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INSIDE WLJ

CALIFORNIA WATER—California farmers are celebrating a victory after a judge ruled in their favor in three cases involving water quality regulations that environmentalist groups have been fighting them on for years. **Page 11**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

In his 'Newsletter from the Nation's Capitol' for the April 1950 edition, Fred Bailey wrote, "Washington farm leaders are suffering a bad case of jitters, the result of what they call 'unfavorable publicity' for the farm price support program. There is growing evidence their fears may be well founded. 'You Are the Victim of the Farm Price Support Program' is the title of a brochure issued recently by a New York City group calling itself the 'Association for the Abolition of Farm Price Supports, Inc.'" However, Bailey continued, "Farm leaders hotly contend that the present public clamor over surpluses and farm price-support costs is all out of proportion to the facts of the case."

INDEX

Opinion	P-2
Sale Reports	P-6
Sale Calendar	P-6
Markets.....	P-8
Classifieds.....	P-10

BLM proposes new public lands management rule

— Would increase lease competition

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing a new public lands management rule that could have severe implications for ranchers who utilize public lands for grazing.

The agency said the intention for the rule is to "improve the resilience

of public lands in the face of a changing climate; conserve important wildlife habitat and intact landscapes; plan for development; and better recognize unique cultural and natural resources on public lands."

In short, the proposal will overhaul how the agency manages public lands. The proposed rule would implement assessments to examine

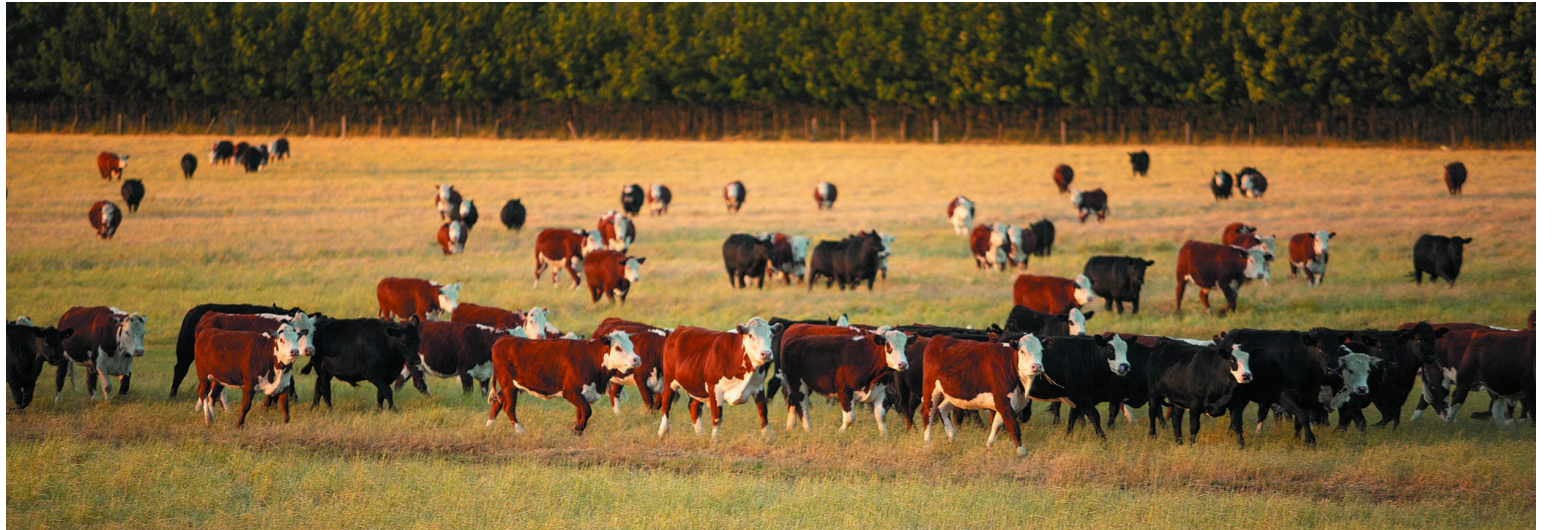
"the health of public lands," and would apply standards for watersheds, forests and wildlife habitats. The rule also proposes the use of conservation leasing to pursue "ecosystem reliance through mitigation and restoration." Conservation leases could be permitted for up to 10-year terms.

BLM said its ability to manage for multiple use and sustained yield on

public lands depends on the resilience of ecosystems across the lands.

"The proposed rule would apply land health standards to all BLM-managed public lands and uses, clarify that conservation is a 'use' within the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)

See BLM on page 7



Steve Lovegrove, Adobe Stock

The Bureau of Land Management is proposing a rule to change how it manages its public lands.

Haaland pressed about DOI budget requests

— Spars with former Secretary Zinke

Department of the Interior (DOI) Secretary Deb Haaland was recently on Capitol Hill to testify in support of the agency's Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Request and was met with questions regarding staffing, foreign reliance on critical minerals, the Biden administration's climate change policy and other issues.

Haaland appeared before the House Interior-Environment Appropriations Subcommittee on March 28, making the case for DOI's request for \$16.9 billion in net discretionary authority—an increase of \$2 billion, or 13% from the 2023 enacted appropriation.

Haaland highlighted some proposals in her opening remarks, including reforms to the wildfire workforce, expanding the Good

Neighbor program to include the National Park Service (NPS) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and increasing funding for Tribal programs. Haaland said the budget request would also enable the agency to hire an additional 4,000 staff members and fund deferred maintenance projects.

Staffing

Chairman Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID-02) said with the budget deficit continuing to rise, "We need to have a serious discussion with having to do more with less." Simpson said he would be looking to increase efficiency and reduce duplications while ensuring federal dollars are spent wisely. He added that he was concerned with the influx of funding from the Biden administration's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and

other bills to hire additional employees. Simpson continued he was concerned that the agency may ask Congress for additional funding in the future to avoid layoffs of the new hires.

Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME-01), ranking member of the subcommittee, asked Haaland to elaborate on what effect keeping funding at fiscal 2022 levels would have on the agency's programs.

"The proposal would have real and damaging impacts to our country," Haaland said. She said it would result in less hiring of temporary employees, 1,000-1,700 fewer firefighters and fewer employees at NPS for visitor information and cleanup, and for permitting energy projects.

Simpson said he appreciated

See HEARING on page 5

Right-to-farm amendment proposed in TX Legislature

— Farm Bureau testifies in favor

A constitutional amendment was introduced in Texas protecting the right to engage in farming, ranching, timber production and wildlife management on owned or leased real property.

House Joint Resolution (HJR) 126 would amend the Texas Constitution to not only protect the right to farm and ranch but also allow the legislature to authorize a state agency or political subdivision to regulate agricultural operations when there is a clear danger to public health and safety and to prevent danger to animal health and crop production.

Rep. DeWayne Burns (R-TX-35), the bill's sponsor, told the House Committee on Agriculture and Livestock at a public hearing on March 22 the amendment seeks to clarify some of the confusion with the current "right-to-farm" statute passed in 1981.

The current law preserves the production of food and other agricultural products by limiting the circumstances in which an agricultural operation may be considered a nuisance. Agriculture operations must be in operation for a year before the nuisance complaint, so long as the conditions have stayed the same since the established operation date.

Burns pointed out that Texas ranks No. 1 for many crops and livestock production, and the state relies on farms and ranches to feed and clothe the state. Burns said the amendment protects agriculture as the population increases and urban boundaries encroach onto farmland.

Texas Farm Bureau President Russell Boening testified in support of HJR 126 to the committee, stating that 97% of Texas farms and ranches are family-owned. Boening said his operation, located just 35 miles

See TX FARM on page 4

Cash trade surges several dollars higher

The markets found their momentum over the week, with cash trade soaring higher. Futures were steady to higher, closing out the week a day earlier with the market closed on Friday for Good Friday.

Live cattle futures were a couple of dollars higher, with the April contract up over \$3.50 to \$171.97 and the June contract up over \$2 to \$163.10.

