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INSIDE WLJ

PROPOSED BUTTERFLY LISTING — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering listing a subspecies of butterfly in CO, NM and UT as threatened due to habitat loss. Page 5

RANCHER KILLS OR WOLF — After a series of wolf depredations on his grazing allotment, a northeast Oregon rancher killed one male wolf under a Department of Fish and Wildlife permit. Page 7

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

Wolf reintroduction is still a contentious topic with livestock owners due to the potential for depredations, but even in a May 2010 article, ranchers voiced their concerns for more than just the depredations themselves: "Ranchers feel that while financial compensation would be nice, it is unlikely that compensation would ever meet the actual costs represented by one wolf kill. Compensation plans are also unlikely to incorporate financial losses due to weight loss and behavior changes in the cattle left alive. … The inability to use dogs in this region may be the roughest blow of all. According to the ranchers, exposure to wolves causes their cattle to bunch up defensively in response to stock dogs, rather than herding as they used to."

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New Mexico wildfires continue to rage

— Disaster declared

High winds and low humidity continue to fan fires in New Mexico that have grown to over 230,000 acres as of May 11, causing President Joe Biden to issue a disaster declaration in the affected counties.

The Hermits Peak fire started as a prescribed burn in the Santa Fe National Forest and escaped on April 6. The Calf Canyon fire started on April 19, and the cause is under investigation. The two fires combined around April 23 to become the largest active fire currently in the U.S and the second largest fire in state history.

As of May 11, the fire was 33 percent contained, with 1,863 personnel assigned to the fire.

The fire has resulted in the evacuation of residents in Mora County and San Miguel County surrounding San Geronimo and the Mineral Hill area, while residents of Las Vegas remain on high alert. Some residents in Taos and Colfax counties are under the "ready" and "set" statuses (under the state's "Ready, Set, Go!" fire framework) as the fire moves northwest, according to New Mexico Fire Information. Fire officials estimated that 300 structures were lost in the blaze.

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) recently demanded that the federal government change its parameters regarding prescribed burns, especially in the windy

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InciWeb

Over 1,800 personnel are battling the Hermits Peak and Calf Canyon wildfires, which have consumed more than 230,000 acres. Pictured here, a fire crew at the Calf Canyon fire on April 28.

CA releases final 30x30 report

— Defines "conserved"

Fittingly, the California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA) released the final "Pathways to 30x30" report on Earth Day to achieve the state's goal of conserving 30 percent of lands and coastal waters by 2030 in order to protect biodiversity and combat climate change.

The report states the state has currently conserved 24 percent of its land and 16 percent of its coastal waters. CNRA considers an area "conserved" if it meets the criteria of "30x30 Conservation Areas," which the definition describes as "areas that are durably protected and managed to sustain functional ecosystems, both intact and restored, and the diversity of life that they support."

California's strategy to conserve an additional 6 million acres of land and half a million acres of coastal waters involves several pathways, including accelerating regionally-led conservation, buying strategic lands for conservation and access, expanding voluntary conservation easements, and aligning investments to maximize conservation benefits.

The definition of 30x30 Conservation Areas encompasses lands under government ownership or control, under perpetual easements, and areas with species and habitat protection designations not subject to reversal. Some examples cited in the report are state and national parks, federal wilderness areas, ecological reserves and open spaces, and recreational hunting and fishing areas subject to resource planning criteria and management to prevent biodiversity loss.

The report also considers working landscapes under conservation easements 30x30 Conservation Areas if they are sustainably managed for biodiversity. This can include private grazing lands, ranches and working forests with durable formal protections for biodiversity, such as conservation or conservation mitigation easements.

The California Cattlemen's Association (CCA) in its May 2 Legislative Bulletin said while the report stresses conservation easements, it does appear to class them as "conserved." CCA states more than 2 million acres are under conservation easements, but CNRA's mapping tool for visualizing 30x30 only shows a little more than 768,000 acres of land.

CCA wrote the difference could be attributed to how CNRA classifies what is considered "conserved." CNRA will use the U.S. Geological Survey's (USGS) land classifications, known as Gap Analysis Project (GAP) codes. GAP codes correspond to the degree of protection a particular area receives, with GAP code 1 signifying the strongest protection measures on conserved lands. CNRA will use GAP codes 1 and 2 for classifying lands as "conserved."

The report states GAP codes 3 and 4—lands that are under protection but subject to extractive uses—play a role in meeting the goal as long as they "are managed

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Higher meat prices to be found this summer

— Beef demand remains high

Although meat demand remains strong, consumers will have to battle higher meat prices this summer, putting to the test whether they are willing to pay more for meat amid rising inflation costs.

CoBank's latest Quarterly report predicts higher retail meat prices throughout 2022.

"The sharply higher costs for feed, energy and labor have yet to fully impact wholesale and retail meat prices, but that will soon change," said Brian Earnest, lead animal protein economist with CoBank. "And as consumers notice their dollar is not going as far as it used to, they may trade down at the meat case, with chicken being the primary beneficiary."

Inflation for consumers

Smaller grain harvests and the Russia/Ukraine war have sent animal feed prices higher, up 20-30 percent in just a few days after Russia invaded Ukraine in late February. Labor and energy are also major expenses that continue to rise, CoBank said. However, higher feed and energy costs have yet to fully impact wholesale and retail meat prices.

Consumers have mostly assumed higher production costs so far, but CoBank expects meat consumption will remain strong through 2022 despite the impact to consumers' budgets.

"The intense media coverage of food inflation in recent months has prepared consumers, in a somewhat perverse manner, for higher food prices, which is minimizing 'sticker shock' in 2022," Earnest said.

The combined cutout values of beef, pork and chicken have climbed over 20 percent higher in the first quarter, so consumers are likely to continue seeing higher prices at the meat counter.

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Steady cash trade puts a damper on the market

Cash trade saw faint interest at steady trade, and higher corn has put a damper on the cattle complex, which closed sharply lower. June live cattle are trading at a discount to cash trade, but they are moving toward each other while still far apart.

Live cattle closed lower, with the June contract down $2.12 to close at $131.65 and the August contract down $3.25 to $132.77.

"Open interest continues to cascade dramatically out of the June live cattle contract as the Goldman roll continues," Cassie Fish, market analyst for The Beef, wrote on Thursday. "June live cattle lost almost 12K contracts yesterday and has just under 74K left open. By next week, June live cattle will have less open than October live cattle. This week's decline has pushed technical indicators into oversold territory. Still, the charts are negative."

Cash trade was light, as packers have bought on deferred delivery for the last couple of weeks, with about 76,000 head sold through Thursday. Live cattle were steady, selling between $137-148 and averaging $143.43. Dressed trade sold between $225-230 and averaged $228.30, down $2.

"The cash cattle market is holding its breath as it knows its nearby fate is lower but the question that remains unanswered is: When?" ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, wrote in the Monday midday comments. "Packers have strategically bought up cattle for the upcoming weeks, which will minimize their need to participate in the cash cattle market. With boxed beef prices showing weakness in a time when, historically, the market would expect prices to be strong, packers won't bat an eye at letting cash prices flounder as their own margins see minor setbacks from a cost-concerned consumer base."

Cash trade through the week ending May 8 totaled 109,180 head. Live steers averaged $143.56, and dressed steers averaged $230.89. Of that total, 70 percent (76,050 head) were committed for nearby delivery, while the remaining 30 percent (33,130 head) were committed for

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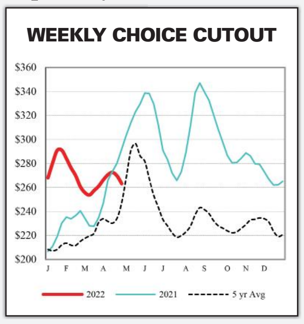

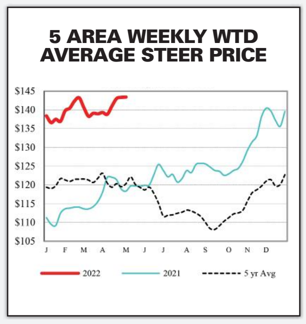

LIVE STEERS $142.17 | DRESSED STEERS $229.21 | CME FEEDER $156.61

WEEK ENDING: 5-12-22

COMMENTS

Markets and water

CROW

It doesn't seem like anyone following cattle markets has any idea what's going on. The active June fed cattle contract was falling all week to $132, while the cash market continues to trade between $137-148 for live cattle, which is quite a bit of motivation for basis traders to sell cattle, which they have been doing. Through Wednesday, over 70,000 head moved through the negotiated cash market. This would be the fourth week in a row where negotiated cash trade has sold over 100,000 head each week or more. Perhaps 30 percent have been sold with extended deliveries.

We've been talking about how the April 1 cattle on feed number was a record high, which created the speculation that we will have large numbers of finished cattle to process between June and August. The only thing we really don't know is what the weight distribution of all those March placements was. These cattle will be all over the map when they are ready.

Beef prices haven't risen as much as expected; the Choice cutout has been trading around $260 most of the month. Packers are still making respectable margins of around $200 per head, even when they are paying cattle feeders $145/cwt for live cattle. Beef demand seems to remain strong going into the grilling season, and the large retailers have been doing their part by offering bone-in rib steaks between $5.70-6.75. On a Sunday afternoon, our Safeway store was flat out of ribeyes. Beef remains the meat of choice with American consumers, even with staggering inflation. There is more beef on the market than last year, so I'm not sure we can expect to see the cutout move much higher.

Slaughter levels have remained high at around 655,000 head per week and should go even higher as we move into summer. All these fundamentals are telling me that the summer market may not be as soft as analysts are forecasting. Either futures markets are way wrong or cash markets are; I don't see them moving toward convergence anytime soon. We're looking at a $14 basis in some cases.

Year-to-date beef production is running 0.8 percent higher than a year ago, while cattle slaughter is just 0.5 percent higher. Clearly, carcass weights have been higher, and feeders have the incentive to make Choice or better carcasses. However, the slaughter mix has fallen slightly to 82.4 percent Choice and Prime, which may be more about increased cow slaughter rather than lighter fed slaughter. Select beef production is up to 15 percent of the total mix, which is why we have a $12.50 Choice/Select spread.

