per acre.

Climate change will affect agricultural production and farmland prices in California, but how rapidly will prices change in the face of water availability, crop market trends

and real estate prices?

From 1997-2022, the USDA's Agricultural Census indicated that California farmland decreased by 14%, likely from many factors including agriculture to urban land transitions. Yet, even with this decrease and three major periods of drought since 2000, agricultural farmland values steadily increased across the state and the market values of land grew, likely supported by wider adoption of efficient irrigation, groundwater pumping and changes in global commodities.

Analysis of recently acquired data makes it possible to parse trends across crop types and water availability. The trends are revealing that surface water access will likely influence long-term real estate prices across vast stretches of the Central Valley. Groundwater availability is no longer a guaranteed asset. These changes in farmland values are likely to have wide economic spillover effects, including those to farm lending, insurance and labor sectors.

As California continues to support Multibenefit Land Repurposing and other efforts intended to minimize impacts, investing in high resolution spatial and temporal data will be critical to understanding the directions and drivers of socioeconomic change. Additional investments in climate smart agricultural practices are also needed given the continued severity and uncertainty of climate impacts to agricultural water use. — **University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources**

12<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL - HUNTLEY, MONTANA

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## Don't forget about Mom this calving season

The 2025 cattle inventory report wasn't a big surprise with the beef cow numbers down to 27.9 million head. That is the smallest herd since 1951. Beef replacement heifers represent the lowest number since 1950, down 1.7% from 2024!

Beef production amounted to 8.1 billion pounds in 1951. Amazingly, 2025 beef production estimates are 25.9 billion lbs. That is a success story very few people know, and credit goes to the greatest beef producers in the world.

Coming back to the ranch, many of you are in the midst of calving out—and culling out—first-calf heifers. The cattle inventory report shines a little light on just how valuable those young, first-time mothers really are. Keeping those heifers in the herd has never been more critical than it is today.

Monitoring body condition is not a new concept but sometimes the frantic pace of ranch life in the early spring can prove to be a distraction. However, body condition score (BCS) at calving has been shown to be the greatest indicator of reproductive success. This is especially true for first-calf heifers. A study conducted at Oklahoma State University clearly demonstrates the importance of keeping heifers in good condition prior to and after calving. Heifers that calved in BCS 5

or greater bred at a much higher rate than thinner heifers. Even if they were fed to improve their condition, thinner heifers bred at a lower rate than BCS 5 heifers that were fed to maintain weight (67% versus 91%).

The message is clear. Get and keep your heifers in BCS 5 or greater to maximize their opportunity to breed back. In a day when heifers are worth \$3,000 each and her calf will easily bring back over \$1,600, you can't afford to drop the ball now.

There are a few things you can do to make life easier on your heifers. First, feed them separately from your older cows if possible. They need higher quality feed and often don't compete well with older cows. Secondly, now is the time to use your best quality forage. Have the forage tested and supplement with protein if needed. Protein can be provided in the form of commercial supplements or good quality alfalfa.

When you have the energy and protein bases covered, a good quality mineral can fill in the gaps. Trace mineral blocks have their place, but a loose mineral will provide a greater quantity and quality of minerals and vitamins needed between calving and breeding. — **Dr. David Secrist, Utah State University Extension beef specialist**

# EPA announces additional deregulatory actions

## WOTUS UPDATES (from page 1)

undertake a rulemaking process to revise the WOTUS definition, and in the meantime, will provide guidance to states implementing the pre-2015 definition to ensure consistency.

The agency said it plans to emphasize clarity, simplicity and improvements that will stand the test of time.

"USDA supports EPA's revi-

sions to WOTUS that provide certainty and recognize the key role that agriculture plays in protecting our natural resources," said USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins. "We'll keep pushing for policies that let producers focus on what they do best—feeding, fueling and clothing our nation."

## Industry expresses support

The National Cattlemen's

Beef Association (NCBA) hailed the EPA's news. "Today's guidance is an important step toward refocusing the Clean Water Act to its original purpose," said NCBA Chief Counsel Mary-Thomas Hart. "NCBA thanks EPA Administrator Zeldin for his work to finally close a decades-long chapter of severe regulatory whiplash."

The American Farm Bureau Federation said it appreciated the EPA taking a step toward providing clarity on WOTUS

compliance.

"The foundation (Zeldin) laid today is the first step toward creating clear WOTUS implementation guidelines, which will help farmers protect the environment while ensuring they can grow the food America's families rely on," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall.

Congressional Western Caucus Chairman Doug LaMalfa (CA-01) expressed support for the announcement, calling the Biden-era rule "onerous." LaMalfa said revising the rule will ensure WOTUS regulations more closely follow the guidance of the Sackett Supreme Court decision.

"The EPA weaponized WOTUS, directing the Army Corps to target basic land management actions, like a farmer plowing a furrow, and absurdly claimed them to be 'mini mountain ranges' that altered U.S. waterways," LaMalfa said. "As a farmer myself, I'm elated for the clarity, reasonableness and fairness that the revised WOTUS rule will

bring."

Environmental groups were not as quick to express support for the announcement. "After decades of misinformation and campaigning, corporate polluters won big when Sackett v. EPA gutted clean water protections for most wetlands and millions of miles of streams," said Julian Gonzalez, Earthjustice senior legislative counsel. "Now, the Trump administration wants to strip even more protections, while slashing the EPA's budget by 65%, leaving fewer enforcers to hold polluters accountable."

## More deregulation on its way

In addition to announcing plans to revise WOTUS, EPA also shared its intent to undertake 31 deregulatory actions. The agency said the actions will unleash American energy, reduce the cost of living, revitalize the American auto industry, restore the rule of law and return power back to states to make their own decisions.

"Today is the greatest day of deregulation our nation has seen," Zeldin said. "We are driving a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion to drive down cost of living for American families, unleash American energy, bring auto jobs back to the U.S. and more."

The agency said the actions will "roll back trillions" in regulatory costs and hidden taxes.

Some examples include:

- Reconsideration of the mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program.
  - Reconsideration of light-duty, medium-duty and heavy-duty vehicle regulations under electric vehicle mandates.
  - Overhauling the Biden administration's "social cost of carbon."
  - Terminating the environmental justice and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) arms of EPA.
  - Reconstituting the Science Advisory Board and Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee.
- Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor

## Geneticist outlines promise of gene editing

An animal geneticist at the University of California (UC), Davis told Kansas cattle producers recently that a gene editing technique more common in plant genetics is also a safe option for shortening the time it takes to improve cattle genetics.

Alison Van Eenennaam led off the program for Kansas State (K-State) University's 112th annual Cattlemen's Day on March 7 in Manhattan, KS. Her talk was titled, "Genetic Modifications in Livestock"

"Often when people hear the expression 'genetic modification' what comes to mind is the whole GMO debate and scary memes on the Internet, or that if you eat GMOs something bad will happen to you," Van Eenennaam said. "That narrative has been very hard to correct."

Van Eenennaam's research team at UC Davis is working to perfect a technique in which scientists take a look at the vast cattle genome, identify the DNA pairs that define various traits, and—literally—edit targeted genes to produce a more desired trait.

Gene editing has taken root in plant breeding, leading to numerous advances in plant-based foods. K-State scientists, for example, have used gene editing to reduce the presence of gluten-coding genes in wheat, a breakthrough that one day may allow people with celiac disease to again enjoy wheat-based products.

"In 2009, we were able to define the entire sequence of the cattle genome, which gave us a look at the genetic variation that exists between cattle breeds," Van Eenennaam said. "In the case of cattle, that's about 3 billion base pairs of DNA that make up the cattle genome."

Conventional breeding focuses on identifying and using genetically superior animals

that possess desired traits and avoiding those with less desired traits. Improving cattle genetics in this manner is a long process, often taking three or four generations—or about a dozen years.

Van Eenennaam said gene editing can inactivate genes that lead to undesired traits in a more targeted fashion. The technique involves inactivating genes that define a particular trait. Genetic improvements in the cattle herd can occur within a single generation.

"You can inactivate a gene, or basically knock it out," Van Eenennaam said. "That's useful in cattle genetics if you're targeting a gene that creates something you don't want, such as susceptibility to disease."

Beneficial gene variants can also be added to the cattle genome, using a cattle DNA template, to introduce useful traits "such as the polled allele that results in hornlessness into horned breeds of cattle," Van Eenennaam said.

In the swine industry, gene editing is being used successfully to improve pig's resistance to porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, a devastating disease that costs that industry about \$1.2 billion per year in the U.S.

Van Eenennaam said that while gene editing research is being conducted in many food animals, the technology still faces regulatory hurdles in the U.S., as well as the need to overcome perceptions among countries that buy U.S. beef.

"It's a new-ish technology and the regulations are just kind of catching up," she said. "So we haven't really gotten a lot of products on the market yet."

Van Eenennaam's complete talk is available online from K-State's Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, at [tinyurl.com/4ba98w8n](http://tinyurl.com/4ba98w8n). That

website also includes videos by other presenters at this year's event, as well as reports from research conducted at K-State in the past year. — K-State Research and 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](mailto:editorial@wlj.net).)

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

Foundation-Scholarships.

**April 15** – The Agricultural Communicators Network is offering three scholarships to undergraduate students pursuing careers in agricultural communications. Details: [agcmmnetwork.com/scholarships](http://agcmmnetwork.com/scholarships).

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

# New genetic tool makes grain breeding faster

Scientists at University of California (UC), Davis have developed a new genetic tool that makes it easier to breed wheat and triticale to grow more efficiently and to be better adapted to different environments. This new tool is pushing a second Green Revolution, as it bypasses some of the complications left from the first one.

The new method recognizes that, in grasses such as wheat, small and short are different.

Developed by researchers in the Department of Plant Sciences, the method allows breeders to tease apart the genes that control plant height from genes that control other aspects of a plant's growth and other qualities. With that, breeders can now develop varieties of grain with a range of plant heights, so farmers can get seed better suited to the conditions of individual fields.

"These are exciting times, as we now have advanced tools that allow us to leverage our knowledge of biology in support of breeders' work," said Juan Debernardi, manager of the Parsons Foundation Plant Transformation Facility at UC Davis and lead investigator on the project.

The team includes the lab of wheat geneticist Jorge Dubcovsky, a distinguished professor. Their breakthrough is so significant that Plant Biotechnology Journal put the team's paper on the cover of the February issue. First authors on the paper are Chaoyong Zhang, a research associate on the team, and Joshua Hegarty, a project scientist with the UC Davis Small Grains Breeding Program.

Grasses, including wheat, naturally want to grow tall

so the seeds that ripen at the top of their stems can spread far and wide. In the 1960s, Green Revolution scientists changed agriculture by breeding wheat and other food-producing grasses that would grow smaller and with more seeds, providing more food for the world. When the seeds of those grasses germinate, the sprouts are smaller, too—so the seeds have to be planted closer to the surface for the tender sprouts to reach it.

In contrast, plants developed with the new method still grow short above the ground. What's different is that germinating plants have normal-sized structures as they emerge from their seeds below ground. This means seeds can be sown deeper in the soil, letting the plants reach moisture stored there—a boon for farmers on water-challenged lands.

In addition, the shorter triticale the team developed with this method was less likely to fall over while growing. That problem is called lodging, which can make grain difficult to harvest mechanically and dramatically reduce grain yield. Lodging is what prompted Hegarty—who heads the field testing—to talk to Debernardi about genetic solutions.

"It took just two years—from our initial discussions with Josh about the lodging in his triticale lines to having the new varieties in the field" Debernardi said.

The team took a new approach, focusing on the genes AP2L-B2 and AP2L-R2 which, when activated, make plants grow shorter.

They employed a revolutionary new discovery: micro-RNA. These tiny molecules regulate gene expression in plants and animals,

and just in 2024, their discoverers won a Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Micro-RNAs do many different jobs. Some kinds are like tiny scissors, Debernardi explained, cutting out bits of genes and reducing those genes' impact.

Using the genetic editing tool CRISPR-Cas9, the team introduced mutations that block the ability of a particular micro-RNA whose job is to snip the AP2L2 genes. That means the levels of the AP2L2 genes in the new plants were higher, and those plants grew shorter

above ground.

Furthermore, by snipping for different levels of AP2L2, the team could develop plants that grow at different heights.

It's a breakthrough for wheat and triticale breeders.

"The flexibility to create plants with different heights in a single step and without altering all the other characteristics of a variety, such as grain quality and disease resistance, is very appealing," Debernardi said. "This process avoids the need of crossing the varieties with

specific dwarfing genes and the required backcrossing process. All that usually takes many years."

The method produced superior results outside the lab, too. In field tests over two years, gene-edited plants were 5 to 7 inches (12

to 18 cm) shorter and resisted falling over better during storms. This led to a significant reduction in lodging and a 9% total increase in grain yield, the team reported. — UC Davis College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences



## COMING EVENTS

(Send calendar of events information to [editorial@wlj.net](mailto:editorial@wlj.net).)  
**April 11-13** – Registration is open for the 2025 Cattle Raisers

Convention & Expo taking place in downtown Fort Worth, TX. Details: [cattleraisersconvention.com](http://cattleraisersconvention.com).

## Texas sheep, goat prices rise as supply tightens

Texas sheep and goat producers are benefiting from strong market conditions in early 2025 with seasonal supply trends supporting elevated prices.

Current market conditions are in line with expected seasonal patterns, with a tighter supply leading to higher prices, said Jake Thorne, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service sheep and goat program specialist and assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science.

