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INSIDE WLJ

POTENTIAL GAS TAX HOLIDAY — President Joe Biden has proposed suspending the federal gas tax until October, but critics say it would do little to lower costs for farmers. Page 6

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

Exactly 24 years ago, the status of the beef industry was strikingly similar to today, as *WLJ* reported: "Hot, dry weather continues to deteriorate pasture conditions in many parts of the extreme southern U.S., and as a result, cow slaughter and sales of feeder calves have both been on the increase. Slaughter rates have been rising week to week over the past six weeks, although for the first three they remained below year-ago levels. That could mean that increases in cow liquidation could continue through the remainder of the summer, particularly if rains aren't seen in major cow/calf areas."

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NRCS Oregon

The Biden administration has officially rescinded the Trump-era regulatory definition of "habitat" specific to the designation of critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act. Pictured here, a sage grouse with a Hereford in the background.

Trump-era 'habitat' definition rescinded

— Allows more broad habitat consideration

The Biden administration has officially withdrawn the Trump administration's regulatory definition of "habitat" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The rule narrowed down the definition of what could be considered habitat for an endangered species.

By rescinding the definition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will be able to protect "critical habitat" even if it is no longer suitable for a species but could be restored in the future.

"Today's action will bring implementation of the Act back into alignment with its original purpose and intent and ensures that species recovery is guided by transparent science-based policies and conservation actions that preserve America's biological heritage for future generations," said Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Shannon Estenoz in a statement.

The definition withdrawal comes after President Joe Biden's Jan. 20, 2021, executive order, which directed federal agencies to review regulations and actions made during the Trump administration.

USFWS and NMFS found that a single definition of habitat could impede their ability to "fulfill their obligations to designate critical habitat based upon the best available science." The agencies said eliminating the rule will provide clarity and transparency for the public to better understand what constitutes habitat for certain species. The final rule also notes critical habitat requirements do not apply to actions on private land as long as they do not involve the authorization of funding by a federal agency.

"Where an action does implicate authorization or funding by a Federal agency, any resulting section 7 consultation under the Act on the designated critical habitat would then consider the effects of the particular proposed action (e.g., issuance of a land-use-related

See HABITAT on page 5

USFS changes excess, unauthorized grazing rules

— Consistent with BLM

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) has changed its rules to be consistent with those of the Bureau of Land Management regarding the provision to waive excess and unauthorized grazing fees when excess or unauthorized grazing is determined to be a result of unforeseen or uncontrollable circumstances.

"Livestock managers and ranchers work alongside the Forest Service and are valuable contributors to conserving open spaces and ensuring that forest and grassland resources are managed sustainably," said USFS Chief Randy Moore. "These changes provide the agency the needed flexibility to take into account the honest efforts of ranchers who do their best to uphold their responsibilities on grazing lands."

USFS issued the decision following a 2016 Government Accountability Office (GAO) report recommending the agency record all incidents of unauthorized grazing, including those resolved informally, as well as revise the excess and unauthorized grazing penalty structure to reflect the commercial value of forage.

The GAO report also recommended USFS revise the regulation to allow the option to resolve excess and unauthorized grazing use without charging fees in some instances or to follow the existing regulations by determining and assessing a grazing use penalty for all unauthorized and excess use.

"Providing Forest Service line officers the authority to waive excess and unauthorized

See GRAZING on page 7

Jared Patterson tapped as *WLJ* field representative

Western Livestock Journal LLC (*WLJ*) is excited to announce the hiring of Jared Patterson to its team of field representatives. Patterson brings a wealth of broad skills and experience in the industry that will help set *WLJ* up for another successful 100 years.

Patterson will serve as a field representative for the western region of California, Nevada, Utah, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Prior to *WLJ*, Patterson served as the American Angus Association's regional manager for the states of Hawaii, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. He also previously worked for the American Hereford Association as the Western region field representative, and he served as the Northwest regional manager for Allflex USA.

Patterson has a background in production agriculture, having grown up on a cow-calf Hereford operation in Declo, ID, and serving as the manager for Genoa Livestock.

"I look forward to working with such an innovative team that will elevate *WLJ* while maintaining its core values that the legacy was built on," Patterson said. "I am truly honored to be a part of *Western Livestock Journal* and look forward to working with all Western producers and agricultural businesses."

He added, "Current and future advertisers in the *Western Livestock Journal* are what allow this publication to be so prolific. I plan to work with advertisers on exploring every prospect and opportunity to advance their business, presence and brand equity."

Patterson is a graduate of Colorado State University (CSU), with a bachelor's degree in animal science. Before transferring to CSU, he was also a member of the livestock judging team at Casper College. He currently resides in Caldwell, ID, with his wife, Lauren, and son, Kellen.

Jared Patterson has been selected as WLJ's *field representative for the West region.*

See PATTERSON on page 12

Cash trade steady to $2-3 higher ahead of the holiday weekend

Cash trade was lighter over the week, with trade steady in Texas and Kansas and $2-3 higher in Nebraska and the western Corn Belt compared to a week earlier.

June's Cattle on Feed (COF) report showed cattle and calves on feed 1 percent higher than June 2021, at 11.8 million head. Placements in feedlots during May totaled 1.87 million head, 2 percent below 2021. Marketings of fed cattle during May were 2 percent above 2021, and disappearance totaled 76,000 head during May, 13 percent above 2021.

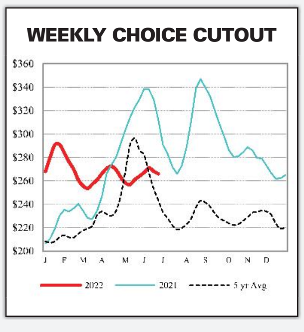
Live cattle rallied after the release of the COF report but struggled throughout the week. The June contract gained $2.75 to close the month at $138. The August contract lost $1.30 to close at $132.57, and the October contract was down $1.23 to $138.77.

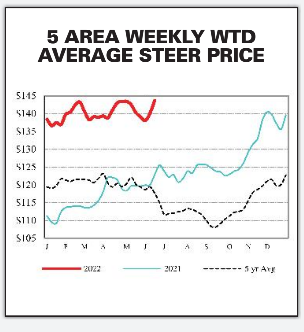
"As the board has become subject to more technical pressure, as June expires and August takes the center stage, traders haven't been willing to put much support in the market and it's taken the wind out of the cash cattle market's rally," ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, wrote in Wednesday's closing comments.

Cash trade through Thursday totaled about 64,000 head. Live cattle traded between $138-151, and dressed steers sold from $230-239 and averaged $233.94.

Cash trade through last week totaled 94,598 head. Live steers averaged $144.90,

See MARKETS on page 9





LIVE STEERS $145.85 | DRESSED STEERS $234.01 | CME FEEDER $166.44

WEEK ENDING: 6-30-22

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling

COMMENTS

Entering a new era for *WLJ*

IPSEN

Over the past 10 years, I've written this column quite a few times as the field representative serving the Western territory. However, this will be the first column I write as the new president of Western Livestock Journal LLC. I am excited for this opportunity, but I don't want this to be about myself—I want this to be about what we, as a team, are facing and what we plan to do about it. There are several key areas where *WLJ* will be making some changes, but I wanted to address our readers as we enter a transitional phase with the company. Pete Crow will continue to write this column as long as he would like to, but you'll see other names from the company here as well.

We have an excellent staff assembled who are all eager to grow and expand the *WLJ* reach. In just the few short weeks since we entered our official transition phase, our team has generated creative ideas and set up opportunities to build and grow the *WLJ* brand. Each person brings a fresh outlook, innovative thought process and a desire to build upon the foundation that has been developed over the last century. Since our acquisition with National Livestock, it has become apparent this was the right fit for everyone. They are fully invested in the beef industry and want to help us grow, evolve and expand.

First, we have an excellent editorial staff. To us, this is the most important asset we have. It is the information they develop and produce that arms our readership with the information they need to help better their livelihoods. We understand how important this is, and we aim to maintain that level of excellence and then plan to make it even better. We also realize we need to provide this information to our readers as quickly as possible. We will be exploring new ways to deliver this information by way of an app, updated website and push notifications on hand-held devices.

In our current time, there is a fast-paced news cycle with a plethora of information to cover. It is our mission to deliver that information in an unbiased, timely manner. It is understood by our staff that the information we need to deliver to our readership is crucial to their daily and long-term decision making. We don't take that lightly. With the technologies that are available today, we aim to explore the best options so readers can rely on us for the best and most accurate information.

I am thrilled with the sales staff we have, led by the industry legend Jim Gies. I'd also like to introduce Jared Patterson as the newest member of our team. Jared will serve as the field representative for the Western region. He brings a wealth of knowledge and a common-sense approach backed by critical thinking to the team, and we are thrilled to have him on board. He and his wife, Lauren, and son, Kellen, reside in Caldwell, ID.

I plan to continue to travel the country to attend sales and build the *WLJ* footprint. Along with the field staff we have in place, I will assist them at sales, cover for them at sales they cannot attend and help with key accounts. I will also focus on building our commercial and corporate advertising as the field staff continues to work with producers and various accounts.

With the talented editorial and field staff working together, they filter information to a production team that is efficient, professional and creative. We have also just added a graphic designer, Tristan Martin, to our team to assist with graphic design and production. We plan to undergo a rebranding so all our information is consistent, professional and easy to read. What we really want is for you to enjoy your experience with *WLJ* by having relevant editorial presented in a professional manner.

As we look into the future, we will be exploring several key ideas involving expanding more into a digital phase, but we plan to never forget the importance of print. Print is so valuable, and every study I see comparing the two shows the effectiveness of print. A combination of the two avenues shows an increased efficacy of 80 percent for advertisers in nearly every study I look at. *WLJ* has worked tirelessly through three generations to build a reputation that we will continue to respect, admire and build. The core principles of our company will continue to be our core principles. It is our readership, which is so loyal and vast, that drives our success each year. We are thankful for all of you that read *WLJ* and aim to give you the product you expect and then some.