Feeder cattle markets are trading at the pleasure of grain and feed costs. The last CME Feeder Cattle Index was at $156.24 and trading in a narrow zone. I do expect that when the big summer videos get going and cattlemen are willing to start contracting their yearlings, we could see some expansion in feeder cattle markets. There will also be fewer of them and they will offer a better opportunity to produce Choice or Prime beef carcasses, which will remain in high demand.

I'm sure you have all heard the phrase "Whiskey is for drinking, and water is for fighting over." Well, I think we may be at that point when the fighting will start in western states. California is being hit very hard on water diversions. The State Water Project said recently that it was going to reduce water deliveries to 5 percent of requested supplies. Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) said in his most recent executive order, "The ongoing drought will have significant, immediate impacts on communities with vulnerable water supplies, farms that rely on irrigation to grow food and fiber, and fish and wildlife that rely on stream flows and cool water."

California is in a jam because they have not kept up with the public water infrastructure since the early 1970s, when all of the new federal environmental laws were made.

These environmental laws have cleaned things up, but now we're looking at environmental law versus feeding the world. Hundreds of thousands of acres of cropland have been fallowed in the most productive farming area of the world. Most of the water is intended to save some spawning routes for salmon. Is there some middle ground here? Perhaps a few less salmon versus food and fiber for the masses. As they say in California, where water flows, food grows. All I can say is keep on praying for spring and summer rains. — **PETE CROW**

DITTMER'S TAKE

WHO OR WHAT CONTROLS YOUR BUSINESS?

People used to a relatively free society like to feel like they are in control—farmers and ranchers even more so, since they often operate their own family businesses in ways they think are best.

Those expectations exist on both sides of the fed cattle marketing debate. Some cattlemen feel they are not in control of marketing their cattle because the old methods of determining value, like hauling cattle to local auction markets, are not as readily available as in the past.

Other cattlemen—those using alternative marketing agreements to value and market their cattle in new, more complicated ways requiring long-term commitments and records—feel the government is angling to take away their cattle marketing control. This is a predictable conflict.

The recent House and Senate hearings on fed cattle marketing showcased this. Several ranchers who testified spent time referencing past data and methods. There is no question things have changed and will keep changing. Not all change is to your advantage, whatever your position in the beef production chain. But producing what consumers want at the best price we can should be everyone's goal.

Neither the government nor taxpayers should be involved beyond what's absolutely necessary. The government tallies livestock census data, marketing numbers and prices and performs food safety inspections to ensure a steady supply of meat and to protect taxpayers/consumers. Regulation should extend to markets only to the extent necessary to stop cheating.

The idea that the government should control or prohibit marketing channels that are legal and provide win/win transactions is not only antithetical to a free market, but it harkens back to change. Cattlemen themselves have a hard enough time keeping up with changing trends. How could government bureaucracy keep up and find adaptive ways to cope with changes?

Both hearings had cow-calf producers who complained they had no idea what their calves were worth because they had no local auction market. That is one of the important functions auctions provide where they are available to producers. But with today's available marketing options, reduced cattle numbers, labor problems and operating costs, auctions can't be everywhere any more than major packers can.

There are other ways to determine the value of a calf if a producer really has an accurate view of his cattle. Documenting the past performance of calves is absolutely critical today. Calf pricing still has no direct connection to the major packers.

Another producer complaining of the lack of auction market calf value determination said they used to get more bidders and better prices at auction markets. How much does the psychology of auction market bidding enter into producers' confidence they got the "right" price, despite information from public and private sources being more available now than ever?

Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS) mentioned a bill she cosponsored that would raise the USDA Agricultural Marketing Service's fines from $10,000 to $90,000 to help finance the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act and raise compliance. However, she also noted that compliance was "very high" at 96 percent, and the 4 percent noncompliance rate was usually due to office errors.

So the feds want to throw millions at the USDA and P&S budgets, partially to increase competition and enforcement of the P&S Act for the less than 4 percent of covered businesses that are noncompliant. Do they want us to think there are thousands not getting caught?

He didn't fully explain it, but Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS) made a great point. In any industry, overregulation increases concentration because only the biggest and best-capitalized businesses can cope with all the regulations.

It is obvious that the inflation rate, especially in food prices, has the politicians in D.C. very scared—fuel prices, too. And when was the last time the general media and Congress were whipped up about fertilizer prices and availability?

Who signed the executive orders that started the energy crisis and pushed for the spending of trillions that fueled inflation? It wasn't us.

Fear motivates politicians to spend our money to "fix" their mistakes. That's what scares me. As a measure of their intelligence, note how they want to "take action" on gas prices all the while shutting down pipelines, delaying permits for new ones and piling on restrictions for new wells. They want millions for charging stations for the few electric cars on the road when the electric grid is overtaxed and utility companies are warning of brownouts and blackouts. They are proud of rolling back Trump's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) deregulations, and they brag about their infrastructure bill for projects that their EPA and Endangered Species Act crackdowns guarantee will either never get built or take decades.

Do we really need this kind of twisted "expertise" running (ruining) our cattle markets? — **Steve Dittmer, *WLJ* columnist**

(Steve Dittmer is the author of the Agribusiness Freedom Foundation newsletter. Views in the column do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of WLJ or its editorial staff.)

GUEST OPINION

PRIORITIZING OUR FARM STATE OF MIND

Across farm country, folks show up for one another. No need is too big, and no task is too small for us to pitch in and help our neighbors in rural America. Even when we are surrounded by a loving community, however, it can be hard to admit that we need help. Especially when we need a little extra help regarding our stress and mental health. But as we like to say at Farm Bureau, a healthy farm or ranch begins with a healthy you. That's why we are committed to ensuring that the dedicated men and women who grow the nutritious food for our tables also have the resources they need for their well-being.

Farmers and ranchers are resilient people—we are known for our quiet strength. But our instinct to press on can also hold us back from getting the help we need. We all need to remember that it's OK not to be OK. The longer we walk the road of life, the more certain it is we will face our share of tough times. Often, what we need most in those times is a friend to simply be there and listen. I don't know how I would have made it through my own darkest days without someone simply asking me "How are you doing?" and then listening.

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and a good reminder for all of us to check in with our family, friends and neighbors. Through our Farm State of Mind campaign, the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) has been working to raise awareness, reduce stigma, and connect farmers, ranchers and rural communities with stress and mental health resources. Our online, interactive directory (www.fb.org/land/fsom) connects you to resources in all 50 states and Puerto Rico and provides a great starting point if you, or someone you know, needs support. We have also partnered with Farm Credit and National Farmers Union to provide free, on-demand training to help people understand the causes of stress, reduce the stigma around mental health and learn the warning signs of stress and suicide.

Our team at AFBF works closely with state Farm Bureau members and staff, and we are excited to see many states leading the way in addressing stress and mental health needs for farmers and ranchers in their region. These state-led initiatives address roadblocks like financial constraints and access barriers by providing mental health vouchers to connect farmers with free counseling services, including virtual options for those in remote areas. Others are reducing the stigma around mental health through social media campaigns that encourage farmers to share their stories and messages of support.

Thanks to our work across the Farm Bureau family, we are making a difference, but there is still work to be done. According to a national AFBF survey at the beginning of this year, there is still a stigma around mental health and seeking help or treatment. But that feeling has decreased by nearly 10 percent among farmers and farm employees. What I was most encouraged to see from this survey is that more farmers and farm employees—92 percent—feel comfortable talking to friends and family about stress and mental health solutions compared to just a couple of years ago. That number is up 22 percent from April 2019! We also found that half of farmers and their employees are more aware of resources to help manage stress and mental health conditions than they were a year ago. Just imagine how many lives may have been saved because more people are having these important conversations. Even small interactions can make a big difference.

We've all heard the saying that "Tough times don't last, but tough people do." Well, I don't think that gets it quite right. We cannot go it alone in this life by toughing it out, and we weren't meant to either. Everyone needs someone to help pick them up or sit alongside them in the hard times. If you think you might need help, reach out to a friend or family member. And if someone comes to you, take the time to listen. You never know how much of an impact those few minutes may have. We become much stronger when we stand together. — **Zippy Duvall, AFBF president**

Letters to the Editor: Letters for publication should be no longer than 675 words, must refer to an article that has appeared within the month, and must include the writer's name, address and phone number. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Letters may be shortened for space requirements. Send a letter to the editor by emailing editorial@wlj.net or mailing it to Western Livestock Journal Editorial, 7355 E. Orchard Road #300, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

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STORY SHORTS

USDA proposes P&S Act revisions

In the Federal Register, USDA published proposed revisions to the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act's Livestock Dealer Statutory Trust, which provides financial protection for cash sellers of livestock. The proposed revisions would add procedures and time frames for a livestock seller to notify the livestock dealer and the secretary of Agriculture that the seller has not received full payment for livestock purchased by the dealer and that the seller intends to preserve its trust interests. Additionally, dealers whose average annual livestock purchases exceed $100,000 are required to hold all livestock purchased, and if any livestock have been resold, the receivables or proceeds from the sale must be held in trust for the benefit of all unpaid cash sellers of livestock until those sellers have received full payment. Interested parties can submit written comments about the proposed rule until June 6 by searching for docket ID AMS-FTPP-21-0015 at www.regulations.gov.

Updated drought disaster areas

All 64 counties in Colorado and dozens across Arizona, Kansas, New Mexico, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming have been declared primary natural disaster areas because of the ongoing drought. The designation allows farmers to receive emergency loans to meet various recovery needs, including replacing essential items such as equipment or livestock, reorganizing a farming operation, or refinancing certain debts. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the counties listed in the declaration suffered from a drought intensity of D2 (severe drought) for eight or more consecutive weeks or suffered a drought intensity of D3 (extreme drought) or D4 (exceptional drought) during the growing season. Producers can go to farmers.gov to access the Disaster Assistance Discovery Tool, the "Disaster Assistance Programs at a Glance" fact sheet and the Farm Loan Discovery Tool to determine program or loan options. To file a Notice of Loss or ask questions about available programs, contact your local USDA Service Center.