"Sheep and goats both have fairly seasonal breeding patterns, most breed in the fall and give birth in the spring, leading to a higher supply of lambs and kids in late summer," Thorne said. "That influx often depresses prices, but this time of year, we see lower supply, which helps keep the market strong."

Producers with off-season breeding schedules—producing lambs and kids in the fall—are benefiting

from high sale barn prices. Thorne said some premium goat prices have exceeded \$4 per pound, a promising sign for producers selling high-quality animals.

In general, lamb prices above \$3/lb. are considered strong, with anything over \$3.50/lb. deemed excellent. Goat prices follow a similar trend, with \$3.50/lb. considered strong and anything above \$4/lb. highly favorable.

However, Thorne said the summertime price slump caused by higher supplies can send prices below \$2/lb.

### Texas leads national production

Texas remains the nation's top sheep and goat producer, with more goats than the next 10 states combined. The state's goat industry is dominated by Boer and Spanish breeds, while its sheep sector features a high percentage of

hair sheep such as Dorpers, which are popular in the nontraditional meat market.

"A large portion of Texas sheep and goats are shipped to metropolitan areas, particularly along the East Coast, where demand from ethnic communities remains strong," Thorne said.

Despite its production dominance, the U.S. supplies only 30-40% of domestic demand for lamb and goat meat. The remainder is imported primarily from Australia and New Zealand, which can create pricing challenges for domestic producers.

While current market conditions remain favorable, there are potential challenges ahead. Imported lamb and goat meat, often produced at a lower cost, competes with U.S. producers, limiting how high domestic prices can rise.

Other concerns include predator management,

parasite control and potential disease threats. Although highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) has not significantly impacted smaller ranch animals, Thorne advised producers to remain vigilant.

"Imports can undercut domestic prices, making it difficult for U.S. producers to achieve higher premiums," Thorne said.

"There was a confirmed HPAI case in a Minnesota goat last year, but no widespread issues since," he said. "Keeping livestock separate from poultry and monitoring for signs of illness is a good practice."

With steady demand and Texas leading national production, the Lone Star State's sheep and goat industry remains in a strong position, Thorne said. However, competition from imports and seasonal price shifts will be key factors to watch in the months ahead. — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension



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# Predator problems? A control guide for livestock producers

Based on 2020 market values, predators cause approximately \$4 million in losses annually to Kansas cattle producers. Likewise, they financially burden the state's small ruminant operations to the tune of about \$750,000 per year.

To mitigate the economic impact and other effects of predation, Kansas State (K-State) University wildlife specialist Drew Ricketts said producers have various non-lethal control methods available to keep livestock safe.

"The number of coyotes around or removed doesn't tend to be directly associated with how many losses a producer has," he said. "So, if you're not having problems with predators, then hunting or trapping shouldn't be a chore for you, and trying to lower coyote populations to prevent future predation isn't an efficient thing to do."

Dead livestock commonly attracts predators. Thus, Ricketts recommends proper disposal of carcasses away

from calving, lambing or kidding areas to lower the risk of a predator attack, noting that young livestock become especially vulnerable.

"All wild predators in Kansas are mainly scavenging when feeding on large food items like livestock," he said. "If we have dead livestock near those areas, then we are exposing ourselves to more predation by attracting predators to a food source, so composting and hauling off dead animals are crucial and often overlooked."

Coyotes are the main predators of livestock in Kansas. Yet, Ricketts said domestic dogs account for a sizeable portion of predation incidents as well. To keep both kinds at bay, producers can strategically fence locations to keep dogs and coyotes away from livestock.

"I suggest woven wire fences with 4-inch by 4-inch squares," Ricketts said. "If you've got 12-inch-wide openings six inches tall, coyotes can squeeze right

through those fences. Also, there are some excellent designs for electrified fencing."

He added: "However, coyotes and other predators can climb over a fence, so if you're trying to achieve 100% exclusion, we want to have a hot wire on top or have a tall enough fence."

According to Ricketts, predators may also try to expose a fence's weakness by digging under it, which actually presents an opportunity to catch them.

"Digging under is likely going to happen, but we can use those crawl-under spots to apprehend them before they cause damage," he said. "So, don't plug those holes, call me or your local Extension office, and I'll come out and show you how to target and trap those coyotes causing problems."

Beyond carcass disposal and fencing, producers may choose to practice night penning or securing their livestock in a barn or other structure during night hours.

"Coyotes usually hunt right around sunrise, sunset and through the nighttime," Ricketts said. "Accordingly, this is one of the most effective ways to exclude predation—especially for small ruminant producers."

Guardian animals can also keep livestock out of harm's way. Ricketts said the kind of guardian "depends on the best fit for your operation." Species often used as guardians include:

- Llamas.
- Donkeys.
- Dogs.

Due to their status as a migratory bird, non-lethal control strategies remain the most common option for black vultures, which can be seen in the far southeast corner of the state.

"You're going to have to haze them," Ricketts said. "Deterring them includes a combination of using pyrotechnics, noise-making devices and hanging fake, dead vultures—called effigies—near roosting sites to exclude those birds."

## Lethal predator management

While non-lethal predator management can be an efficient use of time and resour-

ces for producers, some scenarios call for lethal predator control, said Ricketts, noting that hunting and trapping make up the two main strategies.

"We can shoot coyotes when we're out checking livestock, but by and large most coyote problems that require lethal control are taken care of by trapping and snaring," he said. "Both methods are a lost art, so I teach producers how to do both effectively."

Ricketts offers this service as part of his extension program and provides proper equipment to producers looking to trap or snare problem animals.

"The thing to remember is those traps and snares are out there working 100% of the time, so you have to check them once a day," he said. "Any sort of shooting or calling of predators requires you to be present, so we can also make better use of time with the traps and snares."

Hunting predators using calls proves to be a safe and selective method of removing wildlife that cause issues.

"You're seeing the animal when it is alive and making a decision about whether to dispatch it or not," Ricketts said. "You also have the opportunity to see what's be-

hind the animal and follow all the appropriate steps for firearm safety to make sure you're not going to shoot an unintended animal or other resource by accident."

When a suspected predation occurs, Ricketts said producers should observe all aspects of the scene first, then look for lethal wounds and document the carcass with pictures.

If possible, Ricketts encourages taking pictures prior to moving a carcass, and ensuring they show the posture of the animal, any blood on soil or vegetation and the general scene where the event occurred. Any potential predator attack can be reported to Ricketts at 785-532-1949 or arickett@ksu.edu.

"Oftentimes, we see an animal that's been chewed into through the abdomen or rectum, and this can be a sign of predation or scavenging, so it is important to look around the head and neck for lethal wounds," he said. "Take pictures of any scat, or tracks and note if the animal has been covered up before you move it because all of those factors are important when I investigate what happened."

— K-State Research and Extension

## MT bill would help protect goat owners from losses

Goats could get some protection from predators, especially from coyotes, under a new bill that unanimously passed a third reading in the House in Montana.

House Bill 767 would allow counties, with the support of local goat producers, to establish a program that would allow local producers to contribute to a county predator control program paid for by self-assessments on the animals.

Predator control programs already exist for cattle and sheep producers.

"At the request of livestock producers, we are seeking additional sources for predator control funding, and this is adding goats into the current statute," bill sponsor Rep. Julie Darling (R-Helena) said during a hearing on March 4. "Currently we have it in place for various breeds of livestock, including sheep, and so we just want goats added to that."

There were more than 16,000 goats in Montana in 2022, a rise from more than 14,000 in 2017, according to the USDA.

Coyotes are the main culprits for the deaths of many young farm animals.

Kelly Michaels, a representative of the Montana Wool Growers Association, said about 50% of all lamb deaths in the state can be attributed to coyotes. Many sheep producers also have goats, Michaels added.

The losses are heavy, with about 10,000 sheep and lambs killed each year in the state by predators. There's also another issue, Michaels told the House Agriculture Committee during a hearing.

"In Montana, we primarily hear about livestock killed by wolves and grizzly bears, for which producers can receive compensation

through the Livestock Loss Board," Michaels said. "(But) producers do not receive compensation for the vast majority of livestock killed by predators in Montana."

That's because federally managed predatory species, like wolves and bears, are part of work being done by USDA Wildlife Services. Some counties have contracts with the USDA for predator control, but those don't extend to coyotes.

The state Department of Livestock does collect fees on all livestock in Montana, which totaled about \$4.7 million in 2024. Only about 12% of that money comes back to predator control, and that's not the funding source for this predator control program.

"We're talking about the county petition money that is self-assessed at the county level by sheep producers and cattle producers in counties in eastern Montana where producers do not contract with Wildlife Services," Michaels said. "100% of their predator control funding comes from within their own county, and all that background, and it's to say two things, predators are a big problem in Montana, with coyotes being the most destructive, and predator control is expensive and producer funded."

In order for a county to approve a predator control program for goats, it needs petitioned support of resident owners who own at least 51% of the goats in the county.

"Producers need tools to raise money for predator control," Michaels said. "And this bill is intended to help with that problem." — Jordan Hansen, Daily Montanan

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# Exports of raw materials increase for biomass-based diesel fuels

As biofuel use grows, demand for the raw materials used as feedstocks in biofuel production also is on the rise. Increasingly, the U.S. turns to foreign suppliers to source those feedstocks (soybean oil, canola oil, corn oil, tallow and used cooking oil).

Demand for feedstocks used to make the biofuels classified as biomass-based diesel, which includes biodiesel and renewable diesel, has doubled in the last two years, reaching 37.2 billion

pounds in the 2023-24 marketing year.

Biomass-based diesel feedstocks include vegetable oils, animal fats and used cooking oil. The strong U.S. demand for feedstocks lifted domestic vegetable oil and animal fats prices above world prices from 2020-21 through 2022-23, and prices stayed elevated in 2023-24.

High U.S. feedstock prices, a strong dollar and construction of renewable diesel facilities at ports all have con-

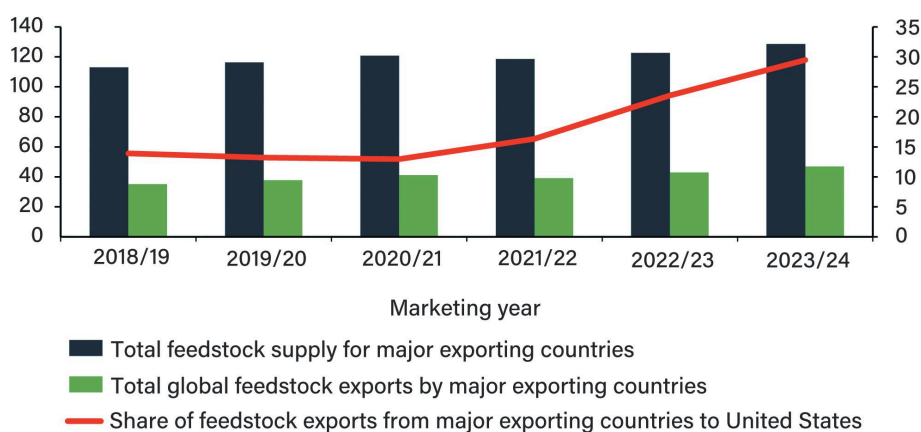
tributed to increased feedstock imports. U.S. imports of used cooking oil, tallow and canola oil have increased from major exporters of the different types of feedstock. The share of feedstocks exported from other countries to the U.S. increased from 13% in 2020-21 to 29% in 2023-24. Major exporters' trade increased 14% while exporter supply has only grown by 7% in this period. — **USDA Economic Research Service**

## Biomass-based diesel feedstocks: Major exporting countries' supply, exports, export share to U.S.

USDA Economic Research Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Total supply, exports  
(billions of pounds)

Share of exports to U.S.  
(percent)



Note: **Feedstocks** are raw materials used in the production of biofuels. Marketing year is October-September. Data are for major exporters of specific biomass-based diesel feedstock commodities as listed in USDA, Economic Research Service's Oil Crops Outlook: February 2025, Table 2sa.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service using data from USDA, Foreign Agricultural Service, Production, Supply, and Distribution database; Oil World, Trade Data Monitor, LLC; and United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, FAOSTAT database.

CHARTS of NOTE

## Initial CVP water allotment may not increase plantings

Farmers south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta who irrigate with water supplied by the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) say they are thankful for a 35% water allocation announced in February.

But due to the timing of the announcement and lower crop prices, they say the initial allocation by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation may not lead to more planted acres.

Stanislaus County farmer Daniel Bays, who grows tree and row crops in Westley, said he was already making planting decisions and preparing ground in the fall.

"To wait until March 1 to decide whether or not you're going to farm is a little late," he said. "It could get wet for the rest of March, and you're unable to get out and prep the fields to plant."

Bays relies on water from

the Del Puerto Water District, a member agency of the San Luis and Delta-Mendota Water Authority, which learned about the initial allocation on Feb. 25.

The water authority's executive director, Federico Barajas, said in a statement that rainfall so far this year "has disproportionately fallen in the northern portion of the Central Valley Project, which has benefited water storage

but has negatively impacted forecasted operations due to reduced San Joaquin River flows, thereby impacting Reclamation's ability to make a higher initial allocation."

In a statement, Reclamation, which manages the CVP, noted the allocation is more

than double the initial allocation in 2024, a year with similar hydrology. In addition, the bureau announced a 100% allocation for north-of-delta agricultural water contractors.

Bays said the 35% water allotment will not change his planting plans much. In addition to tree crops, he plans to grow a mix of row crops this year, including melons, processing tomatoes and lima beans.

"Water use factors a little bit into it as far as what crop you're going to grow," he said. "With the current condition of the ag economy, a lot of it just depends on what we can get contracts for."