Our world of information has changed and continues to change every day, and we plan to be a driving force in that realm. Our readership deserves the best information in the timeliest manner possible. We plan to provide excellent service to all those who rely on *WLJ*. As we launch new products, we will educate our readership with each medium. We also invite our readers to suggest areas they'd like to see *WLJ* improve. Please reach out to us with ideas you may have so we can better serve you, or get in touch with me at logan.ipsen@gmail.com. — **LOGAN IPSEN**

KAY'S KORNER

PRAY FOR RAIN AND ADS

Retail beef features have been one of the key drivers of beef sales in the grocery store. This consumer, like most of you, eagerly scans supermarket flyers after they arrive each Tuesday in my letter box. I don't always make a buying decision based on what's being featured, but I am always interested in the level of feature activity to try and forecast what sales might be.

That is especially relevant whenever the industry comes up to a major holiday like Memorial Day and now the Independence Day holiday. It was thus disturbing to see the paucity of feature activity leading up to Memorial Day and throughout June. That paucity was especially alarming given that wholesale boxed beef prices since the start of May have been well below year-earlier levels.

The weekly comprehensive cutout (cuts, grinds and trim) the week before last averaged $262.38/cwt. This was down 14.2 percent from the same week last year. The week before that, it was down 17.7 percent.

Yet retail beef features remain conspicuous for their lack of aggressive prices or their almost total absence from some flyers. As June began, the question on everyone's lips in the beef complex was whether June would see bigger retail and food service beef sales than May. But retailers featured beef less aggressively than hoped for over the Memorial Day holiday and week, and that trend continued throughout June.

May retail beef prices showed that retailers kept their prices high. USDA's All Fresh beef price averaged $7.37/pound, up 9.5 percent from May last year. Choice beef prices averaged $7.68/lb., up 10.3 percent. Analysts say retailers are continuing to maximize their beef margins and are comfortable with the volume they are selling. Even if they sell less beef, higher prices make them more money. Retailers also say consumers are being increasingly impacted by food inflation and are buying more pork and chicken.

Even ground beef features are not what they used to be. Sure, it has been many years since you could buy $1.99/lb. ground beef in any form. The features I now see are usually at least $4/lb. and are even higher for gourmet beef patties. The number of retail ground beef features in May was down 2 percent from last year and was 13 percent below the five-year average for May. Feature prices for ground beef were record high at 13 percent above last year and 21 percent above the five-year average.

In northern California where I live, Safeway three weeks ago had only one beef feature in its flyer, a Choice boneless beef chuck steak or roast at $3.49/lb., its member price. Packers are now trying to convince retailers they should promote chuck and round steaks more as being a better value for their customers. Another move over the past few weeks is that packers are having to offer large discounts on middle meat items to secure forward orders. Seafood two weeks ago claimed almost 33 percent of total retail protein features, while beef followed with 30.2 percent, according to Urner Barry.

I scanned the flyers again last Tuesday and was relieved to see that beef features were more prominent than in June. Most chains had tri-tips around $4/lb., reflecting the cut's popularity on the West Coast. There were even some middle meat items that were reasonably priced, which went against the adage that the July Fourth holiday is primarily a hot dog, burger and chicken leg event. I certainly hope for the market's sake that consumers grilled a lot of beef over the holiday and that retailers feature it much more aggressively in July than they did in June.

My other great hope is that at least some of the areas impacted by drought start getting some much-needed rain. It is dry as a proverbial bone here in northern California, but we don't expect a drop of rain until September or October. Drought and pasture conditions have improved in the last month or two, but the situation is still very poor compared to last year and previous years—so said USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) in its latest monthly Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Outlook report. ERS noted that national hay stocks on May 1 were down 18 percent from the previous year.

Higher operating costs and continued poor pasture conditions are likely weighing heavily on cow-calf producers, said ERS. They are likely causing them to cull deeper into their herds to offset or reduce costs. Based on the pace of beef cow slaughter to date, ERS raised its anticipated slaughter of beef cows in the second and third quarters. That should leave fewer beef cows available for slaughter in the fourth quarter, it said. That also means less ground beef to feature. — **Steve Kay**

(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.*)

OBITUARY

Nellie Mae McPhee; 1933-2022

On June 25, 2022, Nellie Mae McPhee joined the love of her life, Roy McPhee, in heaven.

Nellie—known as "Granny" to friends and family alike—was a remarkable cattlewoman, devout Catholic and devoted wife, mother and grandmother.

Nellie was born Oct. 25, 1933, in Longmont, CO, to Pearl and Carl Osborne. Her family relocated to Antioch, CA, when she was about 12 years old.

In 1961, Nellie joined a bowling league while she was living in Pittsburg, CA, and working as a secretary at the U.S. Steel Company. It was at the bowling alley where she first met Roy, whose "marvelous" bowling skills and "ridiculous" cowlick interested her far more than her own bowling average. After playing hard to get, Nellie finally gave in to a lunch date with Roy. The two were married in 1962, and after that, they were rarely found apart.

Roy and Nellie later moved to Lodi, CA, and in 1971, they started a small herd of registered Red Angus cattle, which grew into McPhee Red Angus. That herd soon became the largest Red Angus herd west of the Rocky Mountains and was recognized in 2005 as "one of the most influential herds in the breed."

Nellie was active in her community and loved joining her friends and family in a game of Mexican Train dominoes—even though she didn't hold the winning title perhaps as often as she would have wished.

Her quick-witted tongue and sly sense of humor made her a friend to many, and she was always quick to let you know what she really thought about something.

Nellie was recognized in 1992 as the San Joaquin-Stanislaus CattleWoman of the Year, and then in 2018 as the San Joaquin-Stanislaus Cattleman of the Year.

Nellie was a member of the St. Joachim Catholic Church, Daughters of Isabella, Delta Omega, Lockeford-Clements Garden Club, Lodi Republican Women, California Cattlemen's Association, American Red Angus Association, California Beef Cattle Improvement Association and Beef Improvement Federation. She was also an active supporter of 4-H and FFA.

In her legacy, Nellie leaves behind four children, Michael (Pam) McPhee of Linden, Kurtis (Pamela) McPhee of Sonora, Mary (Robert) Miller of Linden and Rita McPhee of Lodi; many grandchildren, Michael (Shayni), Becky (Jose), Lukas, Anna, Royce, Rose, Karey (C.R.), Louie (Allison), Bradley (Jamie), Christina and Jennifer (TJ); 15 great-grandchildren and another on the way; and numerous nephews and nieces. Nellie is preceded in death by her husband, Roy; sister, Carol Rich; and brothers, Carl Osborne Jr. and Clifford Osborne.

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Yahoo causes stir in ag circles

Yahoo Education last week released an article "College Majors That Are Useless" which ranked Agriculture, Animal Science and Horticulture as the first, fourth and fifth most useless college majors, respectively.

The article sent waves of indignation through the ag communities which encountered the article. By the following day, there were several response editorials in agricultural publications, like Drovers, complete with long lists of reader comments. The Facebook group, "I Studied Agriculture & I Have a Job," sprung into being shortly after the Yahoo article was published and already has more than 4,200 followers.

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

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Supreme Court denies petitions on Roundup, Beef Checkoff cases

The Supreme Court on June 27 rejected a pair of agriculture-related petitions, including Bayer AG's last remaining cases filed with the court on Roundup and a challenge levied against the Beef Checkoff program by Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund, United Stockgrowers of America (R-CALF USA).

A week before the ruling, the Supreme Court denied Bayer AG's petition on Monsanto v. Hardeman. Then, the court rejected the company's petition on the product liability verdict in Pilliod v. Monsanto. In both cases, the cancer victims won multimillion-dollar jury awards.

"Bayer respectfully disagrees with the Supreme Court's decision, but the company is not surprised given the court's declination in Hardeman just one week ago," Bayer said in a statement to DTN.

"There are likely to be future cases, including Roundup cases, that present the U.S. Supreme Court with preemption questions like Pilliod and Hardeman and could also create a circuit split and potentially change the legal environment. The solicitor general's brief in Hardeman referenced the Carson case, which is currently before the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals and involves a favorable ruling by the trial court that the personal injury claims were preempted by federal law."

The new ruling comes after the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in California on June 17 rejected the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) analysis for determining that glyphosate is likely not carcinogenic and ordered EPA to reevaluate its conclusions.

Bayer told DTN it continues to stand "fully behind" its Roundup products. "The company is confident that the extensive body of science and consistently favorable views of leading regulatory bodies worldwide, including most recently by the European Chemicals Agency's Committee for Risk Assessment, provide a strong foundation on which it can successfully defend Roundup in court when necessary. The company will only consider resolving outstanding current cases and claims if it is strategically advantageous to do so."

Beef Checkoff

Also on June 27, the Supreme Court denied R-CALF USA's December 2021 petition that challenged the implementation of the federal Beef Checkoff program.

The group had asked the court to consider whether otherwise "unconstitutional-compelled subsidies of private speech" are considered "government speech" free from First Amendment review.

On May 2, 2016, R-CALF USA sued USDA, alleging the federal Beef Checkoff program amounts to a "government-compelled subsidy of private speech of a private entity" and arguing it was unconstitutional. A preliminary injunction was granted by the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana.

USDA then entered into memoranda of understanding with 20 state beef councils in Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia and Wisconsin.

R-CALF USA has argued in court that in entering the agreements, "USDA denied R-CALF USA's members—and ranchers everywhere—their right to weigh in on a federal program they are forced to fund."

