

INSIDE WLJ

PROTECTING NEMO — Environmentalist groups filed suit against the federal government, calling for registration of Arctic grayling fish under ESA designation. **Page 4**

ONE SIZE FITS NONE — During bull-buying season, don't fall victim to the current trends; instead, purchase bulls that fit your operation's unique needs. **Page 11**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

With Brazil confirming a case of "mad cow" disease last month, let's look back at the history of the disease 30 years ago in the March 22, 1993, issue of *WLJ*. The article reads, "The UK agriculture ministry said a week ago that 'mad cow' disease is still on the increase, contradicting a government prediction that the fatal bovine brain condition would be eliminated with a ban on infected feed. More than 87,000 cows have died of bovine spongiform encephalopathy, popularly known as mad cow disease, since the first case was recorded more than four years ago. More than 37,000 cows have died in the last year."

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A coalition of forestry and ag groups, along with county governments, have intervened in a suit attempting to stop the use of fire retardant to combat wildfires. Pictured here, a helicopter releases fire retardant during the U.S. Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton-hosted Wildland Firefighting Exercise.

Coalition intervenes in fire retardant battle

— **Contentds it is needed as a tool**

The abundance of rain and snowfall this winter raises the possibility that the 2023 wild-fire season will be catastrophic due to the flush of new growth of underbrush. Chemical fire retardant, a valuable tool to suppress wildfires, is the subject of a lawsuit contending the chemical pollutes navigable waters.

However, a coalition of forestry and agricultural groups, and county governments have filed a motion to intervene as defendants in a suit against the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) use of fire retardants to combat wildfires, while the agency seeks a permit.

"The aerial application of fire retardant is part of Forest Service's firefighting strategy, and it unquestionably reduces fire's rate of spread, intensity, and danger to the public," court documents said. "An injunction that removes this critical tool is certain to undermine health and safety and cause economic harm to communities and businesses navigating the constant threat of wildfire."

The suit states the intervenors have a "significant, protectable interest in the outcome of the litigation as it directly relates to their community and economic interests." Some of the intervenors include the town of Paradise, CA, which suffered the loss of an estimated 95% of the town due to a deadly fire in 2018, and Butte and Plumas counties in CA, which are primarily in USFS lands and experienced deadly wildfires in the last five years.

"Maintaining healthy forests is an economic and ecological driver throughout

See FIRE on page 8

New EPA regs for CAFOs and slaughter plants?

— **Rule-makings coming soon**

Stricter water pollution regulations may be coming soon for concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs) and slaughter and animal rendering facilities.

In late January, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released new guidelines for pollution and discharge limits from industrial sources. The new plan focuses primarily on the discharges of nutrient and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as PFAS.

As part of the plan, the agency also announced new studies to be conducted, including a study on CAFOs to make a decision on

See CAFO on page 12

CO wolf plan continues to progress

— **Submit 10(j) comments soon**

Wolves are one step closer to being introduced into Colorado.

The Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission met at the end of February to review the Draft Wolf Restoration and Management Plan and take comments on the wolf introduction process. In April, CPW will present the final draft plan and accept one more round of public comments. By early May, the commissioners will vote on a final plan, and we can expect to see wolves brought into the state by the end of the year.

CPW held five meetings throughout the state in January and February, hearing from more than 230 people in person and accepting about 4,000 comments.

"We are so grateful for the comments from so many people since the public involvement process began back in April of 2021, and to those who have commented on the draft plan itself over the past two months," said CPW Acting Director Heather Disney Dugan. "Your comments will make for a better, more informed plan."

Below is an overview of the consensus statements from the commission at its recent meeting relating to

See WOLF on page 24

Cattle futures, cash trade lower on outside pressure

The luck of the Irish was not to be had during St. Patrick's week as markets saw red. Cattle futures were in correction mode due to outside economic pressures of uncertainty. Cash trade was \$1 lower than the prior week's weighted averages for live and dressed cattle.

Cattle on Feed pre-report estimates were released ahead of the upcoming Cattle on Feed report due to be released by USDA on March 17. The analysts expected cattle on feed numbers as of March 1 to dip to 95.6% of a year ago of 11.6 million head. Marketings estimates averaged 95.8% of a year ago. Placements were estimated to range from 90-96.9% of a year ago.

Live cattle futures were lower, with the April contract down \$2.45 to \$162.35 and the June contract down \$2.80 to \$156.87.

"Technical and opportunistic selling is active as the June, August and October live cattle contracts took out their 100-day moving average, though not their January swing low as of yet. Futures are oversold, but fear has the potential to pound markets into the dust," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst for The Beef, on Wednesday.

Cash trade was active early in the week, with 66,400 head sold. Live steers sold between \$163-166, averaging \$164.06. Dressed steers sold between \$260-264.60, averaging \$263.86.

Cash trade for the week ending March 12 totaled 79,854 head. Live steers averaged \$165.32, and dressed steers averaged \$265.42.

"Fear is an immediate and visceral reaction and cattle feeders have sold cattle today \$1 then \$2 cheaper than last week," wrote Fish on Wednesday. "Cash would have likely traded steady this week were it not for outside markets."

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of March 6-13 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: \$165.28.
- Formula net purchases: \$167.31.

WEEKLY CHOICE CUTOUT

5 AREA WEEKLY WTD AVERAGE STEER PRICE

See MARKETS on page 20

LIVE STEERS \$164.08
DRESSED STEERS \$263.77
CME FEEDER \$188.71
WEEK ENDING: 3-16-23

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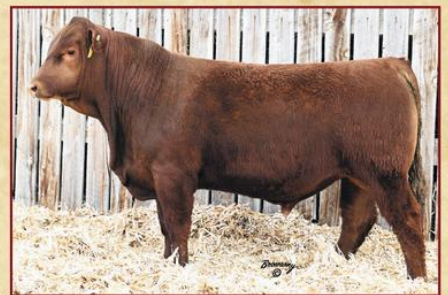
G2013
5-Star CE, Top 6% \$Ranch,
Top 4% \$Profit



2026
Top 3% \$Ranch, Top 3% \$Profit



2056
3-Star CE, Top 1% \$Ranch,
Top 1% \$Profit



2209
Top 5% \$Ranch, Top 13% \$Profit

55 NO-WORRY CALVING EASE BULLS



2118
5-Star CE, Top 2% \$Ranch,
Top 2% \$Profit



2290
5-Star CE, Top 8% \$Ranch,
Top 4% \$Profit



2318
4-Star CE, Top 12% \$Ranch,
Top 1% \$Profit



2331
4-Star CE, Top 3% \$Ranch,
Top 2% \$Profit

40 SOUTHERN BALANCERS BULLS



2131
Top 19% \$Ranch, Top 8% \$Profit



2216
5-Star CE, Top 12% \$Ranch,
Top 7% \$Profit



2284
5-Star CE, Top 13% \$Ranch,
Top 12% \$Profit



2326
Top 9% \$Ranch, Top 8% \$Profit

18 ANGUS & HIGH % ANGUS BULLS



2015
4-Star CE, Top 0.2% \$Ranch,
Top 0.1% \$Profit



2045
5-Star CE, Top 10% \$Ranch,
Top 2% \$Profit



2079
4-Star CE, Top 15% \$Ranch, Top% \$Profit



2141
Top 10% \$Ranch, Top 2% \$Profit

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Greens sue to protect Arctic grayling fish in MT

Environmental groups have sued the federal government to protect the Arctic grayling fish, despite efforts by ranchers and locals in Montana's Big Hole Valley to protect the species.

The groups filed suit in the U.S. District Court of Montana against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), stating the fluvial distinct population segment of Arctic grayling faces numerous threats, including the loss of habitat, which is leading to a plummeting population. The groups assert listing under the Endangered Species

Act (ESA) is needed.

"These fish face a litany of threats including over-withdrawal of water, habitat degradation, competition from non-native fish and now climate change on top of it all," said Emily Qiu, associate attorney with Earthjustice's Northern Rockies office, in a statement. "Too much water is already taken out of the Big Hole River and climate change will only make the situation worse."

The fluvial Arctic grayling—which dwells in rivers and streams—once inhabited

much of the upper Missouri River basin, but the remaining river-dwelling populations are now almost exclusively found in Montana's Big Hole Valley, the groups said. The Arctic grayling has an iridescent, sail-like dorsal fin with a wide variety of colors. The fish can weigh up to 3 pounds and reach 20 inches in length and spawn in the spring. According to the Montana Field Guide, the grayling is listed as "S1" protection status due to its minimal population, range and habitat, making it vulnerable to extirpation

in the state.

Environmental groups have fought to list the species under the ESA since 1991. USFWS officials determined in 1994 that protections were needed, but they were never imposed because other species were given a higher priority. In 2007, USFWS announced it would decide the status of the grayling.

In 2006, the Big Hole Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) was established to encourage voluntary conservation. Should

the species become listed, participants would not be subject to additional regulatory restrictions on their activities.

In 2020, USFWS announced listing the upper Missouri River distinct population segment of the Arctic grayling was not warranted. USFWS cited efforts by private landowners and state agencies in the Big Hole CCAA "helped address threats to the species, including reduced river flows, degraded riparian areas, fish barriers and entrainment."

"Without the landowner

commitment—without their buy-in, it's not going to work," said Blake Huntley, a fourth-generation rancher enrolled in the Big Hole CCAA, in the announcement. "That's what I love about CCAA. You've got great people on the ground who know what needs to be done to help species like the Arctic grayling while also listening to what we, as landowners, value, too. They want our viewpoints and our involvement."

According to Jarrett Payne, a riparian ecologist at Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, there are 32 landowners enrolling 160,000 acres in the Big Hole CCAA. Payne told Montana Outdoors that throughout the drought in 2021, landowners worked to keep as much water in the Big Hole River as possible. Payne said the 2020 population of the grayling declined slightly, but there are about 1,000-plus adult breeding graylings, a 168% increase since the CCAA was started in 2006.

The lawsuit states voluntary conservation efforts, "however well intentioned," have not put enough water back into the Big Hole River to maintain a healthy population and assert "protections are accordingly required to ensure this remarkable fish species is not lost from Montana's rivers." The suit cites USFWS estimates that recent data indicates the population is declining well below the management goal of 1,000 graylings.

The suit also asserts USFWS relied too heavily on the conservation efforts of the CCAA to its finding that listing under the ESA was not warranted.

"Despite repeated optimistic references to ongoing and future implementation of the CCAA and the Service's belief in the ability of that agreement to mitigate threats to Arctic grayling, the Service did not even evaluate conservation measures under the CCAA as regulatory mechanisms," court documents state.

Pedro Marques, Big Hole Watershed Committee executive director, told the Missoula Current in 2022, when the environmental groups threatened to sue, the regulatory mechanisms wanted by the groups would not look much different from what is currently in place but cautioned there could be less cooperation.

"The (Agreements with Assurances) is not only a plan, it's in motion right now and has all the cooperation you can imagine," Marques said. "If the federal government takes over, you will lose all the voluntary conservation that we have. In 2021, there were ranchers that gave up about 25-50% of their water right for the benefit of the survival of the resource."

"If we have another drought like that and there's no more incentive to cooperate, it's everybody for themselves. Some might still cooperate, but it'll be disconnected from any sort of partnership-based work and that would be a loss. Then you're asking the federal government to pick winners and losers."

Former Trout Unlimited Executive Director Bruce Farling, who worked on the Arctic grayling issue for years, agreed with Marques on existing conservation measures. Farling pointed to the ESA listings of the bull trout, pallid sturgeon and Kootenai white sturgeon, where regulatory mechanisms have done little for the listed species. — Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor



ARNTZEN

ANGUS RANCH

A A R Tahoe 2907
Reg. 20502460



Lot 1

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+1.0	+86	+38	+160

Tahoe x Load Up
Loaded with cow power.

A A R Rainier K066
Reg. 20466859



Lot 4

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+0.3	+74	+34	+136

A A R Rainier x Justified
Dam Average 3 NR 110

A A R Justified 2517
Reg. 20457712



Lot 37

BW	WW	Milk	YW
-1.2	+77	+25	+131

Justified x Load Up
Calving ease with extra depth and muscle.

A A R Justified K173
Reg. 20461688



Lot 8

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+1.5	+90	+25	+151

Justified 8244 x Capitalist 316
Weaning Ratio 116

A A R Knockout 2019
Reg. 20457667



Lot 6

BW	WW	Milk	YW
-0.1	+82	+25	+140

Knockout x Motive
Top females stacked deep.

A A R Complete K141
Reg. 20468489



Lot 92

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+1.9	+86	+32	+127

Complete x Ten Fold
\$M 108



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A A R KNOCKOUT 8732
PINE COULEE HANNIBAL H316
MUSGRAVE 1676 STUNNER 809

TEF-Tahoe 234
Reg. 20384505



Lot 5

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+1.3	+93	+17	+152

Tahoe x Outside 514
Maternal and growth. Top 1% WW and \$M.

A A R Tahoe 2017
Reg. 20463064



Lot 32

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+0.2	+72	+27	+127

Tahoe x Justified
Great structure on cow side.

A A R Justified K012
Reg. 20461662



Lot 2

BW	WW	Milk	YW
+0.8	+84	+26	+143

Justified x Landmark
Calving ease & growth. Top 1% \$M.

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THE VIEWPOINT

with Erin Karney

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.

Erin Karney is a sixth-generation cattle rancher who grew up in Las Animas, CO, in the southeastern part of the state. In early 2022, Erin replaced Terry Fankhauser as Colorado Cattlemen's Association's (CCA) executive vice president after he served in the position for 22 years.

"I'm really proud to be trusted in this position to lead the association," Erin told WLJ. "I've been involved in CCA for four generations ever since I was a junior Colorado Cattlemen's member, and so this organization really holds a special place for me and my family."

Despite growing up in agriculture, Erin didn't know whether she wanted to be involved in the industry until participating in FFA and seeing the wide variety of career opportunities available. Erin graduated from Colorado State University (CSU) in 2012 with bachelor's degrees in animal science and agricultural business, and received her master's degree in meat science in 2014.

Erin said she pursued her master's degree at CSU because the university has an excellent meat science pro-

gram, which allowed her to coach the meat judging team.

"I grew up on a ranch, and my brother actually runs and manages a feedlot, so I'm pretty exposed to those aspects," Erin said. "But before I went to CSU, I'd never been in a packing plant before or exposed to that side. So, I really wanted to get a whole view and understand the supply chain of the beef industry, and I think that the master's really helped me understand the whole beef system."

After graduation, Erin worked in

quality assurance in Washington at AB Foods LLC for a couple of years. Erin then wanted to be closer to home, and worked as director of industry programs at CCA for several years. While serving as the director, Erin worked on grants and member programs, along with the ranching legacy program and issues management.

There had been conversations at CCA about a replacement for Fankhauser when he planned to return to his family's cattle ranch in Kansas, and the board of directors had conver-

sations about hiring internally or looking nationally for a candidate. After several interviews and conversations with the board, Erin was selected to replace Fankhauser.

Since taking the helm at CCA, Erin has attended affiliate meetings and tackled the cattle industry's issues. Erin said while there have been few issues or bills in the current Colorado legislative session affecting agriculture, CCA has spent a lot of time educating the freshman legislators about agriculture. Erin said there are 31 newly elected legislators who have limited knowledge about agriculture, and it seems "like an uphill battle." CCA has been taking legislators to ranches to meet producers and provide an opportunity to highlight what they are doing in Colorado.

A hot-button issue for CCA and its members is the reintroduction of gray wolves in the state after voters approved a measure in 2020.

Erin said CCA has been keeping its members in-

formed and having them and the association at meetings held by the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) Commission. CCA also provided research for the commission and its members to help draft the wolf management plan.

"The management plan is not perfect, but I think the work that CCA, our members and other ag organizations did during the stakeholder advisory meetings got the plan to a much better place than people were expecting," Erin said. "I think there are still issues, and we are working through the remaining issues with the CPW Commission and staff on the draft management plan."

Erin said the issue of wolf reintroduction is a three-prong approach. First, it's the draft management plan. Second is the proposition of an experimental population under Section 10(j) rule of the Endangered Species Act. Third is working with legislators to get compensation bills for depredation losses and language in a bill to ensure

wolves are not introduced before the 10(j) rule.

Erin encourages members to comment on the 10(j) rule. Comments may be submitted by visiting www.regulations.gov and searching for Docket ID FWS-R6-ES-2022-0100. She said CCA is seeking legal counsel to comment on the proposal, as they need the 10(j) rule in place for management flexibility.

Erin said there should be a partnership with the Colorado Beef Council to build trust with the legislature and consumers to promote Colorado producers and beef.

"I think our job is to educate and make sure there's an understanding of production practices to the legislative body and understand that ranchers are doing the best possible job to take care of cattle and other livestock as well," Erin said. "And then I think it's also working to demystify those production practices to the general public." — Charles Wallace, WLJ editor



Erin Karney

Courtesy photo

Collecting data off the ranch aids management decisions

Tracking devices tell us everything from the number of steps we take to the amount of calories we consume to the hours of restful sleep we get at night, among other things. That data provides valuable information to those who are seeking it.

While the collection mechanisms are different, tracking data on cattle after they leave the ranch can offer beneficial information to cow-calf producers, said the experts at the Kansas State (K-State) University Beef Cattle Institute on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast.

"One of the best ways to get performance information on the calves after they leave the ranch is to retain ownership of them through the finishing phase," said Phillip Lancaster, beef cattle nutritionist.

Lancaster explains that with this system, the beef producer assumes the expenses through cattle feeding, and the cattle are managed as a separate group from others in the feedyard. Producers can learn the rate of gain and feed efficiency of the cattle that are managed that way.

He said electronic identification via an ear tag allows the cattle to be tracked through the finishing phase and provides carcass information post-harvest.

"I would want to know the quality and yield grade scores and ribeye area post-harvest," Lancaster said. "The dressing percentage

would also be good to know."

Veterinarian Brad White said quality grade is a measure of factors that influence the palatability of the meat, including the amount of marbling (shown as flecks of fat; the more marbling the more flavorful the meat is) as well as carcass maturity, firmness, texture and color. He said yield grade relates to the cutability of the carcass, meaning the percent of retail yield of the four main primal cuts of the chuck, rib, loin and round. Dressing percentage looks at how the carcass weight compares to the live weight of the animal at the time of harvest.

Along with looking at performance data, veterinarian Brian Lubbers said there is some valuable health information that can be shared by tracking the cattle through the cattle feeding phase.

"I would want to know the morbidity, meaning when did the calves get sick and with what disease as well as the mortality, which is knowing what they died of," Lubbers said.

He added: "Cattle that get sick early in the cattle feeding phase are more of a reflection of what I can influence with herd health protocols in my cow-calf herd."

Lubbers also said it would be helpful to know how the cattle from the producer's ranch compared to the rest

of the cattle on feed in that particular yard.

While this all is good information for cow-calf producers to have, White cautioned that retained ownership is not always a financially viable option.

"Retaining ownership greatly changes the producer's risk and cash flow if they've sold their cattle at weaning in the past," White said. "So, it is important to have risk management strategies in place if this is an option that producers choose to follow."

If retaining ownership in the whole group of calves is too much risk for a producer, Lancaster offered another option.

"For smaller producers or those who don't want to assume a great deal of risk, a steer feed-out program is a great option," Lancaster said.

With this option, producers enter a percentage of their calves into the program and the cattle are managed in a group with other cattle. Producers pay the feed bill through the cattle feeding phase and are given information about how the cattle perform while live and post-harvest, according to Lancaster.

"If retaining ownership or a feed-out program are not options, developing a good relationship with the feedyard personnel will also give you some of the information you are seeking," he said. — K-State Research and Extension

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CA Senate ag committee session offers farm bill input

As the No. 1 agricultural state, with a \$51.1 billion farm economy and more than 400 commodities, California and its government leaders, farmers and residents are weighing in on how members of Congress should shape the 2023 Farm Bill.

During a recent state Senate Agriculture Committee hearing, Sen. Melissa Hurtado (D-CA-16), the committee chair, said it is important to speak up on reauthorizing the federal legislation given the urgency of climate change threatening food security.

“Experts believe that if not more is done to adapt, global yields could decline by up to 30% by 2050,” said Hurtado. “These threats impact us all, but they are most felt by those living in rural communities. California has always taken pride in providing food for the world. But we must give agriculture the atten-

tion it deserves, one that extends beyond farming and considers everything within the food system.”

The last farm bill was signed into law in 2018 and is set to expire Sept. 30. The omnibus legislation, up for renewal in the 2023 bill, governs many areas related to agriculture, including nutrition, commodity programs, crop insurance, conservation, trade, forestry and rural development.

Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA-21) is a senior member on the House Agriculture Committee, which has oversight to craft a five-year farm bill. He described the legislative package as “a safety net for America’s farmers, ranchers, dairymen and women, and farmworkers, but also for American consumers with the nutrition programs a critical component.”

Agricultural groups, in-

cluding the California Farm Bureau, highlighted challenges facing America’s largest agricultural economy, including supply chain disruptions, labor shortages, inflation and rising input costs. To recover from related losses, leaders advocated for improved risk management for farmers by strengthening crop insurance and disaster programs.

“This farm bill should prioritize development of new crop insurance tools for uncovered producers as well as improvements to existing tools in a practical, affordable way regardless of commodity and farm size,” said California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson, who farms olives and citrus fruit in Oroville, CA. “Here in California, less than a quarter of our 400 commodities are covered by existing crop insurance programs.”

Johansson said farmers facing significant losses from disasters often encountered delays in receiving federal aid. For example, California producers had to wait nearly three years to see any form of financial support from the federal Emergency Relief Program, formerly known as Wildfires and Hurricane Indemnity Program Plus (WHIP).

Napa County winegrape grower Peter Nissen told the committee that disaster assistance programs have been helpful to North Coast farmers, who in recent years have faced three major wildfires, flooding and high temperatures affecting crops.

“I had to replace irrigation equipment, and I went through the WHIP program in 2017,” said Nissen, president of the Napa County Farm Bureau. “It did take a while, a couple years, but it is an important

component of the farm bill. Without the crop insurance opportunities, it would’ve been a difficult situation for me to keep a viable business going. It is important that this safety net of crop insurance continues.”

California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross told the hearing that “crop insurance is vital to the state because of the sheer diversity of the many crops we grow” in a state globally renowned for its fruits, vegetables, nuts and other specialty crops.

While specialty crops are highly nutritious and circulate dollars into rural communities, Ross said, they also come with high risk and high production costs.

“The farm bill touches every citizen of California on a daily basis, whether they realize it or not,” Ross said. “It is really important that we look at the farm bill as an opportunity for growth to improve the health of our citizens, the health of our agricultural economy and the health of our rural communities.”

Speakers at the informational session called for farm bill support for programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for needy families, the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, which helps farmers and ranchers with conservation on working lands, and the Market Access Program (MAP), which helps boost agricultural exports.

“Establishing a fair, level playing field for American specialty crop producers includes assisting producers with unfair foreign competition, promoting American specialty crops in foreign markets and eliminating trade barriers that discriminate against U.S. specialty crop exports,” said Ian LeMay,

president of the California Fresh Fruit Association.

Noting that MAP is heavily oversubscribed, LeMay suggested that program funding be doubled.

Michael Delbar, president of California Rangeland Trust, which provides agricultural land conservation services, called for increased investment in the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. It preserves working farms and ranches while protecting habitat and wildlife.

Delbar said the Rangeland Trust has conserved 371,000 acres across California. But he said agricultural land continues to disappear and that more conservation funding is needed to address the trend.

“The farm bill traditionally has distributed to the state of California between \$5 million and \$8 million a year. That’s a drop in the bucket,” he said. “We could sure use more money out of that allocation.”

Dan Sumner, an agricultural and resource economics professor at the University of California, Davis, emphasized the importance of continued research funding. “I believe the economics of innovation is really what’s behind the success of agriculture, not just here in California but globally,” he said.

Authorizing programs as part of the farm bill is just one step of the process. Sumner explained that programs with mandatory spending are paid for by using multiyear budget estimates or baseline funding, while programs with authorized discretionary funding require additional congressional approval.

“Keep your eye on the appropriation side,” Sumner said, “because it’s really crucial.” — **Christine Souza, assistant editor of Ag Alert, California Farm Bureau Federation**

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LOT 26



SON OF SR DOMINATE 308

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	CHB
3.6	3.2	59	97	29	.64	.09	131

EYE APPEAL BULL OF THE SALE
BROTHERS - OUTSTANDING SIRE GROUP

LOT 107



SON OF WHR 290E BEEFMAKER 250G

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	CHB
1.3	4.2	76	121	32	.61	.23	160

TOP YW BULL IN THE SALE
THE SIRE GROUP TO LOOK AT - THICK TOPS

LOT 118



SON OF BCC DOMINATOR 619D

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	CHB
.7	3.7	62	106	25	.73	.12	138

FULL BROTHER TO DOMINATE 308
MANY TOP-END SELL

LOT 76



SON OF CHURCHILL MARK DOM 697D

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	CHB
6	1.3	53	92	42	.37	.43	149

FANCY WITH GOOD DATA
MANY LOW BW - CARCASS BROTHERS SELL

LOT 86



SON OF STARDANCE M8086

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	CHB
5.8	2.3	66	195	36	.57	.49	162

HIGH CARCASS
AND LOOKS THE PART

LOT 20



SON OF UU BAKKEN 8027F

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	CHB
7.89	.8	57	104	46	.47	.3	136

SUPER SIRE GROUP OF VOLUME-MUSCLE
WITH LOADS OF EYE APPEAL

LOT 6



SON OF ADVANCE O159H

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	CHB
1.8	3.6	65	101	39	.75	.24	148

OUTSTANDING SIRE GROUP
PIGMENT. MARKINGS. GROWTH. CARCASS

LOT 15



SON OF MH REVERE 830

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	CHB
3.6	2.6	64	108	34	.41	.15	111

GREAT GROUP-DEEP, THICK AND SHORT MARKED
ALL WOULD WORK ON SOLID MARKED COWS

LOT 62



SON OF SR NATIONAL 305

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MARB	CHB
1.9	4.4	67	105	24	.61	.08	112

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Slow start for beef exports this year

U.S. beef exports were record-breaking in 2022 but slowed late in the year, according to data released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). This trend continued in January, as shipments were well below the large totals from a year ago.

Beef exports declined to several major destinations in January, though shipments increased sharply to Mexico, the Dominican Republic, the Philippines and Africa. January volume fell 15% year over year to 100,942 metric tons (mt), valued at \$702.3 million (down 32%).

Beef inventories swelled in some key markets near the end of last year, contributing to a challenging

environment for U.S. exports.

“While beef exports are off to a slow start in 2023, we remain optimistic that post-COVID food service demand will strengthen in additional markets as the year progresses,” said USMEF President and CEO Dan Halstrom.

Lamb exports

January exports of U.S. lamb muscle cuts totaled 222 mt, up 161% from the low year-ago volume, while export value essentially doubled to \$1.1 million (up 99%). Growth was led by strong increases to Mexico and the Caribbean, while shipments were also higher to Canada and Guatemala. — **USMEF**

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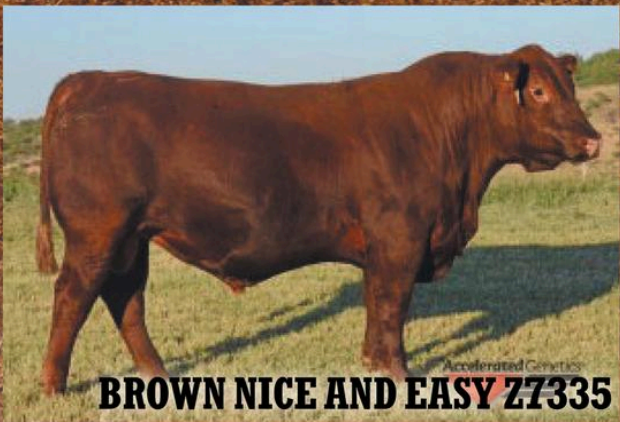
CED	11
BW	-0.9
WW	64
YW	117
Milk	25



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CED	17
BW	-0.1
WW	66
YW	128
Milk	22



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BW	18
WW	-5.1
YW	56
Milk	1.01



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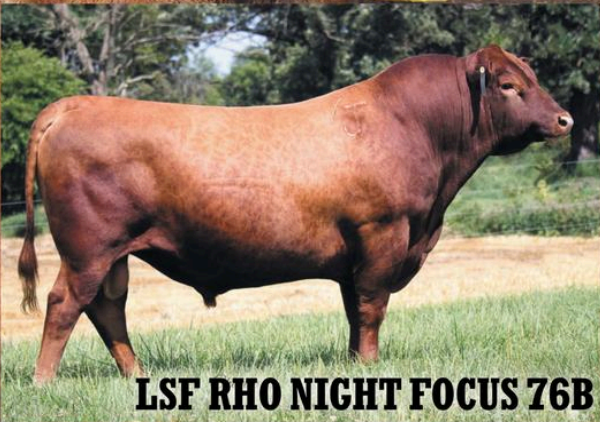
CED	17
BW	-4.5
WW	72
YW	118
Milk	31



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WW	-6
YW	55
Milk	1.56



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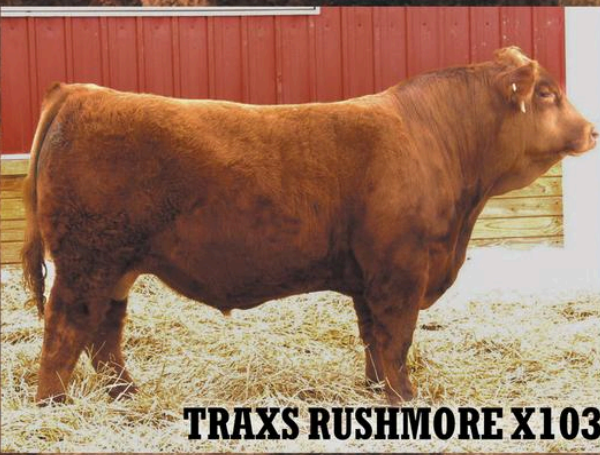
CED	72
BW	14
WW	-3
YW	75
Milk	1.7



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WW	81
YW	122.8
Milk	11.8



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WW	82
YW	130
Milk	11

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Automated guidance equipment is favored with new tech

A study of American farmers' adoption of precision agriculture technology indicates that during the first two decades of the 21st century, acreage farmed with automated systems has increased 10-fold or more.

The findings are reported in a study conducted by Kansas State (K-State) University precision agriculture economist Terry Griffin and colleagues with the USDA's Economic Research Service.

The report, "Precision Agriculture in the Digital Era: Recent Adoption on U.S. Farms," is available online. Griffin said the report studies adoption of precision technology on several major crops, including corn, soybean, winter wheat, grain sorghum and more.

"The most adopted technologies typically have the word 'automated' in their names," Griffin said. "The reason for that is that they tend to make life a little bit easier for the operators than if they didn't have the technology."

As an example, Griffin notes that equipment that provides automated guidance makes life easier for farmers as they work through fields, "but the user doesn't have to understand any of the high technology that goes into it."

"Automated guidance is embodied into the technology," Griffin said. "The user is endowed with the ability to use it."

From 2001-16, auto-steer guidance systems were used on 5.3% of planted corn acres in the U.S. and increased to 58% in 2016. Griffin said that 2019 estimates for sorghum and cotton indicated that 72.9% and 64.5% of planted acres, respectively, used auto-steer systems.

Also in 2019, GPS systems were used on 40% of all U.S. farm and ranch acreage for on-farm production, he said.

Data technologies—such as yield mapping and soils mapping—are still important in American agriculture, but Griffin said American farmers

are adopting those technologies at much lower rates—less than one-fourth of all planted acres in the U.S.

Griffin said that precision agriculture—and digital agriculture, a closely related term that reflects all information technologies applied to agriculture—is important to American agriculture. The industry will have to greatly increase production in order to feed a hungry world; the United Nations estimates that the world's population will swell to 9.7 billion by 2050.

Other key findings in the report include:

- Adoption rates vary by farm size. At least one-half of relatively large row crop farms rely on various technologies, while less than 25% of smaller farms use any of the top four technologies.

Digital agriculture technology adopters are more likely than non-adopters to download public data for use in decision-making, though overall adoption remains uncommon. Farmers more of-

ten obtain crop management recommendations based on technologies that collect data in their fields.

- Farmers are likely to use precision agriculture technologies for a variety of rea-

sons. As technologies evolve, so have farmers' rationale for using them.

The detailed report is online from K-State's Department of Agricultural Economics, and at www.k-state.edu/agmanager.info. Griffin also talked about his work recently on K-State's weekly podcast, "Agriculture Today," with Samantha Bennett, which is available online. — **K-State Research and Extension**

Lawmakers introduce bill for legal exemption

FIRE
(from page 1)

Northern California and beyond and is critical in safeguarding communities at imminent risk from catastrophic wildfire, but prevention is not enough," said Matt Dias, president and CEO of California Forestry Association, an intervenor in the suit. "We must be able to combat wildfires with everything we have, and limiting the U.S.

Forest Service's ability to do so flies in the face of forest conservation."

Background

Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics (FSEEE) filed suit in 2022 in the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana, contending USFS dropped fire retardant "directly into national forest navigable waters."

The suit states USFS is required to obtain a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit under the Clean Water Act. In response to the lawsuit, USFS acknowledged that it has discharged fire retardant into navigable waters without an NPDES permit, and may in the future discharge again without a permit. However, the intervenors' suit states that USFS is actively pursuing an NPDES permit.

Andy Stahl, FSEEE's executive director, has contended that fire retardants do not work to save homes and said they are ineffective.

"Its use might be justified if retardant made any difference to fire outcomes. There's no evidence it does," Stahl told E&E News. "That makes the environmental trade-offs not worth it."

Dias said fire retardants save lives and USFS should be allowed to use flame retardants while the permitting process is moving forward, "or we haven't seen the worst of wildfires." Travis Josh, president and CEO of the American Forest Resource Council, concurred in an email to *WLJ* sent by a representative communications agency. He said the health of its member's private forestlands relies on prompt and

effective fire suppression efforts by USFS.

Jamie Johansson, president of California Farm Bureau, said the organization supports the use of fire retardant to protect farmers and ranchers.

"Our farmers and ranchers face severe threats from wildfires that can occur in national forests and spread to agricultural lands," Johansson said in the email. "Additionally, fires threaten the lives of livestock, disrupt grazing operations and put our rural agricultural communities in peril. We support the Forest Service's continued use of this important fire-fighting tool."

On Jan. 31, members of the Congressional Western Caucus held a special order on the House of Representatives floor to raise awareness about the case and emphasize the need for fire retardants.

"Firefighters risk their lives to protect our communities, other people, and our forests. And we should listen to them when they tell us that fire retardant makes their job safer and that it truly is an essential tool to protect lives," said Chairman Dan Newhouse (R-WA-04).

Rep. Matt Rosendale (R-MT-02) said wildfires burned 7.5 million acres in 2022 and the amount burned "could easily be doubled or tripled if not for the use of safe and effective fire retardants."

Newhouse and Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA-01) introduced the Forest Protection and Wildland Firefighter Safety Act of 2023 which would provide a Clean Water Act exemption for firefighting agencies so they can continue to use fire retardant to fight wildfires. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**



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MILK +33 MARB +.58 RE +.45 SW +78



Lot 2

AAA 20567183 Sitz Stellar son
CED +8 BW -1.6 WW +68 YW +124
MILK +39 MARB +.24 RE +.42 SW +77



Lot 1

AAA 20566307 Botts Ozzie 0617 son
CED -2 BW +2.4 WW +70 YW +130
MILK +26 MARB +.52 RE +.39 SW +64



Lot 15

AAA 20567167 Sitz Stellar son
CED +4 BW +.5 WW +87 YW +145
MILK +28 MARB +.24 RE +.46 SW +89



Lot 33

AAA 20566220 Sitz Logo son
CED +9 BW +.1 WW +71 YW +125
MILK +37 MARB +.64 RE +.29 SW +80



Lot 26

AAA 20566313 Botts Ozzie 0617 son
CED +6 BW +1.0 WW +66 YW +155
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COMING EVENTS

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

March 27-29 – The American Sheep Industry Association's Spring Trip to Washington, D.C., is set for March 27-29. Sheep producers from state and national associations across the U.S. will visit the nation's capital to meet with their congressional delegations on issues of interest to the industry. Producers interested in joining the trip should contact their state sheep association executive, or Peter Orwick at peter@sheepusa.org.

April 24-25 – The Public Lands Council's 2023 Legislative Conference will be held in-person in Washington, D.C. Attendees will hear from congressional members, policy experts, scientists, partner group representatives and other industry professionals dedicated to Western lands, waters and perspectives. Details: publiclandscouncil.org/2023-legislative-conference.

May 4-5 – The 2023 Animal Agriculture Alliance's Stakeholders Summit is slated for May 4-5 in Arlington, VA. Full agenda and registration: whova.com/portal/registration/annua5.202305.

May 21-27 – Save the date for the Nebraska Sandhills Ranch Tour, presented by Western Livestock Journal. For more details, visit www.wljtours.com or contact Devin Murnin at 406-696-1502.

May 24-26 – The California Cattlemen's Association Feeder Council and Arizona Cattle Feeders Association Meeting will be held in San Diego, CA, at the Marriott Marquis. Registration: cattlemen.org/event/2023-feeder-meeting.

July 5-8 – The Wolf Point Wild Horse Stampede will celebrate its 100th year in Wolf Point, MT. Tickets are available after June 21 by calling 406-653-1770.

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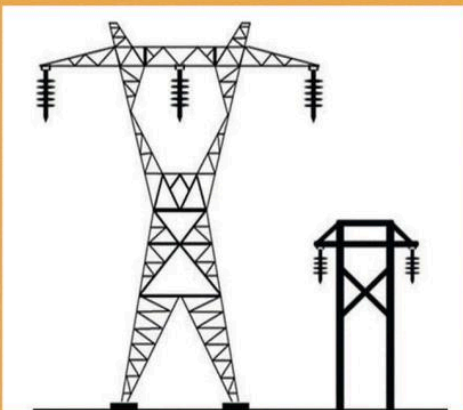
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How to optimize spring grazing on a regenerative ranch

Achieving ideal timing to maximize spring grazing may feel as tedious as Goldilocks’ pursuit of the perfect porridge. Turn livestock out too soon and you’re liable to damage future growth. Wait too long and you risk missing the most productive opportunity of the season.

Getting it just right, Noble Research Institute Ranch Facility Manager Curt Larson said, depends on keen observation, flexibility and responsiveness to your environment.

Larson manages the Oswalt Ranch in south-central Oklahoma. In the decade and a half he’s been there, he has seen and experimented with about every approach to spring grazing.

“We’ve had to change our mentality over the years,” Larson said, pointing back to the days when they would bring in stocker calves, hold them for 45 days on hay until spring

green-up arrived, then turn them out to a planted winter-wheat pasture.

The traditional one-steer-per-acre stocking rate usually holds true as a regional rule of thumb. “When cool-season grasses are gone, we would gather and go on to native pastures, then wait for the next warm-season crop of annual grasses to emerge.”

“Often, either the grass would get ahead of the cattle, or the cattle would get ahead of the grass, one of the two,” Larson said.

Observe closely

Today, the Oswalt Ranch team puts their emphasis on environmental observation, diversity and measuring forage availability for more-exact grazing plans. In October, they plant a cool-season combination of winter wheat, rye, clover and/or vetch and then start buying stocker calves in Novem-

ber or December.

Ideally, they will save warm-season native grasses from the previous summer to graze as winter forage, offering a holdover until air and soil temperatures start to warm. Larson starts monitoring forage availability on the cool-season planted pastures as soon as green emerges, using a forage stick to measure availability and calculate carrying capacity accordingly.

Small paddocks

In one pasture test plot, Larson and Frank Rhoades, ranch facility assistants at Oswalt, have a 160-acre square split into 5-acre grazing paddocks or traps. The grazing plan typically calls for one day of grazing on each paddock. They set up temporary polywire fencing a couple of moves ahead to guide the animals through the rapid rotation. Depending on rainfall and

green growth, that rotation might be sped up or slowed down.

Ideally, they keep animals moving at a pace that allows them to take only one bite of a plant and leave enough leaf structure to continue photosynthesis and rapid growth. With 32 paddocks in the 160-acre pasture, each paddock gets at least 30 days of rest and regeneration.

“By the time we go through the system once, we’re back on top of the prime growth, ready for a second cycle through it,” Larson said.

Match with soil health needs

While the animals make their way through the first-growth graze, Larson pulls samples for a Haney soil test. He works with soil scientists to determine the most advantageous cropping mix for warm-season

grasses based on what the soil may be deficient in or carry in excess, just as he does in the fall to determine the cool-season planting combination.

“I’m not against using some kind of natural fertilizer if you need to get these spring pastures back in shape,” Larson said. “But what we’ve found is that you can do the same thing by selecting different legumes or plants in that cool-season mix.”

Warm-season planting mixes often contain 15 or 20 species for a variety of soil responses. After livestock make a second pass through a cool-season paddock, he’s immediately on the no-till drill to seed the chosen mix into standing forage and residue. This time, he leaves the fence down behind the cattle, giving them a chance to backtrack over freshly seeded ground.

“I call it ‘treading it in,’” Larson said. “You get that hoof action, plus fresh manure and nutrients from the animals, and we sure find a stronger germination response with that.”

After two or three days, the back fence line is closed so hoof action doesn’t damage germinating seeds. Once again, by the time the herd makes it through another 30-day rotation, it returns to a fresh stand of warm-season crops ready for

summer grazing.

“This whole idea is about hitting it and hitting it quick. So we move fast, give it plenty of time to rest, always keep those animals on the freshest nutrition, always have something fresh to roll back onto,” Larson said.

Be flexible

The grazing plan for the ranch is set well in advance, but it’s flexible enough to adjust for the moisture and growth available.

“If I see those winter annuals slowing down, we’re not getting the moisture, I’ll kick them onto my stockpiled native pasture to give it a chance to catch up,” he said. “If my winter annuals are going big, I know I can stockpile that native pasture for the next winter.”

These management decisions vary greatly depending on region, climate and forage availability, but the same principles can be applied to all environments.

“The main thing is to just observe your grass. Do your clippings and weigh the forage, and know what you’ve got,” Larson said. “Try to give yourself as many options as possible. The more diversity you can give yourself, the better off you are.” — **Laura Nelson for the Noble Research Institute**

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Online ‘Drought Proofing the Ranch’ course here

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service’s course “Drought Proofing the Ranch” is now available online.

The cost is \$100; however, the first 100 registrants will receive the course at no cost. The course is two hours, but participants may view it at their own pace. Register at tx.ag/DroughtProofingRanch.

“Participants will increase their understanding of drought management strategies,” said Morgan Treadwell, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension rangeland specialist. “Drought is an ever-present specter for Texas livestock and forage producers, and this course will help producers create plans for managing livestock and rangelands, specifically, brush and weeds with herbicides, during drought.”

With 8.7 million Texans currently impacted by drought, this course offers timely advice and guidance for those ranchers affected as well as for preparing for future occurrences.

“The course will help producers develop risk management strategies, identify the best risk management tools and recognize the importance of advanced preparation for when a drought occurs,” she said. “The goal is for

producers to learn to identify drought conditions and to develop a plan to mitigate losses due to drought ahead of time.”

Topics covered

The course is taught by Treadwell; Jason Smith, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension beef cattle specialist; Pancho Abello, AgriLife Extension economist; and Justin Benavidez, Ph.D., former AgriLife Extension economist.

The topics the course will cover include:

- Creating a plan to address livestock management during drought.
- Risk management products for drought mitigation: forage and livestock insurance options.
- Nutritional and other management strategies.
- Rangeland management and wildfire mitigation strategies during drought.
- Economic management strategies to minimize drought impact.
- Evaluation strategies for feeding through a drought and longer-term consequences.
- Tax implications for the sale of a large number of livestock.
- Stocking rate adjustments and their consequences. — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

For bull buying, one size doesn't fit all

When buying bulls, commercial producers need to keep top of mind that one size doesn't fit all. Forget the fads that come and go with the wind, and purchase bulls custom fit to your unique circumstances. This means purchasing bulls that will fit best into an individual's matrix of environment, management, labor, feed resources and market that are unique to every operation.

Although bulls should be bought to optimize profitability on the individual's ranch, they should also be designed to give the next segment of the industry a reasonable opportunity to be profitable. Plus, always keep in mind that someone needs to have an enjoyable eating experience from everyone's cattle if we are to survive as an industry.

Our industry is really in the danger zone when commercial producers start to drool over whichever recent bull had a 1,000-pound weaning weight. Just think about that. What profitable commercial operation has the affordable feed resources and cheap labor to wean 1,000-lb. calves? And if you were raising 1,000-lb. calves at weaning, what cost will there be in supplemental feed to meet the nutrient needs of a cow herd with the milk and growth genetics to produce those kinds of calves?

Then there is the size of the cows in the herd, which will go up accordingly with the growth potential, and when combined with the high milk potential of dams that can produce a 1,000-lb. calf, the maintenance requirements will get out of hand quickly. The other cost will be decreased reproduction and longevity, causing higher replacement rates of heifers that are more expensive to develop. This is not a scenario for profitability.

Some go the other route, with tiny cows compared to the industry standard, with low growth and milk potential. Yes, they will have low maintenance requirements and likely have a higher breed-back rate. These systems may have improved reproduction and longevity compared to the very high-maintenance cattle discussed prior, however, this cannot be taken for granted. The whole thesis of running these lower input and output cows is to increase the stocking to produce more calves per acre to make up for the lower productivity.

Another standard selling point is smaller calves sell more per pound than large calves. However, this also can't be taken for granted. Small calves generally are that way because of things like being short of feed due to drought and/or weaning early. However, when operations with purposely developed low-growth potential cattle enter the market with light calves, many feedlots will put those cattle that are known to have those genetic inputs on their "no-buy list." This actually makes it desirable for the cattle to be marketed with anonymity as to their source, which is getting

harder and harder to do in this day and age.

Now for some specifics. Many, if not most, Western herds have maxed the weaning weights their cattle will express due to environmental limitations. There are several datasets that show this clearly. However, purebred breeders generally continue to linearly increase the weaning weight growth potential in their cattle. This is to the detriment of their customers, as maintenance costs on their cows will generally increase right along with it and longevity will decrease in kind. Therefore, both Weaning Weight and Milk EPDs should be looked at as threshold traits with the proper threshold being different for each ranch. Buying bulls whose genetics way undershoot what a producer's environment will express, or bulls that overshoot what the environment will allow to be expressed, are paths to unprofitability.

The late, great breeder and performance pioneer George Chiga was the one who coined the term "convenience traits" 60 years ago, which are now more commonly referred to as "functional traits." He used to ask, "How much performance do you need?" and then answer himself, "Enough to make money and then focus on convenience." That means cattle that fit your environment, are easy to work, easy keeping, sound and good footed, shed quickly and completely in the spring, calve easily and have vigor, have good disposition and are fertile. This all adds up to cattle that take less labor and feed, and have more longevity.

Chiga managed a good-sized herd and was an expert on facilities, and his philosophy allowed him to manage his herd with only some seasonal help. Most of the time, he worked the herd alone. One of the founders of the Red Angus Association of America in 1954, he was a man far ahead of his time, and buying bulls using Chiga's philosophy stands up today as well as it did 60 years ago.

Sleeping at night is a great thing, so purchase bulls that have appropriate calving ease. Remember, the dam contributes half the genetics and all the environment, so keep this in mind when you decide what is appropriate calving ease in your sires. Again, this is a threshold-type trait, and what is appropriate will differ for heifers and cows. Overshoot the mark and you might end up with too many small, weak calves, which can eat up a lot of time keeping them alive in cold or muddy situations.

Undershoot the mark significantly, and you should be ready to spend more nights than you would like out pulling calves. I think the Beef Improvement Federation should not only have calving scores but also ones for vigor. It makes all the difference in the world if a calf has a desire to live, getting up quickly and

Do your homework and buy the bulls that are right for your operation. Forget about the fads and fancies, and what others think. What is important is your knowledge of your operation, and only through that knowledge can the correct bulls be had.

nursing. I am convinced there are differences in breeds, herds and bloodlines on this trait.

The last job when buying a bull is to make sure he has enough post-weaning growth potential, as well as genetics for carcass traits to produce feeder cattle that are desirable to feed and will hang a heavy carcass that will pay on a value-based system. If you are selling at a minimum of quarter loads, there is high likelihood feedlots can source your calves in their yard back to your operation. If you want repeat

buyers and competitive bidding on your calves, don't forget about your customers.

It is an exciting time of the year. Bull-buying season is a time of promise and will determine where your cowherd is five to eight years from now. Do your homework and buy the bulls that are right for your operation. Forget about the fads and fancies, and what others think. What is important is your knowledge of your operation, and only through that knowledge can the correct bulls be had.
— Dr. Bob Hough, WLJ correspondent

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PIE HOLLYWOOD 222 | Reg: 4702973

Brown CRSB Confidence G1410 x PIE 0105

PRO S: 135 GM: 116 CED: 17 BW: -3 WW: 91 YW: 163 Marb: 0.95 REA: 0.73
One of the top herd bulls to sell all year. He injects Angus breed legend Confidence plus and his pedigree is stacked with top donors for generations.



PIE HERDSMAN 2012 | Reg: 4703177

KJL/CL2B Complete 7000E x PIE Robin 054

PRO S: 124 GM: 77 CED: 13 BW: -3.9 WW: 83 YW: 141 Marb: 0.75 REA: 0.22
This is one of the best Complete sons we have offered and is the most like his sire that we have seen anywhere.



PIE RECOGNITION 2128 | Reg: 4704209

MRLA Respect 41G x PIE Janet 9726

PRO S: 87 GM: 29 CED: 7 BW: 0.5 WW: 76 YW: 114 Marb: 0.32 REA: -0.17
Unreal phenotype in this outcross Respect son.



PIE CENTERFIRE 2064 | Reg: 4702321

Brown CRSB Confidence G1410 x PIE Tilly 993

PRO S: 130 GM: 83 CED: 18 BW: -5 WW: 72 YW: 124 Marb: 0.86 REA: 0.61
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Colorado River crisis tests a proud region

In late February, a dozen miles north of the Mexico border, farmer Mark Osterkamp walked across cracked earth and into a lush green field, plunging a shovel into the soil and pulling out a handful of cold, wet carrots.

Despite its arid climate, California's Imperial Valley produces most of the U.S.' winter vegetables, providing the lettuce, celery, cilantro, spinach, cabbage, broccoli, carrots and other crops that allow people from Seattle to Boston to eat salads and cook fresh produce year-round.

Unlike most agricultural regions, the Imperial Valley—with little rain and no groundwater—depends on a single source of water: the Colorado River. "That's our lifeblood," said Tina Shields, water manager for the Imperial Irrigation District (IID).

Now, that lifeblood may be threatened, as competing interests battle over supplies from the depleted river and federal officials threaten to intervene. Despite holding senior water rights, which give them priority in times of scarcity, Osterkamp and other Imperial Valley growers face an uncertain future.

Fed by snowmelt in the Rocky Mountains, the Colorado River flows through seven U.S. states and Mexico, providing water to 40 million people in the West and irrigating more than 5 million acres of farmland, including roughly half a million in the Imperial Valley.

But the river is running dry. The basin states and Mexico have water rights to divert 16.5 million acre-feet from the Colorado River each year. For the past two decades, drought has reduced the river's inflows to 12.3 million acre-feet. Key reservoirs, Lake Powell and Lake Mead, have fallen to record lows. Within two years, scientists estimate, Lake Mead could hit dead pool, no longer able to supply any water to the Lower Basin, which includes Nevada, Arizona, California and Mexico.

Last year, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation asked states to agree on a plan to reduce their use of Colorado River water by 2 million to 4 million acre-feet per year. In January, six states signed a proposal to cut the Lower Basin's use by 2.9 million acre-feet, including 1 million acre-feet from California, about a quarter of the state's entitlement.

California refused to go along, citing the "Law of the River," a series of interstate water compacts, federal laws and court decisions that have governed water rights in the West for the past hundred years.

For centuries, the Imperial Valley was a barren desert. In 1901, land development companies diverted Colorado River water through a canal and into a natural overflow channel called the Alamo River, bringing water, agriculture and farmers to the Imperial

Valley. It soon transformed from desert into abundant farmland.

Between 1910 and 1920, the county's population grew faster than any in California. New landowners staked notices along the river where they diverted water and recorded their claims at a courthouse.

During those years, Walter Leimgruber, a Swiss dairy farmer, moved to the Imperial Valley and "homesteaded the land," said Ronnie Leimgruber, an Imperial Valley farmer and grandson of the dairyman.

Under a government program, Walter Leimgruber earned the deed and water rights after working the land for five years. He would later rent out his 14 horses for the construction of the All-American Canal, which now transports water 80 miles from the river to the valley. "That's how we got our water rights," Ronnie Leimgruber said.

In 1922, the seven basin states signed the Colorado River Compact, establishing a system of senior water rights and junior water rights. "If you came and diverted water before that guy over there," Osterkamp said, when there is a shortage, "you're always going to get water before that guy."

The system protected investments in the land and allowed newcomers to gauge future opportunities on remaining water availability. Many who arrived later acquired land with senior rights attached to it. Among them was Osterkamp's grandfather, who emigrated from the Netherlands in the 1940s.

"It started on a shoe-string," Osterkamp said. "He bought a few acres. My dad expanded, and then I continued to expand, and now my son has continued."

Today, the Imperial Valley has senior rights to 3.1 million acre-feet of the Colorado River, including 2.6 million in Present Perfected Rights, historic rights that predate the 1922 compact. When you are entitled to so much of the water, "you kind of have a target on your back," said Shields, the IID water manager. "You become the easy solution to other people's problems."

For years, Imperial Valley farmers have looked over their shoulders as Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix and Las Vegas, uninhibited by the region's limited water supply, grew exponentially. Their growth created water needs for millions of people. It also shifted the concentration of wealth and political influence.

"The water rights and water use of farmers in the Imperial Valley have been under attack for decades," said Chris Scheuring, senior counsel for the California Farm Bureau.

The proposal this year from the other states, which sweeps aside California's senior rights and applies drastic cuts across the Lower Basin, is the latest assault

on the farmers' water rights. "You have six other Colorado River Basin states pointing the finger at California," Scheuring said. "And who they're really pointing at is farmers."

California countered the states' proposal with an offer to cut its use by 400,000 acre-feet, roughly 9% of its allocation, including 250,000 acre-feet in cuts from the Imperial Valley.

"We live in the real world," said Larry Cox, an Imperial Valley farmer whose family has farmed in the region since 1952. "Yes, we have this protection—the seniority—but they're not going to be able to solve the issue on the river without additional water from Imperial Valley."

Since 2003, the IID has transferred up to half a million acre-feet of water each year—about 18% of its allocation—to San Diego and other cities in exchange for water-conservation fund-

ing. It is the nation's largest agriculture-to-urban water transfer. With the additional curtailments proposed by California, the district would be sacrificing almost a quarter of its allocation.

"That's a really heavy lift," Shields said. "We're looking at what we might have to do to help solve the problem, but we're also looking for the other basin states and water users to honor the existing agreements and the priority system."

With the states at a stalemate over how to reduce water use, the federal government may step in and enforce cuts. Multiple Supreme Court decisions have affirmed the Imperial Valley's water rights, but farmers are wary of "the court of public opinion," Leimgruber said.

The assumption is, "People in Phoenix aren't going to be forced to stop running their dishwashers so that

farmers in Imperial Valley can keep growing alfalfa," Scheuring said, referring to a water-intensive crop that has become a target for critics.

Beyond the Imperial Valley's water transfers to San Diego and California's new proposal, if any more water is cut from the valley, "we will grow less crops because we will be fallowing ground," Leimgruber said.

Following programs have occasionally been implemented in California to save water. But farmers taking land out of production is controversial due to the potentially devastating impacts on local economies. In the Imperial Valley, "we call it the F-word," Shields said.

Imperial County, which is 85% Latino, is one of the poorest in the nation, with unemployment rates four times the state average. For those who do have jobs, one in six work directly in agri-

culture, with much of the remaining economy dependent on the sector.

"If you take away agriculture, we don't have a community," Shields said. "We don't have a backup plan."

The Inflation Reduction Act includes \$4 billion in funding to address the Colorado River crisis, some of which could be used to compensate farmers for conserving water or fallowing their fields. It may also be used to support community funds to prop up local economies. But such outcomes remain speculative, and some Imperial Valley farmers view the prospect as a threat to their community and their way of life.

"More than likely, I'll be made whole," Leimgruber said, "but the effect on the economy will kill this valley." — **Caleb Hampton, assistant editor of Ag Alert, California Farm Bureau Federation**



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\$12,883\$P, \$18\$R, 1.19FERT
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136PROS, 38HB, 98GM, 17CED, -5.5BW, 70WW, 122YW,
31MILK, 16HPG, 9CEM, 10ST, 0.98MB, 0.41RE,
\$18,695\$P, \$59\$R, 1.58FERT
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Lot 19 • 2833K • 4620021 • 1/4/22

CHARTER X PROFITBUILDER X REDEMPTION
132PROS, 41HB, 91GM, 9CED, -0.6BW, 73WW, 130YW,
30MILK, 11HPG, 6CEM, 13ST, 0.65MB, 0.17RE,
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SALE REPORTS

HORNUNG LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SALE
March 8, Stratton, CO
29 Older bulls \$6,190
17 Yearling bulls 4,632
14 Commercial pairs 3,071
Auctioneer: Cody Lowderman
TOPS: HLS Mr Diablo 14, 9/2/21 by Diablo Deluxe 1104; to Caleb Nitsch, Burlington, CO, and Ron Dobler, Burlington, CO, \$10,000. HLS Mr Diablo 129, 9/8/21 by Diablo Deluxe 1104; to Greg Pelzer, Pilot Point, TX, and Lazy JB Angus, Montrose, CO, \$10,000. HLS Mr Capitalist 1CP65, 9/17/21 by LD Capitalist 316; to Tyson Junousek, Burlington, CO, \$9,000. HLS Mr Magnitude 128, 9/7/21 by Mead Magnitude; to William Harmon, Akron, CO, \$8,750. HLS Mr Broadview 1BV66, 10/8/21 by Heiken Broadview; to Caleb Nitsch, Burlington, CO, and Ron Dobler, Burlington, CO, \$8,250. — **JIM GIES**

KOBERSTEIN FARMS ANGUS BULL SALE
March 11, Ogallala, NE
9 Older bulls \$8,472
38 Yearling bulls 4,217
8 Open heifers 5,031
3 Bred heifers 10,083
1 Open cow 7,000
Auctioneer: Kevin Schow
Sale Manager: Parker Friedrich
TOPS—Bulls: KF Clarity 1512, 9/1/21 by Connealy Clarity; to

Zybach Ranch Briscoe, TX, \$16,000. KF Clarity 1522, 9/5/21 by Connealy Clarity; to Ron Lucas, Arapahoe, WY, \$9,500. KF Exponential 1513, 9/1/21 by KCF Bennett Exponential; to Ron Lucas, Arapahoe, WY, \$9,500. KF Surpass 2221, 1/29/22 by BJ Surpass; to Wilks Ranch, Eastland, TX, \$8,250. **Open heifer:** KF Ruby of Tiffany 2200, 2/16/22 by Shaver Imperial; to Big Timber Cattle Company, Lithia, FL, \$10,500. **Bred heifer:** KF Ruby of Tiffany 1514, 9/2/21 by Connealy Emerald, bred to Beal Breakthrough, due 9/7/23; to Richard Persinger, Diamond, OH, \$17,000. KF Patricia 1526, 9/5/21 by SG Salvation, bred to VT Statesman, due 9/6/23; to Express Ranches, Yukon, OK, \$9,000. **Open cow:** KF Ruby of Tiffany 9508, 8/29/19 by EXAR Monumental 6056B; to Mike Kuck, Luling, TX, \$7,000. — **JIM GIES**

LELAND-KOESTER RED ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE
March 10, Sidney, MT
116 Yearling bulls \$6,241
48 Fall bulls 6,145
35 Yearling heifers 1,907
Auctioneers: Lynn Weishaar and Seth Weishaar
TOPS—Bulls: Leland Propulsion 2082, 3/31/22 by BB Propulsion 9096; to Jason and Peggy Leiseth, Arnegard, ND, \$17,000. Leland Charter 2021, 3/24/22 by Lorenzen Charter 0906; to Jason and Peggy

Leiseth, Arnegard, ND, \$15,000. Leland Stockmarket 2164, 4/9/22 by Bieber CL Stockmarket E119; to Saunders Land & Livestock, Gillette, WY, \$15,000. Leland Shula 2048, 3/28/22 by Leachman Shula A113G; to Bob and Jane Schettler, Killdeer, ND, \$14,000. **Yearling heifer:** Leland Brunswick 2097, 4/2/22 by Feddes Brunswick D202; to Marshall Red Angus, Redfield, SD, \$2,500. Leland Lotto 2080, 3/31/22 by VGW Lotto 722; to Oland Red Angus, Leonard, ND, \$2,300. Leland Spartacus G06-2037, 3/27/22 by Bieber Rouse Spartacus G06; to Jeff Larson, Tioga, ND, \$2,300. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

HOLDEN HEREFORDS ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE
March 13, Valier, MT
104 Yearling bulls \$16,341
28 Fall yearling bulls 9,596
2 Donor cows 23,000
24 Yearling heifers 6,927
15 Black baldy open heifers ... 2,300
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS—Bulls: HH Advance 2054K, 2/5/22 by HH Advance 0074H; to Coates Ranch, Merten, TX, \$100,000. HH Advance 2116K, 1/13/22 by HH Advance 0022H; to Andrew Laprath, SD, Harold Jones, TX, Double J Herefords, KS, Harrison Cattle Co, OK, EF1 Cattle Co./Engelhard Farms, ND, and Sierra Ranches, CA, \$100,000. HH

Advance 2034K, 2/3/22 by HH Advance 0159H; to Cooper Hereford Ranch, Willow Creek, MT, \$85,000. HH Advance 2123K, 1/13/22 by HH Advance 0011H; to EF1 Cattle Co./Engelhard Farms, Carpio, ND, \$70,000. HH Advance 2137K, 1/15/22 by HH Advance 0074H; to Mrnak Herefords, Bowman, ND, \$52,500. HH Advance 2052K, 1/5/22 by HH Advance 1045L; to CX Ranch, Pomeroy, WA, \$45,000. HH Advance 2199K, 1/31/22 by CL1 Domino 883F 1ET; to Johansen Herefords, Castle Dale, UT, \$37,500. **Females:** CL1 Dominette 4136B, 1/26/14 by CL1 Domino 215Z; to Miskimon Ranch, Lane, OK, \$32,000. HH Miss Advance 2142K, 1/17/22 by HH Advance 0011H; to Stelflug Cattle, Glen Rock, WY, \$22,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

COOPER HEREFORDS 57TH ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE
March 14, Willow Creek, MT
87 Bulls \$13,480
28 Females 8,937
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS—Bulls: CL1 Domino 267K, 1/10/22 by CL1 Domino 0186H; to Churchill Cattle Co., Manhattan, MT, Hoffman Ranch, Thedford, NE, and Stelflug Ranch, Glen Rock, WY, \$125,000. CL1 Domino 2126K, 1/13/22 by CL1 Domino 0186H; to Ridder Herefords, Callaway, NE, and Baumgarten Herefords, Belfield,

ND, \$50,000. CL1 Domino 241K, 1/8/22 by CL 1 Domino 0186H; to Holden Herefords, Valier, MT, and EF1 Cattle Co./Engelhard Farms, Carpio, ND, \$45,000. CL1 Domino 2230K, 2/24/22 by CL 1 Domino 097H; to Van Newkirk Herefords, Oshkosk, NE, \$41,000. CL1 Domino 2191K, 1/31/22 by CL 1 Domino 0186H; to Edwards Ranch, Laramie, WY, and Berry Herefords, Cheyenne, WY, \$40,000. CL 1 Domino 2172K, 1/26/22 by CL 1 Domino 001H; to B&D Herefords, Claflin, KS, \$40,000. **Bred cow:** CL 1 Dominette 719E, 1/8/17 by CL1 Domino 215Z; to Churchill Cattle Co., Manhattan, MT, Kennedy Hoffman, Thedford, NE, and Stelflug Ranch, Glen Rock, WY, \$25,000. **Yearling heifer:** CL1 Dominette 238K 1ET, 1/8/22 by CL1 Domino 0186H; to L Bar W Cattle Co., Absarokee, MT, and EF1 Cattle Co./Engelhard Farms, Carpio, ND, \$23,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

VELTKAMP ANGUS ANNUAL BULL SALE
March 14, Manhattan, MT
84 Yearling bulls \$4,651
Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe
TOPS: VA Boulder 2006, 1/10/22 by K C F Bennett Boulder; to MY Angus, Chinook, MT, \$9,000. VAEZ Money 2157, 2/3/22 by FF EZ Money D217; to MY Angus, Chinook, MT, \$9,000. VA Commodore 2082, 1/23/22 by Kesslers Commodore 6516; to Hustad Ranches, Jackson, MT, \$7,750. VA Dry Valley 2138, 2/1/22 by Connealy Dry Valley; to Ed Chevalier, Helena, MT, \$7,750. VA Commodore 2108, 1/28/22 by Kesslers Commodore 6516; to MY Angus, Chinook, MT, \$7,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

STEVENSON ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE
March 15, Hobson, MT
61 Older bulls \$7,188
147 Yearling bulls 5,345
Auctioneers: Roger Jacobs & Joe Goggins
TOPS: Stevenson Everlast 1122, 4/26/21 by Stevenson Everlast; to a commercial buyer, \$16,000. Stevenson Optimum 20027, 1/22/22 by Deer Valley Optimum 9246; to SHB Angus, Reardon, WA, \$14,500. Stevenson Plus One 1020, 2/20/21 by E&B Plus One; to International Export, MT, \$14,500. Stevenson Rawhide 1042, 4/18/21 by Poss Rawhide; to a commercial buyer, \$13,000. Stevenson Growth Fund 1086, 4/23/21 by Deer Valley Growth Fund; to Sunny Okanogan Angus, Omak, WA, \$12,000. Stevenson Pappy 1018, 2/15/21 by Baldrige Pappy; to a commercial buyer, \$11,000. Stevenson Optimum 20027, 1/22/22 by Deer Valley Optimum 9246; to Martens Angus Farm, Bellevue, IA, \$10,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

BIEBER FEVER PERFORMANCE BULL SALE
March 2, Leola, SD
283 Bulls \$6,860
Auctioneer: Seth Weishaar
Tops: Bieber Paycheck K102, 1/10/22, by LARR Paycheck 0728; to Alta Genetics, \$37,500. Bieber Paycheck K113, 1/15/22, by LARR Paycheck 0728; to Feddes and C-T Red Angus, Manhattan, MT, \$31,000. Bieber Paycheck K126, 1/18/22 by LARR Paycheck 0728; to Select Sires, \$27,500. Bieber Paycheck K110, 1/14/22 by LARR Paycheck 0728, to Pieper Red Angus, Hay Springs, NE, \$22,000. — **PETE CROW**

COLYER HEREFORDS & ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE
Feb. 27, Bruneau, ID
137 Hereford bulls \$7,146
1 Older Angus bull 4,000
74 Yearling Angus bulls . 7,327
26 Hereford open heifers 4,288
22 Angus open heifers ... 4,015
Auctioneer: Butch Booker & Kyle Colyer
TOPS—Angus bulls: C Alternative 2081, 1/7/22 by Baldrige Alternative E125; to Ira Brackett, Homedale, ID, \$18,000. C Growth Fund 2009, 12/29/21 by Deer Valley Growth Fund; to GKB Cattle, Desdemona, TX, \$15,500. CCC Treasure 1207, 9/13/21 by Connealy Treasure 558H; to Neil Helmick, Mayfield, ID, \$13,500. C 316 Exclusive 2013, 12/30/21 by Musgrave 316 Exclusive; to Salmon

Falls Livestock, Hagerman, ID, \$13,000. C Alternative 2061, 1/5/22 by Baldrige Alternative E125; to Wilson & Wilson, Hammett, ID, \$12,500. C Tahoe 2104, 1/8/22 by Tehama Tahoe B767; to Wilson & Wilson, Hammett, ID, \$12,500. **Angus open heifers:** C Rita Rawhide 2067, 1/5/22 by Poss Rawhide; to Trevor Roche, Parma, ID, \$15,500. C Rita Rawhide 2070, 1/5/22 by Poss Rawhide; to Trevor Roche, Parma, ID, \$11,000. **Hereford bulls:** C 1311 Genesis 2135 ET, 1/16/22 by Loewen Genesis G16 ET; to Buck Cattle Co., Madill, OK, and Hoffman Ranch, Thedford, NE, $\frac{3}{4}$ interest, \$165,000. C 1311 Genesis 2105 ET, 1/11/22 by Loewen Genesis G16 ET; to Duane Loy Farms, Shipman, IL, $\frac{3}{4}$ interest, \$37,500. C Cuda Belle 2111, 1/11/22 by C Barracuda 0114 ET; to Knox Brothers, Tennyson, TX, \$37,500. C 1311 Endure 2124 ET, 1/13/22 by N/JW 79Z 2311 Endure 173D ET; to WY Buyer, \$22,000. C 4196 Genesis 2113 ET, 1/12/22 by Loewen Genesis G16 ET; to Mark Mackenzie, Jordan Valley, OR, \$17,500. C 8105 Genesis 2068 ET, 1/8/22 by Loewen Genesis G16 ET; to TI Ranch, Lamolille, NV, \$13,000. **Hereford open heifers:** C Donna West 2066, 1/8/22 by C Key West 0065; to Tudahl Herefords, Bigfork, MT, \$8,750. — **JARED PATTERSON**

BARKER CATTLE BULL SALE
Feb. 28, Burley, ID
75 Bulls \$4,756
52 Heifers 1,968
Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe
Sale Manager: Allied Genetic Resources
TOPS: BSR Barker Front Line KB15, 2/27/22 by Hook's Frontline 40F; to Clint Andrus, Hagerman, ID, \$6,500. BSR Barker Country KH252, 1/31/22 by BSUM Country Boy 038H; to Wrigley Farms, Burley, ID, \$6,500. — **JARED PATTERSON**

SNAKE RIVER VALLEY GENETICS BULL SALE
March 1, Blackfoot, ID
53 Angus bulls \$4,339
18 LimFlex bulls 4,258
20 Commercial open heifers 1,543
Auctioneer: Butch Booker
TOPS—Angus bulls: Adams Acres Charmer 53, 1/21/22 by Bubs Southern Charm AA31; to Willis Ranch, Cokeville, WY, \$8,000. BL Keep It Right 236K, 1/22/22 by SAV America 8018; to Colebee Knudsen, Aramo, ID, \$6,750. Rimrock Resilient 2224, 2/5/22 by Sitz Resilient 10208; to Paul Sweat, Heber City, UT, \$6,500. **LimFlex bulls:** BL Jump Start 151J, 8/16/21 by MAGS Firestone 218F; to Guild Ranch, Fort Bridger, WY, \$7,000. BL Johnny B Good 162J, 8/26/21 by LVLS Fortnite 798F; to Cornelison Ranch, Evanston, WY, \$6,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

CANNON ANGUS BULL SALE
March 2, Preston, ID
49 Angus bulls \$3,811
Auctioneer: Jake Parnell
Sale Manager: M3 Marketing
TOPS: Cannon Tahoe 870, 12/26/21 by Tehama Tahoe B767; to Dave Bosen, Preston, ID, \$6,250. Cannon Exclusive 878, 12/28/21 by Musgrave 316 Exclusive; to Favaro Ranch, CA, \$6,000. Cannon Exclusive 907, 1/7/22 by Musgrave 316 Exclusive; to Dave Bosen, Preston, ID, \$5,750. — **JARED PATTERSON**

CROUTHAMEL CATTLE BULL SALE
March 3, Stanfield, OR
30 Older bulls \$4,325
75 Yearling bulls 5,963
Auctioneer: Rick Machado
Sale Manager: Parnell Dickinson
TOPS: Crouthamel Barricade 2514, 1/21/22 by Sitz Barricade 632F; to Botts Angus, Huntly, MT, and Ox Bow Ranch, Wolf Creek, MT, \$26,000. Crouthamel Barricade 2539, 2/11/2022 by Sitz Barricade 632F; to Tim Stout, Genesee, ID, \$16,000. Crouthamel Barricade 2506, 1/15/22 by Sitz Barricade 632F; to SHB Angus, Reardon, WA, \$15,500. Crouthamel Barricade 2033, 1/20/22 by Sitz Barricade 632F; to Harder River Ranch, Hooper, WA, \$10,000. — **JARED PATTERSON**

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MAGS Good Will 1130G x MAGS Encore 7195E
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CALL TO REQUEST A CATALOG

The drought and its effect on lactating pairs in the spring

Nebraska remains in drought conditions despite much of the state receiving significant snowfall in December and January (droughtmonitor.unl.edu). The soil moisture profile is in a deficit due to months of below normal precipitation the last couple of years, which will have an impact on grass growth this spring.

Delayed turnout

Range ecologists are recommending delayed turnout to give the grass a chance to recover from the hard-hitting drought conditions of last summer. Producers who choose to delay turnout need to feed a diet that meets the needs of the cow for lactation, for returning to estrus, and if turn out is delayed more than a month, the nutritional needs of the calf beyond milk consumption.

The energy requirements, typically measured as total digestible nutrients (TDN) in cow diets, increase over 50% from late gestation when the fetus is rapidly growing, to peak lactation, which is generally eight weeks postpartum. Additionally, a cow must rebreed within 85 days to stay on a 365-day calving interval. In a normal year, lush green grass would exceed the nutrient needs for the lactating cow and make the return to estrus in a timely manner very likely. In a confinement situation, the diet fed must meet those requirements.

If a producer fed 28 pounds (on an as-fed basis) of high-quality hay (58% TDN; 13% crude protein) and 3.5 lbs. of 20% protein cubes to a 1,400-lb., lactating cow, the cow's protein needs would likely be met, but the energy provided would fall short, causing the cow to lose weight. The cold winter coupled with many inches of snow cover across most of Nebraska has made it difficult for cows to maintain body condition over the winter. Therefore, using extra body condition as an energy source while deferring grazing may not be an option for some cows.

If producers have a way to grind, mix, and feed a total mixed ration (TMR), this can be a viable option. University of Nebraska Extension Beef Team personnel can assist producers with developing specific rations with the commodities they have. However, an example diet for a lactating 1,400-lb. cow would include 19 lbs. of residue or poor quality hay, 17 lbs. of silage, 26 lbs. of wet distillers grains and a mineral package (per cow on an as-fed basis). This diet meets the needs of the cows but is a little bit limiting in dry matter intake to reduce costs, so producers will want to provide at least 2.5-3 feet of bunk space per pair to provide all cows and calves an equal chance at the feed, as calves will come to feed with the cows.

If grazing were deferred until June, a March-born calf would be three months old

by the time grazing was available. This calf would likely be eating at least 1% of its body weight in forage on a dry-matter basis. Therefore, a 300-lb.

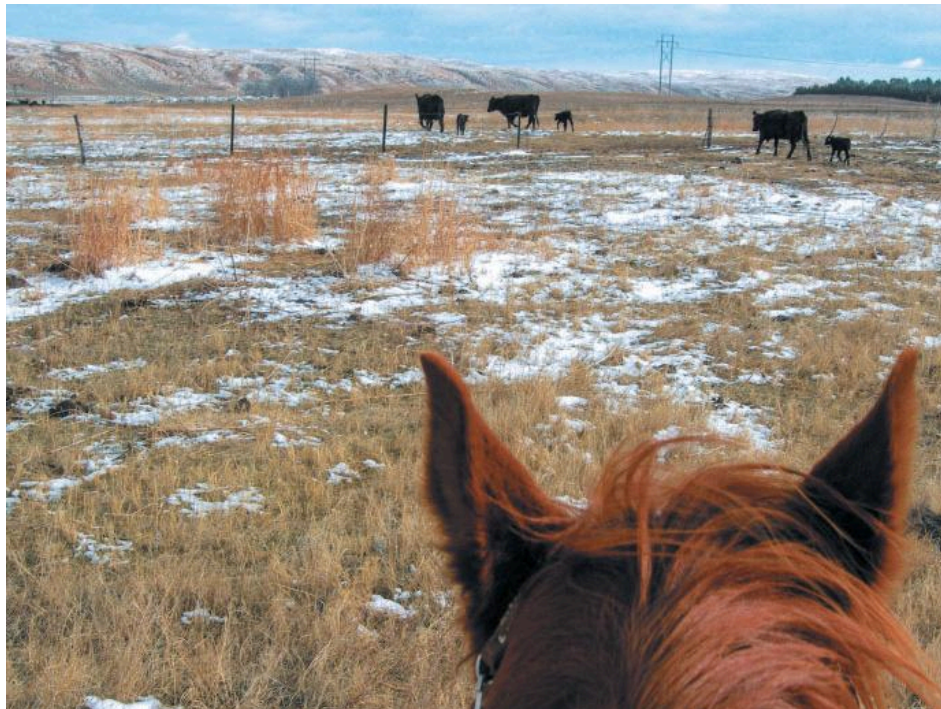
calf would eat about 6 lbs. (on an as-fed basis) of the example TMR above in addition to milk from the cow. Another option producers

might consider is providing a creep gate to allow the calf access to their own TMR in a different pen or a creep feeder in which they provided a

commercial creep feed. Feed costs need to be evaluated as pelleted and bagged feeds tend to be more expensive than mixing a diet from bulk commodities on site.

Confined calves are likely exposed to a higher pathogen load than grazing calves. Therefore, another advantage to a creep gate into their own pen is that it allows them space away from the cows, which can reduce pathogen exposure. Another advantage is that it allows the producer to offer the calves their own water source designed so that they can always reach the water level. A windbreak or shelter may also be provided.

Producers who are planning to confine pairs to defer grazing may want to consult with their local veterinarian to develop a herd health protocol and a nutritionist or beef-focused extension personnel to develop diets with available commodities appropriate for confined pairs. — **Karla H. Wilke, University of Nebraska-Lincoln cow/calf systems and stocker management**



The cold winter coupled with many inches of snow cover across most of Nebraska has made it difficult for cows to maintain body condition over the winter.

Troy Walz

The changing dynamic of BLV in the US herd

Prevalence of bovine leukemia virus (BLV) appears to be changing in the U.S. A recent study of cattle in eastern Kansas found that 42 out of 44 herds had at least one cow test positive for BLV. The same study found 55% of the cattle tested were positive for BLV. This is in contrast to the 1997 National Animal Health Monitoring System report in which BLV was found in 38.7% of the beef cattle operations and 11.5% of all cows tested were positive for BLV.

BLV is a retrovirus capable of causing cancer in cattle. The disease that is caused by the virus may be referred to as enzootic bovine leukosis (EBL), malignant lymphoma or lymphosarcoma. Most cattle infected with the virus remain asymptomatic or show no clinical signs of the disease. However, BLV is responsible for production losses due to increased veterinary costs, reproduction inefficiency, decreased milk production, death and carcass condemnation at slaughter.

Cattle become infected with the virus when blood or body fluids are transferred between animals. Lymphocytes, a particular white blood cell, are the specific cells that are infected with the virus. Many different routes of transmission of BLV have been proposed, but more research is needed to fully understand BLV transmission.

Cattle that are infected with BLV have three possible outcomes. The most common outcome is the animal appears normal. Another 30% of the cattle will have an elevated lymphocyte count that is referred to as persistent lymphocytosis. The last outcome is cancer—however, less than 5% of the cattle with BLV will ever develop lymphosarcoma.

Common symptoms of lymphosarcoma include appetite and weight loss, fever, eye problems, digestive problems, problems walking, hind limb paralysis and enlarged lymph nodes. Most cattle are three years old or older before tumors develop.

Currently, no treatments exist for cattle that are infected with BLV. Eradicating the disease requires testing and culling infected cattle until no positive cases are found for two years. This may not be economically feasible in a highly infected herd. A less intense approach being studied is to eliminate cows with high viral loads. It is thought that these cattle may be super shedders.

BLV will continue to be a problem in the U.S. until a vaccine is developed or there is an economic incentive to eradicate the disease. Until that time, producers should follow proper biosecurity to do all they can to prevent the spread of the virus. — **Barry Whitworth, DVM, Oklahoma State University Extension specialist**



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Soil moisture is key to current cropping conditions around TX

When it comes to soil moisture, Texas agriculture is divided into “haves” and “have-nots.” Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service agronomists Calvin Trostle, Ph.D., and Ronnie Schnell, Ph.D., said the soil moisture conditions have changed dramatically for parts of the state, while other parts continue to deal with various levels of drought.

East Texas and far West Texas, including El Paso County, are faring well and are considered out of the drought, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. Some parts, especially large swaths of Central Texas and the Panhandle, are mired in extreme, or D3, to exceptional, or D4, drought levels, according to the Drought Monitor. D3 drought levels indicate major crop and pasture losses as well as widespread water shortages and restrictions. D4 levels indicate exceptional widespread crop and pasture loss, and water shortages in reservoirs and wells at emergency stages.

Trostle said there are stark differences around the Panhandle, which range from moderate to exceptional drought levels. But even within the Drought Monitor’s picture of Texas’ water and soil moisture conditions, the local reality may be as

bad or better than expected. “There is a difference between the dark red versus red, but there are always the possibilities that local conditions could be very different,” he said. “If a producer gets 3 inches of rain over a few weeks, they are in a much different situation than what the map shows. We don’t get into or out of droughts quickly, but soil moisture is a big factor in the drought monitor and what growers are monitoring when planning their crop decisions.”

Rainfall deficits or deluge

Texas State Climatologist John Nielsen-Gammon, Ph.D., said dry parts of the state have been experiencing below-normal rainfall and drought conditions for years. As a result, conditions across the state reflect the long- and short-term weather patterns.

The state is no longer stuck in a La Niña pattern, which means Texas should expect normal chances for rain. La Niña delivers above-normal temperatures and below-normal rainfall for most of the state.

But Nielsen-Gammon said many areas are so deep in drought that it will take time and multiple rain events to return to normalcy. Over the

past 90 days, most of the western half of Texas has received 50% of its normal rainfall while parts of deep East Texas have received 150% of its normal rainfall.

“East Texas normally gets a lot more precipitation in winter anyway, but that pattern was exaggerated this winter,” he said. “There is really no dividing line to the drought. Most of it has been going on for years, and what we see around the state reflects the long-term rainfall deficit versus short-term rainfall that might improve the situation some.”

Nielsen-Gammon said there is a decent chance for precipitation in drier areas of the state over the coming weekend.

Trostle and Schnell are hopeful rainfall will materialize in their respective regions. Brazos County and surrounding counties are not experiencing drought, according to the monitor, but Schnell said the topsoil needs moisture after a dry spell followed heavy rains in December and January.

“We have good deep moisture, but if the current dry spell moves into another week, it could impact sorghum plantings,” he said. “We caught really good rains over winter, but it’s been dry for weeks now, and the topsoil is dried out.”

Schnell said most corn

plantings in southern and Central Texas started in late February due to warmer-than-normal soil temperatures and that seeds were planted deeper in some fields to reach enough moisture to get the crop started.

Trostle said some farmers might like clean, tilled fields, but that goes against principles he recommends to operations in drier areas or dealing with drier-than-normal conditions.

His three-phase rule of thumb for rainfall is “Catch it. Keep it. Reap it.”

Catching and keeping moisture represents added crop value, Trostle said. For example, in cotton, 1 inch of incremental water equals about 60 pounds of fiber yield per acre, or around \$48-50 per acre with current prices.

“Do you have stubble or a cover crop that can catch that rainfall and slow down the water enough to soak in and prevent it from running off the field?” he said. “Keeping it starts with minimizing tillage because you can lose half an inch of rainfall by disturbing the soil. That could be \$25 of cotton per acre. Reaping it is just taking advantage of the moisture and doing everything possible to maximize its impact on your yield.” — Texas A&M AgriLife Extension

STORY SHORTS

Agencies feed stranded cattle in CA

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) helicopters delivered hay bales to stranded cattle in Humboldt County, CA, due to unusually heavy snowfall. Ranchers could not reach the cattle due to several feet of snow and downed trees blocking road access. Those affected contacted county supervisors, who asked the Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services to utilize the assistance of USCG and CAL FIRE. On March 5, Operation Hay Drop began assisting 30 ranchers. According to Diana Totten, Southern Humboldt-Area fire chief, the hay came from private sources and was paid for by the ranchers. The aircrews dropped hay where they spotted hoof marks in the snow based on information from the ranchers about where the cattle might be. “When receiving a request, we talk to the ranchers about how many head of cattle need to be fed and where the cattle are expected to be on the property,” Totten said. “After compiling this information, we then provide it to CAL FIRE to coordinate the logistics of a safe delivery.” Sheriff William Honsal said a previous operation similar to this occurred in the 1980s when ranchers were unable to reach their cattle due to snow.

CA’s wolf pack continues depredations

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) released several depredation reports showing the Whaleback wolf pack in Siskiyou County was responsible for five depredation events between Jan. 8 and Feb. 15. During that period, two other investigations found depredation events as a “possible” or “probable” attribution to the Whaleback Pack. Depredation events in January of three confirmed kills occurred as much as 27 miles outside the pack’s normal range. In the past year, the Whaleback Pack has been identified as the cause of 26 livestock depredations across 24 incidents, with many more suspected kills reported to CDFW.

Possible retail packaging plant in KS

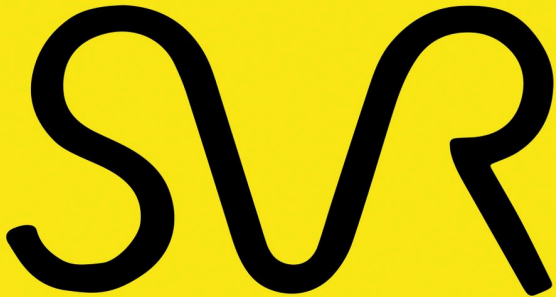
A company named 1918 LLC has requested from the city of Olathe, KS, the issuance of \$257 million of revenue bonds for constructing a 230,000-square-foot facility in the city for a processing and packaging facility for retail-ready beef products. According to the application, the plant would be located on 138 acres near the corner of 167th Street and 169 Highway, and is expected to create 667 new jobs over the next decade. 1918 LLC is a subsidiary of a retail company that conducts business in several strategic merchandise units, including a grocery merchandising unit that consists of meat processing. “If approved, Project Sandhills will result in the construction of a state-of-the-art, high volume, case-ready beef production facility,” the application states. The facility would not be a kill site, but a location to process sub-primal cuts of beef into retail-ready cuts. The Olathe operation would take over the production of Choice beef cuts for other retail stores in the Plains and the Midwest.

UDAF announces stress assistance

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) announced the launch of the Ag Stress Assistance Program to provide agricultural communities access to mental health services and resources. The Ag Stress Assistance Program will focus on three primary elements: mental healthcare reimbursement of up to \$2,000, training for producers across the state through Utah State University, and training for 988 suicide and crisis hotline operators. “Our agricultural and rural communities face significant challenges that contribute to mental health strain,” said UDAF Commissioner Craig Butters. “From long-term drought to volatile commodity markets and increasing operating costs, farmers and ranchers face many stressors on a daily basis that are out of their control.” For more information about the Ag Stress Assistance Program and how to apply for mental healthcare reimbursement, visit ag.utah.gov/asap.

Tyson invests in carbon start-up

Tyson Ventures, the venture capital arm of Tyson Foods Inc., has invested in Athian, the world’s first cloud-based carbon marketplace for the livestock industry. The investment by Tyson Ventures, along with Elanco Animal Health Inc. and Newtrient LLC, will assist in launching the platform to provide producers with economic incentives for on-farm sustainability practices. Athian aggregates data for beef and dairy producers through a connected carbon marketplace by aggregating, validating and certifying greenhouse gas reductions, and monetizing those reductions through the sale of carbon credits. Paul Myer, Athian CEO, said the platform will launch in the second half of 2023 to enable “the livestock industry to meet its sustainability goals by empowering producers to implement on-farm practice changes that will move the needle on climate change.”



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Do you have ample bull power for the breeding season?

For herds that plan to begin calving next January, breeding season begins in April. With that in mind, it's time to plan

and manage bulls for breeding season. This week we address bull-to-female ratios for the breeding season.

The three major goals of any breeding season should be:

1. Get cows settled as early in the breeding season as possible.

ble.

2. Get cows bred to bulls with the highest possible genetic value.

3. Achieve the above goals as economically as possible by getting cows bred to the fewest possible bulls.

A defined breeding season is important to permit meaningful record keeping, timely management and profit potential. Maintaining a 60-75 day breeding and calving season can be one of the most important management tools for cow-calf producers. A uniform, heavier calf crop is an important reason to keep the breeding season short. Getting cows bred earlier results in calves born earlier. Missing an estrus cycle of a single cow is a significant monetary loss in calf weight gain the following year.

The extra 21 days until the next heat cycle translates into a younger calf at weaning that is 40 to 50 pounds lighter. Spread over several cows, the losses can grow quickly. In addition, more efficient cow supplementation and effective herd health programs are a product of a

short breeding season. How do we get more cows settled earlier in the breeding season? By having adequate bull power on hand to get cows pregnant.

The question "How many bulls do I need?" can be answered with another question: How many cows should I expect my bull to cover? Depending on the age of your bull or bulls, and assuming bulls have passed a breeding soundness examination (BSE), the general rule of thumb is to place about as many cows/heifers with a young bull as his age in months. For example, a bull that is 12 months old should be able to cover about 12 cows in his first breeding season. An 18-month-old bull should be able to settle 18 or 19 cows.

A 2-year-old bull could be expected to cover up to 25 cows. Mature bulls normally should be expected to cover 25-35 cows per season. Remember, there is a normal "prime of life" for breeding bulls. They need to be sound, fit and athletic to cover terrain and settle cows. Bulls past the age of 6 are more likely to break

down.

It is beneficial that bulls who will be combined in multi-sire pastures are penned together for at least a few weeks prior to turnout to allow time for a pecking order to be established. This also leaves enough time to secure replacements if injury occurs prior to turnout. Injuries occurring during breeding season can spell economic disaster if bulls aren't getting cows bred.

It is suggested to have all bulls undergo a BSE prior to turnout. A BSE includes a semen test as well as a physical exam of the entire reproductive tract, eyes, feet and legs, and teeth—of an older bull. Manage body condition scores (BCS) on bulls similar to what is done with cows. The optimum BCS for bulls being turned out at the beginning of breeding season is a 6. Now is the time to manage herd health, deworming and nutrition to have bulls fit and ready at turnout. — **Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

Kansas fire season is here, officials say

The beginning of the year has been quiet for Kansas wildfires after above-average moisture in January, but the trend may not continue into peak fire season. In previous years, the incidence of fires increased due to the state's ongoing drought, resulting in grass or fuel loading.

Chip Redmond, the manager of the Kansas Mesonet, a network of 70 weather stations throughout the state, said short-term weather drives fire potential and determines grass's ability to burn, making fire season predictions challenging.

"Contrary to popular belief, large wildfires in Kansas are usually independent of long-term drought conditions," Redmond said. "Weather events like a mid-latitude cyclone—a low-pressure system that typically forms east of the Rocky Mountains and moves across the Plains—typically feature strong winds and provide significant challenges with shifting winds that make firefighting dangerous and fire spread nearly impossible to suppress." Strong, low-pressure systems can be forecasted 1-2 weeks in advance. Beyond that, forecasters look at upcoming patterns, Redmond added.

"La Niña (a cooling of ocean surface temperatures that is often associated with inland drought) remains the main contributor in the extended forecast despite starting to show signs of weakening," Redmond said. "An active pattern is set to continue with one to two storm systems a week across the central U.S. This will be enhanced somewhat by the still persistent impacts of La Niña."

Redmond said those areas that have received moisture will likely continue to see precipitation, which doesn't favor the central and western parts of the state, which will remain mostly dry.

"The conclusion of fire season is typically considered if or when grasses green up across

the state. This varies by year and is mostly dependent on soil moisture and temperatures," Redmond said.

Eric Ward, Kansas Forest Service assistant fire management officer, said fires occur statewide during the spring, but the south-central area has a history of very serious spring fires, and the Kansas Flint Hills always has a lot of fires.

"Most fires in Kansas are caused by human activity," Ward said. "Debris burning, escaped prescribed burn, welding or cutting in dry grass, dragging chains, defective equipment. Be especially cautious on any dry breezy day—which is pretty common in a Kansas springtime before things green up."

Preventing loss due to fires begins with preparing your property to survive a fire by clearing brush away from homes, cleaning gutters regularly and having noncombustible siding and roofing material.

"In a major wildfire, the fire department will simply not have enough resources to protect every home or property, so those that can survive on their own have the best chance," Ward said.

He notes that the Kansas Forest Service supports the safe use of prescribed fire, but doing so comes with precautions.

"It is a powerful, dangerous tool that must be used carefully," Ward said. "Those wishing to burn should get training in how to do so safely, and partner with neighbors to help each other out and ensure enough personnel and equipment are on scene to keep the fire where it is supposed to be."

Ward suggests checking the fire weather forecast on the local National Weather Service website to get weather information specific to fire behavior, such as dropping humidity or forecasted wind shifts.

"Weather should be checked for the day of the planned burn, but also for at least 2-4 days after. A number of fires in re-

cent years occurred when the weather was okay on the day of the burn but turned dry and windy a day or two later, and a residual ember was whipped to flame and causes damage," Ward said.

The Kansas Forest Service Fire Management Program offers resources and tools to learn more about fire control and prevention.

"Wildfires are a real risk for Kansas even with recent moisture. People should have a plan and take proper precautions to avoid fire starts and limit fire spread," Redmond said. — **Kansas State University Research and Extension**

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"We have bought bulls from Silver Bit since the beginning and have continually used them for the past 25+ years because they perform. Calves are vigorous when they are born, gain and grade well. Cows are good mothers with high fertility and breed back without extra care. Bulls stay sound and healthy and can cover our rugged country. They Work." ...Joe Caywood, Tendoy, ID

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Herb Whitworth, Elkhorn Ranch, Mackay, ID



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"In any other jurisdiction that would be considered assault! But on the ranch, cattle git a pass! Goofy Diplomatic Immunity!"

Diversify income opportunities with multi-species grazing

Sheep. Goats. Cattle. Multi-species grazing can provide many advantages to producers looking to mitigate risk, diversify their income and get more from their pastures, even when forage availability is limited.

“Raising different species together is fairly common, and I’ve seen the practice grow in recent years,” said Clay Elliott, Ph.D., small ruminant nutritionist with Purina Animal Nutrition. “Multi-species grazing gives farmers and ranchers another av-

enue for income.”

Whether you currently raise sheep, goats or cattle, adding another species to your operation could provide many benefits. Consider these factors when deciding if multi-species grazing is right for you: “Sheep, goats and cattle are the perfect complementary species to graze together because they aren’t always competing for the same forages,” said Elliott. “Grazing any combination of these species can help you get more from your pastureland by turn-

ing ‘waste’ plants into meat, wool or milk.”

Goats are browsers, favoring tree limbs and leaves over the high-quality, tender grass sheep and cattle prefer. Goats are also a great option for grazing land impacted by drought as they can forage on relatively little vegetation, giving you an additional income source without taking away the limited resources available for cattle or sheep.

Sheep can graze grass closer to the ground than cattle, so they can utilize

forage cattle can’t. One watch-out with sheep is to avoid overgrazing, which could impact the long-term productivity of your pastures. Create a pasture rotation plan and use water or supplemental nutrition sources to spread out grazing activity to help reduce the risk of overgrazing.

Efficient forage use isn’t the only way multi-species grazing supports sustainable pasture management. Sheep and goats can help keep brush and invasive plants at bay, allowing for more grass growth for cattle and, in some cases, eliminating plants that could be toxic to cattle.

“One reason producers hesitate to implement multi-species grazing is goats and cattle have a significantly higher copper requirement than sheep, which are very copper sensitive,” said Elliott. “That’s the major difference between these three species—their copper tolerance.”

One option to address the differing copper needs is to feed all species a sheep mineral that’s low in copper and supplement cows and goats with a bolus product once or twice a year to meet their copper needs. Soil testing can help determine how often cattle and goats need copper supplementation.

Another option is sequential grazing, or rotating species through pas-

tures separately rather than co-grazing. This allows you to provide each species with a mineral tailored to its unique nutritional needs and avoid the added labor of administering a bolus product.

Multi-species grazing allows you to mitigate risk by opening up additional market opportunities and gaining more income per acre of pasture.

“A cow can only maintain herself and raise one calf every year,” said Elliott. “You could add 4-5 ewes and their babies on that same acre of ground, giving you another revenue source.”

The number of animals you can raise per acre depends on many factors, including pasture quality, sequential or co-grazing management, water access and your market availability and goals.

Keep in mind reproduction rates differ by species. Sheep and goats reproduce more frequently and have more offspring than cattle. Consider how quickly your sheep or goat herd will grow and plan your stocking density accordingly.

While there are many benefits to raising multiple species together, other expenses and management changes must be considered.

“Balance input costs and your projected return on investment to determine if multi-species grazing is the right choice for you,” said

Elliott. “For example, fencing upgrades to keep smaller species in and help deter predators is one of the larger up-front considerations in terms of labor and cost.”

Another consideration is veterinary care. Ensure your local veterinarian is comfortable caring for whichever species you intend to raise. Evaluate your handling facilities to ensure they can accommodate large and small animals and that veterinary care and other management activities can be done safely and efficiently.

When it comes to multi-species grazing, you don’t have to go it alone. Some cattle, sheep and goat producers have found success working together.

“I’ve seen very successful operations where a cattle producer brings in sheep or goats from a different ranch for summer grazing,” said Elliott. “The cattle rancher benefits from weed control and pasture management while the sheep or goat producer benefits from access to high-quality pasture for their animals. It’s a win-win.”

With some thoughtful considerations, multi-species grazing can be a great option to help mitigate risk, diversify your income and get more from your pastureland, whether you’re currently raising sheep, goats or cattle. — **Purina Animal Nutrition LLC**

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LEGAL LEDGER

Bill to overturn WOTUS rule moves on

The House of Representatives has moved forward H.J. Res. 27, a joint resolution that would stop the Biden administration's Water of the United States (WOTUS) rule. "This vote is a win for America's cattlemen and women, and NCBA is thrilled to see a majority of House members reject the Biden administration's burdensome WOTUS rule," said National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) President Todd Wilkinson in a statement. He added that NCBA urges the Senate to pass the resolution, and that NCBA will also be watching the Sackett v. EPA Supreme Court case in hopes of the ruling placing guardrails on the feds' attempt to regulate small, isolated bodies of water on private land. The resolution would invalidate the rule through the Congressional Review Act, which allows Congress to invalidate an executive agency's rule.

AFBF signs another right to repair memo

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) and CNH Industrial brands, Case IH and New Holland, recently signed a memorandum of understanding that gives producers the right to repair their own farm equipment. The memo follows a similar agreement made with John Deere earlier this year. "Farmers and ranchers are more dependent on technology than ever before, so it's critical they have access to the tools to keep things running on the farm so the food supply chain keeps running, too," said AFBF President Zippy Duvall in a statement. The memorandum of understanding sets a framework for farmers and independent repair facilities across the nation and Puerto Rico to access CNH Industrial brand manuals, tools, product guides and information to repair equipment on their own. "The MOU respects intellectual property rights and recognizes the need to ensure safety controls and emission systems are not altered," the statement read. "CNH Industrial and AFBF will meet semiannually to review the agreement and address ongoing concerns."

Bipartisan vulture act introduced

Reps. John Rose (R-TN-06) and Darren Soto (D-FL-09) recently introduced the bipartisan Black Vulture Relief Act, which would give producers more flexibility with black vulture management. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) hailed the bill's introduction. "Across the country, cattle producers are coping with extreme input costs and the worst inflation rate in 40 years," said NCBA Director of Government Affairs Sigrid Johannes in a statement. "Livestock deaths due to black vultures are a financial loss that no one can afford right now." The bill would allow the take of vultures that pose a risk to livestock. The bill would also create a report that is submitted by producers once a year detailing the number of vultures they took. "Streamlining the system and lifting the cap on (the) number of black vultures that producers can take is a commonsense approach to managing a fully recovered, aggressive predator species," the statement read. The bill also has the support of the Florida Cattlemen's Association, a state which has seen a high increase in depredation rates.

Biden proposes 2024 fiscal budget

The Biden administration has released the President's Budget for the 2024 fiscal year. "The President's Budget provides USDA with the tools needed to serve all Americans by providing effective, innovative science-based public policy leadership at home and around the world," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in a press release. "It contains critical investments that will help rural communities provide the fuel, food and fiber upon which our nation depends and will drive solutions that will lead to more market opportunities for producers." The budget would provide more funds to food programs, such as providing \$32 billion for child nutrition programs, and \$15 billion over 10 years to provide free school meals to an additional 9 million children. The budget also includes over \$5 billion in restoring national forests and mitigating wildfire risk, and \$1.2 billion in USDA conservation programs. In addition, the budget includes investing \$240 million in new supply chains and markets for small and mid-sized farmers, and an additional \$12 million in the Farm to School Program. The budget also includes \$270 million for minority-serving institution programs.

AR rolls back child labor laws

Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders (R) recently signed a bill that will reduce the requirements for children to get a job. The Youth Hiring Act of 2023 does not require children under the age of 16 to obtain permission from the Division of Labor to get a job, and children no longer have to verify their age, describe their work or work schedule, or get permission from a parent or legal guardian.

Texas lamb and goat prices strong amid challenges

Texas lamb and goat producers are seeing positive price trends, but challenges related to higher input costs, drought and predation remain, according to a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension expert.

Reid Redden, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension sheep and goat specialist and director of the Texas A&M Research and Extension Center in San Angelo, said the lamb and goat markets experienced positive gains over recent weeks but that he is unsure if higher prices may signal a longer trend.

Prices had dipped from the post-pandemic gains, which were well above the previous decade's high, he said.

In Texas, a large segment of lambs and goats are harvested at lighter weights—40-80 pounds compared to traditional markets, where they are weaned and sent to feed yards so they may reach 140-180 lbs.

Lambs are shipped live to markets around the state and country where they are sold directly to consumers or harvested and marketed by ethnic processors. These non-traditional markets demand smaller, leaner lambs—and pay a premium for them.

"The last few years we saw strong price gains, especially in the late fall and winter months, but this year we did not," he said. "A big part of that was the traditional sector was down, redirecting feeder lambs from the western states to the non-traditional market outlets, and imports were up."

Lamb, goat prices return to normal

In January 2022, lightweight market lambs were \$3.60/lb., whereas the five-year average was \$2.30/lb., Redden said. Prices over the past summer fell to the five-year average and remained there through the rest of 2022, but they have since returned toward the previous highs.

Imported lamb, which costs half the price of lightweight live lambs, has captured market share of the traditional section, which likely impacted overall premium lamb prices during their slide.

Redden said COVID-19 travel restrictions likely heavily influenced higher live lamb prices because more consumers were purchasing them for traditional meals at home.

"There is a strong desire from the nontraditional outlets to buy from local processors who are buying live lambs," he said. "But the traditional market matters, and whether it is cheaper imports or inflation, this can influence the lightweight lamb market."

Goats demand premium prices as well but are also subject to market influences like the economic pressure on consumers when live weight prices reach \$4/lb., Redden said. Texas goat production was down 2% in 2022, according to the USDA.

Redden suspects the impact of drought on rangeland conditions and higher supplemental feed costs likely resulted in

reduced returns to producers. Many areas continue to experience drought, and it may take time for rangelands to recover.

"Sheep and goats fare better through drought than cattle, but many areas have been dealing with drought for several consecutive years. Even if rains come this spring and summer, it will take time to restock. Range health is a top priority for ranchers, and they'll wait for the rangelands to recover before restocking."

Additional income, costs

Drought and higher production costs continue to impact producer bottom lines, Redden said. Wool production provides additional income for some producers, but it is considered a byproduct of meat production.

Texas produces quality wool and mohair, and about 80% of the products are shipped overseas for processing. Tariffs and losing market share to other nations like Australia, which has bulked up wool production following higher rainfall, have impacted prices and potential profits.

Redden said there are only a fraction of the Angora goats left in Texas compared to a few decades ago. With a major reduction in supply, kid hair—the first or second cutting—demands premium prices, up to \$1/lb., and adult hair is \$6-10/lb.

But Redden doesn't predict any major increases in mohair production because raising

Angora goats tends to require a bit more specialized labor than meat goats, restricting mohair production to come from those already in the trade.

The impact of economics and drought on Texas meat and fiber production were evident, but Redden said predation continues to plague sheep and goat raisers. Coyotes, domestic dogs, bobcats, raptors like golden eagles and black-headed buzzards, and even large feral boar hogs are responsible for roughly 100,000 lamb and kid losses, or 10% of the lamb and kid crop, according to USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service. Redden suspects Texas producers lose closer to 20% of their lambs and kids to predation on average due to how the losses are quantified.

Many producers have transitioned to livestock guardian dogs as their primary defense to predation, which have been researched by Texas A&M AgriLife Research and AgriLife Extension. Redden said good fences and guardian dogs can mitigate a majority of predation losses but these practices are costly and difficult to implement for ranchers operating larger tracts of rangeland.

"That 20% is an average, which means some are hit harder than others," he said. "Some operations on smaller areas may not have a single loss, whereas a larger range might have severe losses that aren't sustainable for small ruminant ranching." — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

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calved: 02/12/22 tattoo: 557K reg: 20575074

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MARKET NEWS

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 3/16/2023	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	164.08	▼	164.81
CME Feeder Index	188.71	▼	188.72
Boxed Beef Average	283.95	▼	284.60
Average Dressed Steers	263.77	▲	262.64
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,378	▼	1,396
Weekly Slaughter**	634,000	▲	629,000
Weekly Beef Production***	522.1	▲	518.4
Hide/Offal Value	13.9	▲	13.1
Corn Price	6.33	▲	7.54
*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 10	6,464	288.41	196	324.52	1,311	291.06	2,069	286.53	640	275.34	2,249
March 3	5,924	288.91	221	322.48	1,213	290.20	1,794	286.24	612	273.64	2,084
February 24	6,284	281.86	192	315.16	1,191	285.03	1,917	280.83	604	265.10	2,380
February 17	6,593	272.72	217	306.89	1,336	275.08	2,121	272.59	629	257.20	2,290
Cutouts ----- FED BOXED BEEF -----											
DATE	CHOICE			SELECT			COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN		90% LEAN
Mar 16	283.95			271.76			210.80		132.04		268.92
Mar 15	284.27			272.63			211.79		134.01		270.81
Mar 14	285.91			274.56			210.82		133.62		267.58
Mar 13	284.86			273.62			209.36		127.30		266.37
Mar 10	284.91			271.54			209.20		126.82		N/A

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	3/10	3/13	3/14	3/15	3/16	High*	Low*
Apr.	16428	16355	16305	16155	16235	16750	13055
Jun.	15865	15820	15775	15658	15688	16548	14003
Aug.	15845	15813	15758	15635	15658	16245	15388
Oct.	16325	16265	16223	16113	16133	16325	15310

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	3/10	3/13	3/14	3/15	3/16	High*	Low*
Mar.	19148	19083	18993	18820	18950	19148	16958
Apr.	19765	19708	19575	19325	19515	19765	17595
May	20358	20240	20130	19880	20028	20358	18303
Aug.	21653	21608	21543	21355	21523	21653	18755
*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.							

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	21,285	1,464	164.08
Live FOB Heifer	11,212	1,340	163.99
Dressed Del Steer	9,830	941	263.77
Dressed Del Heifer	2,461	839	263.89
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	1,480	1,472	164.81
Live FOB Heifer	112	1,327	164.71
Dressed Del Steer	179	971	262.64
Dressed Del Heifer	64	775	262.63
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	4,396	1,571	139.96
Live FOB Heifer	1,977	1,417	140.09
Dressed Del Steer	994	968	222.00
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: MARCH 12		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	27,806	5,017
Formula	275,498	1,871
Negotiated Cash	82,029	167
Negotiated Grid	36,825	919
Packer Owned	13,142	N/A
Total	435,300	7,974

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,801
Mar. '23	153,126	Neg. Sales 21+ days	883
Apr. '23	161,757	Formula sales	3,515
May '23	104,542	Forward contract sales	265
Jun. '23	80,446	Domestic sales	5,684
Jul. '23	55,581	NAFTA Exports	113

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		214.35	+4.06
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		212.59	+4.06
Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		216.95	+2.9
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		215.15	+2.83
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		124.43	+7.84
*Price comparison from one week ago.			

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, March 3, 2023			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	341.79	343.96	321.37
601-700 lbs	310.62	314.07	317.67
701-800 lbs	288.42	284.07	290.05
801-900 lbs	263.18	266.59	282.92
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	298.41	296.60	273.67
501-600 lbs	289.69	287.07	263.63
601-700 lbs	267.08	264.32	250.78
701-800 lbs	248.02	246.15	261.40

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
	3/11/2023	3/4/2023		
Feeders	25,612	28,548	234,865	179,867

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE		
Friday, March 10, 2023		
Mexico to TX. & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary		
Receipts EST: 20,000	Week Ago Act: 22,611	Year Ago Act: 15,489
Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers steady. Trade moderate to active, demand moderate to good. The bulk of the supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.		
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 222.00-232.00, few 233.00; 400-500 lbs 202.00-212.00, few 213.00; 500-600 lbs 182.00-192.00, few 193.00; 600-700 lbs 167.00-177.00, few 178.00. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 207.00-217.00; 400-500 lbs 187.00-197.00; 500-600 lbs 167.00- 177.00.		
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 186.00-197.00, few 198.00; 400-500 lbs 176.00-187.00, few 188.00; 500-600 lbs 166.00-177.00, few 178.00; 600-700 lbs 156.00-167.00, few 168.00.		
(slide 10 cents on steers and heifers basis 300 lbs. All sales fob port of entry.)		

Selected Auction Week Ending March 16, 2023					Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2						
DATE MARKET		200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS	
March 10 Blackfoot, ID	N/A			220-252 185-249	190-252 175-225	170-226 160-205	165-193 150-182	150-176	73-97 97-113	NORTHWEST	
March 2 Burley, ID											
No report available Emmett, ID											
March 11 Eugene, OR	651		160-201 145-190	200-244 135-188	185-200	140-179 120-145	142-188		80-92 93-110		650-1,700 985-1,800
March 13 Madras, OR	146								90-94 98-110		
March 8 Vale, OR	180			234-255 205-229	190-225		156-174		89-100 92-129		
No report available Davenport, WA											
March 9 Toppenish, WA	1,530				268*	235*	160*		84-103.50 109-119.50		

CME Feeder Cattle Index steady over the week

MARKETS (from page 1)

- Forward contract net purchases: \$165.33.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$168.86.
- On a dressed basis:
- Negotiated purchases: \$265.56.
- Formula net purchases: \$266.41.
- Forward contract net purchases: \$256.58.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$263.23.

The Daily Livestock Report wrote total U.S. beef imports in January were the third highest on record at 364.7 million pounds, up 3.6%, or 12.7 million lbs., from a year earlier.

Slaughter through Thursday was 501,000 head. Slaughter

for the week prior was estimated to be 634,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending March 4 was 625,532 head. The average dressed steer weight was 899 lbs., down 3 lbs. from the week prior.

Boxed beef prices were lower, with the Choice cutout down 65 cents to \$283.95 and the Select cutout down \$4.29 to \$271.76.

The Daily Livestock Report wrote total U.S. beef imports in January were the third highest on record at 364.7 million pounds, up 3.6%, or 12.7 million lbs., from a year earlier. Of the total U.S. beef imports in January, Brazil accounted for 28.7%, followed by Canada at 23.2%, Mexico at 15.4%, Australia at 11.6% and New Zealand at 10.8%.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures were also lower, with the March contract down \$3.57 to \$189.50 and the April contract down \$4 to \$195.15. May futures continue to hover over \$200. The CME Feeder Cattle Index was down a penny to \$188.71.

Corn futures were higher after two large sales of old-crop corn to China. The March contract was up 14 cents to \$6.32, and the May contract was up 5 cents to \$6.16.

Kansas: Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 3,628

head Wednesday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers 800-950 lbs. sold steady to \$2 lower. Steers 600-800 lbs. sold \$3-5 higher. Steer calves 400-600 lbs. sold \$6-10 higher, with instances of \$20 higher. Feeder heifers 700-950 lbs. sold steady to \$2 lower. Heifers 400-700 lbs. sold \$5-10 higher, with instances of \$15 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 744 lbs. sold between \$182-188.35, averaging \$187.11.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 8,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers traded steady to \$2 higher, with feeder heifers steady. Benchmark steers averaging 719 lbs. sold between \$193-209.50, averaging \$200.46.

Nebraska: Huss Livestock in Kearney sold 4,305 head Wednesday. Compared to the last auction, steers 550-750 lbs. sold \$3-8 higher, and steers over 750 lbs. sold steady to \$3 lower. Heifers 500-700 lbs. sold steady to \$3 higher, and heifers over 700 lbs. sold \$3-4 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 782 lbs. sold between \$187.50-195.25 and averaged \$188.64.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 6,975 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier,

feeder cattle and calves sold steady, but steers over 800 lbs. and heifers over 700 lbs. were not well tested. Steer and heifer calves sold steady. Benchmark steers averaging 772 lbs. sold from \$180-191, averaging \$187.54.

South Dakota: Hub City Livestock in Aberdeen sold 7,691 head Wednesday. Compared to the previous auction, steers 500-750 lbs. sold \$3-7 higher, and 751-950 lbs. traded \$3-6 lower. Heifers 550-600 lbs. and 651-700 lbs. sold steady to

\$4 higher, 601-650 lbs. and 700-850 lbs. traded steady, except 750-800 lbs. were not well compared. Benchmark steers averaging 767 lbs. sold between \$187-204.75, averaging \$198.77. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ editor**

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Eddie Nunes	209-604-6848

2023 UPCOMING WESTERN VIDEO SALES

April 13 • May 4
May 25 • June 8
July 10 - 12



SPRING ROUNDUP TLAY SPECIALS

Tues., March 28: Special Female Sale

Featuring Pairs and Bred Cows

Tues., April 18: TLAY Spring Feeder Sale

Featuring Calves & Yearlings

Sat., April 29: Burgers at the Barn

& Special Weigh Cow Sale @ 12 noon.

Tues., May 2, 16, 30: TLAY Spring Feeder Sales

Special Dedicated to Showcasing Calves and Yearlings from Consignors with 50 Head or Less at 9 a.m.

Tues., June 6, 13: TLAY Spring Feeder Sales

Special Dedicated to Showcasing Calves and Yearlings from Consignors with 50 Head or Less at 9 a.m.

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

Online Bidding at www.LMAuctions.com

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
GENERAL INFORMATION

ADVERTISING RATES
BY THE WORD: 90 cents per word for each insertion.
MINIMUM WORD RATE: 17 words or fewer, \$15.30 one time.
MAD RATES: (Bold headline) \$2 more per insertion for your phone number, email and/or website, plus first 2 or 3 words in bold print. (Applies to word ads only)
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JOBS

Employment Wanted 1

COWBOY LOOKING FOR A CAMP JOB. 10 years in last camp. Dale Stover - 505 263 0879.

Help Wanted 2

EXPERIENCED CATTLE BARN MANAGER POSITION IN BEAUTIFUL SW MONTANA.
Competitive pay & benefits. Must be:
• knowledgeable of cattle breeds & market values
• business minded
• able to build relationships
Contact 406-586-0231, info@careersinmontana.com

GREAT OPPORTUNITY! RANCH MANAGER NEEDED
NW Colorado mountain ranch is seeking responsible, motivated self-starter, experienced in most phases of a cattle ranch operation: fencing, irrigation, haying and equipment maintenance. BE YOUR OWN BOSS. Family housing provided. Send resume by email: Classified@wlj.net (Subject line: WLJ Box #914) or mail to: Western Livestock Journal, ATTN: Box #914, 7355 E. Orchard Rd. #300, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

Serving Ag Personnel for 63 Years
GET TOP DOLLAR!!!
Hansen Agri-PLACEMENT
WORKING MANAGER (NV).....\$70K±
RANCH HERDSMAN (CO).....\$60K±
RANCH ASSISTANT (WA).....\$40K±
Call Eric 308/382-7351
www.hansenagriplacement.com

Cattle For Sale 10

REGISTERED YEARLING AND TWO-YEAR-OLD BLACK ANGUS RANGE BULLS FOR SALE
Private Treaty. Good selection for heifers and cows.
From popular sires & industry leaders. Semen tested & ready to go.
307-762-3541

Registered Angus and Hereford
Two-year old, fall yearling and spring yearling bulls for sale by private treaty. www.malsonangus.com.
Call Josh at 208-739-0725 for more info.

RSG REGISTERED GELBVIEH YEARLING BULLS FOR SALE, PRIVATE TREATY. OUT OF TOP AI CALVING EASE SIRE. \$3500
rocksolidgelbvieh@gmail.com

150 Bulls For Sale
Home of 2 Bar Twenty X
2 Bar Angus
Hereford, Texas
806/344-7444
877/2BAR-ANG
www.2barangus.com

GENTLE AMERICAN BEEF TYPE GRAY BRAHMAN
Loren Pratt
520-709-1554
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Maricopa, AZ 85139

Livestock Supplies 18

POWDER RIVER LIVESTOCK EQUIP.
Best prices with delivery available.
Conlin Supply Co., Inc.
Oakdale, CA
Ask for Larry or Albert
209/847-8977

Real Estate Opportunities 20

FARM/FEEDLOT FOR SALE. 313 acres, 200 irrigated farm. 1500 head feedlot, CAFO approved. Year round water, 6 pivots and 7 wheels lines. Grain mill, scales, commodity sheds. Ontario, OR. Call John 208-859-7038.

Real Estate Pacific 20A

GILBERT GRADE FARM
New Listing - Orofino, Idaho
379± acres with 260± acres of cultivated farm land, timber, and a pond. The old home site has two outbuildings, and power is located along the road. An excellent recreation area near the Clearwater River, and Dworshak Reservoir. **\$1,525,000**
Buying or Selling? Call today!
(208) 345-3163 • knipeland.com

Real Estate Mountain 20C

Looking to BUY OR SELL?

Licensed in 29 States
866.741.8323
HaydenOutdoors.com

Pasture Available 23

WINTER GRAZING - CA. Central Valley foothills. Full care, well watered, springs and reservoirs. Nov. 15 to June 1 carrying capacity 2500 hd @ 600wgt. 2 sets of corrals, certified scale. Call Drew 831-214-4733.

Pasture Wanted 24

SUMMER PASTURE FOR YEARLINGS
Prefer large scale with potential for long term. Competitive rates offered. Call Black Ranches Inc. 805-431-3802.

SUMMER PASTURE WANTED
Seeking yearling pasture for 2023 grass season and beyond. OR, ID, WY, CO. Will pay top dollar. Call Jon 831-240-5795.

SUMMER PASTURE WANTED
For approx. up to 3,500 hd of yearlings.
CALL DUANE MARTIN JR
209-481-5355

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Advertise a hunting or fishing lease!

CALL NOW!

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DeBruycker Charolais

"Because Pounds Pay"

You don't have to use Charolais bulls — But you do have to compete with ranchers that do!

DeBruyckerCharolais.com • Dutton, MT

BULL SALE

Jane.....406-476-3427
Brett & Kay.....406-590-3214
Mark & Belva.....406-590-0355
Joe & Cathy.....406-788-5821

Saturday, April 1, 2023 • Western Livestock Auction • Great Falls

Real Estate Opportunities 20

Real Estate Opportunities 20

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MANAGEMENT | APPRAISALS
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FIVE STAR LEGACY RANCH
HOMINY, OKLAHOMA

The Five Star Legacy Ranch is an outstanding 3,580± acre working ranch just 40 miles northwest of Tulsa. Open native tallgrass covered hills and 45" average annual precipitation. Currently running 400 cow/calf pairs. Very good fences and water.

OFFERED AT \$9,850,000

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Real Estate Southwest 20D

Real Estate Southwest 20D

Scott Land Company, LLC

RANCH & FARM REAL ESTATE

We need your listings on any types of ag properties in TX, NM, OK & CO.

COLFAX CO., NM, GETAWAY - 1,482.90± ac. grassland (1,193.59± ac. deeded, 289.31 ac. state lease), great location near all types of mountain recreation.
PRICE REDUCED! UNION CO., NM - 2,091.72 ac. (1,771.72 deeded, 320± ac. state lease), well watered w/three wells, two sets of steel pens.
PRICE REDUCED! DALLAM CO., TX - 1,216.63± ac. of CRP/ranchland w/irrigation, redevelopment potential, wells & pipelines already in place.
ANGUS, NM - 250± ac. with over a 1/2 mile of NM 48 frontage. Elevations from 6,800 to 7,200 feet. Two springs along a creek. Ideal for future development or build your own getaway home.
www.scottlandcompany.com • 800-933-9698 day/eve
Ben G. Scott - Broker • Krystal M. Nelson - NM QB

Irrigation 27

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Employment Wanted

1

COWBOY LOOKING FOR A CAMP
JOB. 10 years in last camp. Dale
Stover - 505 263 0879.

Help Wanted

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**EXPERIENCED CATTLE BARN
MANAGER POSITION IN
BEAUTIFUL SW MONTANA.**

Competitive pay & benefits. Must be:
• knowledgeable of cattle breeds &
market values

• business minded

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Contact 406-586-0231,
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GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

RANCH MANAGER NEEDED

NW Colorado mountain ranch is
seeking responsible, motivated
self-starter, experienced in most
phases of a cattle ranch operation:
fencing, irrigation, haying and
equipment maintenance. BE YOUR
OWN BOSS. Family housing pro-
vided. Send resume by email:
Classified@wlj.net (Subject line:
WLJ Box #914) or mail to: West-
ern Livestock Journal, ATTN:
Box #914, 7355 E. Orchard Rd.
#300, Greenwood Village, CO
80111.

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WORKING MANAGER (NV).....\$70K±
RANCH HERDSMAN (CO).....\$60K±
RANCH ASSISTANT (WA).....\$40K±

Call Eric 308/382-7351
www.hansenagriplacement.com

Cattle For Sale

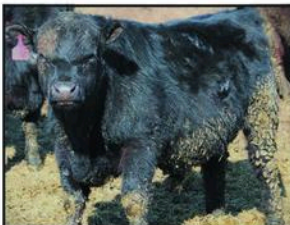
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ANGUS RANGE BULLS FOR SALE**

Private Treaty. Good selection for
heifers and cows.
From popular sires & industry leaders.
Semen tested & ready to go.

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Registered Angus and Hereford
Two-year old, fall yearling and
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treaty. www.malsonangus.com.
Call Josh at 208-739-0725 for
more info.



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YEARLING BULLS FOR SALE,
PRIVATE TREATY. OUT OF TOP
AI CALVING EASE SIRE.**
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2 Bar Angus
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BEEF TYPE GRAY
BRAHMANS**
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Maricopa, AZ 85139

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Oakdale, CA
Ask for Larry or Albert
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Real Estate Opportunities

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FARM/FEEDLOT FOR SALE. 313
acres, 200 irrigated farm. 1500 head
feedlot, CAFO approved. Year round
water, 6 pivots and 7 wheels lines.
Grain mill, scales, commodity sheds.
Ontario, OR. Call John 208-859-7038.

Real Estate Pacific

20A

**KNIFE
LAND COMPANY**
EST 1944

GILBERT GRADE FARM
New Listing - Orofino, Idaho
379± acres with 260± acres of
cultivated farm land, timber, and
a pond. The old home site has
two outbuildings, and power is
located along the road. An
excellent recreation area near the
Clearwater River, and Dworshak
Reservoir. **\$1,525,000**

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Looking to BUY OR SELL?

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REAL ESTATE

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Pasture Available

23

WINTER GRAZING - CA. Central
Valley foothills. Full care, well wa-
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**NEED EXTRA
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or fishing lease!**

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"Because Pounds Pay"

**You don't have to use Charolais bulls —
But you do have to compete with ranchers that do!**



DeBruyckerCharolais.com • Dutton, MT

BULL SALE

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The Five Star Legacy Ranch is an outstanding
3,580± acre working ranch just 40 miles
northwest of Tulsa. Open native tallgrass
covered hills and 45" average annual
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OFFERED AT \$9,850,000

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Real Estate Southwest

20D

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Scott Land Company, LLC

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www.scottlandcompany.com • 800-933-9698 day/eve
Ben G. Scott - Broker • Krystal M. Nelson - NM QB

Irrigation

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Employment
Wanted

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COWBOY LOOKING FOR A CAMP
JOB. 10 years in last camp. Dale
Stover - 505 263 0879.

Help
Wanted

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EXPERIENCED CATTLE BARN
MANAGER POSITION IN
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Competitive pay & benefits. Must be:
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market values

- business minded
- able to build relationships

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GREAT OPPORTUNITY!
RANCH MANAGER NEEDED

NW Colorado mountain ranch is
seeking responsible, motivated
self-starter, experienced in most
phases of a cattle ranch operation:
fencing, irrigation, haying and
equipment maintenance. BE YOUR
OWN BOSS. Family housing pro-
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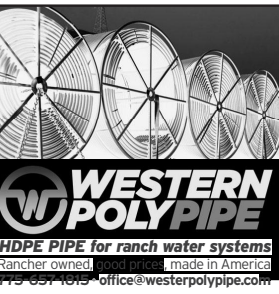
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VIDEO AUCTION

March 2, Hudson Oaks, TX
Superior Livestock Auction hosted their video auction live on March 2 from the Superior Livestock Auction Studio in Hudson Oaks, TX. Cattle producers offered over 34,830 head of calves, yearlings and breeding stock from 25 states for this auction. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through November 2023. Regions 3/4/5/6 feeder steers saw strong prices \$5-7 higher on all weights with the strength mainly on heavier weights on both immediate and deferred deliveries; also noted the wheat pasture and grazing cattle were the strong point of

the market. Regions 3/4/5/6 feeder heifers also saw strong demand \$3-4 higher than the last auction, with a strong demand for heifers that could be retained for replacements at \$10-12 higher. Regions 1&2 feeder steers & heifers were well received at \$5-6 higher. Beef-dairy crosses also saw strong demand, moving out \$10 higher. Regions 1&2 weaned calves again advanced the market by \$7-10 on both steers & heifers, with grazing condition calves selling at \$15 higher. Regions 3/4/5/6 calves saw an increase of \$10-15 higher on calves lighter than 625 pounds.

TOP5—Feeder steers and heifers: Gretzinger Ranch LLC, Clinton,

MO, sold 70 feeder steers @ 675 lbs. VAC 60, Owner Certified Natural, Superior Progressive Genetics. Out of Nebraska origin cows by performance-tested Angus bulls. Angus & two or three Red Angus. Approx. 95% black. \$205.50, March 6-14 delivery. Taylor Fields, Groom, TX, sold 153 feeder steers @ 700 lbs. VAC PRECON, English & English Exotic cross. Pred. black hided, few Charolais, red & RWF. \$199.50, March 3-17 delivery. Edward McIntyre, Spearman, TX, sold 15 feeder steers @ 770 lbs./29 feeder heifers @ 810 lbs. \$10/cwt back. VAC 60 & VAC PRECON, Superior Verified, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Veg. Fed Approved,

Owner Certified Natural Plus, Superior Progressive Genetics, Beef CARE Certified. Angus & Angus cross-sired by Gardiner, Express Ranches, Connealy & 44 Farms reg. Black Angus bulls. 100% black & BWF. \$186, April 15-30 delivery. Coleman Cattle Co., Harper, OR, sold 23 feeder steers @ 560 lbs./63 feeder heifers @ 590 lbs. \$20/cwt back. VAC 60, Ranchers Connecting Ranchers, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Veg. Fed Approved, Superior Progressive Genetics, other. English & English cross. Sired by 44 Farms, Riverbend & Sitz Angus bulls. Black hided w/a few Charolais cross & five to six solid red. \$224.50, March

10-20 delivery. Odle Livestock, Brush, CO, sold 65 feeder heifers @ 760 lbs. VAC PRECON, Superior Progressive Genetics, Red Angus & Red Angus cross. \$179, March 7-17 delivery.

Beef-dairy crosses: Hickory Hills Farms Inc., Hospers, IA, sold 60 beef-dairy cross steers @ 400 lbs./60 beef-dairy cross heifers @ 400 lbs. \$10/cwt back. VAC 60, Superior Verified, NHTC, other. Out of Holstein cows by Angus (10772 Hart High Value, 10382 Quaker Hill Desperado & SMA 30352 R&R Beefmaker) bulls bred for carcass. May be white on head, tail, under belly & socks. \$24, March 3-April 1 delivery. TD Beef, Amarillo, TX, sold 230 beef-dairy cross heifers @ 625 lbs. VAC PRECON, Superior Verified, NHTC, Superior Progressive Genetics. Out of Holstein cows 100% A/d to reg. TD Beef, ABS In-Focus & Genex Angus bulls selected for high growth & carcass merit. \$178, March 6-10 delivery.

Weaned calves and calves on cows: Glass White River Ranch, Spur, TX, sold 226 weaned steer calves @ 280 lbs. VAC 45, Superior Verified, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Veg. Fed Approved. Out of Angus, BWF & Hereford cows by Red Angus & Angus bulls. Approx. 80% Angus sired & 20% Red Angus sired. \$340, March 6-10 delivery. Branch Land & Cattle LLC, Aspermont, TX, sold 97 weaned heifer

calves @ 500 lbs. VAC 60, Superior Verified, NHTC, Verified Natural Beef, Veg. Fed Approved. Out of Angus cows by Angus & Brangus bulls. 100% black hided. \$221, March 6-10 delivery. V.C. Hollingsworth Mgmt, Arcadia, FL, sold 110 steer calves @ 450 lbs. VAC 34+, Superior Progressive Genetics. Out of English cross & English Brahman cross cows by Jorgensen Angus bulls. May be a few Charolais-colored calves from Charolais cross cows. \$245, March 15-April 8 delivery. Raymond Adams IV, Maple Hill, KS, sold 95 steer calves @ 525 lbs. VAC 34, Black Angus. 100% black hided. \$248, April 15-22 delivery. Raymond Adams IV, Maple Hill, KS, sold 85 heifer calves @ 500 lbs. VAC 34, Black Angus. 100% black hided. \$227, April 15-22 delivery. **Bredstock:** Leon Gee, Antlers, OK, sold 25 bred cows @ 1,100 lbs. Angus cross cows bred to Red Angus bulls. Started calving approx. 2/20/23 for approx. 90 days. 8-year-olds. \$1,125, March 3-15 delivery. Kabil Cattle Co., Thomas Allen, Stratford, TX, sold 60 bred heifers @ 1,000 lbs. Angus & Angus Hereford cross heifers approx. 70% bred to reg. low birthweight Hip-O Angus (Dalhart, TX) & 30% Shield-Knight Red Angus (Spearman, TX) bulls. 100% black hided, 10% BWF. Start calving approx. 3/20-6/10/23. \$1,550, March 3-10 delivery.



SALE CALENDAR

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ALL BREEDS

Apr. 6-7 — Midland Bull Test, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT

ANGUS

Mar. 20 — Angus in the Basin, Bull Sale, Duchesne, UT
Mar. 20 — Genetic Opportunity Angus Bull Sale, Purdum, NE
Mar. 20 — JR Ranch & Sackmann Cattle, Bull Sale, Othello, WA
Mar. 20 — Whistling Winds Angus, Bull Sale, Hingham, MT
Mar. 21 — Blevins Angus, Bull Sale, Charlo, MT
Mar. 21 — ELK Angus, Bull Sale, Buffalo, WY
Mar. 22 — Nebraska Bull Test, Bull Sale, Broken Bow, NE
Mar. 22 — Peterson Grain and Cattle, Bull Sale, Havre, MT
Mar. 23 — Vermilion Commercial Female Sale, Billings, MT
Mar. 24 — Gartner-Denowh, Bull Sale, Sidney, MT
Mar. 24 — Schurrtop Angus & Charolais, Bull Sale, McCook, NE
Mar. 24 — Vermilion Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Mar. 25 — Connealy Angus, Bull Sale, Whitman, NE
Mar. 25 — Diamond Peak Cattle, Bull Sale, Loma, CO
Mar. 26 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Female Sale, Ft. Collins, CO
Mar. 27 — Harrer's Lost Lake, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
Mar. 27 — Herbster Angus Farms, Bull Sale, Marysville, KS
Mar. 27 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Ft. Collins, CO
Mar. 28 — Bar JV Angus, Bull Sale, Sidney, MT
Mar. 30 — Silver Bit Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, May, ID
Apr. 1 — Botts Angus, Bull

Sale, Huntley, MT

Apr. 1 — Brooks Chalky Butte, Bull Sale, Bowman, ND

Apr. 1 — Gray's Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Harrison, NE

Apr. 3 — FBA Angus, Bull Sale, Havre, MT

Apr. 4 — Hinman Angus, Bull Sale, Malta, MT

Apr. 6 — Arntzen Angus, Bull Sale, Hilger, MT

BRANGUS

Mar. 28 — Geneplus Brangus, Bull Sale, Concord, AR

CHAROLAIS

Mar. 24 — Schurrtop Angus & Charolais, Bull Sale, McCook, NE

Mar. 25 — Valley View Charolais, Bull Sale, Polson, MT

Mar. 26 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Female Sale, Ft. Collins, CO

Mar. 27 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Ft. Collins, CO

Apr. 1 — Debruycker Charolais, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

HEREFORD

Mar. 22 — NJW Herefords, Bull Sale, Sheridan, WY
Mar. 22 — Nebraska Bull Test, Bull Sale, Broken Bow, NE

LIMOUSIN

Apr. 1 — Magness Land & Cattle, Bull Sale, Platteville, CO

LIM-FLEX

Apr. 1 — Magness Land & Cattle, Bull Sale, Platteville, CO

RED ANGUS

Mar. 21 — Green Mountain Red Angus, Bull Sale, Logan, MT

Mar. 22 — Nebraska Bull Test, Bull Sale, Broken Bow, NE

Mar. 22 — Westphal Red Angus, Bull Sale, Grass Range, MT

Mar. 26 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Female Sale, Ft. Collins, CO

Mar. 27 — Axtell Cattle Co., Production Sale, Sterling, CO

Mar. 27 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Ft. Collins, CO

Mar. 31 — Pieper Red Angus, Production Sale, Hay Springs, NE

SALERS

Mar. 28 — MJB Ranch, Bull Sale, Billings, MT

SIMANGUS

Mar. 25 — Diamond Peak Cattle, Bull Sale, Loma, CO

Mar. 25 — T-Heart Ranch, Bull Sale, La Garita, CO

Mar. 26 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Female Sale, Ft. Collins, CO

Mar. 27 — Leachman Cattle of Colorado, Bull Sale, Ft. Collins, CO

SIMMENTAL

Mar. 27 — Vertical Edge Genetics, Bull Sale, Bancroft, ID

Mar. 31 — Open Gate Ranch, Bull Sale, Augusta, MT



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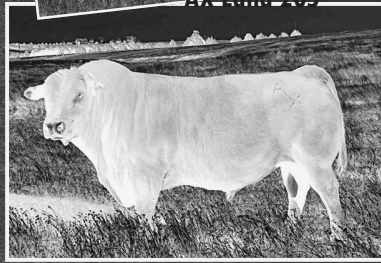
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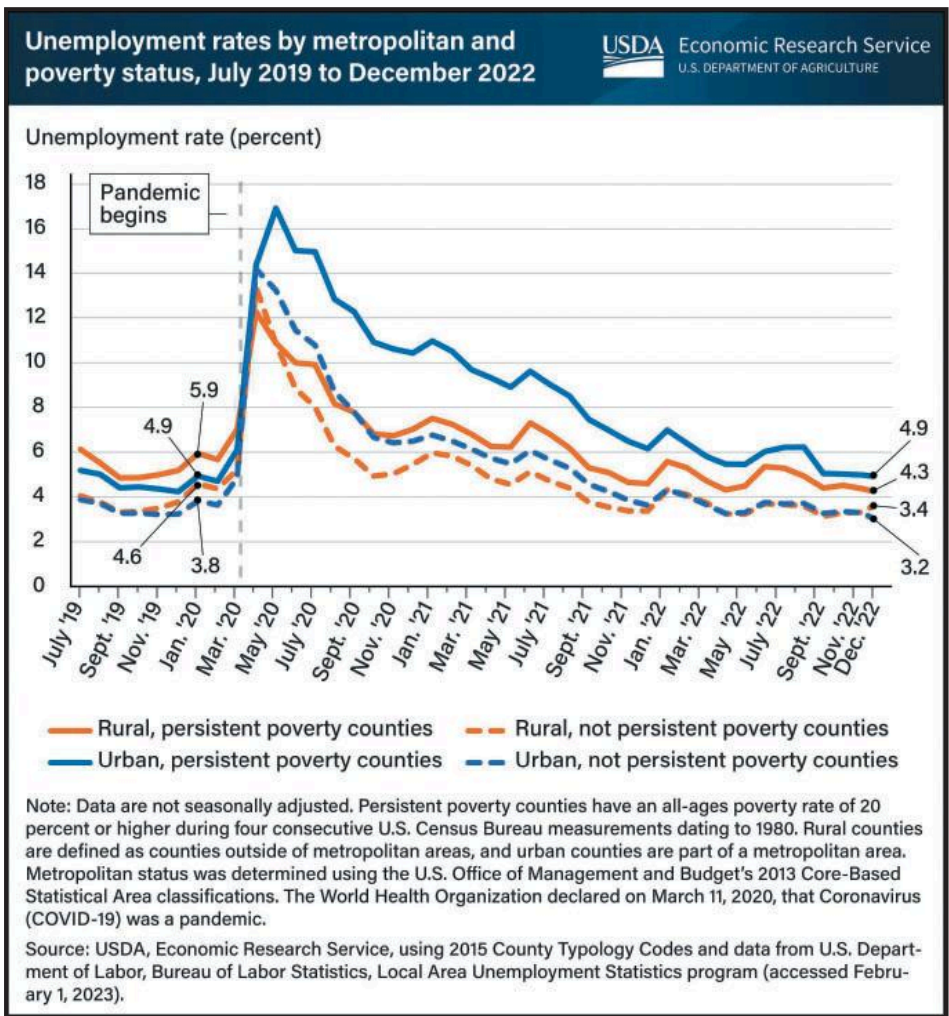
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Unemployment has recovered to 2019 levels

The COVID-19 pandemic affected unemployment rates differently in rural and urban counties. In January 2020, just before the pandemic, the unemployment rates in both persistently poor and not persistently poor rural counties were higher than in the respective urban counties. In addition, the unemployment rates in persistently poor rural counties were higher than in rural counties that were not persistently poor (5.9% versus 4.6%). This pattern changed with the pandemic-driven economic downturn. By April 2020, the unemployment rate among persistently poor rural counties had more than doubled to a peak of 12.3%. However, in other rural counties, the unemployment rate had nearly tripled, surpassing the unemployment rate in persistently poor rural counties with a peak of 13.4%.

Similarly, in urban counties

the unemployment rate nearly tripled (from 4.9% to 14.4%) for persistently poor counties and more than tripled for other urban counties (from 3.8% to 14.2%), surpassing the unemployment rates in rural counties. These unemployment rate changes suggest that the employment shock at the start of the pandemic was not as prominent in persistently poor counties as in counties that were not persistently poor and that it had a larger effect on urban counties than rural counties.

The varying effects of the pandemic might in part be traced to whether local industries stayed open (essential industries, such as meatpacking), or saw reduced demand, such as retail and hospitality. Unemployment rates in rural counties returned to pre-pandemic levels by November 2021, but persistently poor urban counties did not recover until December 2022 and continue to have the highest unemployment rates. — **USDA Economic Research Service**

Livestock depredation compensation increased

WOLF (from page 1)

livestock and herding animal depredations.

- Raising the cap on livestock and guard and herding animal depredation compensation to \$15,000 per animal.

- Excluding veterinary expenses from the compensation cap for animals up to \$15,000 or the fair market value of the livestock at issue, whichever is lower. Up to \$30,000 could be compensated per animal for death and related veterinary expenses.

- Requiring claimants pursuing an itemized claim to provide documents or self-certify the use of vaccines and pregnancy checks in lieu of producing "records for the current year that demonstrate vaccination status."

- Including a two-tiered compensation ratio (1.25:1 or 1:1) for missing yearlings depending on whether the claimant uses conflict minimization practices.

- If conflict minimization practices are implemented, up to seven missing calves and sheep may be claimed for each confirmed cattle or sheep depredation (a 7:1 ratio).

The commission noted the following: "At some point in the future, the long-term management of wolves in Colorado may need to be considered further than what is outlined in this plan. These discussions would only occur after wolves have successfully been recovered and removed from the state threatened and endangered list."

The commission continued that the long-term management of wolves should be impact- and science-based, and consider biological and social science in addition to economic and legal considerations.

The plan will require a count of 150 wolves for two successive years or 200 wolves at any time to transition the wolves from

threatened status to non-game status. Division staff will be required to conduct a population viability analysis as a prerequisite to wolves changing from threatened to nongame status.

A formal review on the plan's progress will be scheduled for five years after the wolves' initial release.

The final plan will be adopted on April 6 in Steamboat Springs, CO, and May 3-4 in Glenwood Springs, CO.

Section 10(j) rule

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is proposing to establish an experimental population of gray wolves in the state under Section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act. This would increase management flexibility for the wolves brought into the state.

"A 10(j) rule would help CPW manage the potential impacts of gray wolf reintroduction to stakeholders while ensuring that the reintroduction and management of wolves is likely to be successful and contribute to conservation of the species," USFWS said in a flyer.

The rule would allow for reintroduced wolves to be hazed, removed or relocated by CPW, Tribes or designated agents for domestic depredations. Under special conditions and reporting requirements, the public could harass or remove wolves attacking livestock or dogs.

The agency noted that while wolves could still be reintroduced into Colorado without the 10(j) designation, "The state would be limited in its options to manage the federally endangered species appropriately."

A comment period on the proposed rule is open through April 18. Comments can be submitted at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) by searching for Docket ID FWS-R6-ES-2022-0100. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

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