With an oversupply of processing tomatoes in the state last year, Bays said canneries reduced contracts and acreage. The melon market has also been tough, he said, "with a lot of surplus last year."

Lower-value crops such as lima beans are "in the queue, so we can pull the pin if we don't have the water," Bays added.

Row crop choices remain limited, he said, especially with lower prices for corn, silage and other feeds grown for dairies.

"A lot of guys are looking for other options," Bays said.

Fresno County farmer Joe Del Bosque, who receives water from Westlands Water District, said he's hopeful the 35% allocation will increase.

A grower, packer and shipper of organic cantaloupes, honeydews and watermelons, Del Bosque said plans are underway for this season's melon crop.

"Timing of the (allocation) announcement is not as helpful as we'd like," he said. "We'd like to know at the end of January because by February, we already have melons growing in the greenhouse."

Del Bosque said he intends to start planting this month, with the process continuing until June. On the west side of the San Joaquin Valley, melon harvest usually runs from June to October.

Aside from melons, he said processing tomatoes are already in the greenhouse, with transplants going in the ground starting in April.

Del Bosque said the 35% water allocation for Westlands

Water District irrigators is a "good starting point," but he thinks it could have been more, noting that just weeks ago water was being released from Lake Shasta and dams in Northern California for flood control.

Due to ecological concerns and protections for endangered species, there are constraints on moving water south through the delta. This leads to reduced pumping and water deliveries, which affect agricultural and municipal water supplies.

"We need to be optimistic that they will be able to move water through the delta because there is water in the reservoirs and snowpack in the northern part of the state," Del Bosque said.

With a decent snowpack and full reservoirs, Bays said he is hopeful the bureau will increase the CVP allocation for south-of-delta water contractors.

Lake Shasta, the CVP's largest reservoir, was at 109% of average on March 10. San Luis Reservoir, a joint-use facility for federal and state water projects, was at 102% of average.

Even with healthy reservoir water levels, California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Director Karla Nemeth noted late last month that the California snowpack is below average.

"Despite a good start to the snowpack in the Northern Sierra in November and December, we can look back as recently as 2013 and 2021 to show how quickly conditions can change for the drier," she said, pointing out that the state "missed out on critical snow-building storms in January."

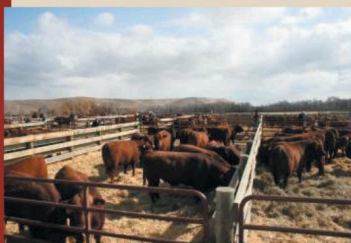
Based on the Jan. 31 DWR snow survey, the statewide snowpack is 65% of average for this date.

For the State Water Project, DWR in late February increased the water allocation to 35% of requested water supplies, up from 20% in January.

Water allocations are updated throughout the season with a final allocation generally determined in May or June. — **Christine Souza, Ag Alert senior editor, California Farm Bureau Federation**

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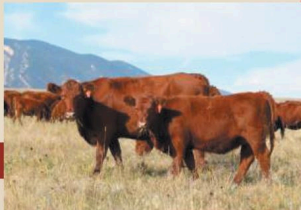
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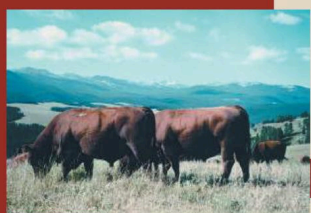
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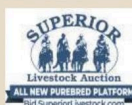
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# North American cattle prices remain high amid tight supplies

## RABO REPORT (from page 1)

rebuild its herd. Argentina's production remains stable despite a high rate of female slaughter, with exports serving as the most viable option for profitability. Argentina, the second-largest exporter in the region, shipped 595,000 mt of beef to China in 2024, representing 21% of the country's total beef imports.

Uruguay, facing high domestic cattle prices, has increased imports from neighboring nations while seeing declining shipments to China and rising exports to the U.S. Paraguay has also seen export growth, with a notable increase in shipments to the U.S., jumping from just 75 mt in 2023 to 28,000 mt in 2024.

## North America

In the U.S., shrinking cattle inventories are leading to record-high prices, a trend that began in late 2024 and has continued into 2025. "Historically strong demand is supporting record-high cattle prices to start the year," Rabo noted.

USDA reported a total cattle and calf inventory at 86.7 million head as of Jan. 1, reflecting a nearly 8 million

head decline since the 2019 cycle peak. While cow slaughter rates are expected to slow, producers remain cautious about herd expansion due to lingering drought effects and feed costs. The U.S. beef cow herd is now at its lowest level in years, which could maintain high prices for the foreseeable future.

Rabo noted that trade with Mexico and Canada adds further complexity. The recent postponement of proposed tariffs on Mexican and Canadian imports has temporarily eased market concerns, but Rabo warns that potential trade disruptions "could spill over into global trade impacts," especially given the interdependence of North American beef markets. At the same time, U.S. domestic consumer demand remains strong, with boxed beef cutout values reaching their highest levels since mid-2023.

Canada continues to rely heavily on the U.S. market, sending approximately 780,000 head of cattle and nearly 40% of its total beef production south each year. Despite a relatively stable domestic market, the country is facing tightening cattle supplies, which has pushed prices higher. Canadian fed steer prices reached new

highs in early 2025, with Alberta's average price hitting CAD \$276/cwt. Rabo warns that "any disruption in trade with the U.S. could have significant consequences for Canadian beef producers, given the deep integration of the two markets."

On the other hand, Mexico is grappling with turmoil, with limited cattle supplies due to prolonged drought conditions and exports coming to a halt due to New World screwworm. Despite the domestic supply strain, Rabo said Mexico's beef exports reached 237,000 mt in 2024, driven by strong demand and favorable exchange rates.

"Mexico's beef exports have grown steadily, benefiting from increased buying power abroad," Rabo notes. The report noted that feeder cattle prices have increased 17% from the previous year. However, Rabo noted producers are cautious about maintaining export levels while ensuring sufficient supply for local consumption.

## Australia/New Zealand

Australia and New Zealand maintain strong production levels, with Australian cattle


prices holding steady. Rabo reported Australia's beef exports to China totaled 185,000 mt in 2024, reflecting a decline from previous years due to weaker Chinese demand, while exports to the U.S. surged by 60%, driven by strong demand for lean man-

ufacturing beef.

New Zealand saw beef exports to China drop by 32% to 148,000 mt in 2024, but shipments to the U.S. increased by 2%, reaching 183,000 mt. Despite lower production volumes, Rabo said New Zealand experienced record

farmgate returns, benefiting from higher prices and demand for premium beef cuts.

Both countries are expected to continue adjusting their trade strategies to navigate the evolving global market. — Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor



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## EU retaliates with tariffs on ag exports

The European Union (EU) on March 12 imposed retaliatory tariffs on \$28 billion in U.S. products, including the few major agricultural goods—notably soybeans and almonds.

Europe's response comes after President Donald Trump put in place 25% tariffs on all steel and aluminum imports. Ursula von der Leyen, president of the EU, said the U.S. tariffs would impact about \$28 billion in European exports, so the EU tariffs would fall in line there. The EU tariffs right now would go into effect on April 1.

"We deeply regret this measure. Tariffs are taxes. They are bad for business, and even worse for consumers," von der Leyen said. "These tariffs are disrupting supply chains. They bring uncertainty to the economy. Jobs are at stake. Prices will go up. In Europe and in the United States. The European Union must act to protect consumers and business. The countermeasures we take today are strong but proportionate."

The top five U.S. agricultural and related products exported to the European Union by value are soybeans (\$3 billion), almonds (\$1.2 billion), pistachios (\$689 million), whiskies (\$533 million) and food preparation products (\$521 million).

Soybeans, almonds, distilled spirits, food preparation products, dairy and pork products are all on the list for tariffs.

Europe buys roughly 238 million bushels (6.5 million metric tons) of soybeans and soy meal exports, or about \$3 billion in value.

For the current marketing year, which began Sept. 1, European countries have bought 4.5 million metric tons (mmt) of soybeans, up 710,000 metric tons (mt) from the same period last year. Spain, Netherlands and Germany are the largest buyers, according to USDA data.

Europe is a major market for almonds, especially to countries such as Germany, Netherlands and Italy.

Also on the list is wine, which accounts for about \$170 million in exports to Europe.

For dairy, the U.S. only exports about \$115 million in dairy products to Europe while importing \$3 billion in dairy products.

Overall, the U.S. carries a large agricultural trade imbalance with the EU, importing an average of \$36 billion in agricultural products while exporting about \$13 billion.

"We've gone almost 25 years where exports to Europe have been flat as a pancake," said Gregg Doud, president and CEO of the National Milk Producers Federation, in a speech at the USDA Agricultural Outlook Forum, in which he criticized EU food policies and limits on U.S. products.

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

Doud, in his speech, made a point that one way for the U.S. to level the playing field for agricultural exports would be to impose tariffs. — Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor

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S: VL Hunker Down  
D: OLIM Joy 106J  
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YW: 115 MK: 26 DOC: 19  
RE: 1.21 MB: 0.24 \$TPI: 148  
Member, 2025 NWSS Champion  
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## OLIM MAVERICK 417M

3/4/24 - HP - 67% Lim-Flex  
S: MAGS Kooper Rush 2622K ET  
D: OLIM Gwyndolen 987G  
CED: 10 BW: 2.4 WW: 85  
YW: 129 MK: 22 DOC: 16  
RE: 0.73 MB: 0.37 \$TPI: 101  
Grand Champion Bull,  
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## OLIM MARVAL 496M

2/5/24 - HP - 53% Lim-Flex  
S: OLIM Kingsman 21K  
D: OLIM First Lady 852F  
CED: 17 BW: -0.3 WW: 67  
YW: 102 MK: 33 DOC: 13  
RE: 0.60 MB: 0.27 \$TPI: 94



# 2024 wheat midge sampling forecasts low risk for 2025

"Soil samples collected in North Dakota wheat fields indicate the lowest populations of overwintering wheat midge larvae (cocoon), since the inception of the survey in 1995," said Janet Knodel, North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension entomologist. "For the fifth year in a row, low populations of wheat midge were present, potentially reducing farmer's inputs for wheat midge management."

But, Knodel cautions, "Wheat midge can still increase in pockets where timely spring rains occur in 2025. So, it is always good insurance to scout wheat fields during the susceptible crop stages of heading through mid-flowering."

NDSU Extension agents collected a total of 1,920 soil core samples (10 cores per field) from 192 fields in 21 counties from August to October 2024. The distribution of wheat midge is based on unparasitized cocoons found in the soil samples. Historically,

wheat midge has caused significant loss in yield and quality in spring wheat and durum wheat in the northern tier of North Dakota counties.

For 2024, wheat midge was positive at only three field sites (2% of the sites sampled) in three counties including Towner in the northeast, Pierce in the north-central region, and Ward in the north-west. These sites had low levels of wheat midge cocoons (1-200 cocoons per square meter), which does not result in yield loss in spring wheat the following year. No soil samples had moderate or high cocoon densities of wheat midge (201 to over 800 midge larvae per square meter).

"The majority of the soil samples had zero wheat midge cocoons for the past five years (98% in 2024, 90% in 2023, 97.5% in 2023, 95% in 2022 and 86% in 2021)," said Knodel. "We believe that the populations of wheat midge are low due to the lengthy drought in North Dakota. Drought also caused wheat

midge emergence to be more irregular and out of sync with susceptible crop stages for infestation, resulting in low populations.

"Dry conditions will delay when wheat midge larvae drop out to the soil for overwintering in late summer. Larvae will remain in the wheat head and are often harvested with the grain, ending up in the grain truck or bin. Dry soil conditions also increase wheat midge mortality by making it difficult for the larvae to dig into the compacted soil for overwintering and by exposing them to predators on the soil surface.

"With the very low populations of wheat midge for the fifth year in a row, scouting for wheat midge will be most important in continuous wheat fields. Wheat midge emergence and survival will be favored if North Dakota wheat growing areas receive over 1 inch of spring rains in May," advises Knodel.

"Wheat midge cocoons also can remain dormant for sev-

eral years and adults then emerge in future years when soil moisture is adequate. However, if more favorable environmental conditions, especially spring rains, return to North Dakota, it could favor the development of overwintering larvae in the soil during spring and adult emergence from late June to mid-July." These factors can cause rapid increases in the numbers of emerging adult wheat midge.

Knodel says, "IPM scouts and insect trappers also monitored for wheat midge using sex pheromone trapping during the field season. Trap monitoring is more sensitive to low densities of wheat midge in fields and alerts farmers to potential economic infestations. Pheromone traps are used as an "early warning" system to trigger field scouting if the crop is in the susceptible stage.

"If more than 10 midges per trap are observed then field scouting should be initiated to determine if a field is at an economic threshold for wheat

midge. In short, trapping serves to document the distribution of the wheat midge and its parasitoids, as well as guiding scouting efforts and IPM practices."

A total of 20 pheromone traps were monitored in 18 counties in North Dakota in 2024. The past three years show a general decline in the total number of adult midges captured on traps: 2,287 adults in 2024, 8,446 adults in 2023, and 22,952 adults in 2022. The highest wheat midge counts were concentrated in the northwest and northeast counties of North Dakota.

Knodel points out that the beneficial parasitoid wasp that attacks and kills wheat midge is dependent on its host for its survival. So, it also continues to decline to low levels along with the wheat midge decline. No field sites had parasitic wasps in the 2024 midge soil samples. Past parasitism rates were low only 5% in 2023, and 0% in 2022 and 2021.

Higher parasitism rates were observed in 2020 (15%), 36% in 2019 and 9% in 2018.

