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INSIDE WLJ

WOTUS DISCUSSIONS — The American Farm Bureau Federation expressed disappointment with the diversity of ag experience in the first of 10 roundtables on potential WOTUS changes. **Page 6**

BI-STATE SAGE-GROUSE — Following the Trump administration's withdrawal of a sage grouse ESA listing proposal, a federal judge determined the action was unlawful. **Page 12**

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

The proper extent of the relationship between ag and the government is widely debated, and in a May 1947 article titled "Agriculture's Chance," a reader shared his thoughts: "Before 1948 ends some farm groups will undoubtedly be persuaded to ask for more Government help. The consequence should first be counted. Should not agriculture, rather, take the lead, and set an example for everybody by refusing to ask for more money out of the Federal Treasury? Unless Federal spending is sharply cut down, and quickly, the America we have known will shrivel. Efficient, low-cost farming in a free America can prosper. Government gifts solve no problems permanently. We may have to take some bumps, but will it not be better to work a way through them?"

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Enviros threaten to sue over MT forest grazing allotments

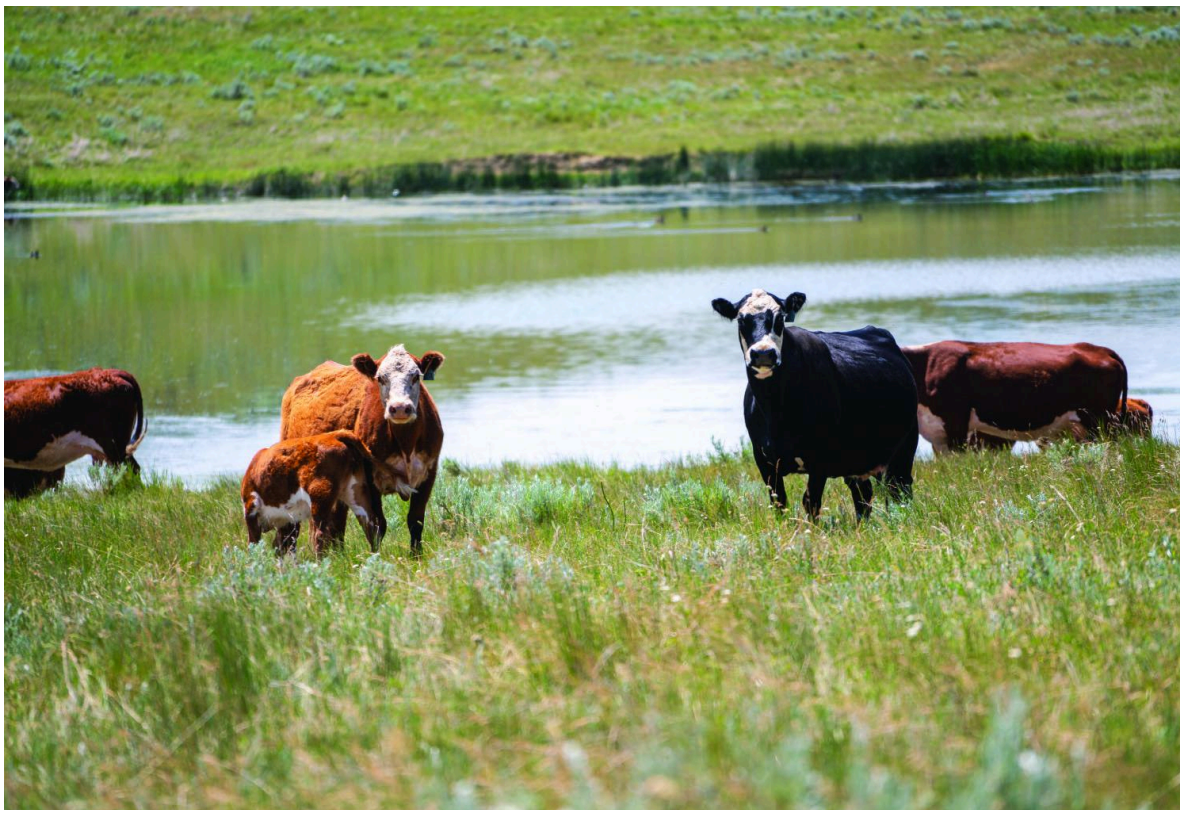
— Infringes on grizzly habitat

A coalition of environmental groups has sent a letter of intent to sue the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) for failing to comply with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) over the decision to allow grazing in the Custer Gallatin National Forest.

The letter states the USFS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) decision to continue and expand livestock grazing may affect threatened grizzly bears and grizzly bear recovery on the East Paradise Range allotments in the forest.

The allotments are located in the Absaroka-Beartooth mountain range along the eastern edge of Paradise Valley, north of Yellowstone National Park and southeast of Livingston, MT. The allotments comprise 20,900 acres and range in elevation from 5,400 feet to 11,000 feet. The finding of no significant impact (FONSI) stated three allotments—the 697-acre Elbow Creek, 771-acre Pine Creek and 4,313-acre Sixmile North allotments—were active. The other three allotments—the 5,424-acre Suce Creek, 2,906-acre Mill Creek and 6,784-acre Sixmile South allotments—had been vacant.

See LETTER on page 12



Natural Resources Conservation Service

A collection of environmentalist groups plans to sue the U.S. Forest Service after it decided to allow livestock grazing in the Custer Gallatin National Forest. Pictured here, cattle grazing in Wibaux County, MT.

USFWS removes cap on Mexican wolf population

— Increases captive wolf releases

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) will eliminate its current population cap on Mexican wolves in the Southwest. In addition, the agency will increase the number of captive Mexican wolf releases and restrict forms of allowable take.

In a May 12 notice, USFWS announced a final supplemental environmental impact statement (FSEIS), which assessed the environmental impacts of revisions to the management of Mexican wolves in Arizona and New Mexico. The revised rule was developed in response to a court-ordered remand by the District Court of Arizona, brought on by a lawsuit from conservation groups.

The FSEIS analyzed three alternative plans to revise the existing nonessential experimental designation of the Mexican wolf in the Mexican Wolf Experimental Population Area under section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act.

The preferred alternative, Alternative One, will implement the following:

- Remove the population limit from the 2015 10(j) rule, which allows a maximum of 300-325 Mexican wolves in the experiment area.
- Increase the number of captive Mexican wolf releases, with the goal of 22 released wolves surviving to breeding age by 2030.
- Restrict three forms of allowable take until genetic diversity goals are reached. This includes take on nonfederal land in conjunction with a removal action, take on federal land, and take in response to an unacceptable impact on a wild ungulate herd.

Removing the population limit will align the population objective with the recovery criteria for the Mexican wolf, USFWS said,

See WOLF on page 5

New report details packers' 'baseless' claims to keep plants open in pandemic

— Meat industry pushes back

A new congressional report reveals how meatpackers, with the assistance of trade associations, persuaded the Trump administration to keep plants open, despite the pandemic, on "baseless claims of beef and pork shortages."

The House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis report analyzed more than 151,000 documents collected from government agencies, White House officials, Cargill, JBS, National Beef, Smithfield, Tyson Foods and the North American Meat Institute (NAMI).

The report details how packers persuaded then-Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue to "elevate the need for messaging about the importance of our workforce staying at work to the (president of the U.S.) or (vice president) level." They also asked for federal liability protection against lawsuits if workers were infected with COVID-19.

More than 59,000 workers at plants owned by the meatpackers contracted COVID-19 in the first year of the pandemic, and at least 269 died, according to the first report by the subcommittee released in October.

The report states meatpackers "knew the risk posed by the coronavirus to their workers" and lobbied with USDA to keep plants open despite local officials and health departments shutting the plants down. Packers viewed state and local health authorities as their enemy, acknowledging their goal: "Now to get rid of those pesky health departments!" according to the report. They used USDA officials to "educate" other agencies to convince workers to continue working, stating they would not qualify for unemployment benefits, the report read.

When state and local officials were shutting plants down, Smithfield and Tyson engaged in phone calls with USDA officials, former White House Chief of Staff Mark Meadows and former Vice President Mike Pence's chief of staff, Marc Short, to stop the plant shutdowns. Smithfield and Tyson proposed seeking an executive order

See ORDER on page 7

Uncertainty continues to plague cattle markets

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling

As economic concerns continue to increase, all markets are feeling the effects. Futures headed lower over the week, and cash trade was steady to lower with a week earlier.

Live cattle futures traded mostly sideways over the week but ultimately closed slightly lower. The June contract lost 15 cents to close at $131.50, and the August contract lost 75 cents to close at $132.02.

The CME Group has announced it will increase price limits for live and feeder cattle futures starting June 1. The live cattle futures limit will increase from $5/cwt to $5.75/cwt, and the expanded limit will increase to $8.50/cwt. The feeder cattle futures limit will increase from $6.25/cwt to $7/cwt, and the expanded limit will increase to $10.50/cwt.

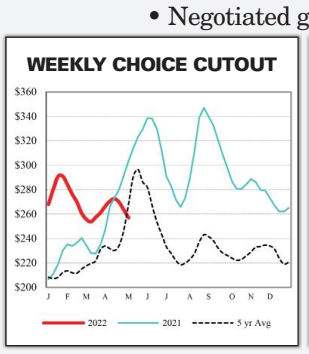
Through Thursday, cash trade totaled about 83,000 head. Live steers sold between $135-147, with most averaging closer to $142. Dressed steers sold from $223-228, averaging $225.

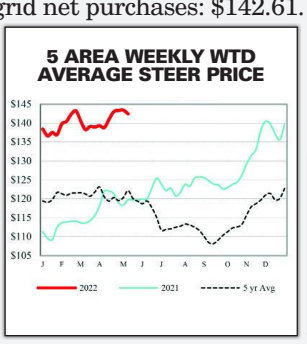
Cash trade through the week ending May 15 totaled 90,683 head. Live steers averaged $142.53, and dressed steers averaged $228.92.

"This week's Cattle on Feed report is expected to reflect the first of many declines of cattle on feed," said the Cattle Report. "The report may show slightly more cattle on feed than the prior year but will start a trendline of declining numbers. The heavy front supplies of fed cattle will gradually work off and should cow slaughter start to decline, the fed supplies will replace cows in some plants that have flexibility."

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of May 9-16 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: $142.42.
- Formula net purchases: $143.91.
- Forward contract net purchases: $144.37.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: $142.61.





On a dressed basis:

- Negotiated purchases: $228.91.

See MARKETS on page 9

LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
$140.21	$225.58	$153.46

WEEK ENDING: 5-19-22

COMMENTS

Tax incentives



MURNIN

I have the opportunity to travel many miles throughout my territory, covering sales for the *Western Livestock Journal*. I hear a lot of opinions and theories about our industry as we all collectively scratch our heads trying to come up with ideas to drive more profits down the supply chain. This spring, I heard an idea from a cattleman and leader in the industry that really resonated with me and is one that I think the whole industry should get behind.

There has been a lot of talk about having the government more intimately involved in our affairs. The major cry in the countryside, as well as in hearings on Capitol Hill, is to have the government mandate price discovery and market transparency methods. I have read many articles and talked to many people on both sides of the fence about this issue. It seems very difficult to find a consensus on this idea, and it seems to be using a lot of our collective energy trying to establish collusion and market manipulation by the packers. Now, I am not here to take a side on that issue, but I think we should consider refocusing our efforts.

The idea floated to me by one of the great cattlemen of our times was to have our federal government provide tax incentives to those producing food and fiber in our nation. Now, I am not talking about changing the tax incentives currently in place—some we have, like Section 179, are very useful. We need to provide special incentives to keep family farms and ranches generational. We need to provide huge tax advantages to keep land in production to compete with activist groups who are collecting donor money and buying ranches throughout the West and removing production agriculture from the properties. We need to remove the "death tax" on farms and ranches that are passed to the next generation, period.

Now, I am not necessarily talking about government payments; a lot of the cowboys I know would not stick their hand out or sign up for those payments based on mere principal. But I do think we should allow the 1.3 percent of the population that feeds 100 percent of Americans to keep all their income from their commodity sales. They should be able to deduct every purchase—most of which will be supporting other small businesses in their respective communities—to run their operations. And let's stop punishing the risk-taking, entrepreneurial, rugged individuals who made this country great and built sustainable family businesses only to have the government come in and tax the estate upon their death—this just seems wrong.

Another issue I have seen locally in Montana is the amount of investment and hobby money being spent buying ranches for recreation, hunting or in the name of environmental protection, the latter of which I strongly believe is wrong. The free market dictates the prices on these ranches, and the new owners should be allowed to use the land as they choose. However, I know of multiple ranches that had cattle removed and are now sitting vacant. Or, in an example I know of firsthand, it has caused the price of a ranch to skyrocket for a young couple planning to purchase the ranch they have leased the last 10 years, simply making it infeasible to buy and pay for the land by raising crops and cattle. We need to make Uncle Sam provide incentives to keep agriculture production on these ranches.