In a statement in response to the ruling, R-CALF USA CEO Bill Bullard said, "Our objective in this case was to bring an end to the corrupt manner in which the Beef Checkoff program was being operated. Specifically, we set out to stop the U.S. Department of Agriculture from unconstitutionally compelling U.S. cattle producers to fund the private speech of private state beef councils.

"We largely succeeded in that effort early in our case. In response to our lawsuit, the USDA took steps to assume necessary control over the speech of the state beef councils identified in our case to limit their ability to express private messages with the money that cattle producers are mandated to pay into the program." — **Todd Neeley, DTN staff reporter**

The 2022 Texas hay season looks bleak

The 2022 Texas hay production outlook appears unfavorable due to high fertilizer prices and widespread drought, said Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

Joe Paschal, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension livestock specialist, and Vanessa Corriher-Olson, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension forage specialist, said dry weather, high temperatures and reduced inputs like fertilizer have inhibited warm-season grass production across much of Texas. Hay quantity and quality are down, while the cost to produce bales is up, and weather forecasts do not look favorable.

Pockets of the state have received decent moisture, they said, but high fertilizer prices have discouraged hay producers from making applications. As a result, baled hay was expected to be of lower quality.

Paschal said prices for supplemental feed like range cubes and hay have continued to increase. Range cubes reached $400 per ton, while round bales were starting to fetch $75-80. For weeks, AgriLife Extension agents have reported bales over $80 in extremely dry areas of the state.

Some cattle producers around the state have been culling their herds deeper to reduce stocking rates and "mouths to feed," Paschal said. But many more face declining grazing opportunities, tightening hay supplies and below-average bale production this season.

"People are baling, but it looks like this hay season could be one cutting, maybe two," he said. "There is hay being fed now, so the hay situation could be tough."

Avoid overstocking

Most of east Texas is experiencing abnormally dry to moderate drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor map of Texas produced by the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) at the University of Nebraska. Areas in south-central Texas were showing mostly severe and exceptional drought conditions, which translates into major to exceptional crop and pasture loss and widespread water shortages and restrictions.

Grasses and crop growth are stunted under abnormally dry conditions, and damages begin to show as moderate drought sets in, according to NDMC. Extremely high temperatures are exacerbating the moisture deficit for plants, including pasture grasses.

Corriher-Olson said weather outlooks suggest Texas will slip further into drought. Weather systems during hurricane season could change that, but producers who are counting on grazing should be implementing contingency plans if they have not already.

"I really don't have a feel for how many producers are adjusting their grazing management as a result of drought and high fertilizer prices," she said. "It gets harder to avoid overstocking when forage production is limited. But it puts a lot of producers in a really tight spot when they don't have the hay or grazing to try and maintain their herd."

Plan for tight supplies

Both Corriher-Olson and Paschal expect hay supplies to be tight and low quality going into winter if conditions do not reverse soon.

Drought and fertilization: Each of those factors alone can put a dent in hay production, Corriher-Olson said, but both at the same time can be disastrous for both quality and yield. High temperatures also increase Bermuda grass's fiber content, making it less digestible for cattle.

Fertilizer prices have softened some, Corriher-Olson said, and producers could potentially fertilize ahead of a promising storm system that might provide moisture for a cutting. But cuttings are best at the beginning and end of the season when temperatures begin to decline.

One east Texas producer she talked to is forgoing fertilization this summer to invest input costs into cool-season forage production, she said.

Corriher-Olson said producers should be making decisions regarding stockpiled forages and hay supplies with an expectation of very high bale prices, especially for quality hay, just to cover the cost of fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide applications and diesel.

Paschal said producers should be planning for ways to stretch available nutrition—whether that is finding alternative feed like cotton seed, purchasing failed corn crops or using supplemental feeds with a limiter to reduce the number of trips to feed.

Hay production conditions are better in states east of Texas, he said, and bales are likely to be moved into Texas, or cattle are expected to be moved to better pastures. He suggests cattle producers test bales for their nutritional value, whether purchased or produced. Tests can provide information that will better guide cattle supplementation, improving the digestibility and nutritional value of that hay.

Producers can reach out to AgriLife Extension agriculture agents in their county for assistance with hay testing, Paschal said.

"It's going to be tough," he said. "There is a lot of hay cows will eat when there is nothing else, but it doesn't mean it is good. There are ways to stretch a cow's nutritional needs, but the bottom line is getting the right amount of protein and energy in her." — **Texas A&M AgriLife Extension**

Tips on keeping cattle feeding areas clean

Recent rains and rising temperatures have led to a need for cattle producers to clean feeding areas, says Kansas State (K-State) University livestock specialist Joel DeRouchey.

Among the chores, DeRouchey suggests:

- Pull manure out of areas where it has accumulated.
- Make sure drainage areas are clear.
- Remove manure from the pens, and consider using it as a fertilizer source.
- Repack and rebuild mounds, if utilized.

DeRouchey said cleaning pens after the winter and spring months is important even during the busy summertime, especially if the area is used for continuous feeding.

"Once we get some dryness in the pens, we want to pull the extra manure and get drainage back to where it needs to go to help dry those pens out faster," DeRouchey said. "All of a sudden, the pens are super muddy, and we want to get in and clean. One of the problems with that is we often take a lot of soil."

Trying to clean before the pens are dry can lead to pulling soil that will eventually have to be replaced by more soil. DeRouchey said producers can reduce labor and expenses by waiting until the pens are dry.

"It's very important to get that manure removed, especially in those operations that are feeding cattle, because of fly production," DeRouchey said.

Flies like moist areas and organic matter—and manure and rain provide a great environment for larvae to grow. If pens are not cleaned in a timely manner, the production of flies will increase and have a negative effect on the cattle.

"The same principle applies in areas where we have additional manure and feed that was wasted or simply not consumed by the animals," DeRouchey said. "Those areas will provide perfect breeding grounds for fly production, and anything we can do to scrape and mound it has a significant impact in producing less flies." — **K-State Research and Extension**

Habitat rule revision is the 1st of 5 planned

HABITAT
(from page 1)

permit) to ensure the critical habitat is not likely to be destroyed or adversely modified by the action," the rule read.

The rule continued, even if there is a finding that an action was likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat, it would not result in an unlawful taking because the finding would not require an agency or landowner to restore the critical habitat or species, but rather to implement alternatives to avoid destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat.

"In other words, the requirement for Federal agencies to ensure their actions are not likely to result in destruction or adverse modification of critical habitat is a prohibitory standard only; it does not mandate affirmative restoration of habitat."

USFWS and NMFS said the final rule will improve and strengthen implementation of the ESA because the Trump administration's definition was "unclear, confusing, and inconsistent with the conservation purposes of the ESA." They said the definition prevented the agencies from designating areas as critical habitat even if the area could support species in the future due to natural processes or reasonable restoration.

"Because most species face extinction because of habitat degradation and loss, it is more consistent with the purposes of the ESA to enable the Services to designate critical habitat in a manner that protects listed species' habitats and supports their recovery," the agencies said.

Environmental groups celebrated the ruling. "We're relieved that the Biden administration has taken this important step toward restoring habitat protections slashed by Trump officials," said Stephanie Kurose, a senior policy specialist at the Center for Biological Diversity.

However, the group noted it was disappointed the administration hasn't "moved more quickly" to restore the power of the ESA and reform USFWS and other regulatory agencies.

"With the extinction crisis accelerating, we have to take bold, transformative action before it's too late."

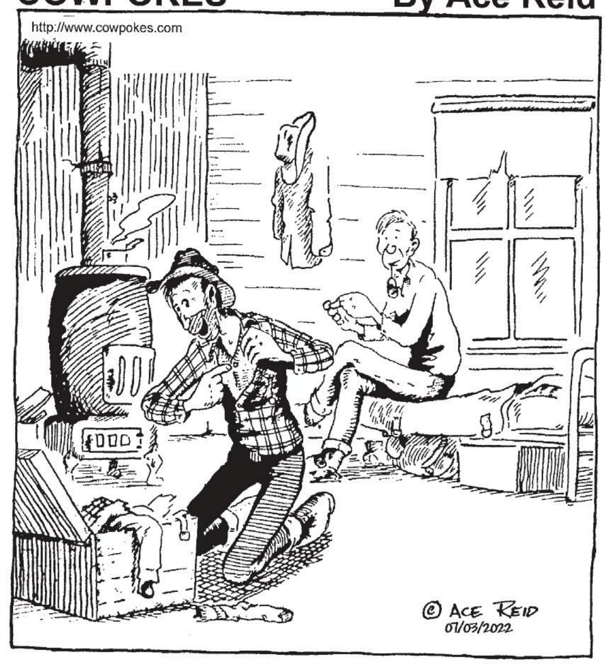
Background

In December 2020, shortly before the end of then-President Donald Trump's term, USFWS and NMFS revised their definition of habitat, concluding that an area's qualification as habitat for a species should be considered on a case-by-case basis "using the best available science." USFWS also issued a final rule that revised the process for considering critical habitat exclusions.

Industry groups applauded the revisions. "By clarifying the definition of habitat, species conservation will improve, and we will avoid long, drawn-out, speculative analyses that delay important conservation work for imperiled species," said National Cattlemen's Beef Association Executive Director of Natural Resources and Public Lands Council Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover at the time.

The Biden administration announced in October 2021 it would reverse the Trump administration's definition. The final rule comes after a rule-making process that included a public comment period. Prior to the October announcement, the administration announced it would rescind or revise five regulations made under the Trump administration relating to the ESA. This ruling marks the first of the five revisions. — **Anna Miller, *WLJ* managing editor**

COWPOKES® By Ace Reid



"No wonder summer seemed a little hot. I forgot to take off my longhandles last spring!"