Enviros intervene in NM suit

The Center for Biological Diversity (CBD) and Maricopa Audubon Society intervened in a lawsuit brought by the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association (NMCGA) against the Biden administration's listing of the southwestern willow flycatcher under the Endangered Species Act. NMCGA brought the suit on behalf of its members, stating the listing caused harm to their members' property values and livelihoods. "This lawsuit is yet another flawed attempt to sideline science and advance an anti-wildlife agenda by undermining the Endangered Species Act," said Noah Greenwald, endangered species director at CBD. "All the science supports the Fish and Wildlife Service's decision that the southwestern willow flycatcher is a valid subspecies that desperately needs continued protection." The groups contend the flycatcher population has declined by 90 percent due to "livestock grazing, dams, water withdrawal and sprawl." The southwestern willow flycatcher was listed as an endangered species in 1995.

Cramer: Higher relief for calves

Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-ND) wrote a letter to USDA Farm Service Agency Administrator Zach Ducheneaux asking to raise the assistance level for newborn calves under the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) following Blizzard Haley. "Unfortunately, as producers have familiarized themselves with LIP, they have expressed concerns the payment rate for calves under 250 pounds does not accurately compensate them for the losses they incurred," Cramer wrote. The 2022 LIP fact sheet indicates that the payment rate per head for non-adult beef cattle weighing less than 250 lbs. is $175.27, far below the going rate for a calf of that size. The average price for calves that size, Cramer wrote, is $393, with a range of about $250-500. With LIP paying out 75 percent of an animal's value, producers could receive $294. Cramer wrote, "2021 in North Dakota was a difficult year, especially for ranchers," since drought forced ranchers to purchase feed. "It is critical these producers receive meaningful relief as soon as possible," Cramer continued.

Tyson reports higher sales in Q2

Tyson Foods Inc. reported higher earnings and sales due to the company's efforts to offset the impacts of inflation, including raising sales prices in the second quarter, which ended April 2, 2022. The company's adjusted net income for the quarter was $833 million, equal to $2.29 per share on the common stock—nearly 75 percent higher than the net income of $477 million, or $1.34 per share, in the same period last year. In the beef segment, sales volume increased slightly in the second quarter, driven by strong global demand, but it was partially offset by labor and supply chain constraints. Strong global beef demand and higher prices, offset by increases in input costs, were reflected in the company's sales of $5.03 billion for the quarter, a 24 percent increase from the same period last year.

The benefits of estrus synchronization and artificial insemination in beef cows

There are several benefits of estrus synchronization in beef cows. Regardless of when your calving season occurs, manipulating the reproductive process of your cow herd can result in shorter breeding and calving seasons.

Accordingly, more calves born earlier in the calving season result in an older, heavier and more uniform calf crop when you wean. Shortened calving seasons permit improvements in herd health and management, such as vaccination timing and practices that add to calf value with lower labor requirements (or, at the very least, concentrating labor efforts into a shorter time frame). Cows that are closer to the same stage of gestation can also be fed and grouped accordingly, which facilitates a higher level of management.

Using AI permits us to get more cows bred to genetically superior sires for traits of economic importance to our operation's production and marketing goals.

Estrus synchronization can be used for natural mating or breeding by artificial insemination (AI). Synchronization protocols permit us to concentrate the labor needed for heat detection for a few days or, in some cases, eliminate the need for heat detection when cows can be bred on a timed basis.

Using AI permits us to get more cows bred to genetically superior sires for traits of economic importance to our operation's production and marketing goals. Synchronization at the onset of the breeding season results in more cows going into heat in the first 18-25 days of the breeding season. The females' return heats will remain synchronized to a degree, which gives a second chance to AI each female in the early part of the breeding season. Without any synchronization, herd managers are faced with 21 days of continual estrus detection and typically only have one opportunity for AI in most females.

Bottom line: Estrus synchronization can be an important management tool to get cows settled as early in the breeding season as possible and get cows bred to bulls with the highest possible genetic value. A defined breeding season is important for meaningful record keeping, timely management and profit potential. Maintaining a 60-75-day breeding and calving season can be one of the cow-calf producer's most important management tools. **—Mark Z. Johnson, Oklahoma State University Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

Former USDA cattle inspector pleads guilty for bribery charges

— Could face 15 years

A former USDA inspector has pleaded guilty to accepting bribes to allow cattle into the U.S. from Mexico without inspection.

Then-USDA Lead Animal Health Technician Roberto Adams admitted he received $40,000 in bribery payments, announced U.S. Attorney Jennifer B. Lowery on April 25. Adams was arrested in early March in Laredo, TX, for allowing cattle to enter the country without properly inspecting or quarantining them.

Over the course of at least 14 months, Mexican cattle brokers paid Adams to allow their cattle into the country, which were tick-infested and diseased, according to Adam's indictment.

Adams originally pleaded not guilty in March and said he wanted a jury trial. U.S. District Judge Marina Garcia Marmolejo will impose sentencing Aug. 3. Adams faces up to 15 years in prison and a maximum $250,000 fine. He was permitted to remain on bond pending sentencing.

The FBI conducted the investigation, along with the USDA Office of Inspector General. **—Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

CCA will work on proposals favorable to cattlemen

REPORT
(from page 1)

in ways that protect biodiversity and habitat, increase connectivity, or enhance ecosystem values while supporting economic activity or other necessary functions."

CCA notes to achieve the goal of conserving the additional 6 percent of the land to reach the 30 percent conservation goal, CNRA has Appendix B, titled “Near-Term Actions to Jumpstart 30×30.”

“Some of these actions may be favorable for the state's cattle producers—efforts to ‘increase voluntary conservation easements,’ for instance—while others may be more problematic (for example, additional acquisition of land by the state),” CCA wrote.

To achieve the initiative's goal of acquiring additional acres, the report states that identifying areas to conserve should be “purposeful, strategic, science-based, and most importantly, aligned with local conditions, communities, and economies.” Conservation is best achieved when acquired areas can meet all three 30x30 key objectives: protecting biodiversity, advancing climate action and expanding equitable access, the report read.

However, the report notes that not all acquisitions can meet these objectives. The report states a state-federal interagency team will identify willing sellers in order to find land for acquisition and secure funding through the federal infrastructure bill and the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The report notes candidate lands for acquisition include those that increase connectivity between conserved or restored habitats to provide wildlife corridors. State agencies will also work with landowners to increase voluntary conservation easements.

In addition to the “Pathways to 30x30” report, CNRA also released the “Natural and Working Lands Climate Smart Strategy,” which outlines the state's approach to meeting its climate change goals through healthy landscapes that store carbon, limit future greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere and buffer climate impacts.

The report defines eight landscape types that California will better manage, including forests, farms, communities and wetlands. It highlights priority nature-based solutions that combat climate impacts in each landscape to help meet California's broader environmental, economic and social objectives. The strategy also charts near-term actions and underscores partnerships as essential to all of this work.

To advance these reports and put them into place, Newsom has proposed $768 million over two years, with nearly $600 million in the 2022-23 budget. Some aspects of the proposed budget that are of interest to producers include:

- $5 million to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection to provide fire prevention grants for wildland grazing.
- A portion of the $200 million the Wildlife Conservation Board will receive for rangeland grazing and grasslands protection to improve working land climate adaptation and resiliency programs, including grazing.

CCA stated it would continue to engage with CNRA and other relevant state agencies to shape future regulatory proposals that are favorable to California cattlemen, and it will continue to advocate for recognition of lands already “conserved” by the state's rangeland stewards in the cattle industry.

A copy of the report can be found at californianature.ca.gov/pages/30x30 — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

“The trick to chasin' cattle in brush is to keep 'em in sight.”

Beef export value sets another record

U.S. beef exports soared to another new value record in March, according to data released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). Lamb exports continued to gain momentum in March, reaching the third largest monthly volume on record and the highest value in nearly eight years.

Beef exports totaled 126,285 metric tons (mt) in March, up 1 percent from a year ago and the third largest on record, while value climbed 33 percent to a record $1.07 billion. First-quarter exports increased 6 percent to 353,852 mt, valued at just over $3 billion (up 41 percent).

“Global demand for U.S. beef has eclipsed anything I have seen in many years in the meat business,” said USMEF president and CEO Dan Halstrom. “While this momentum is fueled by mainstay markets such as South Korea, Japan and Taiwan, demand is also very strong in China/Hong Kong and key Latin American markets, while exports to the Middle East have rebounded impressively.”

Halstrom cautioned that first-quarter results do not fully reflect the impact of recent COVID-19 lockdowns in China that have slowed product movement and forced many restaurants to suspend or limit service. These obstacles are likely to have a greater impact on April and May export data. He also noted that while beef demand has been very resilient, inflation represents a potential headwind.

“Consumers throughout the world have shown how much they value the quality of U.S. beef, but disposable income is under increasing pressure as they pay more for energy and other daily needs,” he said.

South Korea top destination

March beef exports to South Korea totaled 26,834 mt, up 11 percent from a year ago, valued at $278.3 million—up 58 percent and the second highest on record, trailing only the record total ($316.4 million) posted in January.

First-quarter exports to South Korea were 75,445 mt, up 9 percent from a year ago, while export value climbed 57 percent to $792.6 million. Export growth to South Korea has been largely driven by soaring retail demand, but the food service climate received a boost in April as South Korea removed all COVID-related limits on restaurant operating hours and lifted most social distancing restrictions on consumers.

Following a similar course, Japan recently lifted the COVID quasi-state of emergency that was in place in 18 of the country's 47 prefectures. March beef exports to Japan were 25,690 mt, down 10 percent from a year ago, but value still increased 17 percent to $212.6 million. First-quarter exports to Japan climbed 22 percent in value to $594.2 million despite a 4 percent decline in volume (72,179 mt).