Now, there will be other industries that will say this is unfair and playing favorites for one industry over another. To that comment, I would say, yes, that's absolutely the case. We need to play favorites for our agriculture community. We need to make the tax structure so good that it attracts the next generation to stay on the ranch and encourage new families to start farming. I know we live in a global market, and I am not naive to that. That being said, looking at the crises that are happening abroad, we need to have a strong and robust food supply to feed our nation. It is a matter of national security to keep our population fed. Honestly, having a general public that is well fed and not worried about their next meal allows for the advancements we have seen in the U.S. This allows for more time to focus on technological, industrial and other business evolutions.

We do not want to be a nation that finds ourselves without agriculture. Let's get all the cattle groups and farm groups together to find a way to create tax incentives for farmers, feeders, stockers, cow-calf ranchers, seedstock producers, and all of us involved in getting food to the American consumer's plate. Markets may be hard to predict, but let's provide incentives to produce food where we can. This seems like a worthwhile effort to me. — **DEVIN MURNIN**

RESOURCE SCIENCE

CATTLE AND BISON

Cattle ranchers saved American bison (known as buffalo) from extinction by capturing them and establishing bison herds in the 1870s and 1880s. The U.S. Army and Native Americans helped. The Army protected the last bison in Yellowstone National Park from poachers, and a Native American named Samuel Walking Coyote captured some bison calves in Montana and sold them to the Pablo-Allard ranch, which established a large bison herd in the Flathead Valley of Montana. Ranchers, soldiers and Native Americans should get credit for this conservation success and should be appreciated by today's environmentalists.

The primary established bison herds that supplied stock to start new herds or augment existing herds were the Goodnight herd in Texas; the Jones herd in Kansas; the Dupree herd in South Dakota; the McKay and Alloway herd in Manitoba, Canada; and the Walking Coyote/Pablo-Allard herd in Montana.

All of these ranches, except the Walking Coyote/Pablo-Allard herd, deliberately experimented with cattle and bison interbreeding. Incidental interbreeding of cattle and bison that were run together on these ranches also occurred. There are also records of cattle-bison hybridization in the eastern U.S in the mid-1700s and early 1800s, but their fate is unknown.

What is the effect of this cattle-bison hybridization on living bison herds? Research suggests that most bison herds maintained small amounts of cattle genes following this interbreeding. Exceptions included the herds in the Yellowstone, Wind Cave and Elk Island national parks, which were thought to be without cattle genes. However, a recent study by researchers at Texas A&M University, led by James Derr, Ph.D., and Brian Davis, Ph.D., shows that all living bison herds in the U.S. and Canada, including these three herds, have some cattle genes in their DNA. The study was published in the scientific journal Nature and is titled "Genomic evaluation of hybridization in historic and modern North American Bison."

This study analyzed the DNA of the entire genomes of 25 bison and 1,842 cattle from the herds and breeds shown in Table 1. Whole genome sequencing provided better resolution than previous research that used limited numbers of genes.

Using complex laboratory and data analyses, the A&M scientists identified millions of genes (called single nucleotide polymorphisms) characteristic of either bison or cattle. Among the herds, less than 3 percent (0.24-2.45 percent) of the bison's DNA was from cattle, consistent with the past interbreeding between the species.

You can think of it like a DNA profile for a bull, in which the DNA indicates different genes affecting a trait—for example, birth weight. In this case, the DNA indicates a gene's origin in either cattle or bison, and some DNA that is characteristic of cattle was found in bison.

Does it matter? From a practical standpoint, not really. After four or five generations of backcrossing to bison, the hybrids' descendants are indistinguishable from pure bison. It's possible that the bison and cattle crossbreeding increased genetic variation and added genes that might increase fitness (e.g., disease resistance).

There also could be negative effects of cattle genes in bison, but selection in free-ranging herds—such as Yellowstone with its cold winters, limited forage, grizzly bears and wolves—would probably eliminate many detrimental genes.

However, there is some potential relevance for conservation efforts. The bison in Yellowstone are still being considered for an Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing after a court ruling in January. There were previous ESA petitions to list the Yellowstone bison in 2007, 2014, 2015 and 2018. Some of these petitions claimed Yellowstone bison were genetically pure, without cattle genes from past interbreeding, even though Yellowstone received bison with some cattle in their ancestry from the Pablo-Allard and Goodnight herds. The A&M study should invalidate that claim.

There are now about a half million bison in private ranches and wild herds in the U.S. and Canada (see *WLJ*, April 22 and Oct. 7, 2019). Private bison are marketed for meat, hides and hunting, and wild herds are important to conservationists. The Texas A&M study provides good science, which will contribute to sound management of bison.

Much of the information on bison in this article is described in the Texas A&M paper and the article "New Texas A&M Research Documents Domestic Cattle Genetics in Modern Bison Herds" found in the Texas A&M Today at tamu.edu. — **Dr. Matthew Cronin**

(Matthew Cronin was a research professor at the University of Alaska and is now a scientist with Northwest Biology Company LLC in Bozeman, MT. He can be reached at croninm@aol.com. A full list of references can be found at wlj.net.)

Table 1. Bison herds and cattle breeds used in the Texas A&M study. DNA samples from the historic bison were collected from museums and the others from living bison.

Bison	Cattle breeds
Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary, Northwest Territories, Canada	Angus
Elk Island National Park, Alberta, Canada	Charolais
Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming and Montana	Hereford
Wind Cave National Park, South Dakota	Holstein
Vermejo Park Ranch, New Mexico	-
Caprock Canyons State Park, Texas	-
Santa Catalina Island, California	-
Historic bison, Montana and Canada, 1886 to 1937	-

OBITUARY

Marilyn Irene Hansen; 1937-2022



Marilyn Irene Hansen (Mathews), 84, passed away peacefully on April 14, 2022. She was born July 7, 1937, at home in Commerce City, CO, to Alva and Doris Mathews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one brother, Bill Mathews, and one sister, Barbara Pearson. Marilyn grew up in Commerce City and attended Adams City High School, where she met Ed, whom she married on June 6, 1955.

After Ed's graduation from Colorado A&M, they moved to the family ranch in Livermore, CO. She immediately became actively involved in all aspects of the ranch operation. Marilyn was an active member of the community, serving roles as a Larimer County 4-H leader, member of the Larimer County CattleWomen and honorary life member of the Colorado CattleWomen. She served on the Beef Checkoff board and was also the National Beef Cook-Off co-chair. Marilyn also was appointed by the governor and served two terms on the Colorado Beef Board. Other awards included the 1989 Colorado Commercial Breeder of the Year award, the 1994 Colorado State University Livestock Leader of the Year, and the 2014 Larimer County Fair and Rodeo Family of the Year, all earned while raising a family, helping with the ranch and volunteering her time to serve community members in need.

Marilyn loved spending time taking care of her flowers and enjoying her beautiful yard with her American flag on display. Her priority was always family, and one of her favorite traditions was hosting a Christmas Eve celebration every year with her children and their families. She wanted all her friends and family to know she loved them very much!

She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Ed Hansen of Livermore, CO; sister, Shirley Stertz of Littleton, CO; two sons, Carl Hansen (Debbie) and Chris Hansen (Janeth) both of Livermore, CO; a daughter, Cheri Dent (Scott) of Fort Collins, CO; 8 grandchildren; and 9 great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made benefiting the Parkinson's Research Foundation or National Multiple Sclerosis Society, in care of Allnutt Drake Chapel, 650 W. Drake Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526.

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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LEGAL LEDGER

CA desalination plant rejected

The California Coastal Commission has rejected Poseidon Water's plans to build a seawater desalination plant in Huntington Beach, CA. The commission voted against the proposal at an hours-long hearing on May 12. The California Coastal Commission's staff had previously recommended against the proposal, which would have allowed a $1.4 billion plant to be built on 12 acres of Huntington Beach's power plant. Opponents of the plan criticized the disproportionate effects on low-income residents and negative impacts to marine life. In a statement following the hearing, Poseidon thanked Gov. Gavin Newsom (D) for his support of the project. "We firmly believe that this desalination project would have created a sustainable, drought-tolerant source of water for Orange County, just as it has for San Diego County," the company said.

Rubber bullets off table for CO wolves

Colorado producers may no longer utilize rubber bullets as a hazing measure against wolves in the state. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission updated its hazing regulations in early May to better align with the state's plans to introduce wolves under Proposition 114 and the federal decision to relist gray wolves as an endangered species. Earlier in the year, the commission adopted emergency provisions allowing nonlethal hazing of wolves after there were reported wolf attacks on livestock. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service told the commission in a letter that most of its hazing measures were consistent with the Endangered Species Act and still viable, but it did not specifically identify rubber buckshot or slugs as a measure, leading the state commission to remove the action from its approved list of hazing measures.

SEC extends climate comments deadline

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has granted an extension to the comment period on its proposed rule, the Enhancement and Standardization of Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors. The rule would require public companies to report supply chain emissions, and agriculture industry groups say the rule could negatively impact agriculture. "We have deep concerns that the SEC is proposing a rule that will subject farmers to regulations that are intended for Wall Street," the American Farm Bureau Federation said in a statement. The new comment deadline is June 17, and comments may be submitted by selecting "submit comments" under file number S7-10-22 at sec.gov/rules/proposed.shtml, emailing rule-comments@sec.gov, or mailing to Vanessa A. Countryman, Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, 100 F Street NE, Washington, D.C. 20549. Comments should include file number S7-10-22 if emailing or mailing comments.

KS signs 'fake meat' labeling into law

In early May, Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly (D) signed into law Senate Bill 261, which would prohibit the use of meat terms on "fake meat" products when the labels do not properly indicate that the product does not contain meat. The law goes into effect on July 1 and has the support of the Kansas Livestock Association. Acceptable disclaimers will include: "This product does not contain meat," "meatless," "vegan," "plant-based" or similar phrases.

MO beef plant meets resistance

A proposed 500,000-square-foot beef processing plant in Warren County, MO, has faced setbacks from residents who have raised concerns about negative impacts on the area. American Foods Group was granted a conditional use permit in April to build a plant outside of Foristell, but some residents challenged the permit and seek to appeal it. The Warren County Commission will meet May 24 for an appeal hearing, where it will decide to affirm the permit, modify it or reject it, according to local news outlet the Warren County Record. Opponents are concerned with environmental impacts and insufficient infrastructure.

GOP states sue EPA for vehicle law

A total of 17 state attorneys general from Republican states announced a lawsuit against the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for allowing California to set its own vehicle emissions standards. The attorneys general argue EPA Administrator Michael Regan violated equal sovereignty by giving the state an exemption from the Clean Air Act to impose stricter emissions limits. "The act simply leaves California with a slice of its sovereign authority that Congress withdraws from every other state," West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey (R) said in a statement. Other attorneys general in the lawsuit are from the states of Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas and Utah. The Trump administration previously revoked a waiver that allowed California to set stricter standards, but Regan restored the waiver in March.

Taylor picked for trade role at USDA

The Biden administration recently announced the appointment of Alexis Taylor as the undersecretary of Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs at the USDA.

Taylor is currently director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, a role she has served in since 2016. Previously, she worked as the deputy undersecretary for Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services during the Obama administration.

"Alexis Taylor has dedicated her life to public service. She has not only spent her career serving the American people through her work in U.S. agricultural and trade policy, but also as a veteran of the U.S. Army," the USDA said. "Her nomination builds upon USDA's commitment to link U.S. agriculture to the world to enhance export opportunities for American farmers and producers and increase global food security."

Agriculture groups welcomed the announcement, as the role has been vacant since President Joe Biden took office.

National Corn Growers Association Vice President of Public Policy Brooke Appleton said Taylor understands agriculture, especially as it relates to foreign markets, and is well respected by policymakers on both sides of the aisle.

Stephen Censky, CEO of the American Soybean Association, said Taylor "has a depth of knowledge about agricultural trade and public policy, and her background, experience and network will serve her well in this post. U.S. soy growers look forward to welcoming her back to USDA and working with her on issues facing soybean exports."

The U.S. Meat Export Federation said Taylor is an outstanding nominee. They are "confident she will be a strong and effective advocate for U.S. exporters and all of U.S. agriculture" based on her previous experience.

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA), who had previously voiced concerns about the "lackadaisical approach that this administration has taken to trade," said Taylor has the experience, and he looks forward to supporting her throughout the confirmation process.

Taylor grew up on the family farm in Iowa and graduated from Iowa State University. Taylor needs to be confirmed by the Senate, and many agriculture groups and lawmakers are urging the Senate to move swiftly through the process to fill the role. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**



Nov. 4, 2002, Vol. 82, No. 3

Irradiated meat approved for school lunch program, USDA says

Schoolchildren in the national lunch program for the first time can lunch on meat sterilized through irradiation, according to USDA.