"There's something extra invigorating about a rally that's driven by the market's fundamentals," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her midday Thursday comments. "Traders were leery about overly advancing the live cattle market ahead of seeing what this week's cash cattle trade was going to do, but now that prices are firmly higher in both regions, traders wasted no time advancing the contracts early Thursday morning."

Cash trade found its momentum Wednesday afternoon, with over 70,000 head trading. Through Thursday, cash trade totaled about 92,000 head. Bids were several dollars higher, reaching as high as \$178. Live steers averaged \$172, and dressed steers averaged \$278.

"Futures have responded today with triple-digit gains but really, futures are behaving modestly in comparison with the cash market," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef

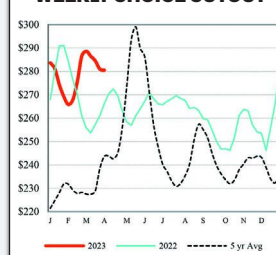
on Thursday. "This is a realizing bull futures market. It will be led by the cash market. This bull market will be underestimated. This is not the middle nor the end of this bull, but the beginning."

Cash trade through the week ending April 2 totaled 95,007 head. Live steers averaged \$168.96, and dressed steers averaged \$270.46.

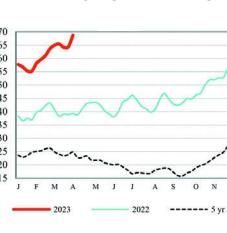
"The national negotiated fed cattle trade last week occurred at a new high for the move and the highest price ever for the last week in any March, \$168.96/cwt," Fish said. "Last week's 5-area average price was \$4.33/cwt higher than the prior week, a big week-over-week jump by any historical standards."

See MARKETS on page 9

WEEKLY CHOICE CUTOUT



5 AREA WEEKLY WTD AVERAGE STEER PRICE



LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$172.33	\$278.10	\$193.22
WEEK ENDING: 4-6-23		

Time Sensitive
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COMMENTS

More government

Two things happened recently that should get everyone's ears up. Yes, cattle markets are good. However, Congress passed a resolution to put the brakes on Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS), and the Interior Department is proposing new rules for managing Bureau of Land Management lands. You guessed it—it's about climate change and conservation leases. Even though they follow the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), which guides their current management philosophies, it appears that graziers could be in for problems.

You can tell in the rule that the environmental groups have a handle on the current Department of the Interior, which is run by Deb Haaland, who is more of an Indian, climate, social justice activist than an agency administrator. Most of the Biden administration's cabinet members are indeed ideological activists. You have until June 20 to comment on the proposal.

NCBA responded to the WOTUS rule in a press release, "The bipartisan passage of this resolution sends a clear message to the Biden administration that this is not how Congress intended to implement the Clean Water Act," said Todd Wilkinson, NCBA president. "Now, President Biden has a choice: he can sign the resolution and pull back the unlawfully vague WOTUS rule, or he can veto it and turn his back on rural America. I am especially proud of my fellow cattle producers from across the country speaking up to make our voices heard. Together, we wrote more than 1,900 letters to senators calling for a vote on this resolution. Our advocacy made a crucial impact," he said. So, it looks like WOTUS is closer to being under control.

This Bureau of Land Management (BLM) rule has me concerned; it appears that they want to add conservation to the list of multiple uses under FLPMA. This is where the environmental groups have come into play. The enviros have been wanting to consume grazing allotments for years. It seems like it flies in the face of the Taylor Grazing Act, which says that these grazing allotments must be for grazing.

Over the years the environmental community has hamstrung development in this country since the 1970s when Congress passed the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, Endangered Species Act and a host of other environmental laws. Don't get me wrong, I remember how polluted most metropolitan areas were—it had to be done. But the environmental community has warped and twisted these laws beyond their intended purpose by Congress. Remember, Congress can change these laws.

Why the Interior is doing this has everything to do with the Biden administration's policies on climate change. Just because BLM attempts to manage 245 million acres it gives the administration the opportunity to cater to green groups and mess with renewable resource users. And then what to do about the horses?

BLM is required to manage for multiple use. They want to put conservation leases on equal footing with grazing, logging, mining and energy production. Conservation leases will be open for all to purchase, which well-moneyed environmental groups will snap up, like the American Prairie project in Montana, where BLM approved bison grazing next to bovine grazing.

One paragraph that bothered me in the proposed rule was that the BLM must charge a rent of at least fair market value. The BLM seeks comment on how fair market value would be determined in the context of restoration or preservation. "Would existing methods for land valuation provide valid results? Would lands with valuable alternative land uses be prohibitively expensive for conservation use? Should the BLM incorporate a public benefit component into the rent calculation to account for the benefits of ecosystem management?" Sounds like grazing fees to me.

Remember the battle cry on federal lands, "Cattle Free by '93"? That effort has never stopped. And now the Biden administration has the opportunity to use climate change to perhaps amend the FLPMA and change or make it more difficult to run cattle on federal lands.

Cattlemen in the West know that rain is the exception; it's a dry landscape, it's high desert and that's why the government owns it—nobody wanted it in the 1860s; this spring should be an exception. It seems like El Niño and La Niña have a big influence on western moisture. When it's in the Eastern Pacific, we're dry. Now that it has moved to the Central Pacific, we get moisture.

Most folks know that cattle are the best way to manage large landscapes. Ranchers have a right to know what to expect from their government. This BLM proposal opens the door for some creative thinking and is wide open for interpretation. Cattle are a conservation tool. — **PETE CROW**



CROW

GUEST OPINION

At the end of March, the Department of Labor's (DOL) new formula for H-2A wages, the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR), took effect. Now farm families across the country, small farms especially, are taking a hard look at their balance sheets, and many may find it hard to stay afloat. Although the administration says it supports farmers, its agency's actions are having the opposite effect. The AEWR is long overdue for a fix, but this wasn't it.

DOL largely ignored input from across the agricultural community. Instead of addressing inconsistencies and fixing its flawed wage formula, they actually managed to make it even worse. Rather than bringing the consistency and fairness that we called for, the 2023 AEWR impacts small farmers disproportionately and is wildly unpredictable. What's more—it doesn't factor in the already competitive wages farmers pay to ensure we have enough hands to plant, tend and harvest crops, or care for animals.

The 2023 AEWR has some states facing wage increases well over 10%, outpacing inflation and jumping dramatically from previous years. Take Michigan for example. In 2022, H-2A wages increased 3.5%, but in 2023, the increase will be nearly 13%. Traveling to the Southeast, take a look at Florida's H-2A wages, which increased 6.5% in 2022. With the 2023 increase, Florida's farm wages are now increasing another 15.5%.

Keep in mind that those two examples are average increases. The 2023 AEWR increase gets even higher when you take into account that the new rule requires the adjusted wage to match the highest-skilled duty performed on the farm by a given worker. As farmers and ranchers know, we wear many hats on the farm and the same goes for our employees, especially on smaller farms.

Let's say one of your employees is responsible for driving other employees to and from the farm every day. Well, under the new AEWR rule, that employee would be paid a higher "chauffeur rate," not only for the hours spent driving but also for every other task they complete on the farm, regardless of the level of skill involved. Depending on your

NEW H-2A WAGE RULE SET TO CRUSH FAMILY FARMS

state's wage rate, you could wind up paying that employee an extra 30% overall. Our economists have dug into the impact these changes could have on farms of all sizes in a recent Market Intel. If you're not already fired up, I guarantee you will be after seeing our analysis. To view the report, visit www.fb.org/market-intel.

With farm wages running as high as 40% of farm operating costs, this new AEWR rule cannot stand. And at the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), we are not just standing by and hoping for a better outcome. Getting reasonable H-2A reform that works for all has long been a priority across our organization, and stopping the 2023 AEWR is at the forefront of our efforts in Congress.

