

INSIDE WLJ



CAFO DEBATE — Dayna Ghirardelli of Sonoma County Farm Bureau sits down with *WLJ* to discuss Measure J. Page 8

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"With bumper crops of cotton, soybeans, and flax last season and another coming up this year, why can't livestock men get cottonseed meal or concentrates for their stocks? Where is the meal? Where did it go? Statistics for 1942 show that cotton acreage was above average; soybean production was the greatest in history, and flax acreage was increased far beyond that of previous years," read the July 1943 *WLJ* article.

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Supreme Court dismisses Rio Grande settlement

— Sides with U.S.

The Supreme Court of the U.S. dismissed a proposed settlement

between Texas and New Mexico over a decade-old dispute concerning the alleged breach of the Rio Grande Compact.

In a 5-4 decision, the court denied the agreement, siding with the U.S., asserting that parties cannot settle litigation in a way that disposes of a

third party's claims. The court maintained that the U.S. has a significant interest in ensuring New Mexico adheres to the compact's terms due to the intertwined nature of the compact and the federal operation of the Rio Grande Project.

The Rio Grande Compact, established in 1938, allocates water among Colorado, New Mexico and Texas. Colorado is required to deliver a specific quantity of water annually to New Mexico, measured at designated gaging stations. In turn, New Mexico must deliver a stipulated amount to Elephant Butte Reservoir for use by New Mexican and Texan farmers. Additionally, Colorado and New Mexico have obligations and restrictions on water storage to ensure downstream deliveries to Texas, ensuring equitable water distribution and use along the Rio Grande River.

In 2013, Texas initiated legal action against New Mexico and Colorado, alleging New Mexico's excessive groundwater pumping was reducing the Rio Grande water flow to Texas, thus violating the Rio Grande Compact.

In 2014, the U.S. requested to

See RIO GRANDE on page 5



Daniel Schwen/Wikimedia

The Supreme Court dismissed a proposed settlement between Texas and New Mexico over the Rio Grande Compact. Pictured here, the Rio Grande Gorge in northern New Mexico.

USDA releases new P&S Act rule

USDA has released another proposed rule to guide fair and competitive markets under the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act. The latest rule will clarify the definition of "fair" and provide guidance on how unfair practices will be dealt with.

"Fairer, more competitive markets enable greater choice, quality, and fairer prices in the meat and poultry processing markets, delivering benefits for working family consumers of meat and poultry," USDA said in its announcement.

The "Fair and Competitive Livestock and Poultry Markets" rule would address injury to competition in producers' lawsuits against packers.

In the past, USDA has identified unfair practices through case-by-case administrative adjudication.

The department now proposes a rule to determine alleged violations, as the past standard is not up to modern enforcement investigations and fails to explain its position to regulated entities, USDA said.

The proposed rule has a two-part framework:

- Defines "unfair practice" with respect to market participants
- Defines "unfair practice" with respect to markets.

Regarding market participants, an unfair practice would be one that causes or is likely to cause substantial injury to a participant that cannot reasonably be avoided. The regulated entity involved in the action could not prove the potential positive effects of their action are greater than the potential harm to the participant.

See USDA UPDATE on page 5

CA forest gathering concerns locals

Northern Californians are concerned that an unauthorized gathering of thousands of people at an annual event on national forest land will have severe implications on local communities and public lands.

The Rainbow Family Gathering is a week-long outdoor gathering put on by the Rainbow Family of Living Light, a loose-knit group of people who describe themselves as having no leaders or organization. An unofficial website says the group gathers each year in national forests to "pray for peace on this planet."

The group meets in a new location every year, usually announcing the location shortly before the gathering takes place. This year, the gathering was announced to be set in the Plumas National Forest near Susanville, CA, over the first week of July, coinciding with the Fourth of July holiday. Up to 10,000 participants were expected to attend the gathering on about 900 acres.

On June 26, shortly before *WLJ* press time, the U.S. Forest Service

(USFS) issued an order prohibiting anyone from being in the Plumas National Forest Indian Creek Headwaters Area and an order closing the road on the Mount Hough Ranger District. Individuals who fail to leave the area within 48 hours can face up to \$5,000 in fines or up to six months in jail. This appears to be the first time the Rainbow Family Gathering has been ordered to end their gathering.

Special use permits for noncommercial group use are required on national forest land for any event with more than 75 people. The Rainbow Family failed to obtain a permit for the event—citing no single representative who can sign a permit on the group's behalf—making the gathering an unauthorized use of forest land.

"There are existing and projected impacts on natural and cultural resources and other authorized uses," said Plumas National Forest Supervisor Chris Carlton in the

order. "Our priority is maintaining public health and safety and the appropriate stewardship of public lands and natural resources."

Community backlash

Community members, law enforcement officials, USFS and local Tribes denounced the gathering, concerned about the possibility of damage to an already-frail environment still recovering from the catastrophic 2021 Dixie Fire that burned nearly 1 million acres in Northern California.

The Plumas County Sheriff's Office said in a news release, "The diverse group of participants often includes individuals who engage in illegal or socially unacceptable behavior, such as public nudity, civil disobedience, drug and alcohol abuse, and confrontations with locals."

USFS issued two road closure orders ahead of the final order to

See RAINBOW FAMILY on page 7

Feedlots hold out for higher cash trade

Futures contracts headed higher over the week, climbing to new highs. Feedlots continue to hold out until later in the week to sell fed cattle at higher bids.

The expiring June contract climbed \$7 higher to close out at \$194.17, the August contract gained more than \$11 to close at \$194.17 and the October contract gained \$1.93 to close at \$185.75.

"Futures remain significantly discount to cash, which has been exceptionally strong, higher six out of the last eight weeks and making an all-time high last week," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in The Beef on Tuesday.

Cash trade through Thursday afternoon was about 7,000 head. Live steers sold from \$196-200, and dressed steers sold from \$306 up to \$317.50.

