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INSIDE WLJ

CO RIVER CURTAILMENTS — Officials have warned Colorado River water users that they need to cut down their water usage drastically or face additional mandatory regulations. Page 5

KS HEAT WAVE KILLS CATTLE — After temperatures above 100 F swept through Kansas with little to no accompanying wind, thousands of cattle in feedlots died of heat stress. Page 9

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

Any producer knows that safety practices on the ranch are of the utmost importance, which is why one ranch safety booklet issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration in June 1976 drew some criticism: "A government safety pamphlet which tells cattlemen how to avoid accidents has provoked snickers and outright contempt from members of Congress and other who believe the pamphlet is so over-simplified it insults an average person's intelligence. The booklet's key advice to livestock handlers is to 'be careful around the farm' and that hazards 'are one of the main causes of accidents.' Pointing out that 'dangerous gases come from manure pits,' the booklet says 'be careful that you do not fall into the manure pits.'"

INDEX

CA water board readopts precedent-setting groundwater regs in Shasta, Scott watersheds

— *Regulating flows for coho salmon*

Family farmers and ranchers in Siskiyou County in far-northern California will continue to face unprecedented groundwater and surface water curtailments this summer and next if the drought continues. On June 21, the California State Water Resources Control Board readopted a drought emergency regulation for the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds that continues severe curtailments based on new minimum flow requirements in the Scott and Shasta rivers.

Mel Fletcher

The California State Water Resources Control Board readopted a drought emergency regulation for the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds that continues severe curtailments. Pictured here, cattle grazing in Scott Valley.

Some amendments were made to the existing emergency regulation, which was put in place by the water board last September. According to the Scott Valley Agriculture Water Alliance (AgWA), a local grassroots communication group that formed in response to the emergency regulations, the adopted changes added some flexibility to the previous regulation.

Theodora Johnson, spokesperson for AgWA, said water board staff have been "very willing to talk to us and make fine-tuning changes." But, she added, the readopted regulation still contains the major aspects that threaten the businesses of the small, multigenerational farms and ranches in the Scott and Shasta valleys.

"The regulation still curtails both groundwater and surface water irrigation if certain flow objectives are not met on either

See WATER on page 12

Market, investigator bills pass out of committee

— *MCOOL and mandates left off*

The U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry has moved the Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act of 2022 and the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act of 2022 to the Senate floor for a full vote.

Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), chairwoman of the committee, urged her colleagues to pass the bills and thanked them for their leadership on these issues, stating the bills will "make progress toward a more competitive, transparent and fair supply chain that is better for American producers."

Ranking Member Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) said the bills were "born out of frustration." Boozman was concerned about whether the bills were solutions to the problems and if they would have unintended consequences. Boozman expressed that the Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act will burden small processors, while large packers have the means to comply with the law. Boozman said USDA already has a Packers and Stockyards Division; if funding is an issue, the committee should address that, he said.

Boozman went on to say he thinks "the industry, our ranch families and our rural communities will all suffer if we insert the federal government into day-to-day business decisions."

The committee unanimously passed the Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act of 2022 after Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-IA) offered an amendment to make the special investigator a senior USDA employee and direct the special investigator to coordinate

See BILLS on page 7

Logan Ipsen named president of Western Livestock Journal LLC

Following National Livestock Credit Corporation's acquisition of the *Western Livestock Journal* (*WLJ*) earlier this year, the leadership reins of the highly-esteemed agriculture publication have been turned over to Logan Ipsen.

Ipsen, who joined *WLJ* in 2012, has worked primarily in the Western region, serving as a territory manager in California, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, but he has also represented the company at many events across the country. In his tenure, he has worked with a multitude of accounts, including seedstock producers, commercial ranchers and corporations of all sizes.

"Over the course of 100 years, the *WLJ* has sustained itself as a staple in agriculture information. We plan to uphold that standard by continuing to provide exceptional editorial, dedicated customer service and respected leadership," Ipsen said.

"Producers have long relied on the *WLJ's* information, and we plan to maintain that responsibility while bridging the gap between print and digital media. I'm excited for this opportunity, thankful for National's trust and ready to take on today's challenges with a fantastic team around me."

Prior to working for *WLJ*, Ipsen, who graduated from Utah State University, served as a regional manager for the American Angus Association. Ipsen resides in New Plymouth, ID, with his wife, Stevie, and their three children, where they own and operate a cow-calf and Quarter Horse operation.

"At National Livestock, we have long admired the great service *WLJ* has provided to the entire industry," said Danny Jones on behalf of the National Livestock family of businesses. "We congratulate *WLJ* on their success

Logan Ipsen has been selected to lead Western Livestock Journal LLC as president.

and look forward to supporting their continued service and growth as we move forward together.

"We congratulate Logan for his

See WLJ on page 6

Feeders capitalize on lower corn; cash trade steady

The market started the week on a later note, with the markets closed on Monday due to the new federal holiday, Juneteenth. Cash trade was limited compared to a week earlier, but bids were steady to several dollars higher. Uncertainty about the economy and the rise in input costs has knocked corn prices lower, sending feeders higher.

Live cattle futures saw losses of a couple dollars over the week, with the June contract down $2.50 to $135.25 and the August contract down $2.43 to $133.87.

Cash trade through Thursday totaled about 62,000 head, about 20,000 head less than a week earlier. Live cattle sold in a wide spread, from $137-150, and were steady to $3 higher compared to a week earlier. Dressed steers sold from $230-240, averaging on the higher end of $230.

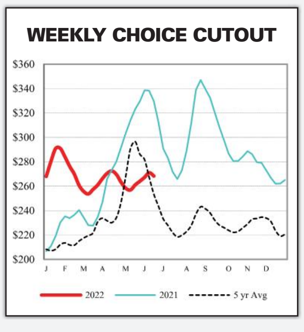
Cash trade for the week ending June 19 totaled 107,080 head. Live steers averaged $143.87, and dressed steers averaged $229.85.

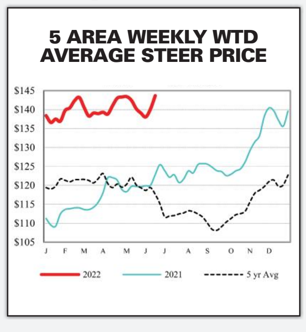
"The question on many minds is the future regional basis for fed cattle. Packers are purchasing cattle for $240 dressed rather than buying live. Assuming a 63.50 percent carcass yield, the sale is the equivalent of $152 live," wrote the Ag Center in the Cattle Report.

"The range of prices for fed cattle would be $137-$152 or $15/cwt—a historic high. Projecting the same regional basis into the future involves assuming a premium to the live cattle futures for northern cattle. While grading historically is higher in the north, it is not $200/head better."

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of June 13-20 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: $143.63.
- Formula net purchases: $141.47.
- Forward contract net purchases: $148.07.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: $139.31.





On a dressed basis:

- Negotiated purchases: $229.98.

See MARKETS on page 9

COMMENTS

Legislative storm ahead

CROW

The Senate Ag Committee was busy last week approving more market legislation: S. 3870, the Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act, and S. 4030, the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act. Now they need to present it to the Senate for a full vote—I would expect to see the Senate pass it with a few amendments attached.

Then the House of Representatives passed H.R. 7606, the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act, which creates a food supply chain task force and something for precision agriculture and contains several of the House legislation proposals like the Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act, the Butcher Block Act and the Low Carbon Biofuel Credit Act.

Why does USDA need a special investigator when they have the Packers and Stockyards Division to already investigate the industry? It seems redundant to me. Then S. 4030 is a bill that would mandate some level of negotiated cash trade, like the proposal to force packers to buy 50 percent of their plant requirements on the negotiated cash markets and have those cattle delivered inside of 14 days.

Do you really think that the government is going to improve the market for cattle? I wouldn't bet the farm on it. The transparency part of the bill is to allow you to see those detailed alternative marketing agreements (AMAs). This bill will not add 50 cents a pound to your fed cattle—the supply of cattle will take care of that. I think we are going to see the smallest national cow herd ever over the next few years.

I honestly can't believe part of this industry wants the government involved in managing a commodity market. The dairy industry jumped into a government-controlled milk market 80-plus years ago and now they want the federal milk marketing order adjusted.

This legislation has been controversial to say the least and has split the industry. The irony is that it has more of an effect on fed cattle trade. Feeder cattle are for the most part still sold at auction, which is the ultimate form of negotiated cash trade. Auction markets are where feeder cattle start the consolidation process into the big feedlots, and they provide a very important function in our cattle marketing system.

It's interesting how folks can have such diverse opinions on cattle marketing. The folks from the United States Cattlemen's Association feel that "this bill is one of the much-needed solutions to an increasingly consolidated meat industry. Studies have shown that without government intervention, negotiated trade in the U.S. marketplace will fall to zero percent by 2026 in parts of the country. When producers don't have the ability to negotiate a fair price for their cattle based on current market conditions, it results in a vertically integrated corporate controlled beef supply chain. This threatens the livelihoods of producers and the security of our national food system."

When it comes to supporting research, each side seems to come up with a university-sponsored document supporting their side's point of view. Very little of this bogus research is used in crafting a final decision. In this case, I don't think a good decision can be made. The government never belongs in a free market.

Then the National Cattlemen's Beef Association says, "The Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act would subject every cattle producer in the country to a business-altering government mandate. The bill would severely restrict the use of AMAs, which provide stability to producers and allow them to invest in creating higher-quality and specialty products that command a premium. The bill fails to consider the unique ways producers raise cattle in different regions of the country."

Now the Senate will have to vote, and from what I'm hearing, there isn't a lot of interest or time on the Senate schedule to do much. August recess is around the corner, and then campaign season is on for many senators up for reelection.

Frankly, I'm surprised these bills got as much traction as they did. Cattlemen will get a few things out of this legislative package, but I doubt they will get any market-making provisions like the 50/14 plan.