However, the pheromone trapping found wasps at 35% of the 2024 trap sites, 37% of the trap sites in 2023 and 50% of the trap sites in 2022. Dissecting wheat midge cocoons and trap monitoring for parasitoids help identify parasitoid distribution and overall success against wheat midge in North Dakota.

In summary, both soil cocoon sampling and trapping results show that wheat midge populations have declined significantly over the past years. However, pheromone trapping indicates that wheat midge is still widespread throughout the wheat-growing areas of the state. As expected, the presence of parasitoid wasps also has declined recently.

NDSU Extension county agents collected the soil samples and larval cocoons were extracted at the NDSU Extension Entomology laboratory. The North Dakota Wheat Commission supports the wheat midge larval soil survey and pheromone trapping. — **NDSU Extension**

## Jakarta event showcases US beef

As economies grow and wages increase in first and second tier cities in Indonesia, upscale retailers and high-end restaurants are expanding. Demand for high-quality beef is also rising.

"Importers and their customers in upscale foodservice and retail stores are looking for new and unique products to differentiate themselves," says U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) Indonesia Representative Arrofi (Rofi) Satrio Alam. "Australian Wagyu has been available for upscale consumers for some time now, so it is nothing new. But we are working to make U.S. beef more visible to consumers and American Wagyu is new and unique. It has not been available in Indonesia for 8-10 years."

USMEF partnered recently with an Indonesian importer and upscale retailer Ranch Market on a promotional event to introduce American Wagyu and differentiate U.S. beef to customers. USMEF

brought in an emcee, representatives from two news portals and four key opinion leaders to livestream and share their experiences.

"We designed this promotion to image U.S. beef and the featured product, American Wagyu, differentiating its superior taste and positioning it as a special meal for festive events," said Rofi.

The importer plans to use the content created during the event to promote U.S. beef and American Wagyu to its other upscale retail stores and high-end restaurants.

"We're imaging this product at retail and creating consumer pull in foodservice. What sells at high-end retail in Indonesia generates interest from upscale foodservice," adds Rofi.

Ranch Market quickly sold out its American Wagyu inventory for the month and is planning future purchases.

Promotional support was provided by USDA's Regional Agricultural Promotion Program. — **USMEF**

# SILVER BIT

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## VIDEO AUCTION

**March 6, Hudson Oaks, TX**  
Superior Livestock Auction hosted their video auction live March 6 from the Superior Livestock Auction Studio in Hudson Oaks, TX. Cattle producers sold 19,173 head of calves and yearlings, totaling 176 lots from 18 states for this offering. Strong buyer participation from several bidders throughout the auction resulted in 73 different successful buyers. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through November. Regions 3/4/5/6 feeder steers were fully steady compared to last test, with some \$10-12 higher on 750 pounds and un-

der in lighter flesh conditions. Feeder heifers from the same regions also were well accepted at fully steady. Regions 1/2 feeder steers and heifers found solid support at fully steady prices. Regions 1/2 weaned calves set new highs for the year at \$10-15 higher on those in grazing condition. Beef-on-dairy also found strong support at \$10-15 higher on lighter cattle. Regions 3/4/5/6 saw profitable market advances on both weaned calves and calves on cows; good moisture continues to fuel the demand for spring and summer grazing cattle in strong demand at \$10-15 higher.

## STORY SHORTS

### CDA's non-lethal conflict grants dispersed

The Colorado Department of Agriculture (CDA) is funding livestock producer organizations to help manage predator conflicts with non-lethal methods. As Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) continues its voter-mandated wolf reintroduction, CDA awarded 12 grants from \$5,000 to \$35,000 to support livestock owners in wolf-prone areas. Funds will assist with education, coordination and strategies like carcass management and range riders. In 2024, CDA piloted the program with allocating \$20,000 to Middle Park Stockgrowers Association, later expanding it with \$28,000 from CPW. This year, CDA increased funding to \$335,000 in response to ranchers' requests for resources to mitigate livestock losses.

### RSAA is seeking beef partners

The Rancher's Sustainable Angus Alliance (RSAA) is looking for retail partners who value Angus beef, superior animal care and responsible environmental stewardship. Established four years ago, RSAA connects ranchers to retailers through marketing agreements, ensuring a seamless beef supply chain. The program requires Beef Quality Assurance certification and sustainability scoring based on genetics and management. "Our goal is to provide consumers with a great beef experience and share the ranchers' story," said C.J. Blew, RSAA chairman. By partnering with RSAA, retailers can support sustainability efforts while expanding market opportunities. Learn more at [www.SustainableAngus.org](http://www.SustainableAngus.org).

### Kennedy opposes use of bird flu vaccine

Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced that federal health agencies oppose the use of avian flu vaccines in poultry, according to CBS News. Weighing in publicly for the first time in his new role, Kennedy said that leaders of HHS agencies advised against the vaccine, citing concerns over sterilizing immunity. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently reaffirmed that while the risk to the public is low, farm workers and veterinarians face higher exposure. Most human cases remain mild.

### Lab-grown milk to debut in U.S.

Boston startup Brown Foods is introducing UnReal Milk, the first lab-grown whole cow's milk made without livestock, Forbes reported. It is produced using mammalian cell culture and replicates traditional dairy's nutrition, taste and texture, according to the company. The product can be processed into butter, cheese and ice cream, and is intended as a sustainable alternative with 82% lower carbon emissions and drastically reduced water and land use, UnReal Milk said. Independent testing by the Whitehead Institute confirmed the product is structurally similar to conventional milk. Forbes said taste tests are planned for this year and a pilot for 2026.

### FMD reported in Hungary

Hungary has confirmed its first foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) outbreak in 50 years at a 1,400-head cattle farm near the Slovakian border, according to the National Food Chain Safety Office (Nébih). The farm exhibited symptoms in early March, and laboratory tests confirmed the presence of the virus. In response, Hungary Chief Veterinarian Dr. Szabolcs Pásztor ordered an immediate farm closure and launched an epidemiological investigation. Strict containment measures include banning the transport of susceptible animals while herd eradication and source tracing are underway. Germany recently faced its own FMD scare in January when an outbreak in water buffalo led to costly emergency measures. According to Politico, an estimated €1 billion in lost exports occurred, with trade bans implemented by the United Kingdom, Mexico and South Korea.

### Meat group calls to remove non-tariff barriers

The Meat Institute has urged the removal of non-tariff trade barriers and expanded market access for U.S. meat and poultry products. In response to U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer's request for comments on unfair trade practices, the Meat Institute highlighted the need for policies promoting economic growth and supporting farm communities. "The Trump administration has a unique opportunity to demonstrate American leadership in global trade for the benefit of American workers and the economy," said Meat Institute President and CEO Julie Anna Potts. She emphasized that reducing trade barriers would help U.S. meat and poultry processors plan production and expand exports. Key concerns include China's failure to meet Phase One trade commitments, retaliatory tariffs, restrictive European Union and United Kingdom policies, and ongoing regulatory challenges in Taiwan, Southeast Asia and South Korea.

### BLM approves NV horse plan

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has approved the Final Pancake Complex Wild Horse Gather and Herd Management Plan for managing wild horses in central Nevada's Pancake Complex. The plan determined the removal of excess horses will be necessary to maintain appropriate management levels in the complex. This area, spanning over 1.2 million acres near Ely, includes Jakes Wash Herd Area, Monte Cristo Wild Horse Territory and the Pancake and Sand Springs West herd management areas. Bristlecone Field Manager Melanie Peterson said the plan ensures a healthy population within the designated range of 336-638 horses. For more details, contact Wild Horse and Burro Specialist Ben Noyes at 775-289-1836 or [bnoyes@blm.gov](mailto:bnoyes@blm.gov).

## Selling 90 Angus Bulls



Hilltop Bar None 321M

calved: 02/04/24 tattoo: 321M reg: 21028548

| CED | BW   | WW  | YW   | Milk | Marb | RE   | \$M | \$W |
|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| +6  | +3.0 | +96 | +174 | +26  | +.66 | +.99 | +73 | +84 |



Hilltop Impact 313M

calved: 02/02/24 tattoo: 313M reg: 21028544

| CED | BW   | WW  | YW   | Milk | Marb | RE   | \$M | \$W |
|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| -6  | +2.7 | +69 | +127 | +19  | +.87 | +.20 | +53 | +49 |



Hilltop Bar None 317M

calved: 02/03/24 tattoo: 317M reg: 21028546

| CED | BW   | WW  | YW   | Milk | Marb | RE   | \$M  | \$W |
|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| +2  | +2.4 | +99 | +167 | +30  | +.42 | +.88 | +103 | +95 |



Hilltop Stellar 360M

calved: 02/25/24 tattoo: 360M reg: 21028575

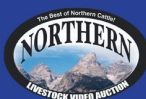
| CED | BW   | WW  | YW   | Milk | Marb | RE   | \$M | \$W |
|-----|------|-----|------|------|------|------|-----|-----|
| +4  | +0.4 | +70 | +121 | +27  | +.34 | +.49 | +93 | +73 |

### Annual Production Sale Tuesday

# APRIL 8<sup>th</sup> 2025

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# MARKET NEWS

## MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

| MARKET AT A GLANCE        | This Week: 3/13/2025 | Week Ago | Year Ago |
|---------------------------|----------------------|----------|----------|
| Choice Fed Steers         | N/A ▲                | 195.79   | 184.85   |
| CME Feeder Index          | 278.71 ▲             | 277.87   | 248.46   |
| Boxed Beef Average        | 319.69 ▲             | 313.12   | 310.78   |
| Average Dressed Steers    | N/A ▲                | 310.00   | N/A      |
| Live Slaughter Weight*    | 1,437 ▼              | 1,440    | 1,374    |
| Weekly Slaughter**        | 578,000 ▲            | 566,000  | 583,000  |
| Weekly Beef Production*** | 504.9 ▲              | 494.4    | 484.1    |
| Hide/Offal Value          | 11.81 ▲              | 11.80    | 11.81    |
| Corn Price                | 4.59 ▲               | 4.53     | 4.27     |

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

| BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef |                           |        |                   |        |                     |        |                    |        |                    |        |                      |        |
|--|---------------------------|--------|-------------------|--------|---------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|----------------------|--------|
| WEEK ENDING                              | COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price |        | PRIME Loads/Price |        | BRANDED Loads/Price |        | CHOICE Loads/Price |        | SELECT Loads/Price |        | UNGRADED Loads/Price |        |
| March 4                                  | N/A                       | N/A    | N/A               | N/A    | N/A                 | N/A    | N/A                | N/A    | N/A                | N/A    | N/A                  | N/A    |
| February 28                              | 7,038                     | 317.18 | 237               | 357.75 | 1,288               | 318.47 | 2,280              | 316.04 | 801                | 303.49 | 2,431                | 288.96 |
| February 21                              | 7,105                     | 317.56 | 239               | 364.15 | 1,334               | 320.69 | 2,233              | 313.66 | 733                | 304.55 | 2,656                | 289.38 |
| February 14                              | 6,804                     | 324.40 | 216               | 373.09 | 1,299               | 327.51 | 2,000              | 320.37 | 655                | 310.19 | 2,634                | 295.23 |

| Cutouts |        |        |                 |  |          | FED BOXED BEEF |  |  |  |
|---------|--------|--------|-----------------|--|----------|----------------|--|--|--|
| DATE    | CHOICE | SELECT | COW BEEF CUTOUT |  | 50% LEAN | 90% LEAN       |  |  |  |
| Mar. 13 | 319.69 | 307.47 | 296.86          |  | 115.25   | N/A            |  |  |  |
| Mar. 12 | 321.10 | 307.53 | 297.00          |  | 112.70   | 381.25         |  |  |  |
| Mar. 11 | 321.20 | 306.86 | 295.64          |  | 118.79   | N/A            |  |  |  |
| Mar. 10 | 317.58 | 306.95 | 295.55          |  | 106.54   | 378.85         |  |  |  |
| Mar. 7  | 314.90 | 305.80 | 297.08          |  | 113.49   | 381.61         |  |  |  |

| CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|---------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                 | 3/7   | 3/10  | 3/11  | 3/12  | 3/13  | High* | Low*  |
| Apr.                            | 20028 | 20165 | 20145 | 20203 | 20363 | 20935 | 16853 |
| Jun.                            | 19648 | 19795 | 19778 | 19865 | 20010 | 20773 | 16668 |
| Aug.                            | 19435 | 19555 | 19575 | 19653 | 19758 | 20165 | 17005 |
| Oct.                            | 19535 | 19608 | 19650 | 19723 | 19800 | 19800 | 18068 |

| CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
|                                   | 3/7   | 3/10  | 3/11  | 3/12  | 3/13  | High* | Low*  |
| Mar.                              | 27698 | 27790 | 27948 | 28070 | 29220 | 29220 | 21920 |
| Apr.                              | 27815 | 27880 | 28030 | 28153 | 28235 | 28235 | 22268 |
| May                               | 27820 | 27915 | 28060 | 28270 | 28415 | 28415 | 22460 |
| Aug.                              | 28108 | 28258 | 28390 | 28615 | 28833 | 28833 | 24118 |

