

INSIDE WLJ

CALIFORNIA CATS — California ranchers are struggling with big cat depredations. Page 3

BEEF DECLINE — Global beef consumption projected to decline for 2026. Page 9

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"Many cattlemen express doubt as to the accuracy of the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates on livestock population, pointing out that the methods used in estimating numbers are far from perfect. Instead of an increase in inventory in California, some industry leaders present figures to prove that there is actually a decrease. If the USDA estimates are far from accurate, something should be done to remedy the situation," wrote Nelson Crow in his April 1953 "Observations by the Publisher."

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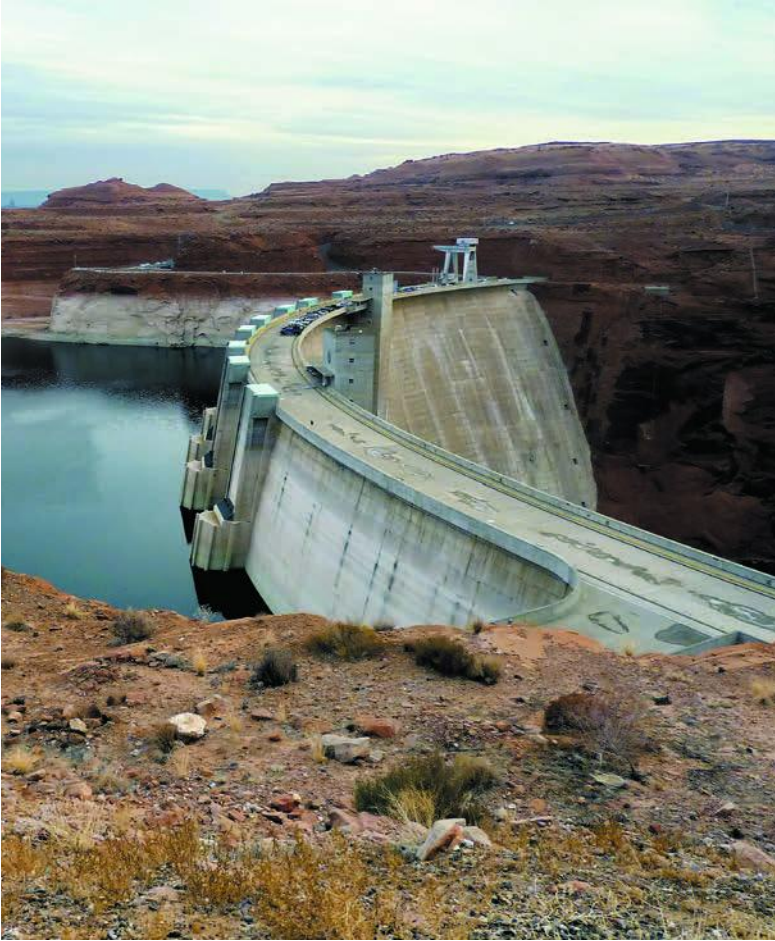
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Bureau of Reclamation
The Bureau of Reclamation is planning to release water from Wyoming's Flaming Gorge Reservoir to increase water levels at Lake Powell. Pictured here, the Glen Canyon Dam at Lake Powell during the 2010 drought.

BOR moves to prop up Lake Powell levels amid drought

— Releasing water from Flaming Gorge

The Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) announced it is preparing to release water from Wyoming's Flaming Gorge Reservoir in an effort to stabilize Lake Powell, as drought conditions across the Colorado River Basin deepen and threaten critical infrastructure.

According to the agency, the Colorado River system is currently operating at roughly 36% of total storage capacity. That figure reflects years of persistent drought, now compounded by one of the lowest snowpacks on record and unusually warm temperatures in March. Together, those conditions have sharply reduced runoff and inflows into the system, raising concerns about water supply and hydropower reliability for more than 40 million people who depend on the river.

At the center of concern is the water level in Lake Powell. BOR's April 2026 "24-Month Study" projects that inflows to Powell could fall to just 2.78 million acre-feet (an

acre-foot is 325,851 gallons) this water year—about 29% of the historical average. The study indicates that Lake Powell could decline below an elevation of 3,490 feet—the minimum level needed to generate hydropower at Glen Canyon Dam—by August 2026 if no action is taken.

To avoid that scenario, the agency is moving forward with emergency drought response measures. The agency plans to transfer between 660,000 acre-feet and 1 million acre-feet of water from Flaming Gorge Reservoir between April 2026 and April 2027 under the 2019 Drought Response Operating Agreement. In addition, it will reduce releases from Lake Powell to Lake Mead by 1.48 million acre-feet, lowering total outflows to 6 million acre-feet through September 2026.

BOR anticipates those actions will raise Lake Powell's water level by roughly 54 feet, bringing it to at least 3,500 feet by April 2027. The agency said the goal is to keep the reservoir above critical thresholds while maintaining operational

See DROUGHT on page 5

USDA breaks ground on sterile fly plant in Texas

— Production expected by end of 2027

In another step to prevent the spread of the New World screwworm (NWS) into the U.S., USDA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) officially broke ground on a domestic sterile fly production facility in Texas.

On April 17, federal and state officials led the groundbreaking for the new facility at Moore Air Base in Edinburg, TX.

"This puts NWS sterile fly production in American hands, so we do not have to rely on other countries for the best offensive measure to push screwworm away from our borders," said Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins.

Currently, USDA produces 100 million sterile flies per week in

Panama at the Panama-United States Commission for the Eradication and Prevention of Screwworm Infestation in Livestock facility. The department has also invested \$21 million to help modernize Mexico's Metapa facility, which is expected to be operational this summer.

USDA and USACE partnered to build the domestic facility as part of the USDA's five-pronged plan to combat NWS and prevent its spread into the U.S. USACE is providing the engineering, design, construction management and contract oversight for the project.

The new facility is expected to be at its initial operational capability by November 2027, reaching production of 100 million sterile flies per week. Full production is anticipated to scale production by

See GROUNDBREAKING on page 12

Wolf populations rise in Washington and Oregon

— Livestock depredations increase

Gray wolf populations continued to expand across the Pacific Northwest in 2025, with both Washington and Oregon reporting increases in total wolves, packs and breeding pairs. That growth came alongside a rise in livestock depredations and ongoing management challenges for agencies and producers alike.

Washington

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) reported that the wolf population reached a new high in 2025, with a minimum count of 270 wolves across 49 packs, up from 230 wolves and 43 packs the year prior.

The statewide pack count increased by six packs to 49 packs,

including three packs in new territories and three reestablished packs in old areas. Twenty-three packs were confirmed as breeding pairs, up 28%, and pack sizes ranged from two to 12 wolves, averaging just under five wolves per pack.

Eastern Washington continues to have the largest population, with 35 packs and 13 breeding pairs, accounting for roughly 70% of the state's wolves. In the North Cascades region, numbers climbed to 14 packs and 10 breeding pairs, with two new packs documented and the region hitting recovery goals for the sixth consecutive year. In contrast, the Southern Cascades and Northwest Coast regions had no confirmed packs.

As wolf numbers increased, the report recorded 17 depredation events in 2025, most occurring dur-

ing the summer-fall grazing season from May through October. Nine calves were confirmed killed by wolves, another eight were injured, two were probably injured, and another was probably killed by a wolf. WDFW said these incidents were tied to just five of the state's 49 packs.

To address the conflict, the state invested nearly \$2 million in prevention and compensation. Washington paid \$90,419 in claims for livestock losses and spent \$102,340 on nonlethal deterrents through cooperative agreements, along with an additional \$146,004 for contracted range riders. Lethal removal remained limited, with a small number of wolves removed in

See WOLF COUNT on page 7

Cattle market influenced by outside pressures

The market was pressured by headlines over the week, which ranged from industry-specific concerns about the New World screwworm and potential Department of Justice investigations into the Big Four, to outside headlines about Middle East tensions.

Live cattle futures traded lower over the week, down \$3.45 on the April contract to \$246.85 and down \$4.55 on the June contract to \$243.07.

"The CME cattle futures correction has been underway all week and continued today, the market making new lows for the move yet again," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday. "The market opened down hard off the rumors but shook off the news and clawed back to steady by the end of the first hour. Once again the market's take after some digestion is to shake it off."

Cash trade through Thursday totaled about 47,000 head. Live steers sold from \$244-246, and dressed steers sold for \$386.

"Private sources have shared there's a major packer in Colorado that intends to be dark both Thursday and Friday—which likely means the fed cash cattle market won't see prices improve later this week as demand will be less,"

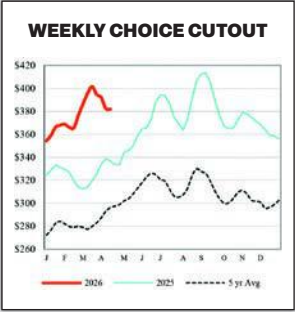
wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Thursday midday comments.

Cash trade for the week ending April 19 totaled more than 96,000 head. Live steers averaged \$248.07, and dressed steers averaged \$388.19.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 425,000 head, compared to 429,000 head a week earlier. Total slaughter for a week earlier is estimated at 514,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending April 11 was 509,986 head. The average steer dressed weight was 982 lbs., up 1 lb. from the previous week.

Boxed beef prices traded modestly higher, up about

See MARKETS on page 9



LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$246.02	\$386.00	\$373.44
WEEK ENDING: 4-23-26		

PERIODICAL : Time Sensitive Priority Handling

COMMENTS

Like it or not

South America's leader in beef exports, Minerva, made a major announcement recently when it said they had initial results reducing methane emissions in cattle by over 50%. The company partnered with Rumin8, an Australian company whose website says they are "an agriculture-focused climate tech company, using cutting edge technology to create cost effective additives which reduce methane emissions from livestock" Together, the two companies are pushing the partnership between Brazil and Australia's beef industries.



IPSEN

Rumin8's mission is to decarbonize 100 million cattle by the year 2030, which would reduce Australia's total annual carbon emissions by 40%. The company's CEO, David Messina, says cattle contribute 3.7% of the world's greenhouse gas emissions each year. By reducing the 40% emissions, this would remove 200 million tons of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere.

"The cow is not the enemy, it's the methane itself and we need to solve that problem," says Messina in a promotional video. The company developed a feed and water additive called tribromomethane, which inhibits the enzymes that finalize methane production in microbes.

According to a news release, Rumin8 partnered with Minerva and created two trials that mimicked Brazil's feedlot system. A 120-day study evaluated enteric methane emissions and productive performance in Nellore bulls. In the first group, 80 head of cattle were fed in individual pens to allow precise measurement of feed intake and methane emissions. This group was divided into a control group receiving a total mixed ration of 12% roughage and 88% concentrate with ground corn as the primary ingredient. The other group received the same diet supplemented with the additive.

Results showed a 50.4% reduction in methane emissions and a statistically significant 5% improvement in feed conversion efficiency compared with cattle fed the same diet without the additive, according to the news release. The statement also touts lower feed consumption, but no data was quoted in the release. Independent verification is now underway.

A second group of 200 Nellore bulls was the fed the additive in collective pens to simulate commercial-scale operational conditions.

"This study highlights the potential of innovation and collaboration between industry, science and technology to address one of the most pressing challenges on the livestock sector's climate agenda," said a Minerva Foods spokesperson. "Reducing methane emissions is a strategic priority for advancing more sustainable cattle production, and initiatives like this help accelerate solutions that combine productivity and environmental responsibility."

