

INSIDE WLJ

NWS UPDATE — Food and Drug Administration issues emergency use authorizations for several products for the treatment of New World screwworm. Page 3

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"The farm bill could come up on the Senate floor as soon as next week, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand said last Tuesday as she listed her priorities for the legislation, beginning with no cuts to food stamps. In a conference call to reporters shortly after Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Debbie Stabenow, D-MI, announced the committee markup of the bill will be next Tuesday, Gillibrand, D-NY, said she believes the bill 'will move to the floor as early as next week.' Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-NV, has said he wants the Senate to take up the bill this month, but has not specified a date. Congress is scheduled to leave for a Memorial Day recess on May 24. Sen. Charles Grassley, R-IA, told reporters Tuesday he believes the bill will not come up on the Senate floor until June," read the May 13, 2013, *WLJ* article.

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10th Circuit rules against landowners in New Mexico stream access dispute

—Mixed reactions

A federal appeals court has sided with New Mexico officials in a dispute over stream access, ruling that landowners cannot block the public from using waterways that cross private land and affirming the state's authority to enforce public access rights.

The case stems from a dispute between private property rights and public access. Erik Briones, Richard Jenkins and Roland Rivera own neighboring properties along the non-navigable Pecos River in San Miguel County, NM, while siblings Lucia and Michael Sanchez run a family ranch along the non-navigable Rio Tusas in Rio Arriba County. All five hold title to the streambeds beneath those rivers and say they long operated under a clear understanding that they could keep the public off that private ground.

That changed in 2022 after the New Mexico Supreme Court's Adobe Whitewater decision, which expanded public access rights and allowed walking and wading along

streambeds. In June 2024, the landowners filed suit against Attorney General Raúl Torrez and state officials, arguing the shift amounted to an unconstitutional taking. They sought to stop enforcement rather

than pursue damages.

See **STREAM ACCESS** on page 5



Sarah Smith, U.S. Forest Service
The 10th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled against New Mexico landowners who argued they could block the public from accessing waterways that cross private land. Pictured here, the Pecos River in New Mexico.

USDA advances new reorganization plans

—Restructures FSIS, REE mission area

USDA is continuing its reorganization by announcing new plans to restructure its Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS), along with its Research, Education and Economics (REE) mission area.

On April 23, USDA announced it would be reorganizing FSIS to "modernize operations, streamline support functions and better align the agency with the nation's agricultural landscape."

As part of this plan, USDA will establish a National Food Safety Center in Urbandale, IA, to serve as the main hub for FSIS administrative, technical and support operations. The hub will have about 200 employees. The agency will also establish a Science Center in Athens, GA, to expand work in microbiology, chemistry and epidemiology. FSIS will also establish

an office in Fort Collins, CO, for staff supporting international work.

FSIS will relocate about two-thirds of its employees from the National Capital Region, with 100 employees remaining to support congressional engagement, policy development and interagency coordination, USDA said.

The reorganization will not affect FSIS frontline inspection workers, the agency said. All food safety inspection activities will continue without interruption and without reductions.

"This reorganization advances USDA's broader effort to align its workforce with available resources, eliminate unnecessary management layers and bring services closer to stakeholders," USDA said.

USDA also plans to reorganize

See **REORGANIZATION** on page 8

CDFW confirms new wolf packs as livestock depredations continue

—Coexistence legislation considered

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) reports the state's gray wolf population continues to grow, with new packs forming even as conflicts with livestock persist and policy debate builds over how best to manage those interactions.

According to the agency's latest Quarterly Wolf News report, California now has 12 known wolf packs. Three newly recognized groups—the Interstate Pack in northern Modoc County, the Whitehorse Pack spanning western Modoc and eastern Siskiyou counties and the Long Valley Pack across eastern Sierra, eastern

Plumas and southern Lassen counties—met the threshold of at least six months of consistent presence.

CDFW's update shows packs remain active across much of north-eastern California and into the Sierra Nevada, with monitoring conducted through camera traps, field surveys and genetic analysis. Packs such as Whaleback Pack in Siskiyou County and Harvey Pack in Lassen and Shasta counties continue to play a central role in wolf activity and interactions with livestock, according to the agency.

Depredations, compensation

CDFW's updated Wolf-Livestock

Depredation Report shows five additional confirmed depredations and five probable cases since late February. That brings the total to 26 confirmed or probable wolf depredations in the first quarter of 2026.

In total, the agency conducted 47 depredation investigations during that period, with more than half resulting in confirmed or probable wolf-caused losses. The report shows that Siskiyou County continues to see the highest concentration of losses, largely tied to the Whaleback Pack, which accounted for multiple confirmed and probable incidents during the quarter.

See **CA WOLVES** on page 3

Cattle futures surge over week, demand holds strong

Strong cash trade set the tone for the cattle market over the week, driving cattle futures higher. Gains in boxed beef prices and consumer demand continue to support prices.

Live cattle futures saw gains over the week, gaining about \$10 on the April contract to \$256.87 and about \$12 on the June contract to \$255.25.

Cash trade through Thursday totaled about 85,000 head. Live steers sold from \$255-258, and dressed steers sold for \$400.

"There's been no new developments Thursday in the fed cash cattle market and there's a chance—outside of some light clean up trade—this week's trade could be essentially done," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her Thursday midday comments.

Cash trade for the week ending April 26 totaled 68,158 head. Live steers averaged \$246.25, and dressed steers averaged \$386.23.

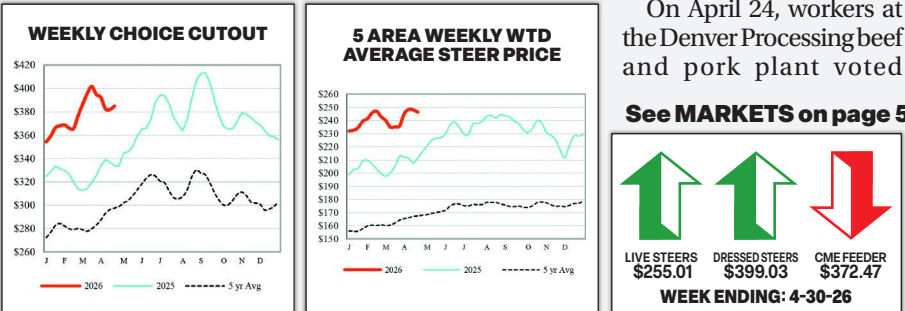
Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 434,000 head, compared to 425,000 head a week earlier. Total slaughter for a week earlier is projected at 529,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending April 18 was 515,194 head. The average steer dressed weight was 980 lbs., down 2 lbs. from the prior week.