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

| FED CATTLE TRADE                | Head Count | Avg. Weight | Avg. Price |
|---------------------------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES</b> |            |             |            |
| Live FOB Steer                  | N/A        | N/A         | N/A        |
| Live FOB Heifer                 | 244        | 1,284       | 200.00     |
| Dressed Del Steer               | N/A        | N/A         | N/A        |
| Dressed Del Heifer              | N/A        | N/A         | N/A        |
| <b>SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK</b>    |            |             |            |
| Live FOB Steer                  | 896        | 1,381       | 195.79     |
| Live FOB Heifer                 | 1,230      | 1,348       | 196.37     |
| Dressed Del Steer               | 208        | 921         | 310.00     |
| Dressed Del Heifer              | N/A        | N/A         | N/A        |
| <b>SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR</b>    |            |             |            |
| Live FOB Steer                  | 305        | 1,472       | 184.85     |
| Live FOB Heifer                 | 1,166      | 1,193       | 184.90     |
| Dressed Del Steer               | N/A        | N/A         | N/A        |
| Dressed Del Heifer              | N/A        | N/A         | N/A        |

| NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: MARCH 9, 2025 |                |              |
|--|----------------|--------------|
|  | Domestic       | Imported     |
| Forward Contract   | 31,174         | 3,166        |
| Formula  | 265,038        | 3,506        |
| Negotiated Cash  | 62,555         | 191          |
| Negotiated Grid  | 42,252         | 1,390        |
| Packer Owned   | 5,962          | N/A          |
| <b>Total</b>   | <b>406,981</b> | <b>8,253</b> |

| SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS |         | FORWARD BEEF SALES     |     |
|-----------------------------|---------|------------------------|-----|
| Delivery Month              |         | Neg. Sales 0-21 days   | N/A |
| Mar. '25                    | 157,648 | Neg. Sales 21+ days    | N/A |
| Apr. '25                    | 205,722 | Formula sales          | N/A |
| May '25                     | 106,139 | Forward contract sales | N/A |
| Jun. '25                    | 113,371 | Domestic sales         | N/A |
| Jul. '25                    | 82,817  | NAFTA Exports          | N/A |

| CANADIAN LIVESTOCK PRICES & FEDERAL INSPECTED SLAUGHTER FIGURES |  |        |               |
|---|--|--------|---------------|
| Alberta Direct Sales (4% shrink)                                |  | Price  | Weekly Change |
| Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs     |  | 190.72 | -3.06         |
| Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs    |  | 188.88 | -3.41         |
| Ontario Auctions  |  |        |               |
| Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs     |  | 120.24 | -1.45         |
| Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs    |  | N/A    | N/A           |
| Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs           |  | N/A    | N/A           |

\*Price comparison from one week ago.

| Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, March 11, 2025 |         |              |         |
|--|---------|--------------|---------|
| Steers:  | Alberta | Saskatchewan | Ontario |
| 501-600 lbs  | 370.47  | N/A          | 305.58  |
| 601-700 lbs  | 352.22  | 318.58       | 282.25  |
| 701-800 lbs  | 289.83  | 287.99       | 260.18  |
| 801-900 lbs  | 264.76  | 264.06       | 257.97  |
| Heifers:   |         |              |         |
| 401-500 lbs  | 341.00  | 342.39       | 255.53  |
| 501-600 lbs  | 318.28  | 315.25       | 268.90  |
| 601-700 lbs  | 291.08  | 283.33       | 253.88  |
| 701-800 lbs  | 263.06  | 260.48       | 227.95  |

| USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS    |              |               |                      |                       |
|---|--------------|---------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Feeder cattle imports weekly and yearly volume. |              |               |                      |                       |
| Species   | Current Week | Previous Week | Current Year-to-date | Previous Year-to-date |
| Feeder Steers                                   | 15,071       | 10,707        | 39,487               | 245,288               |

| USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE   |                     |  |         |
|--|---------------------|--|---------|
| March 12, 2025   |                     |  |         |
| Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary   |                     |  |         |
| Receipts EST: 3,450  | Week Ago EST: 9,450 | Year Ago Act: 9,000  |         |
| <b>Santa Teresa, NM -</b>  |                     | <b>Douglas, AZ -</b>   |         |
| Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers traded steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 500-800 lbs. |                     | Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers traded steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 500-800 lbs. |         |
| Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2   |                     | Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2   |         |
| 300-400 lbs  | N/A                 | 300-400 lbs  | N/A     |
| 400-500 lbs  | N/A                 | 400-500 lbs  | N/A     |
| 500-600 lbs  | 270-280             | 500-600 lbs  | 270-280 |
| Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2  |                     | Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2  |         |
| 300-400 lbs  | N/A                 | 300-400 lbs  | N/A     |
| 400-500 lbs  | N/A                 | 400-500 lbs  | N/A     |
| 500-600 lbs  | 310-320             | 500-600 lbs  | 300-310 |

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

| Selected Auctions          |                |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    | Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2 |                                |                            |
|----------------------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Week Ending March 13, 2025 |                |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| DATE                       | MARKET         | 200-300 lb. | 300-400 lb.           | 400-500 lb.                 | 500-600 lb.              | 600-700 lb.                 | 700-800 lb.                 | 800 lb. -up                 | SLAUGHTER COWS     | PAIRS  |                                |                            |
|                            |                |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  | SLAUGHTER BULLS                | REPLACEMENTS               |
| March 7                    | Blackfoot, ID  | N/A         |                       | 310-362<br>305-338          | 285-340<br>280-339       | 260-328<br>255-296          | 235-287<br>230-264          |                             |                    |  | 117-145<br>142-159             |                            |
| March 6                    | Burley, ID     | 258         | 346                   | 332                         | 310-332                  | 300.50-328<br>288-307       | 293<br>268                  | 242                         |                    |  | 92-145<br>145-165              |                            |
| No report available        |                |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 8                    | Emmett, ID     |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 8                    | Eugene, OR     | 753         | 240-362*<br>280-362*  | 265-370*<br>220-343*        | 230-320*<br>215-296*     | 206-270*<br>185-214*        | 205-274*                    |                             |                    |  | 130-165<br>145-168             | 1,000-2,550<br>950-1,850   |
| March 10                   | Madras, OR     | 200         | 375-400<br>325-365    | 350-400<br>305-340          | 310-350<br>278-331       | 298-306<br>276-290          | 270-277<br>225-237          | 258-268.50                  |                    |  | 110-166<br>140-181             |                            |
| March 12                   | Vale, OR       | 394         |                       | 385-407<br>327-372.50       | 305-342<br>290-326       | 285-309<br>275-307          | 262-285<br>240-262          |                             |                    |  | 113-147<br>152-174             |                            |
| March 12                   | Davenport, WA  | 75          |                       | 350-357.50                  | 250-252.50<br>255-302.50 | 262.50-277.50<br>232.50-240 | 200-257.50<br>227.25-230    | 200-277.50<br>175           |                    |  | 81-173<br>135-255              | 2,450                      |
| March 6                    | Toppenish, WA  | 1,130       |                       | 335-350*<br>315*            | 340*                     | 255-262.50*                 |                             |                             |                    |  | 145-150.50<br>155-171          |                            |
| March 6                    | Orland, CA     | 908         | 300-450<br>280-425    | 300-417<br>280-390          | 260-355<br>240-351       | 240-322<br>220-306          |                             |                             |                    |  | 130-165<br>130-171             |                            |
| No report available        |                |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 6                    | Escalon, CA    |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| No report available        |                |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 6                    | Famoso, CA     |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| No report available        |                |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 6                    | Galt, CA       |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| No report available        |                |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 11                   | Turlock, CA    |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 11                   | Salina, UT     | 1,101       | 340-455<br>290-440    | 260-417.50<br>225-385       | 240-380<br>220-335       | 230-329<br>195-284          | 220-306<br>185-275          | 212.50-274<br>125-250       |                    |  | 122.40-138.20<br>147.80-155.50 | 2,850-2,950                |
| March 10                   | Iowa           | 6,291       | 407.50-435<br>361-400 | 300-430<br>309-355          | 330-392<br>280-333       | 262-345<br>247-299          | 268-307.50<br>247-280       | 215-284.25<br>210-266       |                    |  | 113-185<br>135-183             |                            |
| March 11                   | Miles City, MT | 708         | 437.50                | 500-505<br>392.50-430.25    | 341-377.50               |                             | 309<br>287-322.50           | 243                         | 232                |  | 110-150<br>131-181             |                            |
| No report available        |                |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 8                    | Bassett, NE    |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 8                    | Ericson, NE    | 3,890       | 460<br>405-430        | 380-437.50<br>354-410       | 336-394<br>312-374       | 313.50-356.50<br>287-326    | 281-323<br>272.25-282.50    | 270.50-281.50               |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 11                   | Imperial, NE   | 1,050       |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             | 300                         | 356.50-271         |  | 270.25-272.25<br>250.25-258.25 |                            |
| No report available        |                |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 7                    | Kearney, NE    |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 7                    | Lexington, NE  | 2,752       | 430<br>420-460        | 380-410<br>348-397.50       | 369-405<br>320-349       | 310-353<br>281-310          | 293-313<br>264-289          | 275.50-289.50<br>262.50-264 |                    |  |                                |                            |
| No report available        |                |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 6                    | Ogallala, NE   |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 6                    | Valentine, NE  | 870         |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                | 2,150-3,375                |
| March 7                    | Herreid, SD    | 2,690       |                       | 415-427.50<br>333-375       | 360-408<br>310.50-346    | 316-355<br>281-311.50       | 285-322<br>257.50-321       | 270.75-295<br>254.25        |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 12                   | Torrington, WY | 3,285       | 450<br>422            | 405-426<br>357-385          | 360-391<br>326-364       | 335-349<br>283-325          | 318-319<br>270-324          | 259-288.50<br>252-265       |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 6                    | Willcox, AZ    | N/A         | 411.50-450<br>305-380 | 410.50-462.50<br>357.50-390 | 379.50-482<br>332-377.50 | 341-392.50<br>310-382.50    | 305.50-317.50<br>274.50-315 |                             |                    |  | 110-130<br>125-160             | 2,250-3,350<br>2,100-2,550 |
| March 10                   | Colorado       | 6,568       | 440<br>392.50-415     | 405-452<br>375-380          | 382.50-435<br>335-392.50 | 330-397.50<br>295-341       | 282.50-348<br>260-320       | 263-299<br>242.50-291       | 230-264<br>190-247 |  | 101-183.50<br>111-182.50       | 1,725-3,700<br>1,345-2,375 |
| No report available        |                |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| No report available        |                |             |                       |                             |                          |                             |                             |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 12                   | Dodge City, KS | 6,416       | 420-495<br>380-385    | 403-433<br>330-431          | 353-395.50<br>320-394    | 321-354<br>269.50-307       | 276-320<br>245-274          | 244-286<br>228-259          |                    |  | 113-154<br>154-187.50          | 1,625-2,750<br>1,750-2,525 |
| March 6                    | Pratt, KS      | 4,759       | 390-452.50<br>373-420 | 377-402.50<br>342.50-405    | 350-375<br>300-322       | 304-351<br>266-303          | 277-313<br>251-280          | 242-280<br>219.50-261       |                    |  | 121-145<br>148-184             | 2,600-3,300<br>1,850-2,100 |
| March 6                    | Salina, KS     | 2,786       | 395-430<br>347.50-380 | 380-432<br>340-410          | 340-410<br>310-346       | 318-349<br>259-313          | 274-319<br>244-305          | 247-282.50<br>225-250       |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 12                   | Clovis, NM     | 1,920       | 472-515<br>420-462    | 390-452<br>346-411          | 362-400<br>320-349       | 294.50-328<br>262-290       | 248-295<br>235-271          | 241.50-269<br>202-241       |                    |  |                                |                            |
| March 11                   | El Reno, OK    | 2,000       | 455-480<br>295-400    | 390-430<br>302-419          | 342.50-389<br>305-355    | 310-362.50<br>272.50-325    | 307.50-                     |                             |                    |  |                                |                            |

# Strong cattle markets threatened by uncertainty, volatility

Cattle prices continue to generally grind higher amid a whirlwind of political activities and rhetoric that have buffeted markets at all levels. Markets have been whipsawed with on-again, off-again political announcements that create debilitating uncertainty in equity, futures and cash markets with negative impacts on producers, consumers and the complex supply chains of agricultural and food markets.

Despite that, ever tightening supply fundamentals are supporting higher cattle and beef prices. Feeder cattle of all classes and fed cattle have set new record high prices since the beginning of the year. Estimated feeder supplies outside of feedlots on January 1 were down 0.5% year over year.

The number of heifers in

feedlots on Jan. 1 was down 3.4% year over year with heifers making up 38.7% of total cattle on feed. The Jan. 1 inventory of beef replacement heifers was down 1% year over year and beef replacement heifers as a percent of the beef cow herd is at the lowest level since 2011 (Figure 1). All of these indicate that no heifer retention was underway at the end of 2024.

Heifer retention could begin and may be starting at this time. While there is no data to verify yet, every year some level of unplanned (impulse) breeding of heifers (not designated as replacements) occurs and this typically accelerates in the early stages of herd expansion. These heifers are currently included in the "other heifer" category of inventory

and are part of the estimated feeder supply.

If impulse heifer breeding increases this year, it will represent a one-for-one reduction in feeder supplies and will increase bred heifers entering the herd in 2026. Additionally, heifer calves may be retained in 2025 for breeding in 2026 and calving in 2027. All of this will lead to reduced feeder supplies through 2025 and beyond, further supporting feeder cattle prices. Even if cattle producers are ready and intend to begin herd rebuilding, drought threats remain that may limit what is possible.