Sale Report

BALDRIDGE PERFORMANCE ANGUS FEMALE SALE
June 25, North Platte, NE

126 Total registered females $11,039
4 Bred cows 58,625
8 Open cows 16,812
7 Pregnancies 16,785
48 Spring pairs 9,567
25 Bred heifers 9,260
41 Open heifers 8,078
Auctioneers: Al Conover & Wes Tiemann
Sale Manager: Cotton & Associates

TOPS—Open heifers: Baldridge Blackcap K085, 1/13/22 by DB Iconic G95; to Audley Farm, Berryville, VA, $36,000. Baldridge Isabel K062, 1/10/22 by HCC Whitewater 9010; to Galaxy Beef, Graham, MO, $35,000. Baldridge Isabel K377, 5/13/22 by HCC Whitewater 9010; to C-Bar Ranch, Brownell, KS, $28,000. Baldridge Erica of NP K018, 1/5/22 by G A R Impressive; to Lylester Ranch LLC, Martell, NE, $25,000. Baldridge Isabel K255, 4/27/22 by G A R Home Town; to Spruce Mountain Ranch, Larkspur, CO, $20,000. Baldridge Elbanna K061, 1/10/22 by Baldridge Versatile; to Clayton Mudge, Lasalle, IL, $20,000. **Bred heifers:** Baldridge Isabel J994, 2/5/21 by Mill Brae Identified 4031, bred to Cherry Creek Skyline G313 to calve 1/21/23; to Kenny Angus, Schaller, IA, $24,000. Baldridge Isabel J032, 1/9/21 by Mill Brae Identified 4031, bred to Baldridge Versatile to calve 2/5/23; to Dixie Farm Angus, Gloster, LA, $21,000. **Open cows:** Spring Cove Liza 021, 2/1/10 by C C A Emblazon 702; to Badlands Angus, Arnegard, ND, $31,000, 1/2 interest. Baldridge Isabel F415, 5/10/18 by Hoover No Doubt; to C-Bar Ranch, Brownell, KS, $29,000. Baldridge Isabel G347, 4/26/19 by Spring Cove Reno 4021; to Macholan Angus, Linwood, NE, $26,000. **Bred cow:** Baldridge Isabel F047, 1/8/18 by Connealy Confidence Plus, bred to GAR Home Town to calve 8/24/22; to GMC Angus, Fraziers Bottom, WV, $195,000, 1/2 interest. **Spring pairs:** Baldridge Ever Entense F467, 5/14/18 by Connealy Confidence Plus with a 5/1/22 calf by DB Iconic G95 at side; to Dixie Valley Ranch, Petaluma, CA, $85,000. Baldridge Isabel G795, 2/2/19 by Connealy Confidence Plus with a 1/1/22 calf by Baldridge Versatile at side; to Moon Creek Land and Cattle, Rock Rapids, IA, $40,000. Baldridge Isabel H766, 2/5/20 by Spring Cove Reno 4021; to Riverbend Ranch, Idaho Falls, ID, $37,500. Baldridge Isabel H757, 1/25/20 by Mill Brae Identified 4031; to Pollard Farms, Waukomis, OK, $30,000. **Pregnancy:** Heifer pregnancy due 2/5/23 by Hart Showcase out of Baldridge Isabel G724; to Rhoades Ranch, Cambria, CA, $25,000. — **JIM GIES**

How much would a gas and diesel tax suspension save farmers?

— About $85

President Joe Biden wants Congress to suspend federal gasoline and diesel taxes for 90 days and asked for states to do the same.

A potential pause on the collection of the 18.4-cents-per-gallon federal gasoline tax and the 24.4-cents-per-gallon federal diesel tax is aimed at reducing prices for consumers during the peak summer driving season, with the suspension running through the end of September.

The move could save farmers money as they empty grain bins ahead of harvest, but experts say it does little to address the supply shortfalls behind soaring prices and would have only a minor impact on prices at the pump.

According to AAA, the national average price of a gallon of gasoline was $4.96 on June 22, while a gallon of diesel cost $5.81, both just below the record prices of a week earlier. Federal gas and diesel taxes go to the Highway Trust Fund, which is used to maintain roadways and public transportation. Biden's proposal would continue to fund the Highway Trust Fund with other revenues.

With both Democrats and Republicans expressing reservations about the plan, its passage is uncertain.

Mike Steenhoek, executive director of the Soybean Transportation Coalition, said another major headwind to Biden's plan is whether states will get on board. While some have already passed fuel tax holidays of their own, other states don't have full-time legislatures and may not be able to pass necessary legislation before the year is out.

Steenhoek used data from the American Petroleum Institute, Department of Transportation and Environmental Protection Agency to generate examples of how much money a suspension of federal and state fuel taxes would save an average motorist and a hypothetical farmer on his trucking fuel needs.

He calculated that a suspension of federal gasoline taxes would save the average motorist 28 cents per day, or about $25 over the life of the suspension. When an average value for state gasoline taxes is included, that estimate rises to 88 cents per day, or almost $80.

Farmers' savings would be more pronounced than the average motorist.

"Farmers make a lot more round trips transporting grain or soybeans to and from the delivery location," he told DTN in a phone call. While it's hard to determine the typical usage for a farmer because of wide variations between operations, he estimates a farmer could save 95 cents per day on diesel costs, or about $85, if only federal taxes are paused. If state taxes are included, the savings would be about $2.51 per day, or about $226 in total.

DTN Lead Analyst Todd Hultman said suspending the fuel tax would have mixed results. "For most Midwestern row crop farmers whose use of highway diesel picks up after the fall harvest, the suspended tax will likely have expired by the time they start hauling grain out of the fields," Hultman said.

If Biden's proposal goes into effect for July, August and September, Steenhoek said he thinks there will be pressure to extend the holiday. "I have a hard time believing that any elected official wants to see the fuel tax snap back on the eve of an election."

While many consumers will appreciate the small break in prices, "The suspension is also likely to encourage more demand than would otherwise be the case, nullifying part of the intended financial benefit to consumers and adding to the overall problem of demand exceeding available supplies."

Gregory Ibendahl, a Kansas State University Extension agricultural economist, said in a webinar that a gas tax holiday does nothing to address the root of the issue, which is lagging refining capacity. The U.S. has not built a new refinery since 1977, and some refineries went offline during COVID-19 and never restarted again.

Until more refineries are built or existing ones are upgraded, Ibendahl is not very optimistic lower fuel prices will be seen anytime soon. "Things like a gas holiday or even tapping into strategic reserves are going to do very little to lower the price of fuel," Ibendahl said. — **Katie Micik Dehlinger, DTN farm business editor**

Cattle dropping like flies from prussic acid toxicity

As the year progresses, many producers look to move cattle to alternative pastures. Unfortunately, certain weather conditions, including drought or frost, can set up some plants in the sorghum family, including Johnson grass, to become toxic. Even after limited grazing, deaths may be seen due to the ingestion of prussic acid, also known as hydrocyanic acid or cyanide. A classic call to the veterinarian is, "My cattle are dropping like flies."

Prussic acid toxin is created when the harmless hydrocyanic glycosides in plants are stressed and break down. Once the hydrocyanic glycosides in the plants are damaged through actions like cattle chewing or a swather and crimper, they quickly convert to prussic acid. Following ingestion, the prussic acid is released in the rumen and rapidly absorbed into the bloodstream. Once in the circulatory system, the toxin prevents cells from taking up oxygen. The blood, therefore, becomes saturated with oxygen, leading to blood that appears bright cherry red. The clinical signs most often seen include excitement, muscle tremors, increased respiration rate, excess salivation, staggering, convulsions and collapse. Asphyxiation at the cellular level is the cause of death due to the deprivation of oxygen.

When producers encounter animals displaying clinical signs of prussic acid toxicity, they should immediately remove all of the animals that appear normal to a new pasture and contact their veterinarian. The veterinarian will treat the sick animals with two drugs (sodium nitrite and sodium thiosulfate) that can reverse the toxicity. Treatment must be initiated quickly, so it can prove difficult due to the rapid progression of the toxin.

The drugs used to treat prussic acid toxicity can be difficult to obtain. It is advisable to contact your veterinarian before grazing potential toxic plants to make sure that your veterinarian will have availability to respond and the necessary drugs on hand to treat the cattle if a problem arises.

Cattlemen may want to take the following steps to prevent prussic acid toxicity:

- Never turn hungry cattle out on a new pasture.
- Take soil samples and fertilize accordingly.
- Graze mature plants with 18 to 24 inches of height.
- Wait until plants are cured before grazing after frost (usually at least seven days).
- Rotate pastures to keep cattle from consuming lush regrowth.
- Place one or two cows in a pasture and observe them for problems before turning out all the cattle.
- Test plants for the presence of prussic acid. Care should be taken though, as false negatives can be seen if the test is not performed correctly.

Two types of tests exist for determining prussic acid levels. The first is quantitative and involves submissions to a diagnostic lab, such as the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory. The second is a qualitative test that detects hydrocyanic acids and cyanide in fresh plant material. Most county agriculture Extension educators have access to test supplies.

Producers should be cautious because there are multiple toxins that can cause cattle deaths. It is recommended that appropriate veterinary diagnostics and testing be done to determine the ultimate cause of death. A fact sheet that contains information about prussic acid is available at okstate.edu by searching for "prussic acid poisoning." — **Rosslyn Biggs, DVM, beef cattle Extension veterinarian; and Barry Whitworth, DVM, Extension food animal health specialist**

Prevent cattle from foraging on tree leaves to avoid health risks

There are times when cattle opt to munch on the low branches of trees, but in a recent "Cattle Chat" podcast, the experts at Kansas State (K-State) University's Beef Cattle Institute said that foraging on tree leaves can pose potential health risks.

"There are times when cattle will eat leaves from low-hanging tree branches or from downed limbs following a storm," said Phillip Lancaster, beef cattle nutritionist. "While some leaves do provide good protein content, the digestibility is low."