Minerva is South America's largest beef exporter and touts that they process more than 54,000 head per day. They export to over 100 countries including Asia, Europe and yes, the U.S. They operate 26 slaughter and processing plants in Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, Columbia and Argentina. According to an article by PR Newswire, Minerva's revenue increased year over year by 59.7% to \$11.6 billion, with 60% of that revenue coming from exports. Net income for the company came in at \$170.8 million.

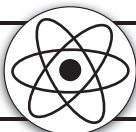
One thing to note is that research on tribromomethane is still young. A major source for bromomethane is found in seaweed. According to San Jose State University, the incorporation of seaweed in livestock feed has been shown to significantly reduce methane production during cattle digestion. The primary active ingredient in seaweed that is thought to be responsible for this effect is called bromoform, a volatile gas emitted by all macroalgae and which is involved in atmospheric ozone depletion.

Additionally, a new "low-emissions" wool product was launched recently in New York, where wool from seaweed-fed Merino sheep was harvested and shipped to New South Wales before being used to make garments for a company called Fast Retailing.

The point of this all is to show that pressure to reduce methane emissions is coming at the livestock industries. It has been for some time, and it isn't going away. Breed associations like the American Hereford Association and the American Angus Association are both involved in studies and programs exploring various ways to gather more information to reduce methane emissions, whether it's through feed additives, DNA or byproducts.

It isn't just North America that is looking at this—it's the globe. The uproar caused by the American Angus Association accepting grant money from the Global Methane Hub (two-thirds of that funding came from the Bezos Earth Fund) is a fresh memory. The idea that Jeff Bezos was funding research through a trusted breed association is definitely a scary thought. From my seat, I would much rather have a board and staff that I trust control the research than to be outperformed by a profit-driven global beef exporter from South America.

It's definitely a story to watch, because Brazil's beef industry is positioning itself for a big push. Keep in mind that their cattle cycle is at a peak right now, and they've got the product to sell. They are heading into a market shift, but they've carried an abundance of product over the past couple of years. The methane conversation is here to stay, regardless of who is funding it and whether we like it or not. — **LOGAN IPSEN**



RESOURCE SCIENCE

An excellent article in the March 30, 2026, *WLJ* by Charles Wallace describes a Senate subcommittee discussion on reforming the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Members of Congress and witnesses suggested more state involvement, incentives for landowners, staffing at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and recovery criteria for wolves and grizzly bears. These are important considerations, but don't focus on a primary problem with the ESA: science.

The ESA is supposed to use the best science available, but in my experience, it does not always do so. Consider four scientific considerations: the risk of extinction, foreseeable future, significant portion of a species' range and the species definition. The risk of extinction is the likelihood a species will be reduced to zero. This is a prediction with inherent uncertainty. The foreseeable future is the time frame in which extinction is predicted to occur and is also a prediction. A significant portion of a species' range is a judgment, not a fact. The definition of species includes species, and also subspecies and distinct population segments (DPS), which are not well-defined groups. The law requires USFWS to make decisions on these four criteria despite their indefinite nature. Because the science is uncertain, the ESA will always have conflicting opinions on science.

The definition of "species" is the primary science problem with the ESA. Science generally recognizes species as groups that can't interbreed successfully, like cattle and sheep. Subspecies and DPS are populations in a geographic area that are capable of interbreeding with other populations of the same species (for example, grizzly bears in Alaska and in the Lower 48 states, see the References at wlj.net). Subspecies and DPS are not species, so the ESA has a major science contradiction in considering groups that are not species. Listing subspecies and DPS makes it functionally an Endangered Population Act. Does the federal government have jurisdiction to manage wildlife populations? Lawyers can argue that, but it seems like overreach because states manage wildlife populations. I suggest the ESA could be changed to apply only to full species that are actually endangered with extinction, like California condors.

Consider grizzly bears and wolves. Grizzly bears are an endangered DPS in the Lower 48 states but not in Alaska. Their management is difficult because they have a low reproductive rate and because they kill livestock and sometimes, people. Information on the numbers, characteristics and locations of bear attacks on humans and predation on livestock, pets and game animals could be more widely publicized so people know what to expect if grizzlies expand their current range or are introduced to new areas.

Mexican wolves and wolves in Colorado are designated as experimental populations under the ESA. The Mexican wolf is a subspecies in Arizona and New Mexico and the wolves in Colorado are part of a DPS in the Lower 48 states. Wolves are more easily managed than bears because they have a high reproductive rate and are less likely to kill people. However, wolves kill livestock, pets and wildlife. As with grizzlies, information on the numbers, characteristics and locations of wolf attacks on humans and predation on livestock, pets and game animals could be more widely publicized so people know what to expect if wolves expand their current range or are introduced to new areas.

Also consider that Mexican wolves have been protected as a genetically unique subspecies but subspecies are not scientifically definite. The wolves in Colorado are a different northern subspecies and could disperse southward into Arizona and

REFORMING THE SCIENCE USED WITH THE ESA

New Mexico and interbreed with Mexican wolves. There are plans to prevent this by capturing such wolves and returning them to Colorado. However, not all wolves in Colorado have radio tracking collars, so this will be hard or impossible to achieve.

Is it bad for Colorado wolves to interbreed with Mexican wolves? Probably not, biologically. Interbreeding will likely result in increased fitness through heterosis, as with crossbreeding cattle. Heterosis could improve reproduction and reduce inbreeding in Mexican wolves. But crossbreeding northern and Mexican wolves will also change the genetics of the Mexican wolf population which has been the basis of their ESA designation. This creates a management dilemma of allowing or preventing interbreeding of northern and Mexican wolves. Of course, the primary management issue with wolves is their killing livestock and their genetics is not a particularly practical management problem.

I think it is the responsibility of USFWS to better inform the public of this kind of information, especially the indefinite nature of subspecies and DPS. USFWS has a difficult job producing ESA documents and dealing with lawsuits. But such information is not easily available to most people and efforts to inform the public should be increased. I think that informing the public of the science on the indefinite nature of subspecies and DPS should be a priority because of the impact that wolves and grizzlies have on livestock, wildlife and people.

People have different opinions about wildlife management, including the ESA. All opinions are legitimate in our free country, but we should try to have them as informed as possible. — **Matt Cronin, *WLJ* columnist**

(Matt Cronin is a biologist with Northwest Biology and Forestry Company LLC in Bozeman, MT, and a teaching professor at Montana State University. He may be contacted at croninm@aol.com.)

HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN



"As I've been recently informed, The 3 Little Pigs, in reality,... are simply the 3 Socio-Economic Classes of Taxpayers an' The Big Bad Wolf is the Federal Government."

OBITUARY



Helen Dianne Parrish-Read; 1960-2026

Helen Dianne Parrish-Read, affectionately known as Dianne, passed away unexpectedly on Feb. 9 at the age of 65 at her beloved ranch. Born on June 27, 1960, in Sanford, NC, Dianne grew up in a family led by her father, Harlan, a career military man. Because of his service, the family moved frequently, living in North Carolina, Florida and Texas, eventually settling in California upon his retirement. Afterward, the Parrish family moved to Yakima, WA, where Dianne graduated from high school.

In 1990, Dianne embarked on a new journey, moving to Wamic, OR, to begin a fresh career. It was there she met her life partner, Kenny Read, whom she married on Sept. 21, 1991. Together, they founded Bar KD Ranch, where raising elite Angus cattle became Dianne's passion. Their efforts flourished, selling bulls throughout the western U.S. and establishing their own sale. Dianne was creative and always embraced challenges.

Dianne was preceded in death by her parents, Harlan and Ella Parrish. She is survived by her daughter, Nicole, her son-in-law, Alex Lawson, and their children, Harlan and Ella. She is also survived by her

stepdaughter, Amanda, along with Amanda's children, Josiah, Mason, Crater, Lilly and Bryson; as well as her stepson, James Read, and James's children Kody (with his wife, Sydney, and their daughter, Elowyn), Kenneth, Blakeley and Charles Read. Dianne is also remembered by her partner, Kenny Read; her sister, Clarie; her brothers, Pete (with Leslie) and Kenny (with Emma); her sister, June (with Donny); and many nephews.

A celebration of Dianne's life will be held at the ranch on June 27, where family and friends will gather to honor her memory and mark the milestones of her remarkable journey.

WLJ

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

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Big cats complicate CA ranchers' livelihoods

Darrell Suenram lives in mountain lion country. From a barn atop a hill on his family's 220-acre ranch in Lake County, CA, it's easy for him to spot neighbors who've felt the impacts of that reality. They're in every direction.

To the right is a neighbor who lost 23 ewes in one night. A little to the left, a different neighbor lost a couple goats. In another direction, a neighbor on the edge of his property also lost goats.

It would be hard to find someone in Suenram's Lower Lake community who hasn't at least heard of a mountain lion passing through the area. Many have lost pets and livestock.

State officials estimate there are between 3,645 and 4,750 mountain lions throughout California. Protections for the predator, which has struggled to thrive in some areas, have increased over the years. Residents in areas such as Lower Lake say these changes have made it difficult to respond to the lions when they become a problem.

Suenram raises sheep and cattle and farms walnuts and hay. He said his father-in-law, Phil Adamson, who was born in 1937 and raised on the ranch, never saw or had issues with mountain lions in his youth.

But Suenram has seen that change in recent years. His first encounter happened when he and his family lived in Grass Valley, Nevada County. In 2018, a mountain lion killed a lamb raised by his daughter.

He got a Great Pyrenees to guard his sheep after that.

He hasn't had any mountain lion issues since moving to Lower Lake in 2020, but they're still an ever-present threat.

"We've seen them fairly regularly on game cameras, including one that was approximately 50 yards from a home on the ranch," Suenram said, referring to the home where his 93-year-old mother lives. "We had a game camera in our vegetable garden to spy on racoons and opossums that we suspected were eating the cabbage and watermelons. We did not expect to see a mountain lion sauntering through the garden."

Betty Carrola, his neighbor, runs a 40-acre ranch with about 50 sheep and nine goats. Before 2023, she had around 70 sheep, but she said she's steadily lost them due to depredation. She said she suspects most of the kills came from mountain lions because she frequently catches them on camera walking through her property.

While her sheep have slowly recovered in number, she said nothing feels the same. She's made some changes in an effort to protect her flock, including employing deterrence tactics advised by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). Such actions are often required before the state can take further action in response to a report.

The measures include wire fencing around the pen where she keeps her sheep nightly, guardian dogs, and motion-

activated cameras, alarms and lights.

She said she's much less likely to go on walks around her property at night.

"It's changed our lives," Carrola said.

Evolving protections, policies

Mountain lions in California have faced challenges as their environments are developed. Blocked in by roads and other human-made structures, their ability to roam has been limited, leading to inbreeding that then contributes to species decline.

Fernando Najera, director of the University of California, Davis, California Carnivores Program, said these challenges are particularly severe in Southern California. But northern populations face similar issues.

"The habitat fragmentation and the expansion of wildland and urban interfaces—it's huge everywhere in the state," he said.

In February, CDFW listed the species' populations in parts of Southern California and the Central Coast as threatened, broadening protections for mountain lions spanning from the San Francisco Bay Area to the southern border.

In a statement, the department said the listing "provides additional protections to aid in the recovery of the species but does not fundamentally change how the CDFW man-

ages mountain lions across California."

The protections aren't new. Californians voted to ban mountain lion hunting and create a habitat conservation fund in 1990. Efforts to study the statewide population intensified in the 2010s. In 2020, the state listed mountain lions in parts of Southern California and the Central Coast as candidates for protected status under the state's Endangered Species Act. By then, CDFW had also launched its "three strikes" policy, which directs the department to allow a lethal depredation permit only after a landowner has employed deterrents and has had a third reported incident confirmed.

Even lion removal can be complicated.