China has taken a decidedly different approach to COVID outbreaks, recently imposing lockdowns in several large population centers. These policies have made it difficult for U.S. exporters to supply beef and pork to China and have slowed demand from confined consumers. However, these developments will likely have a more significant impact on second-quarter export results. COVID restrictions also slowed demand in Hong Kong, where the mandatory closing time for restaurants was only recently extended from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., and the per-table limit was raised from two people to four.

With direct exports to China setting a new record, March beef exports to China/Hong Kong reached 22,745 mt, up 11 percent from a year ago, valued at $207.7 million (up 26 percent). This pushed the first-quarter export volume to 62,237 mt, up 36 percent year over year, while value climbed 59 percent to $582.4 million.

Other first-quarter results

Exports to Taiwan raced to a fast start in 2022, climbing 47 percent from a year ago to 18,243 mt, while export value nearly doubled to $227.2 million (up 92 percent). The U.S. dominates Taiwan's chilled beef market, capturing an 80 percent market share. Taiwan has seen surging COVID cases in April and early May but is not imposing lockdowns.

After a record year in 2021, demand in Central America continues to trend higher, led by excellent growth in Guatemala, Panama and Honduras. First-quarter exports to the region increased 14 percent to 5,950 mt, valued at $42 million (up 38 percent).

With food service demand rebounding in the Caribbean, exports increased 41 percent to 6,337 mt, with value more than doubling to $56.8 million (up 109 percent). Growth was led by the Dominican Republic, Jamaica and the Bahamas.

Beef exports to the Middle East continue to rebound, led by stronger variety meat demand in Egypt and muscle cut growth in Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain. March exports to Qatar were the highest since 2011, and exports to Bahrain were the third largest on record. First-quarter exports to the region increased 13 percent to 18,490 mt, valued at $74.8 million (up 38 percent).

While first-quarter exports of beef variety meat edged modestly higher in volume (353,852 mt, up 3 percent), these items commanded sharply higher prices as export value climbed 34 percent to just over $300 million. In addition to Egypt, export value increased impressively to Japan, China and the Caribbean.

March beef export value equated to $472.73 per head of fed slaughter, up 36 percent from a year ago. The first-quarter average was $474.10 per head, up 41 percent. Exports accounted for 14.7 percent of total March beef production, up from 14.5 percent a year ago, while the ratio for muscle cuts was steady at 12.7 percent. First-quarter exports accounted for 14.7 percent of total production and 12.7 percent for muscle cuts, up from 14.1 percent and 11.9 percent, respectively.

March lamb exports

March exports of U.S. lamb increased 75 percent from a year ago to 1,906 mt, the largest volume since 2011 and the third largest on record. Export value nearly doubled to $2.88 million, up 95 percent and the highest since 2014. Growth continues to be led by variety meat exports to top market Mexico, but muscle cut demand also rebounded in Mexico and the Caribbean and showed promising growth in the Philippines.

First-quarter lamb exports increased 54 percent from a year ago to 5,019 mt, while value climbed 72 percent to $7.35 million. Muscle cut exports grew at an even faster pace, up 80 percent from a year ago in volume (492 mt) and 88 percent in value ($3.04 million). — **USMEF**

USFWS proposes listing butterfly in CO, NM, UT as threatened

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is proposing to list a subspecies of silverspot butterfly as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) after conducting a peer-reviewed species status assessment (SSA).

The environmental group WildEarth Guardians petitioned USFWS in 2013 to list the silverspot butterfly for protection. In 2016, USFWS found the petition presented "substantial scientific or commercial information indicating that the petitioned action may be warranted" and began reviewing the species for the listing.

The silverspot butterfly can be found in elevations of 5,200 to 8,300 feet across southwestern Colorado, eastern Utah and northern New Mexico. The butterflies have a 3-inch wingspan with distinctive silvery-white spots on the underside of their wings. On their upper side, females have a cream or light yellow coloring with brown or black, and males have a bright orange upper side.

They require moist, open meadows for nectar sources and lay their eggs on, or immediately next to, the bog violets that the larvae feed on exclusively. The eggs hatch approximately two weeks after being laid in September, and the larvae immediately drink water before going dormant until May. When the bog violets flower in May, the larvae begin feeding on them into July.

According to the release, "While the silverspot butterfly is not in immediate danger of extinction, the best available scientific information indicates that it is in danger of extinction in the foreseeable future."

The SSA states habitat loss is due to fragmentation, incompatible livestock grazing, human-caused hydrological alteration, genetic isolation, climate change, invasion by nonnative plants, fires and pesticides, which influence or could influence species viability.

The SSA notes there are 19 colonies representing 10 populations, and little conservation effort has been directed toward the silverspot butterfly. The two measures that occurred were both in Mesa County, Colorado, in the Mesa/Grand population. The authors stated that housing development and a golf course in Durango, CO, and Beulah, NM, caused habitat loss. Additionally, agricultural conversion has occurred within the range of the butterfly.

Robb Hannawacker
The upper side of a female silverspot butterfly has distinctive cream spots.

The SSA states that grazing may cause habitat loss and degradation if excessive, especially in naturally scarce habitats. "Summer grazing is typically incompatible because livestock graze on the violet leaves, nectar sources and other vegetation necessary for the butterfly when the larvae and adults need them," the report states. The SSA notes that the spikerush and willow invasion in the Unaweep Seep colony in the Mesa/Grand population contributed to the loss of habitat. It is unknown if it would have occurred without grazing.

"Grazing is ongoing in suitable habitat for the species and can limit the availability of habitat throughout the range. Though it can be compatible, it is expected to continue to be a major factor influencing species viability," the report continued.

According to the release by USFWS, the agency is considering an accompanying 4(d) rule to the threatened listing, which would support tailored conservation of the species with balanced land management to allow continued acceptable land uses.

The proposed rule to list the silverspot butterfly as a threatened species and the accompanying 4(d) rule will be open for public comment until July 5. To comment, you can visit www.regulations.gov and search for document ID 1018-BE98. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

ASF vaccine is one step closer to reality

A vaccine candidate for African swine fever (ASF) has passed a safety test for regulatory approval, moving the vaccine a step closer to commercial use.

USDA Agricultural Research Service (ARS) scientists said passing the test is a critical milestone for the ASF vaccine candidate. The test shows the vaccine's weakened form of the ASF virus does not revert to its original state once injected into swine.

"It is very hard to predict how selective pressure can cause a live attenuated vaccine to return to virulence," said senior ARS scientist Douglas Gladue. "In the case of this particular vaccine candidate, ASFV-G-DI177L, we deleted a gene, which makes it difficult for the virus to simply add the gene back."

While the safety tests are necessary to gain approval for use across the world, future commercial use will depend on approval from an individual country's department of animal health. There have not been any ASF outbreaks in the U.S., but the virus has decimated hog herds in other parts of the world, including Central Europe and Asia and the Dominican Republic.

"For low- and middle-income countries, the availability of a vaccine is paramount, as depopulating affected swine herds is not logistically or economically feasible," read the research article published in the scientific journal Viruses.

Results show the vaccine candidate was given to pigs 6-8 weeks of age, was safe and lacked the ability to induce local and systemic disease. Although a low level of shedding from vaccinated animals could be detected for a few days, the vaccine virus was shown to remain genetically stable.

The vaccine candidate was selected by National Veterinary Joint Stock Company for commercial development in Vietnam. The company has partnered with ARS on ASF vaccine research and development since 2020, and further development will continue once the candidate receives regulatory approval from Vietnam. — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

CALENDAR COMING EVENTS

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

May 20-21 – Registration is now open for three National Cattlemen's Beef Association Stockmanship and Stewardship regional events, with the first stop in Blacksburg, VA, May 20-21. Details: www.StockmanshipAndStewardship.org. Cattle producers attending a Stockmanship and Stewardship event are eligible for reimbursement through the Rancher Resilience Grant.

June 1-4 – Registration is now open for the 2022 Beef Improvement Federation Research Symposium and Convention in Las Cruces, NM. Early registration ends May 4. Details: cvent.me/38rPNP.

June 13-15 – Registration is open for the Colorado Cattlemen's Association's (CCA) 2022 Annual Convention, which will be held at the Colorado Springs Marriott in Colorado Springs, CO. Visit www.coloradocattle.org/annual-convention for registration information, the schedule of events and more highlights. You can also register by calling the CCA office directly at 303-431-6422.

June 16-18 – Registration is now open for three National Cattlemen's Beef Association Stockmanship and Stewardship regional events, with the second stop in Leavenworth, KS, June 16-18. Details: www.StockmanshipAndStewardship.org. Cattle producers attending a Stockmanship and Stewardship event are eligible for reimbursement through the Rancher Resilience Grant.

June 22-23 – The California Cattlemen's Association and California CattleWomen's Annual Midyear Meeting is being held at the Murieta Inn in Rancho Murieta, CA. Full registration is $200. To register, visit calcattlemen.org.

Aug. 8-9 – The second American Lamb Summit is set for Aug. 8-9 in East Lansing, MI. The registration fee is $200, with an optional tour organized by the Michigan Sheep Producers Association on August 10 for an additional fee of $125, which is limited to 36 participants. To learn more and register, go to LambSummit.com.

Aug. 12-13 – Registration is now open for three National Cattlemen's Beef Association Stockmanship and Stewardship regional events, with the third stop at Auburn University in Auburn, AL, Aug. 12-13. Details: www.StockmanshipAndStewardship.org. Cattle producers attending a Stockmanship and Stewardship event are eligible for reimbursement through the Rancher Resilience Grant.

Aug. 18-19 – R-CALF USA is hosting its 2022 Annual Convention and Trade Show at the Lodge at Deadwood in Deadwood, SD. Sponsor and attendee registration is available now at www.rcalfconvention.com.

Aug. 24-26 – Registration is now open for the Public Land Council's 2022 Annual Meeting in Cody, WY. Registration and hotel details can be found at publiclandscouncil.org under the "events" tab. Early bird registration ends June 15.