Farm Bureau is calling on Congress to deliver a fair and reasonable solution to the 2023 AEWR—one that does not exchange one problem for another or enshrine a fundamentally flawed process into law. Thanks to efforts by the Georgia and North Carolina Farm Bureaus, a bill has already been introduced in the Senate to provide a stopgap. The bipartisan Farm Operations Support Act (S.874) led by Sens. Jon Ossoff (D-GA) and Thom Tillis (R-NC) would temporarily reset the AEWR at 2022 levels. The 2022 levels were not ideal, but this bill is critical to help our farms stay in production while we find a workable, permanent solution. We also have joined with nearly 600 farm organizations and agribusinesses to urge Congress to support a resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act. We need Congress and the administration to deliver certainty and fairness to the farm economy.

Farmers value our employees, and we are committed to paying competitive wages. On my family farm, some of my employees have been with me for decades and they are like family. I know that the same can be said on farms across the country. These new wage increases only make it harder for farmers to remain competitive. Our employees, our communities and our country are counting on us to keep our farms running through all seasons. We cannot afford a delay. — **Zippy Duvall, AFBF president**



OBITUARY



Glenna Lee Madden;
1930-2023

Glenna Lee Atkinson Madden, 92, died peacefully, March 26 at the Davis Hospice Center in Cheyenne, WY.

Glenna was born on July 30, 1930, in New Haven, WY, on the Clark family ranch to Paul and Lydia Atkinson. She and her two sisters, Letha and Helen, spent their younger years growing up at the base of the Devils Tower National Monument before

moving to Torrington, WY. The three girls were raised by Lyle and Edith Poole, their uncle and aunt.

Glenna attended school in Torrington and graduated from Torrington High School in 1948. She then attended the University of Wyoming, earning a bachelor's degree in education in May 1951. She married Joe Madden, of Ft. Laramie, WY, on June 30, 1951. Together, they had three children, Jody, Shawn and Lex, and lived and worked in Lusk, WY. They later divorced.

In 1970, Glenna acquired her bachelor's degree in nursing, and was the director of nursing at the Riverton Hospital, and later became the director of nursing at the Women's Correctional Facility in Lusk. In 2006, Glenna moved back to Torrington.

First and foremost, Glenna loved her faith, her Bible studies, playing cards, playing the poker machines in Deadwood, golf, putting puzzles together and playing bingo. She also enjoyed watching sports and spending time with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Glenna is survived by her three children, Jody Haythorn (Craig) of Arthur, NE; Shawn Madden of Torrington, WY; and Lex (Ja-

mie) Madden of Torrington, WY; her grandchildren, Shaley (Sha) Griffin of Abilene, TX; Sage (Kelley) Haythorn of Arthur, NE; Cord (Katie) Haythorn of Arthur, NE; Cassie (Jeremy) Brandl of Sheridan, WY; Emily Madden of Casper, WY; Tawnee Madden of Delray Beach, FL; Lexie (Chris) Prosiniski of Sheridan, WY; Addie Madden of Torrington WY; and Avery Madden (Paxton Ehler) of Omaha, NE; her great-grandchildren, Tel (Jessika) Derner of Abilene, TX; and Rye Griffin (Mackenzie Russo) of Breckenridge, CO; and great-great-grandchildren, Bentleigh, River and Oakley Derner of Abilene, TX; Steel, Stoli, Haven and Conley Haythorn of Arthur, NE; Madden Brandl of Sheridan, WY; and Graycen and Decker Prosiniski, also of Sheridan, WY.

She is survived by her sisters, Helen Brummell of Torrington, WY, and Sissy Atkinson; brothers, Tommy Atkinson, Denver Atkinson and Jamie Atkinson, all of Poplar, MT; and several nieces and nephews. Glenna is preceded in death by her parents; her aunt and uncle, Lyle and Edith Poole; her sister, Letha Bible; her brothers, J.D. Atkinson and Bobby Atkinson; and great-great-granddaughter, Emelia Jo Brandl.

HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN

"Wul looky there! It's our Oil Tax Assessor Collector, tryin' to be all 'undercover'. Let's let him know we know!"

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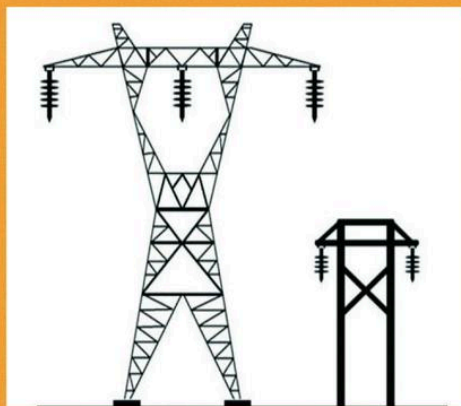
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Opponents of bill argue it is short-sighted

TX FARM (from page 1)

outside of San Antonio and started by his father, farms 5,000 acres and has 450 head of cattle and 500 head of dairy cows.

"As development comes our way, how will it affect our operation?" Boening asked. "Will our new neighbors appreciate the fact that we are a typical ag operation providing the beef, milk and other products they consume every day? Or will they complain and ask the county or state to place restrictions on our operation? We don't know. That's why we need HJR 126. We can't count on a future legislature to be as friendly to Texas farmers and ranchers as you are. We could lose our right to farm protections in statute."

Judith McGeary, executive director of Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance, testified in opposition of HJR 126, stating it goes too far. McGeary said the alliance supports

reining in cities and governments over the regulation of farms and ranches based on unfounded biases of aesthetics as farmers and ranchers face regulations over vegetation and round bale height.

However, McGeary said the law's wording regarding the regulation to protect public health and safety from imminent danger is short. She cited the agriculture industry's fight against regulations on antibiotic use and the claims that there was no immediate danger. Now there are regulations requiring a veterinarian to administer the pharmaceuticals.

McGeary also said the problem with HJR 126 is the burden of proof: "This requires such relevant evidence as a reasonable man's mind might be accepted as adequate to support a conclusion. That's a pretty low bar; it would be good to have that changed."

Burns defended the amendment and said the right-to-farm law says cities

and the state can act to protect public health and safety, but HJR 126 will put the burden of proof on the municipalities.

Burns also introduced House Bill (HB) 1750, a companion to HJR 126. The bill would impose limits on governmental regulations within city limits on agricultural operations unless there is clear evidence there is a danger to persons within the vicinity of the operation.

Some of these dangers include the likelihood of an explosion, flooding, an infestation of vermin or insects, contamination of a water supply or crops that cause traffic hazards. The city must obtain a report from the city health officer or consultant and show evidence of a health and safety hazard. The bill authorizes a city to impose a maximum height for vegetation that applies to agricultural operations only if the maximum vegetation height is at least 12 inches and no more than 10 feet

from a property boundary adjacent to a sidewalk, street or highway. Cities would not be allowed to prohibit "generally accepted agricultural practices," except to address a danger listed in the bill. The bill directs Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service to prepare a manual detailing generally accepted agricultural practices.

HB 1750 and HJR 126 received a favorable report from the Agriculture and Livestock Committee and were sent to the House Calendar Committee for floor vote scheduling. Dalton Moore, chief of staff for Burns, told *WLJ* their office has been in talks with the Calendar Committee, and the bills will be moved to the House for a floor vote on April 10.

If HJR 126 passes the Texas House and Senate, the proposed constitutional amendment will be submitted to the voters at an election on Nov. 7. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**



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Resource Science article error

The April 3, 2023, issue of *WLJ* contained an error in the article "Resource Science: Predicting the number of wolves in Colorado" found on page 2. The formula for calculating wolf numbers was misstated as $y = 6x - 266$ and should have been written as $y = 96x - 266$.

Senate passes measure to stop WOTUS

On March 29, the Senate passed a joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act to put a halt to the Biden administration's new Waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) rule that went into effect on March 20. The measure passed on a vote of 53-43. The House of Representatives passed the measure earlier on a vote of 227-198. Now, the resolution moves to the White House, where President Joe Biden has already signaled his intent to veto it. The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) applauded the resolution's passage. "Now, President Biden has a choice: he can sign the resolution and pull back the unlawfully vague WOTUS rule, or he can veto it and turn his back on rural America," NCBA President Todd Wilkinson said in a statement. The new WOTUS rule was implemented across the country, with the exception of the states of Texas and Idaho after a district judge ruled to block the rule from going into effect. Opponents of the rule argue it adds burdensome and confusing regulations to more bodies of water.