The government began allowing companies to sell irradiated meat to the public in 1999, but the treated foods were prohibited in the school lunch program, Alisa Harrison, a department spokeswoman, said recently.

The farm bill approved in May changed that, and schools will be able to purchase irradiated meat by the end of the year, Harrison said. She emphasized it's optional.

About 25 million children participate in the federal school lunch program.

Meat companies have urged USDA to carry out such a measure, saying it will make food safer. "It's time for USDA to acknowledge the food-safety benefits of this technology and begin purchasing irradiated ground beef products for the nation's school children," J. Patrick Boyle, president and CEO of the American Meat Institute, said in a statement.

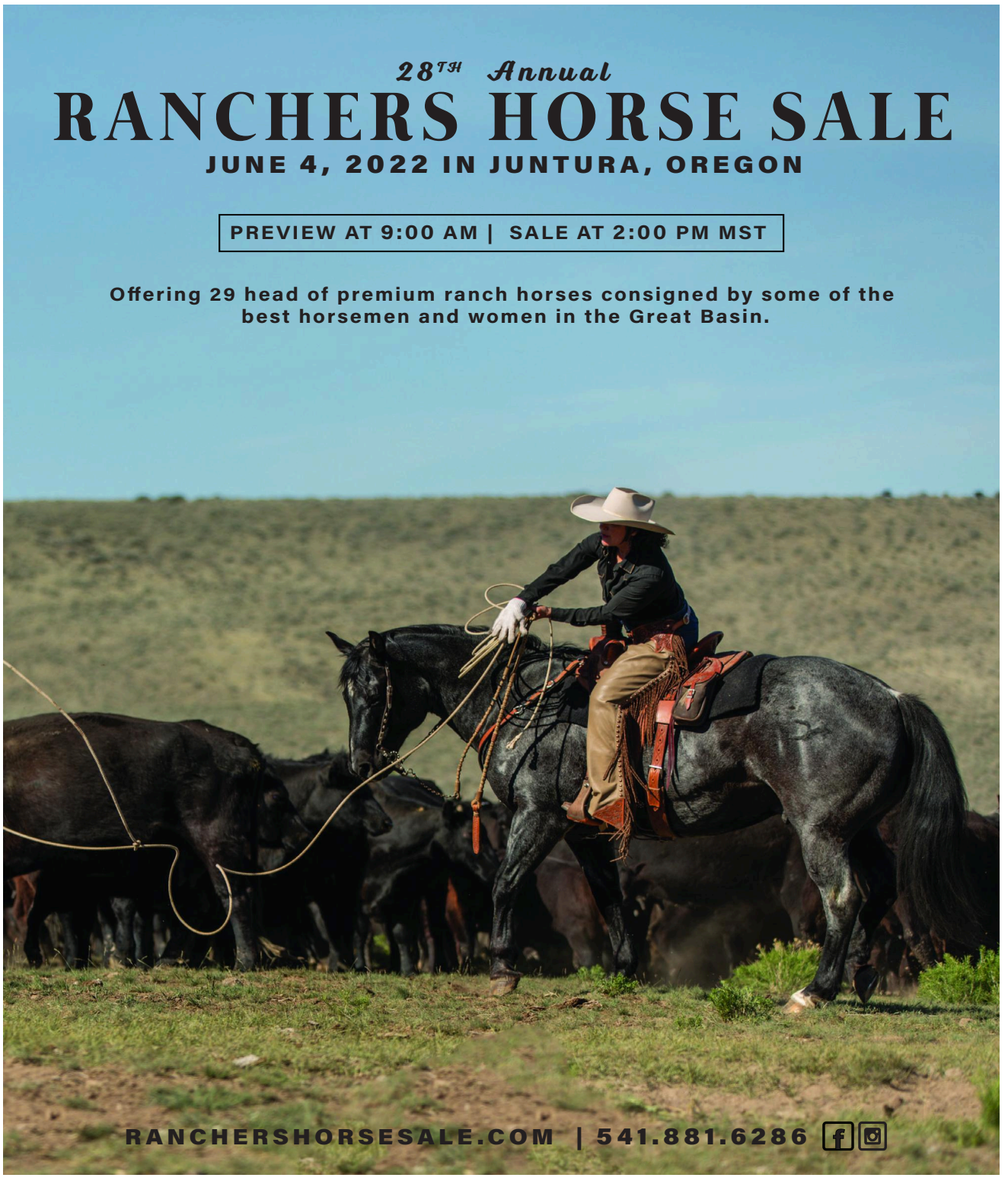
"Irradiation provides an extra margin of safety, along with the many technologies already in use by the industry," he said.

Some activists say irradiated food is unhealthy, although the World Health Organization and American Medical Association have deemed it safe.

The group Public Citizen strongly opposes it, arguing the process destroys vitamins and nutrients and can develop chemicals linked to birth defects and cancer.

Carol Tucker Foreman, director of the Consumer Federation of America's Food Policy Institute, said she accepts the World Health Organization's assessment, but warned irradiation is "certainly not a silver bullet" for foodborne illnesses.

Food poisonings in U.S. schools have been increasing 10 percent each year, according to an audit this year by the General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm. — ***WLJ***



Anderson inducted into Saddle and Sirloin Portrait Gallery

Darrell Anderson of West Lafayette, IN, has been named the newest inductee of the prestigious Saddle and Sirloin Portrait Gallery. Anderson's portrait will be hung in the historic gallery during the North American International Livestock Exposition on Nov. 13, 2022, in Louisville, KY.

Formed in 1903, the Saddle and Sirloin Club recognizes significant leaders in the American livestock industry.

"Anderson's list of contributions to agriculture and the purebred livestock industry is extensive, diversified and impressive," said Ken Culp III, chairman of Anderson's nominating committee.

His involvement as a breed secretary, CEO, judge, auctioneer and breeder has impacted thousands of people in multiple breeds and species. In addition, he hired and mentored an entire generation of interns and staff, who are now serving in influential leadership roles, impacting animal agriculture, creating a lasting legacy and serving the industry.

A livestock legacy

Anderson was the youngest breeder to serve as the president of the National Suffolk Sheep Association and led the association during its greatest period of growth (in both registrations and memberships). He served as secretary for the National Sheep Improvement Program in 1986. Anderson held a very successful annual production sale, the Sale of Champions, where many champions were sold, including back-to-back grand champions at the Ak-Sar-Ben racetrack.

In 1987, Anderson was hired as the executive secretary of the American Yorkshire Club, where he innovated and implemented the Tested Best Show at the World Pork Expo in 1988, guiding the practical application of the Swine Testing and Genetic Evaluation System and using the across-herd sire summary to prove the superiority and impact of a significant sire, U Ulf 166.

Some would say his greatest contribution to the swine industry began in 1994 as he shepherded the Yorkshire, Duroc and Hampshire breeds through the formative years of the National Swine Registry (NSR), and in 1998, he brought in the Landrace breed. His vision to guide NSR through its early, turbulent, formative years was keen, and his steady hand provided a calming force while steering the organization and keeping it on course. He was challenged to make everyone see the long-term value of the decision to form NSR. The decision was very controversial in some camps.

Anderson has also made a tremendous impact as both a breeder and auctioneer in the llama industry. As an auctioneer, he has sold at most of the highest averaging and highest grossing llama and alpaca sales in the U.S. in history. The Andersons developed a nationally competitive herd of llamas and have claimed championship honors in many state competitions and national shows.

Additionally, they created the March Llama Madness Show and Sale of Champions in 2013.

He's generously shared his expertise with other breed associations and served in a variety of leadership positions in the National Livestock and Meat Board, the National Swine Improvement Federation, the National Pedigreed Livestock Council, the National Pork Producers Council, United States Livestock Genetic Exports and the National Pork Board. Anderson received the 2016 Pork Industry Distinguished Service Award for his contributions to the swine industry.

After attending his first National Pedigreed Livestock Council meeting in 1987, Anderson realized that the challenges and obstacles facing most breed registries had nothing to do with the animals and everything to do with the breeders, board members and staff. His ability to build relationships and forge bonds between breeders and members with differing viewpoints is impressive and legendary.

Building future leaders

Anderson's passion for helping and engaging young people is evident through the programs he initiated during his career. As president of the National Suffolk Sheep Association, he identified the need to create the National Junior Suffolk Sheep Association. Those experiences would guide him when he replicated the process at NSR, creating the National Junior Swine Association (NJSA).

The NJSA is a testament to Anderson's vision during his tenure as NSR's CEO. NSR's long-range strategic plan identified the need for a youth program. The NJSA was created and introduced, and it has become one of the greatest success stories in animal agriculture today.

When it's all said and done, Anderson hopes he will be remembered as someone who treated people fairly, focused on relationships and always kept the good of the entire organization in mind.

"God and family are very important to me," Anderson says. "You have to allow people not to get so wrapped up in the stuff of life that it drags them down. As you get older, the stuff of life fades a little quicker. You start to see what really matters."

An original oil portrait of Anderson, painted by renowned artist Richard Halstead, has been commissioned and will be framed and hung when the award is presented at the North American International Livestock Exposition in Louisville, KY, in November. Originally housed in Chicago, the portrait gallery moved to Louisville in 1976. It is considered the largest collection of portraits saluting animal agriculture anywhere in the world.

In addition to Anderson's recognition, he and his family have graciously established a fund to provide sustainability for future leaders of the swine and livestock industry and passionate livestock evaluators. If individuals would like to support this cause or contribute to the costs associated with the portrait and banquet, contributions may be made directly to the NSR Foundation with the designation "Anderson Saddle and Sirloin" or at www.nationalswine.com. — **Saddle and Sirloin Club**

Vilsack worried about this year's Ukraine crop, Russian grain thefts

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said May 16 he is "more concerned" about what happens to this year's grain crop in Ukraine than he is about whether the remainder of last year's crop gets shipped out of the country.

In a call to reporters from Poland following a meeting of Group of Seven (G-7) ministers in Stuttgart, Germany, Vilsack noted that 80 percent of last year's Ukrainian crop had already been shipped before Russia began blocking the Black Sea ports, and he said that while the remaining grain needs to be moved out of the country, the bigger problem will arise if there is not adequate storage space or shipping opportunities for this year's crop.

The White House recently raised concerns that about 20 million metric tons of Ukraine's harvested crops were stuck in the country and unable to get to export markets.

The four ministers, he said, want to "raise awareness" of the possibility that Russia will offer needy countries that grain, so there will be skepticism about the theft and this possible practice.

"Whether they get it out is anybody's guess, but there is going to be a heck of an effort to get it out."

While there have been concerns about whether Ukrainian farmers can plant and harvest their crops, Vilsack said officials anticipate that the Ukrainian crop will be 50 percent to 60 percent of normal.

Vilsack noted the European Union (EU) has launched an effort to get the grain out of Ukraine, but he added it is particularly difficult because Ukrainian railroad tracks are different from those of neighboring countries, and grain has to be unloaded and reloaded for it to move.

Everyone engaged is committed to moving as much grain as possible, Vilsack said. "Whether they get it out is anybody's guess, but there is going to be a heck of an effort to get it out."

The German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture issued a communique from the G-7 agriculture ministers after their meeting in Stuttgart. Vilsack noted that it included condemnations of the Russian invasion, Russia's use of hunger as a weapon and Russia's theft of grain.

He said that in a four-way conversation with agriculture commissioners from Poland, Ukraine and the EU, concerns were expressed that Russia may use the stolen grain to "ingratiate itself" with food insecure countries.

Vilsack noted that the communique stressed the importance of "frictionless trade."

He said that India's decision to ban wheat exports recently, reported in the New York Times, has already caused wheat prices to spike. The story noted that the move added to concerns about global food security amid the difficulties of exporting grain from Ukraine due to the Russian invasion.

To discourage speculation, Vilsack said it will be important for countries to report production to the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization.

All the ministers, he said, are concerned about the availability of fertilizer, and he said he hopes the $500 million Biden administration program to encourage the development of fertilizer companies makes the U.S. "more self-sufficient."

Ukraine has asked the G-7 group of wealthier countries for equipment related to shipping, including weighing devices, and Vilsack said USDA will look into its own resources and ask universities and the private sector about the availability of equipment they may be replacing.

There was also discussion about increasing production in countries to make up for the loss of Ukrainian crops in world markets. He noted the EU is adding flexibility to its Farm to Fork Strategy, which had been expected to reduce production.

Vilsack said he told officials from other countries about the U.S.' plans to increase production through land that is not being renewed in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and through double cropping. He noted that farmers are not usually allowed to work in retiring CRP fields until Oct. 1, but this year farmers will be allowed in those fields earlier to prepare them for production next year.