Lancaster said weather changes will impact the amount of tannic acid in the leaves. This acid causes the proteins in the rumen to bind more readily and has a negative impact on digestibility.

Veterinarian Bob Larson also cautioned producers that the leaves from certain trees can be toxic to cattle.

"Some of the tree varieties of concern are oak and cherry. With oak, both the acorns and the leaves are toxic. Additionally, pine needles from ponderosa pines can cause abortions in cows when they are consumed," Larson said.

Along with the potential toxins, veterinarian Brian Lubbers said impaction, or things getting caught up in the digestive tract (such as tree leaves, sticks and more), can have negative consequences for cattle.

"It is not uncommon to see cattle choke on an Osage orange hedge ball or have acorns or sticks become impacted in their digestive tract," Lubbers said.

The experts said that while cattle can be curious and want to try to eat something new, oftentimes they experiment only when they are hungry.

"Cattle are preferential grazers and will most often eat the grass first," said veterinarian Brad White. "It becomes a concern when we graze cattle in a heavily forested area where there is little grass on the ground."

White noted: "While tree leaves may offer some nutritional value, producers need to be cautious of the toxic concerns and consider a rotational grazing plan so that there is plenty of grass available." — **K-State Research and Extension**

Cost of July 4th cookout 17 percent higher compared to 2021

U.S. consumers paid $69.68 for their favorite Independence Day cookout foods, including cheeseburgers, pork chops, chicken breasts, homemade potato salad, strawberries and ice cream, based on a new American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) market basket survey.

The average cost of a summer cookout for 10 people is $69.68, which breaks down to less than $7 per person. The overall cost for the cookout was up 17 percent or about $10 from last year, a result of ongoing supply chain disruptions, inflation and the war in Ukraine.

Farmers are feeling the price pain too, like the people they grow food for, according to AFBF Chief Economist Roger Cryan.

"Despite higher food prices, the supply chain disruptions and inflation have made farm supplies more expensive; like consumers, farmers are price-takers, not price-makers," Cryan said. "Bottom line, in many cases, the higher prices farmers are being paid aren't covering the increase in their farm expenses. The cost of fuel is up, and fertilizer prices have tripled."

Cryan also pointed to the cascading effects of the war in Ukraine. The country's contributions to global food security are cut off, Russian and Belarusian fertilizer exports are constrained and some other countries pull back exports to protect their domestic supplies.

The market basket survey shows the largest year-to-year price increase was for ground beef.

Survey results showed the retail price for 2 pounds of ground beef at $11.12, up 36 percent from last year. Meanwhile, the USDA's Producer Price Index indicates that compared to a

year ago, farm-level cattle prices are up 17.5 percent, but wholesale beef prices are down 14 percent. This serves to highlight the differences between farm-level, wholesale and retail beef prices and how the events of the last few years have had significant impacts on the beef production and cattle pricing cycles, making them all hard to predict.

Several other foods in the survey, including chicken breasts, pork chops, homemade potato salad, fresh-squeezed lemonade, pork and beans, hamburger buns and cookies, also increased in price.

One bright spot for consumers is the average retail price for strawberries, which declined by 86 cents compared to a year ago. Sliced cheese and potato chips also dropped in price, 48 cents and 22 cents, respectively. Better weather conditions in some fruit-growing regions and greater retailer pricing flexibility for processed products are the likely drivers behind the modest price declines for these items.

The year-to-year direction of the market basket survey tracks with the federal government's Consumer Price Index report for food at home and general inflation across the economy. Both the index and the market basket show increases of more than 10 percent compared to year-ago levels.

"According to the Agriculture Department's revised Food Dollar Series, farmers currently receive approximately 8 percent of every food marketing dollar," Cryan said. "The farmers' share of the retail food dollar is as low as 2 percent to 4 percent for highly processed foods such as bread and cereal and can be 35 percent or more for some fresh products."

Commenting on big-picture concerns related to food security, AFBF President Zippy Duvall said, "The increased cost of food and supplies is a very real concern in our country and across the globe. U.S. food assistance programs and food banks help those who struggle to make ends meet here at home, but the story is much different around the globe as food insecurity skyrockets. The big impact of a single event in Ukraine shows how dependent the world is on stable, productive agriculture."

The July Fourth cookout survey is part of the AFBF market basket series, which also includes the popular annual Thanksgiving Dinner Cost Survey of common food staples Americans use to prepare meals at home.

Data for this year's survey was collected by 176 volunteer shoppers across the country and in Puerto Rico, including Farm Bureau members and others. **— AFBF**

Excess, unauthorized grazing rules take effect Aug. 8

GRAZING
(from page 1)

use fees, when certain conditions are met, provides the needed flexibility to resolve incidents using a common-sense approach that minimizes conflict," USFS said in an email to the Associated Press (AP). "The economic activity generated from ranching is the lifeblood of many rural communities."

The final rule allows USFS to waive the fees under the following criteria:

- The excess or unauthorized use was due to unforeseen or uncontrollable circumstances on behalf of the permittee or nonpermittee, and the livestock were removed within the time frame required by the authorized officer.
- The forage consumed by the excess or unauthorized use is not significant.
- USFS lands have not been damaged significantly by excess or unauthorized use.

Kaitlynn Glover, executive director of the Public Lands Council and National Cattlemen's Beef Association Natural Resources, told AP the new rule provides clarity for situations such as cattle that may have been left behind on an allotment, cattle wandering into an area where the rancher does not have a permit due to an open gate, or having a fence knocked over.

"All the new rule does is allow for human or Mother Nature error," Glover said. "To say that it gives anyone a free pass, or to intimate that it does, is not an honest assessment."

Erik Molvar, the executive director for Western Watersheds Project, told AP the new rule creates loopholes to allow unauthorized grazing to continue, and "It illustrates the fact that this is an agency that does very little to manage livestock on public lands."

Molvar stated unauthorized grazing "is still chronically happening all over the West."

The Office of Management and Budget conducted a cost-benefit analysis of the regulatory action and its alternatives to determine the anticipated number of excess or unauthorized use cases eligible for fee waivers under the final rule. The agency used data from 2017-20 on the number of livestock, the duration the livestock were on USFS lands and the total amount of head months associated with the excess or unauthorized use cases.

According to the notice published in the Federal Register, authorized grazing in 2020 for USFS' four western regions accounted for 88 percent of total authorized use on National Forest System lands. These regions encompass the states of Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah and Wyoming.

The agency believes "though benefits have not been monetized, the rule will have positive net benefits due to the improved relationships and more timely resolution of excess and unauthorized use to minimize resource damage," as stated in the Federal Register.

The new rule takes effect on Aug. 8. **— Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

Testing forage mineral concentration to supplement grazing cattle

Grazing cattle generally benefit from a vitamin and mineral supplementation program. Achieving a balance between animal requirements and vitamin or mineral supply can be a challenge because both components are dynamic. That is to say that forage minerals and vitamin precursor concentrations change throughout the seasons, and animal requirements change with stage of production or growth rate.

Furthermore, day-to-day and animal-to-animal mineral consumption is quite variable. For example, in one study, average consumption of a salt-mineral mix for individual grazing steers ranged from 1.7-10.5 ounces per day. While precise balance is just about impossible to achieve, over time, the supplement formulation combined with average consumption should deliver an adequate supply of vitamins and/or minerals lacking in the forage, deliver a targeted amount of additional additives, and avoid creation of imbalances or toxicities.

A mineral balance exercise involves developing a simple, consistent record-keeping system to track forage mineral composition and your cow herd's average or "normal" mineral consumption patterns during the same time of year. With this information, you can use a nutrition evaluation program to project deficiencies and/or excesses.

You will need an idea of forage mineral concentration, an estimate of forage intake, a current estimate of average daily mineral supplement consumption and the mineral product's composition from the label. Most beef cattle nutrition evaluation programs provide an estimate of forage intake and an estimate of daily mineral requirements based on an animal's weight and stage of production.

Several commercial nutrition companies provide services to conduct these balance exercises and follow up by recommending or manufacturing mineral formulations customized to your operation's needs.

In recent years, commercial livestock nutrition laboratories have incorporated mineral composition analytical services. For example, the lab at Oklahoma State University (OSU) charges $12 per sample to get macro- and micro-minerals. Depending on your level of concern or interest, you might get started by conducting a winter feeding and summer grazing balance. A more ambitious approach might be to collect "hand-plucked" samples from one or more pastures each month. The idea of the hand-plucking method is to select only plants and parts of plants that you believe represent what your cattle are currently grazing. **— David Lalman, OSU Extension beef cattle specialist**

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.