EPA grants CA vehicle waivers

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a decision to grant two requests for waivers of redemption regarding four California Air Resource Board (CARB) regulations related to California's heavy-duty vehicle and engine emission standards. "Under the Clean Air Act, California has longstanding authority to address pollution from cars and trucks. Today's announcement allows the state to take additional steps in reducing their transportation emissions through these new regulatory actions," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. The waivers address the following programs: the 2018 Heavy-duty 2018 Warranty Amendments, which extend the emissions warranty periods for 2022 and subsequent model year on-road heavy-duty diesel engines and for 2022 and subsequent model year diesel vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating exceeding 14,000 pounds powered by such engines; and the Advanced Clean Trucks Regulation, which requires that manufacturers produce and sell more medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicles and near-zero emission vehicles.

Selling state-inspected meat interstate

A group of Congress members has reintroduced the New Markets for State-Inspected Meat and Poultry Act, which would allow for state-inspected meat and poultry products to be sold across state lines. "Despite the requirement of state inspection programs to meet or exceed federal inspection standards, our local producers aren't able to sell their products across state lines," said Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV), a sponsor of the bill, in a statement. A total of 29 states have their own inspection programs that are certified by the USDA's Food Safety Inspection Service, but they may only sell their products within their respective state.

Petition fails for coyote protections

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) recently rejected a petition submitted by conservation groups requesting to provide Endangered Species Act protections to coyotes that look like wolves. The groups argued that Mexican gray wolves were being killed by people who said they thought they were killing a coyote. "Mistaken identity accounts for only a small portion of Mexican wolf mortalities," said Brady McGee, USFWS Mexican wolf recovery coordinator. "Listing coyotes under the Endangered Species Act would have a minimal impact on Mexican wolf recovery, while imposing an extreme burden on law enforcement, affecting their ability to protect the Mexican wolf in Arizona and New Mexico."

New national monument in NV

President Joe Biden recently signed a proclamation under the Antiquities Act designating a new national monument, Avi Kwa Ame National Monument, in Nevada. The national monument spans over 500,000 acres of public lands in the Mojave Desert of southern Nevada. "The area is a biodiversity hotspot," said Laura Cunningham, California Director at Western Watersheds Project in a statement. "Among the dense Joshua trees and yuccas, a lush Mojave Desert grassland grows, recovering beautifully from historic cattle grazing that ceased twenty years ago."

USDA offers additional loan funding

USDA is offering an additional \$123 million in automatic financial assistance for qualifying farm loan program borrowers who are facing financial risk. The funding is part of the \$3.1 billion included in the Inflation Reduction Act to help distressed farm loan borrowers. "In too many cases, the rules surrounding our farm loan programs may actually be detrimental to helping a borrower get back to a financially viable path," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in a statement. "As a result, some are pushed out of farming and others stuck under a debt burden that prevents them from growing or reacting to opportunities." For more information, visit usda.gov.

Haaland: Keeping 2022 levels would have 'damaging impacts'

HEARING (from page 1)

Pingree addressing what would happen to DOI at 2022 spending levels, emphasizing that the priorities of that budget may be different today and those priorities may need to be evaluated and need spending cuts.

Critical minerals

In his opening remarks, Simpson said one of the priorities is that the U.S. is not dependent on "our adversaries" for critical minerals, and mining in a manner that pro-

pects the environment.

Rep. Ryan Zinke (R-MT-01) started the questioning in a cordial tone, thanking Haaland for her work with him on the Blackfoot Tribe, but the tone quickly changed when Zinke asked Haaland about critical minerals.

"Madam Secretary, is it your policy that critical minerals should be sourced from countries that are stewards of the environment, like the U.S. and our allies, or sourced from Russia and China, that don't share our same values?" Zinke asked.

While Haaland attempted to answer the question, Zinke

asked if Haaland was aware of a DOI report on critical minerals dated Dec. 17, 2017. According to a press release published by Zinke, in 2017, the U.S. Geological Survey released a report that the U.S. depends on China and Russia for critical minerals for national defense and the manufacturing economy.

Zinke was DOI secretary under the Trump administration from March 2017 to January 2019 when the report was released, and he criticized DOI's January decision to issue a 20-year mining moratorium of federal land in northeastern Minnesota near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness that had been eyed for a potential copper and nickel mine.

Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA-14) also pointed out that the BLM and U.S. Forest Service were studying the effects of critical mineral mining in the Rapid Creek Watershed located in the Black Hills Na-

tional Forest. Reschenthaler said "banning" the mining projects furthers the country's dependence on China for critical minerals.

However, Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN-04) noted that mine projects in Montana and Washington were halted under the Trump administration due to water quality. McCollum noted that 20% of "the purest water" comes from Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and it is hard to put an economic or moral value on water.

Wildfires and ag issues

Pingree stated the budget request builds upon the Biden administration's commitment to climate change and includes increases for advancing science and conservation. Pingree said she was pleased the budget is "taking a holistic approach" to wild-

fires by focusing on a healthy landscape. Pingree praised the budget request for including better compensation for firefighters and ensuring their health and well-being.

Simpson applauded DOI's effort to increase pay for wildland firefighters, but the legislation to support the pay increase has not been presented to Congress. Simpson asked if Haaland knew what the pay increases and fixed costs would have on future discretionary budgets. Haaland said the agency is asking for an additional \$72 million in 2024 for federal and Tribal wildland firefighters and would be willing to work with the subcommittee on what it would cost in future years.

Rep. Josh Harder (D-CA-09) stressed that while there has been short-term disaster relief in his area of San Joaquin County, there needs to be long-term solutions, as the area is currently flooded. Harder asked Haaland what

the agency's plan for a long-term strategic solution was and Haaland replied it would require the cooperation of all levels of government, and that the Bureau of Reclamation and Army Corps of Engineers are working on a solution. Harder said the budget request doesn't invest enough in flood management infrastructure and California needs \$34 billion over the next few decades to upgrade dams and levees.

Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT-02) also weighed in on the issue of wild horses and burros, encouraging Haaland to continue aggressive measures to reduce and control the critically-overpopulated wild horse and burro herds on BLM land.

According to Roll Call, Zinke approached Haaland after the meeting and said, "I may wear a hat but it's not cowboys and Indians, I hope you know that." Haaland laughed. — Charles Wallace, WLJ editor

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SALE CALENDAR

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ALL BREEDS

Apr. 18 — Treasure Bull Test, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

ANGUS

Apr. 10 — C-Spear Angus, Bull Sale, Billings, MT
Apr. 11 — Hilltop Angus, Bull Sale, Denton, MT
Apr. 13 — Jocko Valley Angus, Bull Sale, Missola, MT
Apr. 13 — McClun's Lazy JM Ranch, Bull Sale, Torrington, WY
Apr. 17 — Jorgensen Land & Cattle, Bull Sale, Ideal, SD
Apr. 19 — Milk River Genetics, Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Apr. 21 — DeGrand Angus, Bull Sale, Baker, NV
Apr. 21 — Timberline Ranch,

Bull Sale, Manhattan, MT
Apr. 22 — Herring Angus, Bull Sale, Encampment, WY
Apr. 25 — Currant Creek, Bull Sale, Miles City, MT

BEEFMASTER

Apr. 20-21 — NextGen Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Paxico, KS

CHAROLAIS

Apr. 15 — Cobb Charolais, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
Apr. 20-21 — NextGen Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Paxico, KS

HEREFORD

Apr. 13 — McClun's Lazy JM Ranch, Bull Sale, Torrington, WY
Apr. 15 — Stuber Ranch, Bull Sale, Bowman, ND