"Packer demand will likely improve throughout the afternoon, but it's likely that the bulk of the week's trade will be delayed until Friday as feedlots are aiming to advance the market again this week," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in her midday Thursday comments.

Cash trade for the week ending June 23 totaled 73,368 head.

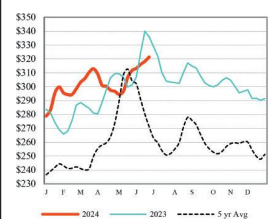
Live steers averaged \$194.68, and dressed steers averaged \$310.69.

Slaughter through Thursday was estimated at 474,000 head, about 7,000 head short of a week earlier. Projected total slaughter for a week earlier is 620,000 head. Actual slaughter for the week ending June 15 was 615,083 head. The average steer dressed weight was 917 lbs., 1 lb. lower than the previous week.

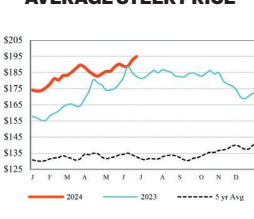
"The fed cattle portion of the slaughter continues to keep the fed supplies current despite increasing slaughter weights," the Cattle Report said on Wednesday.

See MARKETS on page 5

WEEKLY CHOICE CUTOUT



5 AREA WEEKLY WTD AVERAGE STEER PRICE



LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$192.06	\$306.00	\$259.04
WEEK ENDING: 06-27-24		

COMMENTS

\$200

Fed cattle trade touched \$200 live and \$314 on dressed heifers in the northern Plains. Cattle feeders seemed determined to cross that magic market line. Two weeks ago, fed trade averaged \$198 in the north and \$192 in the southern Plains. Typically, the cattle and meat markets start to fall a bit after the Fourth of July holiday, which is a big ground beef consuming week.

Futures markets finally started to move higher as the June contract expires. June reached a new high at \$192.92, advancing \$3.45 on Wednesday. The August fed cattle contract was also higher to close at \$186.75. Feeder cattle contracts also moved higher. It's refreshing to see the futures markets start to respond to the cash markets.

The Choice beef cutout worked its way to \$323, which may be the season high. Packers may start to lose their positive margin, which was razor thin to begin with, \$18 per head according to HedgersEdge.com. We're entering the dog days of summer, and it looks like it will be a long hot summer; beef demand usually declines 3%. But this spring's market has been slow to respond to expected market swings.

Ground beef markets have been on fire. The cull cow and bull markets have never been higher. The 90% lean trimmings market has reached \$360/cwt, and fresh 50% lean was trading at \$102, which is pushing ground beef prices much higher. Cow slaughtering is much smaller than normal but lean manufacturing beef imports are 22% higher than a year ago.

The last Cattle on Feed report didn't seem to have any impact on futures markets even with the surprising rise in placements, which were about 4% higher than analysts' expectations. Fed cattle marketing was just .02% higher than a year ago, which is also surprising because of the low slaughter rates during May, but is nearly 5% higher than the five-year average. Also, cattle on feed were 99.9% of last May or 7,000 head lower than last year.

Carcass weights have made a significant impact on total beef tonnage. Year-to-date cattle slaughter is down 4.4% from last year while beef production is down only 1.5%. Carcass weights are currently 35 pounds higher than a year ago. Carcass weights typically decline going into summer months, but cattle feeders are finding it more economical to add weight to their cattle rather than buy high-priced replacement feeder cattle.

Front-end fed cattle supplies, cattle on feed for 150 days, may keep a lid on advancing the fed market going in to fall. Marketings have fallen behind because of carcass weights. Fed cattle marketing needs to pick up this summer or carcass weights need to come down.

USDA came out with another proposed change to the Packers and Stockyards Act. The proposal has more to do with the poultry business than cattle. But there are vague references to fairness and market harm and competition for the cattle industry. I'm not sure about the competition aspect for the cattle industry because it sure seems quite competitive right now with fed cattle touching \$200. The proposal is virtually the same proposal made under the Obama administration, which current USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack was a member of.

NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Ethan Lane said the new rules were a direct attack on cattle producer profitability. "By creating criteria that effectively deems any innovation or differentiation in the marketplace improper, USDA is sending a clear message that cattle producers should not derive any benefit from the free market but instead be paid one low price regardless of quality, all in the name of so-called fairness," he said.

The Meat Institute said, "Contrary to USDA's assertion, these changes would introduce uncertainty into the market and de-couple the demand signals producers receive from beef consumers, including consumers' willingness to pay for value-added attributes. At low points in the cattle cycle, like this year's historically small cattle herd, it puts at risk the value producers earn from sustained beef demand, and as the expansion phase of the cattle cycle begins it would undermine the benefits earned from growing beef demand."

Are you sure you want the government getting involved in ag markets? Remember those words, "I'm from the government and I'm here to help." So be careful what you ask for. — **PETE CROW**



CROW



KAY'S KORNER

All wealth that flows to the U.S. beef industry comes from consumers at home and abroad. How much they are prepared to spend on beef largely determines whether packers, cattle feeders and producers make money or not. It is thus extremely important to monitor beef demand at retail and foodservice.

Beef demand was strong throughout 2023 despite an increase in retail beef prices and overall food inflation. Many market analysts believed that demand would begin to suffer this year because retail prices remained at or close to record levels. USDA's latest monthly retail beef prices showed that its All-Fresh Beef price in May reached a new all-time high of \$7.96/lb. It was up one cent from the April price and was up 6.1% from May last year. Conversely, the May Choice price averaged \$8.11/lb., down four cents from April and up only 0.5% from May last year. The record high All-Fresh price in part reflected the high price of ground beef and beef patties.

The industry entered June knowing that the best demand month of the year was behind it. In addition, it faced the start of the so-called dog days of summer, which usually mean a decline in beef sales because high temperatures force more Americans to stay indoors and eat cold cuts rather than grilling outside. The days normally do not start until July. But they came early this year as a blistering heatwave in mid-June extended from the Midwest to New England.