"The packer will carefully manage throughput over the coming weeks in order to improve their negative margins," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Thursday. "It's still early in the spring demand game and end user interest is likely to improve. Most still expect Choice boxed beef prices to advance to over \$400/cwt in the coming weeks."

Union workers at a JBS-owned plant in Denver, CO, recently voted to authorize an unfair labor practices strike, just weeks after workers at the JBS beef plant in Greeley, CO, came to a collective bargaining agreement with the company.

On April 24, workers at the Denver Processing beef and pork plant voted

See **MARKETS** on page 5



COMMENTS

Grateful to be exhausted

Growing up on a cow-calf operation in the deep corner of south-east Idaho, I had no idea where my career path would take me. The teenage me didn't see that someday I'd be running the publication my grandfather read like the bible. I didn't have the foresight to see that I would cross paths with legendary cattlemen, expert marketers or converse with the most prestigious researchers in the world. I didn't know I would be on the most beautiful ranches in the U.S., studying what worked for some and what didn't work for others. Quite simply, I've been more fortunate than I deserve.

The interview that changed my life happened in Saint Joseph, MO, at the American Angus Association in the spring of 2007. I thought I bombed it. Really bombed it. They must have seen something that I didn't, and I was given the opportunity to serve the ranchers and Angus breeders in the Southwest territory for the first five years of my career before making the move to *Western Livestock Journal* in 2012. This has given me a unique perspective on today's issues that the beef industry is dealing with.

My career has been that of education, experience and hard work. I've been blessed with a supportive wife and three kids that I don't know how to love any more than I do, but each day surprises me because there's always more to give. That's my drive. I've never claimed to know more than someone else nor have I ever tried to cut someone else down whom I disagreed with. To me, there's no room for that in this business and there's too many people who want to see agriculture go away. Separation from within only speeds that process up.

I've been fortunate to build a cow-calf operation of my own. Using techniques, designs and management ideas from what I've seen at other operations, I'm proud of our herd, our horses and our operation. We also strive to give back as much as we can—to church, to community and to the right causes. It's a lot, but I wouldn't change any of it.

"What a privilege it is to be exhausted by the work you once dreamed of." (Author unknown). I know many of you feel that same way, even on the bad days. It's been an exhaustive pattern of ups and down since the whiplash of 2015, and those of us still here know exactly what I'm talking about, but these days are worth it—every one of them.

This week is the start of National Beef Month, and the exhaustion we all feel after a winter that threw us all for a loop—cold, heat, fires, drought, literally everything—it's great to see spring setting in. Growing up, I loved fall. I loved fat calves coming off the mountain, sunrise gatherings, fall herd work, and of course, football. Now that I'm in charge of the bills, I love spring! I love turning cows out to grass and getting them off the feed bill!

April's Cattle on Feed report gave a glimpse of what we might see going into the grilling season. Down 1% on inventory, down 7% on placements and down 6% on marketings. There isn't a surprise here. Operations are changing their management this year, and market signals look great. Cash markets across the country have rebounded and are hitting new heights once again. There's still time in this high market barring any non-fundamental shakeup.

Trends from the last couple of years continue. According to the CAB Insider, steer carcass weights are up 36 pounds over last year. Meaning that the added pounds with each carcass today will add enough weight to make up a missing carcass every 26 steers. On rough math, that equates to over 4,000 head that is made up for each week through missing inventory from last year's numbers. This has helped fed cattle prices remain fairly steady from week to week this spring, even though new record highs have been seen amid packing plant turmoil with shut-downs and strikes mixed in. The cash markets are resilient when head counts are this low.

In the South and far West, bred female sales have continued to set new records. For example, Randy and Beth Baxley's sale barn in Visalia, CA, held a female sale mid-April where 4-5-month bred heifers were bringing \$4,700-5,100 consistently and bred cows were close to those numbers in all ranges. Some special female sales in Texas have seen F1s bringing north of \$6,000. Market reports throughout the country have seen pairs bringing \$5,500-7,000. Cattlemen are trying to restock, but those females won't be impacting the system anytime soon.

The optimism is there, and it's here to stay for the time being. The sky isn't always falling, and my platform isn't meant to suggest that it is. In my view, sound minds armed with accurate information is how we navigate the next few years. At the same time, *WLJ* remains committed to delivering unbiased information that you decipher what to do with. God bless green grass, fat cows and a healthy calf crop to market this summer and fall! — **LOGAN IPSEN**



IPSEN



KAY'S KORNER

Like many of you, I attempt to read a wide variety of views about the cattle/beef markets and the broader beef industry. Often my understanding of the markets is enhanced when I read a fresh analysis from a source I have

previously not come across, as it was when I recently read a story by online publisher Financial Content's Market Minute. I was unable to verify who wrote the report, but it was clearly aimed at investors. I was impressed by the way the writer or writers touched on all the main challenges facing the industry.

The U.S. livestock sector is currently navigating a period of unprecedented volatility, the report said. A big rally in June live cattle futures represents a confluence of critical supply-side pressures that have sent shockwaves through the commodities market, signaling a period of prolonged high prices for both producers and consumers, it said.

Market analysts point to a triple threat of factors: historically low cattle inventories, devastating wildfires across the Nebraska Plains and a significant labor stoppage at a major processing facility (now resolved) as the primary catalysts driving this record-breaking price action, said the report. The convergence of these events has tightened the beef supply chain to a degree not seen in decades. The immediate implications are clear. Wholesale beef prices are climbing and the cost of maintaining inventory for meatpackers is reaching unsustainable levels. For investors, the surge in the futures reflects a market that is pricing in a severe scarcity premium, as the industry grapples with the realization that the multi-year contraction of the U.S. cattle herd shows no immediate signs of reversing, the report said.