RED ANGUS

Apr. 11 — Beckton Red Angus, Bull and Heifer Sale, Sheridan, WY
Apr. 14 — 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
May 11 — Koenig Reds, Bull Sale, Glasgow, MT

HORSE

Jun. 24 — Memory Ranches, Horse Sale, Wells, NV



SALE REPORTS

SINCLAIR RANCH ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE March 25, Buffalo, WY 119 Yearling bulls \$4,663 60 Commercial open heifers 1,741

Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs
TOPS: Sinclair Black Iron K502, 2/6/22 by Sinclair Exactly 4U2; to Ma & Pa Angus Ranch, Presho, SD, \$13,500. Sinclair Justified K555, 2/16/22 by KG Justified 3023; to Nathan Palm, Estelline, SD, \$9,000. Sinclair X-Plus K611, 2/26/22 by Sinclair Emulation XXP; to Cook Angus, Miles City, MT, \$7,750. Sinclair Emulation K324, 3/6/22 by Sinclair Exquisite 9X6; to Risse UV Angus, Martin, SD, \$7,750. Sinclair Justified K011, 2/22/22 by KG Justified 3023; to Keller Cattle Co., Tremelton, UT, \$7,500. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

**VALLEY VIEW CHAROLAIS RANCH PRODUCTION SALE
 March 25, Polson, MT
 182 Charolais bulls .. \$5,512
 Auctioneer: Rick Machado
 TOPS:** VVCR Ledger New 1306, a 5/5/21 son of Ledger 348; to John Orton, Panguitch, UT, \$12,500. VVCR New Free 1309, a 5/6/21 son of New

Standard 8744; to McNeil Ranch, Hobbs, NM, \$12,000. VVCR Rushmore Bingo 1273, a 4/23/21 son of Rushmore 8516; to Evan Wood, Teton, ID, \$11,500. VVCR New Standard Blue 1116, a 4/2/21 son of New Standard 8744; to Evan Wood, \$10,500. VVCR New Bingo 1322, a 5/11/21 son of New Standard 8744; to Mike Odegard, Arvada, WY, \$10,000. VVCR Sundance Ledger 1201, 4/13/21 son of Sundance 6137; to McNeil Ranch, Hobbs, NM, \$10,000. — **LOGAN IPSEN for DEVIN MURNIN**

HARRER'S LOST LAKE RANCH W/ WINDY RIDGE ANGUS

**March 27, Great Falls, MT
 73 Yearling bulls \$4,304
 11 Registered open heifers 2,659
 8 Commercial open heifers 1,984
 Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe
 TOPS—Bulls:** Lost Lake Swagger K105, 2/3/22 by Marda Swagger 463; to Rick and Lois Belcher, Whitlash, MT, \$6,250. Lost Lake Trail Boss K69, 1/30/22 by Poss Rawhide; to Carr Angus, Hobson, MT, \$6,000. Lost Lake Wayne K40, 1/20/22 by CAR Hobson; to Trevor Wesson, Whitewater, MT, \$6,000. **Open heifer:** Desanne Deposit K182 LLR, 2/13/22 by Basin Paycheck 0661; to Scott Knutson, Helena, MT, \$3,100. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

WESTERN CATTLE SOURCE PRODUCTION SALE

**March 23, Crawford, NE
 59 Bulls \$4,661
 2 Pairs 17,750
 Auctioneer: Jered Shipman
 Sale Manager: Innovation AgMarketing, LLC
 TOPS—Bulls:** WCS MR GLOCK 2125K, 3/2/22 by WCS GLOCK357 7117E; to John

Harvat, Mitchell, NE, \$10,000. WCS MREASY 2139K, 3/26/22 by W/C REST EASY 752G; to John Harvat, Mitchell, NE, \$8,250. **Females:** WCS MS COBRA 1808J, 3/18/21 by W/C EXPRESS LANE 29G w/ a bull calf; to Creighton Werning, Emery, SD, \$25,000. WCS MS SHELBY 1806J, 3/15/21 by W/C EXPRESS LANE 29G w/ a bull calf; to Cash Lehrman, Spencer, SD, \$10,500. — **JIM GIES**

CONNELY ANGUS BULL SALE

**March 25, Whitman, NE
 411 Older bulls \$10,092
 89 Yearling bulls 11,278
 6 Open heifers 18,000
 Auctioneer: Joe Goggins & Ty Thompson
 TOPS:** Connealy Pinnacle, 11/15/21 by K C F Bennett Summation; to Alta Genetics, Rocky View County, Alberta, CA, \$80,000. Connealy Broadcast, 8/20/21 by Heiken Broadview; to Rancho Casino, Purdum, NE, \$39,000. Connealy Surpass 933A, 11/14/21 by BJ Surpass; to Krebs Ranch, Gordon, NE, \$37,500. Connealy Statement, 11/11/21 by K C F Bennett Summation; to Brinkley Angus Ranch, Milan, MO, \$35,000. Connealy Clarity 784E 8105, 1/31/22 by Connealy Clarity; to Grimmus Cattle Company, Hanford, CA, \$30,000. **Open heifer:** Pretty of Conanga 784E 218X, 1/30/22 by Connealy Clarity; to Tracy Holbert, College Station, TX, \$45,000. — **JIM GIES**

LEACHMAN CATTLE SPRING SALE

**March 26-27, Fort Collins, CO
 Auctioneers: Trent Stewart & Ty Thompson
 458 Bulls \$6,630
 160 Females 2,570
 — **JIM GIES****

MAGNESS BEEF BULLS SALE

**April 1, Platteville, CO
 56 Limousin and Lim-Flex bulls \$4,083
 Auctioneer: Ron Cunningham
 Sale Manager: MC Marketing Management
 TOPS:** MAGS King of the Hill 524K, 1/25/22 by AHCC Easy Ridder 5594E; 2/3 interest to Wulf Cattle, Morris, MN, \$21,500. MAGS Kooper Rush 2622K ET, 2/15/22 by MAGS Federal Reserve ET; 2/3 interest to Ochsner Limousin, Kersey, CO, \$12,500. MAGS Knock Your Socks Off 2612H ET, 2/11/22 by ELCX Kings Landing 599D ET; to Rafter DP Ranch, Geary, OK, \$10,000. MAGS Knocked Out 2608K ET, 2/6/22 by MAGS Cable; to Howard Morgan, Goshen, UT, \$8,000. — **JIM GIES**

DIAMOND PEAK CATTLE CO. SALE

**March 25, Loma, CO
 106 Yearling Angus bulls \$4,347
 65 Yearling SimAngus bulls 3,377
 19 2-Year-old Angus bulls 3,947
 72-Year-old SimAngus bulls 3,571
 Auctioneer: Trent Stewart
 TOPS:** DPCC Fail Safe 2006, 3/15/22 by GAR Fail Safe 5244, to Coal Creek Cattle, Ault, CO, \$12,000. Lot 73, by GAR Fail Safe 5244, to Little Cripple Creek LLC, Gillette, WY, \$9,000. DPCC Indeed 2131, by RB Indeed, to Little Cripple Creek LLC, Gillette, WY, \$8,500. DPCC Whitlock 2332, 4/11/22, by SD Whitlock, to Darrell Camilletti, Craig, CO, \$7,500. — **PETE CROW**

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DOSAGE RECOMMENDATIONS:

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

OTHER SUBSTANCES:
Chlorocresol 0.1% w/v (as preservative)

PRECAUTION:

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

CAUTION:

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

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Meat 14 days. Milk zero withdrawal.

DIRECTIONS:

This product is only for use in cattle.

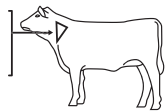
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DAIRY COWS	4 weeks before calving 4 weeks before insemination at dry-off
CALVES	at birth at 3 months and/or weaning
HEIFERS	every 3 months – especially 4 weeks before breeding

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

DOSAGE TABLE

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

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NCBA: BLM rule lacks transparency

BLM (from page 1)

multiple-use framework, and revise existing regulations to better meet FLPMA's requirement that the BLM prioritize designating and protecting Areas of Critical Environmental Concern," the written proposal read.