Yet the heatwave appeared not to affect beef sales. It certainly did not impact boxed beef cutout values. The national comprehensive cutout (cuts, grinds and trim) increased the week before last by \$6.19/cwt from the prior week. The average of \$316.38/cwt was the highest of the year. Also of interest was that the week saw the price of domestic lean manufacturing beef set a new record of \$364.14/cwt for sixth week in a row. This was far above the Choice cutout, which averaged \$316.19/cwt.

This partly reflects the fact that at the current harvest rate, annual cow slaughter projects to decline by 962,695 head, according to Andrew Gottschalk of HedgersEdge.com. Beef cow harvest this year is estimated to decline by about 516,165 head from last year's level, he says. It is interesting that to date, there is no decline in year-over-year heifer harvest. As heifer withholding for breeding begins, this would entail a further reduction in the level of annual beef production and in the available feeder cattle and calf supply for feedlot

DEMAND STAYS UNUSUALLY STRONG

placement. These factors should lend additional price support to feeder cattle and calves on any price correction, he says.

Another positive in the live cattle market is that packer margins returned to being positive at the start of June after being negative every week this year but one. HedgersEdge.com calculated that margins the week before last were positive by \$32.79 per head.

Latest USDA data meanwhile reveals that fed beef processors will enjoy ample supplies of live cattle through the rest of the year. How live cattle prices perform will depend on demand at home and abroad. The industry will be hoping that export sales pick up, as volume so far this year is well below that of last year.

Cattle feeders placed more cattle in their pens in May than expected. The total placed was 2.046 million head, according to USDA's latest Cattle on Feed report. The total was 4.3% higher than in May 2023 and was 4.9 percentage points higher than analysts' average forecast of 99.4%. In addition, the three heaviest weight categories accounted for 59% of the year-over-year increase in placements. This means that the bulk of the cattle placed should be market-ready by mid-December, Gottschalk said. May marketings at 1.955 million head were up 0.2% on last year. The marketing rate (marketings versus cattle on feed) was the highest since 2018. The June 1 cattle on feed total of 11.583 million head was down 0.1% from last year but was 0.7% higher than forecast. The total was 7,000 head lower than a year ago but was the lowest total for the date since 2018.

Front-end fed cattle supplies (on feed 150 days or more) project to remain above prior-year levels through December unless there is a significant increase in the rate of marketings, Gottschalk says. Front-end supplies also project to decline less than the previous five-year trend. In 2024, this category of cattle projects to advance from July-December by approximately 102,000 head. The previous five-year average is a decline of 440,000 head. Cattle on feed supplies will become increasingly front-end loaded, although it is a real possibility that total cattle on feed supplies may decline, he says. — **Steve Kay, WLJ columnist**

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

GUEST OPINION

The Fourth of July is a highlight of the year on our family farm. Each summer, my family gets together for a traditional cookout, celebrating our nation with delicious food and the company of loved ones. This holiday serves as a reminder of the freedoms we enjoy, safeguarded by the dedication and sacrifice of countless Americans who have fought to protect our country. It also is a great time to look around the table and count the other blessings we enjoy in our great nation, such as having a plate filled with fresh, wholesome food.

Every year, the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF), with the help of our volunteer shoppers around the country, calculates the average cost for a Fourth of July cookout. The survey includes popular items such as cheeseburgers, chicken breasts, homemade potato salad and desserts such as ice cream and cookies.

This year, it will cost about \$71 to feed 10 people, a 5% increase from last year. At a little more than \$7 per person, that's the highest cost since AFBF began its survey in 2013. It's also a 30% increase in cost since the start of the pandemic in 2019. The increasing cost of food and supplies remains a real concern, not only here in the U.S. but across the world. Factors such as inflation, the rising of supply costs and global uncertainties continue to drive up prices, impacting households across the nation.

Despite these challenges, most Americans on average still dedicate a relatively small percentage of their spending to food compared to many other countries. That's thanks to the hard work of our farmers and the support they receive from the farm bill to manage risk and advance innovation. Even after the many challenges we've faced and continue to overcome in the past few years, our nation enjoys one of the world's safest, most affordable food supplies.

There was also some good news found in the survey, as

the price of chicken breasts and eggs are down due to the recovery of chicken populations from avian influenza in 2022. We also saw the prices of potatoes drop after reaching a market high last year because of drought.

So how do we continue to keep these prices affordable? The biggest answer is a new and modernized farm bill. From risk management to food security and nutrition programs—this critical legislation affects all Americans, and we need the many programs within this bill to reflect current challenges. A lot has changed since the 2018 Farm Bill and if we want to safeguard our food supply and ultimately reinforce our national security, then we need a new farm bill passed this year.

Addressing our trade deficit is also key to our food security and the economic sustainability of our farms and ranches. USDA has forecasted a record high trade deficit for agriculture, at \$32 billion. If we want to continue to grow the safest and most sustainable food, and also keep food prices affordable for all families, we need to ensure that U.S. farmers can remain competitive here at home by expanding our trade agreements and keeping our current partners accountable.

Farmers and ranchers across America work tirelessly every day to provide for my family and yours, and all Americans share an interest in protecting agriculture here at home. It's imperative that Congress and the administration get the farm bill across the finish line this year, and ensure the stability of American agriculture, because a nation that cannot feed itself cannot truly be free.