"People think that if we take that mountain lion from the site, the problem is solved," Najera said. "And it's not, because that territory is going to get vacant, and then another animal is going to get there as well."

Still, many impacted residents say the current system doesn't work for them. Carrola said she's filed a wildlife incident report after each depredation she's come across on her property this year. The reports, which can be filed by people who've had livestock killed by predators, are sent to CDFW officials for investigation.

Before the three strikes rule, Carrola said incident reports were more likely to spark action to remove a problem lion.

Nowadays, officials will often tell her they can't confirm the incident, which means no further action can be taken. In other cases, they might confirm a report but still wait for another strike before taking action.

Carrola said waiting means losing more sheep.

"Since this new set of rules has gone in, there's been a lot more losses," she said.

Losing animals, business

Vince Fontana, a San Mateo County rancher, said he doesn't blame mountain lions for acting on their nature. But with regular incidents of livestock killed by the predators on his property, he said it's not sustainable. He said he also feels his concerns are neglected by state officials.

"It's a very frustrating situation for anybody in the rural communities, pet owners and the ranchers," he said. "We're the ones that are living and working and basically co-existing with these animals."

San Mateo County Farm Bureau President BJ Burns said he's heard similar concerns from other impacted locals. Many have talked to him about a need to reboot the state's strategy. One change could be to create a compensation program similar to what exists for ranchers impacted by gray wolves.

"I strongly feel that the state should reimburse these ranchers and these people that are

losing their animals," Burns said. "We're losing animals, and it affects the business."

Ranchers aren't alone in calling for a change. Pamela Lynch, a San Mateo resident, has had two pet dogs killed by mountain lions. She said neighbors now communicate mountain lion sightings and offer warnings "nearly daily" to each other through online platforms such as Google Groups or Nextdoor.

"I try to forget about it," she said, referring to an incident in which she witnessed the depredation of a pet. "It's still very stressful. Every time I let my dogs out, I've got to be out there with them, and I've got a pitchfork in hand."

Suenram said he doesn't believe the problem will go away for his community anytime soon. In the meantime, he said he wants what many other impacted residents want: for the mountain lions to stay away, which would require some consequence for their presence, he said. It could mean having CDFW officials act sooner to address problem lions or allowing them to be hunted in a limited capacity, as is done in Oregon.

"They have no fear of man," he said of the lions. "If we could hunt them and put that fear, that respect for people, I think they wouldn't be moving into these urban interface areas so much because they know that there is a good chance that they could get killed." — **Manola Secaira, AgAlert staff writer, California Farm Bureau Federation**



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THE VIEWPOINT

with Haley Potter

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

Raised in a ranching family and now working in agricultural tech, Haley Potter is helping bring modern financial tools to producers through Ambrook, a platform aimed at making farm and ranch accounting more accessible and transparent.

Haley grew up immersed in ranch life in North Dakota and now lives in Montana with her husband, Joe, and their daughters, Ruby and Annette.

“I’ve tried to get as much experience in the cattle industry as possible,” Haley told *WLJ*. While earning her undergraduate degree at Oklahoma State University, she worked in the campus slaughterhouse, later adding time as a veterinary technician and in feed sales before stepping into her current role with Ambrook.

She was first drawn to Ambrook for the flexibility it offered, which allowed her and Joe to continue managing a remote cow camp two hours from town, where career op-

tions were limited and often felt out of reach. In addition to the cow camp, they are also working to integrate back into the family ranch and buying and selling ranch horses.

Beyond the flexibility, the company’s mission also strongly resonated with Haley.

“The mission of Ambrook is essentially to make farmers and ranchers more resilient so that they’re able to pass on the operation to the next generation,” Haley said, “which really spoke to me because I have two young girls and I want to be able to pass that on to them.”

Co-founder Mackenzie Burnett started the company with the intention of wanting operations to be more sustainable and understand their true cost of doing business. The idea stemmed from Mackenzie working with producers to apply for grants during COVID-19 and seeing firsthand how difficult it could be for farmers or ranchers to pull profit and loss reports or balance sheets simply because of the sheer complexity of their businesses. It’s not that the producers were bad recordkeepers, Haley explained, but with most operations running several different enterprises, the level of accounting required is often greater.

“That’s where a lot of folks were getting stuck,” Haley said.



Haley Potter

Courtesy photo

“So that’s where the idea of Ambrook was born; we need to solve this problem because there isn’t really a software that can do that well and affordably right now.”

In the early days, Mackenzie and her fellow co-founders, Jeff Anders and Dan Schlosser, visited operations across the country, coding software at kitchen tables and building the company into what it is today.

“We still do ranch visits, we

still go visit our customers and we still work with them side by side to make this bigger and better all the time to better solve a lot of the complexities that we see in agriculture that you don’t necessarily see in other businesses,” Haley said.

In her role in product operations on the full-service team, Haley helps customers get set up with the software and continues to offer support throughout the year.

“I also help them get into

really granular conversations about, for instance, what does this piece of machinery actually cost them to run per hour?” Haley explained. “I have a set amount of customers that I help every single day, doing check-ins, reconciliation work or setting up different enterprises.”

From her own experience, Haley has seen how challenging it can be to gain a practical understanding of finances in agriculture. While her time in college provided a solid foundation in production, she said the day-to-day realities of bookkeeping on an operation were largely left unexplored. Knowing that financial strain is often at the root of why operations don’t continue from one generation to the next, Haley is motivated to help bridge that gap and make those tools more accessible to producers.

Inside Ambrook’s approach

Ambrook has grown quickly from its humble beginnings during the COVID-19 years, supporting more than 7,000 customers now compared to the handful of customers in the early days.

“If you think about a lot of accounting software today, it’s designed specifically for the accountant or someone with a high level of accounting knowledge,” Haley said. “A lot of folks in agriculture didn’t get into ranching or farming because they love bookkeeping, but they do need to know how to bookkeep to really understand where they are at.”

That’s where Ambrook was designed to be looked at by both the operator and the accountant, and to be seamless to use for either party, she added.

“I think that is something that’s been missing from other softwares and where Ambrook really shines and helps solve a problem,” Haley said.

Customers have two options to choose from when getting started with Ambrook: a self-service path or a full-service path. Regardless of the option chosen, Ambrook offers real-person support from people in agriculture who understand the complexities and intricacies of the agriculture industry.

Those who choose the self-serve path are still able to connect with a support chat to answer messages. In Haley’s role, she works on the full-service side, where she helps customers one-on-one and they are able to reach out directly to her for more tailored support. This option is helpful for customers who have more complex operations or are wanting to integrate data from other softwares.

The enterprise level of accounting offered by Ambrook is one of the main features that sets it apart from other accounting softwares, Haley said. This can be especially helpful for ranchers managing several components of a business.

“They might have a lot of irons in the fire; maybe they put up their own hay, they run cattle, own a few rentals and also have a small trucking business on the side,” Haley said as an example. “What’s hard to do in other platforms is to keep those accounted for and look at them all together,

but then really dive into the question of whether one enterprise is subsidizing the other,” she said. “And we need to be able to answer those questions to keep making good financial decisions to be more profitable year after year.”

The software is also cloud-based, which makes it easy for the producer to access it on their phone.

“As we are looking at a true generation succession change in agriculture, you can have a login for the kids, one for mom and dad, maybe one for a hired hand, and they can all have different settings or privacy roles and permissions,” Haley explained.

Ambrook functions as a practical, day-to-day tool that can be used as often as an operation needs, she said. The platform can be connected directly to a user’s bank account, automatically pulling in transactions in real time to create an ongoing record of income and expenses. Users can then review and categorize those transactions in a way that aligns with their tax reporting and recordkeeping, while also generating reports throughout the year. All reports are generated in real time.

Customizable tags allow a user to break down performance across different parts of the business. This could include comparing how calves are performing at different feedlots, or tracking costs for specific projects, such as vet expenses on individual horses or annual machinery costs. The software is also able to track inventory, which could be especially helpful for businesses such as feed stores.

The platform can also simplify payment workflows, whether it’s collecting payments, depositing money or paying bills. The Ambrook Wallet feature is particularly noteworthy for producers in rural areas.

“I live nearly three hours away from my closest bank that we bank with,” Haley said. “Now I can deposit checks through Ambrook Wallet. Traditionally, a lot of times the checks were over the bank’s threshold, and I would have had to wait three to four weeks to go deposit it.”

Acknowledging user data privacy concerns, Haley said data on Ambrook is securely stored in the cloud and not sold or shared externally. If a user cancels their subscription, the data is retained for a set period before being permanently removed. She also pointed out that, compared to locally stored systems, such as QuickBooks on a computer desktop, cloud-based storage can offer added security since financial records aren’t tied to a single device and can still be accessed even if a computer is lost or damaged.

“We just want to make sure that it’s simple to get the complex answers that a lot of folks need,” Haley finished. “We want to make tax season so much easier because that can be a really stressful time. My day-to-day is genuinely trying to make this more robust and and share a lot of the feedback that I’m getting so that we are constantly improving the product for producers.” — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**

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LEGAL LEDGER

DOJ investigating meat companies

The Department of Justice’s antitrust division (DOJ) is reportedly investigating whether the Big Four packers engaged in anticompetitive behavior, the Wall Street Journal and Bloomberg each reported. The outlets reported that sources said DOJ lawyers are investigating Cargill, JBS, National Beef and Tyson Foods. The DOJ has not officially confirmed any investigation. Last fall, President Donald Trump called on the DOJ to investigate meat packing companies “who are driving up the price of Beef through Illicit Collusion, Price Fixing, and Price Manipulation.” The DOJ began an investigation into the companies during Trump’s first term, which the Biden administration continued before the DOJ closed the probe last year.

USDA adopting final NEPA rule

In early April, the USDA finalized its rule modernizing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) regulations. The final rule adopts the changes introduced in its Interim Final Rule last July, which consolidated seven agency-specific NEPA regulations into one department-wide framework, reducing the volume of regulations by 66%. “Since last July, agencies at USDA have shown they can reduce environmental review timelines by up to 80%,” said Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins. “Those savings benefit the American people, and quicker reviews mean the loans, critical infrastructure, and forest health projects our farmers, ranchers, and rural communities depend on can move forward sooner.”

NE brand bill update signed into law

A bill updating Nebraska’s livestock brand inspection laws was signed into law on April 17 after much back-and-forth debate. State Sen. Barry DeKay’s (R-NE-40) Legislative Bill 1187 originally overhauled the state’s Brand Committee and raised cattle inspection fees. In the final bill, brand inspections remain mandatory, although audit requirements for feedlots were reduced. Certain brand inspection fees were still increased. The bill expanded the Brand Committee from five members to seven, to now include a representative that owns or operates a feedyard inside the brand inspection area and another who owns or operates a sale barn within the area. Four members will represent their residing district, and must be primarily engaged in raising cattle. A fifth member will reside outside of the brand area to cover the rest of the state. The governor will appoint the members, which will then be confirmed by the legislature. “There is significant mistrust between the Brand Committee and the feed yards they audit,” said state Sen. Mike Jacobson (R-NE-42) in a Facebook post, whose amendments helped lead to the bill’s passage. “One of the Committee’s highest priorities going forward is to restore that trust.”

KDD recommends patrons sign up for KPDR

The Klamath Drainage District (KDD) is recommending its landowners evaluate their farm plans to consider idling acres, and to sign up for programs offered by the Klamath Project Drought Response Agency (KPDR). With lackluster snowpack in the Cascades Mountains and the Bureau of Reclamation allocating only 221,000 acre-feet of water to the Klamath Irrigation Project, KDD hopes for about 10,000 acres to be idled. During a mid-April KDD board meeting, Klamath Water Users Association Executive Director Elizabeth Nielsen estimated that about 40,000-50,000 acres will need to be idled in the Klamath Project. “The sooner acres are signed up the sooner the managers can figure out how to make the limited supplies work,” said Scotty Fenters, KDD board supervisor and KPDR committee member.

