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INSIDE WLJ

MIDLAND BULL TEST – Don't miss this week's special section on the 63rd annual Midland Bull Test! Page 12

ADM IN COURT – Federal judge rejects dismissal motions in Archer Daniels Midland securities lawsuit. Page 20

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"Much confusion could be avoided if government rationing programs, as well as price ceilings, were established on a regional basis rather than on a nationwide basis. It is impossible, apparently, for men in Washington to understand local conditions. A certain area, the Pacific Coast for example, might have a surplus production of a food product such as lamb, in the spring and early summer season. Rationing restrictions might well be eased in the area where a surplus exists as a means of saving transportation and stabilizing the market," wrote Nelson Crow in his March 1943 "Observations by the Publisher."

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Appeals court rules in favor of corner-crossing hunters

—Mixed reactions

The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals has ruled in favor of four hunters in a highly anticipated legal battle over corner-crossing, a method of accessing public land in the West's checkerboard pattern of land ownership.

The case revolved around whether stepping from one public land

parcel to another at the intersection of four parcels—without touching private land—constitutes trespassing.

The ruling legalizes corner-crossing between sections of federal land in the six states under the 10th Circuit's jurisdiction: Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah and Wyoming.

Hunting trips

The dispute began when Iron Bar Holdings, a North Carolina-based company, accused the hunters of trespassing on its property in Wyoming during the 2020 and 2021 hunting seasons.

In the fall of 2020, the hunters traveled from Missouri to Elk

Mountain, WY, for an elk hunting trip. Using the GPS mapping tool onX Hunt, they navigated to public land corners marked by steel U.S. Geological Survey caps.

They crossed between parcels without stepping on Iron Bar Holdings' private property—only

See CORNER CROSSING on page 9



Bob Wick/BLM

An appeals court panel has ruled in favor of hunters tied up in a corner-crossing case in Wyoming. Pictured here, the Seminole Mountains, about 50 miles north of Elk Mountain, WY.

EPA plans to revisit rules to increase prescribed burning

—Reviewing Exceptional Events Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is taking steps to boost the use of prescribed burns to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires. On March 12, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the agency will begin revising a decades-old rule that he says has hindered controlled burning efforts.

Zeldin directed EPA staff to revisit the Exceptional Events rule-making and prioritize allowing prescribed fires in state and Tribal Implementation Plans. The move comes as communities nationwide struggle to manage wildfire risks amid changing climate conditions.

"The Trump administration is tackling our emergency response duties head on and taking action to reduce the likelihood of these devastating disasters in the future," Zeldin said. "EPA plays an impor-

tant role in ensuring the best forest management practices while protecting human health and the environment. Revisiting this rulemaking will ensure that EPA doesn't get in the way of making preventative efforts like prescribed burns easier to protect communities."

Exceptional Events Rule

The Exceptional Events Rule is a provision under the Clean Air Act that allows states to exclude air pollution events from regulatory compliance calculations if they meet specific criteria.

Wildfires contribute significantly to air pollution, mainly through fine particulate matter, which can travel long distances and impact public health. The EPA has historically treated wildfires as exceptional events by default.

Unlike wildfires, prescribed burns do not automatically qualify as ex-

ceptional events. This is because prescribed burns are human-caused, likely to recur and technically preventable. EPA said under the Clean Air Act, an exceptional event must have "affected air quality in such a way that there exists a clear causal relationship between the specific event and the monitored exceedance or violation." Additionally, it must have been "not reasonably controllable or preventable" and "caused by human activity that is unlikely to recur at a particular location or was a natural event."

To meet the "not reasonably controllable or preventable" criterion, the EPA requires that enforceable control measures be considered "reasonable controls" if they meet specific conditions. These measures must be implemented as part of an approved State Implementation

See BURNING on page 6

Report shows ag adds \$9.5T to US economy

—Slight decrease from 2024 report

A new report highlights the substantial economic impact the agriculture and food sector has on the country's culture and commerce.

In the ninth annual Feeding the Economy report, agriculture boasts more than \$9.5 trillion in economic value, or nearly 19% of the overall nation's economy. While this number is significant, it is a slight decrease from 2024, when the industry contributed more than \$9.6 trillion to the economy, or about 20% of total economic output.

The study measures the number of jobs in food and agriculture-related industries, wages, the value added and total output. The report also measures the economic impact of the suppliers that support the industries, and the industries supported by the induced spending of direct and supplier industries.

"Agriculture's impact all the way

through the economy is enormous," said Roger Cryan, American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) chief economist. "The Feeding the Economy project helps show us how critical farming is to America's economic and national security and to the well-being of the American people."

The report analyzes the direct and indirect economic contributions of agriculture to U.S. jobs, wages, economic output and taxes.

Other highlights in the report include:

- Increasing agriculture's economic output by close to 25% since the COVID-19 pandemic, showing the industry's resilience and innovation even when confronted with global supply chain issues.

- Growing jobs by more than 1 million jobs since 2020, contributing to overall U.S. job growth and employment rates.

See AG IMPACT on page 20

Futures continue their climb higher

The market saw substantial gains over the week, with numbers on the board soaring higher.

Live cattle futures saw several-dollar gains over the week. The April contract gained more than \$6 to close at \$208.47, and the June contract gained about \$7 to close at \$205.02.

"As futures surge, led today by June live cattle, bullish expectations throughout the cattle industry do too," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday. "Asking prices are sharply higher in the country."

Cash trade through Thursday afternoon was light, with less than 2,000 head sold. Live steers sold for \$202, and there was no trend noted for dressed steers.

Cash trade through March 16 totaled 81,521 head. Live steers averaged \$202.89, and dressed steers averaged \$324.87.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 440,000 head, compared to 483,000 head a week earlier. Projected total slaughter for a week earlier is estimated at 587,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending March 8 was 579,267

head. The average steer dressed weight was 945 lbs., 3 lbs. above the prior week.

Inclement weather reduced slaughter numbers over the week. "So far, its unclear if much of that lost production will be made up this week, especially considering packer margins are still red, even with the rally in boxed beef prices," Fish said.

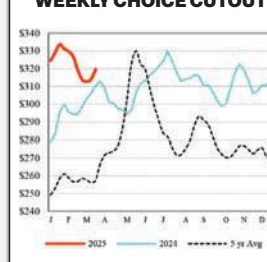
USDA did not release its Thursday boxed beef report ahead of WLJ

press time due to packer submission issues. On Wednesday, boxed beef prices were higher over the

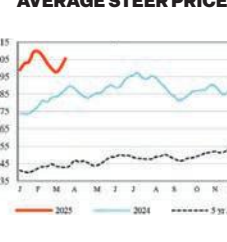
See MARKETS on page 17

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling

WEEKLY CHOICE CUTOUT



5 AREA WEEKLY WTD AVERAGE STEER PRICE



LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$202.00	N/A	\$284.65
WEEK ENDING: 3-20-25		

COMMENTS

The wait and see

In December of 2021, the U.S. expressed concerns about Canada's dairy tariff rate quota (TRQ) being inconsistent with Canada's part in the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) trade agreement from 2018. The claim was that Canada continued to restrict access for dairy products entering the Canadian marketplace. Canada currently operates under a supply management system which helps protect Canadian dairy farmers selling into Canadian markets. However, U.S. dairy farmers were much more restricted and didn't have much access to the Canadian market and a 200% tariff was threatened for anything above the TRQ level. But, the quota level was never challenged.

In response, Canada revised its TRQ allocation measures, but U.S. representatives still claimed these levels were inconsistent with Canada's obligations under the USMCA according to the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

In a statement released in November of 2023, then-Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack said, "The United States won the first USMCA case on Canada's dairy TRQ allocation system with the ultimate goal of securing fair market access for U.S. dairy farmers, workers, processors, and exporters.... We will continue to voice deep concerns about Canada's system."

There have been three situations where consultations between the U.S. and Canada have met over this very issue. Two of those felt Canada was complying. Here lies one of the issues, that the findings are also inconsistent. There is no black and white answer even under the USMCA and has allowed Canada to push boundaries on trade agreements. This is one example among a multitude of issues that has spurred current trade tensions.

Today, this issue is being brought to light by the new administration as part of a much larger issue between the two countries. This is one tiny piece of an overarching situation this is unfolding.

In my column two weeks ago titled, "Trust the process," I encouraged readers to see how this plays out. Our industries are being used as leverage. This is a painfully uncomfortable place for any of us to be in. The current administration is using all their power and weight to spark new negotiations between the U.S. and its trading partners. To be clear, I do not want added tariffs, but I am still trusting that this process will eventually be advantageous to the American producer and consumer. To be even more clear, one of the most vocal people supporting tariffs is R-CALF CEO Bill Bullard.

We oftentimes hear and read headlines about trade negotiations happening or their results. We hardly ever hear how our industries are being used and what could possibly go wrong if negotiations fail. This time, with this administration, we are. To reemphasize, this administration goes about their business not in a way that you or I would, but it has worked for President Donald Trump and his administration, and that is what I am trusting in.

Fears of a trade war are everywhere. Even the Federal Reserve decided to maintain interest rates when the stock market had predicted a drop. The Fed claimed fears of a trade war and subsequently lowered its economic growth projections by 0.4% and upped its core price inflation rate to 2.8%. They did concede that they predict two cuts to the federal interest rate aiming at 3.75-4% by year's end.

This alone, in my opinion, is what needs to happen. Current interest rates have been one of the largest growth deterrents in agriculture in recent years. Simply put, input costs have gone out of control and have hindered all sectors of agriculture. If the people making the product can't survive, export markets won't matter if there's nothing to export.

Blatantly, this administration is using its consumers as the negotiating piece. In an article published by Feedlot Magazine, they write that the U.S. government attains \$80 billion in revenue from customs duties (tariffs). This equates to 1.8% of government revenue. Countries want access to the American consumer because of our purchasing power and volume strengthened by a strong currency value. However, when U.S. producers want to export our goods, we aren't given the same consideration.

Last week, in a huge win for pork and poultry markets, China renewed export registrations for several hundred facilities. Keep in mind, many of these facilities had lapsed and were restricted. Unfortunately, at the time of this writing, beef facilities registrations lapsed on March 19. Hopefully by the time this issue reaches its readers, these have been renewed. The win in this would be that countries work with each other and a trade war doesn't come to fruition, because I don't think our producer, nor our consumer, can handle that right now. — **LOGAN IPSEN**



IPSEN

GUEST OPINION

Farmers and ranchers are committed to stewarding the land and protecting the water we depend on. We know firsthand the importance of clean water: it's essential to our livelihoods and instrumental in providing a safe and abundant food supply. That's why clarity with water regulations is critical and why we're glad to see the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) take the first step in providing a clear Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule.

Farmers have been caught in a regulatory tug of war around WOTUS for years. It seems that a new rule comes with every administration or changing of hands, leaving our farmers in a constant state of limbo trying to understand and comply with new guidelines.

Farm families shouldn't be left guessing or needing a team of lawyers and consultants to help them know what is and what isn't regulated on their land. Imagine planting a field, one you have worked for years, without knowing whether you risk facing a steep fine or even jail time, but that's been the reality for farmers for years.

Farmers are committed to doing the right thing and keeping our natural resources safe. But these unclear and constantly shifting rules have created unnecessary obstacles, threatened progress and added confusion to working the land many of us have stewarded for decades.

In recent years, the WOTUS rule has only gotten muddier. The 2023 rule set vague guidelines to expand the EPA and the Army

MOVING TOWARD CLARITY ON WOTUS

Corps of Engineers' authority far beyond what Congress intended. These vague rules attempted to regulate areas that become wet only in response to precipitation, along with any feature that could be viewed as having a "significant nexus" or direct connection to WOTUS.

Only a few months after this rule was finalized, we saw a landmark victory with the Supreme Court's unanimous decision in Sackett v. EPA to reign in the regulatory overreach of the "significant nexus" test. But in response to that court decision, the EPA and Corps still failed to provide needed clarity. Instead, they reasserted vague and subjective standards, leading to even more permitting delays, litigation and uncertainty.

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) has long advocated for consistent and fair guidelines that uphold the Clean Water Act without overextending federal authority. That's why we were encouraged to see EPA listen to the concerns of farmers and take the first step this month towards crafting a straightforward WOTUS rule that provides farmers the certainty they need.

This progress is a direct result of our Farm Bureau members stepping up and calling for clear rules. We now must remain engaged with the EPA, Army Corps and Congress to finally achieve new rules that reflect the realities of life on the farm and allow farmers to continue growing the food America's families rely on.

The work on WOTUS still has a long way to go, but this is a step in the right direction, and Farm Bureau will press forward until clarity becomes a reality. — **Zippy Duvall, AFBF president**

GUEST OPINION

The U.S. sheep industry reveals what happens when our nation ignores market failure for too long, and it's a case study applicable to every livestock sector in America. So, let's examine market failure.

Market failure occurs when a market functions contrary to the forces of competition, meaning when it defies the economic law of supply and demand. Looking at the sheep industry, we see demand for lamb meat has increased substantially for longer than the past decade, beginning in 2012.

Although consumption is not the same as the economic term "demand," it can be viewed as a proxy for demand when consumption begins a long-term upswing. And that's exactly what's happening in the sheep industry—consumers are purchasing more lamb and paying higher prices for it.

If the sheep market was functioning according to competitive forces, according to the law of supply and demand, surely the domestic production of lamb would have likewise increased to keep pace with the long-term upswing of domestic consumption. That's how a competitive market should function.

From 2012 through 2023, lamb consumption in America increased by more than 40%. Now a functional market would predict that domestic lamb production would likewise grow by about that same amount, but it certainly would not predict that domestic production would decline. But that's exactly what happened, domestic lamb production fell nearly 17% while consumption grew more than 40%. So, there it is! A crystal-clear example of severe market failure in an important domestic livestock industry.

As a result of the prolonged market failure plaguing our domestic sheep industry, we, as a nation, have all but destroyed one of America's most iconic livestock sectors, a sector that helped settle the West and that remains vital to the well-being of the West's culture and economy. Our sheep industry now stands on the point-of-no-return's threshold.

Domestic sheep inventories have hit a historical low, the number of sheep producers has fallen to an historic low, and the handful of the few remaining domestic sheep packing plants are reported to be operating at between one-third to one-half capacity due to a lack of sheep. The West is losing farmers and ranchers, jobs and manufacturers and this weakening of our national economy and national food security should not be tolerated.

So, we just made a formal request to the highest levels of our government to take immediate action to save what's left of our all-but-destroyed sheep industry and to reverse its alarming decline. We've asked U.S. Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick to review the domestic sheep industry and to adjust the debilitating imports that have broken our domestic market and that are destroying America's critical food production infrastructure.

And we know we've waited too long to do this. You see, if we were to cutoff the continuing flood of cheaper, imported lamb today, there would not be enough lamb meat in America to meet America's appetite for this important protein. That's because we've let global importers capture a full 70% of the American market.

So, we need a phased-in approach to begin rebuilding our domestic sheep infrastructure without causing shortages for American consumers. And that's what we've proposed.

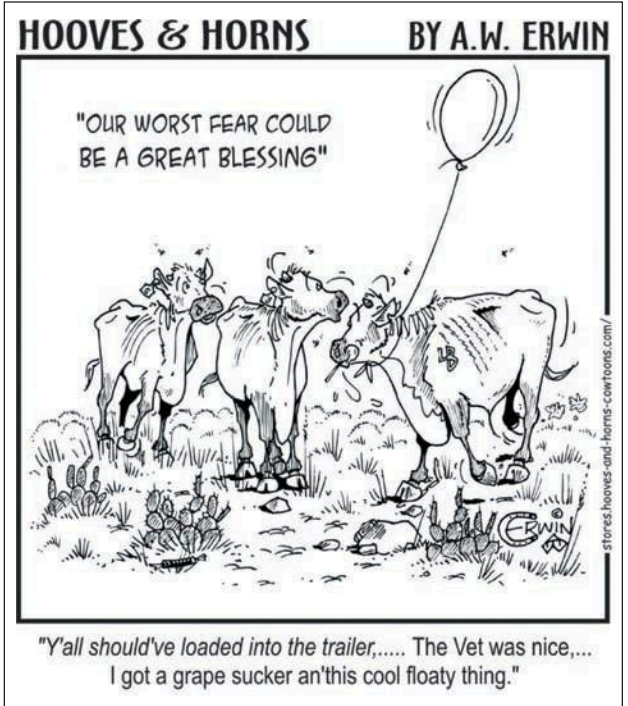
WILL TARIFFS ARRIVE IN TIME TO SAVE AMERICAN LAMB?

We provided Secretary Lutnick with a schedule for the gradual reduction in imported lamb over a 10-year period to incentivize investment and expansion in our domestic sheep industry while ensuring lamb remains on America's menu. And we've asked the secretary to increase tariffs on all lamb and sheep meat to \$1.25 per pound. This proposed \$1.25/lb. tariff represents an increase from zero tariffs that currently apply to the flood of cheaper imports coming from Australia.