As we celebrate this Fourth of July, and gather with loved ones around the grill, let's remember to reflect on our blessings, the food on our plates and the privilege of living in a country where we can freely celebrate our freedom and abundance. Happy Independence Day! — **Zippy Duvall, AFBF president**

WLJ

Letters to the editor: Letters for publication must 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, Attn: Editorial Dept., 6021 S Syracuse Way, Ste #103, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

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WEEK IN THE ROCKIES

JULY 8 - 12, 2024 | SNOWBIRD, UTAH
OFFERING 314,000 HEAD



UPCOMING AUCTIONS

DEADLINE

VIDEO ROYALE
JULY 29 - AUG 2

JULY 12

BIG HORN CLASSIC
AUG 19 - 23

AUG 2

LABOR DAY
SEPT 4-5

AUG 20



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MARKET NEWS

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE	This Week: 6/27/2024	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	192.06	▲	N/A
CME Feeder Index	259.04	▲	255.79
Boxed Beef Average	323.33	▲	322.87
Average Dressed Steers	306.00	▲	305.00
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,393	▼	1,396
Weekly Slaughter**	620,000	▲	615,000
Weekly Beef Production***	525.8	▲	522.4
Hide/Offal Value	11.96	▲	N/A
Corn Price	4.21	▼	4.50
*Average weight for previous week. **Total slaughter for previous week. ***Estimated year-to-date figure in million pounds for previous week.			

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef												
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price	
June 21	7,102	316.38	281	335.38	1,228	323.96	2,113	316.18	743	301.37	2,736	287.03
June 14	7,396	310.19	258	331.99	1,240	320.37	2,181	308.04	847	298.94	2,870	280.86
June 7	6,872	312.08	257	333.12	1,368	317.13	2,036	311.96	696	300.01	2,516	282.15
May 31	6,253	310.69	251	329.59	1,221	316.27	1,886	309.76	603	299.17	2,292	279.98
Cutouts			FED BOXED BEEF									
DATE	CHOICE		SELECT		COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN		90% LEAN			
June 27	323.33		302.70		289.96		103.16		371.29			
June 26	322.85		302.86		288.13		102.40		N/A			
June 25	323.93		305.26		288.42		93.36		369.09			
June 24	322.64		305.07		286.25		95.25		N/A			
June 21	322.39		303.11		285.77		90.23		364.26			

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	6/21	6/24	6/25	6/26	6/27	High*	Low*
Jun.	18760	18890	18948	19293	19450	19633	15310
Aug.	18315	18483	18443	18675	18743	19975	16853
Oct.	18363	18380	18435	18613	18683	18683	16668
Dec.	18608	18580	18615	18763	18810	18870	17005

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	6/21	6/24	6/25	6/26	6/27	High*	Low*
Aug.	25838	25890	25905	26178	26265	26265	21608
Sep.	25990	26013	26008	26248	26330	26460	21920
Oct.	26063	26068	26060	26290	26375	27095	22268
Nov.	26050	26050	26045	26275	26350	26625	24910
*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	881	1,460	192.06
Live FOB Heifer	1,704	1,223	192.16
Dressed Del Steer	15	945	306.00
Dressed Del Heifer	42	851	214.00
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	N/A	N/A	N/A
Live FOB Heifer	38	1,325	192.00
Dressed Del Steer	37	921	305.00
Dressed Del Heifer	130	851	310.00
SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	7,360	1,385	180.18
Live FOB Heifer	5,087	1,291	179.79
Dressed Del Steer	137	870	284.89
Dressed Del Heifer	N/A	N/A	N/A

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: JUNE 23, 2024		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	19,429	1,463
Formula	267,612	1,688
Negotiated Cash	100,746	156
Negotiated Grid	46,956	2,748
Packer Owned	10,029	N/A
Total	444,772	6,055

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,924
Jun. '24	101,499	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,127
Jul. '24	88,208	Formula sales	3,879
Aug. '24	88,764	Forward contract sales	172
Sep. '24	101,222	Domestic sales	6,226
Oct. '24	106,034	NAFTA Exports	90

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	191.91	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	191.10	N/A
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	N/A	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	120.29	N/A
*Price comparison from one week ago.		

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, June 25, 2024			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	314.45	321.48	295.43
601-700 lbs	291.04	294.50	274.47
701-800 lbs	265.82	275.88	249.11
801-900 lbs	242.11	242.39	229.63
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	297.10	284.25	268.75
501-600 lbs	275.10	276.73	258.12
601-700 lbs	248.47	267.27	228.98
701-800 lbs	240.14	249.81	216.64

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
	6/17/2024	6/10/2024		
Feeders	23,180	31,244	697,155	586,684

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE	
June 26, 2024	
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary	
Receipts EST: 7,700	Week Ago EST: 8,000
Year Ago Act: 7,550	
Columbus, NM Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.	Santa Teresa, NM Compared to Tuesday, steer calves and yearlings sold steady. Heifers steady. Trade active, demand good. Supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.
Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2
300-400 lbs	274-284
400-500 lbs	254-264
500-600 lbs	234-244
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2
300-400 lbs	333-343
400-500 lbs	303-313
500-600 lbs	273-283
(slide 10 cents on steers and heifers basis 300 lbs. All sales fob port of entry.)	

Selected Auctions Week Ending June 27, 2024								
Feeder prices for steers & heifers reflect medium and large 1 cattle, unless otherwise noted; * Indicates medium and large 1-2								
DATE MARKET	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS SLAUGHTER BULLS
June 21 Blackfoot, ID	N/A			260-311 240-303	240-300 225-262	220-273 210-241		130-156.50 145-176.50
June 20 Burley, ID	370	386	342 320	310 299.50	286 251-281	262.50 174-241	232-234 179	147.50-158 159-165
No report available Emmett, ID								
June 22 Eugene, OR	774	252-309*	190-208*	230-275*	210-261* 210-251*	190-224*	170-194*	120-138 140-145
June 24 Madras, OR	303		350-382.50	265-320 245-285	282-283 252-278	233-242 221-233	227-234 190-219	135-150 150-175
June 26 Vale, OR	251			285-315 262-293				140-153.50 155-175
June 24 Davenport, WA	172	187.50-262.50	222.50 112.50-260	140-245 242.50	202.50 130-229	100-225 140-202.50	127.50-200 185-219	87.50-171 136-169
June 20 Toppenish, WA	1,030		260*	320*	254-256*			136-155 159-184.50