BLM announces Southern CA fire restrictions

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in mid-April announced seasonal fire restrictions for Southern California. Fire restrictions will go into effect on public lands in Imperial, southern Inyo, eastern Kern, Los Angeles, eastern Mono, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino and San Diego counties from April 15 through Oct. 29. The order establishes stage I and stage II fire restrictions across the California Desert District. “These seasonal restrictions help safeguard public land visitors, communities, adjacent private lands and natural resources from wildfire risk,” said Fire Management Officer Paul Gibbs with the U.S. Wildland Fire Service.

Appeal seeks to overturn NV lithium mine ruling

Environmental and Indigenous rights groups in early April appealed a federal court ruling that upheld approvals for the Rhyolite Ridge Lithium Mine in Nevada. The proposed mine would be located in southern Nevada’s Silver Peak Range and is estimated to produce enough lithium for about 400,000 electric vehicles per year. The groups filed suit to stop the project, arguing it would harm the Tiehm’s buckwheat wildflower. A district judge ruled against the groups in late March, saying the government properly approved the project and examined the impacts on the wildflower. The groups, led by the Center for Biological Diversity, appealed the judge’s ruling to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals.

Water releases not planned for Blue Mesa, Navajo Reservoir

DROUGHT (from page 1)

flexibility as conditions evolve.

According to the announcement, Flaming Gorge Reservoir, currently at about 83% of capacity with roughly 3.1 million acre-feet of water, will see a notable drawdown. BOR estimates the reservoir’s elevation could drop by about 35 feet over the next year, leaving it near 59% of capacity. Despite that reduction, officials said the releases will not affect contracted water rights at Flaming Gorge or Lake Powell.

The agency said similar releases are not planned for Blue Mesa in Colorado and Navajo Reservoir in New Mexico, due to already low storage levels and poor inflow forecasts.

BOR officials acknowledged the tradeoffs involved in the plan, particularly for downstream reservoirs. Reduced releases from Lake Powell are expected to accelerate declines at Lake Mead, poten-

tially cutting hydropower generation capacity at Hoover Dam by as much as 40% as early as this fall. The agency said they are working with officials in the Lower Basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada to offset those impacts through conservation efforts and coordinated management.

Additionally, the announcement said that the downstream water reduction will affect recreation and local economies. Lower reservoir levels could limit boating access at upstream sites, alter rafting conditions through the Grand Canyon, and further restrict access at Lake Mead National Recreation Area. BOR said it is coordinating with recreation managers to address those impacts as conditions change.

Assistant Secretary for Water and Science Andrea Travnicek said the agency’s immediate focus is on protecting system integrity. “Given

the severity of the risks facing the Colorado River system, it is imperative that we take action quickly,” she said, noting the importance of safeguarding water deliveries, infrastructure and operational flexibility.

The proposed drawdown has also drawn attention from Upper Basin state leaders, who emphasized the need for careful coordination. In a joint statement released on April 9, governors from Colorado, New Mexico, Utah and Wyoming called the current conditions “one of the worst on record.” They stressed that any releases from Flaming Gorge must comply with existing agreements and be appropriately sized.

The governors also underscored the impacts already being felt in the Upper Basin, where reduced runoff is triggering mandatory curtailments of water rights, some dating back to the 1800s. Those cuts, they noted, are

occurring without compensation and are affecting Tribes, agricultural producers and local economies. They further called for assurances that water released from upstream reservoirs will ultimately be recovered and emphasized the importance of maintaining storage for future dry years.

At the time of the announcement, Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum met with governors representing all seven Colorado River Basin states to discuss the situation. The meeting underscored the urgency of reaching a long-term agreement as the basin enters another year of extreme drought and tightening supplies.

“Interior and Reclamation continue to coordinate with the basin states, Tribes, Mexico and basin stakeholders as we make the decisions necessary to operate and protect the system,” Burgum said. — Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor

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SALE REPORTS

WISHBONE SIMMENTAL SALE

Feb. 27, Frannie, WY
44 Simmental yearling bulls \$9,702
6 Simmental bred heifers 6,042
45 Commercial spring open heifers 3,132
Auctioneer: Charlie Cummings

TOPS: W/B 001N, 2/27/2025 by 44 Victory; to B Slash Ranch, Frannie, WY, \$30,000. W/B 002N, 2/28/2025 by TERS Leopold 316L; to B Slash Ranch, Frannie, WY, \$20,000. W/B 003N, 3/1/2025 by 44 Victory; to Brad Tippets, Lovell, WY, \$14,000. W/B 013N, 3/6/2025 by TERS Leopold 316; to TA Ranch, Saratoga, WY, \$14,000. W/B 023N, 3/10/2025 by TERS Leopold 316L; to TA Ranch, Saratoga, WY, \$12,500. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

KLOMPIEN RED ANGUS ANNUAL BULL SALE

March 17, Manhattan, MT

44 Red Angus yearling bulls \$8,949
Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe
TOPS: DKK Wide Load 5016, 1/15/2025 by DKK Revival 3018; to Westphal Red Angus, Grass Range, MT, \$17,000. DKK Rival 5161, 2/11/2025 by DKK Revival 3018; to Mike's Red Angus, Geddes, SD, \$17,000. DKK Rolling Stone 5117, 1/31/2025 by NCRA Rolling Thunder 2034; to Lazy T Cattle, Chinook, MT, \$17,000. DKK Ignite 5149, 2/7/2025 by 3C Revitalize 3112; to Hance Red Angus, Circle, MT, \$14,000. DKK Raider 5070, 1/23/2025 by HRP Raider 2020K; to Street Livestock, Chinook, MT, \$14,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

MONTANA PERFORMANCE BULL SALE

March 20, Columbus, MT

284 Angus yearling bulls \$11,772

Auctioneers: Joe Goggins and Greg Goggins
TOPS: Basin Macallan 5017, 12/29/2024 by Basin Jameson 1076; to ABS Global, Deforest, WI, \$100,000. Basin True Grit 5049, 1/4/2025 by Basin True Grit 1021; to Express Ranches, Yukon, OK, Pollard Farms, Enid, OK, Bar S Angus, Paradise, KS, and Branchview Angus, Hustonville, KY, \$90,000. Basin Bluegrass 5207, 1/21/2025 by Boyd Bluegrass 1203; to Katie Collins Farms, Cartersville, GA, \$60,000. Basin Keystone 5252, 1/26/2025 by Basin Keystone 2021; to Rooney Angus, White Sulphur Springs, MT, \$40,000. Basin Rangeland 5196, 1/20/2025 by Basin Rangeland 3511; to Nova Johnson, Menomoneie, WI, \$40,000. Basin Jefferson 5027, 12/31/2024 by Basin Jefferson 1104; to Sellman Angus, Crawford, NE, and Kramer Angus, Farina, IL, \$40,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

DOUBET RANCH ANNUAL BULL SALE

March 31, Billings, MT
71 Salers yearling bulls \$10,655
Auctioneer: Ty Thompson

TOPS: DR Heritage 63N, 2/14/2025 by MAC F1 Lucchese 114L; to Jacob Miller, Worland, WY, \$18,500. DR North Church 92N, 1/25/2025 by DR Revere 317L; to Turnell Cattle Company, Meeteetse, WY, \$18,000. DR Heritage 24N, 2/21/2025 by MAC F1 Lucchese 114L; to Turnell Cattle Co., Meeteetse, WY, \$18,000. DR Stonewall 89N, 1/26/2025 by DR General Lee 75L; to V Ranch Inc., Thermopolis, WY, \$17,000. DR Heritage 42N, 2/10/2025 by MAC F1 Lucchese 114L; to Hamilton Ranch, Decker, MT, \$14,500. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

NISSEN ANGUS ANNUAL PRODUCTION SALE

April 1, Chinook, MT
51 Angus yearling bulls \$8,284
40 Commercial spring open heifers 3,250
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs

TOPS: NA Duke 561, 2/6/2025 by Millars Duke 816; to Alan and Racheal Weaver, Big Sandy, MT, \$16,500. NA Duke 543, 2/3/2025 by Millars Duke 816; to Big Sky Kellam Ranch, Chinook, MT, \$15,000. NA Rainmaker 341, 2/27/2025 by NA Rainmaker 341; to Calvin Bigby, Harlem, MT, \$15,000. NA Duke 548, 2/4/2025 by Millars Duke 816; to Triple K Farms, Chinook, MT, \$13,000. NA Duke 531, 2/1/2025 by Millars Duke 531; to Alan and Racheal Weaver, Big Sandy, MT, \$12,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

ARNTZEN ANGUS RANCH PRODUCTION SALE

April 2, Hilger, MT
212 Angus yearling bulls \$11,493
20 Angus spring open heifers 8,100
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs

TOPS: A A R Midas N075, 2/4/2025 by A A R Midas; to Stuckey Ranch, Kingman, KS, \$36,000. A A R Padre N270, 2/19/2025 by Tehama Padre H690; to Big Dry Angus, Jordan, MT, \$26,000. A A R Stryker 5129, 2/21/2025 by Simonson Stryker 942; to Jamie Kinsey, Flemington, WV, \$24,000. A A R Padre 5535, 2/5/2025 by Tehama Padre H690; to Fintail Ranch, Twin Bridges, MT, \$21,000. A A R Justified N100, 2/6/2025 by A A R Justified K012; to Owen Stone, Geraldine, MT, \$20,000. A A R Stryker 5531, 2/5/2025 by Simonson Stryker 942; to Krupa Ranch, Kimball, SD, \$20,000. A A R Hilger 5911, 2/2/2025 by A A

R Hilger 2901; to Frosty Creek Angus, Roundup, MT, \$20,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

MIDLAND BULL TEST BULL SALE

April 3, Columbus, MT
300 Angus yearling bulls \$8,352
3 LimFlex yearling bulls 6,583
8 Salers yearling bulls 6,125
2 Simmental yearling bulls 5,500
5 Hereford yearling bulls 4,833
11 Red Angus yearling bulls 4,682
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins and Greg Goggins

TOPS—Fall yearling bull: BR Mojo 4103, 9/27/2024 by KR Mojo 8520; to James Schmidt, Menoken, ND, \$32,000. **Yearling bulls:** 7 Oaks Crosswind N513, 12/12/2024 by VAR Crosswind 1361; to Sunny Okanogan Angus, Omak, WA, \$35,000. Silver State Resilient 5074, 3/1/2025 by Moore Resilient 115A; to Lucky 7 Angus, Riverton, WY, \$27,500. 7 Oaks Blackhawk N511, 12/10/2024 by Virginia Tech Statesman; to T & E Angus, Clarks, NE, \$25,000. Craft Prolific 1003-513, 12/30/2024 by Ellingson Prolific; to Hart Angus Farms, Frederick, SD, \$24,000. 7 Oaks Component N512, 12/12/2024 by VAR Crosswind 1361; to Rhett Abernathy, Lander, WY, \$24,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

BIG COUNTRY GENETICS BULL SALE

April 4, Cody, WY
169 SimAngus yearling bulls \$8,596
63 Commercial bred heifers 4,434
33 Commercial spring open heifers 2,800
Auctioneer: Ty Thompson