Cattle markets are doing well right now—feedlots are current, packers don't have a lot of cattle around them, slaughter levels have been robust and July is just around the corner. We're moving into summer in pretty good shape. Now we just need to keep praying for rain. — **PETE CROW**

GUEST OPINION

FARMING IN THE SUBURBS, SUSTAINING LOCAL AGRICULTURE

Farming and rural. Those words used to go hand in hand. And in most areas, they still do, but more and more, farmers in every region of the country are finding themselves surrounded by suburban communities as our population grows. Farmers in urban and suburban counties face unique challenges, but they also have a unique set of opportunities and lessons we can glean from as we work together to strengthen agriculture.

Highways and houses have dramatically changed the landscape as urban centers spread. What doesn't change with the landscape, however, is the farm spirit. I recently traveled to Connecticut where farmers have decades of practice farming in the middle of suburban sprawl. Every farmer I met there was committed to making their community better, whether they were just starting out or farming land that has been in the family for generations. These farmers connect with consumers directly, as many of them sell straight to the customer or in a local market. Others have regular opportunities to share more information about farm practices with their neighbors who look out on their fields from less than 100 yards away.

We can't expect our neighbors, suburban or rural, to naturally understand the ins and outs of farming. Simply living next to a business doesn't make you an expert, any more than living near a hospital makes you a doctor. That's why building relationships and listening is so important. Being a good farmer starts with being a good neighbor, whether that means planting extra trees or helping prepare the soil for a neighbor's home garden. Farmers in suburban and urban counties are on the front lines of building bridges with consumers.

Agriculture is critical to local communities and economies in all 50 states and Puerto Rico. Unfortunately, lawmakers in urban areas often lose sight of that simply because they don't know farmers or haven't ever been to a farm. This is where farmers near suburban areas are uniquely positioned to give lawmakers a firsthand look at agriculture.

During my visit to Connecticut, a local farm family hosted a dinner where about half of the state's congressional delegation, plus several state leaders, made an appearance. In many states, that's unheard of! But that's the power of farmers who are active in their local communities. Don't ever lose sight of the valuable role you play. You have a voice and a vote. You might not turn the tide with one farm visit, but building relationships over time with local, state and national leaders can reap benefits in strengthening our farm communities for the future.

While there are a good number of farms around the country that have been in business for generations, I'd wager that few of them, if any, look the same as when they started. I know mine sure doesn't three generations in. Farmers must adapt and diversify to meet the demands of changing markets. I am amazed when I meet a farmer who can point to a sign that says "Established in 1819." And I am just as amazed when I speak with a farmer who got a loan and started from scratch in 2019. Both are producing for what today's customers want and need, and both are committed to leaving their land and communities better than when their farms began.

Farmers are innovators, always looking for ways to be more efficient and adapt to the changing times, from testing out new crops to adding robotic technology. I met with one apple grower who pointed out innovations from his father, grandfather, great-grandfather and great-great-grandfather. Today, he's adding his own to the list with an automated packing line, and he plans to break ground on a cider distillery.

Of course, I know there are real challenges that come with farming close to suburban areas as well, from safety concerns near busy highways to the added pressure of development and rising land costs. We need to work through those challenges together in a manner that avoids hostility while ensuring farmers can continue stocking America's pantries.

Farm Bureau is committed to providing all our members with the tools they need to succeed. If you farm in or near an urban county, I encourage you to check out the new urban county resources page on Farm Bureau University at www.fb.org. And as always, please reach out to Farm Bureau staff—from the county to the state to the national level. We are here to serve you.

While our challenges may vary from region to region, American farmers are united in our dedication to support our neighbors and to grow safe, sustainable food for all. It's not easy work, but we farm because we love what we do and we want to see our families, our communities and our nation thrive. — **Zippy Duvall, American Farm Bureau Federation president**

100 YEARS 1922 2022 Western Livestock Journal

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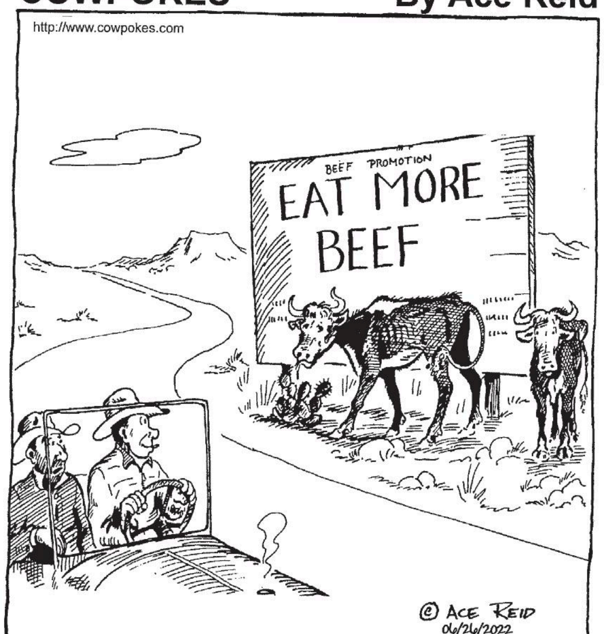
AMI told increased beef sales to Japan unlikely

A large increase in beef exports to Japan from the U.S. appears unlikely, according to Don Paarlberg, director of agriculture economics for USDA. Paarlberg, attending the annual meeting of the American Meat Institute in Chicago, told Western Livestock Journal he believes the Japanese do not have an appetite for American type beef, and they will continue to rely on Australia for most of their beef supplies because of proximity and preference for the Australian's leaner type of meat.

Asked about government crop loan rates, Paarlberg said he felt Congress and the Carter administration will want to increase the loan levels. He said the effect this would have on the domestic livestock sector is uncertain and dependent on how high the loan rates are set and on the amount of crop production in the future. Paarlberg declined to speculate what a maximum realistic loan level would be for wheat, corn and soybeans, but did say that the government was now researching the whole area. — ***WLJ***

Paarlberg said he felt Congress and the Carter administration will want to increase the loan levels.

COWPOKES® By Ace Reid



"Say, I don't believe them things are helpin' our sign much!"

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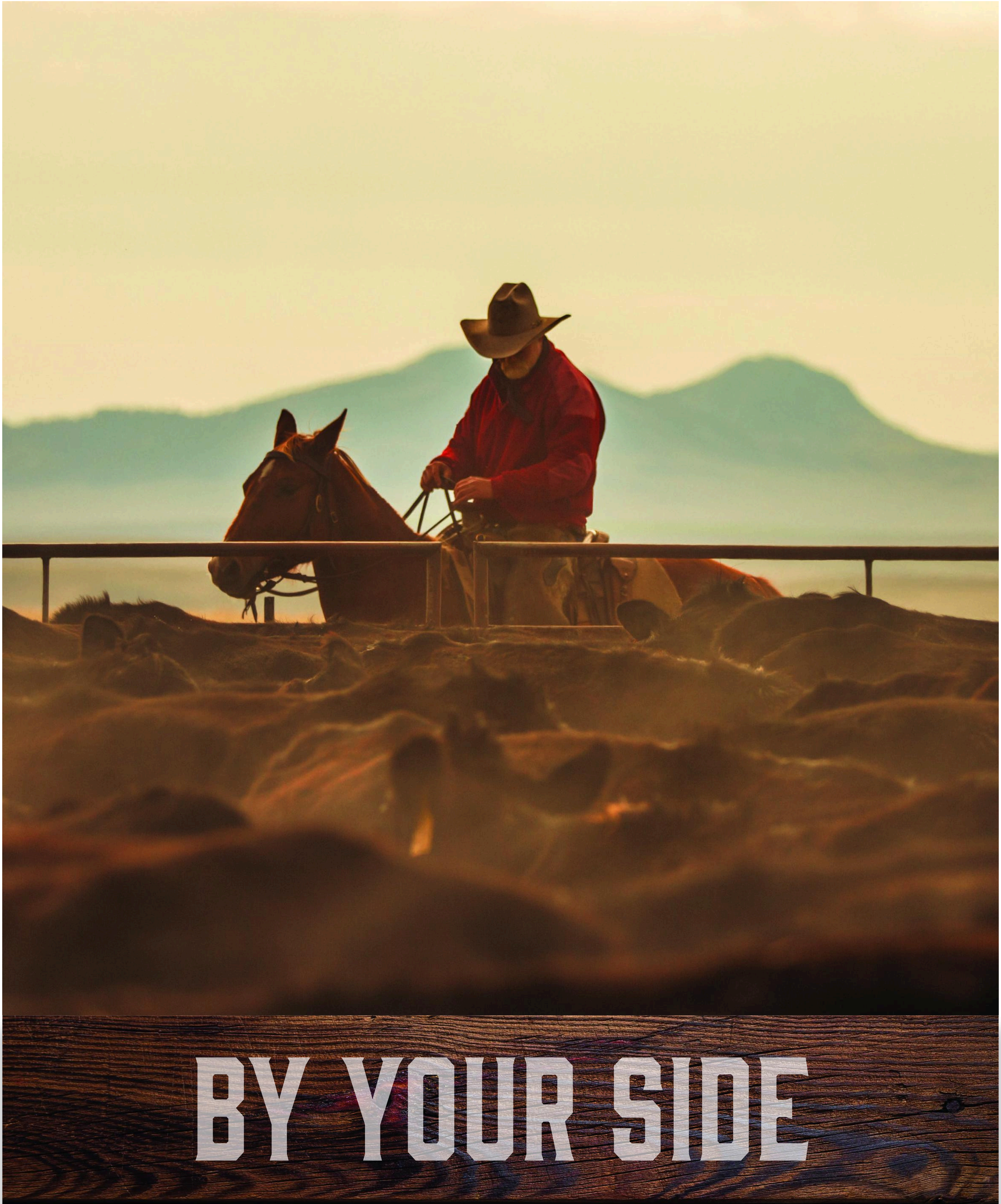

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Ag to SCOTUS: CA's Prop 12 illegally regulates US hog industry

Alleging California's Proposition 12 would "transform the pork industry nationwide" in violation of the Commerce Clause, two agriculture groups asked the Supreme Court to declare the law unconstitutional in an opening brief filed in a case on June 17.