Vilsack said he also had bilateral discussions with other agriculture ministers about U.S. concerns. With EU officials, he discussed minimum residue levels for fruits and vegetables to get them into the EU market and shipping disruptions due to the inconsistent application of health certificates, Vilsack said. He also urged Germany to join the U.S.-led Agriculture Innovation Mission for Climate group and the Sustainable Growth Coalition.

With Polish officials, Vilsack said he discussed apples and pears and the Polish concern about African swine fever and the vaccine the U.S. is hoping to develop.

Vilsack ended the call with reporters by noting that Poland "has done an amazing job in terms of accepting refugees," and he said the highlight of the trip had been a visit to a Polish farm where the farmer expressed the same desire as American farmers to pass the land along to the next generation. — **Jerry Hagstrom, DTN political correspondent**

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Biden seeks to boost crop production and lower costs

— Aid package dropped

President Joe Biden, along with Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, traveled to a farm in Illinois in early May to speak on lowering input costs while boosting domestic grain production to help lower food costs for Americans.

"The real reason I'm here is to thank the American farmers. You feed America. … You got us through a pandemic. And you're literally the backbone of our country. It's not hyperbole. But you also feed the world. And we're seeing with Putin's war in Ukraine, you're like the backbone of freedom," Biden said, following a tour of an 800-acre family farm in Kankakee, IL, owned by Jeff and Gina O'Connor.

Biden said that the nation is fighting on two fronts: fighting inflation and rising domestic prices and helping Ukrainians fight against the Russian invasion. He continued, saying farmers are helping domestically with the cost of food by expanding production and feeding the world.

During his visit, Biden spoke of three measures to combat rising food and input costs: lowering fertilizer costs by increasing domestic production, reducing red tape to conserve inputs and using crop insurance for double cropping.

The Biden administration previously announced it was doubling the funding for domestic fertilizer production from $250 million to $500 million to lower costs and boost availability to farmers. The Fertilizer Institute (TFI) welcomed the announcement and urged the administration to remove the regulatory burdens that inhibit the growth of existing fertilizer production.

"We look forward to working with the USDA on how to most efficiently leverage those funds in a way that positively impacts farmers who rely on fertilizers to feed the crops that feed the world," TFI President and CEO Corey Rosenbusch said in a statement.

At the meeting, Vilsack spoke about precision agriculture with sensor technology that could save on the amount of fertilizer needed for fields.

"So, if we can accelerate the capacity of farmers to have that kind of precise information about their farms, we may be able to get them through the process—maybe not in 2023, but in the future—where they're not as reliant as they have been on those inputs," Vilsack said.

The announcement said USDA has cost-sharing assistance programs through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program available to help farmers with nutrient management. The Biden administration is boosting outreach to farmers and cutting red tape for program approvals.

Vilsack also detailed crop insurance for double cropping, saying it will "increase supplies and that obviously will help lower costs and provide more supply for global food security needs."

The administration is seeking to expand insurance for double cropping to as many as 681 additional counties, bringing the total number of counties where this practice qualifies for crop insurance up to 1,935.

Biden noted the O'Connor farm double crops soybeans after planting wheat, providing more financial security, but it does not come without risks, such as the weather.

"The growing season for wheat is short, and if the weather conditions aren't ideal or there are other disruptions, then the timing of everything is thrown off. But it's a risk we need to take," Biden said.

The American Soybean Association (ASA) said in a statement the three-pronged approach by the Biden administration to address inflation and farmer input costs is "one that America's soybean farmers can get behind."

Brad Doyle, president of ASA and a double-cropping farmer from Arkansas, said, "The president is improving access to double-cropping insurance coverage and technical assistance for precision agriculture and nutrient management, and he is investing more into domestic fertilizer production. We applaud this announcement and look forward to soybean farmers realizing these benefits."

Aid dropped

The visit follows the decision by Congress to not include $500 million in funding to increase the domestic production of soybeans, wheat and oilseeds in the $33 billion Ukrainian aid package.

Vilsack told FarmWeek Now the dropped funding conversation is "not over," and USDA has flexibilities it's going to utilize. This may include Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acres coming out of the program, allowing farmers to "get into the field and do a little preparatory work."

"Farmers have basically spoken by taking some acres out of CRP," Vilsack said. "That's basically what they're interested in doing, so we're trying to respond to the needs of the farm community, trying to expand opportunity and lower costs for consumers and at the same time meet this very significant issue of food security."

Vilsack headed to Germany for a Group of Seven (G-7) event after the visit to Illinois to discuss actions to increase fertilizer production globally, while also making the case against food export restrictions. Agricultural ministers from the G-7 criticized India for limiting wheat exports after it was concerned about its own food security due to lower production. India will honor deals made before the announcement, and future requests by other nations could take place to "meet their security needs." — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

Enviros argue wolf rule will not increase genetic diversity

WOLF
(from page 1)

which is an eight-year rolling average of at least 320 Mexican wolves and greater than 320 wolves in the last three years of the eight-year period. The agency estimates there are at least 196 Mexican wolves in the wild as of 2021. The wild population increased by 5 percent in 2021, although population growth was lower than hoped.

"Implementation of Alternative One may result in less than significant direct adverse impacts tohunting and less than significant direct adverse impacts to livestock production at the regional scale," read the draft FSEIS.

However, the draft acknowledged that significant direct adverse impacts could occur to a limited number of individual livestock operators in New Mexico and Arizona, and adverse economic effects could be disproportionately distributed.

"However, we expect any adverse disproportionate impacts that might be experienced by these population groups of concern to be less than significant or not significant due to the mitigation measures available under this alternative," USFWS said.

The agency said it will work with producers to eliminate attractants and to use guard animals, range riders, flags and other techniques to reduce wolf conflicts. Authorized agencies will also investigate reported wolf incidents no more than 48 hours after receiving a report. USFWS will also use lethal removal for problem wolves.

"On a daily basis, ranching families contend with unpredictable weather, fluctuating markets and increasing regulations. Now, the federal government is moving the recovery plan 'goal posts' once again," said Craig Ogden, president of the New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau, in a Facebook post. "Our state's ranchers are being sacrificed to achieve an ever-changing goal with no real finish line in sight."

"Our state's ranchers are being sacrificed to achieve an ever-changing goal with no real finish line in sight."

Environmentalists applauded the decision but decried the rejection of "science-based reforms that would increase genetic diversity at a faster rate."

Michael Robinson, a senior conservation advocate at the Center for Biological Diversity, said in a statement: "Mexican gray wolves have won a reprieve from a planned massacre, but their hopes to find unrelated mates are being dashed at the same time." He added, "It's disappointing that the federal government still refuses to replenish the priceless genetic diversity lost through its own mismanagement of these wolves."

Conservation groups said while there was a goal of ensuring 22 wolf pups would survive through breeding age, there are no requirements that those wolves breed.

"Unless those cross-fostered wolves who survive to breeding age actually reproduce, those animals have zero impact on the wild gene pool. So how are they moving the needle any closer to a genetic objective?" asked Maggie Howell, Wolf Conservation Center executive director, in a press release.

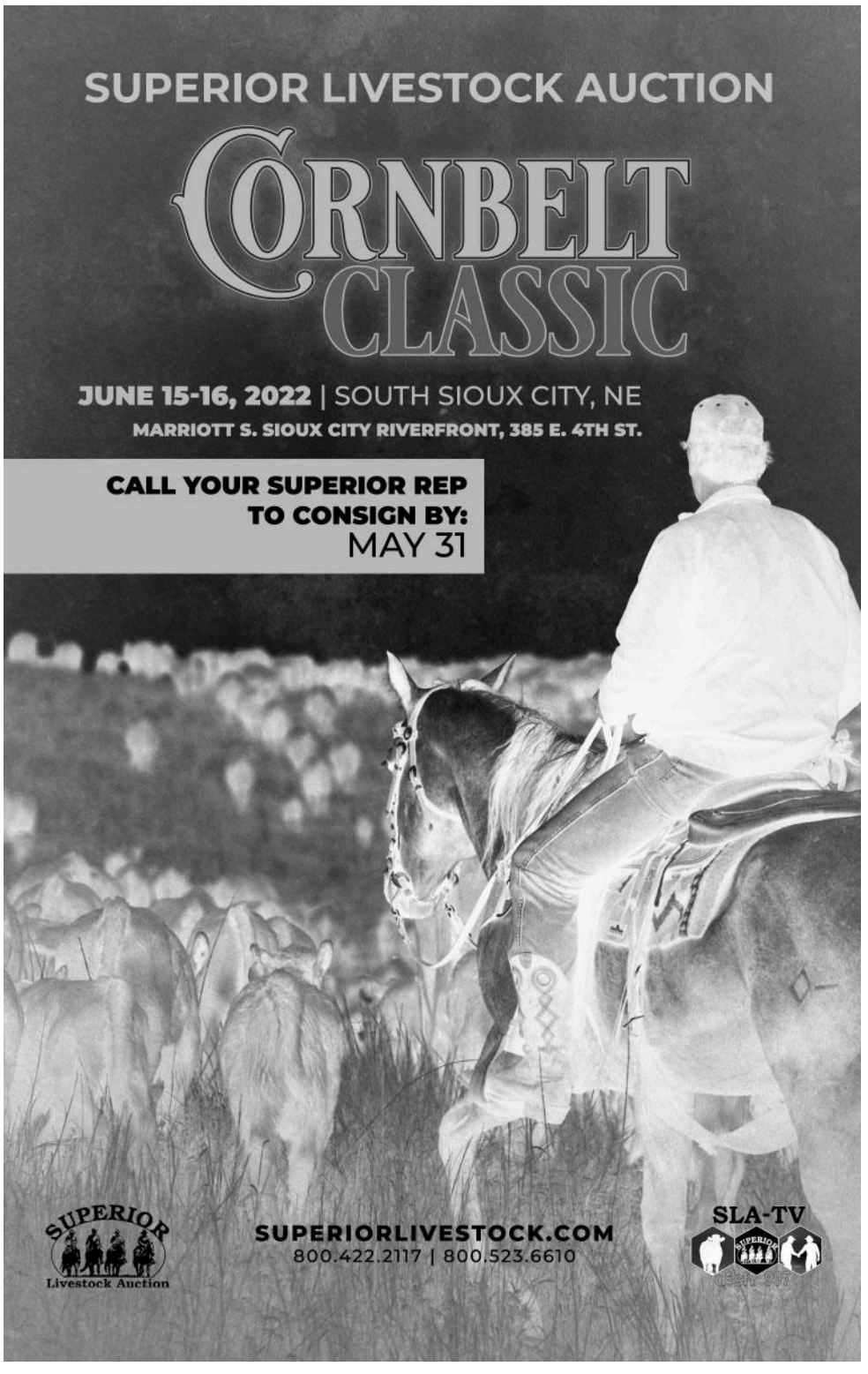
The groups also noted the USFWS does not plan to release bonded male-female pairs with pups into the wild, just neonatal pups removed from their captive parents.

"Cross-fostering alone will not produce a thriving, recovered and genetically healthy Mexican gray wolf population," said Sandy Bahr, chapter director for Sierra Club's Grand Canyon Chapter.

The environmentalists allege only 13 of 72 cross-fostered pups that were released into the wild are still alive since their release in 2016. The groups claim only four of the wolves are known to have reproduced, and only six of the offspring are known to be alive.

Plaintiffs in the suit that brought on the draft revised plan included the Center for Biological Diversity, Defenders of Wildlife, Endangered Wolf Center, Wolf Conservation Center and retired Fish and Wildlife Service Mexican wolf recovery coordinator David R. Parsons.

USFWS published a proposed rule revision and draft SEIS in October, which was followed by a 90-day commenting period. The agency said it received over 80,000 public comments that did not result in substantive changes to the FSEIS. A final decision and revised rule will be published by July 1. — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**



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Farm Bureau disappointed in first WOTUS roundtable

The American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) was disappointed with the first of 10 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) stakeholder roundtables for waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) changes. AFBF President Zippy Duvall said the May 9 meeting lacked a diversity of experience in agriculture, and few participants had direct experience with Clean Water Act regulations.

Duvall called the roundtable a "missed opportunity" for EPA and said AFBF was urging the agency to seek out and listen to all viewpoints on the WOTUS matter.

"All farmers should be able to look out on their land and know what's regulated, so we can continue to protect our natural resources while growing a sustainable food supply," Duvall said in his blog, The Zipline.

"EPA's proposed WOTUS rule instead casts uncertainty over farmers and ranchers across the country and threatens the progress we have made to responsibly manage water and natural resources."