Between 2020 and 2022, Australia alone grew its sheep flock by an additional 6.7 million sheep, which represents a greater increase of their flock than all the sheep left in America, which is only slightly over 5 million head. The reason Australia is increasing its sheep flock is to further capture more of the U.S. lamb market away from our domestic producers.

If you agree that it's in our national security interest to maintain near self-sufficiency in the production of such an important protein as lamb, and if you support family-scale farmers and ranchers in the U.S., then we need your help to rebuild our domestic sheep industry and to support America's family farmers and ranchers.

Here's what you can do: First, call your members of Congress and any friends or contacts you have in the federal government to urge them to support the plan to save America's sheep industry that Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund (R-CALF) USA submitted to the secretary of Commerce. Second, when you go to your grocery store to buy lamb, tell the grocer that you want American lamb because you want to support American family farmers and ranchers. — **Bill Bullard, CEO of R-CALF USA**



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Updated Nebraska land values, cash rents published in report

The 2024-2025 Nebraska Farm Real Estate Market Survey reports a 2% drop in the average market value of agricultural land. High interest rates and lower crop prices are key factors affecting land markets and rental rates.

Nebraska's agricultural land values declined by 2% over the past year, averaging \$3,935 per acre as of Feb. 1, according to the preliminary report from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's (UNL) 2024-2025 Farm Real Estate Market Survey. This is the first decline in the non-inflation-adjusted market value of Nebraska agricultural land in six years and follows a record high of \$4,015 per acre in 2024.

The survey's preliminary report was published March 12 by the university's Center for Agricultural Profitability, which is based in the Department of Agricultural Economics. It provides current point-in-time estimates of agricultural land values and cash rental rates, broken down regionally across a variety of land types and classes.

Industry professionals who responded to this year's survey attributed the decline in land values to current crop prices, interest rate levels and farm input costs, said Jim Jansen, an extension agricultural economist who leads the survey and report.

"High interest rates and lower crop prices have tightened farm finances, leading to

cautious land and equipment investments," Jansen said. "With borrowing costs at multi-decade highs, land markets have slowed as producers navigate these financial pressures."

Net farm income in Nebraska decreased by about 17% in 2024, to \$7.69 billion. Lower corn and soybean prices reduced crop receipts in the state by about \$1.59 billion but were partially offset by higher cattle and calf prices. Jansen said those differences between crop and livestock profitability were reflected in the market value of the land classes that serve each industry.

The report found that the market value of center pivot irrigated cropland averaged 4% lower across the state in the past year, while gravity irrigated land was down 5%. Dryland cropland with no irrigation potential decreased by 2% and dryland cropland with irrigation potential dropped 3%. Average grazing land and hayland values increased by between 1% and 5% across Nebraska.

Average cash rental rates in Nebraska for the upcoming growing season have followed a similar trend, with dryland and irrigated cropland down between 1% and 7%. However, rental rates for pasture and cow-calf pairs increased by approximately 3% to 4% compared to the previous grazing season.

"Rental rates for cropland generally trended lower in the

survey responses, as crop prices declined and input costs remained relatively high, pressuring margins," Jansen said. "In contrast, grazing land and pasture rental rates saw increases, reflecting the strength in the cattle market and adjustments in national livestock inventories."

According to the report, net farm income in Nebraska is forecast to decline again in 2025 due to ongoing crop prices and input expenses. Lenders have also noted that the tightening of financials for many farm and ranch operations in the region mean lower income and liquidity positions for those businesses. Despite those pressures, Jansen said Nebraska's agricultural real estate remains a key asset for producers and understanding market trends and management choices will be critical.

"In volatile markets, staying informed about land and commodity trends is essential in making informed decisions," he said. "Lease adjustments for crop price fluctuations, production costs and water availability can help ensure fair agreements for both landlords and tenants navigating uncertainty."

The Nebraska Farm Real Estate Report is available on the Center for Agricultural Profitability's website, cap.unl.edu/realestate. Two webinars covering new land values and cash rental rates, along with other topics rele-

vant to agricultural landowners and tenants, will be held on March 25 and 27. Registration is free on the same webpage.

The report is the product of an annual survey of land professionals, including appraisers, farm and ranch managers

and agricultural bankers. Results from the survey are divided by land class and agricultural statistic district.

Land values and rental rates presented in the report are averages of survey participants' responses by district. Actual land values and rental

rates may vary depending on the quality of the parcel and local market for an area. Preliminary land values and rental rates are subject to change as additional surveys are returned. The final version of the report will be published in July. — UNL Extension



RODEO STANDINGS



March PRCA world standings

The top five contestants and earnings are listed as provided on the Professional Rodeo Cowboy Association (PRCA) website, www.prca.com, as of March 19.

All Around

1. Stetson Wright, \$50,816.94, Beaver, UT. 2. Wacey Schalla, \$39,529.49, Arapaho, OK. 3. Marcus Theriot, \$38,340.86, Lumberton, MS. 4. Seth Hall, \$34,935.97, Albuquerque, NM. 5. Bart Brunson, \$16,513.12, Terry, MS.

Bareback Riding

1. Bradlee Miller, \$76,267.44, Huntsville, TX. 2. Nick Pelke, \$51,586.37, Mondovi, WI. 3. Dean Thompson, \$49,673.94, Altamont, UT. 4. Garrett Shadbolt, \$44,761.83, Merriman, NE. 5. Jess Pope, \$40,896.39, Waverly, KS.

Saddle Bronc Riding

1. Kade Bruno, \$75,307.21, Challis, ID. 2. Dawson Hay, \$71,603.25, Wildwood, AB. 3. Ryder Wright, \$65,900.88, Beaver, UT. 4. Statler Wright, \$56,246.35, Beaver, UT. 5. Sage Newman, \$54,312.98, Melstone, MT.

Bull Riding

1. Stetson Wright, \$60,180.42, Beaver, UT. 2. Wacey Schalla, \$59,323.96, Arapaho, OK. 3. T. Parker, \$49,451.33, Winnie, TX. 4. T.J. Gray, \$48,944.06, Dairy, OR. 5. Trey Benton, \$48,284.78, Richards, TX.

Steer Wrestling

1. Jesse Brown, \$35,422.96, Baker City, OR. 2. Will Lummus, \$30,385.67, Byhalia, MS. 3. Brandon Harrison, \$29,348.31, Cheek, TX. 4. Justin Shaffer, \$29,256.92, Hallsville, TX. 5. Cody Devers, \$28,799.50, Perryton, TX.

Team Roping (Headers)

1. Dustin Egusquiza, \$51,263.06, Marianna, FL. 2. Clay Smith, \$47,040.04, Broken Bow, OK. 3. Tanner Tomlinson, \$37,948.93, Mineral Wells, TX. 4. Nelson Wyatt, \$35,564.74, Clanton, AL. 5. Lightning Aguilera, \$33,972.71, Athens, TX.

Team Roping (Heelers)

1. Levi Lord, \$51,263.06, Sturgis, SD. 2. Coleby Payne, \$47,040.04, Stephenville, TX. 3. Jonathan

Torres, \$39,303.74, Ocala, FL. 4. Travis Graves, \$31,038.50, Jay, OK. 5. Kaden Proffil, \$28,105.86, Jacksonville, TX.

Tie-Down Roping

1. Shad Mayfield, \$62,038.37, Clovis, NM. 2. Kyle Lucas, \$48,178.75, Carstairs, AB. 3. John Douch, \$41,213.20, Huntsville, TX. 4. Ty Harris, \$37,853.53, San Angelo, TX. 5. Riley Webb, \$36,824.24, Denton, TX.

Steer Roping

1. Cole Patterson, \$29,621.90, Pawnee, OK. 2. Scott Snedecor, \$23,376.86, Fredericksburg, TX. 3. Vin Fisher, \$20,483.86, Andrews, TX. 4. Tanner Stec, \$18,653.34, Bassett, NE. 5. Ryan Rochlitz, \$15,831.07, Pine Bluffs, WY.

Barrel Racing

1. Megan McLeod-Sprague (G), \$47,212.99, Marsing, ID. 2. Andrea Busby, \$42,490.45, Millsap, TX. 3. Kassie Mowry, \$34,426.78, Dublin, TX. 4. Carlee Otero, \$32,535.63, Perrin, TX. 5. Brittany Pozzi Tonozzi, \$29,045.28, Lampasas, TX.

Breakaway Roping

1. Josie Conner, \$35,728.00, Iowa, LA. 2. Aspen Miller, \$30,955.30, Santa Fe, TX. 3. Kinlie Brennisse, \$29,455.43, Craig, CO. 4. Maddy Deerman, \$24,728.69, Hope, NM. 5. Joey Williams, \$23,733.68, Volborg, MT.

STUBER RANCH'S 57th ANNUAL SALE

Saturday, April 29, 2025 at the Ranch • 1 p.m. (MDT)

Joe Goggins, Auctioneer | 10 miles north of Bowman or 16 miles south of Amidon on Hwy 85, then 5 miles west, 1/2 mile south

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50 TOP-END Registered Heifers
80 HOME RAISED Commercial Females

Featuring sons and daughters of —

UU BAKKEN 8027

SR DOMINATE 308F

CL 1 DOMINO 993

HH ADVANCE 0159H

CHURCHILL MARK DOM 697D

CL 1 DOMINO 942G

PDHR 15E STANDARD LAD 24H

WHR BEEFMAKER 250G

UU GREAT PLAINS 2008K

CHURCHILL TRANSLATOR 273 ET

SR DOMINATION 1172K

SR STELLAR 201J AI

BIRDWELL VANGUARD 5022 9337

STARDANCE M8086-AI

UPDATED INFORMATION,
VIDEO AND CATALOG
ON OUR WEBSITE
stuberranch.com



Lot 163 — 44523497

FALL SON OF HH ADVANCE 0159

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MB	BMI	CHB
2.1	2.7	64	102	36	.68	.35	423	153

DEEP MADE, REAL WIDE PIN SET
AND BASES WIDE



Lot 77 — 44567790

SON OF CHURCHILL MARK DOM

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MB	BMI	CHB
4.5	1.3	62	102	45	.65	.24	462	142

SQUARE, WIDE
WITH TREMENDOUS THICKNESS

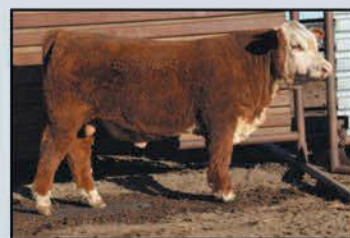


Lot 2 — 44523497

2 SON OF CHURCHILL TRANSLATOR 273K

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MB	BMI	CHB
3.2	2.7	67	110	35	.65	.24	462	142

POLLED — GOGGLED-EYED,
BIG MIDDLE AND LONG



Lot 45 — 44523497

SON OF PDHR 15E STANDARD LAD 24H

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MB	BMI	CHB
3.8	4	55	95	32	.46	.15	337	134

ULTRA-ATTRACTIVE, REAL COMPLETE,
AND STRAIGHT MADE



Lot 26 — 44567530

SON OF BEEF MAKER 250

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MB	BMI	CHB
1.4	3.7	76	121	35	.62	.19	438	149

PERFORMANCE
LOW BW, CARCASS



Lot 55 — 44570563

SON OF BIRDWELL VANGUARD 5022 9337

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MB	BMI	CHB
2.3	2	62	99	36	.84	.48	482	159

CORRECT MADE,
EXTRA MUSCLE AND CORRECT

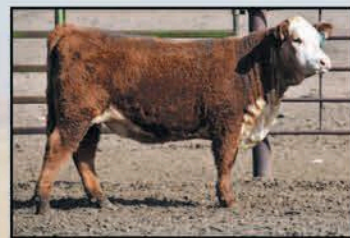


Lot 4038 — 44567858

DAUGHTER OF SR DOMINATION 117K

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MB	BMI	CHB
8.1	-0.2	54	90	35	0.54	0.24	435	139

THICK AND SMOOTH
MADE WITH STYLE



LOT 4030 — 44568439

DAUGHTER OF BAR S LHF 1056 MR 7167 050

CED	BW	WW	YW	M	REA	MB	BMI	CHB
9.8	1	46	89	31	0.37	0.19	369	107

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Pre-breeding exams for replacement heifer selection

For cow-calf producers, it is ideal to have one healthy calf on the ground per cow per year. Producers should also strive to have cows that are productive in the herd for many years. On average, a cow must stay in the herd for six years for the producer to break even on that cow's initial investment along with yearly maintenance costs.

Proper selection of replacement heifers is key to having cows that produce a calf every year for many

years. Further, with the current high cattle prices, weeding out any infertile or problem heifers from the herd as a yearling allows producers to market those heifers to the feeder market rather than as cull cows later in life.

To set that heifer up for lifelong success, she needs to reach puberty by 15 months of age to potentially calve at 24 months. However, roughly 35% of heifers do not reach puberty by 15 months. Later-maturing heifers can be

identified through pre-breeding exams, which are performed by a veterinarian and include a reproductive tract score and pelvic measurement. These exams should be done at around 12-15 months of age, prior to bull turnout or artificial insemination.

The reproductive tract is scored from 1 to 5 in relation to the heifer's puberty status. A tract score 1 is given to heifers with an infantile or underdeveloped tract. A tract score 2

is given to heifers that are not close to cycling but are not as underdeveloped as a score 1. A tract score 3 is assigned to heifers that are near puberty but not yet cycling. A tract score 4 is for heifers that have reached puberty and are cycling in the first phase of the estrous cycle where follicles are developing but the heifer has not ovulated. A tract score 5 is assessed by a heifer who is cycling and is in the second phase of the estrous cycle during which an egg has been

ovulated and a structure called the corpus luteum is present on the ovary.

As the reproductive tract score increases, the heifer's likelihood of becoming pregnant increases. Heifers with a tract score 4 or 5 are already cycling and will have more opportunities to achieve pregnancy when out with a bull than a heifer who is a tract score 1 or 2 and may not be cycling when the bull is turned out. Further, pregnancy rates are lower on a heifer's first cycle, so it is best to have a heifer already through her first cycle when she is artificially inseminated or turned out with the bull.

Heifers with higher-scoring tracts will achieve their first pregnancy earlier in life and, subsequently, calve earlier in the calving season. Because she calves earlier, she has more days to return to cycling again than later-calving cows in the same herd, and she is more likely to breed back successfully. This trend generally continues throughout that female's life, allowing her to produce more calves and be more profitable.

Along with the reproductive tract score, a veterinarian can measure the pelvic area. Heifers with smaller pelvic areas are more likely to have difficult births. This leads to more work for producers, who may have to pull those calves, and it increases the

likelihood of calf sickness or death.

By selecting for larger pelvic areas, producers can decrease the number of difficult births and death losses, improving their bottom line. Producers should consider culling heifers with a pelvic area smaller than 150 cm to avoid the risk of losing the calf or heifer when she calves for the first time.

The pre-breeding exam is also a great time to assess heifers for other culling criteria such as bad structure or temperament. Many producers take advantage of having the heifers in the chute to give them vaccinations. Producers should consider giving these replacement heifers vaccinations for the following diseases to set their herds up for success:

- Bovine viral diarrhea (BVD).
- Infectious bovine rhinotracheitis (IBR).
- Bovine respiratory syncytial virus (BRSV).
- Parainfluenza 3 (PI3).
- Five common types of leptospirosis.

Ultimately, performing pre-breeding exams on all replacement heifer candidates before investing more time and resources into breeding gives the farmer the opportunity to assess each heifer's potential as a future cow and identify which heifers would be better in the feeder market. — **University of Missouri Extension**



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LT LEGEND 4467 LT Deep Canyon x Woodhill Blueprint DOB 2/3/2024 AAA 21086635											CED 6 BW 1.5 WW 81 YW 143 SC 1.64 MILK 33 MB 0.67 RE 0.83 \$M 71 \$W 81 \$F 105
LT BLAZE 4354 PLD JSR Estrada 52E x LT Affinity x LT Ledger #M1002081 DOB 2/13/2024 PAF / HOP	9.8	-2.2	77	154	27	65	2.2	1.00	0.36	297.65	65% 35% 9% 2% 40% 15% 1% 6% 3%
LT TRACKER 4478 LT Foremost x GDAR All Pro x Justified DOB 2/5/2024 AAA 21086642											CED 0 BW 1.3 WW 81 YW 157 SC 0.89 MILK 26 CLAW 0.40 ANGLE 0.46 MB 0.35 RE 0.30 \$M 62 \$W 71 \$F 103
LT TREMER 4093 PLD ET LT Powerstroke x LT Blue Value #EM1001975 DOB 1/29/2024 PAF / HOP	17.7	-3.4	65	110	25	57	1.0	0.76	0.24	269.69	5% 20% 45% 60% 50% 50% 55% 40% 15% 45%
LT INFERNO 4504 LT Deep Canyon x Roughrider DOB 2/7/2024 AAA 21086652											CED 3 BW 1.3 WW 75 YW 129 SC 1.38 MILK 31 CLAW 0.49 ANGLE 0.39 MB 0.97 RE 0.86 \$M 88 \$W 83 \$C 281



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Cooperatives' impact in the upper Midwest

South Dakota State University (SDSU) Extension has published a study on the economic impact of agricultural cooperatives in the upper Midwest.