About 100 ranches affected by NM fire

FIRE
(from page 1)

spring season. Lujan Grisham questioned why the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) would burn in April, when fire experts say it is notoriously windy in New Mexico. Local residents have posted on Facebook to say the same.

Rep. Teresa Leger Fernandez (D-NM-3) wrote a letter to USFS stating she was outraged and demanded answers on how the agency could approve the prescribed burn. "New Mexicans will feel the damage from this fire for years and generations to come," she wrote. Fernandez also called for updated prescribed burn protocols.

USFS spokesperson Michelle Burnett told Source New Mexico the prescribed burn was scheduled for March, but officials called it off due to snow on the ground. USFS said the forecasted weather conditions were "within parameters of the prescribed burn," but the agency has declined to specify what those parameters were.

Other wildfires are also burning in the state, including the Cerro Pelado fire, which started on April 22 east of Jemez Springs and southeast of Los Alamos near the Bandelier National Monument. The fire had burned over 42,000 acres as of May 10 and was 11 percent contained, according to InciWeb. Officials at Los Alamos National Laboratory and residents in the nearby town of Los Alamos are preparing for evacuations as a precaution.

The Bear Trap fire in the San Mateo Mountains started May 1, and as of May 11, had burned over 7,200 acres. No communities are under threat at this time. Crews have gotten the upper hand on the Cooks Peak fire, which was 97 percent contained and burned close to 60,000 acres. The fire started on April 17 and forced the evacuation of some Mora County residents, who are slowly being allowed to return to their homes.

On May 4, Biden made a federal disaster declaration, making funding available for residents of Colfax, Lincoln, Mora, San Miguel and Valencia counties. The funding provides grants for temporary housing and home repairs, low-cost loans to cover uninsured property losses, and other programs to help individuals and business owners recover from the effects of the disaster.

The New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management has information on their website on how to apply for aid, where to donate supplies and volunteer, and where to find fire information and resources.

Ranches

Loren Patterson, president of the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association, told *WLJ* there are about 100 ranches affected by the fire, and New Mexico Livestock Board inspectors will perform follow-ups on 424 locations with all types of livestock.

Patterson said the biggest concern is the fire and the lack of power in fire-adjacent areas, which prevents the pumping of well water. He noted there had been record winds, with gusts up to 50 miles per hour, and the humidity has been very low for this time of year.

The National Weather Service has continued to issue Red Flag Warnings for much of New Mexico and Arizona and parts of Colorado and Nevada. Forecasters said New Mexico is outpacing most other recent years for the number of Red Flag days in April and May so far.

Patterson said that some ranchers or their family members have evacuated, with some returning to check on livestock with escorts.

For affected producers who need an escort to check on animals, contact the New Mexico State Police Dispatch office in Las Vegas at 505-425-6771, and they will take your information to schedule a time when it is safe to check.

Vincent Marquez, a rancher in San Miguel County, told the Santa Fe New Mexican he lost a yearling to a mountain lion because predators and other wildlife are moving away from the fire. Marquez said he had seen the elk population triple since the start of the fire and the mule deer population quadruple as they try to escape the fire. Marquez, who lives in Las Vegas, said he is reasonably sure the fire destroyed the ranch and cabin after learning a nearby home was burned, but he moved his cattle before the fire arrived.

Patterson said people are upset the prescribed burn by USFS resulted in the Hermits Peak fire.

Patterson said the community, which has been there for generations, will be affected for decades as a result of the fire. As the community recovers, Patterson said federal relief should be provided, and the community should have more control of forest management.

The New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association has established a producer relief fund on their website at bit.ly/3kwnpcb or by calling 505-247-0584. Funds will be used to assist families, cover transportation costs for hay and cover replacement fencing, Patterson said.

The Public Lands Council (PLC) is working with the Bureau of Land Management and USFS to ensure producers have resources available during the fire season, including access to alternative forages, authorization to move livestock during incidents, and support when fire causes livestock or forage losses. On PLC's website, ranchers can find a list of available federal and state disaster resources for wildfires and droughts. **— Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

Grazing management following wildfires

There have been several wildfires this spring that have affected range and pasture lands across Nebraska. Although the immediate aftermath of a fast-moving fire can look quite devastating, most of our perennial pasture grasses will recover with adequate moisture.

One of the key impacts of a wildfire is the loss of plant residue and litter that protect the soil surface. This residue is important for reducing wind and water erosion and the loss of soil moisture. Some of the wildfire areas had significant winds during and after the fire. This likely led to some scouring erosion around the plants. At the time of the fire, many cool-season grasses had started their initial spring growth or green-up. They will be set back a little, but they will recover.

An important grazing management recommendation following a wildfire is to delay turnout, possibly as long as one month. This is both for fire recovery and drought potential. This will allow the grass plants to maximize growth given the current soil moisture conditions, resulting in greater season-long production.

Secondly, stocking rates should be reduced with the objective of leaving adequate residue, which will become litter on the ground. This is to replace what was lost in the fire. Rainfall in May and June will be critical and should be the guiding factor affecting any of the above management decisions.

It is not uncommon to see a greater number of annual weeds show up in a pasture after a fire. While this may look concerning, these weeds can actually be useful; they have some forage value or will turn into residue and cover at the end of the season. Their numbers will decline the following year.

Byproducts of a wildfire include areas that were disked for a firebreak. Ideally, these areas should be reseeded using the same grass species found in the rest of the pasture. If this cannot be done within the next few weeks, a summer annual forage crop could be planted as a cover, and then the producer can plan for reseeding the perennial grasses next spring. **— Jerry Volesky, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension range and forage specialist**

USDA accepts 2 million acres to CRP

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced USDA is accepting 2 million acres into the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) during the first of multiple sign-up periods in 2022.

"Our conservation programs are voluntary, and at the end of the day, producers are making market-based decisions as the program was designed to allow and encourages," Vilsack said. "We recognize the Conservation Reserve Program is an important tool in helping mitigate climate change and conserve natural resources, and this announcement is just the first opportunity for producers to take advantage of the program."

USDA said in the announcement that 3.4 million acres are expiring this year, and producers submitted reenrollment offers for just over half of the expiring acres. USDA noted the offers for new land under general CRP were considerably lower than in 2021, with fewer than 400,000 acres being offered this year versus over 700,000 acres offered last year.

Vilsack is encouraging producers to still sign up for the Grassland CRP working lands program, the continuous CRP for more targeted buffer practices, and partnership opportunities through the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program.

Zach Ducheneaux, administrator of USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), told Jerry Hagstrom, DTN political correspondent, he hopes the sign-ups for those programs will make it possible for FSA, which manages the CRP, to reach the maximum acreage enrollment of 27 million acres in 2023.

Ducheneaux said, "I don't see CRP as land idling," and he noted USDA allowed harvesting and foraging on CRP land last year and said it "literally kept cattle herds together" in North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska. Ducheneaux noted the program is voluntary, and landowners can make an enrollment decision, but he added CRP "finds a better use for land that is marginal or submarginal" and creates biodiversity.

USDA noted land enrolled in CRP plays a role in climate change mitigation efforts. In 2021, FSA introduced the Climate-Smart Practice Incentive, which provides an incentive payment based on the predominant vegetation type for the practices enrolled.

While the general sign-up is closed, producers and landowners can still apply for the continuous sign-up and Grassland sign-up by contacting their local USDA Service Center. **— Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

Rancher lethally removes wolf in OR after depredations

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) confirmed a rancher in northeast Oregon killed a yearling male wolf from the Chesnimnus Pack after being issued a permit by the department.

The permit was issued after the rancher, Tom Birkmaier, who ranches along Crow Creek in Wallowa County, experienced two depredations by the Chesnimnus Pack in three days on his public land grazing allotment, which resulted in three dead calves.

The depredations occurred on April 25 and 27. A third event occurred in the Crow Creek area on April 29, but ODFW was unable to determine if the loss of a calf was due to a wolf depredation. The Chesnimnus Pack was also responsible for the loss of a calf in the Joseph Creek area, which ODFW estimated happened about a week before the April 30 investigation.

The agency also conducted two other investigations in Wallowa County but was unable to determine the cause of the death of one calf. ODFW determined the deaths of three lambs were possibly due to coyotes.

ODFW confirmed that Birkmaier also had livestock injured in another public land pasture, and the permit had already been amended to allow removal in that pasture.

The permit authorizes the removal of two wolves where the depredations occurred and expires on May 24.

The permit was issued since the level of depredation met the definition of chronic livestock depredation under Wolf Management Plan rules. The definition stipulates that a minimum of two confirmed depredations occurred in nine months and nonlethal measures were taken prior to the depredation.

ODFW reported Birkmaier used nonlethal measures, including the use of a range rider funded by a nonprofit organization. Birkmaier and the range rider used spotlights, radios and foxlights and recently increased the amount of time humans spent in the area. This included spending several nights in the pasture with the cattle following the first depredation and attempting to haze wolves out of the area on April 26 by shooting in the air over eight wolves he encountered in the pasture.

ODFW confirmed Birkmaier shot the wolf under the permit on May 3. The permit authorizes the removal of two wolves where the depredations occurred and expires on May 24. ODFW stated Birkmaier will continue to use nonlethal measures once the permit expires to reduce further depredation incidents.

The Chesnimnus Pack numbers at least eight or nine adult and yearling wolves, none of which have a working GPS collar, according to ODFW. The agency says killing two wolves is not expected to impact the pack's breeding success, as the breeding female may be located at the den far away from the depredation sites.

ODFW released the minimum wolf count on April 19, showing the population increased by only two wolves due to mortalities. The population increased from 173 to 175 wolves, while mortalities increased from 10 in 2020 to 26 last year. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

Broiler industry may see strong margins, modest growth

MEAT
(from page 1)

Beef demand

Beef consumption typically declines during inflationary periods, but it has not since 2020. CoBank says from 2009-15, beef prices rose 7 percent on average per year, and per capita beef consumption declined more than 11 percent.