Duvall said the proposed rule would give the federal government the ability to regulate areas such as ditches, ephemeral drainages or low spots on farmlands and pastures that are not wet most of the year and do not connect to flowing waterways. This would subject agriculture to complex and burdensome regulations, he said.

"In theory, these meetings are designed to bring folks with different perspectives together to talk about regionally specific implementation concerns pertaining to WOTUS," said Courtney Briggs, AFBF senior director of government affairs, in AFBF's "Newsline" podcast.

"And the list of participants for this first roundtable was diverse on paper, but we are very concerned about the lack of diversity of experience on the panel."

Briggs said there was a lack of mainstream agricultural representatives at the meeting, and there was no meaningful discussion of the law.

Duvall said it was no secret the AFBF was extremely disappointed in EPA's decision to repeal the 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule, but if EPA is going to continue to go forward, they must ensure the process offers the opportunity for meaningful engagement and feedback from all stakeholders.

"Future roundtables must present the perspective of active farmers and be better organized and managed," Duvall said. "Otherwise, EPA is doing nothing more than muddying the waters in this rulemaking."

In June 2021, the EPA and Department of the Army announced their intention to revise the definition of WOTUS, and the agencies announced a proposed rule in November. The rule was published in the Federal Register in December 2021, and a public commenting period closed in February.

In late July 2021, EPA announced it would host 10 regionally focused roundtables to hear from stakeholders and discuss their experiences with implementing WOTUS. The next roundtable will take place on May 23, followed by the remainder of the roundtables in June. To view livestreams of the meetings, visit epa.gov/wotus. — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

Foot rot can cause a loss in profits for cattle producers

Kansas State (K-State) University veterinarian Gregg Hanzlicek said that a bacterial infection that causes lameness in calves could be decreasing the breeding effectiveness of the cow herd and costing producers profits.

Hanzlicek referred to a recent research stocker calf project indicating that lame calves gained half a pound less than their healthy counterparts.

"When we talk about infectious lameness in cow-calf herds—especially on pasture—we're talking about foot rot," Hanzlicek said. "There is another infectious lameness that is called hairy heel wart, but it is uncommon in pasture situations."

Foot rot is a bacterial infection that is caused by several bacteria. The bacteria, according to Hanzlicek, are found in the rumen (the largest part of the stomach) and are therefore everywhere in environments where cattle are present. These bacteria are unable to penetrate the cow's skin on their own.

"Something has to break the integrity of the skin to let the bacteria from the outside of the skin into or underneath the skin," he said. "If your herd experiences a foot rot outbreak, it is helpful to investigate what in the environment is affecting skin integrity."

According to Hanzlicek, the cow's feet are susceptible to foot rot when conditions are too wet or dry or due to mechanical injury.

"When the infection begins, it is subtle, but it will continue to progress, and eventually swelling will become apparent around the coronary band (the area where the hoof is attached to the skin)," Hanzlicek said.

"If we can provide appropriate treatment to animals early, most of those will recover and do well."

If not caught early, however, the infection can lead to the animal not responding well to treatment, and they can become chronically lame, Hanzlicek said.

"Most lameness involves the foot, and foot rot is more common in the hind feet, so if the producer sees cattle noticeably lame, just think foot first," he said.

To treat foot rot, Hanzlicek recommends picking up the bad smelling hoof (if possible), cleaning the area, getting rid of the dead tissue and applying a topical antibiotic. Then, he said, most veterinarians will put a wrap on the hoof to protect the cut and also administer an antibiotic.

"As always, seek advice from your veterinarian on the best treatment for those animals," Hanzlicek said. — **K-State Research and Extension**



USDA to provide disaster aid for 2020 and 2021 crops

— $6 billion in aid

USDA announced beginning this month, crop producers of commodity and specialty crops will receive disaster aid for crop yield and value losses due to disaster events in 2020 and 2021, totaling approximately $6 billion through the Farm Service Agency's (FSA) new Emergency Relief Program (ERP).

"For over two years, farmers and ranchers across the country have been hard hit by an ongoing pandemic coupled with more frequent and catastrophic natural disasters," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack. "As the agriculture industry deals with new challenges and stressors, we at USDA look for opportunities to inject financial support back into the rural economy through direct payments to producers who bear the brunt of circumstances beyond their control."

The payments will be in two phases, and the announcement by USDA details the first phase.

In the first phase, ERP covers losses to crops, trees, bushes and vines due to qualifying natural disaster events in 2020 and 2021, such as wildfires, excessive heat, floods, derechos, winter storms, qualifying droughts and exposure to smoke.

For drought, ERP assistance is available if the U.S. Drought Monitor rated any area within the county where the loss occurred as a severity of D2 (severe drought) for eight consecutive weeks or D3 (extreme drought) or a higher level of drought intensity. A list of counties affected in 2020 and 2021 that are eligible for ERP can be found at fsa.usda.gov under the "program and services" tab for "emergency relief."

To determine losses, USDA will use its existing crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) data to calculate initial payments. USDA estimates that phase one ERP benefits will reach more than 220,000 producers who received indemnities for losses covered by federal crop insurance and more than 4,000 producers who obtained NAP coverage for 2020 and 2021 crop losses.

To streamline and simplify the delivery of ERP phase one benefits, FSA will send prefilled application forms to producers who have crop insurance and NAP data already on file. This form describes eligibility requirements, outlines the application process and provides ERP payment calculations. The producer will need to verify this data and send it back to FSA.

Producers must have other forms on file with FSA within 60 days of the ERP phase one deadline, which will be announced later by FSA's deputy administrator for farm programs. Most producers, especially those who have previously participated in FSA programs, will likely have the other required forms on file. However, those who are uncertain or want to confirm the status of their forms can contact their local FSA county office.

According to USDA, the ERP phase one payment calculation for a crop will depend on the type and level of coverage obtained by the producer. Each calculation will use an ERP factor based on the producer's level of crop insurance or NAP coverage.

Full ERP payment calculation factor tables are available on the emergency relief website.

The second phase of both ERP and the Emergency Livestock Relief Program will fill the gaps and cover producers who did not participate in or receive payments through the existing programs in the first phase of implementation. When phase one payment processing is complete, the remaining funds will be used to cover gaps identified under phase two. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

GOP calls for NEPA review on 30x30 plan

— Requests CEQ response

A group of Republican senators has penned a letter to the White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), demanding a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review on President Joe Biden's plan to conserve 30 percent of the nation's lands and waters by 2030.

The 30x30 plan, also known as the America the Beautiful initiative, has been a controversial measure among Republican leaders and the agriculture industry, with concerns raised about how land and water rights will be impacted.

In a May 11 letter, 21 Republican senators alleged the Biden administration has not properly analyzed the program's public and environmental impact, as required by NEPA.

"We are calling on you to refrain from any actions in the furtherance of 30x30 until a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) has been completed and the legal authority under which this major federal program is proceeding has been disclosed," the letter read.

The letter noted that governors from 15 states wrote to Biden in April 2021 to express their concern regarding the new program and "rightly emphasized" 30x30 will impact the productive use of hundreds of millions of acres of land and harm local economies while infringing on private property rights. The senators said more than a year later, the governors' basic questions about the plan's implementation have yet to be answered.

The letter concluded with the senators asking the government to comply with NEPA before proceeding any further with the 30x30 plan, as the process would "facilitate development and disclosure of the program's details and support informed public participation, as well as satisfying public disclosure obligations."

"Without full disclosure of the details of the 30x30 program, its environmental, budgetary, and legal impacts remain unknown and the public is left in the dark," the letter read. "This is hardly the open and transparent process the administration promised."

The senators request a written response from the CEQ providing a statement of the legal authority by which the program is authorized. If the CEQ determines a PEIS is not required, the senators also request a written explanation for how the program is exempt from NEPA requirements by June 15.

The letter was signed by the following Republican senators: Kevin Cramer (ND), Roger Marshall (KS), Shelley Moore Capito (WV), Chuck Grassley (IA), Cynthia Lummis (WY), James Risch (ID), John Hoeven (ND), Bill Cassidy (LA), Mike Crapo (ID), Mike Rounds (SD), James Inhofe (OK), Mitt Romney (UT), Jerry Moran (KS), Dan Sullivan (AK), Lisa Murkowski (AK), Joni Ernst (IA), Deb Fischer (NE), James Lankford (OK), John Thune (SD), John Cornyn (TX) and Ted Cruz (TX). — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

Tyson drafted executive order to keep plants running

ORDER
(from page 1)

from then-President Donald Trump, and Tyson's legal department drafted the proposed executive order. The executive order was issued after USDA officials received the draft from Tyson.

After the executive order was issued, White House officials reportedly "requested" that meatpacking companies "issue positive statements and social media about the president's action on behalf of the industry, about the order itself and about how it will help ensure the food supply chain remains strong."

The report also highlights how industry executives publicly made "baseless claims" of a pending food shortage while still exporting high volumes of meat. In April 2020, Perdue said empty store shelves were due to a "demand issue, not a supply issue."

However, documents received by the subcommittee showed meatpackers had enough inventory to supply grocery stores. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, meatpackers held 622 million pounds of frozen pork as of March 31, 2020. For the first three quarters of 2020, Smithfield exported 90 percent more pork to China than it did during the same period of 2017, while JBS appeared to have exported 370 percent more.

Industry reactions

After the report's release, Julie Anna Potts, president and CEO of NAMI, said they and member companies cooperated with the subcommittee and provided thousands of pages of information, and the subcommittee has "done the nation a disservice."

Potts said the report "distorts the truth" and "uses 20/20 hindsight and cherry-picks data to support a narrative that is completely unrepresentative of the early days of an unprecedented national emergency."

"The report ignores the rigorous and comprehensive measures companies enacted to protect employees and support their critical infrastructure workers," Potts continued.

Tyson Foods Inc. told Meat+Poultry that its commitment has been to their employees' health and safety throughout the pandemic. Over the past two years, they have "been contacted by, received direction from, and collaborated with many different federal, state and local officials" as they navigated the pandemic. "This collaboration is crucial to ensuring the essential work of the U.S. food supply chain and our continued efforts to keep team members safe," the statement continued.

Jim Monroe, Smithfield's vice president of corporate affairs, told DTN the company has invested $900 million in worker safety and has exceeded the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's and Occupational Safety and Health Administration's guidelines.

"More than two years ago, we encountered a first-of-its-kind challenge," Monroe said. "As an essential industry with responsibilities for the nation's food supply, the challenges were particularly profound. We are immensely proud of the true dedication our team members showed to keep nutritious protein available as we took every appropriate measure to keep our workers safe." — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

Should I fertilize my Bermuda grass pasture this year?

Whether Bermuda grass should be fertilized this year has been a frequently asked question over the past few months as we have seen fertilizer prices skyrocket to unprecedented levels. These high prices have many producers wondering if it is too expensive to use fertilizer in 2022. The issue is further complicated by the reality of drought.

From the standpoint of cow-calf operations, a bottom-line approach considering the number of cows and calves in inventory and how much they need to consume will determine an individual producer's forage needs. To determine the price at which fertilizer becomes economically cost prohibitive, consider the following:

- An average cow will eat, trample on, lie on, defecate on or waste 43 pounds of forage per day.
- A 300 lb. growing calf will consume about 9 lbs. of forage dry matter per day.
- A 600 lb. growing calf will consume about 18 lbs. of forage dry matter per day.