The study examines the economic consequences if the Section 199A tax deduction expires. Section 199A provides tax relief to agricultural cooperatives, aiming to boost rural communities. The deduction, introduced as part of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, is scheduled to expire at the end of 2025.

By looking at three years of data, the study determined that the tax relief can lead to substantial economic activity from spending by cooperative members. Matthew Elliott, SDSU Extension agribusiness specialist and associate professor in the SDSU Ness School of Management and Economics, said that could be through reinvesting in the business, cutting costs for customers or boosting employee wages.

Elliott and Frayne Olson, a professor and director of the Quentin Burdick Center of Cooperatives at North Dakota State University, surveyed 19 coop-

eratives across South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota. He said this survey focused on just three states to provide accurate data for South Dakotans, North Dakotans and Minnesotans.

Because agriculture is South Dakota's No. 1 economic driver, the survey helped pinpoint the role that the Section 199A tax deduction plays. The survey found that the cooperatives generated \$1.25 billion in economic impact in 2022, \$255.4 million of that in South Dakota from dollars reported as 199A.

"A lot of the sales dollars and jobs in our local communities are really dominated by activity at the local cooperative," he said. "Policies like 199A allow more dollars to remain in rural areas, which can help stimulate rural economic activity."

For more information, read "Evaluating the Economic Consequences of Possible Section 199A(g) Expiration of Agricultural Cooperatives in the Upper Midwest" at tinyurl.com/2cnbsztp or contact Elliott at matthew.elliott@sdstate.edu. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**

US pauses Columbia River water-sharing negotiations with Canada

The U.S. has paused negotiations with Canada on a keystone management plan that governs flood control, water supply and hydropower in the shared Columbia River Basin as President Donald Trump escalates his trade war and threats to Canada's sovereignty.

British Columbia's energy ministry said in a news release that Trump administration officials notified them they would pause and review their engagement with Canada on final updates to the 61-year-old Columbia River Treaty. The U.S. Department of State did not respond to questions from the Capital Chronicle by press time.

British Columbia's minister in charge of Columbia River Treaty negotiations is holding a virtual public forum on issues presented by the pause March 25.

Under the terms of the treaty, Canada controls the flow of the Northwest's largest river from its headwaters in British Columbia, ensuring enough water is sent downstream to meet U.S. hydropower needs.

Canada also provides water storage that helps prevent flooding, supports irrigation and protects fish habitat. In exchange, Canada is entitled to some of the hydropower generated by the Bonneville Power Administration's 31 Columbia River Basin dams.

The Bonneville Power Administration, in charge of

marketing the hydroelectricity produced by the U.S. dams, directed Capital Chronicle questions about the pause to the U.S. State Department. The Columbia River Basin and the dams within it generate 40% of the U.S.'s hydropower, irrigate \$8 billion in crops and carry 42 million tons of commercial cargo every year.

Barbara Cosens, a professor emerita at the University of Idaho College of Law and an expert on water law, said a breakdown of the treaty will be harder on the U.S. than Canada.

"If the two parties really get in a tit-for-tat over this river, Canada is the winner," Cosens said. "There's a saying in water law that says: 'It's better to be upstream with a shovel than downstream with a right,' because you can just stop that water."

A history of negotiations

The Columbia River Treaty, first ratified in 1964, was set to expire late last year. In July 2024, Biden administration officials and Canadian officials reached a tentative agreement, under which Canada would receive less hydropower from the U.S. but would get more flexibility when it comes to water storage. Canada would also receive over \$37 million in direct payments from the U.S. under that agreement.

But Biden officials could not get the tentative agreement finalized and in front of the U.S. Senate for a vote before Trump took office. Instead, a series of interim agreements have extended, for several years, certain provisions of the 2024 treaty updates.

Those interim agreements are non-negotiable, according to John Wagner, an environmental policy professor at the University of British Columbia and an expert on the Columbia River Treaty.

"Trump cannot just pause these because they were approved by an exchange of notes between Canada and U.S. governments before

Trump took office," Wagner said in an email.

But if Trump and administration officials decide not to resume negotiations on a final agreement, Wagner said, "(it) will be dead in the water."

Among updates to the Columbia River Treaty being negotiated were more engagement on decision making with tribal governments and more investment in fish habitat and recovering threatened salmon populations in the basin.

Joseph Bogaard, executive director at the Washington-based nonprofit Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition, said the updates weren't perfect,

but worsening relations between Canada and the U.S. over the basin will hurt people and fish.

"If we're not working together, we're not collaborating, we're not finding ways forward together. It's going to lead to bad outcomes for both countries. And certainly salmon are going to be increasingly a casualty, and the health of the river will be a casualty of those broken down negotiations and broken down relationships if that occurs," Bogaard said.

If the U.S. misses deadlines for negotiating a final agreement, the earlier 61-year-old treaty would be

reinstated, with no resolution to the issues the updates were meant to solve. If either nation decides to terminate the treaty, it will set off a 10-year process of dissolving the nations' co-management infrastructure.

"Another way of putting it is: our two nations, which share a long border together and share the Columbia Basin watershed, are going to best be served in the near term and over the long term by healthy, collaborative, constructive, reciprocal relationships," Bogaard said. "And that tradition, it seems, is sort of in peril at the moment." — Alex Baumhardt, Oregon Capital Chronicle

Managing weight gain in cattle

It is common knowledge that people's metabolisms slow as they age. Similarly, cattle also experience changes in their metabolism as their body ages, say the experts at the Kansas State (K-State) University Beef Cattle Institute.

Speaking on a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast, the team of experts addressed a question from a listener about the relationship between the amount of time cattle spend in the feedyard growing to a weight of 1,400 pounds, and the average daily gain they

experience during that time period.

"The daily growth or average daily gain of cattle decreases over time because of how the composition of the gain changes," K-State beef cattle nutritionist Phillip Lancaster said. "Calves that are younger and lighter weight are going to deposit a higher portion of lean tissue for each pound of gain, and as they move closer to a processing weight, they will be adding a higher proportion of fat in each pound of gain."

He said that lean tissue

consists mostly of water and that makes the cattle more efficient with their feed consumption. Thus, cattle will gain weight at a slower pace as they get closer to their finished weight.

"An average daily gain of 2.5 pounds per day is a reasonable amount of gain, but it will be a different type of gain depending on where that animal is in the feeding period," K-State veterinarian Brian Lubbers said.

The amount of gain can be measured by weighing the cattle at different points in

the feeding period, Lubbers said.

"Just know that if the goal for the whole feeding period is an average daily gain of 2.5 lbs. and they are only gaining that in the first period, they will be behind at the end of the feeding period," Lubbers said.

To address that feeding challenge, Lancaster said, "just figure out the target gain for each of those weight periods and adjust the diet accordingly to meet the end goal." — K-State Research and Extension

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Lawmakers fund WY's wildfire recovery work via grants and loans

After a historic wildfire season, Wyoming lawmakers spent much of the 2025 general session debating whether to fund recovery efforts via loans or grants. Ultimately, the legislature decided to do both.

Senate File (SF) 152, "Wildfire management-amendments," designates roughly \$49 million in grants for various special districts to restore grasses and habitats, and to prevent invasive vegetation like cheatgrass. Senate File 195, "Small business emergency bridge loan program," authorizes up to \$25 million for short-term loans after natural disasters, including but not limited to wildfires.

Together the two bills provide slightly more than half of the \$130 million that Gov. Mark Gordon (R) requested in the supplemental budget to help landowners restore grasses, replace fences and rebuild structures, among

other things. Of the 850,000 acres burned last year, 70% was state and private land.

Neither bill was originally intended to include such appropriations, but both were amended to do so when the Senate tanked the budget and forced lawmakers to find other vehicles for top spending priorities.

From the start, Gordon was firmly in favor of grants, warning lawmakers that loans—as favored by the Joint Appropriations Committee—would not be flexible or responsive enough to meet the needs of landowners.

The governor reiterated that in a letter to Senate President Bo Biteman (R-Ranchester) explaining his decision to let SF 195 become law without his signature.

"Because the risk of fire can affect many more than one landowner, I believe the best approach to expediting a landscape scale

restoration of last year's burned areas ... would be optimally facilitated through grants," Gordon wrote. "Some landowners might make use of a generous loan program such as the one envisioned in this legislation, but others may not or could not."

Still, Gordon said he was willing to let the legislation "come to fruition."

Once the bill goes into effect July 1, qualifying small businesses will be able to apply for loans up to \$750,000 through the Office of State Lands and Investments. The loans will require a 2% origination fee and incur an interest rate equal to the interest rate earned on specified state investments.

The money can only be used for certain business purposes, such as fencing repair or replacement of livestock and buildings, and it must be paid back to the state within three years. The loans are not

limited to wildfire recovery, but are only available to recipients in counties declared under a natural disaster by the governor.

Meanwhile, the ball is already rolling on SF 152.

The process for dispensing the \$49 million in grants for special districts has begun, according to Bob Budd, executive director of the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust.

"I've met with the weed and pest districts, and I've met with the people who are going to be involved at other levels [like] the conservation districts. I've talked with fire folks and everything else," Budd told WyoFile. "So we're basically asking for proposals at this point and seeing what level of impact we're going to need to be ready to address."

Time is of the essence, Budd said, to halt the spread of invasive species that threaten Wyoming's

sagebrush and the inhabitants that depend on the native plant. Cheatgrass, in particular, poses a high fire risk since it dries out quickly. That reality is also likely to guide where the grant dollars go.

"We're probably not going to have enough money to do everything that we might like to do," Budd said. "So we need to have, as I have described it, somewhat of a triage system that says, 'What are the highest priorities if we run low on funding? What do we do and do now?'"

Budd said he expects his office to have proposals back by April 1.

When the bill was sent to the governor's desk it included \$100 million in loans for natural disaster recovery efforts. Before he signed it, Gordon line-item vetoed that section to account for the loan program already put into law with SF 195. Gordon also axed a section that would have diverted Energy Matching Funds to pay for the bill's loan program.

"These funds are used to support our essential core energy industries as well as to underpin the future of Wyoming's most vulnerable traditional energy industries," Gordon wrote in his line-item veto letter to Secretary of State Chuck Gray.

"After decades of work to put Wyoming in the forefront of innovation to make sure Wyoming coal, uranium, oil, and gas—our core industries that built our schools and secured our state's financial well-being—stay an essential part of any energy future; it seems foolish at best and self-destructive at worst to abandon the very industries that are our lifeblood," he wrote.


The bill also restores funds that were depleted in 2024 and authorizes the governor to borrow up to \$30 million from the state's rainy day fund as needed to fight wildfires in the event the reserves are once again exhausted. — **Maggie Mullen, Wyo-File**

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EPA: Current regulations create excessive burdens

BURNING (from page 1)

Plan (SIP), Federal Implementation Plan or Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP). Additionally, the EPA must have approved the plan within five years of the event, and it must address the pollutant in question while including all necessary sources to comply with the Clean Air Act.

For prescribed burns, compliance with an EPA-certified Smoke Management Program (SMP) or basic smoke management practices is required. SMPs must incorporate elements such as burn authorization, emission reduction strategies and public awareness initiatives. These programs must be state-certified and documented with the EPA, ensuring oversight while allowing flexibility for burn managers to adapt basic smoke management practices based on site conditions, technological advancements and evolving best practices.

To satisfy the "human activity unlikely to recur" criterion, land managers must document the frequency of burns and compare them to natural fire return intervals or the intervals needed to maintain a healthy ecosystem. Multi-year land management plans typically provide this information, and while the EPA considers these plans, the actual burn frequency does not need to match exactly.

For private landowners, a land or resource management plan can help demonstrate compliance with the rule if it includes the fire return interval for the area being burned. The

plan must either reflect the natural interval or the frequency required to sustain the ecosystem. If a prescribed burn on private land contributes to an air quality exceedance, the plan must be referenced in an exceptional events demonstration to justify the burn's recurrence as meeting the necessary criteria.

EPA said current regulations often create unnecessary burdens that make it difficult for states and tribes to implement these controlled burns without facing penalties in air quality assessments. Citing the recent wildfires in Los Angeles, the agency said it would work with states to ensure they can use prescribed burns without being unfairly penalized in regulatory air quality assessments when reviewing SIPs and TIPs.

To further this effort, Zeldin has instructed the EPA Office of Air and Radiation to engage with state and Tribal air agencies and federal and local forest managers to identify ways to ease restrictive regulations that hinder prescribed fire use. Additionally, the EPA is reevaluating its Exceptional Events Rule to streamline the process for states to exclude wildfire-related pollution from air quality compliance calculations.

The goal is to simplify regulatory processes, as emphasized in President Donald Trump's Executive Order 14192, "Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation," which aims to reduce regulatory barriers and promote cross-agency partnerships. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

Texas Senate panel sends message to Trump: Get our water from Mexico

Texas senators advanced a resolution on March 10 that calls on the U.S. State Department to ensure Mexico meets its obligations to deliver water to the U.S. under a 1944 water treaty.

The Water, Agriculture, and Rural Affairs Committee voted in favor of the resolution after hearing testimony from state and Rio Grande Valley officials on how Mexico's failure to deliver water has impacted the local farmers and stalled growth.

"It's really causing a lot of severe issues not only for the valley but along the river from El Paso down to Brownsville,"

state Sen. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D-McAllen) said at the start of the hearing.

"The reality is that even commercially, the growth of the valley is being stunted because we cannot issue any more builder's permits because there's no water," Hinojosa said. "Hopefully, the present Trump administration will be a lot more aggressive in trying to address the issue."

Under the 1944 treaty, Mexico is required to deliver a total of 1.75 million-acre feet over a five-year cycle. The current cycle ends in October, yet Mexico is behind on its water deliveries by more than a million

acre-feet.

The largely symbolic resolution is the latest push from Texas officials to push the federal government to pressure Mexico. Last year, Texas' congressional delegation, led by U.S. Rep. Monica De La Cruz (R-Edinburg) secured \$280 million in disaster assistance for valley farmers.

State Sen. Charles Perry, the Lubbock Republican who chairs the committee, praised the efforts of Maria-Elena Giner, the commissioner of the U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), a division of the U.S. State Department that oversees the

water treaty.

Under Giner's leadership, the IBWC secured an amendment to the treaty that provided Mexico more opportunities to deliver water.

However, Perry pointed out that the IBWC has no enforcement power and would like the Trump administration to include the water treaty in their tariff negotiations.

"It would be nice to include water release under the 1944 treaty in those tariff negotiations so that we could get some relief in the valley," Perry said.

The lack of water for farmers and ranchers has already had harmful effects on the industry. For example, the last sugar mill in Texas closed in 2024.

Texas A&M AgriLife Extension estimated that the total economic value lost to South Texas because of the lack of irrigation water is about \$993 million per year.

Brian Jones, who sits on the board of the Texas Farm Bureau, testified before the committee about his struggles as a farmer in the valley.

Jones said he is in "survival mode," planting only half of his crop for the last three years.

"What is crystal clear is that Mexico has no intention of sharing any amount of water they can capture for their own use," Jones said.

In 2022, a tropical storm filled their reservoirs, but Mexico didn't deliver any of that water to the U.S. despite already owing 350,000 acre-feet of water at the time.

However, the lack of water is not just because of Mexico's noncompliance.

In the past, local farmers were able to rely on seasonal tropical storms to fill up the water reservoirs, but the rain missed those watersheds last year. Future rains would fail to make up the debt.

"It's almost mathematically impossible for them to meet their obligations on this cycle," Jones said.

The treaty allows Mexico to pay their outstanding water debt during the next five-year cycle but because there is no timeline, Mexico could theoretically wait until the end of the next five-year cycle to deliver the water it owes for this cycle.

David Dunmoyer with the Texas Public Policy Foundation, a conservative think tank,

said that while the resolution is a critical starting point, the state can't rely on Mexico alone for water.

"We need an 'all of the above' approach that's desal-produced water and looking to the future of water infrastructure," he said.

Cities and water districts across the valley have been seeking different sources of water. But city and county leaders told the committee more money is needed to build the infrastructure to obtain and properly treat that water for public use.

While the major impacts have been limited to the agriculture industry, Mark Dombroski, assistant general manager and chief operating officer for the Brownsville Public Utilities, warned that drinking water for cities like Brownsville and McAllen will be at risk if water remains scarce.

"Invest in South Texas and help us secure alternative water solutions now," Dombroski said. "Delaying action only makes the crisis worse and solutions more expensive." — **Berenice Garcia, Texas Tribune**

Tips to prevent barn swallow nests this spring

Whether you love watching barn swallows up close or dread the mess they leave behind, a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert encourages you to take preventative action before the birds begin nesting.

The migratory spring season for swallows is underway, and barn swallows will typically enter the southern U.S. until mid-April.

Of the eight species of swallows in North America, barn and cliff swallows are considered the most problematic for property owners because they build mud nests attached to houses, barns and other structures. Barn swallows tend to nest as single pairs, while cliff swallows can nest in colonies of up to several hundred pairs.

These birds prefer nesting on overhangs, covered ledges or other suitable surfaces, using mud to build their nests. If your property meets these conditions, you may find swallows returning every year unless you take preventative action.