The agency said the use of conservation leases is not intended to preclude other uses, such as grazing, mining and recreation.

"Conservation leases should not disturb existing authorizations, valid existing rights, or state or Tribal land use management," BLM wrote. "Rather, this proposed rule is intended to raise conservation up to be on par with other uses under the principles of multi-use and sustained yield."

Regardless, this could lead to more competition for ranchers looking to lease land for grazing.

The National Cattlemen's

Beef Association (NCBA) said the rule would completely upend BLM's multiple-use mandate and jeopardize the agency's ability to be a good partner to ranchers who utilize public lands.

"Ranchers have a reasonable expectation of transparency and predictability with dealing with the BLM, and this proposed rule falls short on both accounts," said NCBA Executive Director of Natural Resources and Public Lands Council Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover.

"The covert manner in which the rule was developed and announced has left permittees feeling like the rule is either a capitulation to the extremist environmental groups who want to eradicate grazing from the landscape or a concerted effort to develop rules that preclude ranchers' input."

The proposal largely received support from conservation groups.

"This is an invaluable opportunity for the BLM to rebalance its priorities and safeguard habitats for wildlife that are trending toward extinction so that they not only exist but thrive in the future," said Vera Smith, senior federal lands policy analyst with Defenders of Wildlife.

Comments will be accepted through June 20. To submit comments online,

visit [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and search for "1004-AE-92." Comments may also be mailed to: U.S. Department of the Interior, Director (630), Bureau of Land Management, 1849 C St. NW, Room 5646, Washington, DC 20240, Attention: 1004-AE92. Comments should be mailed as soon as possible to ensure timely delivery. — Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor



COMING EVENTS

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

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

May 4-5 – The 2023 Animal Agriculture Alliance's Stakeholders Summit is slated for May 4-5 in

Arlington, VA. Full agenda and registration: whova.com/portal/registration/annua5_202305.

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

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

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MARKET NEWS

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

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 4/6/2023	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	172.33 ▲	N/A	138.72
CME Feeder Index	193.22 ▲	192.35	155.59
Boxed Beef Average	289.65 ▲	279.20	271
Average Dressed Steers	278.10 ▲	265.58	222.28
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,380 ▲	1,375	1,372
Weekly Slaughter**	651,000 ▲	626,000	639,000
Weekly Beef Production***	535.0 ▲	515.3	534.8
Hide/Offal Value	12.79 ▼	13.92	13.34
Corn Price	6.44 ▼	6.49	7.58

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 31	6,510	283.79	248	323.18	1,411	283.41	2,021	282.61	629	269.59	2,201 249.98
March 24	7,274	282.67	249	324.05	1,554	283.72	2,202	281.00	704	270.99	2,566 249.43
March 17	6,971	284.99	230	324.63	1,438	286.47	2,198	284.10	632	271.53	2,474 252.16
March 10	6,464	288.41	196	324.52	1,311	291.06	2,069	286.53	640	275.34	2,249 253.22

Cutouts					
FED BOXED BEEF					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
Apr 6	289.65	276.63	217.18	N/A	278.81
Apr 5	288.62	278.16	214.86	148.57	274.57
Apr 4	287.94	277.95	215.38	150.91	275.62
Apr 3	285.09	274.18	216.10	149.68	276.76
Mar 31	282.07	270.72	215.34	N/A	275.20

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	3/31	4/3	4/4	4/5	4/6	High*	Low*
Apr.	16835	16813	16760	16840	17108	17108	13055
Jun.	16213	16123	16023	16030	16310	16548	14003
Aug.	16143	16075	15978	15998	16230	16245	15388
Oct.	16540	16513	16418	16435	16608	16325	15310

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	3/31	4/3	4/4	4/5	4/6	High*	Low*
Mar.	19334	19895	19795	19783	20063	20063	16958
Apr.	20083	20315	20223	20210	20540	20540	17595
May	20525	22070	21950	21923	22260	20445	18303
Aug.	22198	22343	22260	22223	22535	22535	18755

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	27,432	1,429	172.33
Live FOB Heifer	12,927	1,328	172.94
Dressed Del Steer	8,587	944	278.10
Dressed Del Heifer	3,542	844	277.05
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Live FOB Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Steer	384	968	265.58
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	34,462	1,480	138.72
Live FOB Heifer	16,706	1,327	138.58
Dressed Del Steer	11,519	957	222.28
Dressed Del Heifer	3,274	878	221.88

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: APRIL 2		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	30,000	6,835
Formula	263,502	482
Negotiated Cash	98,113	194
Negotiated Grid	51,723	1,145
Packer Owned	11,217	N/A
Total	454,555	8,656

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,917
Mar. '23	166,683	Neg. Sales 21+ days	963
Apr. '23	110,996	Formula sales	3,443
May '23	86,296	Forward contract sales	187
Jun. '23	59,419	Domestic sales	5,604
Jul. '23	64,805	NAFTA Exports	139

CANADIAN LIVESTOCK PRICES & FEDERAL INSPECTED SLAUGHTER FIGURES			
Alberta Direct Sales (4% shrink)			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	Price	227.83	Weekly Change +4.39
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A	N/A
Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	Price	232.90	+5.50
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	Price	132.39	+1.92

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, March 24, 2023				
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario	
501-600 lbs	355.79	362.17	326.36	
601-700 lbs	331.67	330.98	310.17	
701-800 lbs	302.76	307.43	300.54	
801-900 lbs	273.54	270.50	274.11	
Heifers:				
401-500 lbs	325.90	319.73	263.54	
501-600 lbs	310.47	308.37	272.34	
601-700 lbs	289.63	290.53	260.94	
701-800 lbs	263.32	266.76	242.73	

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	27,386	28,236	318,975	243,666

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
Friday, March 31, 2023			
Mexico to TX. & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: 19,000	Week Ago Act: 20,498	Year Ago Act: 14,492	
Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold 1.00-2.00 higher. Heifers steady. Trade active, demand good. The bulk of the supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.			
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 223.00-234.00, few 235.00; 400-500 lbs 203.00-214.00, few 215.00; 500-600 lbs 183.00-194.00, few 195.00; 600-700 lbs 168.00-179.00, few 180.00. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 208.00-219.00; 400-500 lbs 188.00-199.00; 500-600 lbs 168.00-179.00.			
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 186.00-196.00, few 198.00; 400-500 lbs 176.00-186.00, few 188.00; 500-600 lbs 166.00-176.00, few 178.00; 600-700 lbs 157.00-166.00, few 168.00.			
(slide 10 cents on steers and heifers basis 300 lbs. All sales fob port of entry.)			

Selected Auction										
Week Ending April 6, 2023										
DATE	MARKET	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS	PAIRS
March 31	Blackfoot, ID	N/A		210-264	195-260	180-246	170-205	160-186	83-104	
March 30	Burley, ID	542	231-248	232-267	250	214	190	101-120	84-105	
March 29	Vale, OR	124		240-265	240-256	210-240			96-109	
March 29	Emmett, ID								95-126.50	
April 1	Eugene, OR	851	200-243*	180-236*	174-207*	170-184*			85-94	685-1100
April 1	Madras, OR	241		240-260	225-240	195-225	185-195	160-170	80-104	
March 29	Davenport, WA								95-115	
March 30	Toppenish, WA	3,000		269*	220-227*	190-236*			98-125	
March 30	Toppenish, WA			243-256*	210-231*	204-212.50*			85-112.50	1,550-2,000
March 30	Toppenish, WA								116-132.50	1,585-1,700

Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2										
March 27	Famoso, CA	303	175-250	175-230	165-220	160-195	150-165		80-112	
April 5	Galt, CA	1,866	260-308	250-305	220-295	200-265		125-140	90-115	1,400-2,000
April 4	Turlock, CA	771	200-285	190-275	190-202.50	170-190	174-186	150-181	85-109	
March 28	Salina, UT	1,383	225-245	230-255	199-260	177.50-253	168-234	157.50-200	135-176.25	79-110
March 28	Salina, UT			187.50-242.50	175-239	170-232.50	160-225.50	145-184.50	113-172	106-145