The Supreme Court accepted a petition filed by the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) and the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) challenging the law that took effect in January.

Proposition 12 prohibits the sale of pork not produced according to California's production standards. Proposition 12 applies to any uncooked pork sold in the state, regardless of whether it was raised in California.

Smithfield Foods announced recently that it was closing its only hog processing plant in California because of the rising costs of doing business in the state.

Proposition 12 would make it a criminal offense and civil violation to sell whole pork meat in California unless the pig it comes from is born to a sow that was housed with 24 square feet of space and in conditions that allow a sow to turn around without touching an enclosure.

Voters in the state passed Proposition 12 in 2018 with nearly 63 percent of votes supporting it.

In their opening brief to the court, the ag groups said few, if any, sows are housed in such a manner anywhere in the country.

"Farmers almost universally keep sows in individual pens that do not comply with Proposition 12 during the vulnerable period between a sow's weaning a litter of piglets and confirmation of her next pregnancy," the ag groups said in the brief.

"There are very few sow farms in California. The state imports 99.87 percent of the pork it consumes. Proposition 12 therefore governs the housing conditions of sows located almost exclusively outside of California."

The groups said Proposition 12's reach is not limited to the 13 percent of all U.S. pork imported into California.

"A market pig progresses through multiple farms outside of California as it is raised, and then is processed into many different cuts of meat that are sold across the country," the brief said.

"If any part of a pig is sold in California, the sow it came from must be Proposition 12-compliant. And sow farmers cannot say with certainty that no meat from any of their pigs will be sold in California, after those pigs pass through nursery and finishing farms, a packer-slaughter plant, then distributors, before their meat reaches consumers."

Impact on U.S. industry

The groups said the U.S. industry as a whole would be forced to reduce herd sizes or build "costly new facilities, and they will require changes in every aspect of caring for sows, including feeding, breeding, medical care, and farm labor."

NPPC President Terry Wolters, owner of Stoney Creek Farms in Pipestone, MN, said in a statement that farmers already place "top priority" on the health and welfare of their animals.

"California's Proposition 12 illegally regulates farms across the country and international borders," he said.

"It will have ripple effects of jeopardizing the health and safety of the entire U.S. herd, driving many smaller farmers out of business, dramatically increasing costs, and limiting consumer choice of affordable and nutritious pork products."

AFBF President President Zippy Duvall said in a statement the law has the "potential to devastate small family farms across the nation through unnecessary and expensive renovations, and every family will ultimately pay for the law through higher food prices."

At the end of January, a California court halted the enforcement of Proposition 12, moving back enforcement of the animal-welfare law to six months after rules are finalized.

The California Department of Food and Agriculture is more than two years late in finalizing rules for the law that places animal-welfare restrictions on pork producers who sell products in the state.

The Commerce Clause grants Congress power to regulate trade among states and restricts states from regulating commerce outside their borders, except for matters related to public health and safety.

In July 2021, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals said in its ruling that although Proposition 12 would have "dramatic upstream effects and require pervasive changes to the pork industry nationwide," the court ruled its own precedent wouldn't allow the ag groups' case to continue.

Back in March 2021, Rabobank said in a report the U.S. pork industry faces a daunting task to comply with Proposition 12 if the legal challenge comes up short.

The NPPC, AFBF and other ag groups have said farmers face a daunting task to continue selling pork to California. Pork producers would need to switch to alternative sow housing systems, requiring billions of dollars in sow-barn conversions or building new barns. — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

Wolf depredations accelerate in the West

— Wolves removed

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has authorized the removal of four wolves from the Chesnimnus Pack in response to continued livestock depredations in Wallowa County. The move comes as depredations are increasing in the state and throughout the West.

ODFW's authorization on June 17 comes after the department lethally removed a yearling male wolf from the Chesnimnus Pack on June 13. Despite the rancher using nonlethal measures along Crow Creek in Wallowa County and the removal of one wolf by the producer on May 3, the Chesnimnus Pack continued depredations. ODFW confirmed a calf was euthanized due to injury, and another calf was killed in a separate pasture on June 4. Both were attributed to the Chesnimnus Pack.

ODFW also confirmed other depredation incidents throughout the state in the last few weeks. On June 6, a livestock producer in Baker County found three injured calves with bite marks consistent with wolf attacks. According to ODFW, the attacks appear to be from the same event, and ODFW attributed the attacks to the Lookout Mountain Pack. The attacks are the first attributed to the pack since October 2021.

> ***"(WDFW) waited too long, and they've now got a chronically depredating pack of wolves on their hands."***

In Union County on May 31, the remains of a calf were found in the same pasture where depredations occurred earlier that month. Due to the lack of hide and muscle tissue, ODFW listed the attack as probable and did not state what pack could be responsible. Two separate incidents took place on May 30. One was in Umatilla County and was attributed to the Ukiah Pack, causing the loss of one sheep and a lamb. The second was in Grant County and was attributed to the Desolation Pack, which injured a calf with multiple previous bite wounds.

In northeastern Washington, the Togo Pack has injured or killed four calves within the last 30 days, resulting in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) issuing a lethal removal permit. WDFW Director Kelly Susewind said in a statement the department considered using nonlethal measures, but lethal removal was considered because the Togo Pack has been involved in five depredations in the past 10 months. Susewind issued a lethal removal permit on June 13 for the removal of one to two wolves.

"The lethal removal of one to two wolves from the Togo Pack territory is not expected to harm the wolf population's ability to reach the statewide or local recovery objective," stated WDFW.

WDFW said there were seven wolves in the pack as of their last count in 2021.

Two wolves from the Togo Pack—an adult male and a yearling female—were removed by WDFW in mid-June.

"It's past time that something gets done to protect livestock, but unfortunately, I do not think that killing one or two of the pack is going to slow the attacks at this point," Scott Nielsen, president of the Stevens County Cattlemen's Association, told the Center Square. "(WDFW) waited too long, and they've now got a chronically depredating pack of wolves on their hands."

Nielsen believes there are many other injuries and deaths to livestock that WDFW has not confirmed due to pressure from Gov. Jay Inslee (D), who has asked WDFW to find ways to reduce the number of wolves being euthanized.

In California, six incidents were investigated by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) on private land in eastern Siskiyou County in May. The department determined three incidents were not depredations, despite finding cow and calf carcasses. CDFW stated in their investigations there were no wolves present near the estimated time of death. A confirmed depredation occurred on May 29 with a calf that had bite wounds on its carcass, and CDFW confirmed the presence of wolf tracks, and the GPS collar from OR85 showed the wolf was in the area. OR85 was also attributed to an attack on May 1, as GPS data showed the wolf was in the area. A trio of wolves drove yearlings through several pastures and killed one on May 1 in southern Lassen County. LAS09F's GPS collar was in the general area of the carcass on the night of May 1 and early morning of May 2.

CDFW has launched an Interim Wolf Livestock Loss Compensation Grant Program. Livestock producers who lost animals to confirmed or probable wolf predations, as verified by CDFW, can apply for compensation at fair market value for losses incurred on or after Sept. 23, 2021. Producers can find information at wildlife.ca.gov or email wolfprogram@wildlife.ca.gov with questions. — **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.)

Aug. 1 – The Northern International Livestock Exposition (NILE) is searching for college students that can keep up with the fast-paced environment of the NILE Stock Show and Rodeo. For more information, visit www.thenile.org/p/events/youth-events/internships, call 406-256-2495 or email shelby@thenile.org.

CO River water users need to cut back dramatically, officials warn

— Face mandatory reductions

During a recent Senate hearing this month on short- and long-term drought solutions, Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) Commissioner Camille Touton warned that Colorado River water users need to cut back dramatically to preserve reservoir levels voluntarily, or the agency will act unilaterally to cut water use.

Speaking to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Touton said Colorado River Basin states and Tribes need to devise a plan to cut water use by 2-4 million acre-feet of water (an acre-foot is 325,851 gallons) in the next 60 days. To put this into perspective, Arizona uses 2.8 million acre-feet of water from the Colorado River, California uses 4.4 million acre-feet and Colorado uses 3.9 million acre-feet.

"The challenges we are seeing today are unlike anything we have seen in our history," Touton said at the hearing.

Touton said it is in the agency's authority to "act unilaterally to protect the system," but they are "pursuing a path of partnership" in reaching a consensus solution.

Touton told the committee the August 24-Month Study is when they determine what the operations are for the agency for the next calendar year.

Touton noted in her opening statement that Lake Mead and Lake Powell levels are at their lowest since 2000. Touton said projections for hydroelectric production for Lake Mead, the reservoir behind Hoover Dam, could diminish by 0.5 to 2.5 percent over the next five years. Hydroelectric generation at the Glen Canyon Dam, which holds back Lake Powell, has diminished by 16 percent since 2000. The latest 24-Month Study shows a decrease of forecasted inflow by 1.5 million acre-feet.

Touton said the agency had made efforts to hold back 480,000 acre-feet in Lake Powell that normally goes to Arizona, California and Nevada to save water levels. In a separate action announced earlier this year, Upper Basin states worked with BOR to send another 500,000 acre-feet to Lake Powell from the Flaming Gorge Reservoir on the Utah-Wyoming border.