Intervene before nests are built

If you don't want barn swallows on your property, you must immediately take action before any nests are built and occupied, said AgriLife Extension's Liz Tidwell, a small acreage wildlife program specialist in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 makes it a federal crime to hunt, kill, capture, sell or otherwise hurt migratory birds, which includes destroying nests in use. In other words, once a bird begins spending time in a nest, even if the nest is not yet complete, it is illegal to remove it.

"The main reason people want to remove barn swallow nests is aesthetic," Tidwell said. "Mud nests on the side of your house or structure, along with the bird droppings underneath, can be unsightly and even pose health concerns due to the droppings."

Additionally, nests by entryways may also be a nuisance if swallows act territorial and "divebomb" homeowners to protect their nest and young.

"Luckily, swallows are not as aggressive as blue jays or mockingbirds," she said. "Often, once swallows get used to your presence and know you aren't go-

ing to harm the nest, they will stop swooping down on you."

How to prevent nests

Tidwell shared advice for preventing unwanted swallows.

- Cover nesting areas: Use netting or wire mesh to cover areas where swallows could build nests—typically areas like an eave or where a roof and wall meet.

- Hang vinyl strips: Vinyl plastic hung in overlapping vertical strips may be used for places with an open entryway.

- Add bird spikes and barriers: Bird spike sticks and barriers can be purchased and installed to prevent birds from building nests.

- Remove old nests: Knock down old, empty nests. Birds will reuse nests from previous years if available.

- Interrupt construction: When you see signs of new nest construction, knock down the mud daily until the birds give up on their build. Once a bird starts spending time in the nest—even if it is not yet complete—it is illegal to remove the nest until it is empty again.

Tidwell said trapping or shooting the birds is illegal, and attempting to scare the birds away is usually ineffective.

How to remove a nest

Old, empty nests and the mud placed at the beginning of construction can be removed several ways.

- Use a pressure washer or hose.

- Use a pole or scraper but use protective gear like gloves and a respirator mask.

- Use caution if handling an empty nest. Parasites and mites can persist in nests as long as three years after a bird leaves.

Before taking preventative measures, Tidwell also encourages you to learn about the benefits of having barn swallows around:

- Pest control: Swallows eat insects many people consider pests—essentially providing a free ecological service.

- Birdwatching opportunity: The proximity of nests to doorways and windows makes for easy bird watching.

- Educational value: Nests allow viewers to experience a bird's life cycle.

Ultimately, Tidwell said it's important to remember that these birds are part of the seasonal changes of our dynamic natural world.

"They're just temporary guests passing through and will leave when the weather cools," she said. — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

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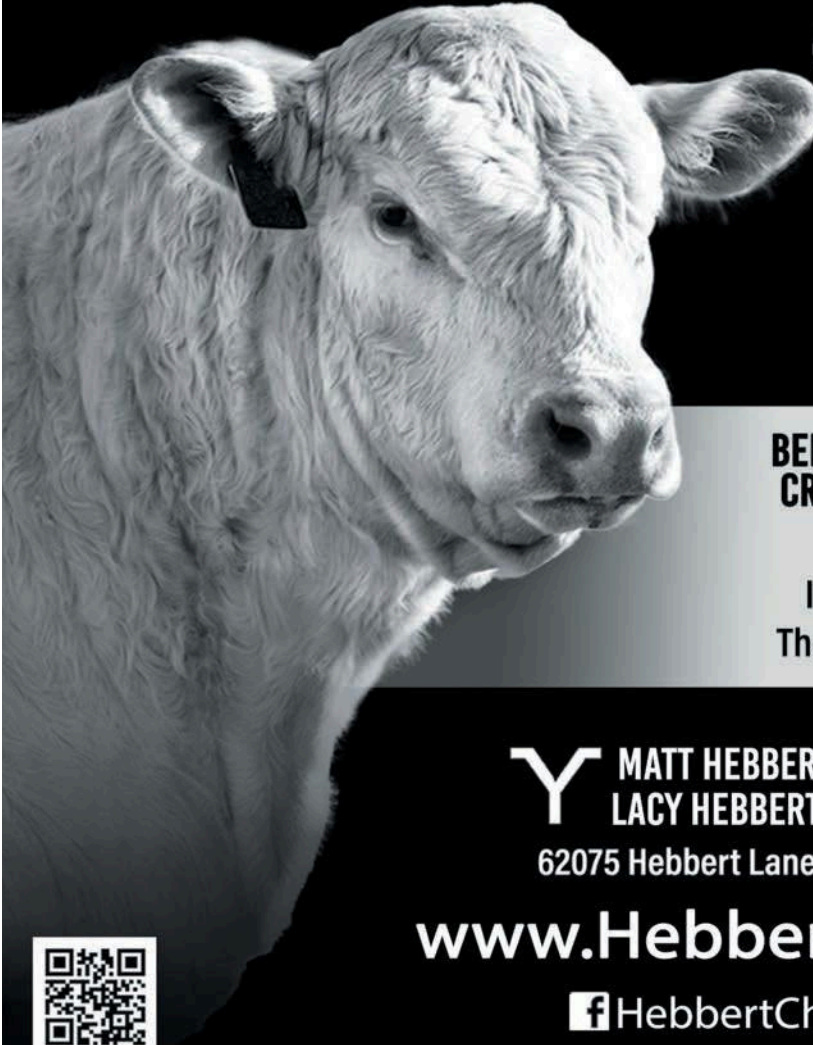



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USDA to reinstate July Cattle inventory report

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service announced March 19 that it plans to reinstate several data collection programs and reports, including the July Cattle inventory report. In addition to the Cattle report, set to be released on July 25, the agency will reinstate county estimate reports for crops and livestock in May. Last April, USDA announced it would discontinue several reports after budget cuts. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) said the discontinued reports have provided critical data to farmers and ranchers for years. "The return of the July Cattle report and County Estimates is a big win for cattle producers who utilize these reports to efficiently run their operations and make important marketing decisions," said NCBA Executive Director of Government Affairs Tanner Beymer.

China renews only pork, poultry contracts

China renewed the export registrations for hundreds of U.S. pork and poultry facilities but has not yet renewed beef facility registrations. The country renewed or extended the facility registrations by five years for about 14 dairy, 210 poultry and 365 pork establishments that were overdue or set to be overdue by April. As of March 18, the General Administration of Customs of China had yet to renew 386 of the 654 U.S. establishments registered to export beef and beef products to China. In 2020, China pledged under the "Phase 1" trade deal to boost its purchases of U.S. goods and services by \$200 billion over two years, a target that was not met. In 2024, China was the No. 3 export market for U.S. beef, pork, poultry and dairy, according to USDA. Beef exports totaled \$1.6 billion, pork exports \$1.1 billion, poultry exports \$0.5 billion and dairy exports \$0.6 billion.

CA county declares gray wolf emergency

The Modoc County Board of Supervisors in California signed Resolution 2025-13 in mid-March, confirming a local emergency in the county due to concerns over public safety from gray wolf threats. Since Dec. 23, livestock producers in Modoc County have lost six head of cattle and one sheep from wolf depredations, according to the board of supervisors. "These killings have occurred close to rural residents, posing a significant threat to public safety," the resolution read. The wolves have shown a lack of fear to humans, the resolution continued, and have killed cattle without feeding on them. The county requested intervention from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife Services to euthanize or relocate problem wolves. The resolution was approved unanimously.

CO ag groups call to suspend wolf ballot measure

In a mid-March letter, a coalition of ag industry groups requested the suspension of an effort to place a measure on the 2026 ballot to end the state's wolf reintroduction effort. The letter was directed to Patrick Davis, one of the representatives of Colorado Advocates for Smart Wolf Policy, the group behind the proposed initiative. The ag groups said the effort was initiated without consulting primary stakeholder groups and is at odds with the strategy and policy outcomes the coalition is working on. "Rather than pushing forward without the support of this coalition, which has significant credibility, influence and outreach across the state, we ask that you allow those of us directly impacted to work through the pathways already in front of us," the letter read. The coalition also expressed concern with the ballot measure campaign's ability to secure the necessary resources to succeed on the ballot. The letter was signed by the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, local cattlemen's groups, more than a dozen county commissioners and others.

Comment periods reopened for ESA listings

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reopened comment periods for several species proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Species with reopened comment periods include the monarch butterfly, Suckley's bleached sandhill skipper and cuckoo bumble bee. The monarch butterfly is proposed for listing as threatened. The USFWS will hold a virtual public hearing on April 16 for the bleached sandhill skipper, which is proposed for listing as endangered. The Suckley's cuckoo bumble bee is also proposed for listing as endangered. The comment periods for all three species will end May 19. To submit comments, visit regulations.gov.

R-CALF requests import relief for lamb, mutton

Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund (R-CALF) USA penned a letter to the secretary of Commerce, requesting the examination of the effects of lamb and mutton imports on U.S. national security. The group urges for the U.S. sheep industry to be a priority under President Donald Trump's America First Trade Policy memorandum, which calls for a review of imports under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act. R-CALF said that excessive imports have led to a significant decline in the domestic sheep industry, which threatens national security due to reduced production of lamb, mutton and wool.

North Dakota dairy farm plans to add processing

North Dakota's struggling dairy industry could get a boost from a new milk processing plant and state incentives for more processing.

As North Dakota House Agriculture Committee members heard testimony in favor of incentives to add milk processing to the state, one committee member said his family plans to add a processing plant.

Rep. Dawson Holle (R-Mandan) is part of a dairy farming family in Morton County. He said the farm has the goal of

breaking ground on a processing plant in June, though the project still is in the planning stages.

He said the plant would be built on the Holle farm or a neighboring property. Holle said the farm is one of the larger dairy farms left in central North Dakota, the traditional heart of the dairy industry in the state.

The dairy industry has been shrinking in North Dakota over several decades. Processing plant closures in Bismarck and

South Dakota are forcing Holle's family and other dairy farmers in central North Dakota to send milk greater distances, with transportation costs cutting into their profit margins.

Holle announced his plans during discussion of Senate Bill 2342, which would provide a grant of 5% of the cost of opening a milk processing plant, up to a maximum of \$10 million.

Bill sponsor Sen. Paul Thomas (R-Velva) told the committee that the bill was not

proposed with a specific project in mind, but was intended to get the attention of milk processors that could provide a market for North Dakota milk.

He also said the bill that was approved by the Senate contained an error and suggested an amendment to correct the error. He said the bill should be worded to make grants available to processors capable of handling 3 million pounds of milk a day. Instead, the bill says it could go to a processor with the capacity of 3 million pounds per year, making the grant available to much smaller processors.

Holle informed the committee of his family's plans but said he was unsure they would take advantage of the incentives.

The Agriculture Committee voted down the amendment, with Holle among those voting against it.

The committee gave the bill a "do pass" recommendation on Friday, March 14.

In an interview after the Thursday hearing, Holle said he supported the bill with or without the amendment.

"It's great for dairy either

way," Holle said.

Holle said his parents and grandparents are still active in the dairy farm. He said the family has been considering a processing plant for some time, but closure of nearby processors has sped up plans.

"It wasn't really our intent to get government handouts," Holle said.

Holle participated in the committee votes and discussion on the bill. He said he didn't see any potential for a conflict of interest because the bill will benefit the dairy industry as a whole.

"We're just in a unique circumstance that we're one of the largest farms close to Bismarck-Mandan," Holle said.

Holle is not among the bill sponsors. "I have just been very encouraging from the sidelines," he said.

Thomas, the bill sponsor, said the bill builds on efforts to increase animal agriculture in North Dakota, which lags behind neighboring states.

"Dairy without processing is going to be really tough to kick back in," Thomas said.

More livestock helps provide

a local market for corn and soybeans, with the North Dakota Corn Growers Association among the farm groups testifying in favor of the bill.

North Dakota has gone from about 93,000 dairy cows in 1980 to 14,000 in 2023 and about 10,000 last year.

Deputy Agriculture Commissioner Tom Bodine testified that there are only 23 permitted dairy farms left in North Dakota and one of those is not operating. There are only about 8,700 cows in the state.

That number could quadruple with plans for two huge dairy operations in eastern North Dakota, closer to existing milk processing facilities, including plants in Fargo.

Holle said North Dakota is an importer of milk and his family's plant would concentrate on fluid milk and possibly cream at the outset. He said dairy products such as butter could come later.

Holle remains optimistic about the dairy industry.

"There's been growth, and especially demand for locally sourced milk," he said. — **Jeff Beach, North Dakota Monitor**

Judge notes lingering concerns

CORNER CROSSING (from page 1)

momentarily passing through its airspace. Iron Bar had installed signposts and a chain over the markers to prevent corner-crossing, but the hunters maneuvered around them without causing damage.

In 2021, the hunters returned, bringing a steel A-frame ladder to avoid even touching Iron Bar's signposts. Iron Bar's staff responded aggressively, confronting the hunters multiple times and using motorized vehicles to scare away game. After the hunters refused to leave, Iron Bar pressed the matter with law enforcement, leading to criminal trespassing charges. A jury later acquitted the hunters, but Iron Bar filed a civil lawsuit seeking \$9 million in damages, claiming their actions diminished its property value.

The district court ruled in favor of the hunters, finding that corner-crossing without physically touching private land or causing damage does not constitute unlawful trespass.

First ruling and appeal

U.S. District Judge Scott W. Skavdahl ruled in favor of the hunters, focusing on the company's claim to airspace ownership and the right to exclude others. Citing the 1914 Mackay v. Uinta Development Co. case, he noted that the 8th Circuit had affirmed a landowner could not entirely block access to public lands. He also referenced a 1974 10th Circuit ruling, which held that airspace trespass requires actual damage or interference with property use.

Iron Bar appealed the ruling, arguing in a reply brief the hunters failed to prove Congress intended to preempt state trespass laws under the Unlawful Inclosures Act of 1885 (UIA) or other federal statutes. They contended that Wyoming's trespass law remains intact despite the defendants' claims that federal laws such as the UIA, the Taylor Grazing Act and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act override it.

According to the legal team, Congress enacted the UIA to address fraud, force and fencing used to obstruct public access, not to create a right to trespass on private property. Citing 1884 congressional records, they emphasized that the UIA never referenced private trespass claims.

10th Circuit ruling

Writing for the court, Judge Timothy Tymkovich placed the dispute in the broader historical context of public land access in the American West, citing the UIA. The court emphasized that under the act, private landowners cannot "deny access to [federal] public lands for lawful purposes" by erecting legal or physical barriers. The ruling aligns with previous federal decisions, including the court's 1988 Bergen case, which held that "a checkerboard landowner cannot maintain a barrier that has the effect of fully enclosing public lands."

Tymkovich acknowledged lingering legal uncertainties surrounding corner-crossing, hinting that legislative or Supreme Court intervention might ultimately be needed to provide a definitive resolution.

"We appreciate this may be an unsatisfying result for property owners within the checkerboard," he wrote. "It leaves open questions for landowners and the public alike, including who might be liable during a corner-crossing incident, and what duty of care each party owes the other. Iron Bar may be correct that the government could solve these open questions by exercising its core institutional competency to condemn access easements to landlocked checkerboard lands."

Jim Magagna, executive vice president of the Wyoming Stockgrowers Association, told *WLJ* in an email that they were somewhat disappointed with the decision.

"Our disappointment is focused on the court's analysis that state laws protecting private property rights are trumped by the federal Unlawful Enclosures Act," Magagna wrote. "At the same time, the decision appears to only sanction corner-crossing that does not physically touch the private land. We appreciate that narrow decision."

The association filed an amicus brief in support of Iron Bar. Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA) applauded the ruling, stating it cements the legality of access to public lands.

"This decision is a major win for hunters, anglers and anyone who values the freedom to access and enjoy our public lands," said BHA President and CEO Patrick Berry. "The American ideal of public land ownership depends on access to the landscapes and wild places that belong to all of us, not just a select few."

While this marks the most significant victory in the case, BHA Chairman and attorney Eric Hanson told *MeatEater* that hunters must still be mind-

ful of how they corner-cross.

"In 10th Circuit states, you can corner-cross, but you need to be very careful about what you're doing," Hanson said. He emphasized that while stepping over the corner is permitted, "touching private property, crossing into it, disturbing it, damaging it, is still not allowed." — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**



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Lot 1

HOFFMAN THEDFORD • AAA 20824502

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	RE	SM	SC
12	1.3	82	144	30	0.9	0.87	87	318



Lot 2

CASINO BOMBER N33 • AAA 20894030

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	RE	SM	SC
9	1.3	95	159	25	0.88	1	59	305



Lot 11

VERMILION SPUR E870 • AAA 20882504

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	RE	SM	SC
5	3.3	92	155	21	0.71	0.86	68	296



Lot 8

CROUCH CONGRESS • AAA 20910170

CED	BW	WW	YW	MILK	MARB	RE	SM	SC
9	0.6	85	148	31	1.13	0.75	86	326

Agencies request advance funding for pending Tribal water settlements

Five New Mexico Tribal and Pueblo water rights settlements still need federal approval, but state agencies have put forward funding requests to be ready if Congress approves them later this year as anticipated.