The current spike in cattle futures is not the result of a single isolated incident but rather the culmination of several catastrophic events hitting the supply chain simultaneously, said the report. Leading the charge is the latest USDA annual inventory report, which confirms that the U.S. cattle herd on Jan. 1 dwindled to 86.2 million head, the lowest level since 1951. This 75-year low is the result of eight consecutive years of contraction, spurred by persistent droughts and high input costs that forced ranchers to liquidate their breeding stock long before the current crisis began.

Adding to the industry's woes is the catastrophic Morrill Fire in Nebraska, which has become the largest wildfire in the state's history, the report said. More than 820,000 acres of vital grazing land have been scorched, displacing an estimated 40,000 cattle. The destruction of fencing and forage means that even the cattle

UNPRECEDENTED VOLATILITY

that survived the flames cannot be supported locally, forcing immediate and costly relocations. This loss of infrastructure in one of the top beef states has effectively paused any hope of herd rebuilding in the central Plains for the foreseeable future.

The current situation in the livestock sector is a vivid illustration of the "Great Contraction of American Agriculture", the report said. This isn't merely a temporary supply glitch, it is a structural shift that fits into a broader trend of climate-related risks and labor unrest. The Nebraska wildfires serve as a grim reminder of how environmental volatility can instantly erase years of herd growth, while the JBS strike highlights a growing assertiveness among essential workers in the food supply chain who are demanding a larger share of record corporate profits.

Investors should also monitor upcoming USDA Cattle on Feed reports to see if the wildfire-related liquidations result in a temporary surge of cattle hitting the market, which could provide brief price relief before the long-term scarcity takes hold again, the report said. In the long run, the industry must adapt to a new normal of higher floor prices. Ranchers will need significant capital and favorable weather to begin the multi-year process of rebuilding herds. Strategic pivots may include an increased focus on regenerative grazing to mitigate wildfire risks and investment in automated processing technologies to reduce reliance on vulnerable labor pools. For the market, the opportunity lies in identifying which companies have the most robust supply chains and the best ability to manage the extreme volatility of input costs.

As 2026 moves forward, the market will likely remain in a buy the dip mentality, supported by the reality that you cannot manufacture more cattle overnight, the report said. Investors should keep a close eye on retail demand. At some point, the beef-chicken switch will occur if consumers find \$20 per pound steaks untenable. For now, the cattle market remains the most volatile and closely watched sector in commodities, with every weather report from the Plains and every labor update from the packing houses carrying the weight of millions of dollars in market value, the report concluded. — **Steve Kay, WLJ columnist**

(Steve Kay is editor/publisher of *Cattle Buyers Weekly*, an industry newsletter published at P.O. Box 2533, Petaluma, CA, 94953; 707-765-1725. Kay's Korner appears exclusively in WLJ.)

GUEST OPINION

I make my living on the land. Like generations of ranchers before, me and my family raise cattle and sheep not as an abstract "industry," but as a way of life rooted in rural communities across Oregon and the West. That is why I believe we need to have an honest conversation about gray wolves—about what happens when a species has recovered, yet policies fail to catch up with that reality.

The reintroduction of gray wolves into Yellowstone in the 1990s was often described as a bold environmental experiment. In one important respect, it was a success. Wolves did what wildlife managers hoped they would do: they recovered. Today, there are thousands of gray wolves across the Lower 48 states, with populations firmly established in Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and expanding throughout Oregon, Washington, California and Colorado.

Despite these growing and established populations, there is a refusal to acknowledge that success and move management back to the states. Instead, ranchers and rural communities are left navigating a confusing patchwork of federal and state regulations that make it nearly impossible to protect our livestock and our local livelihoods.

In too many parts of Oregon, where I live, a single wolf can cross a county line and suddenly fall under a completely different set of rules. In one jurisdiction, states are allowed to manage problem wolves. In the next, that same animal is fully protected by the federal government, even if it is actively preying on livestock. Ranchers are forced to stand by, document losses, file reports, wait for agency responses, and hope that the situation somehow resolves itself before the next calf is killed.

Hope is not a management plan. The impact on livestock producers is real and measurable. Wolves will not only kill calves outright, they also place constant pressure on entire herds. That stress shows up in lighter calves at sale time and lower conception rates in cows that are repeatedly harassed. The result is smaller, weaker calf crops before the next

season even begins, with losses that compound year after year. For family ranches already grappling with high fuel costs, expensive feed, and an ever-growing burden of regulation, losses like that can mean the difference between making it through another year or being forced to sell out altogether.

When ranchers struggle, the effects ripple outward. Rural communities depend on healthy agricultural operations to support small businesses on Main Street. As ranches scale back or disappear, local tax bases shrink, jobs vanish, and entire rural economies are weakened—often in places that have few alternative sources of income.

This issue is bigger than economics. It's about fairness and respect for rural communities. Ranchers are not asking to eliminate wolves or ignore science. We are asking for balance. We are asking for management that reflects reality on the ground and recognizes that wolves are no longer an endangered species hovering on the brink of extinction.

What makes this especially frustrating is that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is supposed to work exactly this way. Species are listed when they are at risk. They recover. Then management shifts back to the states. Since Congress enacted the ESA in 1973, approximately 1,700 species have been listed as threatened or endangered, not counting experimental populations. Only three percent of listed species have ever been classified as recovered and subsequently delisted.

Every year this stalemate continues, more ranchers are pushed to the edge, and more rural communities absorb the cost. We can acknowledge conservation success without sacrificing the people who steward the land, but that requires leadership and courage from policymakers.

Wolves are recovered. It's time for the Senate to act, pass the Pet and Livestock Protection Act, return management to the states, and adopt practical solutions that allow ranchers, wildlife and rural communities to coexist. — **Skye Krebs, Oregon rancher and National Cattlemen's Beef Association vice president**

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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FDA authorizes emergency use of drugs for NWS treatment

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) issued emergency use authorizations for several products for the treatment of New World screwworm (NWS).