June 20 Orland, CA	2,609		240-320 220-315	230-319 210-322	220-309 200-271	210-270 190-225	175-228 155-221	130-154 140-170	2,000-3,200 1,700-2,950
June 24 Escalon, CA	N/A	300-377 300-342		250-280 250-320		200-270 150-220	200-225 200-215	88-130 85-142	800-1,725 700-1,300
June 24 Famoso, CA	725	265-331 225-300	275-330 225-280	275-310 250-280	240-265 246-261	220-230	210-228 210-230	110-165 120-149	
No report available Galt, CA									
June 25 Turlock, CA	1,593	261-349 240-341	260-320 250-317.50	254-314 245-295	245-295 230-288	225-240 210-234	215-235	119-157 124-153.25	
June 25 Salina, UT	547	375-440 325-360	385-400 260-360	310-324 245-327.50	237.50-297.50 235-282.50	272.50-288 210-276.50	202.50-267.50 185-250	171-259 153.75-228	136.70-167.90 151.75-177.95

June 24 Iowa	4,125	450 435			300-317.50 265-270	305-310 240-252.50	231	232	116-182.50 115-190	
June 25 Miles City, MT	1,208								132-155 132-193	2,700-2,850
June 26 Bassett, NE	6,795	440 405	381-410 350-372		291-295 349-375 320-358	273 313-339 285-325	242.50 280-309.50 250.25-302	246-273.50 223.75-255		
No report available Ericson, NE										
No report available Imperial, NE										
No report available Kearney, NE										
June 21 Lexington, NE	1,673		300				250	233-258.50 228		
No report available Ogallala, NE										
June 20 Valentine, NE	2,031	405 343-365	384-413 325-335	331-365 282-337	291-330 267-303	284.50-290.50 258-277.50	250-282 249-252			
June 21 Herreid, SD	4,526				340 299	308.50-332 259-292	264-303 249-260	243.50-276.25 229.25-255.50		
No report available Torrington, WY										

June 20 Wilcox, AZ	791	345.50-385 313.50-317.50	309.50-377.50 287-320	266-327.50 259.50-311	257-316 239.50-274	256-292 222-255			105-156 141-174	1,300-2,700 2,000
June 24 Colorado	795							187.50-204	92.50-162.50 137-179	1,700-2,900
No report available La Junta, CO										
No report available Loma, CO										
June 26 Dodge City, KS	933		330	336 297-320	316 277-283	306 260-289	240-257	258.50-263	126-157 164-193	1,825-2,850 1,875-2,800
June 21 Pratt, KS	611		347.50	345	310-319 281	269-288 251	263-269 236-242	234-250 223.50-227	131-155 141-181	
No report available Salina, KS										
June 27 Clovis, NM	1,635		352-417 298-350	322-354 277-310	283-320 240-273	255-272.50 235-256	251 229-236.75	239-240 192	127.50-146 114-197	1,500-2,975 1,125-2,150
June 26 El Reno, OK	9,395	420 340-370	450 330	322.50-370 287.50-310	267.50-315 250-290	265-285 245-265	245-280 233.50-257.50	224.50-269 213-230		
June 26 McAlester, OK	765		343-407 325-346	325-355 261-301	289-322 243-261	243-301 201-246	228-247 195-217		119-151 145-177	1,250-2,275
June 25 Oklahoma City, OK	5,013	318-327	407 309-335	307-375 281-310	289-348 252-282	253-311 232-268	245-279 225-253.50	215-270 204-232		
June 21 Cuero, TX	339	329-420 258-350	282-360 237-350	295-366 266-318	257-300 251-294	257-275 228-258	181-165 169-230		115-145 155-165	1,100-1,450
June 20 Dalhart, TX	1,124		315-370	310 277	280-332 278-290	270-293 244-249	262-266 236-237.50	205-228	108-160 157-172	
June 20 San Angelo, TX	1,078		365	372.50	297-314 255-273	301-306	247.50-253.50 280-218		112-150 131-167	1,575-2,900 1,975-2,100
June 20 Tulia, TX	1,634	360		267-282	285-330 250-278	258-285 234-248.50	253.50 227-233	243.50	120-139 160	

SOUTH CENTRAL

Gorsuch: Decision impacts states' rights to govern

RIO GRANDE (from page 1)

intervene, asserting claims essentially the same as those Texas had already pleaded. The U.S. stated its interest in enforcing New Mexico's

compliance with the Rio Grande Compact was closely tied to the U.S. operation of the Rio Grande Project.

In 2018, the court ruled in favor of the government, recognizing special federal interests in the water dispute

between Texas and New Mexico. The Supreme Court assigned a special master to oversee the case, who said the U.S. was not a part of the compact and held no stake in the water allocation between New Mexico and Tex-

as.

After lengthy negotiations, Special Master Michael J. Melloy announced in 2022 the states reached a settlement. The proposed settlement introduced the Effective El Paso Index (EEPI) to govern water delivery from New Mexico to Texas, which established an annual, volumetric target for New Mexico to deliver water to Texas.

The obligation would be based on data from 1951-78 when groundwater pumping in New Mexico was actively depleting return flows into the Rio Grande. The EEPI uses annual releases from Caballo Dam, 15 miles downstream from Truth or Consequences, to determine New Mexico's obligation to deliver water to Texas at the El Paso Gage, near the state line.

The U.S. and irrigation districts and cities objected to the settlement. Attorneys general for New Mexico and Texas were disappointed the U.S. objected, stating they were exerting control over the settlement.

Brown denied the motion to enter the consent decree, recognizing the previous decision.

"Our decision today follows directly from our prior recognition of the United States' distinct federal interests in the Rio Grande Compact," Brown wrote. "Having acknowledged those interests, and having allowed the U.S. to intervene to assert them, we cannot now allow Texas and New Mexico to leave the U.S. up the river without a paddle."