While prices over the past couple of years have increased by more than 20 percent, consumption still increased by 1.4 percent. Beef consumption has risen 8.6 percent since 2015. USDA expects a slight decline in beef pounds consumed through 2022-23.

Producers have had more than their fair share of challenges over the past couple of years. Temporary processing plant closures in 2020 led to backups in the fed cattle supply that we continue to face today. With worsening drought conditions across the West, the nation's beef herd has declined, with cow and replacement heifer numbers down 12 percent since 2017. USDA predicts a 2 percent decline in beef and pork production in 2022.

Chicken was expected to pick up the slack for lower production numbers, but broiler production growth averaged barely over 1 percent from 2020-21. This was due to uncertainty regarding the future of food service, high feed costs, chick survivability and highly pathogenic avian influenza, according to CoBank.

"The bottom line is that slightly higher poultry production and slightly higher red meat imports will leave the domestic meat and poultry supply essentially unchanged in 2022," Earnest wrote in the report.

Although wages are increasing, they are not keeping pace with inflation, which could affect meat purchases. However, Earnest said CoBank does not anticipate consumers "trading down" in their protein purchases and favoring chicken as severely as in 2006-15 when chicken grew in popularity in fast-casual restaurants. However, the possibility is still there at a smaller impact.

"If consumers' real incomes continue to decline along with higher meat prices, we may finally see a significant change in consumers' willingness to pay for red meat," Earnest concluded. If so, the broiler industry may see modest growth and strong margins, but CoBank doesn't expect it will rival the expansive growth that occurred from 2017-20 when eight new broiler plants were built. — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

YOUTH OPPORTUNITIES

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

June 15 – Tavaputs Ranch is honoring the memory of the late Tate Jensen through an annual $2,500 scholarship. Applicants must be seniors in college or in a graduate student program and studying agriculture or natural resources. Applications must include an essay with the applicant's background, college involvement and their future plans. Applications can be submitted to jennie.m.jensen@gmail.com or by mail to Jennie Christensen at P.O. Box 725, Price, UT 84501.

MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE

	This Week: 5/12/2022		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	142.17	▼	143.63	119.73
CME Feeder Index	156.61	▲	155.59	131.01
Boxed Beef Average	257.20	▲	255.18	316.78
Average Dressed Steers	229.21	▼	231.59	190.69
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,377	▼	1,378	1,368
Weekly Slaughter**	657,000	▲	656,000	638,000
Weekly Beef Production***	545.5	▲	539.2	526.7
Hide/Offal Value	13.63	▲	13.63	11.91
Corn Price	8.14	▲	8.04	7.19

*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	COMPREHENSIVE Price	PRIME Loads	PRIME Price	BRANDED Loads	BRANDED Price	CHOICE Loads	CHOICE Price	SELECT Loads	SELECT Price	UNGRADED Loads	UNGRADED Price
May 9	6,060	261.25	216	291.03	1,072	265.71	1,823	259.97	776	250.14	2,174	233.58
May 2	6,667	266.11	231	294.48	1,220	271.67	2,165	265.05	790	254.07	2,261	238.09
April 25	6,295	269.85	267	296.47	1,135	274.02	1,979	268.89	735	256.74	2,179	242.50
April 18	6,240	272.85	246	298.12	1,137	275.75	1,973	271.73	662	261.02	2,222	245.22

Cutouts

	FED BOXED BEEF				
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
May 12	257.20	244.36	217.95	104.44	270.00
May 11	255.08	242.18	220.17	106.69	274.30
May 10	255.24	242.35	219.55	99.26	270.50
May 9	258.29	243.13	218.58	97.01	271.25
May 6	254.44	245.06	219.01	110.41	270.32

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle

	5/6	5/9	5/10	5/11	5/12	High*	Low*
Jun.	13275	13355	13240	13358	13165	14783	10920
Aug.	13535	13538	13410	13465	13278	14385	12525
Oct.	14288	14263	14138	14193	13985	14453	13055
Dec.	14925	14880	14753	14763	14598	15083	14003

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle

	5/6	5/9	5/10	5/11	5/12	High*	Low*
May.	15955	15980	15893	15815	15688	17025	15328
Aug.	17470	17423	17185	17000	16653	17628	15425
Sep.	17795	17723	17495	17318	16968	17865	16373
Oct.	18023	17965	17763	17603	17255	18665	17248

*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	24,743	1,427	142.17
Live FOB Heifer	13,074	1,296	141.48
Dressed Del Steer	13,571	921	229.21
Dressed Del Heifer	3,504	836	229.72
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	33,679	1,439	143.63
Live FOB Heifer	14,034	1,306	143.33
Dressed Del Steer	14,846	925	231.59
Dressed Del Heifer	4,572	835	231.97
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	17,233	1,444	119.73
Live FOB Heifer	10,802	1,305	119.77
Dressed Del Steer	10,185	927	190.69
Dressed Del Heifer	1,378	834	191.47

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME

	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	42,541	4,589
Formula	258,967	862
Negotiated Cash	107,710	270
Negotiated Grid	36,182	0
Packer Owned	10,082	0
Total	**455,482**	**5,721**

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS / FORWARD BEEF SALES

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,713
May '22	164,965	Neg. Sales 21+ days	758
Jun. '22	150,718	Formula sales	3,488
Jul. '22	120,701	Forward contract sales	101
Aug. '22	103,049	Domestic sales	5,365
Sep. '22	149,637	NAFTA Exports	144

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	132.05	-1.64
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	135.45	-3.57
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	136.21	-1.05
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	79.23	-1.79

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, April 29, 2022

Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	183.92	182.46	180.84
601-700 lbs	171.99	172.08	178.75
701-800 lbs	158.49	161.10	170.52
801-900 lbs	147.48	148.89	154.66
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	162.00	163.57	147.01
501-600 lbs	158.73	155.95	145.75
601-700 lbs	146.49	145.91	145.04
701-800 lbs	140.16	139.82	140.76

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
	5/10/2022	**5/3/2022**		
Feeders	16,389	20,116	320,010	473,755

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

Friday, May 6, 2022
Mexico to TX. & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary
Receipts EST: 12,000 Week Ago Act: 16,007 Year Ago Act: 16,017

Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold steady to firm. Heifers steady. Trade active, demand good. The bulk of the supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.

Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 189.00-199.00; 400-500 lbs 174.00-184.00, few 185.00; 500-600 lbs 160.00-170.00; 600-700 lbs 147.00-157.00. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 174.00-184.00; 400-500 lbs 159.00-169.00; 500-600 lbs 145.00-155.00.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 160.00-170.00; 400 -500 lbs 150.00-160.00; 500-600 lbs 140.00-150.00; 600-700 lbs 130.00-140.00.

(All sales fob port of entry.) (All sales fob port of entry.)