Sen. Mark Kelly (D-AZ) emphasized the state is doing its share of conserving water by fallowing agricultural fields and conserving 850,000 acre-feet of water. Kelly asked Touton if Upper Basin states have a plan for utilizing drought resources under the Drought Contingency Plan. Touton stated that BOR is currently working with the Upper Basin states under the Drought Response Operations Agreement to release water to Lake Powell. Still, there could be more "systems and management."

"Is the commissioner talking about reducing use in the Upper Basin?" Colorado River Commissioner Rebecca Mitchell asked at an Upper Colorado River Commission (UCRC) meeting held at the same time of the hearing. "Given the imbalance of where the water is being taken out and used right now, that would be very hard to stomach."

Recent data released by UCRC, an interstate agency that manages water in the Upper Basin, shows total water use, including water lost to evaporation, was about 3.5 million acre-feet in 2021 for Upper Basin states. For the Lower Basin states of Arizona, California and Nevada, total water use, including evaporation, was about 10 million acre-feet, including 1.5 million acre-feet to Mexico.

John J. Entsminger, general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, told panel members the situation is bleak, calling it a "slow-motion train wreck for 20 years (that) is accelerating, and the moment of reckoning is near."

Entsminger said the solution is "a degree of demand management previously considered unattainable" and pointed to Nevada's efforts to reduce water as an example to other states. Entsminger said despite the population increasing by over 800,000 residents, water consumption was down 26 percent in the last two decades through conservation measures like replacing grass, setting mandatory irrigation schedules and strictly enforcing water waste rules.

"In engaging my colleagues in other states, it is clear they recognize the urgency of this situation and are ramping up conservation efforts," Entsminger said. "However—and there is no way around this—cities alone cannot address this crisis, not because of indifference, but because we simply don't use enough water to tip the scale."

Entsminger suggested farmers could plant water-efficient crops, as 80 percent of the Colorado River is used by agriculture.

"I'm not suggesting that farmers stop farming, but rather that they carefully consider crop selection and make the investments needed to optimize irrigation efficiency," Entsminger said.

Entsminger also supports Senate Bill 2568, the Open Access Evapotranspiration Data Act, which directs the U.S. Geological Survey to use satellite-based data to advance the quantification of evaporation and consumptive water use.

Patrick O'Toole, president of the Family Farm Alliance, said at the hearing many of the alliance's members are facing another year of severe water shortages. At the same time, the government has "no real federal policy action other than to limit irrigation supplies to farmers and residents."

O'Toole noted that farmers and ranchers faced an unprecedented drought in 2021, forcing many to reduce herds, let fields go fallow or plant more water-efficient crops. O'Toole cautioned that further reductions in water delivery to agriculture would affect the food supply in the U.S., resulting in higher food prices and hurting rural communities and the environment.

Days after the Senate hearing, the University of Colorado Boulder held its annual Colorado Law Conference on Natural Resources focused on the Colorado River.

Tanya Trujillo, the assistant secretary for water and science at the U.S. Department of the Interior, told the conference it's up to the states to decide on appropriate water cuts and conservation measures, and the government will support and aid those decisions through funding and resources.

Trujillo said the BOR's order includes all Colorado River Basin states, including the Upper Basin, even though they do not rely on water supplies from Lake Mead and Lake Powell.

"We need to be taking action in all states, in all sectors, in all available ways," Trujillo said. "We need to be thinking as one basin." — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

Red meat exports deliver value back to corn and soybean producers

Record-level red meat exports of $18.7 billion in 2021 had a major impact on the corn and soybean industries, according to an independent study by the Juday Group. The study quantified the returns that red meat exports brought to corn and soybean producers in 2021 nationally and at state levels for leading corn-producing and soybean-producing states.

"The study validates the red meat industry's collaborative approach to export market development," said U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) Chair-Elect Dean Meyer, who produces corn, soybeans, cattle and hogs near Rock Rapids, IA. "Beef and pork exports drive value directly back to my farm, and this study helps confirm the return on this investment for all corn and soybean producers."

Corn and soybean growers support the international promotion of U.S. pork, beef and lamb by investing a portion of their checkoff dollars in market development efforts conducted by USMEF.

Key findings from the Juday Group study, which utilized 2021 export data, include:

• Nationally, beef and pork exports accounted for 537 million bushels of corn usage, equating to $2.94 billion (at an average corn price of $5.48/bushel).
• Pork exports accounted for 99.3 million bushels of soybean usage nationwide (the equivalent of 2.36 million metric tons of soybean meal), which equated to $1.3 billion (at an average soybean price of $13.13/bushel).
• Beef and pork exports accounted for 3.4 million tons of usage, equating to $716 million (at an average price of $209.92/ton).

"The industrywide collaboration to promote value-added U.S. red meat in international markets works to the benefit of the entire red meat industry," said Mark Legan, a hog farmer from Coatesville, IN, who serves on the USMEF Executive Committee.

"Red meat export growth results in greater demand for feed inputs and added value at every step of the supply chain. This study demonstrates the significance of global trade to the bottom line of American farmers and ranchers." — **USMEF**

This summer, watch for algae in ponds to protect aquatic life

Kansas State (K-State) University fisheries and aquaculture specialist Joe Gerken said dead fish in a pond could be a result of algae that rob the pond of oxygen.

Gerken said filamentous algae—more commonly called pond moss—can form when a pond fills with sediment and sunlight hits the bottom of the pond, increasing plant growth. When pond moss dies, bacteria will eat it up, using up oxygen needed by other aquatic life and creating an unlivable environment for fish, he said.

"We want to make sure we can get it under control and get it out of the pond as quickly as we can to keep that pond healthy," Gerken said.

Nutrient runoff from lawn fertilizer or nearby agricultural fields can also contribute to algae growth, according to Gerken.

He added that one of the easiest things landowners can do to slow the increase of algae in the pond is to allow grass to grow around the pond.

"Those plants are going to take up a lot of the nutrients that would otherwise be washing in," he said. "So let them grow up."

Mowing strips in the grass to access the pond is all right, but "Allowing it to grow where possible is best."

When prevention fails, Gerken shared tips on how to treat pond moss:

• **Mechanical control** — "You want to make sure when algae is removed from the water, you remove it from the watershed," Gerken said. "If not, the nutrients will likely get back into the water."
• **Biological control** — "In Kansas, the most common fish that we see is the white amur or the grass carp," Gerken said. Grass carp are picky eaters and don't reach their full potential for about two years, so they are less effective.
• **Chemical control** — "There are a lot of times when we need chemicals, but some of the other options are better," Gerken said. If using chemicals, Gerken said it is important to use aquatic herbicide and treat one-quarter of the pond at a time. He added that chemicals "are kind of a last-ditch effort."

More information is available at local Extension offices. — **K-State Research and Extension**

Western ag asks EPA for WOTUS clarity

To say that water is a big deal in the West is an understatement. So, when the Biden administration set out to rewrite the Clean Water Act's waters of the U.S. (WOTUS) definition for the third time in the past decade, the Family Farm Alliance, which represents irrigators in the 17 Western states, became a bit unnerved.

Dan Keppen, executive director of the alliance, told federal regulators during a WOTUS roundtable on June 16 that his organization has "significant concerns" with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' latest rewrite attempt.

Keppen told the agencies any WOTUS rule-making should be put on hold until after the upcoming Supreme Court case Sackett v. EPA is resolved. The court has scheduled oral arguments in the case for early October. The Sackett case has drawn the attention of the regulated community because an eventual court ruling could determine the way water is regulated for generations to come.

"It incorporates both the significant nexus and relatively permanent tests from the Supreme Court decision to temporarily define Clean Water Act jurisdiction for wetlands, other waters and tributaries," Keppen said of the Biden administration's efforts.

"This vastly expands regulatory jurisdiction beyond just returning to the pre-2015 regulations and guidance as proposed in the rule. We believe that agencies should limit the scope of proposed rule-making to only restoring pre-2015 regulations and guidance; they should not be modified to reflect the agency's further interpretation of Supreme Court decisions in this rule-making."

Keppen said farmers and ranchers in the West are concerned a new WOTUS definition would "transform the Clean Water Act into a federal land-use regulation."

Considering the ongoing water challenges in the West, Keppen said WOTUS definitions have to allow for water users to continue to maximize water resources at a time when drought has a firm grip.

"This could impact Western farming communities in many ways, such as adding new regulatory burdens to important infrastructure projects, expanded opportunities for litigation, and shifting away from local and state water management," he said.

The Family Farm Alliance said it supports efforts to recognize most ditches as nonjurisdictional waters where construction, maintenance and rehabilitation efforts can be done with little federal intrusion.

In addition, Keppen said the agencies should move away from regulating ephemeral waters, particularly in the West where those features are dry land.

"In some cases, ephemeral drainage only lasts a few hours or a few days for the whole year," he said. "We need crystal-clear exclusion from Clean Water Act jurisdiction for all of the West's important irrigation infrastructure. Otherwise, the entire Western irrigation and drainage system can be classified as a WOTUS and subjected to really incredible bureaucratic red tape.

"This could potentially disrupt the timing of water deliveries and result in the fouling of some of the country's and the world's most reliable and consistent sources of food and fiber. Without clear exemptions for these irrigation features, we know we'll see critics of irrigated agriculture claim that those features aren't subject to Clean Water Act jurisdiction, and this could spawn years of lengthy and costly litigation."

Expanded regulation in the West, he said, could create uncertainty and "cripple Western agriculture."

Farming exclusions

James Johansson, president of the California Farm Bureau Federation, said a new WOTUS would need to provide exclusions for farmers and ranchers.

Without the exclusions or exemptions, he said, California farmers and ranchers could have a more difficult time with soil conservation efforts.

"They may want to engage in mitigation activities. Farmers also take on projects that include stormwater management, wildlife habitat, flood control, nutrient processing and improving overall water quality in one's ephemeral features," Johansson said. "But if a farmer cannot do this without applying for a federal permit, it may be cost prohibitive, resulting in environmental degradation."