FDA authorized the use of F10 Antiseptic Barrier Ointment with Insecticide and Negasunt Powder for the prevention and treatment of NWS infestations. The Environmental Protection Agency also authorized a Section 18 emergency exemption for Tanidil for the prevention and treatment of NWS infestations.

FDA has found that F10 Antiseptic Barrier Ointment with Insecticide may be effective in cattle, horses, minor species of hoof stock and others, but should not be used in domestic dog and cats. The withdrawal period for slaughter for cattle, goats and sheep is 30 days after treatment. The product is sponsored by Health and Hygiene Ltd., based in South Africa.

Elanco's Negasunt Powder contains coumaphos, propoxur and sulfanilamide and has been found to be effective in cattle, swine, goats, sheep, horses, donkeys and mules, and captive wild, exotic and zoo mammals. The withdrawal period is 28 days after treatment.

Elanco's Tanidil is an unregistered product for distribution and use only under a Section 18 emergency exemption. The Section 18 labeling must be in the possession of the user at the time of pesticide application. The topical powder contains coumaphos and propoxur. Tanidil is authorized for use in livestock, captive and temporarily captured

wildlife, and select zoo species, but is not approved for use in domestic pets or birds.

Negasunt Powder and Tanidil will be available only through the U.S. Animal Plant Health and Inspection Service and its National Veterinary Stockpile. F10 Antiseptic Barrier Ointment with Insecticide is available over the counter without a prescription.

FDA has previously authorized the use of Dectomax-

CA1, Exzolt Cattle-CA1, Ivomec 1% Injection and F10 Antiseptic Wound Spray with Insecticide for NWS treatment and prevention.

Florida restricts Texas imports

With NWS detections within 125 miles of the U.S./Mexico border, Florida issued an emergency rule placing temporary restrictions on im-

ports into Florida from high-risk counties in Texas.

"Today we are taking aggressive action to further protect Florida and our agricultural producers from the real threat of the New World screwworm," said Florida Commissioner of Agriculture Wilton Simpson on April 24. "We know how costly and dangerous this pest can be to our agricultural industry if it takes hold, and we will use

every tool at our disposal to protect our state."

The temporary restrictions will require animals from high-risk counties in Texas to undergo additional veterinary screenings and treatment, if necessary. High-risk counties include the following: Zapata, Jim Hogg, Starr, Hidalgo, Webb and Brooks counties.

All animals from a high-risk county must be accom-

panied by an Official Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (OCVI) that shows the animal has been inspected and is free of diseases and pests. Animals with wounds that are not infested with NWS larvae can be imported into Florida so long as the animal is treated with effective NWS treatments and it is documented on the OCVI. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**

Wildlife coexistence program would cost state \$28.2M

CA WOLVES (from page 1)

CDFW continues to administer its livestock loss compensation program. During the first quarter, the agency paid more than \$179,000 across approved claims and is preparing to distribute additional funding from a \$2 million legislative appropriation.

The department said coordination remains a priority, with ongoing engagement involving livestock producers, county agricultural departments, federal agencies and local organizations in areas with known wolf activity.

CDFW says it is working to expand its response options as wolf presence increases.

The agency recently reported progress toward issuing permits for more aggressive hazing, including coordination with county sheriffs to allow the use of less-than-lethal tools such as pepper balls. The goal is to deter wolves from targeting livestock and encourage a shift toward natural prey.

Additional efforts include

improving access to collared wolf data for counties and exploring the creation of county-based liaison positions to strengthen communication with ranchers and local officials.

Coexistence bill considered

At the same time, lawmakers are considering legislation to expand the state's approach to wildlife conflict.

California Senate Bill 1135, the California Wildlife Coexistence Act, was recently passed out of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Water and is in the suspension file due to expected costs in the Appropriations Committee. The bill is opposed by the California Cattlemen's Association and the California Farm Bureau.

The bill would establish a statewide policy that puts more emphasis on helping people and wildlife coexist, directing the department to reduce and manage conflicts through coordinated efforts with local

partners while still supporting broader conservation goals.

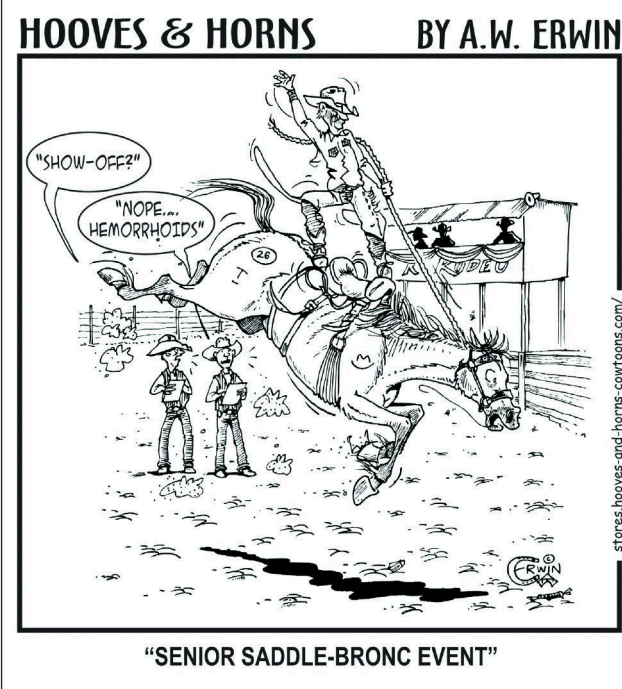
Under the proposal, the coexistence program would take a hands-on role in responding to wildlife conflicts, tracking incidents and working to prevent them through nonlethal tools and best management practices. That includes investigating depredation events, maintaining a statewide reporting system and providing outreach, technical assistance and support to communities dealing with wildlife interactions.

The compensation program would provide funding for tools and practices that help deter wolf attacks, while also reimbursing producers for confirmed losses and certain indirect impacts, provided they are using approved nonlethal measures. The bill also directs CDFW to establish a Wildlife Coexistence Technical Advisory Committee to provide guidance, public input and program recommendations. It would authorize funding for partnerships supporting coexistence efforts and require the

department to publish program information online by July 1, 2028.