April 3	Iowa	5,781	242-275	232-282	233-270	209.75-247	186-224	173-200	85-117.50	
April 4	Miles City, MT	499		252.50	231	226-230	207-218.50	186	166-191	94-135
April 5	Escalon, CA	N/A							167-186	1,800-2,010
April 5	Escalon, CA								191-197	
April 1	Ericson, NE	2,770	267	241.50-289	224-260	213-237	206-217.75	181-193	79-100	
April 1	Ericson, NE		235-258	223-241	208.50-237	190-217.25	187.50	177-185	94-130	
March 29	Kearney, NE	2,300	240-251	219-227	207.50-220	189-209	176-188	172.75-192	90-109	
March 31	Lexington, NE	3,476	239	262-269	229-259	219-243	187-200	174-203.75	110-141	
March 31	Lexington, NE				203.75-225.50	196-208.50	180-194.50	166.50-186.50	177-209	
March 30	Valentine, NE	1,850	238-240	250-254	245-261	225-249.50	216	177	167-186	1,675
March 31	Herreid, SD	2,890		231-256	221-240	213-229		156.50-161	177-209	1,360-2,550
March 31	Herreid, SD			219.50-231	225-236	188-219	164-194.50			

March 30	Willcox, AZ	1,061	160-247	216-251	199-230	184-250	176-198		78-107	1,225-1,400
March 30	Willcox, AZ		195-208	188-220	185-210	171-188.50	112-173		92-115	1,300-1,350
April 3	Colorado	6,990	226-231	285-290	262.50-288	220.50-266	187-243	188.50-205	60-110	1,300-4,000
March 29	La Junta, CO	4,909		217-301	240-288	224-266	196-243	186-207	86-126.50	1,085-1,825
March 29	La Junta, CO			171-231	197-236	181-209	173-182	183.50-190	108-83	
April 3	Loma, CO	439		240-264	240-261	225-241	210-239	186-214	101-115	
April 3	Loma, CO			223-246	234-248	223-245	188-207	172-177	148-182	84-106
April 5	Dodge City, KS	2,891	196	240-257.50	225-262.50	202.50-234	195-219.50	186-208	144-173	90-110
April 6	Pratt, KS	1,800	227-245	257	273	186-244	186-195	164-194.75	81-104	
April 6	Pratt, KS			205-245	198-253.75	185-212.50	173-195	164-186.50	95-124	925-1,500
March 30	Salina, KS	4,276		265-304	245-285	237-273	217.50-241	182.50-208	176-194	
April 6	Clovis, NM	1,720	284-300	206-271	215-255	193.50-230.50	180-222	185-191.50	164-194.75	
April 4	El Reno, OK	1,800	295	224-248	204-228	185-214	168-194	168-199	164-194.75	
April 4	El Reno, OK			280-315	247.50-280	220-252.50	220-230	204	176-194	
April 5	McAlester, OK	1,375		222-260	204-242	194-216	191-200		164-186.50	
April 5	McAlester, OK			257-297	231-267	211-255				

Boxed beef begins its seasonal climb

MARKETS (from page 1)

This high fell just short of the 2015 high of \$169.67."

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of March 27 to April 3 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: \$169.01.
- Formula net purchases: \$167.13.
- Forward contract net purchases: \$167.05.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$167.96.
- On a dressed basis:
- Negotiated purchases: \$270.87.
- Formula net purchases: \$265.46.
- Forward contract net purchases: \$255.88.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: \$267.71.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 488,000 head, compared to the previous Thursday at 505,000 head. Total slaughter for a week earlier was projected at 651,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending March 25 was 627,844 head. The average dressed steer weight was 895 lbs., down 4 lbs. from the prior week.

Boxed beef prices were higher, with the Choice cutout up over \$10 higher to \$289.65 and the Select cutout up a little less than \$10 to \$276.63.

Feeder cattle

"As we move towards spring-time grazing options and opportunities, moisture will dic-

tate the direction of prices and demand," wrote the Cattle Report. "Summer grazing on the grasslands of the southern Plains will depend on spring rains with an area from Amarillo, TX, north to Ulysses, KS, remaining in a drought. Saying goodbye to La Niña and welcoming El Niño is on the heart and minds of many operations in this area."

Feeder cattle futures were up slightly, with the April contract up less than a dollar to \$200.62 and the May contract up about a dollar to \$205.49.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index was up 87 cents to \$193.22. Corn futures were several cents lower, with the May contract down 6 cents to \$6.43 and the July contract down 8 cents to \$6.19.

Colorado: Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 3,486 head on Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers under 700 lbs. sold steady to \$5, and over 700 lbs. were steady to \$5 higher. Feeder heifers 400-700 lbs. sold \$10-15 higher, and over 700 lbs. were \$2-4 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 736 lbs. sold between \$201-204 and averaged \$201.65.

Kansas: Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 2,891 head Wednesday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers 700-900 lbs. sold \$3-6 higher, and 900-1,000 lbs. sold \$2-4 lower. Steer calves 400-700 lbs. sold \$8-10 higher. Heifers 500-900 lbs. sold \$4-7 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 791 lbs. sold between \$194.75-196, averaging \$195.03.

Missouri: Joplin Regional

Stockyards in Carthage sold 8,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, at the mid-session, feeder steers sold \$4-9 higher. Feeder heifers sold \$4-7 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 712 lbs. sold from \$199-215, averaging \$209.90.

Nebraska: Tri-State Livestock in McCook sold 1,873 head Monday. Compared to the last auction, steers sold \$10-13 higher, and heifers traded steady to \$2 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 788 lbs. sold for \$199.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 7,750 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, at the mid-session, feeder steers and heifers sold \$3-6 higher, with instances of \$8 higher. Steer and heifer calves sold \$6-10 higher, with instances of \$13 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 726 lbs. sold from \$196.50-206, averaging \$199.11.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Cattle Auction in Worthing sold 4,319 head Monday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers sold steady to \$5 higher, with instances of \$29 on light cattle except for 550-600 lbs. traded \$5-10 lower, and 850-950 lbs. traded steady to \$2 lower. Feeder heifers sold steady to \$5 higher, with instances of \$20 higher on the light weights, except for 800-950 lbs. traded steady to \$5 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 776 lbs. sold between \$199-212, averaging \$208.79. — **Anna Miller, WLJ** managing editor



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 – High school students can apply now for the Kansas State University Animal Sciences Leadership Academy's 2023

class. Applications: www.youthlivestock.ksu.edu. Questions: Sharon Breiner, sbreiner@ksu.edu or 785-532-6533.

April 21 – The Kansas Livestock Foundation now is accepting applications for 2023-24 scholarships. Applicants must be graduates of a Kansas high school and enrolled at a Kansas community or senior college for the fall 2023 semester. Application: www.kla.org/

programs/kf-scholarships.

May 1 – The American National Cattle Women (ANCW) Foundation is accepting applications for their Legacy Scholarship. Two collegiate members who are daughters, granddaughters or nieces of current ANCW members and are majoring in an ag-related field will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from the ANCW Foundation. Applications: ancw.org/foundation.