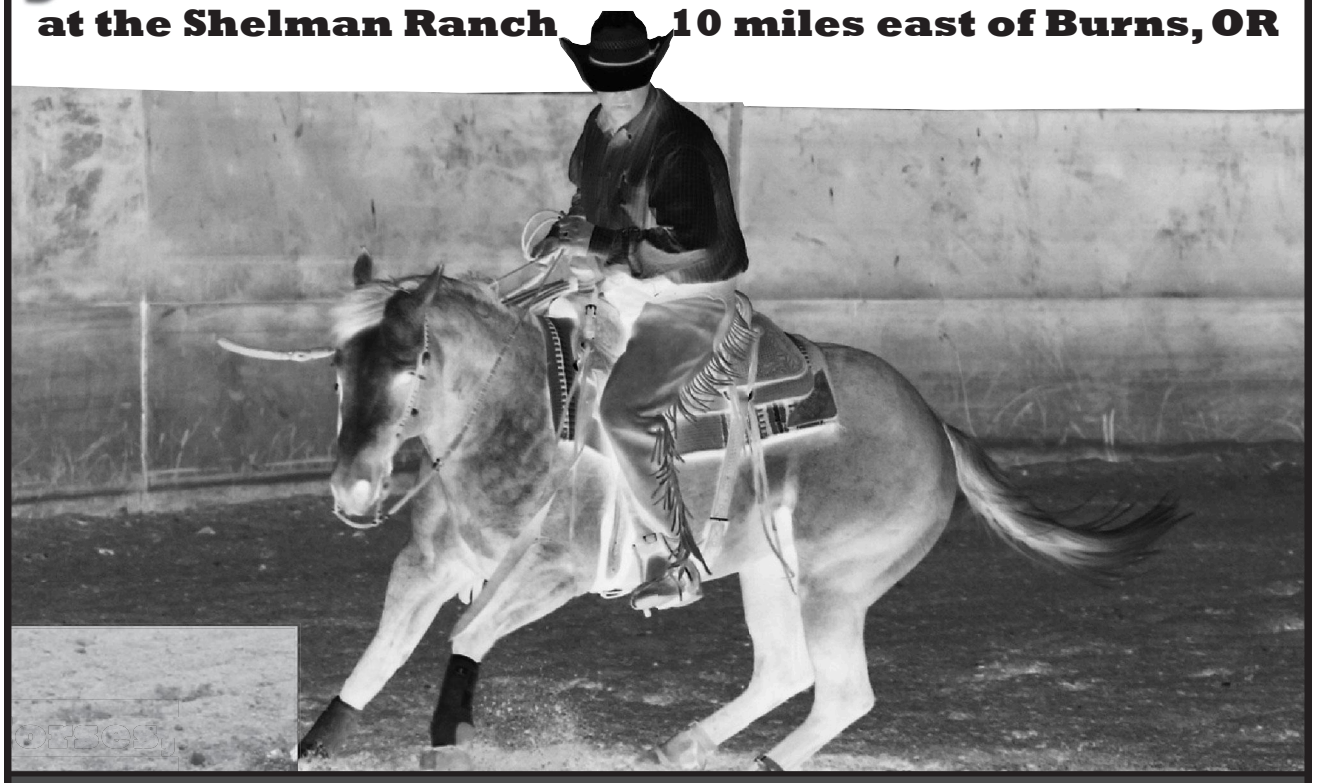
Bermuda grass responds to nitrogen fertilizer at a linear rate when there is ample rainfall to permit growth. By applying 50 lbs. of nitrogen (109 lbs. of urea) per acre, we expect Bermuda to yield 1 ton of forage. Each additional 50 lbs. of nitrogen applied should result in an additional ton of forage produced.

Bermuda is considered an improved grass, meaning it needs fertilizer, weed control, proper stocking rate and moisture. Without any nitrogen applied, a reasonable expectation of yield should be well under 1 ton per acre.

An analysis by Oklahoma State University (OSU) farm management specialist JJ Jones indicates urea fertilizer priced less than $1,000 per ton is a more economical option for feeding cows than harvested forages.

Although fertilizer prices are relatively high compared to the past, it is still more economically feasible to fertilize pasture instead of buying hay. Producers that elect not to fertilize to meet forage needs will have to either spend more money in the fall to purchase hay or reduce stocking rates to match forage availability.

Do the math. Determine your forage needs based on your inventory. Sustaining cows on grazed forage will be more cost effective than other means of meeting nutritional requirements. — **Mark Z. Johnson, OSU Extension beef cattle breeding specialist**

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MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 5/19/2022		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	140.21	▼	142.17	119.87
CME Feeder Index	153.46	▼	156.61	133.86
Boxed Beef Average	261.70	▲	257.20	324.18
Average Dressed Steers	225.58	▼	229.21	190.79
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,374	▼	1,377	1,367
Weekly Slaughter**	657,000	▲	657,000	640,000
Weekly Beef Production***	544.5	▼	545.5	530.8
Hide/Offal Value	13.35	▼	13.63	12.09
Corn Price	7.84	▼	8.14	6.64

*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 16	6,803	257.24	275	289.56	1,232	261.14	2,249	257.66	814	243.87	2,233	230.58
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

Cutouts — FED BOXED BEEF

DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
May 19	261.70	246.06	218.96	109.14	273.00
May 18	260.47	246.02	221.17	108.34	276.25
May 17	260.48	248.19	219.29	110.88	272.71
May 16	260.31	245.67	217.80	108.27	270.73
May 13	258.95	243.90	217.92	107.76	270.03

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle

	5/13	5/16	5/17	5/18	5/19	High*	Low*
Jun.	13208	13318	13300	13150	13150	14783	10920
Aug.	13235	13390	13348	13170	13203	14385	12525
Oct.	13913	13985	13953	13793	13800	14453	13055
Dec.	14553	14600	14535	14380	14383	15083	14003

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle

	5/13	5/16	5/17	5/18	5/19	High*	Low*
May.	15788	15740	15718	15585	15413	17025	15328
Aug.	16803	16743	16678	16580	16520	17628	15425
Sep.	17068	17005	16923	16845	16790	17865	16373
Oct.	17305	17243	17138	17073	17020	18665	17020

*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	26,519	1,420	140.21
Live FOB Heifer	15,705	1,310	140.57
Dressed Del Steer	10,776	919	225.58
Dressed Del Heifer	4,557	819	225.45
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
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 YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	17,616	1,449	119.87
Live FOB Heifer	9,394	1,282	119.32
Dressed Del Steer	8,100	933	190.79
Dressed Del Heifer	1,742	821	191.12

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME

	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	50,137	5,614
Formula	243,962	1,289
Negotiated Cash	105,808	127
Negotiated Grid	40,883	0
Packer Owned	9,438	0
Total	**450,228**	**7,030**

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,845
May '22	165,246	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,225
Jun. '22	152,992	Formula sales	3,589
Jul. '22	121,051	Forward contract sales	144
Aug. '22	103,187	Domestic sales	5,971
Sep. '22	151,049	NAFTA Exports	99

CANADIAN LIVESTOCK PRICES & FEDERAL INSPECTED SLAUGHTER FIGURES

Alberta Direct Sales (4% shrink)	Price	Weekly Change
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	132.46	+0.41
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	139.96	+4.51
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	79.34	+0.11

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, May 6, 2022

Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	181.79	180.56	193.11
601-700 lbs	172.09	173.66	186.59
701-800 lbs	160.22	160.16	175.60
801-900 lbs	147.19	149.80	156.44
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	159.41	N/A	141.65
501-600 lbs	159.32	159.97	153.53
601-700 lbs	148.73	147.36	150.89
701-800 lbs	142.02	142.08	145.58

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
	5/14/22	5/7/22		
Feeders	15,351	16,389	335,361	473,755

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

Friday, May 13, 2022

Mexico to TX. & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary

Receipts EST: 11,000 Week Ago Act: 11,908 Year Ago Act: 14,205

Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold unevenly steady. Heifers unevenly steady. Trade moderate to active, demand moderate to 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 188.00-200.00; 400-500 lbs 174.00-186.00, few 187.00; 500-600 lbs 159.00-171.00, few 172.00; 600-700 lbs 146.00-158.00. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 173.00-185.00; 400-500 lbs 159.00-171.00; 500-600 lbs 144.00-156.00.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 158.00-172.00, few 173.00; 400-500 lbs 148.00-162.00, few 163.00; 500-600 lbs 138.00-152.00, few 153.00; 600-700 lbs 128.00-142.00, few 143.00.

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

Selected Auction Week Ending May 19, 2022

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

STEERS / HEIFERS

DATE MARKET		200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS	PAIRS REPLACEMENTS	
May 13 Blackfoot, ID	N/A		170-190 140-181	170-212 140-181	160-193 140-180	155-183 140-168	145-181 135-150	135-162 120-142	72-86.50 84-106		NORTHWEST
May 12 Burley, ID	390			174-180	153 184-189	146-158.50	 156	140.50 119	75.50-88 86-102.50	1,450-1,585	
No report available Emmett, ID											
May 14 Eugene, OR	1,293			120-133*	99-110* 102-118*	130-153* 126-148*	130-165*	140-151* 110-132*	90-100 102-113	660-950 700-1,125	
May 16 Madras, OR	762								70-90 88-106	1,000-1,100 1,250-1,825	
May 18 Vale, OR	669			133-155	148-167 130-145	145-163			67-90 90-120		
May 18 Davenport, WA	N/A	101	100 100-126	106-158 101-133	124-152 85-152	65-154 44-142	70-137 112-124	81-143 75-132	60-102 58-117	1,200-1,250 750-1,475	
May 12 Toppenish, WA	1,360			160*	178-181* 144.50-161*	162-163* 129.50-141.50*			75-90 103-115.50	1,460	
May 12 Orland, CA	2,915			140-179 164	130-181 157	120-173 149	120-151 142	110-141 131	80-94 80-128	1,385 1,460	FARWEST
May 16 Escalon, CA	N/A		130-171 125-156		125-161 120-153		120-141 100-135	100-125 95-115	64-77 80-100	800-1,300 700-1,300	
May 16 Famoso, CA	726		160-180 130-161	160-186 140-164	150-170 135-155	145-158 130-147	130-135 120-133	120-136	60-90 80-100		
May 18 Galt, CA	4,107				150-178 140-170	145-170 140-162	140-150 125-140	130-141 120-130	50-84 90-121		
No report available Turlock, CA											
May 17 Salina, UT	806		155-180 138-152.50	150-186 135-167	145-181 130-166	140-189 125-155	132.50-182.50 117.50-141.50	104-143 111-140	64.50-94 84.75-100.50	580.75-986.75	
May 16 Iowa	9,083	240 177.50-207	197-232 170-200	180-228 164-188	169-224 147-184	159.75-195 140-175	149-174.50 130-158	143-162.75 126-141	65-98 60-111.50		NORTH CENTRAL
May 17 Miles City, MT	875				212-215 171		 150		67-85.50 68-113	1,535-1,785	
No report available Bassett, NE											
No report available Ericson, NE											
No report available Imperial, NE											
May 11 Kearney, NE	3,600			200-214 181-184	193-200.75 165.50-177	168-192 153.50-165	167.50-189.25 146-157.25	150.75-168.75 131.50-142	70-82.25 99-122		
May 13 Lexington, NE	2,549			195-201 174-177	190-198.50 155-176	168.50-184	176-162 139-154.25	145-162.85 138-150.50			
May 12 Ogallala, NE	3,275		175	178-187.50	177-194 159.50-184	170-184.50 153-166.50	155-167.50 138-156.50	141.50-161 136-140			
May 12 Valentine, NE	550									1,150-2,500	
May 13 Herreid, SD	5,826		191	218-226 171-189	198-212.50 162.75-180	171.50-200.50 155-168	159.75-190 135-165.75	138.75-163 131-154.75			
May 13 Torrington, WY	2,653		205-219 184-189	202-220 175-178	183-197 165-172	173-174 158.50-170	175 145-157.50	148-154.50 146-147.50	70.50-83 97-106.50	1,135-2,600 1,200-1,650	
May 12 Willcox, AZ	N/A	150-199 164-174	165-185.50 145-166	146-182 131-160	103-160 138-153	140-154.50 129-142			82-92.50 60-86.50	985-1,310	SOUTH CENTRAL
May 16 Colorado	3,122			181-196 161-167	193.50-194 156.50-165	182-185 153	124		44-98 85-111.50	950-1,800 900-1,425	
May 11 La Junta, CO	808		186-191 162-172	176-181 165-169	167-175 151-160	 151-154	141 138-141	 112-125	63-79 88-99		
May 9 Loma, CO	871			 157	190 155.50	 143-157	174.50 141-143.75	145.50-158	80-91 100.50-116	1,600-1,750	
May 18 Dodge City, KS	2,220	 188	186-206 164-187	167.50-210 162-167	169.50-193 157-164.50	155-170 138-161	143-149.50 138.50-144.50	129-151.60 116-131	60.50-85 72-111.50	1,050-1,310	
May 19 Pratt, KS	4,000			194	172 145-156	159-173 147.25-159	138-151 138.50-147.75	135.60-155 125-142			
May 12 Salina, KS	3,060		206-207.50 181-190	184-209 177-192	184-199.50 165-177	170-183 147-166	155-174.50 142.25-150.50	136.50-162 124.50-140			
May 18 Clovis, NM	1,751	224 165	196 156-171	185.50-186.50 152-161	175-183 146-161	170.25 133-154	146.50-153 137.50-138	142.75-148			
May 11 El Reno, OK	8,942		197-215 175-180	195-212 169-180	175-195 156-180	161-177 148.25-165	157-175 140-153.25	130-155 110-141.80			
May 18 McAlester, OK	2,175		192-202 151-169	179-205 149-164	173-194 141-163	156-183 132-147	131-162 119-133		64-78 89-111	850-1,200 600-1,025	
May 17 Oklahoma City, OK	9,659		195-224 177.50-183	182-208 162.50-192	162-199 151-168	160-183.75 140-158	153.50-174 134-146.25	128.50-157 110-141.75			
May 13 Cuero, TX	1,401	129-172 138-170	153-200 143-173	144-179 150-180	146-169 136-166	141-156 123-156	121-155 99-130		65-82 90-114	1,100	
May 12 Dalhart, TX	2,124	200-218 188-190	191-213 170	187-198 170	 168-177	164 152.50-165	159 148	153.75 141-141.50	74-84 97-113		
May 12 San Angelo, TX	1,944		176-212 150-171	163-211 141-166	150-196 126-156.50	144-164 132-141	140-148 116-120		60-85 94-100	700-1,000 770-1,190	
May 12 Tulia, TX	1,348	225-235	218 174-177	189-194 150	180.50 148	172.50	155 132.50	141.50 119-125	72.50-80.50 99	900 700	
May 13 Alabama	7,761	193	167-200 150-168	165-192 138-162	150-177 130-155	137-164 120-144	132-146 117-133.50	117-143 90-125.50	59-94 74--122	575-1,475 300-1,400	EAST
May 16 Lexington, KY	735	 145-183*	187-203* 148-175*	175-208* 140-167*	167-203* 140-161*	152-180.50* 130-148*	145-159* 118-125*	125-138* 94-110*	76-104 103-139	1,075-1,450 750-1,375	
May 16 Joplin, MO	5,822	 185	205-217.50 169-186	192-218 162-174	187-201 154-167	170-184 150-157	155-168 146-152.75	139-157.50 140			
May 16 Tennessee	5,420	190-220* 155-205*	175-213* 136-181*	170-208* 135-170*	160-187.25* 120-163*	144-180* 120-155*	114-155.25* 110-143*	110-140* 104-132*	60-106 85-126	900-1,475 600-1,140	
May 16 Virginia	3,401		170-202 140-162	153-200 113-159	148-190 122-157.50	142-178 118-160	135-160.50 118-136.25	128.50-146.50 105-133			
CANADA											
May 18 Lethbridge, Alberta	1,841			227-242 204-213	220-234 188-209	206-227 187-200	194-220.50 185-200	180-196.50 164-178	84-104 129-139		