TOPS: 136N, 3/19/2025 by BCG Big Country Summit;

to Brady Coffield, Lake Bronson, MN, \$24,000. 256N, 4/9/2025 by BCG-Rockhill 767L; to Y Not Ranch, Carriere, MS, \$18,000. 1229N, 4/6/2025 by BCG 1295J; to LU Ranch, Worland, WY, \$18,000. 009N, 3/1/2025 by BCG Big Country Summit; to L U Ranch, Worland, WY, \$16,000. 518N, 4/15/2025 by X/L Magnus 330L; to Greenman Livestock, Olivet, MI, \$16,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

BROOKS CHALKY BUTTE ANGUS RANCH PRODUCTION SALE

April 4, Bowman, ND
158 Angus yearling bulls \$6,920
297 Commercial spring open heifers 3,434
Auctioneers: Seth Weishaar and Scott Weishaar

TOPS: Brooks Keystone 551, 2/13/2025 by Basin Keystone 2021; to Wendel Livestock, Lamoure, ND, \$26,000. Brooks Tahoe 5400 SB, 3/14/2025 by Woodhill Tahoe F004-K126; to Donovan & Son, Alva, OK, \$16,500. Brooks Keystone 5485, 3/28/2025 by Basin Keystone 2021; to Kevin Boltz, Ennis, MT, \$15,500. Brooks Rise Above 5209, 2/20/2025 by Stellpflug Hoffman Riseabove; to Randy Oppe, Towner, ND, \$15,000. Brooks Keystone 558, 2/14/2025 by Basin Keystone 2021; to Brewer Ranch, Bowman, ND, \$14,500. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

STUBER RANCH PRODUCTION SALE

April 6, Bowman, ND
106 Hereford yearling bulls \$10,118
35 Hereford spring open heifers 7,300
51 Commercial spring open heifers 3,359
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins

TOPS—Spring open heifer: SR DS Stanara 5041N, 3/21/2025 by Churchill Stanfield 3122L; to Dry Creek Farm, Pell City, AL, \$15,000. **Yearling bulls:** SR Mitch's Mesa 45N, 2/21/2025 by SR Deep Creek 23L; to Van Newkirk Herefords, Oshkosh, NE, \$80,000. SR Stanza 455N, 3/21/2025 by Churchill Stanfield 3122L; to Stroh Herefords, Killdeer, ND, \$31,000. SR Stanza 355N, 3/19/2025 by Churchill Stanfield 3122L; to Travis Henderson, Forestburg, AB, \$30,000. SR Mesa 745N, 2/18/2025 by SR Deep Creek 23L; to Friedt Herefords, Mott, ND, \$27,500. SR Stanza 825, 2/23/2025 by Churchill Stanfield 3122L; to Danny Ackerman, Elgin, ND, \$22,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

HINMAN ANGUS BULL SALE

April 7, Malta, MT
140 Angus yearling bulls \$9,975
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins

TOPS: HA Unified 5836, 2/10/2025 by Circle L Unified; to Kim Angus, Manhattan, MT, \$21,000. HA Incentive 5572, 2/9/2025 by HA Incentive L959; to Scherbenske Angus Ranch, Lehr, ND, \$21,000. HA Three Rivers 5711, 2/24/2025 by Ver-

million Three Rivers L171; to Dry Fork Livestock, Kaycee, WY, \$20,000. HA Courage 5686, 2/22/2025 by S A V Courage 3003; to Dry Fork Livestock, Kaycee, WY, \$18,000. HA PSI 5876, 2/8/2025 by HAPSIK031; to Duckworth Cattle Co., Courval, SK, \$18,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

5L RED ANGUS SALE

April 10, Sheridan, MT
7 SimAngus yearling bulls \$10,214
196 Red Angus yearling bulls 9,676
19 Black Profit Plus yearling bulls 8,842
9 Red Angus/Charolais yearling bulls 5,556
160 Commercial spring open heifers 3,275
Auctioneer: Trent Stewart

TOPS—Red Angus yearling bulls: 5L Y Not 812-90N, 2/13/2025 by 5L Y Not 807L-509L; to Loosli Red Angus, Ashton, ID, \$27,500. 5L Fiesta 19-113N, 2/16/2025 by 5L Fiesta 588-356L; to Sandbur Ridge Red Angus, Petersburg, NE, \$23,000. 5L Identity 93-88N, 2/13/2025 by LSF SRR Identity 0295H; to Ormiston Farms, Kismet, KS, \$22,000. 5L Herd Saver 4993-14N, 1/30/2025 by 5L Herd Saver 2776-76K; to Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, \$20,000. 5L Identity 5205-150N, 2/19/2025 by LSF SRR Identity 0295H; to Tash Livestock, Polaris, MT, \$20,000. SimAngus yearling bull: 5L Augustine 1962-298N, 3/12/2025 by LCOC Augustine U927E; to Otley Brothers Inc., Diamond, OR, \$20,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

MATH FARMS BULL AND FEMALE SALE

April 11, Glasgow, MT
50 Angus yearling bulls \$11,360
28 Angus 2-year-old bulls 7,464
95 Commercial spring open heifers 3,582
Auctioneer: Roger Jacobs

TOPS: Math Black Rifle 512, 2/2/2025 by MATH Black Rifle 5099; to Artnzen Angus, Hilger, MT, \$20,000. Math North Pac 5015, 2/25/2025 by Math Northern Pacific 208; to Sean Dailley, Chester, MT, \$18,000. Math North Pac 205, 2/8/2025 by Math Northern Pacific 208; to Kent Wassen, Whitewater, MT, \$17,000. Math Northern Pacific 5615, 2/27/2025 by Math Northern Pacific 208; to F. Anderson Ranch, Whitewater, MT, \$16,000. Math Clipper 285, 2/18/2025 by GDAR Clipper 225; to Dillon Lipp, Hingham, MT, \$15,500. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

C SPEAR ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE

April 13, Billings, MT
115 Angus yearling bulls \$10,749
7 Angus 2-year-old bulls 7,714
Auctioneer: Greg Goggins

TOPS: C Spear Dynamic N102, 1/30/2025 by B A R Dynamic; to Bar JV Angus, Fairview, MT, \$30,000. C Spear Dynamic N001,

Continues on page 11.

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Feds pitch wild horse removals, new herd plans in the Red Desert

The vast majority of free-roaming horses occupying a vast swath of Wyoming's Red Desert could be rounded up and trailered away to long-term pastures if Bureau of Land Management (BLM) plans now being reviewed come to pass.

Potential roundups could target thousands of animals in the Green Mountain, Stewart Creek, Antelope Hills, Crooks Mountain and Lost Creek herds, which dwell on approximately 753,000 acres north of Interstate 80. Collectively known as the "Red Desert complex," the herds are separate from three other herds roaming the public-private "checkerboard" portion of the Red Desert. BLM has long sought to entirely remove the three herds in the checkerboard but that plan is tied up in litigation and on hold until at least October.

Instead of eliminating the Red Desert complex herds, the BLM seeks to knock down numbers to an appropriate management level to balance the "the needs of wildlife, livestock, recreation and the long-term health of the range," an agency spokesperson told WyoFile in an emailed statement. BLM personnel declined a verbal interview for this story.

Documents accompanying BLM's proposal contend that the nonnative free-roaming horses have impacted the Red Desert's

ecological health.

"Rangeland resources within the complex have experienced adverse effects as a result of wild horse overpopulation," states the evaluation report for the Stewart and Lost Creek herds. "Monitoring data specific to this area indicated that past excessive wild horse populations were linked to historical riparian degradation."

University of Wyoming-led research that included three of the at-issue herds—Crooks Mountain, Green Mountain and Stewart Creek—shows that overpopulated horses are correlated with declining juvenile sage grouse survival rates.

The Red Desert complex herds are overpopulated, at least based on the appropriate management levels established in the early 1990s. The goal is for the herds to include somewhere between 480 and 724 total animals, but as of early March the population was estimated at 1,970 horses and expected to grow to 2,300 by the time the herds are surveyed in the fall.

Free-roaming horses face little natural predation and have high survival rates. The herds can grow by about 20% annually—a clip that enables them to double every five years or so. Data included in the evaluation report for the Green Mountain, Antelope

Hills and Crooks Mountain herds shows that the Red Desert complex populations have largely followed that trend. Roundups in 2018 and 2020 knocked numbers in those three herds down to about 900 in 2021. By 2027, however, projections are for more than double that many horses.

BLM is in the early "scoping" phase of its plans, and federal land managers have not divulged what exactly they're proposing. The public notice only states that herd evaluations are more than 30

years old, need to be revised, and the agency's Lander and Rawlins field offices "intend to gather excess wild horses" from the herds. Presumably, the roundups could target between 1,576 and 1,820 horses, which is the gap between the appropriate management level and the estimated fall 2026 population.

Herd plan updates will address the appropriate management levels, rangeland health, population suppression methods, genetic diversity and sage grouse habitat, according

to the evaluation reports.

Roundups to reduce wild horse numbers from public lands are routine business. This fiscal year, BLM is planning to gather up and trailer away more than 15,000 animals, according to the agency's most recent gather and fertility control schedule. Planned activities in Wyoming are minimal: They include fertility control on 95 horses in the Stewart Creek and McCullough Peaks herds, and a "drive trap" roundup targeting removal of 286 animals from the Fifteenmile Herd.

The rounded-up equines cannot be intentionally killed because of protections afforded by the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act. Some horses find new homes through adoption programs, but most live out their days at private and government-run pastures, corrals and holding facilities.

BLM is accepting public comment on its proposal through May 4. To submit remarks, go to eplanning.blm.gov and search for "DOI-BLM-WY-R050-2026-0012-EA." — **Mike Koshmrl, WyoFile**

Wolves continue to expand westward in Oregon

WOLF COUNT (from page 1)

response to repeated depredations.

WDFW and Tribal biologists documented 28 wolf mortalities in 2025, including four wolves removed in response to livestock conflict, two killed while actively depredating, and additional deaths from natural, capture-related and unknown causes. Twelve wolves were legally harvested by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation hunters, while three unlawful killings were documented, with one case referred for prosecution and two still under investigation.

Oregon

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) officials reported a similar upward trend in wolf numbers, though with a more pronounced increase in livestock conflicts. The state's minimum wolf count reached 230 animals at the end of 2025, a 13% increase from the previous year. Thirty packs were documented, with 23 packs meeting the definition of breeding pairs, up from 17 in 2024.

According to the report, wolves are expanding into new areas, especially west into the Cascades, where three new packs were documented. The population is still divided between

eastern and western management zones, with most wolves located in the eastern part of the state. In the west, wolves have now met breeding pair goals for the second year in a row, while the eastern population continues to exceed those targets and remains under Phase III management.

At the same time, ODFW reported a sharp increase in livestock depredations. The state documented 106 confirmed depredation events in 2025, compared to 69 the previous year. Confirmed livestock losses in 2025 included 10 cows, 77 calves, eight sheep, one goat and one working dog. Wolves also injured 11 cows, 27 calves, one goat and two working dogs,

while 16 cattle and one mule were classified as probable losses. Those incidents were heavily concentrated in northeastern Oregon, where wolf densities are highest.