MARKET NEWS

MARKET SITUATION REPORT

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

MARKET AT A GLANCE

	This Week: 6/30/2022		Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	145.85	▲	140.62	123.79
CME Feeder Index	166.44	▲	165.23	146.31
Boxed Beef Average	264.00	▼	264.66	287.65
Average Dressed Steers	234.01	▼	237.69	198.14
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,344	▼	1,346	1,347
Weekly Slaughter**	666,000	▼	667,000	661,000
Weekly Beef Production***	539.1	▼	541.3	537.1
Hide/Offal Value	13.95	▲	13.79	12.72
Corn Price	7.44	▼	7.47	7.20

*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 27	7,083	262.38	218	302.61	1,269	269.76	2,323	261.36	818	243.64	2,455	236.99
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

Cutouts — FED BOXED BEEF

DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT	50% LEAN	90% LEAN
Jun 30	264.00	240.57	219.50	110.69	276.14
Jun 29	264.88	240.81	221.29	110.86	279.57
Jun 28	267.14	243.31	220.88	113.12	278.96
Jun 27	268.68	245.24	220.90	113.40	277.39
Jun 24	264.98	245.02	222.31	114.52	277.99

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle

	6/24	6/27	6/28	6/29	6/30	High*	Low*
Jun.	13535	13625	13630	13680	13800	14783	10920
Aug.	13338	13348	13273	13218	13258	14385	12525
Oct.	13975	14013	13940	13890	13878	14453	13055
Dec.	14525	14580	14525	14463	14488	15083	14003

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle

	6/24	6/27	6/28	6/29	6/30	High*	Low*
Aug.	17250	17413	17183	17073	17360	17603	15328
Sep.	17508	17680	17495	17378	17623	17738	15425
Oct.	17708	17893	17750	17640	17868	17898	16373
Nov.	17848	18045	17923	17835	18070	18665	16958

*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	19,579	1,442	145.85
Live FOB Heifer	10,727	1,288	143.55
Dressed Del Steer	7,885	921	234.01
Dressed Del Heifer	2,119	813	233.98
SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
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 YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	25,145	1,450	123.79
Live FOB Heifer	11,388	1,292	123.64
Dressed Del Steer	9,815	926	198.14
Dressed Del Heifer	2,196	823	197.98

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: JUNE 26

	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	30,229	4,551
Formula	270,304	499
Negotiated Cash	109,252	78
Negotiated Grid	47,201	0
Packer Owned	9,720	0
Total	**466,706**	**5,128**

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS / FORWARD BEEF SALES

Delivery Month		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Jun. '22	162,178	Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,796
Jul. '22	130,973	Neg. Sales 21+ days	1,493
Aug. '22	105,402	Formula sales	3,506
Sep. '22	154,904	Forward contract sales	288
Oct. '22	130,266	Domestic sales	5,996
		NAFTA Exports	91

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	135.11	-2.12
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A
Ontario Auctions		
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs	147.88	-3.62
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs	N/A	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs	90.77	+4.79

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Friday, June 17, 2022

Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	181.34	N/A	176.04
601-700 lbs	175.77	N/A	164.15
701-800 lbs	167.15	N/A	149.73
801-900 lbs	153.22	N/A	148.84
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	N/A	N/A	159.38
501-600 lbs	153.56	N/A	152.23
601-700 lbs	149.94	146.51	147.75
701-800 lbs	142.20	143.68	135.82

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
	6/25/22	6/18/22		
Feeders	12,448	15,153	427,177	598,796

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE

Friday, June 24, 2022
Mexico to TX. & NM. Weekly Feeder Cattle Import Summary
Receipts EST: 10,000 Week Ago Act: 12,656 Year Ago Act:13,150

Compared to last week, steer calves and yearlings sold mostly steady. Heifers 1.00-2.00 higher. Trade active, demand good. The bulk of the supply consisted of steers and spayed heifers weighing 300-700 lbs.

Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 188.00-198.00; 400-500 lbs 174.00-184.00; 500-600 lbs 159.00-169.00; 600-700 lbs 144.00-155. Medium and large 2&3, 300-400 lbs 173.00-183.00; 400-500 lbs 159.00-169.00; 500-600 lbs 144.00-154.00.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2, 300-400 lbs 160.00-171.00, few 172.00; 400-500 lbs 150.00-161.00, few 162.00; 500-600 lbs 140.00-151.00, few 152.00; 600-700 lbs

(All sales fob port of entry.)

Selected Auction Week Ending June 30, 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	Head	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 24 Blackfoot, ID	N/A				165-195 155-176	150-189 145-170	140-172 135-156	125-147	84-102 95-119	
June 23 Burley, ID	404		210-216	202	164	150-156.50	151	99-137	73-99 112-121.50	
No report available Emmett, ID										
June 25 Eugene, OR	986		144-152*			135-144* 120-134*	130-149* 110-129*	149-157.50*	85-105.50 100-123	790-1,000
June 27 Madras, OR	N/A			185-210 175-190	200-216 167-183	167-187 152-173	164-171 140-151	145-161 115-140	75-97.50 90-110	
No report available Vale, OR										
June 29 Davenport, WA	163	145	101-121	75-121	58-131	145 102-140	132-139 87-132	95-141 81-132.50	30-100 87-121	1,100
June 23 Toppenish, WA	1,090			202.50* 185*	161-185*	169-170*			86-107.50 109-119	
FARWEST										
June 23 Orland, CA	3,533			160-207	140-201	130-181	120-170	110-154	65-95	
No report available Escalon, CA										
June 27 Famoso, CA	706		130-191 130-180	130-185 140-180	145-185 130-179	130-171 125-160	130-150 110-130	120-130	85-102 100-126.50	
No report available Galt, CA										
No report available Turlock, CA										
No report available Salina, UT										
NORTH CENTRAL										
June 27 Iowa	3,033			210-257.50 179-195	174-225 168-185	174.50-205.75 160-188	157.50-184.50 155-181	143-173.25 129.50-163.25		
June 28 Miles City, MT	843				171	173	159		72-91.50 81-124.50	
June 29 Bassett, NE	7,340		241-243 206	228-240 198-221.50	210.50-240.25 191.25-210.50	209-230 176.50-198	183.25-217.50 166-186.50	166-184.25 154.25-186.75		
No report available Ericson, NE										
June 28 Imperial, NE	650				172-173	165-170	167.50	157.50-160.25 146.25-147.25		
June 29 Kearney, NE	3,100				198-201 174-188.50	193 152-169	176-180.50 158.50-167.25	162.50-177 158.75-159.25	90-103 107.50-137	
June 24 Lexington, NE	2,784							162.50-175 138.50-162		1,810-1,985
June 9 Ogallala, NE	6,580		229 200	211-233 181.50-198	197-221 171.50-209.50	178.50-207 165.50-199	160.50-179.50 155-174.50	138.50-172.50 143.50-155.50		
No report available Valentine, NE										
June 24 Herreid, SD	1,551			186	178	169	179-191 163.50-164	161-176.25 145-162.75		
June 24 Torrington, WY	2,042			196	185 173	188 165	173	156 142	80-103 110-127	1,600-2,235
SOUTH CENTRAL										
June 23 Willcox, AZ	791	200 155-160	178-201 151-180	174-200 157-171.50	162-185 122-150.50	140-171 128.75-144			52-109.50 96-122	1,025-1,250
June 27 Colorado	1,044				165	155	160 144.50	122-147.50	62.50-101 81-135.50	1,125-1,625 1,175-1,335
June 22 La Junta, CO	1,016	215-269 198-242.50	186-198 165-171		171-185 161-170	155-161 149-161		106-136	75-96 92-117	1,100-1,575
No report available Loma, CO										
No report available Dodge City, KS										
No report available Pratt, KS										
No report available Salina, KS										
No report available Clovis, NM										
June 28 El Reno, OK	1,800	216	222.50-242.50 195-210	202-215 170-183	189-202 163-175.50	184-189.50 155-171.50				
June 29 McAlester, OK	1,735		188-217 155-176	171-194 156-170	173-197 142-172	159-179 135-154	147-166 129-156	131-153	76-91 99-120	775-1,420 700-1,175
June 28 Oklahoma City, OK	7,633	208	207-227 162-192	194-213 166-188	170-200 155-181.50	170.50-188 151-170.50	161-178 145-161.50	143-173 134.50-147		
June 24 Cuero, TX	2,086	151-194 124-177.50	147-200 132-178	145-184 133-170	139-164 128-185	132-154 122-153	136-150 115-139		70-97 90-115	
June 23 Dalhart, TX	1,381	210-213 194	224 186	207.50-217 177	184.25-199 170	164-178.50 150-154	162.50 149-149.50	163.50 137.25	76-95 103-115	
June 23 San Angelo, TX	2,064		172-228 154-180	168-214 145-161	161-197 133-160.50	141-173 130-146	149-159 121-130			
June 23 Tulia, TX	1,363		212-225 175-200	185-204 157-180	171-189 156-157	165-167 144-151	157-166 154	158 145		
EAST										
June 24 Alabama	8,455	190 162-180	180-195 146-172.50	166-187 129-160	150-175 130-185	140-170 124-148	130-153 111-143	142 116-130	66-102 88-127	800-1,485 500-1,290
June 28 Lexington, KY	642	170-180*	167.50-200* 157-185*	162-182* 145-172*	165-183* 147-165*	150-165.25* 130-149*	155-156* 143*	138-166.25* 102*	79-117 109-134	925-1,800 1,000-1,500
June 27 Joplin, MO	10,440		210-226 172-190	195-212.50 165-178	191-214 162-171	180-197 156-167	166-178 152-160.75	152.50-176.50 147-150		
June 27 Tennessee	5,366	167.50-195* 140-190*	160-216* 130-175*	148-206* 131-170*	141-186.60* 122.50-157.50*	135-170* 110-145*	136-158* 120-136.50*	119-153.75* 104-125*	60-116 79-135	900-1,650 700-1,320
June 27 Virginia	2,480	171	151-182 135-155	140-175 117-152	151-181 121-149	112-176 122-141	130-158 119-132	128-146 110-138		
CANADA										
June 29 Lethbridge, Alberta	592						188-197	184-196	92-112 135-145.25	

Smaller feedlot numbers are ahead of us

The latest USDA Cattle on Feed report showed June feedlot inventories of 11.846 million head, 101.2 percent of one year ago. This is a record level of June feedlot cattle since the data series began in 1996.

Among the leading cattle feeding states, No. 1 Texas is up 3 percent year over year, with No. 2 Nebraska up 4 percent year over year. No. 3 Kansas is down 1 percent from last year, while No. 4 Colorado is up 1 percent year over year. These four states represent 76.4 percent of total feedlot inventories. Feedlot numbers are declining seasonally, with the June 1 level down for the fourth consecutive month from the February all-time record feedlot inventory of 12.199 million head.

Feedlot marketings in May were 1.914 million head, 102.4 percent of last year. May 2022 included one additional business day compared to 2021. As a result, daily average marketings were lower than one year ago. May marketings were slightly below average pre-report estimates at the low end of the range.