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Hay stocks will be tighter in 2022 due to drought

The May USDA Crop Production report included hay stocks for the beginning of the hay crop year (May 1). Total U.S. hay stocks were down 6.9 percent year over year and are 15.1 percent below the 2012-21 average. This follows a nearly 12 percent decline in May 1 stocks last year and a Dec. 1 stock level that was down 6 percent year over year. The ongoing drought continues to squeeze available hay supplies, and widespread drought this year is a severe threat to 2022 hay (and range/pasture) production.

May 1 hay stocks in the 17 plains and western states were down 17.7 percent year over year.

After two years of drought in some areas, hay stocks in the West are down 36.6 percent from 2020 levels and are down 27.1 percent from the 2012-21 average. The hardest hit region includes the Northern Plains and Rocky Mountain states, with Montana down 53.6 percent year over year and 55.4 percent from the 10-year state average.

Also sharply lower were North Dakota, down 45.3 percent; South Dakota, down 50.5 percent; and Wyoming, down 38.5 percent from 2021 levels. In total, this four-state region's May 1 hay stocks were down 49.2 percent year over year. This level is down 48.1 percent from the 10-year average level for the four-state total. These four states had 15.1 percent of beef cows on Jan. 1.

The Southern Plains region of Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas had May 1 hay stocks down 12 percent year over year and down 25.3 percent from the 2012-21 average. Oklahoma hay stocks on May 1 were down 47.8 percent year over year and were 43.5 percent below the 10-year average for the state.

Kansas hay stocks were down 26.4 percent from last year and 32.5 percent below the 2012-21 average. May 1 hay stocks in Texas were up 33.3 percent year over year, but they remain 10.6 percent below the 10-year average for the state. The three states accounted for 26.6 percent of beef cows in the country on Jan. 1.

The Four Corners region of Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada and Utah has been in drought since 2020. The region uses relatively little hay and has a low density of beef cows. May 1 hay stocks in the four-state area were up 19.4 percent over last year but remain 32.5 percent below the 2012-21 average.

Hay stocks were down year over year in Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada, but they were up from last year in Utah. These four states accounted for an average of 2.9 percent of U.S. May 1 hay stocks and included 4 percent of U.S. beef cows on Jan. 1.

California and the Pacific Northwest states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho had May 1 hay stocks up 6.1 percent from last year but down 15 percent from the 10-year average. Hay stocks were up in California by 27.3 percent and were slightly above the 10-year average. Idaho also had May 1 hay stocks above last year by 29.3 percent, but they are still 10.3 percent below the 2012-21 average for the state.

Washington and Oregon were both down year over year, 18.2 percent and 24.1 percent, respectively, and both are more than 25 percent below the 10-year average for each state. This region accounts for 6.3 percent of the total beef cow herd.

In terms of May 1 hay stocks, Colorado and Nebraska are unique among the 17 western states. Colorado had hay stocks up 152.2 percent year over year and up 30.3 percent over the 10-year average. Nebraska had May 1 hay stocks up 25 percent year over year and 14.1 percent above the 2012-21 average. Despite the improvement in hay stocks for these two states, drought conditions persist, and pasture and range conditions are diminished in 2022.

In all of these 17 western states, drought continues to be widespread. More than 50 percent of the U.S. beef cow herd is directly threatened by drought. Across the country, more than 50 percent of pastures and range are in poor to very poor conditions. The majority of that pasture and range is in these western states.

The bleak prospects for pasture and hay production, combined with continued diminishment of hay stocks, suggest that significant and severe impacts on cattle herds are ahead as summer approaches. — **Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Corn and feeders each head lower

MARKETS
(from page 1)

• Formula net purchases: $229.80.
• Forward contract net purchases: $225.34.
• Negotiated grid net purchases: $230.30.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled 499,000 head, a few thousand head more than a week earlier. USDA estimates slaughter through May 12 will total 657,000 head. Actual slaughter through the first week of May totaled 661,261 head.

Boxed beef prices made some small gains over the week. The Choice cutout gained about $3.30 to close at $260.47, and the Select cutout gained about $1.65 to close at $246.02.

"There is growing uncertainty as to how low wholesale beef prices will need to go this summer and even next fall before retailers lower prices enough to attract consumers," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef. "Retailers were scalded badly by last year's record high wholesale prices and appear more interested in recouping those losses than much else."

USDA's Weekly Export report for the May 6-12 period showed net sales of 23,300 metric tons (mt), down 18 percent from the previous week but up 35 percent from the prior four-week average. Exports were 19,800 mt, unchanged from the previous week but up 1 percent from the prior four-week average. The destinations were primarily South Korea (6,100 mt), Japan (5,300 mt), China (3,100 mt), Mexico (1,400 mt) and Taiwan (1,000 mt).

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures also closed slightly lower over the week, even amid lower corn. The May contract lost $2.75 to close at $154.12, and the August contract lost about $1.30 to close at $165.20.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index lost $3.15 over the week to close at $153.46.

Corn futures traded lower over the week, with both nearby contracts finally below $8. The July contract lost about 8 cents to close at $7.83, and the September contract lost about 13 cents to close at $7.50.

"With the pressure looming over the live cattle market to the point where all the 2022 live cattle contracts, except June, made new lows for the year, the feeder cattle markets had no choice but to turn bearish and set sail for lower price points," ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, said in her Wednesday comments.

Iowa: Russell Livestock in Russell sold 3,947 head Monday. Compared to the previous auction, steer calves 300-650 lbs. sold $2-8 higher, 650-750 lbs. traded $5-8 higher and 750-950 lbs. were 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 and averaged $160.58.

Kansas: Winter Livestock in Dodge City sold 1,754 head on Wednesday. Compared to a week earlier, steers 500-975 lbs. sold $5-8 lower. Feeder heifers 600-975 lbs. sold $7-11 lower. Heifers 450-600 lbs. sold steady to $3 higher.

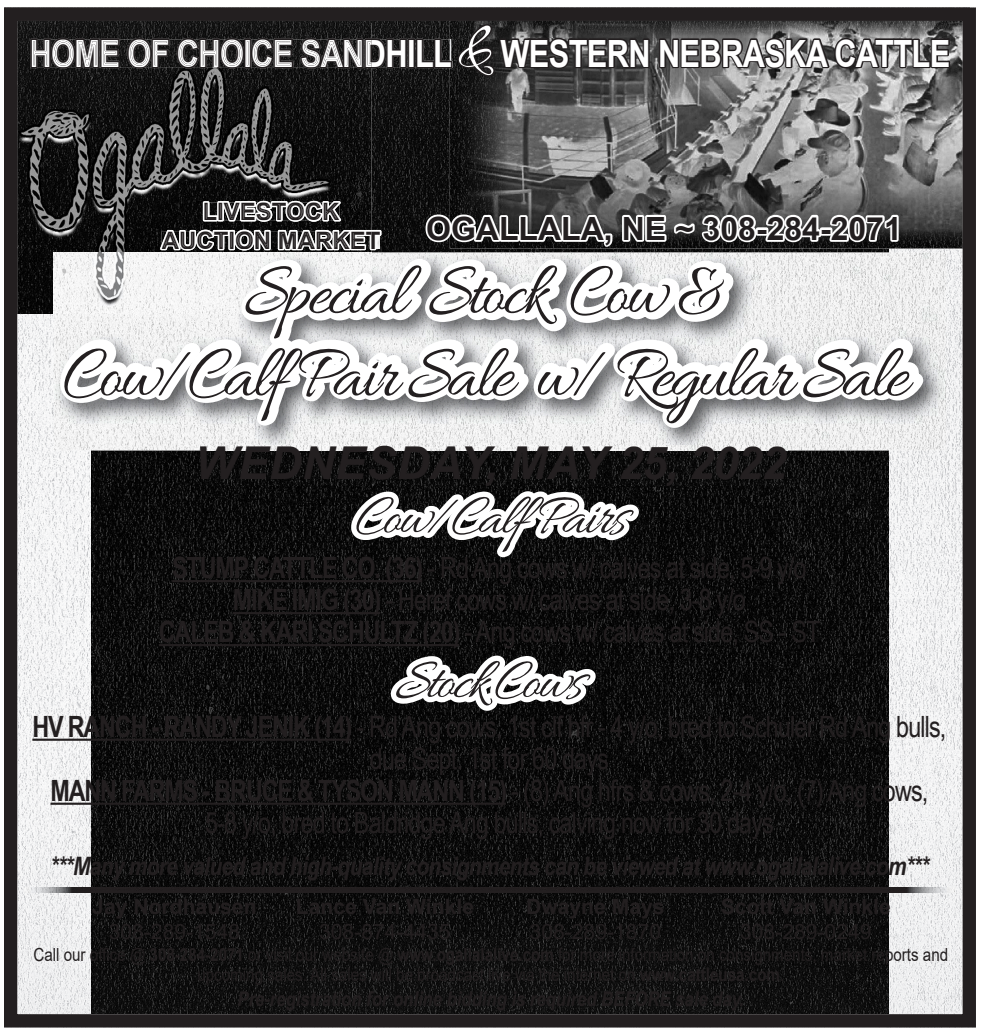
Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 5,500 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, at the mid-session, feeder steers traded steady, and feeder heifers traded steady to $4 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 794 lbs. sold between $155-159, averaging $156.91.

Nebraska: Tri-State Livestock in McCook sold 855 head Monday. Demand was good, but there were not enough sales for a comparison. A group of steers averaging 732 lbs. sold for $150.50.

New Mexico: Clovis Livestock in Clovis sold 1,751 head Wednesday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers and heifers sold steady to $3 higher. Trade was fairly active on moderate to good demand. Benchmark steers averaging 718 lbs. sold between $150-153, averaging $151.67.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 9,800 head on Monday. Compared to the prior sale, feeder steers sold unevenly steady, and feeder heifers sold $3-5 lower. Steer and heifer calves sold $4-8 lower. Benchmark steers averaging 730 lbs. sold between $158-166.25, averaging $163.82.

South Dakota: Sioux Falls Regional Livestock in Worthing sold 546 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, there was too light of a test to make a meaningful comparison, but lower undertones were evident. Benchmark steers averaging 726 lbs. sold for $164. —**Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**





COMING EVENTS

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

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.