Brown was joined by Justices Elena Kagan, Brett Kavanaugh, John Roberts and Sonia Sotomayor.

Objections

Justice Neil Gorsuch wrote the dissenting opinion, stating the consent decree aims to fairly apportion water from the Rio Grande River between New Mexico and Texas while maintaining the long-standing federal reclamation operations in the area.

"The Court's decision is inconsistent with how origi-

nal jurisdiction cases normally proceed," Gorsuch wrote. "It defies 100 years of this Court's water law jurisprudence. And it represents a serious assault on the power of States to govern, as they always have, the water rights of users in their jurisdictions."

Gorsuch continued the special master's recommendations were sound and the court "should have done what was suggested."

Justices Samuel Alito, Amy Coney Barrett and Clarence Thomas joined Gorsuch in dissent.

New Mexico State Engineer Mike Hamman said in a statement he was disappointed with the decision by the Supreme Court to remand the settlement to the special master.

"We need to keep working to make the aquifers in the Lower Rio Grande region sustainable, and lasting solutions are more likely to come from parties working together than from continued litigation," Hamman said. — Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor

Cattle placements 4% higher

MARKETS (from page 1)

Boxed beef prices traded sideways to lower, with the Choice cutout up 46 cents to \$323.33 and the Select cutout down \$1.70 to 302.70.

"Many specific items continue to trade well below 2023 levels, but overall the composite values are holding together, thanks to a lot of support from various items going into the grind," Fish said on Thursday.

USDA's latest Cattle on Feed report released on June 21 showed total cattle and calves on feed down slightly from a year earlier. Placements were 4% higher, marketings were slightly higher and other disappearance was 16% lower.

Feeder cattle

The August contract gained 83 cents to close at \$260.65, and the September contract gained 23 cents to close at \$261.40.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index gained \$3.25 to close at \$259.04.

"Between the additional market support that's seeping over from the live cattle contracts and their slightly higher tone to the continued support of tremendous feeder cattle demand in the countryside amid slightly lower corn prices—feeders are ready for action as the market's horizon is bright and lined with ample support," Stewart said.

Corn futures continued their descent over the week, with the July contract down 26 cents to \$4.13 and the September contract down 22

cents to close at \$4.22.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 9,031 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steer calves sold \$7-14 lower. Yearling steers over 725 lbs. sold steady to \$6 higher. Feeder heifer calves sold \$2-4 lower. Yearling heifers over 700 lbs. sold steady to \$10 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 771 lbs. sold from \$255-273, averaging \$263.10.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 5,200 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, steers and heifers sold \$3-5 lower, except steers over 850 lbs. sold \$3 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 767 lbs. sold from \$262-264, averaging \$263.61. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor

Ag groups say new rule attacks profitability

USDA UPDATE (from page 1)

When determining an alleged violation, the USDA secretary can determine the extent to which the practice may hinder market participation, interfere with decision-making freedom, undermine competitive market forces, deny producers the full value of their products or services, violate traditional legal principles or force the producer into an unfair position.

With respect to markets, an unfair practice would be defined as "collusive, coercive, predatory, restrictive, deceitful or exclusionary method of competition that may negatively affect competitive conditions."

The secretary may also consider whether the practice shows signs of being oppressive, such as having anticompetitive intent or lacking a legitimate business reason. In addition, the secretary may consider whether the practice hinders market participants' opportunities, reduces competition between rivals, limits choice,

distorts or impedes competition, or denies a market participant the full value of their products or services.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) said the proposed rule is an attack on cattle producer profitability. "By creating criteria that effectively deems any innovation or differentiation in the marketplace improper, USDA is sending a clear message that cattle producers should not derive any benefit from the free market but instead be paid one low price regardless of quality, all in the name of so-called fairness," NCBA Vice President of Government Affairs Ethan Lane said in a statement.

The Meat Institute echoed

NCBA's sentiments, saying the rule was attempting to set meat production back decades by encouraging litigation, and packers may be forced to curtail the use of alternative marketing agreements to minimize litigation risks.

"Under these proposed rules, everyone loses, the livestock producer, the packer and ultimately the consumer," said Julie Anna Potts, president and CEO of the Meat Institute, in a statement.

Once the rule is published in the Federal Register, a comment period will be opened for 60 days. — Anna Miller, WLJ managing editor



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JULY 8-10

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

Sept. 17-19 – Registration is now open for the Public Lands Council's 56th Annual Meeting that will be held in Grand Junction, CO. Details: tinyurl.com/2car3wvvv.

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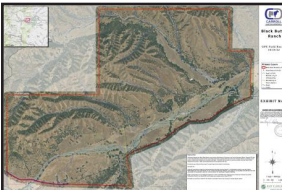
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TOPS: Broken Diamond Ranch Inc. from White Sulphur Springs, MT, sold 220 head of steers weighing 500 lbs. for \$353. Broken Diamond Ranch Inc.

Baker, MT, sold 85 head of steers weighing 680 lbs. for \$308. Slash 77 Ranch/Dvorak from Lewistown, MT, sold 163 head of steers weighing 785 lbs. for \$296.50. Alan Richard from Belfield, ND, sold 68 head of steers weighing 800 lbs. for \$284, and 185 head of steers weighing 865 lbs. for \$270.50.

Western Livestock Journal®

THE

VIEWPOINT

with Dayna Ghirardelli

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

Dayna Ghirardelli, executive director of California's Sonoma County Farm Bureau, is an example of how one's upbringing can shape one's values and career. Born and raised in Petaluma, CA, she was brought up on her family's dairy farm. This not only instilled in her a deep understanding of the industry's demands but also laid the foundation for her future career.

Dayna has channeled her

wealth of expertise and dedication into a robust campaign against Sonoma County's Measure J, a measure that seeks to regulate concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs), posing a threat to family farms and carrying significant economic implications.