As it stands now, he said, farmers and ranchers often wait at least six months for jurisdictional determinations from federal agencies before completing conservation and other projects.

"The harmful delay is compounded by the cost of consultants, engineers, permit applications and mitigation and the compliance costs that make the process simply untenable for many," Johansson said.

Jennifer Carr, deputy administrator of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection, speaking on behalf of the Nevada Farm Bureau Federation, said the case-by-case approach to making Clean Water Act determinations creates uncertainty for ag producers.

In addition, she said any efforts to regulate groundwater through the Clean Water Act would be misguided.

"When the Army Corps has sought to find out whether a ditch has replaced a prior natural drainage to decide whether or not it might be jurisdictional as a tributary, sometimes historic maps may exist that predate the construction of these ditches, and sometimes those maps and things have just been lost to the ages when it comes to identifying tributaries in this environment," she said.

Carr said case-by-case determinations are "onerous and time consuming," and landowners "lose clarity" on which waters may be jurisdictional.

EPA's 2015 connectivity report asserted that lakes and reservoirs may contribute to groundwater, which eventually contributes to other surface water flows. Carr said there was no cause for making groundwater jurisdictional.

"The vastness of Western topography really needs to be considered carefully when considering upland lakes," she told the agencies.

"Now, in regard to ephemeral waters, the character of ephemeral waters in Nevada can vary even within our own state," Carr said. "I think, across the country, the (federal agencies') staff, especially maybe in Washington, D.C., have very different mental models on what our country looks like based on their life experience."

In the West, Carr said, rainstorms often get "hung up on" mountaintops and provide a "significant amount" of precipitation.

"These ranges are in the hillsides and can carry flow," she said. "But, oftentimes, we have bridges, ephemeral water bodies that can go decades between flood-flow events. Just because a line can be drawn on a map that takes water theoretically from a hillside to jurisdictional waters downhill doesn't mean that that line should be drawn."

In addition, Carr said there are concerns that new WOTUS definitions could affect water rights in the West.

"An agricultural producer may not have a senior enough water right to be able to put that land in production, and so it may come out of production and become dry and potentially revert out of cropland status merely because they don't have the right to call for water," she said.

"So, any discussion about prior-converted cropland has to have a real recognition of how Western water rights and water law works."

States' roles

Amanda Kaster, director of the Montana Department of Natural Resources, said during the roundtable that any change to WOTUS would need to recognize states' roles in preserving water resources.

"The jurisdiction of the federal agencies is not boundless, as was specifically recognized by the Congress in the passage of the Clean Water Act," she said.

When it comes to Montana waters, Kaster said there are concerns a new definition could affect wetlands that are not adjacent to otherwise navigable waters such as lakes and streams. In addition, she said WOTUS changes to ditches, potholes, ephemeral waters and other intermittent waters could have broad effects on landowners across the state.

The federal agencies had three final WOTUS panels scheduled for the week, including a panel hosted by the Natural Resources Defense Council on June 21; the North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation on June 23; and the Wyoming County Commissioners Association, the Montana Association of Counties and the Idaho Association of Counties on June 24. — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

Continuing the legacy of a 100-year-old corporation

WLJ
(from page 1)

well-deserved new responsibility, and we have tremendous confidence in him to lead in this role. We couldn't have asked for anyone more qualified and ready to make the most of the future of *WLJ*."

Western Livestock Journal was established in Los Angeles in 1922 by Nelson Crow and remained family owned through Crow Publications for three generations. *WLJ* moved to Denver in 1973 and has long been a reputable source of news, information and agriculture advertising for livestock producers and landowners across the country.

National Livestock is dedicated to being the first choice for cattle marketing, risk management, order-buying services and cattle financing. The company specializes in providing first-class service to those in the cattle business, and because their primary focus is the cattle industry, they are uniquely equipped to concentrate efforts so that customers' cattle operations receive the very best in buying, selling and financial services. National Livestock is located in Oklahoma City at the Oklahoma National Stockyards.

Learn more about National Livestock Credit Corporation at nationallivestock.com and Western Livestock Journal LLC at wlj.net. — ***WLJ***

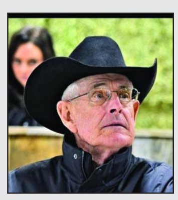
SALE REPORT

COYOTE CREEK ANGUS DISPERSION
June 16, Hayden, CO

24 Total registered bulls	**$2,054**
1 Older bull	**5,250**
23 Bull calves	**1,915**
83 Total registered females	**1,850**
62 Bred cows	**1,856**
21 Open heifers	**1,830**

Auctioneer: Jake Parnell
Sale Manager: Matt Macfarlane Marketing

TOPS—Bulls: McConnell Altitude 868, 8/13/18 by McConnell Altitude 3114; to Hog Eye Ranch, Baggs, WY, $5,250. Coyote Meredith 454, 2/23/14 by Soo Line Motive 9016; to Jennifer Roberts, Baggs, WY, $3,400. **Open heifer:** Coyote Camera Ready 291, 7/30/21 by McConnell Altitude 3114; to Windler Ranch, Yampa, CO, $3,200. **Bred cows:** Coyote Meredith 046, 2/13/16 by Soo Line Motive 9016, bred to Sitz Broker 12985 to calve 8/4/22; to Windler Ranch, Yampa, CO, $3,600. Coyote Kate 774, 3/16/14 by Coyote Prime Time 121, bred to Kesslers Commodore 6516 to calve 8/4/22; to Windler Ranch, Yampa, CO, $3,600. — **JIM GIES**


GIES

LEGAL LEDGER

OR animal cruelty petition title cleared

The Oregon Secretary of State Elections Division received a certified ballot title from the attorney general on June 13 for Initiative Petition (IP) 2024-003, or IP 3, which would drastically alter the definitions and exemptions for animal cruelty under the Oregon Revised Statutes. The petition is proposed for the 2024 general election. It was originally proposed for the 2022 election as IP 13 but failed to gather enough signatures. The initiative is backed by End Animal Cruelty, a Section 527 political nonprofit petition committee based out of Portland, OR, and chief petitioner and animal rights activist David Michelson. IP 3 is largely the same as IP 13, but it would also prohibit anyone convicted of animal cruelty from possessing any animal for either five or 15 years, depending on the severity of the crime. Any animals in the person's possession would be relinquished and removed from the property.

House passes wildlife conservation bill

The House of Representatives passed the bipartisan Recovering America's Wildlife Act in mid-June, which would provide $1.3 billion to assist in conserving, restoring and protecting wildlife and habitats across the country. The bill passed on a vote of 231-190. Conservation groups applauded the bill's passage. "Unfortunately, House and Senate appropriators have made it clear that saving endangered species is not their top priority," said Stephanie Kurose, a senior endangered species policy specialist at the Center for Biological Diversity. "The Recovering America's Wildlife Act is now our best chance to combat extinction in the United States." Threatened and endangered species will receive designated funding under the bill, which the center says is a step up from "the status quo, which allocates less than $1,000 per year to hundreds of endangered species."

SCOTUS sets water, Prop 12 dates

The Supreme Court of the United States has officially set two dates for two cases of particular importance to the ag industry: a case pertaining to waters of the United States (WOTUS) and a challenge to California's Proposition 12. The court will take up the cases in early October. The WOTUS case, Sackett v. Environmental Protection Agency, looks at the scope of WOTUS regarding private property, and Proposition 12 would define new standards for selling meat and egg products from animals in confinement.

$9M awarded to sagebrush projects

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will receive $9 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funds to restore and conserve areas of sagebrush in the West. "These projects will combat invasive grasses and wildfire, reduce encroaching conifers, safeguard precious water resources for neighboring communities and wildlife, and promote community and economic sustainability," according to a Department of the Interior (DOI) statement. Many of the projects will restore wetlands in an attempt to increase resilience to drought and combat nonnative grasses that increase the threat of wildfire and reduce habitat for wildlife and livestock forage, DOI said.

Bill to reduce farm regs, costs

Rep. Glenn "GT" Thompson (R-PA-15) introduced the Reducing Farm Input Costs and Barriers to Domestic Production Act in an attempt to curb regulatory burdens and reduce farm input costs. "This bill will reverse many of the more harmful regulatory burdens spearheaded by this administration, address escalating input costs, and provide certainty to farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses and other entities across our food and ag supply chains," Thompson said. The lawmaker said the bill will provide relief from the Environmental Protection Agency's "unprecedented actions" related to crop protection tools, offer clarity to waters of the U.S. regulations, rescind the Securities and Exchange Commission's rule on climate-related disclosures, reinstate the 2020 National Environmental Protection Act streamlining, and require an economic analysis on the costs and benefits of Packers and Stockyards Act rules.

Groups sue to protect coho salmon

In federal court, a collection of conservation groups has challenged the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service's Shasta River safe harbor program, which the groups say will not recover coho. The coalition argues the service violated the Endangered Species Act by allowing a dam owner and water diverters to harm threatened coho salmon through "enhancement of survival permits evaluated under unlawful and scientifically incorrect biological opinions." Bill Chesney, retired California Department of Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologist and Friends of the Shasta River board member, said, "Agencies first need to recommend and implement science-based flow and temperature standards sufficient to recover coho in the Shasta River."

Obituary correction

In the June 20 issue of *WLJ*, it was incorrectly stated in Baxter Black's obituary that he was born in New Mexico. Black was born at Brooklyn Naval Hospital in Brooklyn, NY, but grew up in Las Cruces, NM. We regret the error and apologize for any inconvenience.

NCBA, NAMI oppose measures, while USCA supports them

BILLS
(from page 1)

with USDA's Office of the General Counsel and the attorney general regarding enforcement actions.

There was debate about the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act, with senators expressing that their constituents were split for and against the bill. Two amendments were initially proposed for the bill but were not introduced.