The increase in depredations drove a corresponding rise in management costs and actions. Oregon distributed \$729,318 in county grants to address wolf-livestock conflict, with 84% of those funds directed toward nonlethal prevention efforts. In addition, 20 wolves were lethally removed in response to chronic depredation, and three were killed by producers while attacking livestock. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

2026

**BEEF IMPROVEMENT FEDERATION
RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM & CONVENTION**

JUNE 1-4, 2026

Boise Centre, 850 W Front St, Boise, ID 83702

LEARN MORE

Registration and more information at:
beefimprovement.org/2026-symposium/

2026 BIF RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM & CONVENTION

BIF 2026

JUNE 1-4 • BOISE, IDAHO

University of Idaho
Idaho Cattle Association

MARKET NEWS

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 4/23/2026	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	246.02	▼ 247.94	211.05
CME Feeder Index	373.44	▼ 379.09	288.97
Boxed Beef Average	383.50	▲ 381.57	333.70
Average Dressed Steers	386.00	▼ 388.00	N/A
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,472	▼ 1,476	1,432
Weekly Slaughter**	514,000	▲ 512,000	576,000
Weekly Beef Production***	462.4	▲ 461.4	502.8
Hide/Offal Value	13.72	▼ 13.80	11.84
Corn Price	4.57	▲ 4.53	4.78
*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
April 17	6,365	385.95	311	399.89	1,343	389.11	1,863	382.30	461	379.82	2,387 364.11
April 10	6,325	390.15	291	401.48	1,271	394.06	1,961	386.41	413	385.52	2,389 365.80
April 3	6,480	394.86	317	407.78	1,161	397.56	2,081	391.55	465	388.71	2,456 368.50
March 27	7,054	397.49	286	408.88	1,304	402.61	2,169	394.79	762	391.80	2,533 372.47
Cutouts			FED BOXED BEEF								
DATE	CHOICE		SELECT		COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN		90% LEAN		
April 23	383.50		382.58		349.80		191.07		447.72		
April 22	384.19		383.33		354.16		N/A		458.08		
April 21	386.18		387.20		347.76		193.55		N/A		
April 20	383.56		383.61		347.43		193.82		445.91		
April 17	381.06		376.60		347.33		189.48		N/A		

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle						
	4/17	4/20	4/21	4/22	4/23	High* Low*
Apr.	24995	24960	24743	24685	24770	25360 16853
Jun.	24735	24608	24355	24308	24395	25200 16668
Aug.	24283	24160	23970	23918	24033	25018 17005
Oct.	23810	23698	23545	23505	23595	25093 18068
CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle						
	4/17	4/20	4/21	4/22	4/23	High* Low*
Apr.	37133	36888	36658	36680	36895	38103 21920
May	36528	36110	35855	35843	36085	38280 22268
Aug.	36568	36135	35895	35888	36100	38020 22460
Sep.	36360	35923	35668	35643	35843	37860 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	6,390	1,588	246.02
Live FOB Heifer	4,267	1,412	246.00
Dressed Del Steer	3,683	1,029	386.00
Dressed Del Heifer	2,062	902	386.00
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	806	1,463	247.94
Live FOB Heifer	747	1,327	248.00
Dressed Del Steer	345	977	388.00
Dressed Del Heifer	440	824	388.00
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	413	1,448	211.05
Live FOB Heifer	98	1,514	211.84
Dressed Del Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: APRIL 19, 2026		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	35,189	2,557
Formula	213,139	3,250
Negotiated Cash	72,215	93
Negotiated Grid	22,585	1,580
Packer Owned	11,237	N/A
Total	354,365	7,480

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,852
Apr. '26	185,186	Neg. Sales 21+ days	980
May '26	110,131	Formula sales	3,474
Jun. '26	122,144	Forward contract sales	59
Jul. '26	83,863	Domestic sales	5,508
Aug. '26	125,271	NAFTA Exports	118

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		237.79 +3.82
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		236.21 +3.89
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		236.97 +5.19
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		235.00 +5.22
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		167.99 +6.43
*Price comparison from one week ago.		

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, April 21, 2026			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	503.23	503.74	482.45
601-700 lbs	450.39	449.58	441.63
701-800 lbs	401.76	407.83	391.73
801-900 lbs	360.75	365.38	375.98
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	483.61	478.70	436.40
501-600 lbs	453.21	454.32	407.55
601-700 lbs	403.26	403.79	368.61
701-800 lbs	366.77	375.35	331.24

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
Feeders	4/13/2026	4/6/2026	0	230,638
IMPORTS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE				

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE	
April 23, 2026	
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary	
Receipts EST: N/A	Week Ago EST: N/A Year Ago Act: 4,750
THIS REPORT WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED AFTER MAY 12TH 2025. THE BORDER WILL BE CLOSED FOR LIVESTOCK IMPORTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.	
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2
500-600 lbs	N/A 500-600 lbs N/A
600-700 lbs	N/A 600-700 lbs N/A
700-800 lbs	N/A 700-800 lbs N/A
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2
500-600 lbs	N/A 500-600 lbs N/A
600-700 lbs	N/A 600-700 lbs N/A
700-800 lbs	N/A 700-800 lbs N/A

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

Selected Auctions Week Ending April 23, 2026					Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2					
DATE MARKET		200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS
No report available Blackfoot, ID										
April 16 Burley, ID	420		535 525	541-560 477-484	441-504 441-466	430-441 438	391-403	289-299 325	181-222 193-224	
No report available Emmett, ID										
April 18 Eugene, OR	913		400-520* 345-500*	410-577* 400-535*	410-542* 320-435*	360-472* 310-430*	310-375* 285-350*	280-364* 255-337*	180-210 229.50	2,200-4,200 2,150-3,100
April 20 Madras, OR	170			445-475 345-385	450-480 400-440	400-470 410-425		330-340	160-180 175-216	3,150-4,200
April 22 Vale, OR	799			525-572	440-510 400-452	400-427 380-415	375-393 350-381	330-370	177-196 190-234	3,800-4,725 2,950-4,025
April 20 Davenport, WA	115		490 465	350-455 320-435	407.50-437.50 392.50-407.50	367.50-392.50 364	342.50-362.50 326	237.50-275	117-237.50 157.50-352.50	3,800-4,200 3,050
April 16 Toppenish, WA	1,132		510*	540-565* 475*	510* 410*	410-457.50* 400*			169-196 180-232	4,375

NORTHWEST

April 16 Orland, CA	2,487		400-670 380-650	400-645 380-570	350-547 320-500	350-467 320-431	325-460 305-350	300-372 280-336	155-188 150-228	3,000-5,200 2,500-3,850
No report available Escalon, CA										
No report available Famoso, CA										
April 15 Galt, CA	2,189			480-600 440-585	450-569 400-540	370-493 335-442	330-420 350-430	286-359 300-330	100-195 150-206	3,000-5,000 3,000-4,250
April 21 Turlock, CA	1,676		505-597.50 495-560	497-577.50 485-569	460-525 445-525	365-460 375-409	344-400 325-349	330-362 320-340	150-203 174-218	
April 21 Salina, UT	1,035	525-635	445-615 350-582.50	375-572.50 330-505	360-515 325-440	342.50-461 317.50-415	320-364 285-360	245-362 280-340	143.50-186.90 185.65-278.35	2,950-4,150

April 20 Iowa	8,401		585-755 495-630	530-643 465-545	431-565 412.50-486.50	375-476 374-430	350-427 336-376	336-383.50 299.75-340	148-277.50 142-289.50	
April 21 Miles City, MT	849			500-565	413-475.50	392* 385-416	350-369	340* 345.50	130-187 162.50-240	4,300
April 22 Bassett, NE	6,345			552.50-615 507.50-567.50	479-575 455-482.50	424-472.50 386-492.50	397.50-423 363-477	321.50-391 324.50-360		
No report available Ericson, NE										
April 17 Imperial, NE	301			450	495	409 399		352 306.50-325.75		
No report available Kearney, NE										
April 17 Lexington, NE	1,571		635 600	532.50-578 486-502.50	460-541 420-439	442-469 395-412	388-420 343-387	364.50-381 329-348		4,000-4,150
No report available Ogallala, NE										
April 16 Valentine, NE	450									3,850-5,475 2,825-5,050
April 17 Herreid, SD	2,238			475	450-545 447.50-455	432.50-433 407.50-425	417-425 347.50-401	334-369.75 344.50-394		
April 15 Torrington, WY	4,120		685-700 572-635	565-590 470-535	489-585 415-472	420-487 380-421	378-421 365-387	331-385.50 316-355		

April 16 Willcox, AZ	955	559-570 480-535	477-550 457-515	452-504 393-410	399-435 357-430	348-370 310-330			140-222 180-221	3,150-3,600 2,500-3,000
No report available Colorado										
April 15 La Junta, CO	1,583		580-640 522-555	537.50-572.50 450-525	455-517.50 392.50-465	397.50-462.50 332.50-402.50	341-399 332.50-356	332.50-341.50	171-189 201-226	
April 20 Loma, CO	833		575-650 520-620	520-590 465-590	440-525 425-465	385-460 360-425	350-405 330-370	250-360 250-340	170-193 195-250	
April 22 Dodge City, KS	2,627		640 540	532.50-548.50 438-510	437-520 410-445	430-454 363-425	368-416 325-365	321.50-368.50 307-329.50	141-189 170-249	2,325-3,700
April 16 Pratt, KS	3,563	343.50	537.50-627.50 505-565	522.50-550 427.50-490	460-520 395-460	381-470 373-424	338.50-392 316-342	308-375.50 305-347	160-308 170-226	2,100-4,600 2,500-4,000
April 16 Salina, KS	4,748		560-640 520-565	550-625 470-550	490-542.50 425-512	416-490 372-425	383-429 343-374	329.50-374 320-358		
April 22 Clovis, NM	1,371	665-760	580-650 525-600	485-601 425-520	405-520 352-440	387-430 345-392	351-359 368	280-359 305-310	161-179.50 153-220	1,700-4,000 1,250-3,400
April 22 El Reno, OK	9,147	620-680	580-650 500-540	510-570 440-530	450-550 405-455	395-470 340-445	350-407.50 327.50-362	302-375 265-344		
April 21 McAlester, OK	650		575-725 475-620	435-590 430-510	470-525 375-465	425-450 333-405	363-410 320-355	263 290-330	162-187 197-200	2,800-3,100 2,700-3,150
April 21 Oklahoma City, OK	5,867	660	580-645 480-595	512.50-612 425-527	440-532 401-457.50	409-463 362-413	363-408 344-369	314-385 318-338.50		
April 17 Cuero, TX	1,291	591-800 538-630	561-700 480-615	481-575 440-525	428-500 399-475	408-438 366-440	366-386 354-382		142-186 195-220	1,450-3,600 1,850-3,700
April 16 Dalhart, TX	1,822	662.50		655	492.50-505	502.50 392-447.50	381-396 340-354	306-367 322.50-338	145-190	2,450
April 23 San Angelo, TX	314	615-640	600-640 495-580	500-530 450-515	425-515 407.50-530	400-440 368-410	355-380	342.50 285-330	150-178 180-225	2,000-4,100 2,550-3,300
April 16 Tulia, TX	2,263		565	510-625 464-510	470-550 385-445	390 357-380	360-374 303-358	295.50-368 285-320	173.50	2,500-3,500

SOUTH CENTRAL

A look at global beef consumption and imports

Global beef consumption in 2026 is projected at 59.5 million metric tons (mmt), down 1.4% year over year, largely due to decreased beef consumption in China. Global beef consumption has increased an average of 0.8% annually in the last 46 years, from the 1980 level of 42.4 mmt. The U.S. is the largest beef-consuming nation, accounting for 22.4% of total global beef consumption in 2026. The U.S. has averaged 23.3% of global beef consumption since 1980. China/Hong Kong is the second largest beef-consuming country, with total consumption more than dou-

bling in the past 25 years. Brazil is the No. 3 beef-consuming country, followed by the European Union (EU) at No. 4. Typically, large beef-producing countries are also large beef-consuming countries. China/Hong Kong is the largest beef-importing country, having moved ahead of the U.S. in 2017 (Figure 2). Beef imports in China/Hong Kong have increased sharply since 2013, and especially after 2018, with beef imports supplementing domestic beef production to rapidly increase beef consumption in China/Hong Kong (Figure 3). The next three beef-importing countries: Japan,