Deep ag roots

"Agriculture has always been in my blood," Dayna told WLJ. Dayna grew up participating in 4-H and FFA, showing dairy cattle and raising market lambs. After graduating from Tomales High School, Dayna's passion for the industry led her to Chico State, where she graduated with a degree in animal industry, which blends together animal science and agricultural business.

After graduating, Dayna re-

turned to Sonoma County, stepping into a role with the University of California Cooperative Extension as the dairy program representative for Marin and Sonoma counties. When starting the position, Dayna was asked what her least favorite part of the dairy industry was, and she answered that it was the environmental aspect. From that day on, Dayna said 98% of her position was to help dairy farms with ranch plans, environmental regulations and compliance.

After starting a family, Dayna spent time as a local consultant working with dairy farms on water quality permits and transitioning to organic. When her children started school, Dayna began working at Clover (Storretta) Sonoma in producer relations, working for the com-

pany for 12 years.

In 2020, Dayna said she went a little out of her comfort zone and joined the California Milk Advisory Board as director of producer relations.

In 2022, Dayna was approached about the Sonoma County Farm Bureau executive director position, which she said felt like the right move.

"It brought me back home," Dayna said. "It brought me back to my local community. It still allowed me to stay connected with the dairy industry. But what I really was excited about, and still am, is being able to be ingrained in all of agriculture in Sonoma County. So, I'm learning a lot, and still have a lot to learn, but that's what brought me back here."

Dayna said her years of membership and belief in the farm bureau mission have



Dayna Ghirardelli

Courtesy photo

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Northern Livestock Video Auction held their annual Early Summer Special June 20th, 2024 in Billings, MT. Very large buying crowd in attendance and on the phones and internet. Record prices on all classes with strong demand. Northern's next sale is the annual Summertime Classic July 22nd, 23rd, & 24th with a consignment deadline of July 5th. For information on upcoming sales and complete results of the June 20th sale go to www.northernlivestockvideo.com.

Consigner	Head	Weight	Price/CWT	City
Meadows Ranch	130 Steers	455	367.00	Choteau, MT
Meadows Ranch	100 Heifers	420	345.00	Choteau, MT
D Mill Iron Cattle Co & Erickson Ranch	330 Steers	465	355.00	Afton, WY
Broken Diamond Ranch Inc	220 Steers	500	353.00	White Sulphur Springs, MT
Broken Diamond Ranch Inc	220 Heifers	480	329.50	White Sulphur Springs, MT
Salveson, Kyle	235 Steers	510	345.00	Billings, MT
Gordon & Sheila Young Family Ranch	115 Steers	530	340.00	Chinook, MT
Hooks Ranch	120 Steers	460	375.00	Big Timber, MT
Hooks Ranch	110 Steers	550	331.00	Big Timber, MT
Phipps, Tony	240 Steers	540	335.00	Jordan, MT
FL Robinson LLC	115 Steers	540	337.00	Malta, MT
FL Robinson LLC	120 Heifers	515	330.00	Malta, MT
First State Company	93 Steers	540	333.00	Cut Bank, MT
Johnson Cattle	200 Steers	545	329.00	Great Falls, MT
Ben Galt/Catlin Ranch LP	100 Steers	550	328.00	White Sulphur Springs, MT
Ben Galt/Catlin Ranch LP	100 Heifers	500	300.00	White Sulphur Springs, MT
J Dwight Harrison Ranch	400 Steers	560	329.00	Dillon, MT
J Dwight Harrison Ranch	200 Heifers	500	306.00	Dillon, MT
Hoffman, Brad	170 Weaned Steers	590	329.00	Billings, MT
Greet Ranch Inc	200 Steers	620	328.00	Ten Sleep, WY
Alton Ranch Inc.	100 Steers	575	320.00	Ennis, MT
Sandall Ranches	170 Weaned Steers	625	313.50	Evanston, WY
Sandall Ranches	105 Weaned Heifers	575	299.00	Evanston, WY
Probst Cattle	90 Steers	550	321.00	Dillon, MT
Probst Cattle	85 Steers	600	306.00	Dillon, MT
Gunderson Farms Inc	90 Steers	575	314.00	Miles City, MT
Emil Diede Inc	90 Steers	590	305.00	Billings, MT
Darlington Ranch	185 Steers	580	321.00	Winifred, MT
Gordon & Sheila Young Family Ranch	309 Steers	600	306.00	Chinook, MT
Kiehl Ranch	450 Steers	610	307.00	Winnett, MT
Yellowhorn Farms LLC	205 Steers	610	310.00	Custer, MT
Yellowhorn Farms LLC	85 Replacement Heifers	590	298.00	Custer, MT
Cosgriff Cattle LLC	175 Steers	610	306.00	Big Timber, MT
Shiell Canyon Cattle LLC	100 Steers	630	310.00	Eddy's Corner, MT
Webb Ranch	100 Steers	630	305.00	Billings, MT
Webb Ranch	100 Replacement Heifers	600	295.00	Billings, MT
Martinsdale Colony	90 Steers	645	304.00	Billings, MT
Kraig Hathaway Ranch	97 Steers	650	308.00	Denton, MT