Consumers can expect to continue seeing high beef prices that may push even higher in the coming months. Heavier carcass weights helped maintain

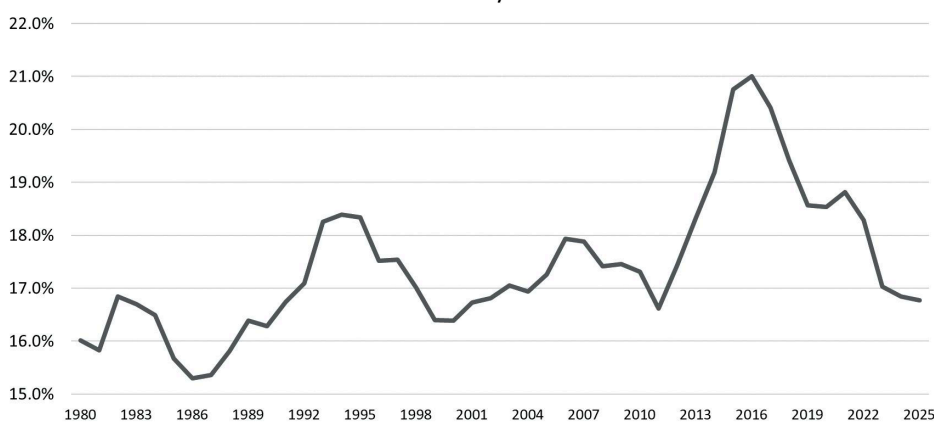
beef production in 2024 and will continue to do so this year. Eventually, however, reduced cattle slaughter will reduce beef production. Beef markets will ration smaller beef supplies with even higher beef prices as long as demand remains robust.

Uncertainty and volatility

from external turbulence will likely continue to impact cattle markets. However, as long as these do not result in a major macroeconomic disruption (i.e. recession), cattle markets are expected to continue strong. The biggest threat to cattle and beef markets is the poten-

tial loss of consumer demand that would result from a significant macroeconomic meltdown. Fasten your seatbelts, cattle markets are gaining altitude, but turbulence is expected. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Figure 1. Beef Replacement Heifers as a % of Beef Cow Inventory  
January 1



## Boxed beef prices climb higher

### MARKETS (from page 1)

"It's several weeks until dependable middle meat demand typically shows its hand, so there is a question as to whether the market will see a pullback in the cutout in April like occurred in 2024 before resuming the highly probable May and June cutout rally," Fish said.

### Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures gained several dollars over the week. The March contract gained about \$6 to close at \$280.22, and the April contract gained close to \$5 to close at \$279.97.

"The feeder cattle complex continues to push its contracts higher and higher, which seems to signal robust buying from traders as the market's direction is undoubtedly higher due to the vast majority of the nearby contracts reaching new contract highs again today," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Thursday midday comments.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index gained 84 cents to close at \$278.71.

Corn futures traded mostly sideways. The March contract gained 4 cents to close at \$4.53, and

the May contract gained a penny to close at \$4.65.

**Colorado:** Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 6,937 head on Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers sold \$5-8 higher, with instances of sharply higher across all weight classes. Feeder heifers sold \$3-8 higher, with instances of sharply higher across all weight classes. Benchmark steers averaging 722 lbs. sold for \$281-300, averaging \$293.90.

**Iowa:** Russell Livestock in Russell sold 2,927 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction two weeks earlier, steers sold mostly steady to \$21 higher, except 600-650 lbs. sold \$4 lower. Heifers sold steady to \$18 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 784 lbs. sold for \$265-299.25, averaging \$292.54.

**Kansas:** Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 6,134 head on Wednesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers over 550 lbs. sold steady to \$10 higher. Heifers over 650 lbs. sold steady to \$10 higher. Steers under 550 lbs. and heifers under 650 lbs. sold steady and strong. Benchmark steers averaging 782 lbs. sold for \$276-287, averaging \$280.71.

**Missouri:** Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 8,000 head on Mon-

day. Compared to the previous sale, feeder steers and heifers sold \$5-20 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 778 lbs. sold from \$265-300, averaging \$281.89.

**Nebraska:** Tri-State Livestock in McCook sold 1,464 head on Monday. Compared to the previous auction, steers over 600 lbs. sold \$2-16 higher and heifers were \$4-15 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 722 lbs. sold for \$300-311, averaging \$307.92.

**Oklahoma:** Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 5,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold from \$5-10 higher and feeder heifers sold from \$3-8 higher. Stocker steers and steer calves sold \$5-15 higher, and stock heifers and heifer calves sold mostly steady. Benchmark steers averaging 777 lbs. sold from \$265-289, averaging \$281.03.

**South Dakota:** Sioux Falls Regional sold 2,499 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold steady to \$5 higher, with instances of \$6-10 higher. Feeder heifers sold \$5-10 higher, except 700-800 lbs. sold steady. Benchmark steers averaging 794 lbs. sold from \$280-286, averaging \$284.58. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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**DR Gold Nugget 88M**

Born: 3/2/24 • 75% • ET  
Homo Black • Homo Polled • Adj WW: 701  
Reg. #762037 • Sire: MJB Krugerand 379K  
CED BW WW YW Milk  
14.4 -1.7 59 77 21




**DR Black Gold 89M**

Born: 3/8/24 • 75% • ET  
Homo Black • Homo Polled • Adj WW: 701  
Reg. #762038 • Sire: MJB Krugerand 379K  
CED BW WW YW Milk  
15.1 -0.6 58 80 21




**DR Jasper 17M**

Born: 3/13/24 • Optimizer  
Black • Homo Polled • Adj WW: 778  
Reg. #761962 • Sire: TSB Jasper 16J E  
CED BW WW YW Milk  
10.7 3.4 76 129 24




**DR Patriot 3M**

Born: 1/28/24 • Optimizer  
Homo Black • Homo Polled • Adj WW: 641  
Reg. #761987 • Sire: MJB Patriot 342H  
CED BW WW YW Milk  
10.2 0.1 73 118 16




**DR Juneau 98M**

Born: 3/13/24 • Optimizer  
Black • Homo Polled • Adj WW: 734  
Reg. #762418 • Sire: ECR Juneau 352J  
CED BW WW YW Milk  
13.6 0.6 65 108 16




**DR Patriot 95M**

Born: 3/7/24 • Optimizer  
Homo Black • Homo Polled • Adj WW: 758  
Reg. #762415 • Sire: MJB Patriot 342H  
CED BW WW YW Milk  
8.8 0.0 61 86 17



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# SALE REPORTS

**TOPP HEREFORDS BULL SALE**  
**Feb. 14, Grace City, ND**  
**257 Hereford bulls ..... \$17,144**  
**Auctioneers: Roger Jacobs and Greg Goggins**

**SPLIT DIAMOND RANCH BULL SALE**  
**March 6, Dillon, MT**  
**99 Angus bulls . . . \$7,480**  
**Auctioneer: Joe Goggins**  
**TOPS:** SD Royalty 0023-4178, 2/13/2024 by Sitz Royalty 1299; to Shaffer Livestock, Rock River, WY, \$17,000. SD Salvation 4221, 2/20/2024 by SEO B7 Salvation 8289 2406; to Tomahawk Land and Livestock,

Whitehall, MT, \$13,000. SD Final Answer 4153, 2/11/2024 by SD Final Answer 5081; to Dunn Canyon Cattle Co., Boulder, MT, \$12,500. SD Threshold 4142, 2/10/2024 by Sitz Threshold 9901; to Nelson's Spring Creek, Livingston, MT, \$12,000. SD Threshold 4134, 2/10/2024 by Sitz Threshold 9901; to Nelson's Spring Creek, Livingston, MT, \$12,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**SUTHERLIN FARMS PRODUCTION SALE**  
**March 7, Stevensville, MT**  
**75 Red Angus bulls ..... \$6,713**  
**170 Commercial open**

**heifers ..... 2,655**  
**Auctioneer: Joe Goggins**  
**TOPS:** SUTH Relentless 147M, 2/12/2024 by STRA Relentless; to Redland Red Angus, Hysham, MT, \$10,000. SUTH Private Stock M156, 2/13/2024 by Six Mile Private Stock 32H; to Tash Livestock, Polaris, MT, \$10,000. SUTH T Bone 250M, 2/23/2024 by TJB T Bone 001; to Tash Livestock, Polaris, MT, \$9,500. 3C Playmaker M200, 2/18/2024 by WSM Playmaker 1080J; to Tash Livestock, Polaris, MT, \$9,500. SUTH Grand Prairie M357, 3/8/1024 by Fischer Sensible 269; to Tash Livestock, Polaris, MT, \$9,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**BOARDMAN'S WISHBONE SIMMENTAL BULL SALE**  
**March 8, Frannie, WY**  
**42 SimAngus bulls ..... \$5,439**  
**8 SimAngus bred heifers ..... 4,300**  
**50 Commercial open heifers ..... 2,200**  
**Auctioneer: Charly Cummings**  
**TOPS:** 025M, 3/12/2024 by CDI/NF Honor Guard 267H; to Pitchfork Ranch, Meeteetse, WY, \$10,000. 024M, 3/12/2024 by Schooley Krown 28K; to Two Dot/McCarty Ranch, Cody, WY, \$8,750. 027M, 3/13/2024 by CDI/NF Honor Guard 267H; to Jeff Boardman, Weston, WY, \$7,500. 030M, 3/14/2024 by CDI/NF Honor Guard 267H; to Jeff Boardman, Weston, WY, \$7,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

Ranch, Callaway, NE, \$55,000. HH Advance 4027M ET, 1/3/2024 by HH Advance 0159H; to B&D Herefords, Claflin, KS, and EF1 Cattle, Carpio, ND, \$50,000. **Open heifer:** HH Miss Advance 4245M, 2/8/2024 by HH Advance 1128JET; to Steve Bodner, Raynesford, MT, \$24,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**PINE COULEE BULLS BULL SALE**  
**March 10, Hardin, MT**  
**169 Angus bulls . . . \$9,358**  
**Auctioneer: Ty Thompson**  
**TOPS:** Pine Coulee Heritage L800, 6/3/2023 by Sadler Heritage 1006; to Native Prairie Beef Genetics, Ellis, KS, \$25,000. Pine Coulee Renovation L601, 6/1/2023 by SAV Renovation 6822; to Thistle Dew Ranch, Columbus, MT, \$23,000. Pine Coulee Glacier M307, 1/1/2024 by Coleman Glacier 041; to Mitch Schoelerman, Mobridge, SD, \$20,000. Pine Coulee Glacier 2M, 11/26/2023 by Coleman Glacier 041; to Mitch Schoelerman, Mobridge, SD, \$16,500. Pine Coulee Rush M430, 12/26/2023 by Ellingson Rush 0177; to Flatland Acres Angus, Shreve, OH, \$16,000. Pine Coulee Hannibal L653, 5/18/2023 by Pine Coulee Hannibal H316; to Cross W Livestock, Ekalaka, MT, \$16,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

1/30/2024 by VA Gallatin 1010; to H Double C, Silverstar, MT, \$10,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**SITZ ANGUS BULL SALE**  
**March 12, Dillon, MT**  
**250 Angus bulls ..... \$12,208**  
**182 Commercial open heifers ..... 2,605**  
**Auctioneers: Joe Goggins and Greg Goggins**  
**TOPS:** Sitz Prefix 725M, 1/16/2024 by Sitz Dignity 599J; to Leadore Angus, Leadore, ID, \$146,000. Sitz Premium 716M, 1/17/2024 by GB Fireball 672; to Grimmus Cattle Co., Hanford, CA, \$120,000. Sitz Leverage 700M, 1/19/2024 by Raven Republic I564; to Clear Creek Angus, Chinook, MT, \$52,500. Sitz Pilot 514M, 2/9/2024 by Bear Mtn Pilot 1520; to Split Diamond Ranch, Whitehall, MT, \$37,500. Sitz Dignity 685M, 1/20/2024 by Sitz Dignity 599J; to John Buchholz, Durbin, ND, \$36,000. Sitz Unity 468M, 2/19/2024 by Connealy Commerce; to Stan Smith, Lehi, UT, \$30,000. Sitz Commerce 638M, 1/25/2024 by Connealy Commerce; to Taylor Wakley, Deeth, NV, \$30,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**BIEBER RED ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE**  
**March 6, Leola, SD**  
**279 Red Angus bulls ..... \$8,614**  
**Auctioneer: Seth Weishaar**

**TOPS:** Bieber Checkmate M241, 2/17/2024 by Bieber Checkmate K126; to Hansine Ranch, Pierre, SD, \$55,000. Bieber Checkmate M218, 2/15/2024 by Bieber Checkmate K126; to Langdon Farms Red Angus & Simmental, Benson, NC, \$30,000. Bieber ROU Paycheck M556, 1/28/2024 by Larr Paycheck 0728; to Leland Red Angus, Sidney, MT, \$25,000. Bieber Jumpstart M265, 2/19/2024 by Bieber Jumpstart J137; to Anthony Red Angus, Ryan, OK, \$24,000. Bieber RRA Energize M591, 1/11/2024 by Bieber CL Energize F121; to Barenthsen Bullinger Red Angus, Powers Lake, ND, \$24,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

**KEARNS CATTLE CO. BULL SALE**  
**March 6, Rushville, NE**  
**93 Simmental bulls ..... \$8,082**  
**Auctioneer: Jered Shipman**  
**Sale Manager: Innovation AgMarketing**  
**TOPS— 2-Year-old bull:** KCC1 3BCC Legend 5L, 5/25/2023 by OMF Journeyman J24; to Hidden Oaks Cattle, Canton, TX, \$49,000. **Yearling bulls:** KCC1 3BCC Woodford 4016M, 3/5/2024 by WHF/JS/CCS Woodford J001; to Roller Ranch, Hewitt, MN, \$100,000. KCC1 3BCC Woodford 4017M, 3/2/2024 by WHF/JS/CCS Woodford J001; to 4/B Land & Cattle, Sioux City, IA, and Swanson Cattle Co., Peterson, IA, \$33,000. KCC1 Woodford 4218M, 3/20/2024 by WHF/JS/CCS Woodford J001; to Kersten Cattle Co., Gretna, NE, \$17,500. KCC1 Remedy 4178M, 3/1/2024 by SO Remedy 7F; to Jeff Harwood, Geyser, MT, \$15,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