South Korea and the E.U. combined are less than the U.S. (Figure 2). Figure 4 shows the rapid increase China/Hong Kong beef imports as a share of global total imports, pushing China/Hong Kong ahead of the U.S. since 2017. The U.S. share of global beef imports has remained relatively steady for many years. China/Hong Kong is certainly the major driver of global beef trade. Recent tariff rate quotas announced by China will have ripple effects on all global beef markets. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Figure 1. Beef Consumption
2026 Forecast, Carcass Weight

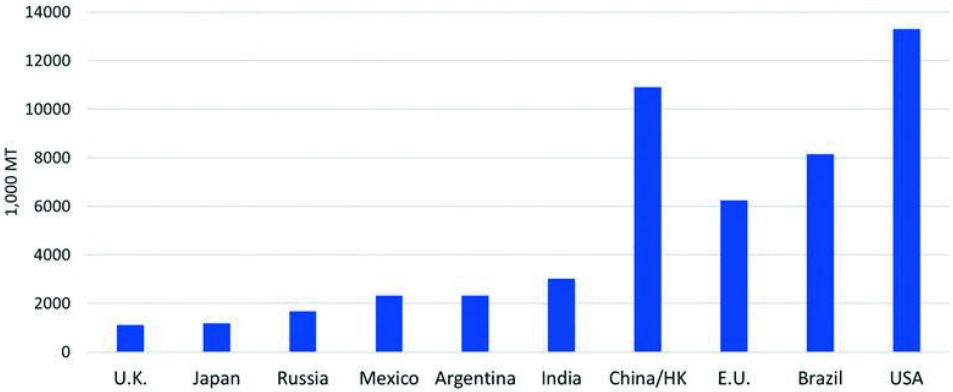


Figure 2. Beef Imports
2026 Forecast, Carcass Weight

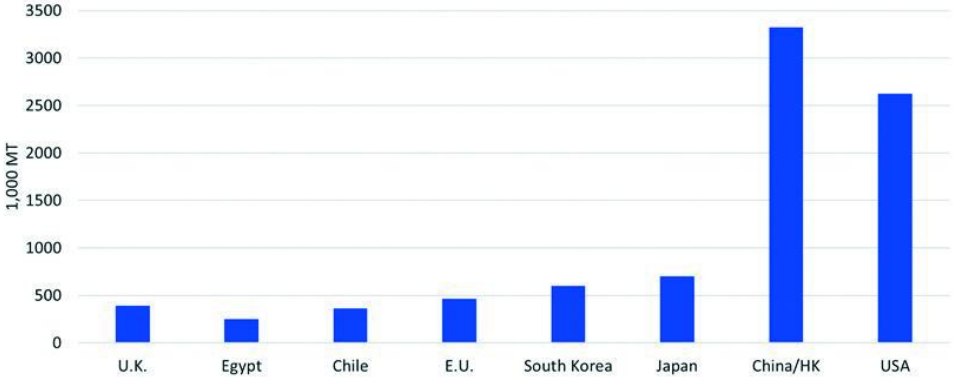


Figure 3. China/Hong Kong Beef Imports

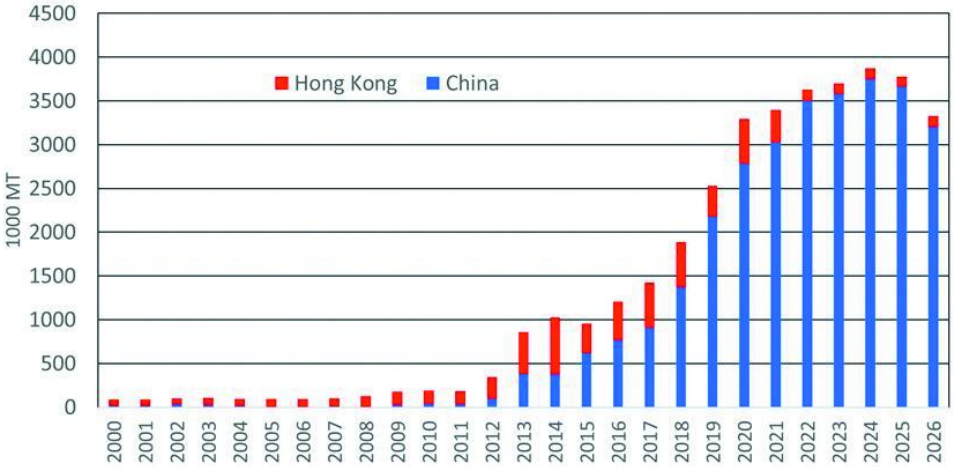
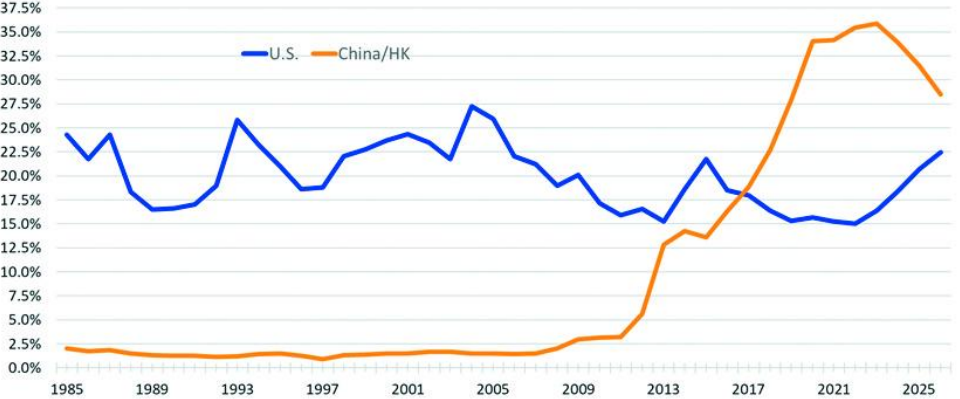


Figure 4. U.S. and China/HK Beef Import Share
% of Global Total



USDA releases Cattle on Feed report

MARKETS (from page 1)

\$2 on the Choice cutout to \$383.50 and up about \$4 on the Select cutout to \$382.58. “With May 1 only one week from tomorrow, there is anticipation that seasonal beef demand will pull the cutout higher,” Fish said. “Packer margins will improve, although they were red by over \$100 per head last week.” USDA released its latest Cattle on Feed report on April 17. As of April 1, the number of cattle and calves on feed totaled 11.6 million head, 1% below last year. Placements were 7% lower than last year, and marketings were 6% lower. Other disappearance totaled 50,000 head, 9% below 2025.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures also traded lower. The April contract lost more than \$6 to close at \$366.80, and the May contract lost nearly \$9 to close at \$358.42. The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost \$5.65 to close at \$373.44. Corn futures traded mostly sideways, up 6 cents on the May contract to \$4.54 and up 5 cents on the July contract to \$4.62. **Missouri:** Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 7,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, at the mid-session, feeder steers and heifers sold \$5-15 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 767 lbs. sold from \$373-390, averaging \$377.24. **Oklahoma:** Oklahoma

National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 6,000 head on Monday. Compared to the last sale, at the mid-session, feeder steers sold mostly steady and feeder heifers sold \$2-4 lower. Steer and heifer calves were lightly tested and unevenly steady. Benchmark steers averaging 778 lbs. sold from \$367-388, averaging \$379.09. **South Dakota:** Sioux Falls Regional in Worthing sold 3,237 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers 800-1,000 lbs. sold \$2-8 higher and feeder heifers over 700 lbs. sold steady to \$5 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 793 lbs. sold from \$383.50-386, averaging \$384.40. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**



COMING EVENTS

(Send calendar of events information to editorial@wlj.net.)
May 21-22 – The Stockmanship & Stewardship event in Farmington, NM, will help ranchers gain practical, hands-on knowledge that strengthens animal care, enhances cattle handling skills and supports the sustainability of their

operations. Details: stockmanshipandstewardship.org.
May 27-29 – Registration is open for the 142nd Montana Stockgrowers Association MidYear Meeting in Great Falls, MT, at the Great Falls Civic Center. Details: mtbeef.org/event/midyear-meeting.



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.)
May 31 – Applications for the Sheep Heritage

Foundation Scholarship are now open through the American Sheep Industry Association. This scholarship provides \$3,000 in financial support for a graduate student that is pursuing a sheep-related study that will support the advancement of the U.S. sheep industry, lamb and wool. Details: tinyurl.com/4356awwv.



- WEEKLY SALE
EVERY WEDNESDAY -

CLM REPRESENTATIVES

Jake Parnell.....916-662-1298
Walter Schalla, *Manager*..719-252-6607
George Gookin.....209-482-1648
Rex Whittle.....209-996-6994
Mark Fischer.....209-768-6522
Kris Gudel.....916-208-7258
Steve Bianchi.....707-484-3903
Jason Dailey.....916-439-7761
Brett Friend.....510-685-4870
Tod Radelfinger.....775-901-3332
Bowdy Griffin.....530-906-5713

AUCTION MARKET

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Office.....209-745-1515
Fax.....209-745-1582
Website/Market Report clmgalt.com
Web Broadcast.....lmaauctions.com

WEDNESDAY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Butcher Cows..... 8:30am
Cow-Calf Pairs/Bred Cows...11:30am
Feeder Cattle.....12pm

SPECIAL FEEDER SALES

- WEDNESDAYS -

APRIL 29 • MAY 6 • MAY 27
JUNE 10 • JUNE 24

CATTLEMEN'S FEEDER SPECIALS

SPONSORED BY AMADOR EL DORADO SACRAMENTO COUNTY

MONDAY, MAY 4 & 18
MONDAY, JUNE 1

CONSIGNMENTS WELCOME FROM ALL CA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS WITH A DONATION BEING MADE BACK TO LOCAL ASSOCIATION

PAIR & BRED COW SALES

WENDES DAYS
MAY 20 • JUNE 17

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MAY 20 - GALT, CA
CONSIGNMENT DEADLINE MAY 12

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University of Idaho dedicates new meat science laboratory

More than 300 supporters gathered April 10 to help dedicate a new University of Idaho (U of I) meat science laboratory with ample space and modern technology to better serve the state's rapidly growing beef industry.

The 12,750-square-foot Meat Science and Innovation Center Honoring Ron Richard includes a Vandal Brand Meats storefront, a fabrication room, a further-processing room, two pass-through smokehouses, a product packaging area, a large classroom with audio-visual technology and an integrated test kitchen, among other amenities.

The new building replaces a 5,000-square-foot, 1960s-era facility where space was too limited to conduct multiple tasks simultaneously, which forced the meat sciences team to constantly shuffle heavy equipment between rooms.

"The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences (CALS) is celebrating our 125th year this year—125 years of leading, innovating, exploring and providing practical research-based information to our communities," said Leslie Edgar, J.R. Simplot endowed dean of CALS. "Facilities like this position us to continue our land-grant mission, both

now and into the future."

Demand in Idaho has never been stronger for meat science professionals. The state is home to more than 8,100 cattle operations supporting 2.5 million head of cattle, valued at more than \$2.6 billion.

"The students who graduate from here have a 100% job placement rate, and now they get to learn their craft in one of the best facilities in the country," U of I President Scott Green said. "This project offers another great example of what the U of I can accomplish when private partners, the state of Idaho and our own investments are combined."

Planning for the \$17.5 million project started more than a decade ago, and several stakeholders contributed generous donations to make it possible. Discussions about the need for a new meat science facility were ongoing when Michael Parrella, former J.R. Simplot endowed dean of CALS, joined the university in February 2016.