New Mexico entered into five settlement agreements in 2022 with the Pueblos of Acoma, Laguna, Jemez and Zia, the Navajo Nation, Zuni Tribe and Ohkay Owingeh.

The New Mexico delegation subsequently introduced legislation to approve the deals, including approximately \$3 billion to establish funds and build infrastructure. The settlements, which have required years and sometimes decades of costly negotiations, would settle tribal rights for the rios San José, Jemez, Chama and the Zuni River.

Two other bills would correct technical errors in established Tribal water settlements and add an extension of both time and money to complete the long-delayed

Navajo-Gallup water project. Federal funding granted the project a short reprieve, but it faces an upcoming deadline only Congress can delay.

A 1908 U.S. Supreme Court case established what's known as Winters Doctrine, which requires Congress to recognize water rights for reservations. A separate federal legal doctrine, the Pueblo Water Rights Doctrine, governs Pueblo water rights and recognizes them as the senior-most water rights in the system. New Mexico water law uses the age of rights to determine use in times of shortage.

However, the courts have only formally determined the order of water rights in 20% of New Mexico's rivers, a decades-long process. In the interim, lawsuits sparked between Pueblos, acequias and other users. (The Ohkay Owingeh lawsuit over Rio Chama water use is more than 60 years old).

The 2022 settlements benefit both Pueblo and non-

Pueblo water users by fully resolving the water rights claims, U.S. Rep. Teresa Leger Fernández (D-NM) told Source New Mexico last year.

"The senior priority water rights are going to prevail. And that's what litigation will lead to," she said. "The settlements lead to agreements by the tribe to give up certain acreage that they're entitled to and work out arrangements with regards to how they exercise their senior water rights to benefit everybody in the region."

Members of the New Mexico delegation urged House leaders to include the settlements in end-of-year congressional packages, but Congress ultimately excluded the bills.

Members of the delegation reintroduced the bills early this year.

In March, the U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee gave its unanimous approval to the slate of bills, which await a hearing on the Senate Floor, said one of the co-

sponsors, U.S. Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM), in a written statement.

"These bills are vital to ensure we meet our trust responsibility to our Tribal communities by honoring their water rights and ensuring they have the resources to use the water they own," said Heinrich. "I'm pleased the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs unanimously advanced these bills to the Senate floor. I encourage my colleagues on the House Natural Resources to do the same. These bills are urgently needed to help communities manage their precious and limited water resources."

If Congress approves the settlements, New Mexico has to provide approximately \$190 million for the state portion of the funds, within a decade. In 2024, the New Mexico Legislature allocated \$20 million for the state match.

This year, the New Mexico Office of the State Engineer requested \$35 million for the

settlement funds, according to Nat Chakeres, the office's general legal counsel.

"We have a 10-year period to come up with that \$190 million, but we want to get ahead of the game while we have budget surpluses right now," Chakeres told Source New Mexico.

In addition, the state is requesting \$500,000 more in annual funding to create staff water master positions to prepare for the settlement's adoption by the federal government.

Water masters ensure fulfillment of the terms of the agreement, prepare annual

reports on the status of the settlement activities, investigate claims and oversee any enforcement of water diversions.

"We want to be ready to run on day one, once the settlements get finalized," Chakeres said.

Chakeres said budget discussions between state lawmakers are continuing and that he doesn't know the exact amount that lawmakers will approve in the budget but said he's optimistic.

"We're confident we'll get a strong appropriation," he said. — **Danielle Prokop, Source New Mexico**

USDA details \$10B in commodity payments

Commodity producers were set to see their share of \$10 billion under the new Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) by the end of the week, USDA announced March 18.

The financial relief was provided in the American Relief Act of 2025 to help producers offset some of their financial losses from 2024 crops.

Hitting its deadline to get the program started, USDA officials said enrollment for ECAP began Wednesday, March 19. Commodity producers will receive pre-filled applications based on their 2024 acreage report, but farmers also can visit their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office starting Wednesday to enroll in person. Once FSA processes an application, producers can expect payments to show up in their bank accounts within three business days, said Brooke Appleton, deputy undersecretary for Food Production and Conservation at USDA.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins noted producers are facing higher costs and market uncertainty, and the Trump administration is meeting its deadline to get the aid out.

"With clear direction from Congress, USDA has prioritized streamlining the process and accelerating these payments ahead of schedule, ensuring farmers have the resources necessary to manage rising expenses and secure financing for next season," Rollins said.

Eligible commodities include corn, soybeans, wheat, sorghum, upland and extra-long staple cotton, long- and medium-grain rice, barley, oats, peanuts, other oilseeds, dry peas, lentils and small and large chickpeas.

The payments will be based on 2024 planted acres for the eligible crop. Prevented planting acres will be counted at 50% of the lost acres reported. There were just over 4.7 million prevented-planting acres in 2024.

The legislation had specific formulas setting payment at either 26% of economic losses—the difference between production costs and gross returns for that commodity—or, 8% of the crop's Price Loss Coverage (PLC) reference price, multi-

plied by the average PLC payment yield, then multiplied by the eligible acres on that farm. For corn, wheat and soybeans, the 26% calculation provided a higher payment rate.

Steve Peterson, associate administrator for FSA, said production costs will be based on an Economic Research Service report of detailed farm expenses. Gross returns will be pegged to a producer's reported acres, multiplied by the crop price reported in the Dec. 10 World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates report, which was \$4.10 a bushel for corn, \$10.20 for soybeans and \$5.60 for wheat.

In the Federal Register listing, USDA lists per-acre payment rates by commodity as:

- Corn, \$42.91 per acre.
- Soybeans, \$29.76 per acre.
- Wheat, \$30.69 per acre.
- Cotton, \$84.74 per acre.
- Sorghum, \$42.52 per acre.
- Rice, \$76.94 per acre.


For now, USDA will factor payments at 85% of expected total payment. Enrollment in ECAP will continue through Aug. 15. If additional funds remain after Aug. 15, Appleton said producers may receive a second payment based on remaining funds available.

The payments come as corn and soybean prices have been stagnant or lower since the crop insurance price was set at the end of February at \$4.70 a bushel for corn and \$10.54 a bushel for soybeans. Economists for corn and soybean groups said earlier this month at Commodity Classic that farmers, on average, are facing \$100 an acre loss planting either crop this spring.

Beyond the economic aid, farmers who suffered losses from natural disasters in 2023 and 2024 also should expect more details coming soon about how USDA will distribute nearly \$21 billion in disaster aid. That includes \$2 billion set aside for livestock producers and other funds that will be block-granted to states.










"We're hoping to have more details on that coming soon, and giving timelines on when to expect those various programs to be rolled out," Appleton said. — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

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 <p>Lot 1 • 4020M • 1/23/24 • #4908928 IDENTITY X X-FACTOR X NIGHT CALVER 140PROS, 49HB, 91GM, 15CED, -3.2BW, 96WW, 155YW, 31MILK, 17HP, 10CEM, 12ST, 0.80MB, 0.54RE, \$24,542SP, \$126SR, 2.84FERT <i>Top of the breed Growth and \$Profit!</i></p>	 <p>Lot 50 • 4030M • 2/13/24 • #4908948 TOP GUN X GENUINE X MAGNITUDE 124PROS, 35HB, 89GM, 14CED, -3.3BW, 80WW, 140YW, 33MILK, 11HP, 8CEM, 13ST, 1.17MB, -0.22RE, \$28,103SP, \$146SR, 2.71FERT <i>Breed changer stacked for greatness!</i></p>	 <p>Lot 9 • 4111M • 1/24/24 • #4909488 PATENT X NIGHT CALVER X LEGEND 139PROS, 72HB, 67GM, 14CED, -3.0BW, 81WW, 140YW, 25MILK, 14HP, 7CEM, 16ST, 0.40MB, 0.18RE, \$15463SP, \$96SR, 2.46FERT <i>Super good looking Spread Bull!</i></p>
 <p>Lot 32 • 4242M • 1/29/24 • #4933262 IDENTITY X PRESIDENT X X-FACTOR 147PROS, 72HB, 75GM, 18CED, -6.1BW, 92WW, 129YW, 30MILK, 15HP, 12CEM, 14ST, 0.96MB, 0.20RE, \$25,076SP, \$154SR, 3.05FERT <i>Take advantage of the lead time in this bull!</i></p>	 <p>Lot 79 • 4250M • 1/25/24 • #4933274 IDENTITY X COMMANDER X DEFENDER 177PROS, 81HB, 95GM, 20CED, -7.9BW, 66WW, 102YW, 29MILK, 14HP, 13CEM, 17ST, 1.22MB, 0.01RE, \$32,063SP, \$184SR, 3.48FERT <i>#1 SPROFIT bull to sell this spring!</i></p>	 <p>Lot 4 • 4808M • 1/13/24 • #4901386 IDENTITY X MULBERRY X HOB0 79E 159PROS, 98HB, 61GM, 16CED, -4.9BW, 72WW, 113YW, 34MILK, 16HP, 11CEM, 20ST, 0.44MB, 0.36RE, \$19,351SP, \$103SR, 2.62FERT <i>Big time herdbull from a great Cow Family!</i></p>
 <p>Lot 31 • 4811M • 1/27/24 • #4901374 PRIME PLUS X STOCKMARKET X HERDBUILDER 155PROS, 74HB, 81RE, 17CED, -5.0BW, 66WW, 107YW, 29MILK, 15HP, 11CEM, 17ST, 1.12MB, 0.06RE, \$28,401SP, \$92SR, 2.02FERT <i>Big time Marbling, \$Profit, \$Feeder and F:C!</i></p>	 <p>Lot 19 • 4807M • 1/10/24 • #4901398 CAPTAIN X HARD DRIVE X NEW TREND 132PROS, 46HB, 85GM, 15CED, -2.6BW, 79WW, 133YW, 35MILK, 13HP, 8CEM, 13ST, 0.69MB, 0.80RE, \$6,969SP, \$41SR, 0.51FERT <i>Awesome Outcross Pedigree with Outstanding Phenol!</i></p>	 <p>Lot 48 • 4802M • 1/5/24 • #4901382 HIGH VOLTAGE X REDEMPTION X ENTERPRISE 158PROS, 84HB, 74GM, 16CED, -2.4BW, 74WW, 125YW, 26MILK, 14HP, 10CEM, 18ST, 0.51MB, 0.40RE, \$17,303SP, \$85SR, 2.20FERT <i>The Best High Voltage Son to Sell!</i></p>

www.ludvigsonstockfarms.com

 <p>Ryan Ludvigson (406) 601-9192 rl_ludvigson@hotmail.com</p>	 <p>Cody Mathison Bull Development Manager (406)696-6509</p>	 <p>Justin Beeson Donor Herd Manager (712)577-0445</p>
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This sale will be broadcast live on the internet.

STORY SHORTS

American Foods Group closes SD plant

Cimpl's Meats in Yankton, SD, closed its doors on March 15 after 76 years, following a decision by American Foods Group to move operations to Missouri due to a lack of profitability. According to Dakota News Now, over 250 workers are impacted. "Our top priority is supporting those affected during this transition," said Louie Kohlbeck, president of American Foods Group's Fresh Meats Division. Nancy Wenande, CEO of Yankton Thrive—a leadership organization for economic and workforce development—told Dakota News Now the organization is "both surprised and saddened by the decision," emphasizing the economic impact and concern for affected employees. Yankton Thrive is coordinating with state agencies to assist displaced workers. According to American Foods, cattle procurement will continue without interruption, diverting cattle to other facilities.

US CattleTrace, Where Food Comes From partner

U.S. CattleTrace has formed a strategic alliance with Where Food Comes From Inc. to advance a voluntary animal disease traceability initiative for the U.S. beef industry. The groups said this partnership offers cattle producers economic benefits through verification programs while enhancing disease traceability, supporting biosecurity efforts and the sustainability of U.S. beef production. "The need for the industry to unite around one effort to accomplish animal disease traceability is paramount to achieving a nationally significant contact tracing program," said Joe Leathers, chairman of the U.S. CattleTrace Board of Directors.

CA Mid-State Fair bans poultry, dairy

Due to a statewide ban on poultry and dairy cattle exhibitions implemented by the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA), the California Mid-State Fair will be canceling its poultry and dairy cattle shows for 2025. This includes market broilers, market turkeys and the bird show. However, the Poultry Show Knowledge Bowl will continue, as it does not involve live birds. According to Denise Stornetta, livestock superintendent of the fair, the decision follows the rapid spread of H5N1 bird flu, which has affected over 700 dairy herds and 60 poultry flocks since August. Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) declared a state of emergency, prompting this precautionary measure to safeguard exhibitors, livestock and the public. Questions can be directed to the California Mid-State Fair Livestock Department at livestock@midstatefair.com or the CDFA Animal Health Branch at 916-217-7517.

Effort proposed to rename New York strip steak

Lieutenant Gov. of Texas Dan Patrick has proposed renaming the New York strip steak as the Texas strip, arguing that Texas beef deserves recognition. "Just because a New York restaurant named Texas beef a New York strip in the 19th century doesn't mean we need to keep doing that," Patrick wrote on social media platform X. He announced plans for a Texas Senate resolution to make the change official, claiming it would benefit the state's cattle industry. In response, local news outlet WRGB reported that Todd Shapiro, owner of the War Room Tavern in Albany, NY, is filing a \$1 million lawsuit against Texas, arguing the rebranding undermines New York's culinary heritage and could harm businesses celebrating the state's traditions.

ENSO-neutral conditions expected for summer

According to the National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center, tropical Pacific atmospheric anomalies continued to indicate La Niña conditions in February. However, El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) neutral conditions are expected to develop within the next month and persist through the U.S. growing season, with a 62% probability for June through August. By fall, La Niña chances increase, with October-December projections split between neutral and La Niña, while El Niño remains less likely. ENSO forecasts made in spring are less reliable due to the spring predictability barrier. The Australian Bureau of Meteorology also predicts ENSO-neutral conditions until at least July, aligning with international models.

Mono Lake area horse removal planned

The Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service have approved a plan to gather and remove excess wild horses roaming outside the Montgomery Pass Wild Horse Territory near Benton, CA. The territory, managed under the 2019 Inyo National Forest Land Management Plan, supports 138 to 230 horses. A 2024 aerial survey estimated 699 horses, with most outside designated areas. The plan authorizes gathering 300-500 horses. For more information, contact BLM_CA_Bishop_MPWHT@blm.gov or SM.FS.InyoWH_B@usda.gov.

Meati Foods to close CO plant

Fungi-based alt-meat startup Meati Foods has warned employees of impending mass layoffs after a lender withdrew two-thirds of its available cash due to a technical default. In a Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act obtained by AgFunderNews, Meati notified staff that operations at its Thornton, CO, facility will cease on May 6 unless new funding is secured. "Today, we find ourselves in a completely unforeseeable and uncertain situation," said CEO Phil Graves, noting that despite revenue growth, the lender unexpectedly took control of cash reserves. Meati is actively seeking funding from investors and stakeholders to continue operations.

Selling 90 Angus Bulls



Hilltop Bar None 321M

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

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	SM	SW
+6	+3.0	+96	+174	+26	+66	+99	+73	+84



Hilltop Impact 313M

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

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	SM	SW
-6	+2.7	+69	+127	+19	+87	+20	+53	+49



Hilltop Bar None 317M

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

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	SM	SW
+2	+2.4	+99	+167	+30	+42	+88	+103	+95



Hilltop Stellar 360M

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

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	SM	SW
+4	+0.4	+70	+121	+27	+34	+49	+93	+73

Annual Production Sale

Tuesday

APRIL 8th 2025

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

3 miles south of
Denton, Montana



Contact us
for your Sale
Book!

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cory.poser@icloud.com

www.HilltopAngus.com

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700 HEAD OF FANCY REPLACEMENT FEMALES SELL

NEW DATE! **SATURDAY, APRIL 19**
LUNCH AT 12 | SALE AT 12:30

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LMAAUCTIONS.COM

300 FANCY FRONT END FEMALES

FALL CALVING, FIRST-CALF AND COMING 3-YEAR-OLDS. ANGUS/ANGUS-CROSS, RED ANGUS/RED ANGUS CROSS. ALL ARE ULTRASOUND CONFIRMED TO CALVE BETWEEN SEPT. 10 AND OCT. 10. HAND SELECTED FROM THE TOP END OF 800 REPLACEMENTS. ORIGINATED FROM REPUTATION RANCHES. ALL Foothill & ANAPLAS VACCINATED AND ON A COMPLETE YEARLY MODIFIED-LIVE VACCINATION AND MINERAL PROGRAM. THEY HAVE BEEN RUNNING IN THE SIERRA FOOTHILLS FOR TWO SEASONS!

INCLUDING:

100 ANGUS/ANGUS CROSS FEMALES

FROM THE WILKINSON RANCH IN NEVADA. BRED TO LOW BIRTH/HIGH GROWTH ANGUS BULLS FROM 44 FARMS, KERN CATTLE AND JORGENSEN FARMS AND RED ANGUS BULLS FROM LUDVIGSON, IRON-LORENSEN AND STEGALL CATTLE CO.