May placements were 1.869 million head, 97.9 percent of last year. This was lower than expected, below even the lowest pre-report estimates. May placements also included more lightweight cattle, with feedlot placements weighing less than 700 pounds up 4.9 percent year over year, while placements over 700 lbs. were down 5.5 percent from last year. Smaller than expected placements may be beginning to bring feedlot inventories down from record levels.

It is reasonable to ponder why feedlots have maintained record inventories in 2022 despite the decline in overall cattle numbers since 2019. The largest calf crop of this cattle cycle was in 2018 and has decreased from a peak annual production of 36.3 million head in 2018 to 35.1 million head in 2021. In general, it would be expected that feeder supplies would have peaked in 2019 and feedlot production in 2020. Delays due to the pandemic in 2020 pushed some feedlot production into 2021.

Several other factors are also contributing to the continuing delays in peak feedlot and beef production. The decline in heifer retention associated with cyclical peak inventories followed by liquidation means that more heifer calves are directed into feedlots. The inventory of beef replacement heifers peaked in 2017 at 6.36 million head and dropped to 5.61 million head in 2022. Cyclical herd liquidation has been exacerbated by widespread drought in 2021 and 2022.

Heifer slaughter increased from a low of 7.35 million head in 2015 (at the beginning of herd expansion) to 9.82 million head in 2019, dropped back to 9.45 million head in 2020 (partly the result of the pandemic), and increased again to 9.83 million head in 2021. So far, in 2022, heifer slaughter is running 3.3 percent above 2021 levels as more heifers continue to come through feedlots. Drought has likely been a significant factor in increased heifer slaughter last year and this year.

Finally, feedlots have placed more lightweight cattle, which increases days on feed and allows feedlot inventories to remain elevated for a while. It was noted above that May placements included more lightweight cattle. In the last six months, overall feedlot placements have increased 1.7 percent year over year, with placements under 700 lbs. up 3.5 percent and placements over 700 lbs. up just 0.5 percent. Slowing down the turnover rate makes smaller numbers of cattle last longer in the feedlot.

It will take much of the remainder of the year for feedlots to work through the current inventory, and we can't be sure what additional impacts the drought may have in the coming months. We may continue to see feedlot placements pulled ahead and more heifers shifted into feedlots for a period, but it is inevitable that cattle supplies will tighten significantly in the coming months and feedlot inventories will fall.

The longer it takes to see that process begin, the more sudden and dramatic it will be. The timing is always tricky, although the latest placement data may indicate that it has begun. **—Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State University Extension livestock marketing specialist**

Corn planting down 4 percent

MARKETS
(from page 1)

and dressed steers averaged $235.14.

The national weekly direct beef type price distribution for the week of June 20-27 was the following on a live basis:

- Negotiated purchases: $144.15.
- Formula net purchases: $144.36.
- Forward contract net purchases: $146.97.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: $141.18.

On a dressed basis:

- Negotiated purchases: $235.53.
- Formula net purchases: $227.14.
- Forward contract net purchases: $220.
- Negotiated grid net purchases: $225.50.

Slaughter through Thursday is estimated at 499,000 head, 1,000 head more than a week earlier. Slaughter for the week earlier is projected at 666,000 head, with live weights of 1,344 lbs. and dressed weights of 811 lbs. Actual slaughter for the week ending June 18 was 668,391 head.

Boxed beef prices were down, with the Choice cutout down 66 cents to $264 and the Select cutout down $4.37 to $240.57.

Feeder cattle

Feeder cattle reacted favorably to the COF report but could not find any fundamental support despite corn futures falling. The August contract lost $1.25 to close at $173.60, and the September contract was down 63 cents to $176.22. The CME Feeder Cattle Index was up $1.21 to $166.44.

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service just released the latest Acreage report, showing estimated planted corn acreage down 4 percent, at 89.9 million acres. This was down 3.44 million acres from 2021, but an estimated 4 million acres are left to be planted.

Following the release of the report, corn futures dropped. For the week, the July contract was down 3 cents to $7.43, and the September contract lost 38 cents to close at $6.28 a bushel.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 10,440 head Monday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers traded $5-8 higher, with feeder heifers trading steady to $4 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 778 lbs. sold between $166-175.50, averaging $168.85.

Nebraska: Bassett Livestock in Bassett sold 7,340 head Wednesday. There was no recent test of the market for an accurate comparison, so a trend could not be given for steers or heifers. Benchmark steers averaging 784 lbs. sold between $183.25-196, averaging $189.56.

Oklahoma: Oklahoma National Stockyards in Oklahoma City sold 7,633 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, feeder steers over 800 lbs. sold $2-6 higher; under 800 lbs. were steady to $2 lower. Feeder heifers traded $1-4 lower. Steer and heifer calves were $2-4 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 771 lbs. sold between $161-169 and averaged $164.46. **— Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

Feeder exports influenced by proven genetics

"The power of the pedigree is what drives the interest in U.S. demand," said Tony Clayton, Clayton Agri-Marketing Inc. president. Clayton gave a presentation titled "U.S. Genetic Exports: Where Are They Going and How Are They Doing?" during the Beef Improvement Federation (BIF) Symposium June 3 in Las Cruces, NM.

Clayton explained the impact of exporting U.S. feeder cattle to open new marketing opportunities that increase profitability and particular obstacles producers face when exporting feeder cattle.

The export market is driven by population growth, urbanization and expanding economies. The main driver is population growth, and people drive the demand for agricultural products. The current demand is protein, meat and milk. This increased demand has opened the market for the genetics produced in the United States.

U.S. genetics are a value-added product, so international producers want to adopt U.S. genetic systems. Clayton explained the years U.S. producers and breed associations spent performance testing and developing EPDs and genomics have caused producers around the world to look to the U.S. as a leader in the production of all species. Pedigrees of U.S.-produced cattle have immense power to continuously strengthen the demand and export market.

"I explain to a lot of our clients that buying genetics with high genomics and EPDs is like buying a car. If you want the sunroof, it costs money. If you want the aluminum wheels, they cost money. We have a lot of misinformation out there, and we work with clients to educate them on our genetic systems," Clayton said.

Developing a market to export your cattle requires intense promotion, a large supply of cattle, available financing, following government regulations, understanding logistics and being able to manage risks. You must know your limitations. What can you supply, deliver, finance and guarantee? Know your products, customers and suppliers. Producers must implement animal identification systems and an animal welfare program to increase the prices of their cattle.

"When I go to a new country, I would plan for it to take three years before I make a sale. This business requires patience," Clayton said.

The export of U.S. feeder cattle is influenced by the demand from Asia and the Middle East for protein. China continues to import cattle from the southern hemisphere, taking a large supply of the world market to Indonesia, Egypt and Israel. However, there are many obstacles for feeder cattle exports.

Some obstacles are that the U.S. must have a large supply of cattle to be exported and remain competitive, there is a lack of livestock export facilities on both coasts for large shipments, and specific geographical health requirements can prevent certain regions from exporting feeder cattle.

"Another obstacle is customers in the (Middle) East only want to feed bulls; they will not feed a steer. It will be interesting to see if they put these ethic specifications aside in the future to buy steer calves from the U.S. and not bulls from South America," Clayton added.

To watch Clayton's full presentation, visit youtu.be/qRKhURAyfoM. For more information about this year's symposium and BIF, including additional presentations and award winners, visit BIFSymposium.com. **— BIF**

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LEGAL LEDGER

Bill to stop foreign farmland purchases

An amendment by Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA-4) to prevent foreign adversaries from owning America's farmland passed unanimously in the U.S. House Appropriations Committee. Specifically, Newhouse's amendment to the fiscal year 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill would prohibit the purchase of agricultural land in the U.S. by companies owned, in whole or in part, by China, Russia, North Korea or Iran. According to a USDA Farm Service Agency report, through the end of 2020, foreign investors held an interest in nearly 37.6 million acres of U.S. forestland and farmland. Canadian investors own the largest amount of reported foreign-held agricultural and nonagricultural land, with 32 percent, or 12.4 million acres, and China holds 352,140 acres, slightly less than 1 percent. Currently, six states ban foreign ownership of farmland, and Newhouse said restrictions on Chinese land ownership can be circumvented. The amendment also makes Chinese-owned farmland ineligible for farm programs.

Bipartisan effort to save sequoias

A bipartisan coalition of House of Representatives members has introduced a resolution to save the iconic giant sequoias. The Save our Sequoias (SOS) Act will provide land managers with the emergency tools and resources needed to save the trees and ensure their long-term survival. The SOS Act would create a Giant Sequoia Health and Resiliency Assessment to prioritize wildfire risk reduction treatments in the highest-risk groves and track the progress of scientific forest management activities. It would also streamline environmental reviews and consultations while establishing a reforestation strategy for sequoias destroyed in recent wildfires. More than 90 diverse organizations support the bill, including the California Cattlemen's Association, California Farm Bureau Federation, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Public Lands Council.

USDA announces state directors

President Joe Biden appointed five USDA regional positions, including three Farm Service Agency (FSA) state executive directors and two rural development state directors. The FSA state executive directors include Ronald Guidry Jr. for Louisiana, Mark Gibbons for Utah and Maureen Wicks for Montana. Rural development state directors include Christy Davis in Kansas and Lillian Salerno in Texas. "Here at USDA, we continue to add experienced and talented individuals to our state offices," said Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack in a statement. "I have full confidence that each of these individuals will add knowledge and leadership to the dedicated team at the Department."