"We've done some incredible work—great teaching, great research, great outreach and Extension—in the old facility, but there's no question that it was not a showplace," Parrella said. "The meat science program,

which is a signature program here on campus, should have the physical aspects that reflect the quality, size and importance of the industry it's designed to serve."

The meat science facility's namesake, Ron Richard, was a longtime manager of Vandal Brand Meats who died in 2018. Richard's sons, who attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony believe he would have been moved by the tribute to his legacy.

"He loved this entire program, and I believe this

building shows how much he cared about all of this," his youngest son, Angus Richard, said. "As his sons, we're honored and grateful that this building is here and that it's named in his honor, and we're looking forward to the future that it's going to provide for everybody."

Tyrel Richard added, "He'd be honored and stoked for the new facility after working in that old one for so long and seeing how much it was needed." — **U of I Extension**



University of Idaho
University of Idaho (U of I) officials and supporters cut the ribbon to dedicate the new Meat Science and Innovation Center Honoring Ron Richard, located at U of I's Moscow campus.



VIDEO AUCTION

Gulf Coast Classic Video Auction April 16-17, Natchitoches, LA

Superior Livestock Auction hosted their Gulf Coast Classic Video Auction live April 16 and 17 from the Natchitoches Events Center in Natchitoches, LA. Cattle producers sold

57,077 head of calves, yearlings and bred stock totaling 498 lots from 23 states for this offering. Strong buyer participation from several bidders throughout the auction resulted in 131 different successful buyers. Cattle were sold on contract to deliver immediately through November 2026. Recent rains and an increased

demand for slaughter cattle created an upwardly trending market report despite various outside pressures. Regions 3/4/5/6 feeder steers and feeder heifers saw increased demand selling at \$5-8 higher than the last test. Feeders from Regions 1/2 were only lightly tested but saw steady demand to \$5 higher. Calves

from the same regions were also only lightly tested but also remained steady. Calves from Louisiana and Florida were the highlight of the offering, bringing on average \$100/cwt higher than last year. Beef-on-dairy crosses were well received at record prices. A robust bred stock section was met with strong buyer demand.



SALE CALENDAR

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

ANGUS

May 9 – Queen Ann Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Loma, CO
Jun. 1 – TK Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Valentine, NE

LIM-FLEX

Mar. 4 – Snake River Valley Genetics, Bull Sale, Idaho Falls, ID

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

Apr. 2 – XYZ Ranch & TL Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Delta, CO

RED ANGUS

May 7 – Koenig Ranch Red Angus, Bull Sale, Glasgow, MT

STABILIZER

May 2 – Leachman Cattle, Bull & Female Sale, Meriden, WY

WAGYU

May 23 – Bar R Wagyu, Production Sale, Pullman, WA

COMMERCIAL

May 1 – Western Video

Market Auction, Paso Robles, CA

May 20 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Pair & Bred Cow Sale, Galt, CA

May 20 – Western Video Market Sale, Galt, CA

Jun. 12 – Western Video Market Sale, Cottonwood, CA

Jun. 17 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Pair & Bred Cow Sale, Galt, CA

Jun. 20 – Visalia Livestock Market, Female Sale, Visalia, CA

Jul. 13 – Western Video Market Sale, Reno, NV

Jul. 7 – Turlock Livestock Auction Yard, Female Sale, Turlock, CA

Jul. 25 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Bred

Female Sale, Galt, CA

Aug. 1 – Turlock Livestock Auction Yard, Bred Female Sale, Turlock, CA

HORSE

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

May 16 – Feather River College, Horse Sale, Quincy, CA

May 16 – Top Gun Horse Sale, Twin Falls, ID

Jun. 6 – Rancher's Horse Sale, Juntura, OR

Jun. 13 – Shelman Family, Horse Sale, Burns, OR

Jul. 11 – High Desert Quarter Horse Sale, Redmond, OR

Aug. 22 – Memory Ranches, Foal Sale, Wells, NV



SALE REPORTS

Continued from page 6.

1/31/2025 by BARDynamic; to Alta Genetics, Watertown, WI, \$20,500. C Spear JVC Prosper N26, 1/8/2025 by Ellingson Prosper; to Half Dozen Ranch, Billings, MT, \$19,000. C Spear Dynamic N002, 1/15/2025 by BARDynamic; to Ty Neal, Denton, MT, \$19,000. C Spear Dynamic N108, 1/9/2025 by BARDynamic; to Jacobsen Ranch, Sun River, MT, \$17,500. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

HILLTOP ANGUS PRODUCTION SALE April 14, Denton, MT

77 Angus yearling bulls \$10,565
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins

TOPS: Hilltop Bar None 229N, 2/25/2025 by Hoffman Bar None; to Geim Angus, Twin Bridges, MT, \$23,000. Hilltop Raise The Bar 251, 1/16/2025 by Hoffman Bar None; to Evers Ranch, Geraldine, MT, \$20,500. Hilltop 2394 Program 360N, 2/22/2025 by Hoffman The Program; to Dvorak Angus, Lewistown, MT, \$18,000. Hilltop Bar None 226N, 2/2/2025 by Hoffman Bar None; to Evers Ranch, Geraldine, MT, \$19,000. Hilltop Bar None 209N, 1/23/2025 by Hoffman Bar None; to Evers Ranch, Geraldine, MT, \$17,000. Hilltop Bar None 217N, 1/29/2025 by Hoffman Bar None; to Monte Harrison, Roy, MT, \$17,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

MILK RIVER ANGUS BULL SALE

April 15, Chinook, MT 51 Angus yearling bulls \$8,976

Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe
TOPS: R44 Tremendous 5176, 3/14/2025 by Redland Tremendous 98; to Ken Rohre, Volberg, MT, \$20,000. R44 Napoleon 5080, 3/2/2025 by Duff Napoleon 232; to Pine Coulee Bulls, Absarokee, MT, \$20,000. R44 Foundation 5668, 3/6/2025 by Redland Foundation; to Roland Young, Chinook, MT, \$18,000. R44 Foundation 5353, 2/24/2025 by Redland Foundation 249; to Connelly Angus, Valier, MT, \$16,500. Northfork Traveler NL04, 3/10/2025 by Ideal 1614 Traveler of 4223; to Cherry Ridge Ranch, Chinook, MT, \$16,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

TIMBERLINE RANCH BULL SALE

**April 17, Manhattan, MT
45 Angus yearling bulls \$8,694**
44 Commercial spring open heifers \$3,073

Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS: Timber Line Risen-shine 55, 2/26/2025 by Stellpflug Hoffman Rise Above; to Sitz Angus, Harrison, MT, \$19,000. Timber Line Effective 405, 3/18/2025 by McDEffective 789; to Bar JV Angus, Fairfield, MT, \$17,000. Timber Line Risen-shine 85, 3/1/2025 by Stellpflug Hoffman Rise Above; to KG Ranch, Three Forks, MT, \$15,000. KH Grant N52, 3/9/2025 by Spring Cove Grant 200K; to 21 Angus Ranch, New England, ND, \$14,500. — **KEVIN MURNIN**

the WIRE

Western Livestock Journal

SPRING 2026

HITS MAILBOXES

May 11





- READ IT ONLINE AT WLJ.NET -

New website helps NE landowners track wildfire recovery, view history

Following historic wildfires that have burned nearly 1 million acres of Nebraska grazing lands this spring, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln has launched a new online hub, wildfire.unl.edu, that integrates science, mapping and field-based documentation in one place.

The resource—the first of

its kind focused on working grasslands—is designed to track and monitor long-term recovery while supporting farmers, ranchers and land managers as they restore Nebraska’s native grasslands.

Built through the integration of Nebraska Extension and university research programs, the platform

combines scientific data, decision-support tools and applied guidance to help producers navigate recovery following wildfire.

“Wildfire recovery unfolds over years, not months,” said Dirac Twidwell, rangeland ecologist at Nebraska. “What we’ve built here is not just a map of fires—it’s a system

that helps people understand recovery, anticipate change and respond with better information.”

The hub is informed by decades of research and monitoring.

Twidwell’s lab has studied and cataloged more than 1,300 wildfires across the Great Plains since 1985, building one of the most

comprehensive datasets on wildfire and recovery in the region. That work now powers the platform’s interactive tools, allowing users to explore wildfire history and recovery patterns over time.

“Each mapped polygon represents a wildfire dating back to 1985,” Twidwell said. “That long-term record lets us see how grasslands actually recover—across different weather patterns, management decisions and landscapes—and that perspective is critical for making sound decisions today.”

The platform goes beyond visualization of past fires, integrating decades of Nebraska research into practical guidance for rangeland, livestock, crop and water systems, connecting science directly to management decisions. It also links users to Nebraska Extension educators and partner networks, making it easier to access technical expertise, find local contacts and identify upcoming field days and workshops.

The initiative includes a new post-wildfire monitoring approach that connects research expectations with landowner engagement while coordinating future research efforts to improve recovery outcomes across the state.

The data behind the platform draws from multiple national and research-backed sources, including the Rangeland Analysis Platform for vegetation data, the Monitoring Trends in Burn Severity database for historical wildfire perimeters and the National Interagency Fire Center for recent fire data.

University research has also shown an increase in large wildfires across Nebraska and the Great Plains, underscoring the need for long-term recovery planning and improved decision-support systems. — Nebraska Extension

Full production at TX facility expected by end of 2028

GROUND BREAKING (from page 1)

the end of 2028 to 300 million sterile flies per week.

Releasing sterile flies is the primary method used to eradicate NWS. At production facilities, male flies are raised and sterilized before being released in targeted areas. Because female screwworm flies mate only one time, mating with sterile male flies results in eggs that do not hatch.

“Sterile insect technique, paired with surveillance, animal movement restrictions, and education and outreach, has been the foundation of successful screwworm eradication efforts for decades; USDA has defeated this pest before and using these proven methods, USDA will do so again,” USDA said.

NWS was eradicated from the U.S. in the 1960s by using sterile insect technology.

To date, there remain no NWS cases detected in the U.S. As of April 21, there were about 1,400 active NWS cases detected in animals in Mexico, with most cases located in central and southern Mexico. The closest case to the U.S. is about 100 miles away from the Texas border in Nuevo León, Mexico. USDA continues to disperse 100 million sterile insects per week in Mexico and will adjust its dispersal areas as needed.

The Texas Cattle Feeders Association (TCFA) engaged in the groundbreaking and also met with Rollins, Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX), USDA Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory

Programs Dudley Hoskins and USDA Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Jeremy Witte.

“Breaking ground on a domestic sterile fly facility is another positive step toward preparing and protecting the U.S. from a New World screwworm outbreak,” said TCFA Chairman Laphe LaRoe. “This facility represents Secretary Rollins’ USDA (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s) and the livestock industry’s commitment to combatting New World screwworm.”

The U.S. border has remained closed to livestock imports from Mexico since last summer. While there have been rumors about the border being reopened, no official move has been made. At a Texas & Southwestern Cattle Raisers As-

sociation meeting at the end of March, Rollins indicated that a decision to reopen the border to feeder cattle could be announced within the next few weeks, but as of April 23, no decision had been shared.

There are currently four NWS treatment options for cattle approved by the Food and Drug Administration: Dectomax-CA1, Exzolt Cattle-CA1, Ivomec 1% Injection and F10 Antiseptic Wound Spray with Insecticide. Dectomax-CA1 and Ivomec are injectable, Exzolt Cattle-CA1 is a topical solution and F10 Antiseptic Wound Spray is a topical spray.

For the most up-to-date information on active cases and NWS resources, visit screwworm.gov. — Anna Mille Fortozo, WLJ managing editor

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