CDFW estimates the program would cost about \$28.2 million in its first year and \$23.2 million annually thereafter from the General Fund,

supporting 83 positions focused on incident response, technical assistance, research, enforcement and development of tools to reduce human-wildlife conflict. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**



2026

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MARKET NEWS

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 4/30/2026	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	255.01	▲	246.02
CME Feeder Index	372.47	▼	373.44
Boxed Beef Average	389.52	▲	383.50
Average Dressed Steers	399.03	▲	386.00
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,473	▲	1,472
Weekly Slaughter**	529,000	▲	514,000
Weekly Beef Production***	475.9	▲	462.4
Hide/Offal Value	13.96	▲	13.72
Corn Price	4.69	▲	4.57
*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 24	6,572	386.90	350	398.38	1,230	390.37	2,076	383.75	450	379.46	2,467 365.98
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
Cutouts			FED BOXED BEEF								
DATE	CHOICE		SELECT		COW BEEF CUTOOUT		50% LEAN		90% LEAN		
April 30	389.52		388.17		356.67		194.50		N/A		
April 29	388.05		386.25		356.95		191.39		459.75		
April 28	388.90		388.78		350.67		N/A		N/A		
April 27	389.56		388.60		349.88		193.11		446.75		
April 24	387.00		386.07		350.22		191.23		N/A		

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle						
	4/24	4/27	4/28	4/29	4/30	High* Low*
Apr.	24830	25043	25268	25700	25873	25873 16853
Jun.	24523	24895	25350	25598	25530	25598 16668
Aug.	24165	24538	24910	25120	25008	25120 17005
Oct.	23748	24105	24405	24558	24455	25093 18068
CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle						
	4/24	4/27	4/28	4/29	4/30	High* Low*
Apr.	36763	37058	37208	37260	37395	38103 21920
May	36090	36745	37173	37483	37395	38280 22268
Aug.	36178	36828	37308	37603	37485	38020 22460
Sep.	35975	36625	37125	37390	37320	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	30,024	1,571	255.01
Live FOB Heifer	11,224	1,394	254.73
Dressed Del Steer	7,832	1,023	399.03
Dressed Del Heifer	2,783	908	398.57
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
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 YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	23,363	1,478	220.71
Live FOB Heifer	9,803	1,351	220.79
Dressed Del Steer	10,286	977	349.21
Dressed Del Heifer	1,778	885	351.34

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: APRIL 26, 2026		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	39,149	2,325
Formula	220,798	2,240
Negotiated Cash	65,059	311
Negotiated Grid	24,645	1,974
Packer Owned	9,507	N/A
Total	359,158	6,850

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,815
Apr. '26	185,186	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,000
May '26	110,166	Formula sales	3,698
Jun. '26	123,383	Forward contract sales	58
Jul. '26	84,026	Domestic sales	5,737
Aug. '26	126,559	NAFTA Exports	99

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		243.34 +5.55
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		241.13 +4.92
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		242.06 +5.09
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		240.20 +5.20
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		165.24 -2.75
*Price comparison from one week ago.		

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, April 28, 2026			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	509.04	528.58	508.88
601-700 lbs	455.95	461.17	461.77
701-800 lbs	408.90	418.84	415.74
801-900 lbs	369.05	376.00	379.29
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	502.86	497.45	460.49
501-600 lbs	465.32	471.49	455.25
601-700 lbs	412.73	413.69	411.58
701-800 lbs	376.26	380.84	357.75

USDA MEXICO TO U.S. WEEKLY LIVESTOCK IMPORTS				
Feeder cattle imports weekly and yearly volume.				
Species	Current Week	Previous Week	Current Year-to-date	Previous Year-to-date
Feeder Cattle	4/20/2026	4/13/2026		
	IMPORTS SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE		0	230,638

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
April 30, 2026			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST: N/A		Week Ago EST: N/A	Year Ago Act: 5,300
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 30, 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	
Noreport available Blackfoot, ID											
April23 Burley, ID	347		648 544-608	515-607 492-514	459-517 400-477	430-458 378	386 340	240	152-224 205-229	3,400-3,600	
Noreport available Emmett, ID											
April25 Eugene, OR	1,059		510-530* 360-510*	460-527* 360-520*	400-550* 345-455*	320-435* 300-407*	330-397* 315-390*	350-375* 260-367*	158-190 205-235	2,350-3,950 1,200-2,900	
April27 Madras, OR	982		575-630 575-630	560-620 490-630	500-545 410-505	405-455 380-432.50	380-412.50 327-385	335-362.50 300-326	150-180 190-212	2,500-2,950	
April22 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	
April27 Davenport, WA	351		480 435-530	377.50-522.50 375-462.50	417.50-500 340-420	365-447 331-420	325-385 220-344	280-340 212-320	153-277.50 198-280	1,925-3,900 2,750-3,200	
April23 Toppenish, WA	1,825			440*	484-545* 402.50-445*	425-480* 360-425*	380*	260*	167.50-197 201-235	3,650	

NORTHWEST

No report available Orland, CA										FARWEST
No report available Escalon, CA										
April 27 Famoso, CA	361		455-645 380-600	435-565 380-510	385-540 335-500	365-447 315-402.50	315-375	280-350 290-355	135-240 130-197	
No report available Galt, CA										
April 28 Turlock, CA	1,257		500-595 470-555	490-550 457-532.50	475-532.50 450-500	420-450 400-421	355-392 325-352.50	325-364 300-329	140-186 170-206	
No report available Salina, UT										

April 27 Iowa	10,860	690-735 610-630	590-680 535-610	481-605 450-557.50	455-546 385-485	365-463 350-427.50	345-422.50 300-397	287-376.50 296-373	132.50-285 166-231		NORTH CENTRAL
April 28 Miles City, MT	420					415*		301*	146-190 175.50-231	2,850-4,375	
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											
No report available Imperial, NE											
No report available Kearney, NE											
No report available Lexington, NE											
April 23 Ogallala, NE	3,144		607.50 620-647.50	502.50-637.50 480-525	463-535 450-478	418-475.50 395-450	370-421.50 340-418	308-370 307.50-330			
No report available Valentine, NE											
No report available Herreid, SD											
April 29 Torrington, WY	3,769			575-640	510-570 425-462.50	439-492 388-448	407-443.50 349-400	320-397 305-353			