**VELTKAMP ANGUS BULL SALE**  
**March 11, Manhattan, MT**  
**85 Angus bulls . . . \$7,494**  
**Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe**  
**TOPS:** VA Patriarch 4201, 2/3/2024 by Tehama Patriarch F028; to Wade Jacobson, Sun River, MT, \$12,000. VA Gallatin 4203, 2/3/2024 by VA Gallatin 1010; to Harvey Thompson, Geyser, MT, \$11,500. VA Republic 4127, 1/27/2024 by Raven Republic I564; to Garrett Harshberger, Waterloo, MT, \$11,000. VA Gallatin 4126, 1/27/2024 by VA Gallatin 1010; to Castle Rock Ranch, Philipsburg, MT, \$11,000. VA Gallatin 4159,

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- 263 7+ year-old cows

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**HOLDEN HEREFORDS PRODUCTION SALE**  
**March 10, Valier, MT**  
**117 Hereford yearling bulls ..... \$15,799**  
**34 Hereford fall yearling bulls ..... 11,044**  
**29 Hereford open heifers ..... 7,543**  
**86 Commercial open heifers ..... 2,656**  
**Auctioneer: Joe Goggins**  
**TOPS—Hereford bulls:** HH Advance 4137M ET, 1/16/2024 by HH Advance 0159H; to Van Newkirk Herefords, Oshkosh, NE, and JLB, Douglass, KS, \$110,000. HH Advance 4056MET, 1/6/2024 by HH Advance 1128J ET; to Barber Ranch, Channing, TX, \$70,000. HH Advance 4005M ET, 12/30/2023 by CL1 Domino 1115J 1ET; to Flying S Ranch, Paluxy, TX, and Coates Ranch, Mertzon, TX, \$65,000. HH Advance 4166M, 1/20/2024 by HH Advance 2216K; to Baumgarten Cattle Co., Belfield, ND, and Herman Ranch, Draper, SD, \$60,000. HH Advance 4177M ET, 1/21/2024 by HH Advance 1045L; to Ridder Hereford

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# SALE REPORTS

## PARRY ANGUS BULL SALE

**March 7, Sterling, CO**  
**75 Angus yearling**  
**bulls .....\$6,340**  
**7 SimAngus yearling**  
**bulls ..... 5,700**  
**1 Angus bred**  
**heifer ..... 15,000**  
**21 Angus open**  
**heifers ..... 3,107**  
**Auctioneer: Dave Mullins**  
**Sale Manager: CK6**  
**Consulting**

**TOPS—Older bull:** Montana Revival 3360, 8/17/2023 by Brooking Revival 0074; to Doug Jolly, Hugo, CO, \$11,000. **Yearling bulls:** PAR Marksman 4P13, 1/8/2024 by Poss Deadwood; to Bootheel 7 Livestock, Lusk, WY, \$12,000. PAR Ratified 4P49, 1/18/2024 by Poss Ratified; to Heim Cattle Co., St. Charles, MN, \$11,500. **Bred heifer:** PAR Isabel 3118, 4/21/2023 by Poss Remington bred to Connealy Craftsman; to Uphill Creek Farm, Pound, WI, \$15,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

## BAKER ANGUS BULL SALE

**Feb. 22, Vale, OR**  
**124 Angus**  
**bulls ..... \$8,448**  
**1 SimAngus bull ..... 7,250**  
**Auctioneer: Rick Machado**  
**Sale Manager: M3**  
**Marketing**

**TOPS:** Baker Fireball 7723, 9/8/2023 by GB Fireball 672; to Bear Valley 96 Ranch, Seneca, OR, \$22,000. Baker Fireball 7769, 10/1/2023 by GB Fireball 672; to Bear Valley 96 Ranch, Seneca, OR, \$20,000. Baker Dynamic 7722, 9/8/2023 by B A R Dynamic;

to Canyon Cattle, White Bird, ID, \$13,000. Baker Fair-N-Square 7599, 9/11/2023 by Myers Fair-N-Square M39; to Canyon Cattle, White Bird, ID, \$13,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

## LYMAN LIVESTOCK BULL SALE

**Feb. 22, Salina, UT**  
**91 SimAngus**  
**bulls ..... \$7,080**  
**Auctioneer: Charly Cummings**  
**Sale Manager: Allied Genetic Resources**  
**TOPS:** Lymans Zinser M15, 2/14/2024 by CAMP Zinser E756; to Jorgenson Ranch, UT, \$11,000. Lymans Global M68, 1/30/2024 by KBHR Global J138; to Thomas Behling, UT, \$11,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

## BARKER CATTLE BULL & FEMALE SALE

**Feb. 25, Burley, ID**  
**8 Angus bulls ..... \$8,469**  
**80 SimAngus**  
**bulls ..... 6,919**  
**49 SimAngus open**  
**heifers ..... 2,678**  
**Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe**  
**Sale Manager: Allied Genetic Resources**

## PRICE CATTLE CO. w/ MURDOCK CATTLE CO. BULL & FEMALE SALE

**Feb. 26, Stanfield, OR**  
**38 Angus bulls ..... \$8,256**  
**56 SimAngus**  
**bulls ..... 7,835**  
**38 Red Angus**  
**bulls ..... 6,346**  
**14 Red Angus open**  
**heifers ..... 2,675**

## 11 Angus open

**heifers ..... 2,504**  
**13 SimAngus open**  
**heifers ..... 2,385**  
**Auctioneer: Rick Machado**  
**Sale Manager: M3**  
**Marketing**  
**TOPS—Angus bull:** PCC Mr Resilient A298 4211, 2/1/2024 by Sitz Resilient 10208; to Jim Huston, Hermiston, OR, \$14,500. **Red Angus bull:** MCC Red Sensation 451, 1/8/2024 by HXC Grindstone 9908G; to Rock Bottom Ranch, Wilber, WA, \$14,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

## 3 STRING CATTLE CO. BULL SALE

**Feb. 27, Shoshone, ID**  
**63 Angus bulls ..... \$8,174**  
**Auctioneer: Trent Stewart**  
**TOPS:** 3String Iconic 3163, 9/13/2023 by DB Iconic G95; to Huwa Cattle Co., Roggen, CO, \$16,000. 3String Fireball 3194, 9/15/2023 by GB Fireball 672; to Huwa Cattle Co., Roggen, CO, \$13,500. 3String Iconic 3225, 9/19/2023 by DB Iconic G95; to Parks Creek Ranch, ID, \$13,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

## TRINITY FARMS BULL SALE

**March 1, Ellensburg, WA**  
**174 SimAngus**  
**bulls ..... \$8,283**  
**78 SimAngus open**  
**heifers ..... 3,071**  
**Auctioneers: Butch Booker & Kyle Colyer**

## HARRELL HEREFORD & ANGUS PRODUCTION

## SALE

**March 3, Baker City, OR**  
**52 Angus bulls ..... \$7,865**  
**123 Hereford**  
**bulls ..... 7,488**  
**30 Hereford open**  
**heifers ..... 3,743**  
**80 Commercial open**  
**heifers ..... 2,689**  
**20 Quarter Horse 2-year-olds ..... 15,538**  
**Auctioneer: Rick Machado**  
**Sale Manager: United Livestock Brokers, Inc.**

**TOPS—Angus bull:** H5 10208 Resilient 31M, 1/25/2024 by Sitz Resilient 10208; to Commercial Bull Buyer, \$14,000. **Hereford bulls:** H5 1115J Domino 4106, 2/7/2024 by CL 1 Domino 1115J ET; to Bryce Carmichael, Meadow, SD, \$26,000. H5 2912 New Standard 4213 ET, 2/18/2024 by Birdwell New Standard 2912 ET; to Brian Amundsen, Jamestown, ND, \$20,000. H5 9241 Advance 4362, 4/3/2024 by H5 5019 Advance 9241; to Pete Luzaich, Marshfield, MO, \$20,000. H5 2912 New Standard 4198 ET, 2/17/2024 by Birdwell New Standard 2912 ET; to Sandroch Ranch Hereford, Benton, WI, \$19,000. H5 1115J Domino 4273, 2/24/2024 by CL 1 Domino 1115J 1ET; to Flying W Ranch, White Bird, ID, \$18,000. H5 175J Domino 4125, 2/9/2024 by CL 1 Domino 1115J 1ET; to Dudley Bros., Comanche, TX, \$17,500. **Open heifers:** H5 Ms 1174 Historic 498, 2/6/2024 by H5 9241 Advance 1174; to Steve Landt, Union, IA, \$5,500. H5 Ms 011

Advance 4326, 3/12/2024 by H5 215Z Domino 011; to Jim Richardson, Lexington, OR, \$5,500. — **JARED PATTERSON**

## ALLEN BROTHERS CATTLE BULL SALE

**March 4, Haines, OR**  
**39 Angus bulls ..... \$9,942**  
**30 SimAngus**  
**bulls ..... 8,925**  
**8 Angus open**  
**heifers ..... 15,156**  
**5 SimAngus open**  
**heifers ..... 7,500**  
**Auctioneer: Rick Machado**  
**Sale Manager: M3**  
**Marketing**

**TOPS—Angus bulls:** ABC Yeti 4552, 2/15/2024 by Coleman Bravo 6313; to Pine Coulee Angus, Absarokee, MT, \$22,000. ABC Milepost 4826, 2/23/2024 by Musgrave Milestone; to J2 Cattle, Outlook, WA, \$20,000. **SimAngus bull:** Allen Capitalist M15, 1/31/2024 by LD Capitalist 316; to Stafford & Sons, Prineville, OR, \$19,750. **Open heifers:** ABC Prim Lassie 4825, 2/22/2024 by Musgrave Milestone; to MJT Cattle Co. Ltd., Edgerton, AB, \$35,000. ABC Prim Lassie 4551, 2/15/2024 by Coleman Bravo 6313; to Pleasant Hill Farms, Rockfield, KY, \$24,500. ABC Emblynette 4016, 2/1/2024 by Sitz Feat 729H; to Jed Albrecht, Minersville, UT, \$20,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

## DILLE RED ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE

**March 4, Buhl, ID**  
**59 Red Angus**

## bulls ..... \$5,878


**Auctioneer: Trent Stewart**  
**Sale Managers: Hi Point Sales and Marketing**  
**TOPS:** Dille Blueprint M431, 1/22/2024 by 9 Mile Blueprint 0175; to JG Swartz, Payette, ID, \$11,000. Dille Blueprint M435, 1/27/2024 by 9 Mile Blueprint 0175; to Ronnie Weekes, Letha, ID, \$9,000. Dille Blueprint M454, 2/6/2024 by 9 Mile Blueprint 0175; to JG Swartz, Payette, ID, \$10,000. Dille Stockholder M464, 2/20/2024 by Loosli Stockholder 292; to Ronnie Weekes, Letha, ID, \$9,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

## SNAKE RIVER VALLEY GENETICS BULL SALE

**March 5, Idaho Falls, ID**  
**23 LimFlex bulls ... \$7,250**  
**56 Angus bulls ..... 6,857**  
**Auctioneers: Butch Booker & Cotton Booker**  
**TOP: Rimrock Commerce** 2412, 1/12/2024 by Connealy Commerce; to Jerald Hoyt, Smithfield, UT, \$15,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

## CANNON ANGUS BULL SALE

**March 6, Preston, ID**  
**51 Angus bulls ..... \$5,620**  
**Auctioneer: Jake Parnell**  
**Sale Manager: M3**  
**Marketing**  
**TOPS:** Cannon Tahoe 130, 12/24/2023 by Tehama Tahoe B767; to Gebber Cattle, Brewster, WA, \$10,500. Cannon Bomber 108, 12/11/2023 by Casino Bomber N33; to Burke Smith, Preston, ID, \$9,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**



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## Livestock Supplies 18

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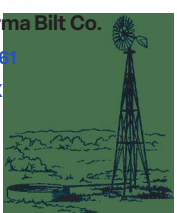
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# Food-at-home prices forecast to rise by 3.3%

Food-at-home (grocery) prices grew by 2.6% per year on average from 2005-24. However, yearly price increases varied based on food market dynamics such as production and demand, as well as national and global economic conditions.