Selected Auction Week Ending May 12, 2022

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

DATE MARKET	Head	STEERS / HEIFERS 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
NORTHWEST										
May 6 Blackfoot, ID	N/A		160-192 150-170	155-192 150-185	155-187 140-173	150-182 137-169	145-177 132-151	132-157 122-145	75-88.50 86-82	
May 5 Burley, ID	264			197.50 178	178 149-172	168 146	152 138	123-138 108-124	91-97.75 99-113	1,650
No report available Emmett, ID										
May 9 Eugene, OR	765		110-120*	130-157* 110-135*	128-150* 105-118*	120-149* 98-118*	125-145* 112-129*	107-122.50*	84-90 110-120	930-1,330 760-1,240
No report available Madras, OR										
No report available Vale, OR										
May 11 Davenport, WA	266		125 60-150	133-151 35-127	132-134 103-130	66-140 44-129	60-107 42-105	104-123 86-103	46-108 88.50-119	1,200-1,350
May 5 Toppenish, WA	1,850			170*	177-209* 163-170*	172.50-184* 147.50-156.35*			78-99.75 108-121.50	1,150-1,450
FARWEST										
April 29 Orland, CA	2,437			150-182 165	140-192 176	130-171 147	120-154 140	110-136 126	45-97 80-135	
May 9 Escalon, CA	N/A		130-171 125-156		125-161 120-153		120-141 100-135	100-125 95-115	64-78 86-126	800-1,300 700-1,300
No report available Famoso, CA										
No report available Galt, CA										
May 10 Turlock, CA	1,308			170-187.50 153-185	160-173 151-174	150-162 140-163.75	132-144.50	124-135	73-87 90-122	
May 3 Salina, UT	1,026	190-200 175-180	160-188 145-170	152.50-182.50 140-167	144-173 130-163	138.25-175 127.50-153.50	126-156 117-158.50	112.50-148 80-138	67.75-88.25 89.75-116.50	1,150-1,435
NORTH CENTRAL										
May 9 Iowa	7,044		200-230 180-191	195-227.50 166-186	187.50-215 155-177.75	174.50-199.25 143-165	150-176.75 140-148.75	143.25-167 127.50-148.25	69-94 66-120	
May 10 Miles City, MT	1,354			207-211	189-201 172	150-155	158 143	154.75	71-86.50 81-107.50	1,210-2,035 1,060-1,200
May 11 Bassett, NE	1,360		251 200	240-245.75 186-203	190.50-216 157-185	161-197 151-169.50	157.50-164.50 136-159.50	147-162.50 136.50-146		
May 7 Ericson, NE	1,380									1,125-1,700 850-1,550
May 10 Imperial, NE	750			186		159.50-165	155 147	149.50 137.50-143		
No report available Kearney, NE										
No report available Lexington, NE										
No report available Ogallala, NE										
No report available Valentine, NE										
No report available Herreid, SD										
May 6 Torrington, WY	1,830			222.50 175-185	200-204 175-183	185.50 163-171	152-162	138-141 142-145.50	79.72-91 106.81	1,585-1,750 1,210-1,650
SOUTH CENTRAL										
May 5 Willcox, AZ	1,063	200 160-166	165-203 151-167	180-195 146-161	155-188.50 140-151.50	153-180 133-148			65-100 80-105	
May 9 Colorado	6,545		196-205	185-203 173-199	180-201.50 157-176	170-182 154-171	156-173 145-154	142-154.50 138-142.25	42.50-95 71-119	1,125-1,800 875-1,400
May 4 La Junta, CO	1,815			188-197 168-173	173-188 155-169	160-173 155-162	150-160 148-159	141 115-137	70-90 86-113.50	1,050-1,675 975-1,400
No report available Loma, CO										
May 11 Dodge City, KS	2,112		195-205 181	180-195 156-171	177-188 146-161.50	170-179.50 146-154.50	154-167 151-160.10	135-158 130-146	67-85 93-109	1,185-1,525 710-950
May 12 Pratt, KS	3,500			173-174	179 173	166-173 162-178.25	165 141-162	124-144.25		
May 5 Salina, KS	2,148		184-189	197-212 177-187.50	175-204 168-184	185-191.50 143-166	163-174 142-153.50	141.50-164.50 122.50-140.50		
May 11 Clovis, NM	1,475		191-206 160-167	180-192 154-163.50	160-181 151-161	149-166 138-147.50	141-150 130-140	114	75	
May 5 El Reno, OK	7,401		197.50-225 190	205-215 166-180	175-200 156-160	165-182 137-163	153-163 143-152	140-155 131.50-143.25		
May 11 McAlester, OK	1,810		185-211 159-175	195-210 168-184	181-209 147-162	163-187 135-156	148-162 129-135		60-84 81-114	750-1,600 675-1,450
May 10 Oklahoma City, OK	6,532	222 189	207-225.50 183-199	197-226 173-188	175-205 154-178	170-181 152-167	150-173.25 137.50-155.25	136-157 129-143.50		
May 6 Cuero, TX	972	162-210 123-230	170-196 143-198	163-192 143-204	154-178 141-194	151-162 135-157	143-154 122-138		65-80 90-111	900-1,250
May 6 Dalhart, TX	2,150		186-200	182-196 168-179	178-189 163.50-174.50	160-173.50 144-163.25	138-146 135-151	134.50-143 100-127	60-83 84-110	1,100 1,000
May 5 San Angelo, TX	1,260		169-191 138-170	164-191 138-166	154-177 135-152	144-158 127-144	140-147 112-118		61-94 75-108	800-1,450 800-1,100
May 5 Tulia, TX	1,276		198-205.50 165-172	197-205 165-179	176-192 160.50-167.50	162-177 145-154	152.50-166.50 137-143	137.50-145 115-128	70-80 85-90	
EAST										
May 6 Alabama	8,243		178-200 143-165	166-189 138-165	155-182 135-159	140-165 123-145	135-150 113-154	134-138.25	60-95 79-120	400-1,400 250-1,500
May 9 Lexington, KY	603	187.50-207* 176-190*	185-220* 158-181*	165-197* 146-170*	162-201* 142-165.50*	164-179* 132-154*	141-156* 124-128*	129-150.35* 101-125*	66-100 97-126	1,525-1,575 875-1,275
May 9 Joplin, MO	4,053		205-225 175-199	192.50-220 165-180	187-205 157-171	167-190 157-170.50	151.25-174.50 154-158	157-159.50 142-144		
May 9 Tennessee	6,440	190-212.50* 145-185*	176-220* 146-183*	162-200* 140-185*	156-189* 122.50-169*	142.50-173* 110-157*	131-155* 114-133*	120-140* 94-123*	55-98.50 72-133	925-1,580 600-1,375
May 9 Virginia	4,556	128-155	153-217 142-160	128-206 139-165	145-192.50 129-160.25	140-185 87.50-145	130-161 111-145	107-152 101-137		
CANADA										
May 11 Lethbridge, Alberta	1,283		250-262 209-216	244-261 205-214	231-245 203-211	216-241 188-209	199-221.50 182-194	176-209.75 168-181	85-107 124-136.50	

Beef demand steady as grilling season approaches

With Mother's Day behind us, attention now shifts to Memorial Day and the kickoff of summer grilling season.

The recent months have been characterized by exceptionally strong beef demand that began about a year ago. It appears this demand was driven by post-pandemic pent-up demand combined with surging beef exports. Boxed beef prices have come down from this period of extremely strong demand and have adjusted down from a counter-seasonal January peak to current levels, 11.2 percent lower compared to the last week of January.

In the last three weeks, Choice boxed beef values have dropped below year-ago levels, which were surging higher at this time in 2021. Beef demand is not likely to repeat last year's levels, but current levels are still relatively high compared to recent years. Comparisons to last year will look weaker for boxed beef and many wholesale cut values, but that is not really a valid comparison to judge beef demand in 2022.

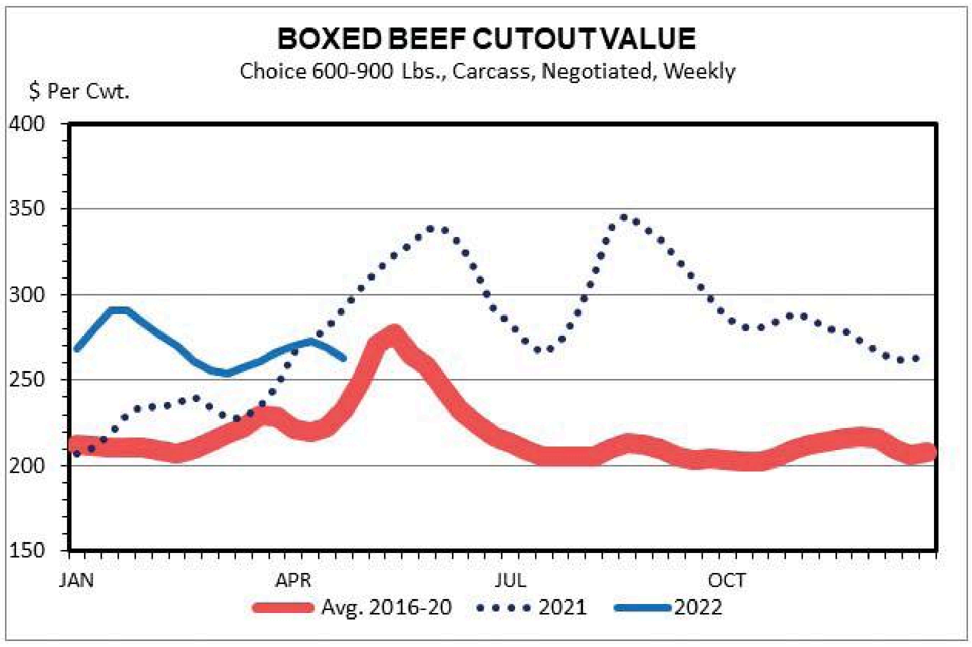
There are plenty of reasons to be concerned about beef demand going forward. Beef prices are near record levels, and consumers will face tightening discretionary income as cash reserves and savings are depleted, along with reduced purchasing power due to inflation. However, all proteins are higher priced, and the ratio of retail beef price to retail broiler chicken and pork prices is actually lower now compared to six months ago. Still, we watch for indications that consumers are "trading down" from the most expensive beef cuts to cheaper value cuts.

Across a range of wholesale beef cuts, there are mixed signals.

There are growing indications in the past couple of weeks of some weakness in beef demand. Wholesale ribeye prices have decreased over the past four weeks at a time when they are typically increasing seasonally. Conversely, beef tenderloin prices increased strongly ahead of Mother's Day. Tenderloin prices declined the first week of May, and they typically drop a bit into the summer as steakhouse traffic slows when folks are outside and doing more grilling. Wholesale brisket prices have adjusted down the past three months from the exceptional levels of the previous year, holding generally steady heading into summer. The increasingly popular beef tri tip has maintained strong prices so far this year and is increasing seasonally, though nowhere near as strong of an increase as this time last year.

A bellwether of summer grilling demand is the price of strip loin, which typically and reliably increases seasonally going into summer. So far this year, strip loin prices have increased only modestly and have actually weakened since mid-April. This may indicate some demand weakness and bears watching in the coming weeks. Relative weakness in some chuck product prices may be related to slower growth in export demand. The ground beef market continues to be very strong due to fundamental demand.

In general, while there are some red flags, there are no broad-based indications of weaker beef demand and consumers trading down from high-value beef products. A sunny, warm Memorial Day weekend may provide a better indication of beef demand for the summer. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**



Export report shows a new marketing high for the year

MARKETS
(from page 1)

deferred delivery.

On Wednesday, the Fed Cattle Exchange listed 1,317 head, of which 246 from Texas sold at $137. The remainder—1,071 head—went unsold, as they did not meet the reserve prices that ranged from $134-141. Opening prices ranged from $132-138, and high bids ranged from $137-140.

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of May 2-9 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: $143.59.
- Formula net purchases: $145.59.
- Forward contract net purchases: $147.20.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: $142.06.

On a dressed basis:

- Negotiated purchases: $231.22.
- Formula net purchases: $228.97.
- Forward contract net purchases: $224.80.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: $227.50.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled 495,000 head. Total slaughter for the prior week is projected to be 657,000 head, topping the last week of April's estimated slaughter of 649,000 head.

"The large volume took a toll on box prices and processor margins, but profits at the plants will remain well above historic averages. The weekly slaughter size will determine the current status of fed supplies," the Cattle Report wrote.

Actual slaughter for the week ending April 30 was 646,636 head. Steer carcass weights were 901 lbs. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service released the National Weekly Fed Cattle Comprehensive report, showing quality grading at 82 percent and dressed weights higher to 870.8 lbs.

Boxed beef prices closed mixed, with the Choice cutout closing higher $2.02 to $257.20 and the Select cutout closing lower $1.45 to $244.36.

USDA's Weekly Export report for the April 29-May 5 period showed net sales of 28,400 metric tons (mt), up 95 percent from the previous week and the prior four-week average. Exports were 19,700 mt, down 3 percent from the previous week but up 2 percent from the prior four-week average. The destinations were primarily South Korea (6,000 mt), Japan (5,800 mt), China (2,500 mt), Taiwan (1,300 mt) and Mexico (1,200 mt).