April 23 Willcox, AZ	862	575-1600 505	480-535 457-525	442-490 438-465	391-414 380-398	355-377 323-366			140-182 174-217	3,800-4,350 2,550-3,650	SOUTH CENTRAL
No report available Colorado											
April 22 La Junta, CO	986		520-630 490-535	472.50-565 415-502.50	440-502 362.50-440	370-435 322.50-367.50	362.50-377.50 310-340	330-340	170-188 205-218		
No report available Loma, CO											
April 29 Dodge City, KS	1,222		622 512.50	547-594 488-505	462-534 423-470	447 369-385	416 349	331-365 324.50	140-187 185-249	2,600-5,700 2,050-3,400	
April 23 Pratt, KS	4,750		457.50-615 452.50-540	510-542.50 452.50-487.50	445-497.50 374-442.50	375-453 354-386	351-380 331-358	317-373 289-334	162-283 178-234	2,400-4,300 2,200-3,550	
April 23 Salina, KS	2,546	660	590-640 530-580	525-590 455-535	467-545 412.50-467.50	402.50-462 367-408	370-395 338-373	312.50-374 300-341.50			
April 30 Clovis, NM	1,573	750 570-740	645-650 505-590	505-592 455-530	415-515 380-460	385-427 358-400	347-389 330-380	215-342 293	160-197 130-222	2,400-4,800 1,100-4,150	
April 29 El Reno, OK	9,389	650-700 640-700	590 470-570	510-580 440-520	460-545 375-460	400-440 360-430	376-395 332.50-380	250-385.50 270-351			
April 28 McAlester, OK	750		585-735 460-690	465-545 430-535	430-515 370-440	390-440 350-405	373-405 335-350		160-188 200-221	1,900-3,300 1,500-3,050	
April 28 Oklahoma City, OK	6,573	500-600	625-630 495-550	477-618 392-532.50	424-555 387-462.50	401-465 347-417	340-396 326-377	324-379 294-358			
April 24 Cuero, TX	1,348	604-750 514-735	561-705 493-565	492-575 465-570	450-530 390-455	416-470 370-400	349-358 330-340		153-187 200-218	3,200 2,250-2,950	
April 23 Dalhart, TX	1,093		630-745 620	520-535	550-565 510	390-422.50 400	375 325-355	220-357.50 275-316	141-230 177-220	3,260 2,750-3,050	
April 23 San Angelo, TX	314	615-640	600-640 495-580	500-530 450-515	425-515 407.50-430	400-440 368-410	355-380	342.50 285-330	150-178 180-225	2,000-4,100 2,550-3,300	
April 23 Tulia, TX	842			525 460-470	461-515 422-462	410 364-370	360-380 345-359		150-170 190	2,600	

PLF: Decision does not protect private property rights

STREAM ACCESS (from page 1)

A federal district court dismissed the case in early 2025, citing a lack of standing and sovereign immunity, prompting the landowners to appeal.

Court addresses standing, rights

In its decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 10th Circuit first worked through several key legal questions before getting to the heart of the case. The court said the landowners had standing, meaning they had shown sufficient harm to bring the case in federal court. It also rejected the state's argument that sovereign immunity protected officials from being sued, allowing the claims to move forward against them.

However, despite clearing those hurdles, the court ul-

timately sided with the state. It found that the landowners' arguments did not justify stepping in to override New Mexico's definition and management of public access to its waterways. The landowners had argued the state's new interpretation stripped them of their right to keep people off their property, which they say is a fundamental part of private ownership.

The court was not persuaded, holding that the dispute largely turned on questions of state law and the New Mexico Supreme Court's authority to interpret those laws. The panel declined to override, which had opened the door to broader public access.

In a separate opinion, Judge Richard Frederico outlined the court's reasoning and emphasized the limits of federal judicial review in disputes grounded in state law.

Federico wrote that while the plaintiffs raised real concerns about property rights, it is not the job of federal courts to rewrite state property law. Instead, he said their role is to decide whether a constitutional violation occurred; in this case, the plaintiffs did not meet that standard, leaving the New Mexico Supreme Court's interpretation of the stream access law in place.

Reactions from parties

In response to the ruling, Pacific Legal Foundation (PLF) Senior Attorney Christopher Kieser told *WLJ* in an email that the decision did not adequately protect private property rights.

"While the Court of Appeals properly recognized that my clients have standing and that sovereign immunity does not protect the state officials, it unfortunately gave short shrift to my clients' longstanding prop-

erty rights," Kieser said. "As we alleged in the complaint, New Mexico law recognized my clients' rights to exclude the public from walking and wading on their private streambeds until 2022. We are disappointed that the Court of Appeals decision allows the state supreme court to cast aside these longstanding rights so easily."

Kieser added that the plaintiffs are considering their options moving forward.

Torrez, meanwhile, called the ruling a "significant victory" for public access.

"The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit upheld the State's position, affirming that New Mexicans have a constitutional right to use and enjoy public waters," Torrez said.

According to the statement, Torrez secured an injunction preventing them from erecting fences or other obstructions that interfere with public fishing and

recreation on the Pecos River, posting signs suggesting public access is trespassing, or otherwise interfering with lawful use of the waterways. Landowners may still construct fencing for livestock management, provided it complies with guidelines set by the New Mexico Department of Jus-

tice (NMDOT).

"The ruling supports New Mexico's longstanding constitutional protection of public waters, and NMDOT will continue to closely guard the public's right of access to these cherished waterways," Torrez said. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* contributing 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.

June 1-3 – The International Year of the Woman Farmer ACE Summit in Washington, D.C. will empower, equip and connect women farmers, ranchers and agribusiness professionals. Details: tinyurl.com/2unspzen.

June 16-18 – Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, USA will host its 2026 National Convention and Trade Show at The Monument in Rapid City, SD. Details: rcalfconvention.com.