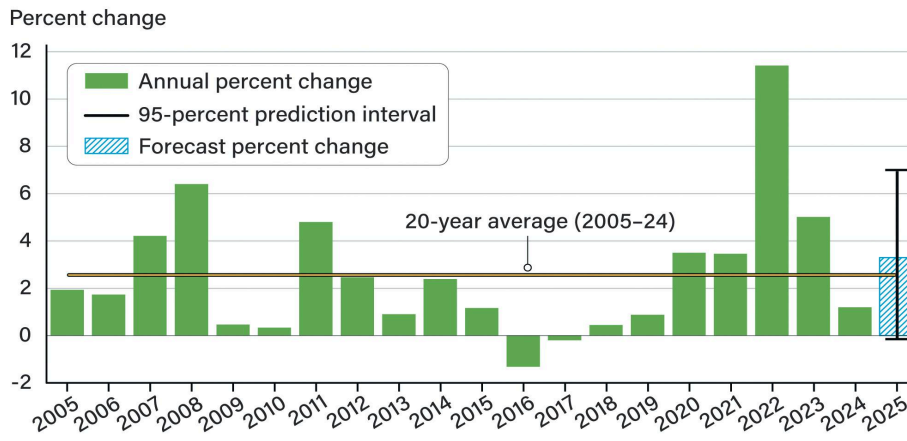
The USDA Economic Research Service (ERS) forecasts future price changes in the

monthly Food Price Outlook data product. As of February 2025, prices for food at home are forecast to increase by 3.3% in 2025, slightly faster than the historical average. This predicted rate of increase is higher than in 2024 (1.2%) but below the 2023 price increase rate of 5% and the recent peak in 2022 of 11.4%. ERS publishes Food Price

Outlook forecasts with a prediction interval, which represents the likely range of price variation, surrounding a midpoint, the most likely change. The current prediction interval for 2025 ranged from -0.2% to 7% for the food-at-home forecast in the latest edition of the Food Price Outlook, published Feb. 25. — USDA ERS

Annual and forecast percent change in prices for food at home, 2005-25

USDA Economic Research Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



Note: The 2025 forecast is based on data through January 2025. The 95-percent prediction interval is an estimated range of values within which the actual annual price change is predicted to fall at a 95-percent confidence level.

Source: USDA, Economic Research Service (ERS) using U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index data; and forecast from the ERS Food Price Outlook data product.



CHARTS of NOTE



## 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. 19** – Western Breeders Association, Bull Sale, Eltopia, WA  
**Apr. 3** – Midland Bull Test, Columbus, MT

### ANGUS

**Mar. 17** – JR & Sackmann, Bull Sale, Othello, WA  
**Mar. 17** – Rancho Casino/ Cox Ranch, Bull Sale, Purdum, NE  
**Mar. 17** – Whistling Winds Angus, Bull Sale, Hingham, MT  
**Mar. 18** – 7n7 Ranch, Bull Sale, Enterprise, OR  
**Mar. 18** – Bartels Angus, Bull Sale, Riverton, NE  
**Mar. 18** – ELK Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY  
**Mar. 19** – Lufkin Cattle Bull Sale, Tendoy, ID  
**Mar. 19** – Wagonhammer Ranches, Bull Sale, Albion, NE  
**Mar. 20** – Carter Cattle, Bull Sale, Pingree, ID  
**Mar. 20** – Oft Angus, Bull Sale, Vale, OR  
**Mar. 20** – Western Cattle Source, Bull Sale, Crawford, NE  
**Mar. 21** – TD Angus, Bull Sale, North Platte, NE  
**Mar. 21** – Caywood Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Tendoy, ID  
**Mar. 21** – Montana Performance Bull Co-op, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT  
**Mar. 22** – Sinclair Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY  
**Mar. 25** – Bar JV Angus, Bull Sale, Fairview, MT  
**Mar. 26** – Peterson Grain and Cattle, Bull Sale, Havre, MT  
**Mar. 27** – Vermilion Ranch, Production Sale, Billings, MT  
**Mar. 27** – Gartner-Denowh Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Sidney, MT  
**Mar. 28** – Vertical Edge Genetics, Production Sale, Bancroft, ID  
**Mar. 31** – Silver Bit Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, May, ID  
**Apr. 1** – Hinman Angus, Bull Sale, Malta, MT  
**Apr. 1** – MJB Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT  
**Apr. 2** – Nissen Angus, Bull Sale, Chinook, MT  
**Apr. 3** – Arntzen Angus, Bull Sale, Hilger, MT  
**Apr. 5** – Botts Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Huntley, MT  
**Apr. 5** – Brooks Chalky Butte Ranch, Bull Sale, Bowman, ND  
**Apr. 7** – FBA Ranch, Bull Sale, Havre, MT

**Apr. 8** – Hilltop Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Denton, MT  
**Apr. 9** – Jocko Valley Cattle, Columbus, MT  
**Apr. 12** – Bar T Bar, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ  
**Apr. 12** – Fink Beef Genetics, Production Sale, Randolph, KS  
**Apr. 15** – Treasure Bull Test, Great Falls, MT  
**Apr. 16** – Milk River Genetics, Bull Sale, Chinook, MT  
**Apr. 18** – Timber Line Ranch, Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT  
**Apr. 18** – DeGrand Angus, Bull Sale, Baker, MT  
**Apr. 19** – Lindskov's LT Ranch, Bull Sale, Isabel, SD  
**Apr. 22** – Dunn Ranches, Bull Sale, Eaton, CO  
**Apr. 29** – Currant Creek Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Miles City, MT

### BALANCER

**Apr. 12** – Bar T Bar, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ

### CHAROLAIS

**Mar. 22** – Valley View Charolais Ranch, Bull Sale, Polson, MT  
**Apr. 5** – DeBruycker Charolais, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT  
**Apr. 5** – Pitchfork Charolais, Bull Sale, Loma, CO  
**Apr. 12** – Fink Beef Genetics, Production Sale, Randolph, KS  
**Apr. 12** – Hebbert Charolais, Bull Sale, Hyannis, NE  
**Apr. 19** – Lindskov's LT Ranch, Bull Sale, Isabel, SD

### FLECKVIEH

**Mar. 28** – Vertical Edge Genetics, Production Sale, Bancroft, ID

### HEREFORD

**Mar. 20** – Bar Star Herefords, Bull Sale, Musselshell, MT  
**Mar. 26** – NJW Herefords, Bull Sale, Decker, MT  
**Apr. 19** – Stuber Ranch, Bull Sale, Bowman, ND

### OPTIMIZER

**Apr. 1** – MJB Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT

### RED ANGUS

**Mar. 18** – Green Mountain Red Angus, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT  
**Mar. 22** – Lautenschlager Red Angus, Bull Sale, Othello, WA  
**Mar. 26** – Westphal Red Angus, Bull Sale, Grass Range, MT  
**Apr. 3** – Northern Lites Red Angus, Bull Sale, Glasgow, MT  
**Apr. 8** – Beckton Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, WY  
**Apr. 11** – 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT  
**Apr. 12** – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Park City, MT  
**May. 8** – Koenig Ranch Reds, Bull Sale, Glasgow, MT

### SALERS

**Apr. 1** – MJB Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT

### SIMANGUS

**Mar. 21** – Black Summit Cattle, Bull Sale, Powell, MT  
**Mar. 22** – T-Heart Ranch, Bull Sale, La Garita, CO  
**Mar. 28** – Vertical Edge Genetics, Production Sale, Bancroft, ID  
**Apr. 5** – Big Country Genetics, Bull Sale, Cody, WY

### SIMMENTAL

**Mar. 21** – Black Summit Cattle, Bull Sale, Powell, MT  
**Apr. 5** – Big Country Genetics, Bull Sale, Cody, WY

### STABILIZER

**Mar. 23-24** – Leachman Cattle, Bull & Heifer Sale, TBD  
**Apr. 12** – Bar T Bar, Bull Sale, Winslow, AZ

### COMMERCIAL

**Apr. 19** – Visalia Livestock, Bred Cow & Pair Sale, Visalia, CA

### HORSE

**May. 24** – Full House Horse Sale, Newcastle, WY

VOICE SANDHILL & WESTERN NEBRASKA CATTLE

OGALLALA, NE → 308-284-2071

## Upcoming Sales

**Wednesday, March 19th**  
Regular sale with special stockcow & 1st calf heifer sale

**Wednesday, March 26th**  
Regular sale with Wine Glass Ranch age cow dispersion  
Total age dispersion selling 1,400 Easy Keepers that are proven, practical & profitable range calvers. Graze 365 days per year.

**Thursday, March 27th**  
Special stocker & feeder sale

**Wednesday, April 2nd**  
Regular sale with special stockcow, 1st calf heifers, & cow/calf pair sale

**Wednesday, April 9th**  
Regular sale with Maddux Cattle Co "Maternalizer" bred cow sale  
Selling 875 head of bred cows that emphasize material traits: extremely functional, fertile, and efficient.

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

## Annual Red Angus Bull Sale

**THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025**  
GLASGOW STOCKYARDS, GLASGOW, MT

*Selling* 43 YEARLING RED ANGUS BULLS  
20 BRED COMMERCIAL HEIFERS  
40 OPEN COMMERCIAL HEIFERS

*Commanding performance from pasture to plate.*

**Lot 2 – NLR IMPRESSIVE 4121**   **Lot 7 – NLR MAXIMUS 4104**   **Lot 19 – NLR DIVIDEND 4142**

**Lot 23 – NLR HUSH MONEY 4134**   **Lot 38 – NLR GENUINE 4133**

- Breeding soundness exam prior to sale
- Carcass ultrasound data available at sale
- Free delivery within 300 miles (or \$100 discount if you haul)
- All bulls 100% guaranteed for soundness and fertility for the first breeding season
- Bulls fed free until delivery

Connect with us!

## NORTHERN LITES RED ANGUS

Bryce Risa  
Cell: 406-724-7029  
Office: 406-762-3247  
northernlitesredangus@gmail.com  
www.northernlitesredangus.com

# HA Hinman Angus

**BULLISH on Maternal**      **BULLISH on Performance**      **BULLISH on Fundamentals**

**We do one thing... Angus!**

In this day and age of DNA, EPDs, and \$Values—tools we use in all our breeding decisions—we remain guided by the traits we see every day. Between Billy and myself, we bring over 80 years of experience breeding registered Angus cattle, and that experience matters. It allows us to confidently tell our customers that these daughters will excel in performance, possess strong feet, display excellent udders, and offer tremendous longevity. A pedigree is more than just what's written on paper—it's the program and experience behind it.

*Dave*

**Tuesday**  
**April 1**  
**2025**

*38th Annual Bull Sale!*

1:00 pm MDT

At the Ranch 10 miles east of Malta, MT

**Selling 175 Registered Angus Bulls**

**Over 100 Heifer Bulls!**

**HA Man in Black 4425**



+21099307

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| CED  | +8     |
| BW   | +1.3   |
| WW   | +86    |
| YW   | +149   |
| MILK | +25    |
| MARB | +0.64  |
| RE   | +0.31  |
| FAT  | +0.066 |
| \$M  | +75    |
| \$W  | +80    |
| \$F  | +111   |
| \$G  | +45    |
| \$B  | +156   |
| \$C  | +277   |

Sire LAR Man In Black MGS KG Solution 0018

**HA Man in Black 4218**



21109916

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| CED  | +5     |
| BW   | +3.3   |
| WW   | +86    |
| YW   | +145   |
| MILK | +35    |
| MARB | +0.64  |
| RE   | +0.80  |
| FAT  | +0.072 |
| \$M  | +57    |
| \$W  | +82    |
| \$F  | +140   |
| \$G  | +50    |
| \$B  | +190   |
| \$C  | +303   |

Sire LAR Man In Black MGS S A V Net Worth 4200

**HA PSI 4108**



21109951

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| CED  | +11    |
| BW   | +1.1   |
| WW   | +70    |
| YW   | +128   |
| MILK | +34    |
| MARB | +0.59  |
| RE   | +0.74  |
| FAT  | +0.005 |
| \$M  | +74    |
| \$W  | +74    |
| \$F  | +90    |
| \$G  | +52    |
| \$B  | +142   |
| \$C  | +258   |

Sire HA PSI K031 MGS Stevenson Right Look 41123

**HA Badlands 4257**



21109920

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| CED  | +10    |
| BW   | +0.0   |
| WW   | +78    |
| YW   | +143   |
| MILK | +31    |
| MARB | +0.76  |
| RE   | +0.55  |
| FAT  | +0.038 |
| \$M  | +84    |
| \$W  | +77    |
| \$F  | +123   |
| \$G  | +55    |
| \$B  | +178   |
| \$C  | +315   |

Sire Ellingson Badlands 0285 MGS E&B Plus 621

**HA Ameria 4107**



21109888

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| CED  | +8     |
| BW   | +0.0   |
| WW   | +72    |
| YW   | +125   |
| MILK | +35    |
| MARB | +0.80  |
| RE   | +0.47  |
| FAT  | +0.001 |
| \$M  | +62    |
| \$W  | +78    |
| \$F  | +77    |
| \$G  | +59    |
| \$B  | +135   |
| \$C  | +237   |

Sire S A V Ameria 8018 MGS DPL Boundary T72

**HA Man In Black 4398**



+21099301

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| CED  | +11    |
| BW   | +0.5   |
| WW   | +74    |
| YW   | +136   |
| MILK | +32    |
| MARB | +0.79  |
| RE   | +0.63  |
| FAT  | +0.036 |
| \$M  | +55    |
| \$W  | +75    |
| \$F  | +109   |
| \$G  | +58    |
| \$B  | +167   |
| \$C  | +272   |

Sire LAR Man In Black MGS KG Solution 0018

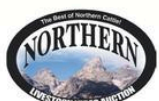
**HA Sunrise 4007**



21109866

|      |        |
|------|--------|
| CED  | +14    |
| BW   | +0.5   |
| WW   | +85    |
| YW   | +155   |
| MILK | +29    |
| MARB | +0.82  |
| RE   | +0.60  |
| FAT  | +0.030 |
| \$M  | +45    |
| \$W  | +78    |
| \$F  | +107   |
| \$G  | +59    |
| \$B  | +166   |
| \$C  | +260   |

Sire Sitz Resilient 10208 MGS Deer Valley Growth Fund



Contact us for your Sale Book!

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Billy's cell 406-654-4669

Tyler & Sascha Luloff  
Tyler's cell 406-654-4609

**HinmanAngus.com**

Dave & Yvonne Hinman  
406-654-1809  
Dave's cell 406-654-4656

*Bulls that will keep you in the Cow Business!*