BLM seeks comments on WY land exchange

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Buffalo Field Office is seeking input on a proposed land exchange in northern Campbell County, WY. BLM and the Quarter Circle 7 Ranch are proposing to exchange, in two phases, approximately 2,372 acres of nonfederal land for up to 4,678 acres of isolated and scattered BLM-administered parcels. The exchange would increase public access by creating an approximately 10,347-acre contiguous block of public lands. "Part of our assessment is determining whether the exchange is in the public's interest," said Buffalo Field Manager Todd Yeager. "Hearing from the public early in the process is important." The BLM will host a public scoping meeting on July 20 from 5-7 p.m. at the Campbell County Public Library, 2101 S 4-J Rd., Gillette, WY 82718. Written comments must be submitted by Aug. 8, 2022, and may be submitted through the e-planning project webpage at eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2019435/510 or by email to BLM_WY_Buffalo_WYMail@blm.gov.

Tribes will co-manage Bears Ears

The Biden administration has signed an agreement with five Tribes to share management of Utah's Bears Ears National Monument with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the U.S. Forest Service. It marks one of the first times federal agencies and Native American Tribes will jointly manage a national monument. The five groups are the Hopi Tribe, Navajo Nation, Pueblo of Zuni, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. "This is an important step as we move forward together to ensure that Tribal expertise and traditional perspectives remain at the forefront of our joint decision-making for the Bears Ears National Monument," said BLM Director Tracy Stone-Manning. "This type of true co-management will serve as a model for our work to honor the nation-to-nation relationship in the future." In October 2021, President Joe Biden issued a proclamation that restored the Bears Ears National Monument and recognized the importance of Tribes in managing the monument by reconstituting the Bears Ears Commission as established by President Barack Obama in 2016.

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Oct. 1 – CA Breeders, Bull Sale, Turlock, CA
Oct. 2 – CAL Poly PT, Bull Sale, San Luis Obispo, CA
Oct. 15 – Western Stockmen's Market, Bull Sale, Famoso, CA
Oct. 15 – Western Stockmen's Market, Female & Bull Sale, McFarland, CA

ANGUS

Aug. 27 – Riverbend Ranch, Female Sale, Idaho Falls, ID
Sep. 1 – Vintage Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, La Grange, CA
Sep. 2 – Byrd Cattle Co., Bull and Female Sale, Los Molinos, CA
Sep. 3 – EZ Ranch, Bull Sale, Farmington, CA
Sep. 4 – Five Star Land and Livestock, Bull Sale, Wilton, CA
Sep. 6 – Performance Plus, Bull Sale, O'Neals, CA
Sep. 7 – Silveira Bros., Female Sale, Firebaugh, CA
Sep. 8 – Donati Ranch, Bull Sale, Oroville, CA
Sep. 9 – Tehama Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Gerber, CA
Sep. 10 – Arrellano Bravo, Bull Sale, Galt, CA
Sep. 14 – Bulls Eye Breeders, Bull Sale, Modesto, CA
Sep. 15 – Rancho Casino/Dal Porto, Bull Sale, Denair, CA
Sep. 20 – Thomas Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Galt, CA
Sep. 20-22 – Montana Angus Tour, Sidney, MT
Sep. 22 – Beef Solutions, Bull Sale, Ione, CA
Oct. 1 – Colyer Herefords, Bull Sale, Bruneau, ID
Oct. 6 – VDAR, Cow Sale, Manhattan, MT
Oct. 7 – Teixeira Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Pismo Beach, CA
Oct. 8 – EZ Ranch, Female Sale, Porterville, CA
Oct. 8 – Silveira Bros., Female Sale, Firebaugh, CA
Oct. 8 – Trinity Farms, Female Sale, Ellensburg, WA
Oct. 9 – Vintage Angus Ranch, Female Sale, Modesto, CA
Oct. 10 – Ox Bow Angus, Female Sale, Wolf Creek, MT
Oct. 11 – 9 Peaks Ranch, Bull Sale, Fort Rock, OR
Oct. 11 – Coleman Angus, Female Sale, Charlo, MT
Oct. 12 – Montana Ranch, Female Sale, Big Fork, MT
Oct. 14 – Wooden Shoe Farms, Female Sale, Blackfoot, ID
Oct. 15 – Fink Beef Genetics, Bull Sale, Randolph, KS
Oct. 20 – Thomas Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Baker City, OR
Oct. 22 – 44 Farms, Bull Sale, Cameron, TX
Oct. 22 – NILE, Female Sale, Billings, MT
Oct. 24 – Montana Angus, Female Sale, Billings, MT

CHAROLAIS

Oct. 15 – Fink Beef Genetics, Bull Sale, Randolph, KS

GELBVIEH

Sep. 21 – Eagle Pass Ranch, Bull Sale, Dos Palos, CA

HEREFORD

Sep. 5 – Genoa Livestock, Bull & Female Sale, Minden, NV
Sep. 16 – Churchill Cattle Co., Female Sale, Manhattan, MT
Sep. 16 – Sierra Ranches, Production Sale, Modesto, CA
Sep. 17 – Ehlke Herefords, Female Sale, Townsend, MT
Sep. 18 – Mohican West, Female Sale, Laurel, MT
Oct. 1 – Colyer Herefords, Bull Sale, Bruneau, ID
Oct. 14 – Wooden Shoe Farms, Female Sale, Blackfoot, ID
Oct. 15 – Lambert Ranch, Bull Sale, Oroville, CA

RED ANGUS

Sep. 7 – Silveira Bros., Female Sale, Firebaugh, CA
Sep. 11 – Ludvigson Stock Farms, Bull Sale, Visalia, CA
Sep. 18 – Steagall Red Angus, Bull Sale, Colusa, 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

SIMANGUS

Sep. 14 – Bulls Eye Breeders, Bull Sale, Modesto, CA
Sep. 21 – Eagle Pass Ranch, Bull Sale, Dos Palos, CA
Sep. 22 – Beef Solutions, Bull Sale, Ione, CA
Oct. 7 – Teixeira Cattle Co., Bull Sale, Pismo Beach, CA
Oct. 8 – Trinity Farms, Female Sale, Ellensburg, WA

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

HORSE

Sep. 16-17 – Van Norman & Friends, Production Sale, Elko, NV
Sep. 17 – Reno Snaffle Bit, Futurity Sale, Reno, NV
Oct. 14 – Western Stockman's Market, Showcase Horse Sale, McFarland, CA

CO ag owners file suit against farm access law

— Amounts to per se taking

A group of Colorado farm and ranch owners has filed suit against the recently enacted Agricultural Workers' Rights law providing access to "key service providers" on their property.

The group filed suit in the U.S. District Court of the District of Colorado, challenging access provisions in the law that provide unfettered on-farm access of "key service providers" to meet with farm employees.

Senate Bill 21-087, or the Agricultural Workers' Rights law, was signed by Gov. Jared Polis (D) in June 2021. The law removes the exemption of agricultural labor from state and local minimum wage laws, phases in overtime rules in 2024 depending on the type of operation, requires agricultural employers to provide employees with access and transportation to key service providers, and allows employees to have visitors at employer-provided housing without interference from other people.

"Senate Bill 21-087's requirement that we open our private farm and ranch property to anyone identified as a 'service provider' at any time we are working, without any notice they are coming, without any assurance they will follow our safety and security rules, and with no remedy if they don't, puts us in a position that no other class of Colorado employers faces," the Colorado Council of Rural Employers—a coalition of several agricultural groups including the Colorado Cattlemen's Association, Colorado Livestock Association, Colorado Farm Bureau and others—said in a statement.

The bill stipulates a key service provider is a health care provider, community health worker, education provider, attorney, legal advocate, government official (including a consular representative), member of the clergy or any "other service provider to which an agricultural worker may need access."

The farm and ranch owners contend providing access to key service providers violates the 2021 Supreme Court decision in Cedar Point Nursery v. Hassid. The ruling held decisively that a California regulation allowing union organizers access to private property for three hours a day for 120 days out of the year to recruit workers was an unconstitutional taking of private property.

Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. wrote in his opinion the California law "grants labor organizations a right to invade the growers' property and therefore constitutes a per se physical taking." Physical takings must be compensated under the taking clause of the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution.

The owners also contend allowing people other than workers onto the farm could affect Good Agricultural Practices and Good Handling Practices audits, introduce diseases that could affect their produce, and pose a safety risk to visitors and employees.

"We have a duty to protect the food we grow and harvest from contamination," the Colorado Council of Rural Employers said. "Many of our farming and ranching operations must meet strict government and industry standards that are not compatible with people wandering around on our property and ultimately putting our consumers at risk."

The owners stated in court documents that the Colorado access provisions are broader and substantially more violative of private property rights than the union organizer access right created by the California regulation at issue in the Cedar Point Nursery case. They state it goes beyond just union organizers, imposing no limit on the number of days service providers can access the property and requiring no notice or limitations to the number of organizers.

"The access provisions authorize service providers to enter plaintiffs' private property without consent and without compensation having been granted to plaintiffs," court documents state. "For that reason, the access provisions impose unconstitutional, per se takings against Colorado agricultural employers, including the plaintiffs."

The plaintiffs in the case are Talbott's Mountain Gold LLLP, Talbott Land and Property LLLP, Blaine D Produce Company LLC, Box Elder Ranch LLC, Box Elder Ranch Inc., Marc Arnusch Farms LLC and Mauch Farms Inc. — **Charles Wallace, *WLJ* editor**

Patterson brings wealth of experience, knowledge to team

PATTERSON
(from page 1)

"We are beyond excited to have Jared join the *WLJ* team, as he brings a wealth of knowledge with well-rounded experience that will be very valuable to the readers and advertisers of *WLJ*," said Logan Ipsen, *WLJ* president. "He is an exceptional talent, and we are extremely confident in his abilities to be a leader for our industry.

"As *WLJ* moves into its second century of business and aims to bridge the gap between print and digital products, Jared's understanding of a wide array of agriculture and connections will be valuable to generating editorial ideas, advertising streams and innovative ideas," Ipsen concluded.

WLJ 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 acquired *WLJ* in early 2022. The company 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***

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.