Sens. Roger Marshall (R-KS) and Tommy Tuberville (R-AL) were to introduce an amendment to strike the market mandate for fed cattle, but Marshall said he would present the amendment on the Senate floor. Marshall said he agrees with the Kansas Farm Bureau and Kansas Livestock Association that the mandates will harm feedlots and producers with lower cattle prices and give packers leverage.

Marshall suggested the industry provide more accurate labeling, as Sens. Cory Booker (D-NJ) and John Thune (R-SD) discussed. Both senators proposed amendments regarding mandatory country-of-origin (MCOOL) labeling but did not introduce them.

Thune said, "When you're talking about transparency, when you're talking about pricing in cattle markets, there probably isn't anything that matters more to producers around this country than being able to differentiate their product from other products that are imported from other places around the world."

Thune said the bill he introduced would make MCOOL compliant with the World Trade Organization, saying he is tired of "kowtowing" to the organization.

Booker said the USDA loophole on labeling is "egregious" in that beef from Brazil is being slaughtered by companies there and repackaged in the U.S. as a "product of the USA."

The committee did pass an amendment by Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO) that implements a recommendation by USDA to realign the mandatory reporting regions. According to Bennet, the amendment would "allow more granular data about things like price reporting" in Colorado and benefit other states.

Bennet said it is not a silver bullet, but it will provide more transparency and is a step in the right direction. Sen. Deb Fischer (R-NE) went on record supporting the amendment, stating Colorado is in a unique position concerning confidentiality and the amendment addresses the issue.

Reactions

Just as the senators' constituents are divided on the bills, so are the industry associations.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) opposed the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act, stating it would severely restrict the use of alternative marketing arrangements and that market conditions have improved since COVID-19 without government intervention.

"The U.S. cattle industry is home to one of the most complex sets of markets in the world. Rather than embrace the freedom of that marketing system, Congress is instituting a one-size-fits-all policy that will hurt cattle producers' livelihoods," said NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Ethan Lane.

"Cattle markets are finally returning to normal after pandemic-fueled uncertainty, but these heavy-handed mandates will stifle innovation and limit marketing opportunities."

Both NCBA and the North American Meat Institute opposed the Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act, stating the legislation is "duplicative and only creates additional bureaucracy" and is "likely to have far-reaching unintended adverse consequences."

The United States Cattlemen's Association (USCA) applauded the senators for moving forward with the Cattle Price Discovery and Transparency Act, stating the bill is one of the "much-needed solutions" to consolidation in the industry.

"When producers don't have the ability to negotiate a fair price for their cattle based on current market conditions, it results in a vertically integrated, corporate-controlled beef supply chain. This threatens the livelihoods of producers and the security of our national food system," USCA President Brooke Miller said in a statement.

USCA urged the full Senate to pass the bills, as a vote against the measures is "a vote for the status quo." **— Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 6/23/2022		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	140.62	▼	144.10	125.57
CME Feeder Index	165.23	▲	160.56	146.49
Boxed Beef Average	264.66	▼	267.16	307.42
Average Dressed Steers	237.69	▲	229.47	197.49
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,346	▼	1,350	1,345
Weekly Slaughter**	667,000	▼	674,000	663,000
Weekly Beef Production***	541.3	▼	548.2	539.5
Hide/Offal Value	13.79	▲	13.66	12.79
Corn Price	7.47	▼	7.89	6.53

*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
June 20	6,774	260.18	185	301.02	1,260	270.59	2,234	259.42	878	244.18	2,217	239.25
June 13	6,987	264.14	220	300.10	1,279	271.36	2,004	264.21	850	246.83	2,634	239.47
June 6	6,604	264.41	221	293.81	1,205	270.25	2,063	263.19	852	247.85	2,263	236.99
May 30	7,401	260.33	290	289.75	1,444	266.30	2,240	260.15	969	244.96	2,459	234.69

Cutouts — FED BOXED BEEF

DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
Jun 23	264.66	244.94	220.77	111.59	276.24
Jun 22	266.57	245.99	223.48	113.75	281.36
Jun 21	267.56	246.70	220.25	120.59	275.27
Jun 20	266.50	246.39	221.79	120.66	278.12
Jun 17	266.26	246.53	220.19	123.20	N/A

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle

	6/17	6/20	6/21	6/22	6/23	High*	Low*
Jun.	13803	N/A	13783	13613	13525	14783	10920
Aug.	13658	N/A	13625	13493	13388	14385	12525
Oct.	14243	N/A	14230	14108	14000	14453	13055
Dec.	14808	N/A	14775	14658	14545	15083	14003

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle

	6/17	6/20	6/21	6/22	6/23	High*	Low*
Aug.	17295	N/A	17530	17315	17485	17603	15328
Sep.	17480	N/A	17728	17530	17685	17738	15425
Oct.	17653	N/A	17898	17730	17863	17898	16373
Nov.	17790	N/A	18030	17895	18008	18665	16958

*High and low figures are for the life of the contract.

FED CATTLE TRADE

FED CATTLE TRADE	Head Count	Avg. Weight	Avg. Price
WEEKLY WEIGHTED AVERAGES			
Live FOB Steer	13,719	1,405	140.62
Live FOB Heifer	7,726	1,268	139.24
Dressed Del Steer	2,303	908	237.69
Dressed Del Heifer	3,230	846	238.41
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	30,488	1,428	144.10
Live FOB Heifer	11,497	1,295	143.22
Dressed Del Steer	13,183	916	229.47
Dressed Del Heifer	2,685	819	227.78
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	9,918	1,452	125.57
Live FOB Heifer	3,279	1,334	124.36
Dressed Del Steer	5,141	928	197.49
Dressed Del Heifer	951	824	197.29

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: JUNE 19

	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	39,907	4,306
Formula	262,400	373
Negotiated Cash	104,154	138
Negotiated Grid	45,538	0
Packer Owned	11,477	0
Total	**463,476**	**4,817**

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS / FORWARD BEEF SALES

Delivery Month			
		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,735
Jun. '22	162,178	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,142
Jul. '22	129,973	Formula sales	3,640
Aug. '22	104,585	Forward contract sales	257
Sep. '22	154,828	Domestic sales	6,023
Oct. '22	130,196	NAFTA Exports	75

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	137.23	+1.15
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	135.83	+0.99
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	151.50	+1.50
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	150.24	+0.16
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	85.98	-1.97

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, June 10, 2022

Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	187.29	186.40	198.21
601-700 lbs	178.33	176.79	191.31
701-800 lbs	168.86	167.67	168.87
801-900 lbs	155.91	N/A	165.92
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	163.31	157.36	154.00
501-600 lbs	158.47	156.77	166.02
601-700 lbs	151.68	150.76	163.71
701-800 lbs	145.90	N/A	153.15

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
	6/18/22	**6/11/22**		
Feeders	15,153	16,418	414,729	579,884

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

Friday, June 17, 2022
Mexico to TX. & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary
Receipts EST: 12,000 Week Ago Act: 13,007 Year Ago Act: 16,402

Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold 2.00-3.00 lower. Heifers 2.00 lower. Trade and demand moderate. 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 187.00-198.00; 400-500 lbs 172.00-183.00; 500-600 lbs 155.00-168.00, few 169.00; 600-700 lbs 142.00-153.00, few 154.00. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 172.00-183.00; 400-500 lbs 157.00-168.00; 500-600 lbs 140.00-153.00.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 158.00-170.00; 400-500 lbs 148.00-160.00; 500-600 lbs 138.00-150.00; 600-700 lbs 128.00-140.00.