100 ANGUS/ANGUS CROSS FEMALES

ORIGINATING FROM THE OTIS CREEK RANCH, DREWSEY, OR AND STEP TOE RANCH, MCGILL, NV. BRED TO LOW BIRTH/HIGH GROWTH ANGUS BULLS FROM 44 FARMS, KERN CATTLE AND JORGENSEN FARMS AND RED ANGUS BULLS FROM LUDVIGSON, IRON-LORENSEN AND STEGALL CATTLE CO.

100 RED ANGUS/RED ANGUS CROSS FEMALES

ORIGINATING FROM MALOTT LIVESTOCK, POWELL BUTTE, OR, AND BERG RANCH CO., MARTINSDALE, MT. BRED TO HIGH END, LOW BIRTH LUDVIGSON STOCK FARM, IRON-LORENZEN AND STEGALL CATTLE CO. RED ANGUS BULLS.

PLUS:

40 ANGUS/ANGUS CROSS COWS

3-YEAR-OLDS ORIGINATING FROM ONE SOUTHERN MONTANA RANCH. FOOTHILL VACCINATED AND ON A YEARLY MODIFIED-LIVE VACCINE PROGRAM. BRED TO 100% ANGUS BULLS TO START CALVING SEPT. 5.

40 ANGUS/ANGUS CROSS COWS

3-YEAR-OLDS ORIGINATING FROM ONE EASTERN OREGON RANCH. FOOTHILL VACCINATED AND ON A YEARLY MODIFIED-LIVE VACCINE PROGRAM. BRED TO 100% ANGUS BULLS TO START CALVING SEPT. 5.

60 ANGUS/ANGUS CROSS & RED ANGUS CROSS COWS

3 & 4-YEAR-OLD CALIFORNIA NATIVE COWS. FULL MODIFIED-LIVE VACCINATION PROGRAM. BRED TO HIGH END ANGUS BULLS TO START CALVING SEPT. 5.

60 ANGUS/ANGUS CROSS & RED ANGUS CROSS COWS

3 & 4-YEAR-OLD COWS ORIGINATING FROM DILLON, MT AREA. FULL MODIFIED-LIVE VACCINATION PROGRAM. BRED TO HIGH END ANGUS BULLS.

PLUS SEVERAL SMALLER CONSIGNMENTS OF YOUNG FALL CALVING COWS AND HEIFERS AS WELL AS SOME SMALLER GROUPS OF SPRING PAIRS AND CLOSE UP COWS.

THIS YEAR WILL BE ANOTHER GREAT OFFERING OF REPLACEMENT FEMALES!

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Visalia, CA 93292



2025 MIDLAND BULL TEST AWARDS



MIDLAND BULL TEST
APRIL 3 - 4
COLUMBUS, MT

2025 WINNER		2025 RUNNER-UP	
GROUP 1			
Champion High Indexing Bull	Lot #124 Ryan Cattle MBT Index 118	Lot #151 Byergo Beef Genetics LLC MBT Index 117	
Champion ADG Bull	Lot #156 Byergo Beef Genetics LLC ADG 4.91	Lot #70 7 Oaks Angus and Lot #75 7 Oaks Angus ADG 4.87	
Champion WDA Bull	Lot #74 7 Oaks Angus WDA 4.22	Lot #78 7 Oaks Angus WDA 4.11	
Champion Low Birth ADG Bull	Lot #70 7 Oaks Angus and Lot #75 7 Oaks Angus ADG 4.87	Lot #151 Byergo Beef Genetics LLC ADG 4.64	
Champion High Efficiency Bull	Lot #132 Strasburg Angus Eff. R 127	Lot #125 Strasburg Angus Eff. R 123	
Champion Sire Group	Lots #150, 154 and 156 Ellingson Prolific Byergo Beef Genetics LLC MBT Index Avg. 111.3	Lots #100, 101, and 102 Ingram Heisman 0566 Marda Angus Farm LLC MBT Index Avg. 110.7	
GROUP 2 (semen retest 3/19)			
Champion High Indexing Bull	Lot #328 Woirhaye Cattle Co. and Lot #346 Sunny Okanogan Angus MBT Index 117	Lot #433 Deppe Angus MBT Index 116	
Champion ADG Bull	Lot #328 Woirhaye Cattle Co. ADG 4.45	Lot #430 Deppe Angus ADG 4.41	
Champion WDA Bull	Lot #433 Deppe Angus WDA 3.8	Lot #321 H7 Angus WDA 3.78	
Champion Low Birth ADG Bull	Lot #329 Woirhaye Cattle Co. ADG 4.23	Lot #336 Woirhaye Cattle Co., #323 H7 Angus Ranch and #423 Fuller Cattle LLC ADG 4.13	
Champion High Efficiency Bull	Lot #517 J.J. Scheckel Performance Angus Eff. R 125	Lot #477 Michigan State University Eff. R 122	
Champion Sire Group	Lots #327, 328 and 329 Sterling Pacific 904 Woirhaye Cattle Co.	Lots #321, 322, and 323 Basin Jameson 1076 H7 Angus Ranch MBT Index Avg. 111	
	Lots #431, 432, and 433 Deppe Angus MBT Index Avg. 112		
ANGUS CHAMPION PEN OF 3	Lots #150, 151, 156 Byergo Beef Genetics LLC MBT Index Avg. 115	Lots #346, 347, and 348 Sunny Okanogan Angus MBT Index Avg. 114.6	
ANGUS FALL AWARDS			
Champion High Indexing Bull	Lot #260 7 Oaks Angus MBT Index 115	Lot #257 Deppe Angus and Lot #266 2XL Cattle Company MBT Index 112	
Champion High Efficiency Bull	Lot #250 Byergo Beef Genetics, LLC Eff. R 121	Lot #266 2XL Cattle Company Eff. R 118	
RED ANGUS AWARDS			
Champion High Indexing Bull	Lot #558 JVM Cattle Co. MBT Index 109	Lot #565 34 Farms MBT Index 108	
Champion High Efficiency Bull	Lot #557 Wild to Mild Red Angus Eff. R 109	Lot #566 34 Farms Eff. R. 106	
SIMMENTAL AWARDS			
Champion High Indexing Bull	Lot #601 Gerlach Cattle Company MBT Index 103		
Champion High Efficiency Bull	Lot #601 Gerlach Cattle Company Eff. R 102		

KEY: Green (Font or cell): BSE Passed | Yellow cell or Red font : BSE Deferred | Purple: tie

Continued on page 13.

On the leader board at MIDLAND BULL TEST



Lot 101
MARDA HEISMAN 464
Reg# *20891658 - Sire: INGRAM HEISMAN 0566

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$C	MBT Index
5	2	94	164	34	1.13	1.12	333	116



Lot 102
MARDA HEISMAN 467
Reg# *20891649 - Sire: INGRAM HEISMAN 0566

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$C	MBT Index
2	3.2	84	144	31	0.89	0.78	316	107



Lot 104
MARDA GETTYSBURG 466
Reg# *20889233 - Sire: EZAR GETTYSBURG 1061

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$C	MBT Index
3	4	102	190	34	1.61	0.96	374	104



Lot 105
MARDA TRADEWINDS 4103
Reg# *20891652 - Sire: VAR CROSSWIND 1361

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$C	MBT Index
16	-1.1	82	151	23	1.31	0.97	343	103



Lot 109
MARDA TANKER 482
Reg# *20983686 - Sire: LVVF TANKER 14

CED	BW	WW	YW	Milk	Marb	RE	\$C	MBT Index
9	0.4	88	153	27	0.82	1.49	337	111

THESE BULLS SELL
APRIL 4

More lots available from Marda, including:
LOTS 100, 103, 106, 107, 110, 111



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MARDAANGUSFARM.com

2025 MIDLAND BULL TEST AWARDS



**MIDLAND
BULL
TEST**
APRIL 3 - 4
COLUMBUS, MT

Continued from page 12.

LIM-FLEX AWARDS		
Champion High Indexing Bull	Lot #627 T4 Livestock LLC MBT Index 112	Lot #629 T4 Livestock LLC MBT Index 108
Champion High Efficiency Bull	Lot #627 T4 Livestock LLC Eff. R 116	Lot #629 T4 Livestock LLC Eff. R 115
SALERS AWARDS		
Champion High Indexing Bull	Lot #660 Elm Creek Ranch and #664 Elm Creek Ranch MBT Index 110	Lot #657 Elm Creek Ranch MBT Index 109
Champion High Efficiency Bull	Lot #671 Effertz Key Ranch Eff. R 120	Lot #673 Middlemist Cattle Eff. R 107
GELBVIEW AWARDS		
Champion High Indexing Bull	Lot #675 Rock Solid Gelbvieh MBT Index 107	Lot #677 Rock Solid Gelbvieh MBT Index 103
Champion High Efficiency Bull	Lot #678 Rock Solid Gelbvieh Eff. R 104	Lot #675 Rock Solid Gelbvieh Eff. R 103
SOUTH DEVON AWARDS		
Champion High Indexing Bull	Lot #707 DLCC Ranch and Lot #708 JVM Cattle Co MBT Index 110	Lot #703 DLCC Ranch MBT Index 105
Champion High Efficiency Bull	Lot #707 DLCC Ranch Eff. R 111	Lot #703 and #705 DLCC Ranch Eff. R 106
JUNIOR AWARDS		
Champion Junior Consignor Buckle	Lot #426 Deppe Angus- Brenden Gotto MBT Index 111	Lot #255 Deppe Angus- Alec Gotto MBT Index 110

KEY: Green (Font or cell): BSE Passed Yellow cell or Red font : BSE Deferred Purple: tie

Midland Bull Test: 'The granddaddy of performance testing'

In 1962, Leo McDonnell Sr. started the Midland Bull Test with a small group of purebred breeders. This concept of weighing and measuring cattle and publishing the resulting data as far as birth weights, weaning weights, gainability, dam's production and yearling weights was not met favorably by most of the purebred industry nationally.

However, under this constant pressure from the opponents of performance, Midland Bull Test, the Montana Beef Performance Association and several staunch seedstock producers continued to define, refine and promote performance as a primary tool in managing the profitability of a cow herd.

Those who have stayed with those initial concepts and philosophies have gone on to be national and international sources of breeding stock. We're proud to be one of those who didn't compromise our beliefs or program. Although Montana Beef Performance is no longer in existence, its effect and primary guidelines have continued on and been incorporated, in part, into many of the major breed performance associations.

Proven through competition, Midland bulls are unsurpassed in providing more trait leaders in the major breeds than any other breeder, test station or the com-

bined effort of the major stock shows.

Our emphasis continues to be on balanced performance: From sensible birth weights to early maturity, to functional maternal traits to economical weights, to compatible carcass merits to a phenotype that enhances these economical traits.

Considering that yearling bulls bought in the spring won't sire a weaned calf until the next fall and daughters of these bulls won't go into production for two years, it is no light matter. Look at the dam production records on the Midland Bulls ... it is unmatched. There is no other sale that offers buyers as strong an offering as the composite maternal growth bulls at Midland.

Buyers would have to go to a dozen bull sales or more to find as many top bulls from top producing cows as you will see at Midland in one day. One of the nicest compliments we receive each year from the buyers at Midland is the fact: "They can purchase high quality bulls all the way through the sale." Many of the bulls that sell at Midland would be used to start most production sales.

This is why many of the top performance cow herds, both seedstock and commercial, have been consignors or buyers at Midland ... there is a difference. — **Midland Bull Test**

The
**MISSING
PIECE**

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

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

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

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BULL TEST**

FINAL SORT SALE: APRIL 3-4, 2025
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South Devon • Red Angus APRIL 4: Angus

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YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

Foundation-Scholarships.

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

April 15 – The Colorado CattleWomen's Heather Hays Stinnett Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a Colorado woman pursuing a graduate or undergraduate degree in agriculture or a related field. Details: tinyurl.com/bhyy53kw.

2025 MIDLAND BULL TEST AWARDS



MIDLAND BULL TEST
APRIL 3 - 4
COLUMBUS, MT

Welcome to the 63rd annual Midland Bull Test sale

Dear fellow cattlemen and cattlegirls,

It is with great pleasure we invite you to the 63rd annual Midland Bull Test sale. Here at Midland, we continue to strive for the commercial cattlemen by identifying bulls that excel in the traits with the most economic importance.

While the data may appear complicated, it really boils down to sticking to the basics and checking off the boxes that cover the most bases. You will find an excellent selection for performance, efficiency, carcass, feet, structure, length,

capacity and disposition, as well as fertility and maternal.

These basics, function and type, get cattlemen through the thick and the thin that establishes longevity. These days, with the market remaining STRONG and prosperous and the American cow herd size at the lowest in decades, are the time to position your herd for the future.

We take pride in presenting you with a quality selection of breeding bulls you can buy with confidence to grow your herd in the right

direction. You would be hard pressed to find a similar set of exceptional, diverse genetics anywhere else. These bulls are walking the walk themselves, by backing up their genetic potential and indexes with actual performance.

The bulls in the catalog represent "The Final Sort." Congratulations to our consignors and buyers, and a heartfelt thank you for making this possible and for being a part of this crucial service to the world.
— **Steve and Amy Williams and the Midland Bull Test crew**

How the bull test works

The Midland Bull Test is a proven program that measures genetic performance potential of individuals or sire groups through individual feed intake measurement, carcass ultrasound and breeding soundness exam of all sale bulls.

Bulls consigned to Midland for the test receive optimal care and attention, with daily herd health checks and close vet contact should any problems arise. Consignors receive individual objective and accurate reporting; and reap the benefits of comprehensive deep-rooted marketing and promotion.

Midland Bull Test has consistently topped the sales across the U.S. and is proud of

its elite list of bull test graduates. We boast a large number of repeat sale buyers who assert their loyalty to proven results year after year. We are a family operation dedicated to the improvement of the beef cattle industry as we identify superior performing individuals and bloodlines within breeds.

We give Midland customers the benefit of a "total performance" bull development center. Each bull is set up on a level playing field and measured for performance based on individual data collection and detailed reports. Midland is the only major performance program feeding a realistic low energy ration.

The greatest opportunity

ranchers have is in the ability to maximize profits found in incremental efficiency gains as cattle convert roughage to pounds on the scale. That's where the vast majority of our customers make their living, and where efficiency puts more on your table.

Our facilities and programs were designed and built to emphasize the development of calves into sound, functional bulls. Yet, even with our moderate gain program, Midland has provided numerous trait leaders in the major breed sire summaries. We offer breeders the opportunity to performance test herd sire prospects and progeny groups in an optimal bull test environment. — **Midland Bull Test**

Arguably, Craftsman's best son!



SELLING 14
Ranch Ready
BULLS FROM DEPPE ANGUS!

FINAL SORT MIDLAND BULL TEST
APRIL 4, 2025 • COLUMBUS, MT

Champion WDA - Group 2, 3rd High Indexing - Group 2, 3rd High ADG - Group 2 & Member of Champion Sire Group

Lot 433 | AAA# 21150629 | Sired by Connealy Craftsman
CED 5 WW 84 YW 149 CLAW .33 ANGLE .38 CW 75 MARB 1.19 RE .98 \$M 85 \$B 208 \$C 355 MBT 116



Age Advantage

Lot 256 | AAA# 21039557 | Sired by Deer Valley Growth Fund
CED 10 BW 1.4 WW 87 YW 154 RADG .31 YH 1.1
\$W 87 \$F 130 \$B 179 \$C 283 MBT 111



Champion Junior Bull

Lot 426 | AAA# 21159185 | Sired by Crouch Congress
BW 0.3 WW 72 YW 124 HP 16.1 CLAW 0.42 ANGLE 0.4
PAP -2.36 \$M 68 \$B 145 \$C 256 MBT 111



Lot 429 | AAA# 21150631 | Sired by Virginia Tech Statesman
CED 11 BW -0.3 WW 80 YW 141 HP 17.2 CEM 13
PAP -2.58 RE 1.04 \$F 127 \$B 196 \$C 326 MBT 109



Member of Champion Sire Group

Lot 431 | AAA# 21155439 | Sired by Connealy Craftsman
WW 74 YW 130 CLAW 0.49 ANGLE 0.46 MARB .61
\$M 84 \$B 131 \$C 254 MBT 112

ADDITIONAL BULLS SELLING

- Age Advantage Bulls, Lots 255-258
- Lot 255 | AAA# 21039560 | Sired by Deer Valley Growth Fund | MBT 110
- Lot 257 | AAA# 21039558 | Sired by Car Don Annuity 114 | MBT 112
- Lot 258 | AAA# 21039561 | Sired by SITZ Incentive 704H | MBT 102
- Yearling Bulls
- Lot 427 | AAA# 21154389 | Sired by Crouch Congress | MBT 108
- Lot 428 | AAA# 21150630 | Sired by Crouch Congress | MBT 105
- Lot 430 | AAA# 21150633 | Sired by Virginia Tech Statesman | MBT 114
- Lot 434 | AAA# 21150632 | Sired by Connealy Craftsman | MBT 97
- Lot 435 | AAA# 21150635 | Sired by SITZ Incentive 704H | MBT 98



Member of Champion Sire Group

Lot 432 | AAA# 21150628 | Sired by Connealy Craftsman
WW 82 YW 139 HP 18.3 CLAW .37 ANGLE .40 PAP -.13
RE 1.02 \$M 101 \$W 80 \$B 149 \$C 294 MBT 107

Snowpack increases across MT

"February was, overall, a month of steady snow accumulation in Montana," said Eric Larson, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) hydrologist. SNOTEL sites across the state reported 1-4 inches of precipitation equaling about 10-30 inches of snow during the first week of February.