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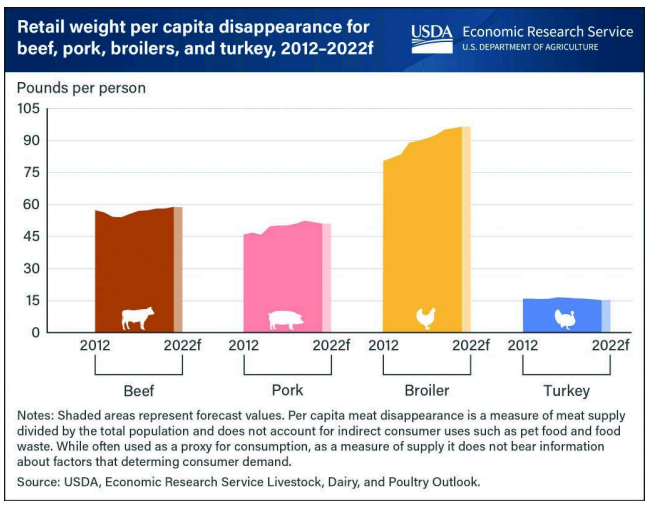
Red meat consumption expected to decrease modestly

Per capita red meat and poultry disappearance is expected to modestly decrease in 2022. While it is often used as a proxy measure for consumption, per capita meat disappearance is a measure of the supply available for use in domestic markets, including fresh and processed meat sold through grocery stores and used in restaurants.

In aggregate, the forecast is driven by a decrease in total red meat disappearance (-0.30 percent) that more than offsets an increase in total poultry disappearance (+0.11 percent). Despite the fractional net decrease, the 2022 value is expected to reach a near record high, second to the previous high in 2021.

Over the last decade (2012-21), per capita meat disappearance has generally been on an upward trend, with an overall increase of 22.5 pounds. The latest USDA forecast indicates that in 2022, U.S. consumers will have access to 224.6 lbs. of red meat and poultry on a per capita retail weight basis. This forecast is 0.2 lbs. lower than last year and 10.3 lbs. higher than the 2012-21 average. Looking at the main protein species, 2022 per capita disappearance for beef and pork is expected to decrease by 0.34 and 0.20 percent, respectively, because of lower livestock inventory.

Disappearance for broilers and turkey is expected to increase by 0.11 and 0.35 percent, respectively. Sustained by a steady production growth trend, 2022 broiler disappearance adds to a decade-long stretch of year-over-year increases. The increase in turkey disappearance marks the first year of increase since 2016. — **USDA Economic Research Service**



Texas wildfire preliminary agriculture losses total $23.1M

Texas wildfires that ravaged the Eastland Complex, parts of the Panhandle and regions of Coryell County, encompassing 433,000 acres, have resulted in $23.1 million in preliminary agricultural loss estimates, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service economists.

The losses include more than 400 livestock deaths, lost grazing values and fence repair costs. Dry, windy conditions throughout the winter and into early spring heightened the fire danger threat.

"AgriLife Extension continues its commitment to providing the resources needed for landowners and livestock producers to help recover from this tragic event," said Rick Avery, Ph.D., director of AgriLife Extension. "We appreciate the ongoing efforts of our dedicated agent network and industry partners. Texas agriculture producers are resilient, although the damages to thousands of acres of grazing land, livestock and infrastructure will be long lasting."

The preliminary estimates were calculated beginning with the early March fires through the end of April. AgriLife Extension economists say the preliminary loss estimates could climb higher due to ongoing fire threats.

"Drought conditions are only intensifying the potential for further economic losses moving forward considering the prospects of hay availability and associated feed costs," said David Anderson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension livestock economist.

AgriLife Extension deployed its Disaster Assessment and Recovery agents along with its county agents to implement animal supply points in the Eastland Complex in Rising Star, Cross Plains and Gorman. Agents assisted with collecting donations and distributing hay, feed and other resources. They also provided field and damage assessment support.

"Our Disaster Assessment Recovery agents worked tirelessly to establish and operate animal supply points at key areas," said Monty Dozier, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension Disaster Assessment and Recovery program director. "Agents were working around the clock coordinating the distribution of hundreds of round bales of hay, livestock and pet food, assisting with field assessments and identification of cattle during this catastrophic event. Again, we thank those throughout Texas and our friends out of state who donated during this critical time of need."

AgriLife Extension, the Texas A&M Forest Service and the Texas Division of Emergency Management, all part of the Texas A&M University System, have provided numerous support and response efforts throughout the wildfire events that began in March.

During a seven-day span in late March, state, federal and local fire resources responded to 192 wildfires that burned 173,559 acres. More than 300 Texas A&M Forest Service firefighters and more than 200 Texas Intrastate Fire Mutual Aid System firefighters, along with firefighting personnel from 28 states, were positioned across the state to respond.

Disaster assistance

The USDA's Farm Service Agency has approved low-interest physical loss loans to help producers repair or replace damaged or destroyed qualifying physical property. To confirm eligibility and access application information, contact your local USDA Service Center.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) approved Gov. Greg Abbott's (R) request for a disaster declaration in communities affected by the Eastland Complex fire, unlocking access to multiple loan programs. Applicants may apply for loans, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications online at sba.gov. Applicants may also call SBA's customer service center at 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance.

Texans affected by wildfires are encouraged to submit property damage at damage.tdem.texas.gov to help officials identify resource needs and determine the state's eligibility for additional disaster assistance. — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

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.

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May 23 – TK Angus, Mature Cow Dispersion, Valentine, NE
Jun. 16 – Coyote Creek Angus, Complete Dispersion, Hayden, CO
Jun. 25 – Baldridge Performance Angus, Female Sale, North Platte, NE
Sep. 20-22 – Montana Angus Tour, Sidney, 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

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

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
Jun. 24 – Northern Video Sale, Early Summer Special Video Auction, Billings, MT
Jul. 11-13 – Western Video Market, Silver Legacy, Reno, NV
Jul. 11-15 – Superior Livestock Auction, Week in the Rockies Video Sale, Cheyenne, WY
Jul. 18-20 – Northern Video Sale, Summertime Classic Video Auction, Billings, MT
Aug. 22 – Northern Video Sale, Early Fall Preview Video Auction, Billings, MT
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
Sep. 19 – Northern Video Sale, Fall Premier Video Auction, Billings, MT

HORSE

May 28 – Full House, Quarter Horse Production Sale, New Castle, WY
Jun. 4 – Rancher's Horse Sale, Juntura, OR
Jun. 10-11 – Shelman Family Ranch, Ranch and Performance Horse Sale, Burns, OR
Jun. 25 – Fort Ranch, Horse Sale, Promontory, UT

SALE REPORTS

KOENIG RANCH REDS
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May 12, Glasgow, MT
37 Coming 2-year-old bulls.....$3,332
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Auctioneer: Kyle Shobe
TOPS—Bulls: KRP FA Money Mill 0885, by Buf Crk Final Answer W004; to Cloverdale Ranch, Redstone, MT, $6,000. KRP Oly-W Double Excel 0556, by KRP Oly's Wander 7500; to Cloverdale Ranch, Redstone, MT, $5,000. KRP Red Wander Maker 0456, by KRP Kanyon Maker 3853; to Calf Creek Cattle, Sand Springs, MT, $5,000. KRP Mill Red Chief 0357, by KRP Make A Mill 2054; to Calf Creek Cattle, Sand Springs, MT, $4,750. **Heifers:** Five of the top heifers all sold for $1,975. — **DEVIN MURNIN**



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Grouse unlawfully removed from proposed ESA listing

— Federal court sides with greens

A federal judge has ruled the Trump administration unlawfully withdrew its proposal to list the bi-state sage-grouse as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The bi-state sage-grouse resides in areas of the California-Nevada border and was originally proposed as threatened in 2013. In 2015, the consideration was abandoned, but in 2018, a federal court ordered the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to reevaluate the bird's listing. The bird was once again proposed for protection, but the Trump administration withdrew the proposal in March 2020.

On May 16, U.S. District Judge Jacqueline Scott Corley ruled the 2020 withdrawal was arbitrary and capricious, vacated the withdrawal and remanded the matter back to the USFWS to issue a new final listing decision.

"By simply dismissing the relevant data, rather than 'disagreeing with or discrediting' it, the Service ignored the best available data," Corley said in her 31-page order.

Corley said the USFWS cherry-picked data to show the bi-state sage-grouse was stable, and there wasn't enough evidence to support the conclusion that the sage grouse population was above the population threshold for viability.

The bi-state sage-grouse population is estimated at 3,305 birds, while the minimum viable population number is 5,000 birds. The USFWS evaluates population numbers by monitoring six population management units.

In the 2020 withdrawal, the USFWS said the bi-state sage-grouse population has "fluctuated over the past 40 years (both increased and decreased), but over the entire timeframe has remained relatively stable," according to the suit.

Conservation groups celebrated the judge's ruling. "These unique sage grouse populations in the Eastern Sierra are heading toward extinction from numerous threats, including livestock grazing, cheatgrass invasions, raven predation and extreme droughts," said Laura Cunningham, California director at Western Watersheds Project. "They deserve a chance to thrive with legal protection."

Lawsuit plaintiffs included Desert Survivors, the Center for Biological Diversity, Western Watersheds Project and WildEarth Guardians. —**Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

Letter: Grazing decision violates Section 7 of the ESA

LETTER
(from page 1)

The environmental assessment report considered three alternatives. The first was a no grazing alternative, the second was to keep the current allotment management and the last was an adaptive management strategy.

USFS began a scoping period in 2013 but was postponed due to the Emigrant fire and other priorities. In 2020, USFS revived the proposal and received over 23,000 email messages during the public comment period.

Alex Sienkiewicz, USFS district ranger for the Yellowstone Ranger District, said in the FONSI the comments were summarized into four main points: grazing of livestock in wilderness zones, reintroduction of livestock in the vacant Suce Creek and Sixmile South allotments, the potential impacts on grizzly bears and other carnivores, and potential effects to bison and elk from commercial livestock grazing.

Sienkiewicz decided on the third alternative of an adaptive management strategy to not allow grazing on the Suce Creek and Sixmile South allotments. The Mill Creek allotment will be authorized for grazing, but it will remain vacant until noxious weeds have been reduced and enough suitable range becomes available to sustain at least 73 animal unit months. The current active grazing allotments would remain but with alterations, including the installation of fencing, a change in acres on some allotments and a change in the season of use between June 1 to Oct. 15, with the on/off date variable based on range conditions.

"The new actions I have decided to implement, including adaptive management, the inclusion of the Trailhead pasture into the Sixmile North allotment, the earlier turn-out date, and other actions are designed to address specific management needs and provide additional flexibility while resulting in little to no additional impact on project area resources," Sienkiewicz wrote in the FONSI.

The letter asserts that USFS acknowledged there would be more conflicts with bears and other predators, and allowing livestock to graze in the "primary conservation area" would result in more grizzly deaths.

"One of the leading causes of grizzly bear deaths in the Yellowstone ecosystem is management removals of bears that come into contact with livestock," Andrea Zaccardi, carnivore conservation legal director for the Center for Biological Diversity, told *WLJ*. "Dropping livestock into prime grizzly bear habitat just north of Yellowstone National Park is a recipe for disaster and is likely to lead to more dead bears."

The letter states that science affirms livestock grazing in areas occupied by grizzly bears "is a serious and substantial threat to the species and its recovery, often resulting in the mortality and removal of bears and family units, including females with cubs."

The letter also cites the number of grizzly bears removed from the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem "to protect livestock interests" has jumped from nine removals from 1980-2001 to 128 removals from 2002-2020. "And these numbers are only the reported mortalities attributed to livestock grazing," the letter states.

The letter notes the increase in mortalities is attributed to the loss of two essential food sources—the whitebark pine and cutthroat trout—increased reliance on a "meat-based diet" and the expansion of the bear's range.

The FONSI disputes these findings, citing studies that show changing the grazing season to June will have little effect on grizzly bear conflict. It also states the impact of cattle grazing on forage conditions would be minor because areas outside the allotments and other areas not used by cattle would "yield herbaceous forage for grizzly bears."

"Grizzly bears have a varied diet; cattle are not expected to deplete food sources such as berries, roots, and small mammals, among others," the FONSI states.

Under Section 7 of the ESA, the letter asserts that USFS must consult with USFWS to ensure any actions it carries out are "not likely to jeopardize the continued existence" of any listed species. Grizzly bears were listed under the ESA in July 1975. The letter continues that both agencies' biological opinions and biological assessments are arbitrary and capricious and violate Section 7 of the ESA because they failed to use the best science to evaluate how the decision affects grizzly bear recovery.

The Western Environmental Law Center sent the letter on behalf of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, the Western Watersheds Project, Native Ecosystems Council, the Center for Biological Diversity, Wyoming Wildlife Advocates, the Sierra Club, the Friends of the Bitterroot and WildEarth Guardians.

USFS and USFWS have 60 days to reply to the notice of intent before the suit is filed under the ESA.

"The purpose of the 60 day notice is to give the government 60 days to fix the problem to avoid litigation. We hope the Forest Service takes the time to amend their East Paradise decision so they are no longer violating the law," Mike Garrity, executive director of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies, told *WLJ*. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* 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 1 – The North American Limousin Foundation is offering four scholarship programs for junior members pursuing higher education. Information on each scholarship application's requirements can be found at nalf.org/juniors/scholarships.

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.