June 24-25 – The California Cattlemen's Association 2026 Midyear Meeting will be at the Atlantis Casino Resort in Reno, NV. Details: tinyurl.com/mvmids854.

Denver plant workers authorize labor strike

MARKETS (from page 1)

overwhelmingly to authorize a strike. The union, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) Local 7, said the company has engaged in "illegal conduct at and away from the bargaining table."

"We came to the table ready to negotiate a fair contract," said Natalia Gonzalez, a Denver Processing worker and UFCW Local 7 member. "Instead, Denver Processing wasted our time, retaliated against our committee members, and refused to seriously engage with our proposals on safety and scheduling."

Registration for the strike was set to begin May 2, with negotiations set for May 4.

Boxed beef prices gained several dollars over the week. The Choice cutout gained about \$6 to close at \$389.52, and the Select cutout also gained about \$6 to close at \$388.17.

"Whether the consumer is making different buying choices away from beef due to rising gas at the pump remains to be seen," Fish said. "Beef demand has been reliable and remarkable. How long that continues is the unanswerable question today."

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures also saw gains over the week. The April contract gained about \$6 to close at \$372.27, and the May contract gained about \$13 to close at \$371.50.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost about a dollar to close at \$372.47.

Corn futures also closed higher. The May contract gained 12 cents to close at \$4.66, and the July contract gained 15 cents to close at \$4.77.

"Buyers have been mixed this week in the countryside

for feeder cattle as they have been selective on the type and kind of cattle they're wanting given that prices are so high," Stewart said.

Iowa: Russell Livestock in Russell sold 4,343 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction two weeks earlier, steers sold mostly \$5-33 lower. Heifers under 550 lbs. were mostly \$2-26 higher, while heifers over 550 lbs. sold \$9-25 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 733 lbs. sold from \$395-423.75, averaging \$417.41.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 8,000 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, at the mid-session, feeder steers sold unevenly from \$10 lower to \$10 higher. Feeder heifers sold unevenly from \$5 lower to \$10 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 778 lbs. sold from \$377-397, averaging \$380.57.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 6,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder cattle and calves sold mostly steady. Benchmark steers averaging 782 lbs. sold from \$365-384.50, averaging \$375.31.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional in Worthing sold 1,877 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, yearling steers 850 lbs. sold \$4 lower and 900 lbs. sold steady. Heifers 700 lbs. sold \$4 lower, and 800-850 lbs. sold \$1-3 lower. A group of benchmark steers averaging 734 lbs. sold from \$370-405, averaging \$382.08.

Texas: Lonestar Stockyards in Wildorado sold 1,080 head on Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers and heifers sold \$2-10 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 786 lbs. sold for \$374. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, *WLJ* managing editor**

UPCOMING SALE DATES		
MAY 20	JUNE 12	JULY 13-15
Consignment Deadline: May 12	Consignment Deadline: June 4	Consignment Deadline: June 29
Cattlemen's Livestock Market Galt, CA	WVM Headquarters Cottonwood, CA	Silver Legacy Casino Resort Reno, NV

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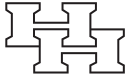
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SALE REPORTS

LINDSKOV'S LT RANCH SALE
April 18, Isabel, SD
297 Angus bulls.... \$24,801
254 Charolais bulls... 22,315
54 Hereford bulls... 20,167
1 Angus pick of heifer calf **175,000**
Auctioneers: Joe Goggins, Greg Goggins & Seth Weishaar
TOPS—Angus bulls: LT Grant 322N, 3/3/2025 by Spring Cove Grant 200K; to Northwest Livestock Brokers & Carraway Cattle Co., Meridian, ID, \$250,000. LT Grant 5572, 1/2/2025 by Spring Cove Grant 200K; to J & F Land & Cattle, Dumas, TX, \$150,000. LT Deep Canyon 5365 ET, 2/10/2025 by LT Deep Canyon 2040; to Blase Cattle Co., St. Paul, NE,

\$135,000. LT Titus 5016, 2/23/2025 by LT Titus 3046; to Six Mile Red Angus, Saskatchewan, \$135,000. **Charolais bulls:** LT Worldwide 5464 PLD, 2/13/2025 by LT Global 3322 PLD ET; to Full Circle Cattle, Lakin, KS, \$205,000. LT Incentive 5141 PLD, 1/27/2025 by LT Governor 1560 PLD; to Select Sires, Plain City, OH, \$175,000. LT Estrada 4759 PLD, 8/26/2024 by JSR Estrada 52E; to JGL Livestock, Saskatchewan, \$100,000. **Openheifer:** Pick of open heifers; to VanZee Angus, Sioux Center, IA, and Mahar Cattle Co., Timber Lake, SD, \$175,000. — **TY GROSHANS**

TREASURE BULL TEST SALE
April 21, Great Falls, MT

110 Angus yearling bulls **\$9,059**
11 Angus 2-year-old bulls **5,955**
Auctioneer: Joe Goggins
TOPS: CMC Veracious Money, 2/2/2025 by CMC HPCA Veracious L17P; to C Spear Angus, Huntley, MT, \$22,000. RKP 107-9446 51, 2/12/2025 by Long Teton 107; to Jacobsen Ranch, Sun River, MT, \$20,000. RKP L230-103 541, 3/31/2025 by C Spear J431 Bomber L230; to Mike Gondeiro, Belt, MT, \$20,000. Legacy Rise Above 505, 3/3/2025 by Stellpflug Hoffman Rise Above; to Vermilion Ranch, Billings, MT, \$19,500. Gollehon Incentive N01, 2/3/2025 by Sitz Incentive 704H; to Apex Angus, Valier, MT, \$19,000. — **KEVIN MURNIN**