Feeder cattle

Corn contracts traded higher after a favorable World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE) report, pushing feeder cattle lower. The May contract was down $3.45 to close at $156.87, and the August contract lost $7.85 to close at $166.52.

The WASDE report showed lower production for the 2022-23 corn outlook, at 14.5 billion bushels, down 4.3 percent from last year, and the yield is projected lower at 177 bushels per acre, down 4 bushels.

The May contract was up 10 cents to close at $8.13, and the June contract was down 6 cents to close at $7.91 per bushel.

Colorado: Winter Livestock in La Junta sold 1,207 head Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers and heifers were lightly tested, as feeders made up 60 percent of the head sold. A group of steers averaging 614 lbs. sold between $182-185, averaging $184.54.

Iowa: Russell Livestock in Russell sold 3,947 head Monday. Compared to the last auction, steer calves 300-650 lbs. sold $2-8 higher, 650-750 lbs. were $5-8 higher and 750-950 lbs. traded firm. Heifer calves 300-650 lbs. sold $3-8 higher, and 650-950 lbs. traded $2-5 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 777 lbs. sold between $151.25-165.25, averaging $160.58.

Kansas: Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 2,112 head Wednesday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers 500-975 lbs. sold $2-6 lower. Steer calves 400-500 lbs. sold $10 lower. Feeder heifers 700-950 lbs. sold $2-5 higher. Heifers 400-700 lbs. sold $4-8 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 735 lbs. sold for $167.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 4,053 head on Monday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers under 700 lbs. traded $4-6 higher, and steers over 700 lbs. traded mostly steady. Feeder heifers traded from steady to $6 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 737 lbs. sold between $160-174.50 and averaged $162.70.

Montana: Miles City Livestock in Miles City sold 1,354 head Tuesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder cattle were too lightly tested to develop an accurate market trend. However, steady undertones were noticed. Benchmark steers averaging 703 lbs. sold for $158.

Nebraska: Tri-State Livestock in McCook sold 1,005 head Monday. There were not enough sales for an accurate comparison, but demand was good. Benchmark steers averaging 716 lbs. sold for $166.25.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 6,532 head Monday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers over 800 lbs. sold steady to $3 higher, while steers under 800 lbs. were $1-4 lower. Feeder heifers were unevenly steady. Steer and heifer calves traded $4-8 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 736 lbs. sold between $158.75-168, averaging $161.79.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Livestock in Worthing sold 2,372 head Monday. Compared to the previous auction, feeder steers and heifers sold with higher undertones. Overall demand was good, with black hided cattle in the biggest demand. Benchmark steers averaging 775 lbs. sold between $159-169.50 and averaged $163.10. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

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Real Estate Southwest 20D

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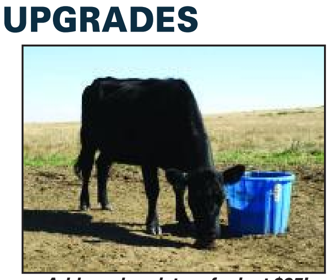

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Irrigation 27

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Equipment For Sale 30

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Schools 43

American breeds provide selection indexes for beef cattle producers

"If we made EPDs and indices incredibly easy to drive and continue to improve them, would we have better adoption of them?" asked Kari White, Ph.D., Neogen genetic evaluation scientist. White discussed the economic selection indexes offered by American breeds during the 2021 Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Symposium June 24 in Des Moines, IA.

A selection index is a cumulative number that combines EPDs and weights on those EPDs into one value with the idea that it is easier to select for several traits at a time in a more consistent direction than to select based only on one number.

Neogen's focus on education shows the complexities of selection index systems but allows for continuous improvement and makes them easier to use, and it allows intuitive producers to adopt selection indexes.

White looked more closely at the Milk EPD and reminded producers that it is maternal weaning weight, and it is not intuitive about milk. Milk has an inverse relationship to direct weaning weight; as direct weaning weight pounds increase, the maternal component decreases. Neogen has created selection indexes for the American Brahman Breeders Association, International Brangus Breeders Association, Beefmaster Breeders United and Santa Gertrudis Breeders International.

"Selection decisions can never be made in a vacuum; there are always unintended consequences," White explained. "A user of selection indexes should care less about the coefficients for the traits and more about how the index correlates to economically relevant traits."

To watch the full presentation, visit youtu.be/DLq9YvmgJUM. For more information about the symposium and BIF, including additional presentations and award winners, visit BIFSymposium.com. — **BIF**

1922 100 YEARS 2022 Western Livestock Journal

August 1950, Vol. 28, No. 48

Letter to the Editor: Tensiometer Fan

For the past year we have been looking at cattle ranches in Arizona, California and Nevada with the idea of buying. Our youngest son will graduate from Cal Poly with a major in animal husbandry in another year and a half and we would like to gain some practical experience in the meantime in addition to some farming in Indiana many years ago.

The one problem that is of great importance is that of water supply. And that is a problem that is common to all types of farming whether it be stock, grain or orchards. We have eliminated a lot of ranches because of water shortages or impending shortages. This eliminates a large section of Southern California.

The present shortage of water is not, in my opinion, one that is temporary. I believe it will become more acute as the years pass. It is not a problem of supply alone. Conservation is of the utmost importance and must receive more attention in the future than it has in the past. Along the line of conservation there is one suggestion I would like to make—an investigation should be made of the instrument known as the tensiometer. I have used these practical and efficient instruments for my irrigation control (when and how much to irrigate) for three years. During that time I have reduced my water requirements for the orchard one third and have increased or bettered production and quality and have made a definite saving on the use of fertilizers.

With the present tendency to supplement range feeding and increase irrigated pastures, grains, etc., and the resulting demand for water, it is imperative that some type of scientific approach be made to the efficient use of the water we have. I am sure that over-irrigation has decreased production, reduced valuable plants foods, increased costs and wasted one of our most important natural resources.

H. M. Davis, Carpinteria, Calif.

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.

ALL BREED

Nov. 5 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Bull Sale, Galt, CA
Dec. 6-7 – Blue Ribbon Stock, Cow Sale, Billings, MT
Dec. 12 – Northland, Cow Sale, Billings, MT

ANGUS

May 23 – TK Angus, Mature Cow Dispersion, Valentine, NE
Jun. 16 – Coyote Creek Angus, Dispersion, Hayden, CO
Jun. 24 – Northern Video Sale
Jul. 18-20 – Northern Video Sale
Aug. 22 – Northern Video Sale
Sep. 19 – Northern Video Sale
Sep. 20-22 – Montana Angus Tour, Sidney, MT
Oct. 6 – VDAR, Cow Sale, Manhattan, MT
Oct. 10 – Ox Bow Angus, Female Sale, Wolf Creek, MT
Oct. 11 – Coleman Angus, Female Sale, Charlo, MT
Oct. 12 – Montana Ranch, Female Sale, Big Fork, MT
Oct. 22 – NILE, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Oct. 24 – Montana Angus, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Nov. 12 – Montana Ranch, Bull Sale, Big Fork, MT
Nov. 14 – GDAR, Female Sale, Sidney, MT
Nov. 15 – Paint Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Hyattville, WY
Nov. 17 – WMR Livestock, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT
Nov. 18 – Green Mountain Angus Ranch, Bull and Female Sale, Ryegate, MT
Nov. 19 – Redland Angus, Bull and Female Sale, Buffalo, WY
Nov. 28 – Stevenson Diamond Dot, Bull and Female Sale, Hobson, MT
Nov. 29 – Stevenson Angus Ranch, Bull and Female Sale, Hobson, MT
Nov. 30 – Beef Country Breeders, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT
Dec. 1 – Sitz Angus, Bull Sale, Harrison, MT
Dec. 2 – KG Ranch, Bull and Female Sale, Three Forks, MT
Dec. 3 – Currant Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Roundup, MT
Dec. 5 – Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT
Dec. 14 – Shipwheel Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Chinook, MT
Dec. 16 – Bobcat Angus, Production Sale, Great Falls, MT

CHAROLAIS

Nov. 1 – Cobb Charolais, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

HEREFORD

Sep. 5 – Genoa Livestock, Bull & Female Sale, Minden, NV
Sep. 16 – Churchill Cattle Co., Female Sale, Manhattan, MT
Sep. 18 – Ehlke Herefords, Female Sale, Townsend, MT
Sep. 18 – Mohican West, Female Sale, Laurel, MT
Nov. 14 – Mohican West, Bull Sale, Laurel, MT
Nov. 30 – Beef Country Breeders, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT

RED ANGUS

May 25 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Online Bull Sale, Shepherd, MT
Sep. 11 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Visalia, CA
Sep. 24 – McPhee Red Angus, Production Sale, Lodi, CA
Oct. 21 – NILE, Bull and Female Sale, Billings, MT
Oct. 29 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Shepherd, MT
Nov. 3 – 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT
Dec. 7 – Big Sky, Female Sale, Logan, MT

SALERS

Dec. 5 – Jacobsen Ranch, Bull Sale, Great Falls, MT

SOUTH DEVON

Nov. 30 – Beef Country Breeders, Bull Sale, Columbus, MT

COMMERCIAL

Jun. 15-16 – Superior Livestock Auction, Corn Belt Classic Video Sale, South Sioux City, NE
Jun. 22 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Spring Calving Cow Sale, Galt, CA
Jul. 11-13 – Western Video Market, Silver Legacy, Reno, NV
Jul. 11-15 – Superior Livestock Auction, Week in the Rockies Video Sale, Cheyenne, WY
Aug. 22-26 – Superior Livestock Auction, Big Horn Classic Video Sale, Sheridan, WY
Sep. 7-8 – Superior Livestock Auction, Labor Day Video Sale, Hudson Oaks, TX
Nov. 5 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Female Sale, Galt, CA
Dec. 7-9 – Montana Stockgrowers Convention, Billings, MT

HORSE

May 28 – Full House, Quarter Horse Production Sale, New Castle, WY