Consigner	Head	Weight	Price/CWT	City
Evans, Matthew & Kali	85 Steers	625	308.00	Raynesford, MT
Steinbach Cattle	190 Steers	630	300.50	Wolf Creek, MT
Simmes Ranch	250 Steers	635	300.50	Sunburst, MT
Simmes Ranch	200 Heifers	610	278.50	Sunburst, MT
Bar C Inc	164 Weaned Steers	600	331.00	Dillon, MT
Perkins Ranch LLC	95 Weaned Steers	610	313.00	Deer Lodge, MT
H Double C LLC	94 Weaned Steers	630	307.00	Whitehall, MT
XC Ranch Inc	100 Steers	625	301.00	Boulder, MT
Rock Creek Land & Cattle Ranch LLC	105 Steers	560	322.00	Philipsburg, MT
Rock Creek Land & Cattle Ranch LLC	98 Steers	635	300.00	Philipsburg, MT
Rock Creek Land & Cattle Ranch LLC	105 Heifers	600	288.00	Philipsburg, MT
Yeager, Lane	180 Steers	660	293.50	Choteau, MT
Yeager, Lane	100 Heifers	600	273.50	Choteau, MT
Guenzler, Paul or Sharon	180 Steers	675	289.50	Missoula, MT
Dye Ranch	150 Steers	675	293.50	Stanford, MT
Tom Miller Ranch	170 Steers	680	299.00	Lewistown, MT
Derks Bros. Grain & Cattle	275 Steers	680	300.00	Lewistown, MT
Johnston Ranch	140 Steers	675	301.00	White Sulphur Springs, MT
Steen Farms Inc	85 Steers	680	308.00	Baker, MT
Malcom Ranch LLC	90 Steers	680	307.00	Baker, MT
Jensen, Paul or Jennifer	160 Steers	700	294.50	Lewistown, MT
3 Links Ranch Inc.	160 Steers	710	295.00	Grass Range, MT
Denzer Farms	550 Steers	700	295.50	Great Falls, MT
Denzer Farms	400 Heifers	625	285.50	Great Falls, MT
Ridgeway, David	86 Steers	730	295.00	Eddy's Corner, MT
Thom Farms	170 Steers	740	296.00	Eddy's Corner, MT
Wichman, Mark & Arlene	82 Steers	760	292.50	Eddy's Corner, MT
Slash 77 Ranch/Dvorak	163 Steers	785	296.50	Lewistown, MT
Open Gate Ranch	165 Weaned Steers	765	294.50	Fairfield, MT
Martinsdale Colony	140 Steers	750	291.00	Billings, MT
Lozier Ranch	150 Steers	810	276.00	Riverton, WY
Richard, Alan	68 Steers	800	284.00	Belfield, ND
Richard, Alan	185 Steers	865	270.50	Belfield, ND
Troy John Corbett Trust	165 Steers	925	264.50	Jeffery City, WY
Catlin Ranch LP	210 Steers	875	264.50	WSS, MT
40 Bar Ranch	140 Steers	950	253.00	Wisdom, MT
Flying V Farms & Feeding	460 Open Heifers	875	246.50	Worland, WY
Flying V Farms & Feeding	65 Open Heifers	875	246.50	Worland, WY

SUMMERTIME CLASSIC

JULY 22, 23, 24

CONSIGNMENT DEADLINE FRI., JULY 5

Upcoming Summer Sale Schedule

EARLY FALL PREVIEW
August 19-20
FALL PREMIER
September 16

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driven her to advocate for and protect the rural landscape, local agriculture and food production, which are the lifeblood of the community.

"There are so many issues," she said, highlighting challenges such as water preservation, droughts, recovering from wildfires, the recent closing of an apple processing plant and the need for meat processing plants. However, amidst these ongoing challenges, one issue stands out as particularly urgent and demanding: Measure J.

Measure J

This measure was put on the Sonoma County November ballot by the Coalition to End Factory Farming, a parallel effort of the animal rights organization Direct Action Everywhere.

If the measure is adopted, the Sonoma County Code would be amended to phase out existing CAFOs and prohibit future CAFOs in all unincorporated areas of the county outside the coastal zone. Existing CAFOs will have three years to cease operations, with daily penalties imposed for violations, and the agricultural commissioner will be responsible for enforcing compliance.

The measure exempts non-profit animal shelters, sanctuaries, rescue organizations and temporary stables during natural disasters or emergencies. Additionally, the agricultural commissioner would develop best management practices, establish a job-retraining program for CAFO workers and present an annual compliance report to the board of supervisors.

Dayna is one of the people at the forefront of the opposition, arguing that the measure would impose severe economic burdens on farmers and disrupt the region's agricultural heritage.

"This measure that's being put in front of us is not just a direct threat to food production, but it is a direct threat to food consumption and taking away a person's right to choose what's on their plate or in their glass," Dayna said. "It's taking away phenomenal sources of quality proteins and quality nutrition, simply because they don't believe in it."

According to the Sonoma County Department of Agriculture, in 2022, the total value of agriculture was over \$796

million. While wine grapes accounted for the majority of that value, milk accounted for over \$67 million and cattle over \$20 million. The value of livestock and poultry products decreased 29% compared to 2021.

Dayna said that the proponents are claiming "only currently 21 farms" fit the definition of a CAFO in the ballot language, but all farms play a crucial role in the local economy and this measure will undoubtedly affect everyone. She cited a study completed by the University of California, Davis, for the board of supervisors that showed the direct economic impact, coupled with ancillary effects, could amount to approximately half a billion dollars. Dayna said the figure doesn't account for the additional costs associated with labor and other changes that would result from the measure's implementation.

The agricultural commissioner, charged with enforcing the new regulations, estimates an annual cost of at least \$1.6 million for salaries and benefits alone. Additionally, Human Services would be responsible for retraining displaced farm workers at an estimated cost of \$1.5 million per year, but even that is under the best circumstances, she said.

Dayna has been actively engaging with community members, policymakers and stakeholders to convey the potential consequences of Measure J.

"The emotions and anxiety among our farming community is so high," Dayna noted, underscoring the emotional and financial stakes of the campaign. Her efforts have included extensive grassroots mobilization and strategic communication to ensure that the voices of local farmers are heard. She and the farm bureau have also been educating the public about the measure's impact by raising awareness and participating in local events.

"We have to figure out a way to tell our story, to connect with people, to connect with consumers, to connect with voters—not just in election years, but all the time," Dayna said.

With Measure J posing a significant challenge, Dayna's fight is a testament to her lifelong dedication to agriculture and her unwavering commitment to the future of local farming. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**