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

Selected Auction Week Ending June 23, 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
NORTHWEST										
June 17 Blackfoot, ID	N/A				160-206 150-176	150-191 140-159	140-173 135-156	117-139	86-100 88-123.50	
No report available Burley, ID										
No report available Emmett, ID										
June 18 Eugene, OR	818		130-149.50*	135-150*	135-145.50* 126-149*	135-144.50*	108-127.50*	138-154* 95-117.50*	84-97 110-121	1,140-1,390
June 20 Madras, OR	N/A		175-185 165-175	180-200 170-180	175-190 150-170	162-182 140-150	145-165 130-140	140-150 115-130	84-98 105-115.50	
June 22 Vale, OR	307								89-103.50 105-131	
June 17 Davenport, WA	156	250	159	150 131	70	87-140	62-155 126-128	92-122	76-109 58-121	
No report available Toppenish, WA										
FARWEST										
No report available Orland, CA										
June 20 Escalon, CA	N/A		130-171 125-156		125-161 120-153		120-141 100-135	100-125 95-115	74-85 88-110	800-1,300 700-1,300
June 20 Famoso, CA	516		130-188 130-185	130-196 140-185	145-180 130-170	130-160 120-145	130-140	120-130 100-135	80-100 85-110	
No report available Galt, CA										
June 21 Turlock, CA	2,506			180-209 170-194	175-198 165-187	165-180 154-170	153-165.50 134-143.50	142-156.50 123-132	85-105 111-130	
June 21 Salina, UT	447	145-180	158-195 140-177.50	162-185 137-167.50	175-183 135.50-161	145-176 125-150	147-151 138-142	136-136.50 118.50-130	69.50-93.50 77.50-131	
NORTH CENTRAL										
June 20 Iowa	4,433		192.50-234 170-200	191-221 162-197.50	173-214 145-180	155-196 140-173	152.50-180.50 134-157.25	137-168 121-150	79-131 92-128	
June 21 Miles City, MT	1,180			175-177*			146-146.50*	136-138*	81-91.75 97-119.50	1,585-2,250
No report available Bassett, NE										
June 18 Ericson, NE	1,740		217	206-220 182-203	217-226.50 170-192	187-200 164-170	166.50-188 157-166.75	162.25-167.25 150.50-152.50		
No report available Imperial, NE										
No report available Kearney, NE										
No report available Lexington, NE										
No report available Ogallala, NE										
June 16 Valentine, NE	2,070		227	219-226 200-203	201-220.50 184-201	200.50-215 159-173.50	176-190 154.50-164.50	172.25-185.25 146.50-150		
June 17 Herreid, SD	1,031					190.50	176.50-187.75 151.50-153.50	150.25-156.25 141.25-151		
No report available Torrington, WY										
SOUTH CENTRAL										
June 16 Willcox, AZ	N/A	168-196 150-166	155-186 133-156	151-183 130-157	146-161.50 115-141.50	124-156 100-129			70-100 90-120	
June 21 Colorado	1,100		192.50						76-105.50 94-139	1,250-1,585
June 15 La Junta, CO	907	201-262.50 180-237.50		187-202 162-172	180-194 151-161	151-164 146-149	140-151 131-137		76-94 96-108	1,325-1,700 1,010-1,260
No report available Loma, CO										
June 22 Dodge City, KS	1,233		200-211 165-187.50	181-200 159-170	156	159 150	152-159.50 151.35	153-163.60 117-151	80.85-99.50 96-119	
June 23 Pratt, KS	1,675		195 157	170-179 158-165	156-159	141-147.50	177.75 142-157	150-175 143-153.75	77.50-100 91-116.50	
No report available Salina, KS										
No report available Clovis, NM										
June 21 El Reno, OK	1,500		205-227.50 188	190-225 166-195	183-204 158-175	178-186 159-166				
June 22 McAlester, OK	1,790		195-225 167-179	177-202 160-175	170-187 142-174	154-178 130-152	147-161 130-145	138-140 128	84-99 94-117	850-1,725 675-1,550
June 21 Oklahoma City, OK	6,356		206-216 176-188	187-210 177-187	175-197 158-175.50	173-186 156-170.50	164-179.50 152.25-168.75	144-174.50 130-151		
June 17 Cuero, TX	1,518	150-192 128-200	158-188 138-178	152-184 136-182	148-175 132-210	139-157 125-162.50	139-155 116-144		70-99 90-117	875-1,050
June 16 Dalhart, TX	1,459	202-217 200	185-190	194-215 175-181	196 156-163	167-177 146-153	160-164 145.50-149.50	152.50 128	77-97 85-107	
June 16 San Angelo, TX	1,107		172-220 151-173	165-201 142-168	160-185.50 128-167	141-171 122-140	140-148 118-123		47-91 97-118	925-1,550 900-1,075
June 16 Tulia, TX	908		229 177-181	181-229 159-175	178-186 156-163	148	157.50-169.50 145-150.50		89-92.50	
EAST										
June 17 Alabama	7,265	225-230 155-162	178-190 133-162	166-190 128-160	157-175 124-157	140-166 119-150	130-149 115-141	127-133 112-128	64-96 90-125	450-1,350
June 21 Lexington, KY	1,191	173* 167.50-170*	163-167* 148-174*	167-180* 140-162*	162-173* 130-163.50*	149-164.50* 124-158.75*	155.25-166.50* 126-137*	103-157* 116-148.75*	78-115 92-134	1,285-1,375 700
June 20 Joplin, MO	5,584		205-210 170-185	192-215 165-184	186-209 160-174	172-190 150-163	159-171.50 152-159	159-171.50 134-154		
June 21 Tennessee	5,570	176-220* 130-200*	141-210* 137.50-180*	151-190* 130-165*	142-180.50* 130-155*	137.50-168* 91-148*	130-157.25* 115-139*	112-147* 105-122*	40-114 87-130	1,090-1,425 650-1,275
June 21 Virginia	3,775		170-202.50 136-157.50	156-190 141-163	149-192 111-159	148-184.25 116-149.50	136-173.25 119-141	122-151 102-125		
CANADA										
No report available Lethbridge, Alberta										

Beef prices supported by other proteins

The question of beef demand for the remainder of this year is an interesting comparison to exceptionally strong wholesale and retail prices in the second half of 2021. In the first quarter of 2022, retail and wholesale beef prices were sharply higher compared to last year. Retail All Fresh beef prices in May were 9.5 percent higher year over year.

However, beef prices rose sharply in the second quarter of 2021 and remained high for the remainder of the year. Retail beef prices reached a record high in October 2021 with an All Fresh beef price of $7.55/pound. The All Fresh beef retail price has since decreased slightly to a May 2022 level of $7.37/lb.

Despite higher prices for most products and record gasoline prices, domestic beef demand appears to be holding quite strong thus far. Wholesale and retail beef prices have moderated slightly from the robust domestic demand and record beef exports in 2021. Most beef wholesale prices are currently below last year's sharply higher prices.

The typical May pre-grilling season boost in beef products was more muted or absent this year, but prices have generally increased in June, leading to higher Choice boxed beef prices the past several weeks. Prices for major steak products, including tenderloin, ribeye, strip loin and top sirloin, are lower compared to last year but do not indicate appreciable demand weakness at this point.

Brisket prices are significantly lower year over year and are steady in the second quarter, but they are still high compared to recent years. The increasingly popular sirloin tri-tip has increased sharply the past several weeks and is more than 25 percent above the 2021 average price. The ground beef market has remained consistently strong for the last year, with prices for 90 percent lean trimmings holding close to the record-high levels achieved one year ago.

Broiler product prices have continued to rise and may be helping support beef prices. Wholesale chicken breast meat prices rose over 69 percent from the beginning of the year to a peak in late May before pulling back slightly. More recently, chicken leg and leg quarter prices have jumped sharply. In contrast, chicken wing prices have decreased to the lowest levels in two years. From 2017-21, wing prices averaged 1.65 times more than breast meat prices, but in 2022, they have averaged about one-half of breast meat prices.

Retail broiler prices have continued to increase in 2022 in absolute levels and relative to retail beef prices. In May, the ratio of the retail All Fresh beef price to the retail broiler composite price dropped to the lowest level since early 2019—meaning that broilers are relatively more expensive compared to beef.

Retail pork prices have also risen relative to beef prices, with the ratio of retail pork to retail beef prices at the lowest level in a year. Prices are generally higher for all major wholesale pork products, including loin, ham and shoulder products (Boston butt and picnic).

Demand for beef and other proteins will continue to be challenged by higher prices for food, gasoline and everything else. So far, however, beef prices indicate continued strong demand. Strong prices for broilers and pork mean that beef continues to be a relative value among proteins. **— Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Feeder cattle strong on lighter auction receipts

MARKETS

(from page 1)

- Formula net purchases: $222.93.
- Forward contract net purchases: $219.91.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: $224.89.

Slaughter through Thursday is estimated at 498,000 head, a few thousand head more than a week earlier. Slaughter for the week earlier is projected at 667,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending June 11 was 671,075 head. Steer weights were 879 lbs.

Boxed beef prices were lower over the week, with the Choice cutout down $2.50 to $264.66 and the Select cutout down 44 cents to $244.94.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle futures were several dollars higher over the week. The August contract gained $3.55 to close at $174.85, and the September contract gained $3.63 to close at $176.85.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index found some solid gains, up $4.67 to $165.23.

"Fear of the coming recession and anticipation of faltering demand has inspired aggressive selling across many commodities, rocking the commodity futures price world last night and today," Cassie Fish, market analyst for The Beef, wrote Thursday.

"From crude to corn, to soybeans, lean hogs and cattle—it's a meltdown. Only feeder cattle values are higher, boosted by new lows in corn prices for the month."

Corn futures were knocked lower over the week. The July contract lost 42 cents to close at $7.46, and the September contract lost 75 cents to close at $6.66.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 5,584 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers under 500 lbs. traded steady to $6 higher. Steers over 500 lbs. traded $6-12 higher. Feeder heifers traded $6-11 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 776 lbs. sold between $159-171, averaging $163.58.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 6,500 head on Monday. At the mid-session, compared to a week earlier, feeder steers sold steady to $2 higher, and feeder heifers sold $2-4 higher. Steer calves sold mostly steady, and heifer calves sold $3-6 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 780 lbs. sold between $150-175, averaging $168.50. **— Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

Heat wave kills thousands of cattle in southwest Kansas

— Heat stress blamed as cause

Triple-digit temperatures swept across southwestern Kansas in mid-June, bringing with them a wave of cattle deaths in feedlots due to heat stress.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment estimated at least 2,000 cattle were killed in the heat wave, according to a Reuters report. This number was based on the number of cattle the agency was called to dispose of as of June 16. DTN reported that number could actually be as high as 10,000 head, according to local sources.

Misinformation spread rampant through social media channels after the heat wave, with many claiming the dead cattle were part of a bigger scheme to influence the cattle markets and food supply chain. The truth, according to livestock experts, was a little more simple: The high increase in temperatures and humidity, with minimal wind, created the perfect disaster.

Scarlett Hagins, Kansas Livestock Association's (KLA) vice president of communications, appeared in a video posted to the KLA Facebook page to address the situation. Hagins said as of June 16, there was not a total count on losses, and any number would be speculative.

"This was a very unfortunate event that was the result of the region seeing a significant change in weather in a short amount of time," Hagins said. "Temperatures rose significantly, humidity was high, there was really little to no wind, and if cattle cannot cool down over the nighttime hours because temperatures remained high, they really can't compensate for this kind of weather, which led to heat stress for cattle in this region."

She noted this case was not normal for southwestern Kansas, and usually the region is very ideal for raising fed cattle, with little humidity and plenty of wind. "This was really an unusual and unfortunate event," Hagins said.

The region saw a 10-14 F increase in temperatures from June 10 to June 11, with temperatures reaching as high as 104 F in the following days, with lows only falling to about 70 F overnight.

"In cool conditions, it is easy for cattle to lose heat, but as temperature increases, it becomes increasingly difficult," the KLA post explained. "Additionally, as humidity increases it becomes more difficult to evaporate the water from the skin surface. Hot, sticky conditions can make heat loss very difficult. Wind speed also is important, as it helps the animals lose heat."

For cattle feeders who experienced losses, the state has announced resources for assistance.

"I have directed state agencies to do everything in their power to help Kansas cattle feeders who lost cattle due to heat stress," said Gov. Laura Kelly (D) in a statement. "From expediting burial permits to reaching out to cattle producers across the state, my administration is working to ease the impact of last weekend's losses on the Kansas agricultural community."

The state said there are federal resources available to provide financial relief, including USDA indemnity payments and fatality insurance. For the Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), producers must file a notice of loss within 30 days of the loss becoming apparent and file an application for payment within 60 days of the end of the year. For more information on LIP, visit www.fsa.usda.gov.

Kansas Secretary of Agriculture Mike Beam assured consumers the cattle losses will not create a beef supply glitch. "Last weekend's losses reflect a very small percentage of the total fed cattle numbers in the state, so it will not impact meat prices for consumers," Beam said. **— Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

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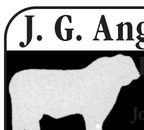

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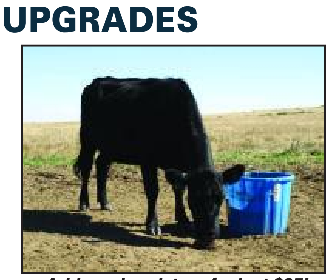

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Oct. 15 – Western Stockman's Market, Female & Bull Sale, McFarland, CA

Nov. 5 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Bull Sale, Galt, CA

ANGUS

Sep. 20-22 – Montana Angus Tour, Sidney, MT

Oct. 6 – VDAR, Cow Sale, Manhattan, MT

Oct. 10 – Ox Bow Angus, Female Sale, Wolf Creek, MT

Oct. 11 – Coleman Angus, Female Sale, Charlo, MT

Oct. 12 – Montana Ranch, Female Sale, Big Fork, MT

Oct. 22 – NILE, Female Sale, Billings, MT

Oct. 24 – Montana Angus, Female Sale, Billings, MT

Nov. 12 – Montana Ranch, Bull Sale, Big Fork, MT

Nov. 14 – GDAR, Female Sale, Sidney, MT

Nov. 15 – Paint Rock Angus, Bull Sale, Hyattville, WY

Nov. 17 – WMR Livestock, Bull Sale, Three Forks, MT

Nov. 18 – Green Mountain Angus Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Ryegate, MT

Nov. 19 – Redland Angus, Bull & Female Sale, Buffalo, WY

Nov. 21 – Connealy Angus, Bull Sale, Whitman, NE

Nov. 28 – Stevenson Diamond Dot, Bull & Female Sale, Hobson, MT

Nov. 29 – Stevenson Angus Ranch, Bull & Female Sale, Hobson, MT

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

CHAROLAIS

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

HEREFORD

Sep. 5 – Genoa Livestock, Bull & Female Sale, Minden, NV

Sep. 16 – Churchill Cattle Co., Female Sale, Manhattan, MT

Sep. 17 – Ehlke Herefords, Female Sale, Townsend, MT

Sep. 18 – Mohican West, Female Sale, Laurel, MT

Nov. 14 – Mohican West, Bull Sale, Laurel, MT

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

RED ANGUS

Sep. 11 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Visalia, CA

Sep. 24 – McPhee Red Angus, Production Sale, Lodi, CA

Oct. 21 – NILE, Female Sale, Billings, MT

Oct. 29 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Shepherd, MT

Nov. 3 – 5L Red Angus, Bull Sale, Sheridan, MT

SOUTH DEVON

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

COMMERCIAL

Jul. 6 – Cattle Country Video, High Plains Showcase, Torrington, WY

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

Jul. 22 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Sonoma-Marin Cattlemen's Special Feeder Sale, Galt, CA

Aug. 9-10 – Cattle Country Video, Oregon Trail Classic, Gering, NE

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. 15 – Cattle Country Video, Cheyenne Roundup, Cheyenne, WY

Sep. 19 – Northern Video Sale, Fall Premier Video Auction, Billings, MT

Nov. 5 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Female Sale, Galt, CA

HORSE

Sep. 16-17 – Van Norman & Friends, Production Sale, Elko, NV

Oct. 14 – Western Stockman's Market, Showcase Horse Sale, McFarland, CA

Schools 43

Schools 43

Burden placed on irrigators to reach minimum flow levels

WATER
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river," Johnson said. "While the flow objectives for the Shasta got lowered, the Scott River objectives remain unachievably high, setting us up for curtailments. We expect the hammer to drop no later than next month."

Helping fish?

The regulation is allegedly in response to distressed fish populations. However, as noted by Sari Sommarstrom, a retired watershed consultant from Scott Valley, fish in the Scott River have actually been doing quite well, despite the fact that the water board's summer flow objectives haven't been met for the better part of a decade.

Sommarstrom, who commented at the meeting, emphasized the unreasonableness of the regulation.

"As far as I can understand, we're the only place in California where all ag wells are subject to curtailment, despite Scott Valley not being overdrafted—unlike the San Joaquin and Salinas—despite most ag production wells being addressed in our Scott decree and despite pretty good natural runs of salmon," Sommarstrom said.

Sommarstrom, a founding member of AgWA, also told the board this spring's near-record-breaking coho salmon outmigration from the Scott River was not aided by last September's curtailments—contrary to agency claims.

"Saying the 2020 coho run benefited from these regulations does not match up with the life cycle needs. The regs didn't kick in until mid-September. It was really last summer—before the regs kicked in—that was the most stressful part for those juvenile rearing coho."

Communication wins

Sommarstrom noted that the water board staff has been very communicative, but she said, "There's so much info that we're not communicating well on still. The assumption in the regs is that there are fish everywhere, all the time, and that's not true in the system."

Johnson and Sommarstrom both noted that one water board member, Vice Chair Dorene D'Adamo, was particularly attentive to AgWA's concerns.

"We were really grateful for Vice Chair D'Adamo's addition of a resolution that recognizes our county's locally-developed Groundwater Sustainability Plan, and the (University of California) Davis-developed hydrologic model that guided that plan," Sommarstrom said.

"When this emergency reg was adopted last year, it didn't even recognize the efforts we've been making for over a decade to improve our groundwater and flow situation in the Shasta and Scott valleys. We hope the new resolution is a sign that the water board is willing to work with the county and local groups to come up with solutions that are less punitive and more proactive on the supply side of the situation."

Additional language proposed by D'Adamo did support one supply-side action: "groundwater recharge" permitting.

"That was encouraging to see," Johnson said. "But the fact remains that the burden is currently being placed 100 percent on our irrigators to reach the flow levels demanded by the water board. We are a snowmelt-dependent system with no dams or big reservoirs. We simply can't reach those flow levels if we don't get adequate precipitation. Unless we find ways to hold onto water in the winter and spring when flows are high, we won't reach the levels they want on the Scott. And the family rancher is the whipping boy."

Groundwater jurisdiction

An ongoing lawsuit in Shasta Valley is currently challenging the assumption of connectivity between groundwater and surface water in the Big Springs Irrigation District. The water board's jurisdiction only covers surface water and "interconnected" groundwater.

During the meeting, D'Adamo raised the issue of the water board's jurisdiction over all groundwater. "I have to say that this is an area that's troubled me from the start, but I understand the need for us to include groundwater, and I've spent a lot of time with our staff really wanting to make sure I understand our authorities and that we are not overreaching."

She asked a water board attorney at the meeting whether future information obtained regarding connectivity could change the water board's approach of regulating all the water rights in the Scott and Shasta valleys. The attorney's response was noncommittal.

Major components of the regulation are the following:

• The 30 percent reduction option: For those wishing to continue irrigating with groundwater after a curtailment is issued, the water board is allowing for individual plans that reduce irrigation by 30 percent. Many ranches have signed up for these plans. However, half of Scott Valley's irrigated acreage (about 15,000 acres) doesn't qualify under this type of plan.

• Limited surface water diversions during a curtailment could be allowed. There is a "tributary-wide" plan option that would allow limited surface water use after a curtailment, but this option has not yet been attempted in Scott Valley. It would require coordination between diverters on a given ditch or tributary, coordination with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and steady monitoring.

• Livestock watering out of ditches in the nonirrigation season is severely limited, although there are exceptions. AgWA argues that using earthen ditches during the nonirrigation season—in a way that doesn't harm fish—serves an important function of recharging groundwater and should be encouraged.

• Livestock drinking water is limited during a curtailment. The max allowable use is 15 gallons/day for cattle and 1.5 gallons for sheep. AgWA has consistently argued these amounts are not adequate, especially in hot weather. Water board staff did add language to allow livestock twice the maximum level when temperatures exceed 90 F.

• Penalties of $500 per day for violations are still in place. Some farmers and ranchers have already suffered penalties, in some instances because of accidental misfilings of paperwork.

It's hard to determine how curtailments and the 30 percent plans will affect Scott Valley this year. In Shasta Valley, several century-old ranches have already gone out of business due to the regulations, and it's unknown how long the regulations will be in place.

"As long as Gov. (Gavin) Newsom (D) keeps the emergency drought proclamation in place, we're likely to see readoption of some sort of regulation every year," Johnson said. "We're not sure how long many of our historic family farms and ranches can withstand that." — **Scott Valley Agriculture Water Alliance for *WLJ***

CALENDAR COMING EVENTS

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

Aug. 1 – The American Sheep Industry Association is kicking off its annual Photo Contest. More than $1,000 will be awarded, and winning entries will be showcased in the October issue of the Sheep Industry News. Entry details: www.sheepusa.org/asi-annual-photo-contest.

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

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

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

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