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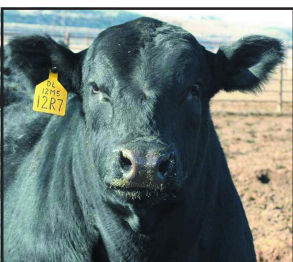
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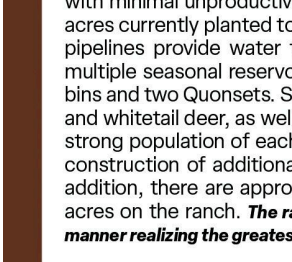
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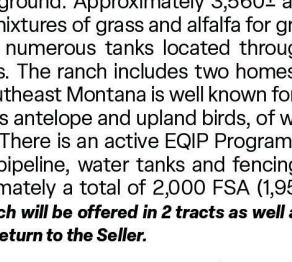
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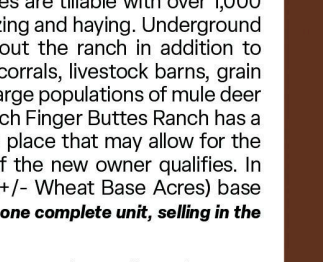


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FINGER BUTTES RANCH

ALZADA, CARTER COUNTY, MONTANA

AUCTION

MAY 1, 2023 @ 1:00 PM

MOOSE LODGE, 399 STANLEY ST, BELLE FOURCHE, SD

RANCH LOCATION: The Finger Buttes Ranch is located approximately 23 miles north of Alzada, MT, on Hwy 323.

RANCH DESCRIPTION: The Finger Buttes Ranch is centered in the heart of the strong grass cattle country of eastern Montana and the western Dakotas. Consisting of 7,716± deeded acres, 640± State of Montana lease acres (98 AUM's) and 1,561± BLM acres (299 AUM's), for a total of 9,917 acres. The land is comprised of rolling hills and flat-top buttes with minimal unproductive ground. Approximately 3,560± acres are tillable with over 1,000 acres currently planted to mixtures of grass and alfalfa for grazing and haying. Underground pipelines provide water to numerous tanks located throughout the ranch in addition to multiple seasonal reservoirs. The ranch includes two homes, corrals, livestock barns, grain bins and two Quonsets. Southeast Montana is well known for large populations of mule deer and whitetail deer, as well as antelope and upland birds, of which Finger Buttes Ranch has a strong population of each. There is an active EQIP Program in place that may allow for the construction of additional pipeline, water tanks and fencing if the new owner qualifies. In addition, there are approximately a total of 2,000 FSA (1,950+/- Wheat Base Acres) base acres on the ranch. **The ranch will be offered in 2 tracts as well as one complete unit, selling in the manner realizing the greatest return to the Seller.**

FINGER BUTTES RANCH WEST PARCEL: West Finger Buttes Ranch consists of 2,800± total acres: 2,360± deeded acres, 440± BLM acres (80 AUM's) fenced into four pastures. There are 1,052 acres of tillable ground of which approximately 532.5 acres has been planted in 2021 to hay/grass introducing perennial grass and legume. The balance of the tillable acres is already in hay/grazing production. Water is provided from dams and reservoirs located throughout the ranch. There are no improvements.

FINGER BUTTES HEADQUARTERS PARCEL: The Finger Buttes headquarters consists of 5,356.48± deeded acres, 640± State of Montana lease acres and roughly 1,121 BLM acres (219 AUM's), for a total of 7,117 acres. The ranch is fenced into 10 pastures. There are currently 2,437.4 acres of tillable ground with 258.5± acres in hay/grazing production. Improvements include two houses, calving barn, pipe corrals, two Quonsets, grain bins and other outbuildings. A 2,900-foot water well supplies water to several tanks located throughout the ranch.

AUCTION TERMS

EARNEST MONEY: At the conclusion of the auction, the successful bidder shall make a 10% nonrefundable earnest money deposit, with the balance due in cash or certified funds at closing. **CLOSING:** Closing to take place on or before June 1, 2023. **TAXES:** All 2022 and previous years taxes shall be paid by Seller. The 2023 taxes shall be prorated to the day of closing. All subsequent years taxes shall be paid by Buyer. **INSPECTIONS:** The property will be sold in "As-Is" condition without any warranties, either expressed or implied, as to the nature, condition or description of any improvements. Buyer shall inspect property to the extent deemed necessary and shall rely upon own judgment when bidding. **FINANCING:** Property sells without Buyer contingency of any kind. Please have all financial arrangements secured prior to bidding. **LEGAL DESCRIPTION:** Property sold by legal description only, which will be included in the owner's title insurance commitment that will be provided by Security Abstract, Miles City, Montana, and made available on or before the day of the auction. Acres and square footages are approximate and determined by the Carter County Assessor and/or Treasurer. **CLOSING COSTS:** Closing firm's fee shall be shared equally between the Buyer and Seller. Security Abstract, Miles City, MT, shall be the closing agent. Buyer and Seller shall be responsible for their own closing costs as customary. **GENERAL TERMS:** Property will be transferred by Warranty Deed subject to easements, assessments and reservations of record. The Auctioneers/Brokers are representing the Seller's interests as the Seller's Agent in this transaction. Please see the Real Estate Brokerage Disclosure for agency relationship definitions. All information is derived from sources deemed reliable; however, neither Seller nor Auctioneers/Brokers are making any warranties or warranties, actual or implied. Any announcements made day of auction supersede any and all previously printed material and any other oral statements made. **METHOD OF SALE:** The ranch will be offered in two tracts as well as one complete unit, selling in the manner realizing the greatest return to the Seller. Seller shall require an all cash sale. The Seller reserves the right to effectuate a 1031 tax-deferred exchange.

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Court agrees with farmers on CA water quality rules cases

A Sacramento appeals court has sided with California farmers on three cases related to water quality regulations, which environmental groups had challenged for years.

On March 17, the 3rd District Court of Appeal decided the cases in favor of the California State Water Resources Control Board, the California Farm Bureau and others that sought to maintain a water quality regulatory program in the Eastern San

Joaquin Watershed.

"The Court of Appeal's landmark decision supports reasonableness and balancing in protecting water quality, while also maintaining our food supply and the economic viability of agriculture," said California Farm Bureau President Jamie Johansson.

The cases, which all pertained to the Central Valley's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program, centered around regulations meant

to ensure runoff from irrigated agriculture does not contaminate water supplies used by people or aquatic life.

While the cases specifically apply to the Central Valley, "The court's decision is precedential and applies to irrigated lands regulatory programs throughout the state," Johansson said.

The appeals court ruling marks the end of a decade-long dispute. In 2012, the Central Valley water board introduced a regulatory program that expanded water monitoring from surface water to groundwater.

"This was a fundamental shift," said Kari Fisher, senior counsel for the California Farm Bureau.

The program strengthened water quality regulations, but environmental groups argued they did not go far enough.

"They were asking for a

lot more requirements and stricter requirements," Fisher said.

The groups' petitions were referred to the California State Water Resources Control Board, which made various compromises and published a revised regulatory program in 2018. At that point, environmental groups sued to block aspects of the program.

The California Farm Bureau and other agricultural groups then filed motions to intervene in the lawsuits.

In one case, the environmental groups sued to invalidate a provision of the regulatory program, which allows agricultural coalitions to submit data such as crop yield and applied nitrogen without divulging the names of individual growers to the Central Valley water board.

The groups also challenged the adequacy of the

water board's water representative quality monitoring programs and demanded stricter and more expensive monitoring practices.

"They wanted individual field level monitoring, which is extremely costly, instead of a representative monitoring program where samples are taken at representative sites in the watershed rather than on each individual field level," Fisher said.

For hearing purposes, the cases were consolidated.

In 2020, a Superior Court sided with the state water board, the Farm Bureau and other farm groups on all three cases. Last month, the appeals court upheld those rulings in a decision that will serve as precedent throughout the state.

"Regulating waste discharges from irrigated agriculture involves an unusually complex set of

policy judgments and trade-offs," the court said in its decision. "Regulators must balance the need to ensure a reliable food supply and preserve the economic viability of agriculture against the need to protect the waters of the state."

By making the decision precedential, Fisher said, the court signaled its ruling should apply to all irrigated lands regulatory programs throughout the state.

"That's why it's so important for our members," she said. "If someone sued in Southern California, the trial court would say, 'They're suing on the same laws and policies that the Court of Appeal in Sacramento already ruled on. We need to look toward that case over there.'" — **Caleb Hampton, assistant editor of Ag Alert, California Farm Bureau Federation**

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