Mid-month brought slightly less accumulation, but the snowpack did make some gains, about 5-15 inches of snow at mountain elevations. The last week of February was characterized by sunshine and precipitation, with storms falling as a mix of rain and snow at many mountain locations.

Despite warmer temperatures during the last week of the month, SNOTELs across the state received up to an inch of precipitation with northwest Montana receiving slightly more. Overall mountain precipitation during February was 90-180% of normal, except in the Tongue River basin where precipitation was only 50% of normal.

Above-normal precipitation resulted in increased snow-

pack percentages since the last month in nearly all basins. However, early season deficits persist across most of the state. Currently, basinwide snowpack percentages are 80-100% of normal. Exceptions include the Sun-Teton-Marias and St. Mary River basin where the snowpack is about 70% of normal. The Gallatin and Smith-Judith-Musselshell snowpack is at 110-120% of normal.

"The slightly below-normal snowpack in many basins is not overly concerning yet, especially given the stormy outlook for the next two weeks. At least we are doing better than last year at this time when snowpack percentages were 60-70% of normal statewide," said Larson.

One to two months remain in the typical snowpack accumulation season. The snowpack at Montana's highest elevations typically reaches peak levels in late April or early May. "Even locations that currently have an above-normal snowpack need additional snow over the next couple months," said Larson.

Streamflow forecasts are

published in the March through June NRCS Water Supply Outlook reports. March 1 forecasts provide an initial look at what spring and summer snowmelt and runoff might bring this year. Uncertainty in the forecasts published this month comes from uncertainty of what future weather will bring.

"The March 1 water supply forecasts currently trend with total water year precipitation and the resulting snowpack. Therefore, most forecasts indicate slightly below-normal runoff this season," said Larson.

Continued precipitation over the rest of the winter and spring will be influential in catching up from water year precipitation deficits and below normal runoff predictions at many locations.

A full report of conditions on March 1 can be found in the monthly Water Supply Outlook Report available at www.nrcs.usda.gov/montana/snow-survey. In addition, real-time snow survey data can be found at the site. — **USDA NRCS**

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BW 4.0 | WW 79 | YW 128 | M 16 | ADG Ratio 103
WDA 3.67 | YR Wt 1,344 lbs | YR Ratio 111 | MBT 107

Reg. #766633 SIRE: BYERGO BOOMER 6351
BW 1.2 | WW 74 | YW 130 | M 21 | ADG 3.50
ADG Ratio 114 | YR Wt 1,235 lbs. | YR Ratio 104
EFF Ratio 107 | MBT 106

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SALE REPORTS

DAL PORTO LIVESTOCK BULL SALE

March 10, Brewster, NE
60 Angus bulls \$8,016
Auctioneer: Greg Goggins
Sale Manager: Rance Long
TOPS: Dal Porto Surpass C36, 2/26/2024 by BJ Surpass; to Norene Ranches, Rio Oso, CA, \$30,000. Dal Porto LLL Broadcast C07, 2/6/2024 by Connealy Broadcast; to Bass Ranch, Brewster, NE, \$19,000. Dal Porto Justice C20, 2/15/2024 by Bear Mtn Justice; to Bass Ranch, Brewster, NE, \$19,000. Dal Porto Fair-N-Square C05, 2/5/2024 by Myers Fair-N-Square M39; to Nebraska Bull Buyer, NE, \$16,000. Dal Porto Broadcast C13, 2/10/2024 by Connealy Broadcast; to Prairie View Farm, Gridley, IL, \$12,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

WAGON WHEEL RANCH PRODUCTION SALE

March 11, Yuma, CO
40 Angus bulls \$5,635
32 Commercial open heifers 2,045
Auctioneer: Dustin Carter
TOPS: WWR Commerce M1, 2/7/2024 by Connealy Commerce; to Alan Fonte, Wray, CO, \$8,750. WWR MVP M26, 2/1/2024 by B/R MVP 5247; to Alan Fonte, Wray, CO, \$8,250. WWR High Road M33, 2/7/2024 by Hoffman High Road; to John Jutton, Palisade, CO, \$7,750. WWR Commerce M3, 1/28/2024 by Connealy Commerce; to John Jutton, Palisade, CO, \$7,750. — **TY GROSHANS**

HORNUNG LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION SALE

March 12, Stratton, CO
36 Angus yearling bulls \$9,069
15 Angus older bulls . . . 6,833
23 SimAngus yearling bulls 6,769
4 SimAngus 2-year-old bulls 5,062
7 Angus open heifers 8,928
25 Commercial pairs 4,180
3 Angus embryos 850
Auctioneer: Cody Lowderman
TOPS—Angus bulls: HLS Craftsman 4060, 1/27/2024 by Connealy Craftsman; to DPK Inc., Claremont, CA, \$27,000. HLS Mr No Substitute 4035, 1/21/2024 by Wilks No Substitute 2358; to Pierce Cattle Co., Springfield, MO, \$25,000. HLS Mr Craftsman 4059, 1/27/2024 by Connealy Craftsman; to Brock Elson, Miller, NE, \$19,000. HLS Mr Exemplify 4053, 1/25/2024 by Linz Exemplify 71124; to Kent Goeglein, Yuma, CO, \$15,000. HLS Mr Paragon 4013, 1/18/2024 by Ankonian Paragon 0C4; to Allan Ranch, Brady, TX, \$14,000. HLS Mr Craftsman 4063, 1/28/2024 by Connealy Craftsman; to Jo Mayo, Haswell, CO, \$14,000. **Open heifers:** HLS Ms Braden 4038, 1/22/2024 by Connealy Craftsman; to DPK Inc., Claremont, CA, \$13,500. 1/2 Interest. HLS Ms Huwa 4054, 1/25/2024 by Ankonian Paragon 0C4; to Steve Hart, Washougal, WA, \$10,000. 1/2 interest. HLS Ms Braden 4038, 1/22/2024 by Connealy Craftsman; to Kent Goeglein, Yuma, CO, \$10,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

CHUNDY LAND & CATTLE BULL SALE

March 15, Imperial, NE
75 Angus & SimAngus bulls \$5,120
8 Angus & SimAngus open heifers 3,019
60 Commercial open heifers 2,438
Auctioneer: Kyle Schow
TOP: Chundy True North 4014, 12/31/2023 by Square B True North 8052; to Larry Winger, Haigler, NE, \$8,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

RANCHO CASINO/COX RANCH BULL SALE

March 17, Purdum, NE
75 Angus bulls \$7,770
Auctioneer: Matt Lowery
TOPS: CR Thedford 447, 2/1/2024 by Hoffman Thedford; to Giles & Smith Ranch, Elsmere, NE, \$38,000. Casino Broadcast X181, 3/6/2024 by Connealy

Broadcast; to Stickle's Angus, Le Grand, CA, \$24,000. CR Iconic 426, 1/30/2024 by DB Iconic G95; to McGinn Ranch, Anselmo, NE, \$13,500. Casino Broadcast X164, 2/22/2024 by Connealy Broadcast; to O'Banion Ranches, Dos Palos, CA, \$13,000. CR Thedford 449, 2/1/2024 by Hoffman Thedford; to Giles & Smith Ranch, Elsmere, NE, \$12,500. — **TY GROSHANS**

BARTELS ANGUS BULL SALE

March 18, Riverton, NE
67 Angus bulls \$6,701
Auctioneer: Charly Cummings
TOPS: Bartels Prolific 420, 2/2/2024 by Ellingson Prolific; to Steve Johnson, Elm Creek, NE, \$18,500. Bartels Iconic 432, 2/6/2024 by DB Iconic G95; to Hart Angus, Frederick, SD, \$13,499. Bartels McCoy 401, 1/13/2024 by Koupals B&B Real McCoy 2126; to Paul Eayrs, Fallon, MT, \$12,000. Bartels Iconic 410, 1/31/2024 by DB Iconic G95; to Steve Johnson, Elm Creek, NE, \$11,750. Bartels Commerce L139, 9/8/2023 by Connealy Commerce; to Larson Ranch, Forsyth, MT, \$11,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

WHEELER MOUNTAIN RANCH PRODUCTION SALE

March 13, Whitehall, MT
94 Angus yearling bulls \$7,920
31 Angus 2-year-old bulls 6,460
Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe
TOPS—2-Year-old bull: WMR Ideal 364, 1/21/2023 by Ideal 4223 of 1168 Blkbrd; to Tomahawk Ranch, Whitehall, MT, \$11,500. **Yearling bulls:** WMR Duke 427, 1/18/2024 by Millars Duke 816; to MR Angus, Wheatland, WY, \$21,000. WMR Legend 43, 1/13/2024 by CAR Legend 026; to Cutting Corners Cattle Co., Douglas, WY, \$19,000. WMR Timeless 483, 2/1/2024 by WMR Timeless 081; to Seven Bar Heart Angus, Ulm, MT, \$17,000. WMR Ideal 451, 1/24/2024 by Ideal 4223 of 1168 Blkbrd; to Connelly Angus, Valier, MT, \$15,000. WMR Pacific 487, 2/4/2024 by Apex Pacific 442; to JLC Ranches, Clyde Park, MT, \$13,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

FELTON ANGUS RANCH BULL SALE

March 14, Hudson Oaks, TX
84 Angus bulls \$7,663
Auctioneer: Eric Drees
GREEN MOUNTAIN ANGUS BULL SALE
March 14, Billings, MT
24 Angus 2-year-old bulls \$7,833
103 Angus yearling bulls 6,886
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs
TOPS: GMAR Wrangler M024, 1/2/2024 by S Wrangler 830; to Travis Donahey, Capitol, MT, \$10,500. GMAR Patriarch M118, 1/20/2024 by Tehama Patriarch F028; to Mallett Ranch, Powderville, MT, \$10,000. GMAR Armstrong M073, 1/8/2024 by S Armstrong; to Dennis Mercer, Lavina, MT, \$10,000. GMAR Architect M293, 2/15/2024 by S Architect 9501; to John Jones, Miles City, MT, \$10,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

LELAND RED ANGUS BULL SALE

March 14, Sidney, MT
53 Red Angus older bulls \$7,594
106 Red Angus yearling bulls 6,800
24 Red Angus open heifers 2,413
32 Commercial open heifers 2,274
Auctioneer: Seth Weishaar
TOPS—Older bulls: Koester Stockmarket 319, 8/12/2023 by Bieber CL Stockmarket E119; to Diamond H Ranch, Victoria, KS, \$22,500. Koester Charter 312, 8/12/2023 by Lorenzen Charter 0906; to Swenson Ranch, Belfield, ND, \$16,500. **Yearling bulls:** Leland Jumpstart 4265, 4/13/2024 by Bieber Jumpstart J137; to Mandan Lake Simmental, Center, ND, \$18,500. Leland Propulsion 4016, 3/22/2024 by

BB Propulsion 9096; to Swenson Ranch, Belfield, ND, \$17,500. Leland Jumpstart 4050, 3/26/2024 by Bieber Jumpstart J137; to Roger Kadrmaz, Dickinson, ND, \$16,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

SOUTH MONTANA ANGUS ASSOCIATION BULL SALE

March 15, Butte, MT
74 Angus bulls \$7,750
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
Sale Manager: Ron Frye
Marketing
TOPS: EAR Riverside M13, 1/30/2024 by Vermilion Riverside; to Forcella Angus Ranch, Deer Lodge, MT, \$19,000. EAR All In M36, 1/31/2024 by GDAR All In 024; to Ashcroft Ranch, Twin Bridges, MT, \$15,500. EAR River-

side M17, 1/30/2024 by Vermilion Riverside; to Rehbein Ranches, Arlee, MT, \$15,000. EAR All In M44, 1/29/2024 by GDAR All In 024; to LR Huckabba Ranch, Cardwell, MT, \$13,000. EAR Logo M66, 2/27/2024 by EAR Logo K8; to LR Huckabba Ranch, Cardwell, MT, \$13,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

WHISTLING WINDS ANGUS BULL SALE

March 17, Hingham, MT
55 Angus bulls \$8,977
Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe
TOPS: WW Bardolier 4281, by GDAR Bardolier 2363; to McClendon Grain & Cattle, Rudyard, MT, \$15,750. WW Load Up 4377, 2/2/2024 by AAR Load Up J277;

to Thousand Hills Angus, Toston, MT, \$15,500. TEF Validate 042, 2/8/2024 by TEF Validate 042; to Cherry Ridge Ranch, Chinook, MT, \$15,000. WW Bardolier 4529, 2/8/2024 by GDAR Bardolier 2363; to Tom Miller, Lewistown, MT, \$14,000. WW Bardolier 4366, 2/5/2024 by GDAR Bardolier 2363; to LF Ranch, Augusta, MT, \$11,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

ELK ANGUS BULL SALE

March 18, Buffalo, WY
48 Angus bulls \$6,557
9 Angus open heifers 5,472
Auctioneer: Matt Lowery
TOPS: ELK Prolific 7081-M4, 1/1/2024 by Ellingson Prolific; to

Kenny Haworth, Malta, ID, \$22,000. ELK Dakota R324-M93, 2/10/2024 by Musgrave Dakota 257-1715; to Kris Young, Blackfoot, ID, \$13,500. ELK Hi Range 340-M135, 3/9/2024 by Ellingson Hi-Range; to Jana Haynie, Circle, MT, \$12,500. ELK Trophyclass R118-M32, 1/17/2024 by ELK Trophyclass; to Batman Angus, Norcatur, KS, \$9,500. ELK Resilient 9095-M61, 1/26/2024 by Duppong Resilient 134; to Tanner Ragsdale, Kensington, KS, \$9,500. ELK Primrose 5083-M131, 3/8/2024 by Ellingson Hi-Range; to Pine Coulee Angus, Hardin, MT, \$8,000. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

Continued on page 19.

Saturday, April 5th, 2025

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MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 3/20/2025	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	202.00 ▲	N/A	188.52
CME Feeder Index	284.65 ▲	278.71	251.82
Boxed Beef Average	N/A ▲	319.69	313.73
Average Dressed Steers	N/A ▲	N/A	300.00
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,435 ▼	1,437	1,389
Weekly Slaughter**	587,000 ▲	578,000	601,000
Weekly Beef Production***	511.9 ▲	504.9	501.4
Hide/Offal Value	11.43 ▼	11.81	11.54
Corn Price	4.70 ▲	4.59	4.41

*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 17	6,681	321.67	248	357.61	1,373	325.12	1,883	318.06	683	304.71	2,494 292.94
March 10	6,733	317.34	225	358.06	1,337	320.88	2,183	314.91	617	302.96	2,372 289.21
February 28	7,038	317.18	237	357.75	1,288	318.47	2,280	316.04	801	303.49	2,431 288.96
February 21	7,105	317.56	239	364.15	1,334	320.69	2,233	313.66	733	304.55	2,656 289.38

Cutouts					FED BOXED BEEF				
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN		90% LEAN		
Mar. 20	N/A	N/A	297.16		130.46		381.88		
Mar. 19	329.61	308.68	297.37		126.23		381.53		
Mar. 18	323.32	309.23	298.05		119.08		382.71		
Mar. 17	321.16	307.90	297.38		113.82		381.84		
Mar. 14	318.27	306.32	297.36		114.07		381.81		

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	3/14	3/17	3/18	3/19	3/20	High*	Low*
Apr.	20318	20520	20553	20715	20875	20935	16853
Jun.	19935	20118	20150	20310	20520	20773	16668
Aug.	19670	19893	19945	20058	20195	20165	17005
Oct.	19728	19968	20020	20118	20180	19800	18068

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	3/14	3/17	3/18	3/19	3/20	High*	Low*
Mar.	28198	28473	28523	28730	28843	29220	21920
Apr.	28120	28435	28530	28723	28863	28235	22268
May	28265	28555	28655	28800	28925	28415	22460
Aug.	28655	28975	29040	29203	29373	28833	24118

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

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	64	1,525	202.00
Live FOB Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
Live FOB Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Live FOB Heifer	244	1,284	200.00
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
Live FOB Steer	1,349	1,482	188.52
Live FOB Heifer	1,699	1,351	187.66
Dressed Del Steer	395	956	300.00
Dressed Del Heifer	160	848	300.00

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: MARCH 16, 2025		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	28,893	5,055
Formula	256,026	2,649
Negotiated Cash	78,348	121
Negotiated Grid	38,779	1,685
Packer Owned	11,274	N/A
Total	413,320	9,510

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS				FORWARD BEEF SALES			
Delivery Month	Neg. Sales 0-21 days		1,962	Neg. Sales 21+ days		930	
Mar. '25	157,632			Formula sales		3,707	
Apr. '25	206,674			Forward contract sales		83	
May '25	107,740			Domestic sales		6,112	
Jun. '25	115,793			NAFTA Exports		98	
Jul. '25	87,454						

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		184.82	-5.90
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		183.59	-5.29

Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		175.27	+55.03
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		108.64	N/A

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, March 18, 2025				
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario	
501-600 lbs	353.98	351.36	293.40	
601-700 lbs	314.88	313.05	276.44	
701-800 lbs	278.86	277.11	261.82	
801-900 lbs	257.00	256.46	241.86	

Heifers:			
	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
401-500 lbs	333.51	342.29	296.97
501-600 lbs	303.23	311.24	276.49
601-700 lbs	275.51	279.40	249.23
701-800 lbs	249.07	255.00	231.34

USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS				
Feeder cattle imports weekly and yearly volume.				
Species	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Year-to-date	Previous Year-to-date
Feeder Steers	20,062	15,071	59,549	277,823

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE				
March 19, 2025				
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary				
Receipts EST: 4,350	Week Ago EST: 3,450	Year Ago Act: 8,850		

Santa Teresa, NM -		Douglas, AZ -	
Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold 2.00 higher. Heifers traded 3.00 higher. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 500-800 lbs.		Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers traded steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 500-800 lbs.	