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 Sale, Billings, MT

RED ANGUS

May 7 – Koenig Ranch Red

Angus, Bull Sale, Glasgow, MT

WAGYU

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

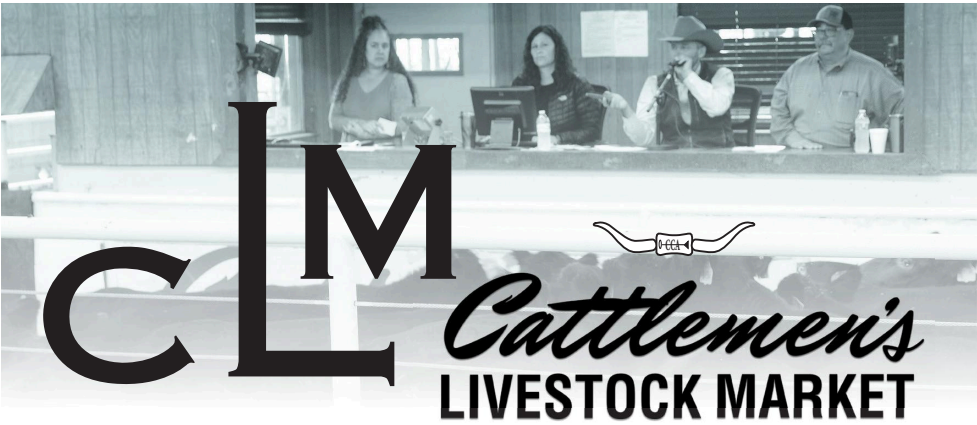
COMMERCIAL

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

HORSE

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



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WEDNESDAY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

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

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- WEDNESDAYS -

MAY 6 • MAY 27
JUNE 10 • JUNE 24

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NCBA members bring cattle industry priorities to Washington

The National Cattlemen’s Beef Association (NCBA), and its nationwide network of state affiliates, concluded its 2026 Legislative Conference in late April, bringing together cattle producers from across the country to advocate for policy solu-

tions that strengthen America’s cattle industry and rural communities. Throughout the conference, producers met with federal officials and engaged directly with policymakers on Capitol Hill to ensure the voice of cattle

producers is heard in Washington. “NCBA’s Legislative Conference is where grassroots policy meets action,” said NCBA President Gene Copenhaver, a Virginia cattle producer. “Our members traveled to Washington to

share real-world perspectives from their operations and reinforce why strong, commonsense policies are essential to keeping family farms and ranches viable for the next generation. From protecting animal health to advancing regulatory re-

form, NCBA members are leading the charge on behalf of the entire cattle industry.”

During their time in Washington, NCBA members emphasized several top policy priorities, including:

- Delisting the gray wolf and passing the Pet and Livestock Protection Act.
- Advancing passage of a new farm bill.
- Supporting funding for research, management and control of the Asian longhorned tick and the diseases it carries.

In addition to Capitol Hill meetings, NCBA members participated in discussions with key federal agencies. Producers met with officials from the USDA, including the Food Safety and Inspection Service, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), as well as representatives from the Food and Drug Administration Center for Veteri-

nary Medicine and the Environmental Protection Agency.

U.S. Treasurer Brandon Beach addressed attendees, discussing the impact of the Working Families Tax Cuts and economic support for rural America. Producers also received a demonstration of new tools from the AMS designed to enhance transparency and market opportunities within the cattle industry.

The Legislative Conference is a cornerstone of NCBA’s grassroots advocacy efforts, connecting cattle producers through NCBA and its state affiliates with policy makers in Washington, D.C. This producer-led engagement reinforces the organization’s role as the definitive voice of the U.S. cattle industry and ensures real-world perspectives from cattle operations are part of the policy process. — NCBA

USDA workforce declines 22% after restructuring

REORGANIZATION (from page 1)

its REE mission area to “better align its work with USDA priorities, improve operational efficiency, and deliver results more effectively for American farmers, ranchers, and producers.”

REE agencies will relocate certain positions based in the National Capital Region to locations around the country. This includes Economic Research Service and National Institute of Food and Agriculture employees, some of which will relocate to Kansas City, MO.

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will relocate some positions from the National Capital Region to St. Louis, MO, or other offices. NASS will also keep a field presence to continue to collect information and report statistics, USDA said.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) will begin decommissioning the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center

in Beltsville, MD, and relocate research programs to facilities across the country.

“Together, these actions strengthen USDA’s ability to deliver practical, science-based solutions directly to producers by reducing administrative burden, improving coordination, and ensuring resources are aligned with the needs of American agriculture,” the department said.

Previous restructuring plans

Last July, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins announced more than 2,500 employees would be relocated from USDA’s Washington, D.C. office to five regional offices in Raleigh, NC; Kansas City, MO; Indianapolis, IN; Fort Collins, CO; and Salt Lake City, UT. USDA will vacate the South Building in Washington, D.C. by the end of 2026.

Following a public comment period, a USDA summary and analysis of feed-

backreported more than 80% of public comments were negative about the reorganization proposal. However, USDA Deputy Secretary Stephen Vaden said during a January National Agricultural Law Center webinar that the department had “no choice” but to carry out the plan, citing shrinking budgets and increased costs of living.

In late March, USDA also announced the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) would move its headquarters from Washington, D.C. to Salt Lake City, UT. The agency also plans to restructure its leadership structure and close its regional offices to establish state offices in their place.

“Establishing a western headquarters in Salt Lake City and streamlining how the Forest Service is organized will position the chief and operation leaders closer to the landscapes we manage and the people who depend on them,” Rollins said.

As part of the restructuring, USFS will transition to a state-

based organizational model with 15 state directors stationed throughout the country. The agency will also shift many functions from regional offices to a network of operational service centers in Albuquerque, NM; Athens, GA; Fort Collins, CO; Madison, WI; Missoula, MT; and Placerville, CA.

In addition, USFS will consolidate its research stations under a single research organization in Fort Collins, CO.

The agency said these moves are intended to “unify research priorities, accelerate the application of science to management decisions, and reduce administrative duplication.”

An April 14 Congressional Research Service report found that since the restructuring plans were announced last summer, USDA’s workforce has decreased from about 91,000 employees to around 71,000 employees as of February. — Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor



YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

(In an effort to serve the next generation of livestock producers, WLJ’s Youth Opportunities calendar lists internship and scholarship information for agricultural- and livestock-focused students, listed by application deadline. If you have an internship or scholarship to announce, please email it to editorial@wlj.net.)
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/4356awww.



44th
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Mannheimia / Pasteurella 2x
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DEADLINE MAY 12

June 12
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