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
300-400 lbs	N/A	300-400 lbs	N/A
400-500 lbs	N/A	400-500 lbs	N/A
500-600 lbs	285-295	500-600 lbs	275-285

Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
300-400 lbs	N/A	300-400 lbs	N/A
400-500 lbs	N/A	400-500 lbs	N/A
500-600 lbs	319-329	500-600 lbs	310-320

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

Selected Auctions

Week Ending March 20, 2025

Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2

DATE	MARKET	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. - up	SLAUGHTER COWS	PAIRS
									SLAUGHTER BULLS	REPLACEMENTS
NORTHWEST										
No report available Blackfoot, ID										
March 13	Burley, ID	397	418-470 425	381-395 364-394	321-360 333-369	279-320	295 262	248	101-153.50 157-161	2,250-2,900
No report available Emmett, ID										
March 15	Eugene, OR	542	220-375*	272-362*	272-376* 230-313*	210-255* 257-277*	250-322* 215-259*		135-168 155-173	1,385-2,200
No report available Madras, OR										
March 19	Vale, OR	1,681	410-438 385-423	365-421 332-405	330-391 300-366	285-338 270-318	268-285 260-271	260-283 247-268	124-152.50 160-180	2,400-2,975
March 18	Davenport, WA	147	326 320	345 255-348	287.50-346 260-336	287-316 222.50-289	275-290 175-255	175-225 176-202.50	109-159 140-245	
March 13	Toppenish, WA	905			350* 322*				164-172.50	
FARWEST										
March 13	Orland, CA	1,419	300-500 260-400	300-486 280-455	300-465 280-403	250-365 230-349	250-330 230-309	235-296 215-286	210-275 190-263	2,200-3,550 1,800-2,600
March 17	Escalon, CA	N/A	250-300 300-322			250-260 250-300		180-230 150-200	150-190 150-195	800-1,725 700-1,300
No report available Famoso, CA										
No report available Galt, CA										
No report available Turlock, CA										
March 18	Salina, UT	894	395-485	380-505 362.50-485	290-450 255-422.50	265-365 230-342.50	200-341 225.50-310	245-304.50 170-280	220-273 200-263	132-143 152.89-217.50
NORTH CENTRAL										
March 17	Iowa	11,348	490	449-475 375-440	360-460 320-427	320-400 285-360	309-405 265-317	265-319 244.50-290.50	243.50-294 200-287	119-196 100-194
March 18	Miles City, MT	2,273	442.50	490-505 415	395-472 354-401	354-384 317-361	322-351 285-349	291-300.50 265-300	245-274 216-272.50	139-151 132-165
March 19	Bassett, NE	1,125		475-484 416-440	370-372.50 370-372.50	345-347 345-347	334-358.50 281-299	302.50-323.25 268.75-287.50		2,550-3,700
March 15	Ericson, NE	4,690		427.50	395-440 357.50-397.50	357.50-415 321-351.50	318-377 277-324	283.50-322 269-301	258.50-290 238.50-271	1,650-2,800
No report available Imperial, NE										
March 19	Kearney, NE	2,700		407.58-510	326-370	385-407 311-331	331-378 290-314	293.50-612 277.75-287	268-291.50 243.85-266.25	
March 14	Lexington, NE	1,792		384	387-416 354	357-391 304-328	316.50-359 297-300	280-313 276.50-284	239-270 255-275	
March 13	Ogallala, NE	6,122		430-450 421-422.50	384-430 328-374	354-406 310-346.50	302-355.50 281.50-316	287-328 262-301.50	252-291.50 227.50-281.50	
March 13	Valentine, NE	4,020		485 395-425	420-456 363.50-408	376-409 322-367	333-375.50 296-320.50	310-326 282.50-326	260-275.50 242.50	
March 14	Herreid, SD	5,130		402-460 342-381	327.50-409 310-358	306-362 285-312.50	281-319 267-292.50	252.50-297.75 266-269.75		
March 19	Torrington, WY	1,616		380-424 362-390	355-398 321-353	317-371.50 293-323	310-322 273-279	279-292.50 262-265		
SOUTH CENTRAL										
March 13	Willcox, AZ	957	455.50-487.50 300	394-488 352-394	395-413 341-387.50	323-338 289-317.50	265-392 244.50-292.50		115-138 120-171	2,250-2,825 2,300-2,550
March 17	Colorado	11,297	470-495 392.50-415	420-492 382.50-437.50	390-440 350-413.50	330-415 301.50-387.50	278-364.50 255-319	269-320 245-299	233-295 200-255	115-187.50 105-186
No report available La Junta, CO										
March 17	Loma, CO	378		390-445 385-410	365-410 350-390	330-375 300-345	290-320 265-295	265-295 240-290	210-280 190-240	130-155 150-175
March 19	Dodge City, KS	2,523		422.50-437.50 420	445 340-342.50	360-400 347.50	318-351 271.50-286	282-296.75 256-274.25	246-292.50 241.25-255.50	121-151 141-184
March 13	Pratt, KS	6,248		422.50-472.50 352.50-430	361-412 320-407.50	347-407 314-342.50	331-353 270-315	280.50-322 250-284	244-292 221.75-264	120-151.50 150-198
March 13	Salina, KS	4,215								

There is no such thing as a free cow lunch

Cow-calf producers are enjoying record calf prices but maximizing profits still requires managing costs. In fact, one of the reasons given for the slow start to heifer retention is that high costs of production means that producer returns are not yet high enough to initiate herd rebuilding.

While producers may not be able to influence the general input market conditions and prices, Figure 1 shows that the variable costs of production per cow vary tremendously across producers, with profitability differences largely due to cost management. Low profitability producers have a total variable cost of production 37.1% higher than the top third of profitability among producers.

Total feed (pasture plus non-pasture) costs ranged from 69.1% (top third of profitability) to 66.3% (bottom third of profitability) of total variable costs but total feed costs for low profitability producers

were 31.6% higher. The top third of profitability included higher pasture costs but significantly lower non-pasture feed costs and, thus, lower total feed costs.

Non-pasture feed costs in Figure 1 include harvested forages (hay) and purchased supplement feed. Hay costs are frequently overlooked or undervalued, especially for producers who make their own hay. In Oklahoma, other (non-alfalfa) hay is primarily used for beef cattle production.

Figure 2 provides a broad measure of hay use calculated as tons of other hay per beef cow per year. This quantity has increased from less than one ton of hay per cow prior to 1980 to an average of about 2.4 tons of hay per beef cow in the last decade.

The quantity of other hay per cow currently averages 4,800 pounds per year, which implies roughly 160 days of hay feeding per cow at 30 lbs./cow/day if all the hay was fed. How-

ever, a significant quantity of hay is lost to storage and feeding wastage. Round bales are especially prone to storage and feeding losses of 20 to 40% or more if not managed carefully.

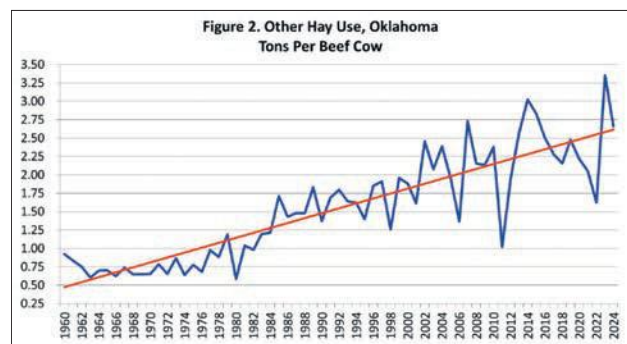
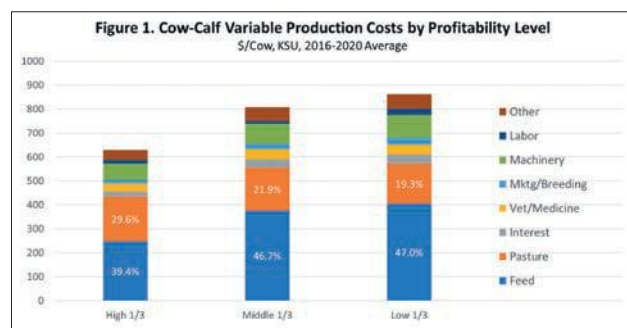
Additionally, it is noted that average cow size has increased over time. Whether this is a good thing is a different question that should be addressed as a separate consideration. Nevertheless, in many cases, stocking rates have not been adjusted over time to reflect larger cows, leading to overstocked pastures and the need to feed more hay.

Economists often say there is no such thing as a free lunch. However, grazing and hay management provide considerable opportunity for cow-calf producers to manage and reduce cow-calf cost of production. Cows are the most efficient forage harvesting machine in cow-calf operations and provide an opportunity to reduce total feed costs by extending grazing time and reducing hay needs.

Hay costs roughly twice as much as grazing per pound of forage consumed by cows. There is no free lunch for cows but having the cows do most of the work with grazing is as close as you can get. March is an excellent time to plan grazing for the coming growing

season with an eye to reducing hay needs next fall and winter.

— Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist



Light slaughter sends boxed beef higher

MARKETS (from page 1)

week. The Choice cutout gained more than \$16 to close at \$329.61, and the Select cutout gained about \$1 to close at \$308.68.

"This sharp March rally is unusual and no doubt got an extra boost from the production loss this week compared to earlier expectations," Fish said.

The latest Cattle on Feed report to be released Friday, March 21 was expected to show cattle on feed at 98.2% of last year. Placements are expected to be 85.6% of 2024, and markets are projected at 91.8%.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures propelled higher over the week. The March contract gained a little over \$8 to close at \$288.35, and the April contract gained close to \$9 to close at \$288.45.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index gained nearly \$6 to close at \$284.65.

Corn futures were modestly higher over the week. The May contract gained 4 cents to close at \$4.69, and the July contract

gained 3 cents to close at \$4.75.

"With the spring season set to officially begin Thursday, buyer demand in the countryside has been even more aggressive this week than last week, as buyers know that supplies will run thin the closer time gets to turn out season," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Wednesday midday comments.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 7,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold steady to \$15 higher. Feeder heifers sold steady to \$5 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 777 lbs. sold from \$278-295, averaging \$284.54.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 7,800 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold \$5-10 higher and feeder heifers sold \$2-6 higher. Demand was very good for feeder cattle. Steer calves sold \$3-6 higher, and heifers sold mostly steady. Benchmark steers averaging 783 lbs. sold from \$276-294, averaging \$286.88. — Anna Miller, WJ managing editor

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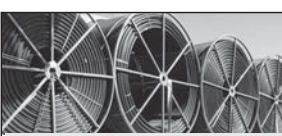
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Fed judge denies ADM dismissal motions

A federal court denied four motions to dismiss a securities lawsuit filed against Archer Daniels Midland (ADM) and four of its current and former executives in connec-

tion with irregular accounting practices revealed by the company.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Northern Illinois denied dismissal mo-

tions filed by ADM and its CEO Juan Luciano, now-former Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Vikram Luthar, former vice chairman and CFO Ray G. Young, along

with Vince Macciocchi, former president of nutrition and chief sales and marketing officer.

U.S. District Judge Thomas M. Durkin said in his opinion and order handed down on March 12 that he believed there is sufficient evidence for the case to continue.

"Two years after ADM began improperly accounting for the nutrition segment's transactions, ADM's board altered the compensation of its officers so that it was tied to the growth of the nutrition segment," Durkin wrote.

"In this way ADM's officers, including the four individual defendants in this case, directly benefited from the inaccurate accounting of the nutrition segment's profits. The individual defendants also took advantage of ADM's inflated stock price by selling millions of dollars' worth of ADM stock during this time period. By contrast, the individual defendants did not sell any ADM stock before the nutrition segment began to show inflated profits."

According to federal law, plaintiffs making the claims in the ADM case must show that the defendants made false statements with an intent to deceive.

"Here, although plaintiffs do not allege direct evidence that defendants knew the statements to the SEC (Secu-

rities Exchange Commission) about the accounting were false, the allegations of circumstantial evidence of their knowledge are strong," Durkin said.

ADM announced in 2023 it was reviewing internal accounting practices and suspended Luthar who resigned his post effective on Sept. 30, 2024.

The judge said there is evidence that ADM and its officers knew they were making alleged false statements about the performance of the company's nutrition segment.

"Two years after the false accounting practice was implemented, defendants changed their compensation structure to benefit from it," Durkin said in the opinion.

"Specifically, under the new structure, defendants' compensation was directly tied to the profits of the nutrition segment specifically, rather than that of ADM as a whole. This chain of events plausibly suggests a motive to at least maintain the fraudulent practice."

ADM did not respond to DTN's request for comment.

The Department of Justice launched an investigation in March 2024 focused on ADM's finances and issued subpoenas to current and former employees. When news of the accounting irregularities broke, ADM stock took a big hit.

A group of ADM investors filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of shareholders who

purchased or acquired company common stock between April 30, 2020, through Jan. 22, 2024.

The shareholders alleged that ADM and its officers made "false or misleading" statements about the "performance and prospects of ADM's nutrition segment and its accounting practices."


In particular, the lawsuit said ADM made "positive statements" about that segment of the business as a "future profit-driver" for the company.

"Defendants also created the impression that the nutrition segment's growth would provide more diversification and earnings stability for ADM," the lawsuit said. "This was an appealing strategy because the company's results were historically tied to the highly cyclical commodities market."

The shareholders allege that ADM's nutrition segment growth from 2020 to 2022 was "inaccurate and subject to improper accounting practices."

ADM announced on Jan. 21, 2024, that it placed Luthar on leave "pending an ongoing investigation" being conducted by "outside counsel" for ADM and the company board's audit committee.

"On this news, the price of ADM common stock declined by \$16.23 per share, or approximately 24%, from \$68.19 per share to close at \$51.69 on Jan. 22, 2024," the lawsuit said. — **Todd Neeley, DTN environmental editor**



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LOT 14 - C SPEAR PROLIFIC M241

20993796 - Prolific son
Adj WW 850 Adj YW 1303
CED +0 BW +3.5 WW +86 YW +145



LOT 7 - C SPEAR MAGNUM M112

20993839 - Magnum son
Adj WW 796 Adj YW 1314
CED +10 BW +1.1 WW +87 YW +146



LOT 1 - C SPEAR THREE RIVERS M140

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Ag directly supports more than 24 million jobs

AG IMPACT (from page 1)

• Exporting nearly \$183 billion in food and ag products.

However, the report notes that even with the considerable gains and contributions to the economy, some emerging trends show that the industry is under pressure. "Direct and indirect industry wages have grown year-over-year but have failed to keep pace with inflation, reflecting nationwide economic stressors and the high cost of labor for employers," a news release read.

In addition, the number of agricultural manufacturing jobs has fallen year over year and is down nearly 30,000 jobs since 2020.

By the numbers

The food and ag industries directly support more than 24 million jobs, or 15% of U.S. employment. Millions of food scientists, production workers, logistics experts, truck drivers and engineers work in nearly 200,000 food manufacturing, processing and storage facilities. Products are transported to more than 1 million restaurant and foodservice locations, or to one of 200,000 retail food stores.

The report measures the total economic impact of the

food and ag industries by including both the direct and indirect economic activity associated. For example, a farm equipment retailer might hire new employees because farmers are buying more tractors. This would be considered an indirect impact. When a retail associate spends their paycheck, an induced economic impact occurs.

"Economic activity started in food and agriculture industries generates output (and jobs) in hundreds of other industries, often in states far removed from the original economic activity," the report said.

The food and ag sector directly impacts 24,043,079 jobs, with wages totaling more than \$1.05 trillion. The output of the sector totals more than \$4.02 trillion. The total economic impact when considering direct, supplier and induced economic impacts totals more than 47 million jobs, \$2.8 trillion in wages and \$9.5 trillion in output.

John Dunham & Associates conducted this research, which was funded by The Goodstone Group. The report is sponsored by three dozen food and agriculture industry groups, including AFBF and the Meat Institute. — **Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor**