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INSIDE WLJ

LAND BAN — Trump administration unveils plan to ban new Chinese ownership of U.S. farmland. Page 3

POLICY SHIFT — USDA eliminates race- and gender-based loan criteria. Page 5

A LOOK BACK IN HISTORY

"In the latest of a series of increasing demands on the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to reexamine its approval of antibiotics for subtherapeutic use in livestock, a non-profit group has sued the agency, saying that their requests for public disclosure of documents about antibiotic policy were ignored," read the July 16, 2012, *WLJ* cover article.

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Judge denies emergency relief in Simplot slurry spill

—Rules lack of legal basis

A federal judge denied an emergency request from Idaho cattle ranchers Lynn and Glenn Rasmussen to require the J.R. Simplot Company to dispose of more than 700 cows allegedly contaminated by a phosphate slurry spill. The court found the Rasmussens did not show a likelihood of success on any legal claim that would support a preliminary injunction, a threshold requirement for such extraordinary relief.

The Rasmussens, seventh-generation ranchers from Grace, ID, filed suit after discovering a spill of phosphate slurry from Simplot's 86-mile pipeline, which runs through the Rasmussens' federal grazing allotments. The spill, which occurred between May and July 2023, allegedly exposed their cattle to heavy metals. According to court documents, tissue testing of euthanized cows revealed concerning levels of contaminants and organ damage, rendering the cattle unsaleable.

In their emergency motion, the Rasmussens sought a court order requiring Simplot to cover the cost of euthanizing and disposing of the animals, with the Idaho State De-

partment of Agriculture facilitating the process. They also requested compensation for the value of the cattle and the cost of their care over the past two years.

Judge David C. Nye for the U.S. District Court for the District of Idaho rejected the request, ruling

the couple had "not brought forth a single cause of action or cited to any statute or case which gives the Court the authority to order Simplot to pay for the disposal of the cows." Of the Rasmussens' seven legal claims—including invoking the federal Comprehensive Environmental Re-

sponse, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), negligence, nuisance and trespass—none provided a basis for the emergency relief sought.

"The well-supported debate

See RELIEF on page 3



J.R. Simplot Co.

A federal judge denied an Idaho ranching couple's emergency relief request for alleged contamination of their cattle following a phosphate slurry spill. Pictured here, J.R. Simplot Co.'s Smoky Canyon Mine in the Caribou-Targhee National Forest.

USDA closes southern border to imports, again

—New World screwworm detected in Mexico

Following another detection of New World screwworm (NWS) in Veracruz, Mexico, USDA Secretary Brooke Rollins ordered the closure of the southern border again to livestock imports.

"The United States has promised to be vigilant—and after detecting this new NWS case, we are pausing the planned port reopening's to further quarantine and target this deadly pest in Mexico," Rollins said.

She continued, "We must see additional progress combatting NWS in Veracruz and other nearby Mexican states in order to reopen livestock ports along the Southern border."

On July 8, Mexico's National Service of Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety, and Quality reported a new case of NWS de-

tected in Veracruz, Mexico, which is about 370 miles south of the U.S./Mexico border. The case was found 160 miles northward of the current sterile fly dispersal grid.

USDA planned to reopen the border at southern ports in phases, beginning July 7 in Douglas, AZ, just two days before the border was shut down again. The border was previously closed to live animal imports beginning May 11 after NWS cases were reported in the Mexican states of Oaxaca and Veracruz.

USDA launched a plan in June to protect the border and increase NWS eradication efforts in Mexico. In addition, a sterile fly dispersal facility was established at Moore Air Base in South Texas. The method of sterile fly dispersal has been used in the past to eradicate the pest. Sterile male flies are

See BORDER on page 8

Study: Wolf comeback spurs economic toll on ranchers

—CDFW highlights reintroduction

While the expansion of gray wolf and Mexican gray wolf populations is widely seen as a conservation victory, a new University of Arizona study reveals that even modest wolf depredation can slash ranch revenues by nearly 30%. Meanwhile, California officials marked a milestone in wolf recovery, with a statewide population now topping 50 wolves.

As wolf populations continue to rebound across the U.S., a new economic analysis from the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) based on the University of Arizona

study highlights the financial toll ranchers bear as they navigate rising depredation rates, increased management costs and ongoing challenges with compensation.

"While the University of Arizona study focused on Mexican gray wolves in the Southwest, the underlying economic risks it identified aren't unique to that region," said Daniel Munch, AFBF economist. "Ranchers in the Northern Rockies, Pacific Northwest, and Great Lakes states are facing similar pressures as wolf numbers climb."

According to Munch, the most immediate impact of wolf presence is direct livestock loss, most often young calves, each valued at \$1,336

in 2024. The Arizona model shows that even a modest 2% calf loss on a 367-head ranch results in a net income reduction of approximately \$5,200. Higher losses, such as 14%, could cut net income by over \$42,000. If a cow is killed, long-term losses compound, with each animal's value estimated at \$2,673 in lost future productivity and herd stability.

Weight loss adds another layer of economic strain. The study found a 3.5% reduction in weaning weight, or about 18.4 pounds per calf, results in nearly \$3,700 in lost value for an 80-head operation. In areas

See WOLF STUDY on page 7

Market climbs as USDA shuts Mexico border to imports

The big news for the livestock complex this week was the announcement that USDA would again close the southern border to livestock imports following a new case of New World screwworm in Mexico.

Live cattle futures were several dollars higher, up about \$5 on the August contract to \$219.22 and up about \$7 on the October contract to \$217.07.

Cash trade through Thursday totaled less than 5,000 head. Live steers sold from \$232-235, and dressed steers sold for \$372.

Cash trade for the week ending July 6 totaled 51,945 head. Live steers sold for \$230.02, and dressed steers sold for \$369.41.

Slaughter through Thursday totaled about 464,000 head. Total slaughter for a week earlier is estimated at 474,000 head due to the holiday-shortened week. Actual slaughter for the week ending June 28 was 561,022 head. The average steer dressed weight was 933 lbs., 4 lbs. below the prior week.

Boxed beef prices were lower over the week, down a few dollars on the Wednesday afternoon USDA report to \$386.35 on the Choice cutout and \$373.27 on the Select cutout.

"Upon seeing that boxed beef prices are lower again today, I think it's safe to say that the seasonal downward trend of the third quarter for boxed beef prices has been set into motion," wrote ShayLe Stewart, DTN livestock analyst, in

her midday comments.

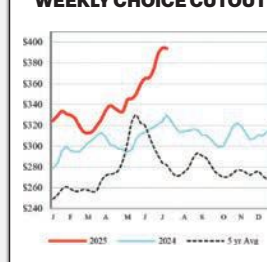
On July 9, the Trump administration announced a 50% tariff on Brazil beginning Aug. 1. "No one can guess how the politics of this will turn out," wrote Cassie Fish, market analyst, in *The Beef* on Thursday. "If it does go into effect, tariffs on frozen beef 90s will increase from the current 10%, which has been quickly and efficiently absorbed by the market to 50%, so another 40% penalty."

This year, she noted, Brazil became the No. 1 seller of manufacturing beef to the U.S., most of which is used for fast food burger patties. Currently, imported 90s are cheaper

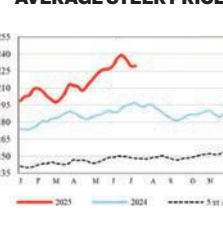
See MARKETS on page 5

PERIODICAL: Time Sensitive Priority Handling

WEEKLY CHOICE CUTOUT



5 AREA WEEKLY WTD AVERAGE STEER PRICE



↓	↓	↑
LIVE STEERS	DRESSED STEERS	CME FEEDER
\$227.01	\$368.00	\$316.76
WEEK ENDING: 7-10-25		

COMMENTS

It's county fair season

July marks the heart of county fair season across the country. For many, it's more than just an event; it's a reunion, a tradition and a showcase of hard work and pride. The fairgrounds come alive with the hum of excited conversations, the rustle of show animals and the warmth of neighbors catching up. It's a celebration of hard work, learning, tradition and above all, community.



GROSHANS

Behind every successful fair is a team of dedicated individuals who give their time, energy and resources to make it happen. Livestock superintendents, 4-H leaders, FFA advisors, parents, grandparents, local organizations like the Lions Club and small town businesses all rally together for a shared purpose: to support our youth and showcase the best of agriculture.

Their commitment is truly inspiring. These individuals often work behind the scenes for months in advance organizing shows, securing sponsorships, planning schedules and preparing facilities. All to ensure that young people have a positive and meaningful experience. And during fair week? They're the first to arrive in the morning and the last to leave at night. They do it not for recognition, but because they believe in the power of youth programs and the importance of keeping agricultural traditions alive.

I was fortunate enough to grow up in 4-H, a program that shaped much of who I am today. For those unfamiliar, 4-H is a youth development organization that engages young people in hands-on learning experiences, helping them reach their full potential. The four Hs stand for "Head, Heart, Hands and Health." Values that guide members toward being thoughtful, hardworking and community-minded individuals.

Whether you're part of 4-H, FFA or a junior breed association, showing livestock is an exceptional way to grow up. It teaches responsibility, patience, compassion and discipline. Learning to care for animals, feeding, grooming, walking and training them creates a sense of accountability and pride that few other experiences can replicate. The barn becomes a classroom, and every chore is a life lesson in disguise.

These experiences don't just create strong individuals, they build strong communities. County fairs bring together people of all ages and backgrounds. It's where grandparents cheer from the sidelines, younger siblings watch wide-eyed with anticipation and strangers become friends over a shared love of agriculture. Peewee exhibitors look up to older showmen, learning the ropes and dreaming of the day it will be their turn in the ring.

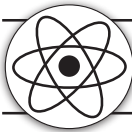
Early mornings spent in the barn, before the heat of the day sets in, become routine. Late nights exercising, rinsing and clipping livestock, under the fading light are part of the rhythm. Showmanship practices at home, in front yard, become moments of learning and bonding. And when show day finally arrives, there's a mix of nerves, excitement and pride that fills the air.

Ribbons and banners are wonderful, but they aren't the reason we do this. The true reward lies in the growth of the young people who step into that ring. The confidence gained from speaking to a judge. The grace shown in both victory and defeat. The teamwork built with peers. The quiet understanding that hard work, even when no one is watching, matters.

As county fair season kicks off across the country, let's all take a moment to pause and reflect on what makes these events so special. Let's remember to say thank you to the fair board members, Extension agents, volunteers, 4-H leaders, local sponsors, superintendents and ag teachers who pour their hearts into creating these opportunities. Their contributions may not always make headlines, but their impact is immeasurable.

Let's also remember to be kind. Fair week can be stressful for exhibitors, parents and volunteers alike. Patience, understanding, and encouragement go a long way. A kind word can lift someone's spirits. A helping hand can change the course of someone's day. At the end of it all, we're on the same team, working to create the best possible experience for our youth.

So here's to all the families currently spending early mornings and late nights preparing for show day. To the last-minute touch-ups and the nervous smiles before entering the ring. Here's to the lifelong friendships formed in dusty barns and on sun-soaked show days. Here's to county fair season where community, hard work and heart come together in the best way possible. — **TY GROSHANS**



RESOURCE SCIENCE

Immigration into the U.S. is a big issue. There is currently intense debate and protest over immigration policy, particularly deportations of illegal immigrants. Immigration, legal or illegal, increases the population of the country, and as I've noted previously, human population growth is the root cause of environmental impacts (*WLJ* March 2021, September 2023, May 2024 and November 2024, see the References at wlj.net).

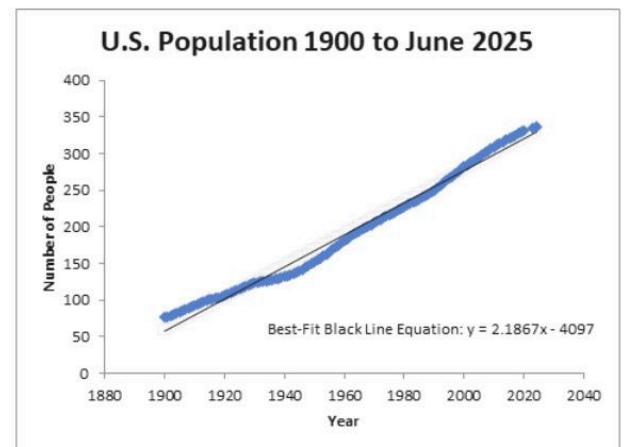
The more people there are, the more demand there is for resources, roads and open space as cities and residential areas expand into forest, rangeland and farmland. I'm writing about this issue again to provide an update on population numbers, and because I think it has been largely ignored in the debate on immigration policy, with the notable exception of Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich (see the References).

Politicians and economists have expressed concern that a decline in birth rate per woman in the U.S. will result of a shortage of people and that more immigration is needed for economic growth. For example, former President Bill Clinton recently expressed concern that the U.S. has the lowest birth rate in more than 100 years and we need immigrants to grow the economy. The Penn Wharton Budget Model at the University of Pennsylvania reported that U.S. population growth is projected to decline, the population will become older and more immigration is needed for the economy.

We need clear terminology on this issue. Clinton refers to a lower birth rate and Penn Wharton refers to population growth declining. I think we should focus on population numbers. I'm sure Clinton and the Penn Wharton people are smart, but they should recognize that the population is increasing. The Census Bureau reports that the U.S. population continues to increase with one birth every nine seconds, one death every 11 seconds, one international migrant every 22 seconds and a net gain of one person every 16 seconds.

As of today, the U.S. population is now more than 342 million (342,003,556 people), an increase of more than 4.7 million (4,734,216) from Oct. 15, 2024, to June 25, 2025. This increase over 253 days (about eight months) equals a rate of more than 6.8 million (6,829,509) people per year, which is an increase of about 2% of the current population per year. The rate of increase has been generally steady since the year 1900 when the population was 76 million (see the graph). If the rate of population increase remains the same or increases, there will not be a shortage of

US POPULATION GROWTH AND IMMIGRATION



U.S. Census Bureau

people, but there will be increasing demands for resources and land.

I don't know the number of illegal immigrants in the U.S., but it's been reported to be more than 10 million. I haven't studied the Penn Wharton model of future population growth either. But it is clear that the U.S. population is growing at a steady rate and immigration contributes to this growth. This population growth results in increased environmental impacts, crowding and traffic, loss of open spaces and impacts on forests and agricultural land.

It might be a simple observation, but our population can't grow forever. China has about 1.4 billion people and the world population is now 8.1 billion, showing the result of long-term population growth. Population growth is evidently important for the economy and markets, but I think this needs to be balanced with environmental quality. Recent large-scale immigration has contributed to the U.S. population growth and is an important consideration on this issue.

Immigration is the one source of population growth that our government can control. In the U.S., with our rights and freedom, the government cannot control citizens' choices on having children. Politicians need to make policies considering many factors, and impacts of immigration on the U.S. population, the economy, and the environment need to be assessed together. — **Matt Cronin, WLJ columnist**



OBITUARIES



Laurence Matthews Lasater; 1941-2025

Laurence Matthews Lasater, a longtime rancher, died on July 2. Laurie was born Oct. 21, 1941, in San Antonio, TX, the eldest child of Thomas and Mary Casey Lasater, founders of the Beefmaster breed of cattle.

He graduated from the eighth grade in Simla, CO, and attended Fountain Valley School near Colorado Springs and Lawrenceville School in Lawrenceville, NJ, graduating in 1953. Laurie graduated with honors from Princeton University in Princeton, NJ, in 1963.

After military service, he married Annette Nixon in 1964. They moved to Coahuila, Mexico, where they introduced the Beefmaster breed and lived until 1972. Both of their children, Laurence M. "Lorenzo" Lasater, Jr., and Annette Isabel Lasater were born in Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico.

In 1972, the Lasaters moved to San Angelo, where Laurie founded and was chairman of Isa Cattle Co., Inc., which markets Beefmaster genetics worldwide.

Laurie authored four books: "The Lasater Philosophy of Cattle Raising" in 1972, which was published by the University of Texas-El Paso and is now

in its 17th printing and translated into Spanish and Russian; "Welcome to the New Cattle Industry"; "Tailwind Both Ways"; and "Great Cattlemen I Have Known."

A fourth-generation rancher, Laurie served as a director of Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, National Cattlemen's Beef Association and Nolan Ryan Beef. He also served as president of Foundation Beefmaster Association, and in 2000 he was honored as Beefmaster Breeders United's (BBU) Breeder of the Year. Laurie was inducted into the BBU Hall of Fame in 2016 and the Texas Heritage Hall of Honor in 2020 in recognition of his contributions to the state's agricultural heritage.

In San Angelo, he served as elder of the First Presbyterian Church, chairman of the United Way Allocations Committee and board president of the Samaritan Counseling Center.

Laurie is preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Annette. He is survived by their son, Lorenzo, and his wife, Leslie, as well as their daughter, Isabel, and her husband, J.C. Hernandez. He is also survived by five grandchildren: Laurence M. "Watt" Lasater, III, and his wife, Addison; Beau Cameron Lasater and his wife, Paige; and Luke Laurence, Benjamin Lasater and Sabella Ivy Hernandez; three great-grandchildren: Jaxon James, Elizabeth Wren Lasater and Emma Marie Lasater; and two of his siblings, Lane Lasater and Sally Lasater.

Although known for his many ranching accomplishments, "Dad L" was devoted to his family and cherished spending time with them. His larger-than-life persona touched many, and he will be deeply missed.

A combined memorial service for

Laurie and Annette will be held at 10 a.m. on Aug. 9 at First Presbyterian Church. In lieu of flowers, the family requests gifts to the Beefmaster Educational Endowment Foundation or the charity of your choice.



John C. Harris; 1943-2025

The Harris family is deeply saddened to announce the passing of John C. Harris, a beloved husband, visionary businessman and one of California's most respected leaders in agriculture and thoroughbred breeding. He passed away peacefully at the age of 81.

Born on July 14, 1943, John was a lifelong resident of Fresno County. He attended local elementary and high schools before earning his degree from University of California, Davis. He proudly served his country in the U.S. Army.

John was a passionate farmer, rancher and businessman who dedicated his life to stewarding the land and advancing California agriculture. As the driving force behind Harris Farms, one of the state's most prominent and diversified agricultural operations, he championed innovation, quality, and sustainability in every endeavor.

For nearly 50 years, and continuing

with his father's legacy, Harris Ranch Beef Company experienced tremendous growth, delivering superior quality grain-fed beef worldwide.

He was also a nationally recognized figure in thoroughbred horse racing, known for breeding and racing many distinguished champions. His deep love for horses and the sport was matched by his leadership and advocacy within the industry, where he served as a mentor and ambassador for generations.

Beyond his professional achievements, John had an unwavering passion for helping people and supporting his local community. Whether through philanthropy, mentorship or quiet acts of kindness, he consistently uplifted others and believed in giving back to the region and industry that shaped him. His humility, generosity and integrity were hallmarks of his life.

John was recently married in June to his beloved wife, Cookie Harris, with whom he shared deep joy, admiration and companionship. He is survived by Cookie, extended family and countless friends and colleagues whose lives were enriched by his strength of character and enduring compassion.

A public celebration of life is being scheduled and will be announced soon. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly requests that donations be made to the Jack A. Harris Memorial Scholarship Fund, continuing John's commitment to supporting the next generation of agricultural leaders.

John C. Harris leaves behind a profound legacy—one defined by hard work, vision and a lifelong dedication to community, service and the values he held dear.

<p>Letters to the editor: Letters for publication must be no longer than 675 words and must include the writer's name, location and phone number. Phone numbers will not be published. Letters may be shortened for space requirements. Obituaries must be no longer than 700 words. Send a letter to the editor or obituary by emailing editorial@wlj.net or mailing to Western Livestock Journal, Attn: Editorial Dept., 6021 S Syracuse Way, Ste #103, Greenwood Village, CO 80111.</p>			
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Plan unveiled to ban Chinese ownership of US ag

The Trump administration is pushing to ban new Chinese ownership of American farmland and increase scrutiny of Chinese ownership of major agribusinesses such as Smithfield Foods and Syngenta.

Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins led a team of other Cabinet officials, Republican governors and members of Congress at USDA's headquarters in Washington, D.C., on July 8 to announce a new "National Farm Security Action Plan" that will target China and other foreign adversaries. Rollins said the effort will "address one of the most significant national security threats facing our nation."

Rollins said U.S. agriculture is facing a threat from increased foreign ownership of U.S. food production. Farms, she said, "are weapons that can be turned against us."

"Every family, every home, every community depends on what our farmers do, and they support and sustain us, not merely by keeping us materially fed, but by keeping us spiritually strong," Rollins said. "The farms' produce is not just a commodity, it is a way of life that underpins America itself, and that's exactly why it is under threat from criminals, from political adversaries and from hostile

regimes that understand our way of life as a profound and existential threat to themselves."

The security plan has seven action items, Rollins said, which include "actively engaging every level of government" to pass laws or take executive actions to ban the purchase of U.S. farmland by Chinese nationals and other foreign adversaries.

Individual states have increasingly introduced and passed legislation to ban foreign land sales to China, as well as Iran, North Korea and Russia. Bills in Congress have also repeatedly passed the House or Senate, though no specific bill has been signed into federal law.

As part of USDA's action plan, Rollins also said it would be tightening up agricultural research with "no more sweetheart deals and secret pacts with countries that do not have our best interests in mind."

Also, USDA is canceling "seven active agreements with entities from foreign countries of concern" and has removed 70 citizens of other countries tied to USDA contracts or research arrangements. "And we are working to issue regulatory action to remove 550 entities from foreign countries of concern from our preferred catalog," Rollins said.

Claw back from Smithfield, Syngenta

Also, as part of the action plan, Rollins said the Trump administration would use its authorities "to claw back what has already been purchased by China and other foreign adversaries."

Rollins was specifically asked about clawing back property owned by companies such as Smithfield Foods and Syngenta. Rollins suggested an executive order could come from the White House. "We'll be looking at multiple, different authorities within the federal government to begin to claw that back," she said.

Peter Navarro, President Donald Trump's trade adviser, specifically linked USDA's action plan to targeting Smithfield Foods and Syngenta. Navarro pointed out that China, the world's dominant consumer of pork, took over about one-eighth of the world's pork supply by buying Smithfield.

"When they acquired Smithfield Foods and the entire pork chain, that becomes a weapon in itself," he said.

Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS) expanded on foreign control of meat processing in the U.S. by noting that not only Smithfield, but JBS, which is based in Brazil, may control as much as 20% to 25% of U.S. protein production. "That's just wrong."

Navarro also noted that Chinese nationals had been stealing U.S. seeds until they bought Syngenta. "Seeds really can be the revolution that keeps the world fed, and Chi-

na now owns a key part of that."

In a response to DTN, a spokesperson for Smithfield commented that the company employs 33,000 people in the U.S. and partners with thousands of American farmers. Smithfield is now publicly traded on the Nasdaq stock exchange, and the company's American management team remains based in Smithfield, VA.

"Our products are produced in the United States, and the vast majority are consumed in the U.S. We primarily export off to China, cuts of the pig that are not typically consumed in the U.S.," Smithfield stated.

Smithfield is a majority-owned subsidiary of WH Group Limited, a publicly traded company based on Hong Kong. "WH Group is not a Chinese state-owned enterprise and does not undertake any commercial activities on behalf of the Chinese government," Smithfield stated.

Smithfield's sale to WH Group was also approved by the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States (CFIUS) in 2013.

Responding to DTN, Syngenta noted the company employs more than 4,000 people in the U.S. and Puerto Rico and operates manufacturing, research and development, and distribution facilities in more than 20 states. The company continues to invest in the U.S. with more than \$315 million in capital investments in recent years. Syngenta also spends \$2 billion a year buying

U.S. goods and services.

Syngenta said the company's ownership of U.S. farmland is small.

"Syngenta is already in the process of selling its remaining farmland in the U.S. and currently owns less than 1,000 agricultural acres in the U.S., acreage that is the equivalent of roughly 3 Iowa farms," the company stated.

Syngenta's land holdings and business acquisitions also have been examined by CFIUS "through several administrations, including the previous Trump administration. Syngenta regularly discloses its real estate interests to CFIUS to maintain transparency and operates in accordance with all applicable laws and

regulations."

Syngenta added that additional constraints on the company's ability to operate in the U.S. would reduce farmer choice and likely increase input costs for farmers.

The action plan also will put greater emphasis on looking more closely at farmland sales to any foreign buyer.

Rollins also said she has now officially been added as a member of CFIUS, which is an interagency committee that oversees national security risks of foreign investments. Lawmakers have been trying to grant the agriculture secretary a permanent seat on that committee. — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

Slurry spill settlement negotiations in progress

RELIEF (from page 1)

between the parties on what damage has been done both environmentally and to the Rasmussens' cattle ... make it next to impossible to determine, at this stage, whether the Rasmussens have a likelihood of success on the merits of any of their claims," Nye wrote.

The court also denied the Rasmussens' request for a writ of mandate under the All Writs Act, finding they had not demonstrated a "clear and indisputable right" to the relief or that no other remedies existed.

Recognizing the financial hardship facing the Rasmussens, however, the court ordered Simplot to bear the cost of preserving the animals for the duration of the litigation. "The denial of the instant motion does not leave the Rasmussens without any relief," Nye noted, invoking a federal rule to shift the financial burden of discovery.

Simplot had previously indicated it was open to purchasing the cattle at fair market value. Although settlement negotiations are ongoing, the court emphasized that regardless of ownership, the animals must be maintained as evidence.

Simplot had argued that destroying the cattle would amount to spoliation of evidence, especially given conflicting test results over contamination. Nye agreed, warning that disposal before discovery would "prevent Sim-

plot from gathering data necessary to defend itself from accusations that the cattle are contaminated."

Finally, the court lifted the stay on pending motions, giving the Rasmussens 21 days from the June 30 order to respond to Simplot's partial motion to dismiss and motion to strike.

On May 28, Simplot filed a memorandum in support of its partial motion to dismiss several claims brought by the Rasmussens, arguing that much of the ranchers' lawsuit lacks legal merit or jurisdictional basis.

While the Rasmussens seek damages for loss of forage and water on their allotments and injunctive relief under CERCLA, Simplot argued those requests exceed what the law allows. "Natural resources damages and injunctive relief ... are not cognizable claims available under CERCLA for private parties like Plaintiffs," the company wrote, citing binding precedent that only government trustees may recover such damages.

Simplot also requested that the court dismiss claims for negligence per se, strict liability, trespass and Clean Water Act violations and strike all demands for punitive damages. Simplot asserted that the slurry is not classified as hazardous waste and that the cattle allotments where the spill occurred are federally owned, limiting the Rasmussens' ability to sue for trespass or natural resource harm. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

HOOVES & HORNS BY A.W. ERWIN



"Almost dun, Mom,.... BeefMaster719 says it takes 'bout 6 hours to make Whirlpool Dryer Beef Jerky."

CLM

Cattlemen's LIVESTOCK MARKET

- WEEKLY SALE EVERY WEDNESDAY -

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WEDNESDAY WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Butcher Cows.....	8:30am
Cow-Calf Pairs/Bred Cows.....	11:30am
Feeder Cattle.....	12pm

SPECIAL CATTLEMEN'S FEEDER SALES

- WEDNESDAYS -
AUGUST 13

JULY 23 - SPECIAL BRED COW OFFERING

25 - FALL CALVING COWS FROM THOMPSON LAND.
BRED TO JR, CROUTHAMEL AND HOLZPFEL ANGUS BULLS TO CALVE
IN AUGUST

275 - FALL CALVING COWS FROM ROUGH CREEK CATTLE CO.
AI-BRED TO V A R CORNERSTONE 1315 ON 12/14/24 TO START CALVING
AUG. 20. CLEANED UP WITH ANGUS BULLS FOR 60 DAYS.

UPCOMING WESTERN VIDEO MARKET SALES

CHECK OUT THESE CONSIGNMENTS BY CLM IN THE LARGEST SALE OF THE YEAR! JULY 14-16 - RENO, NV

LOT 7666: 71-HEAD OF BRED HEIFERS FROM JP2 CATTLE CO., GALT, CA
LOT 7664: 35-HEAD OF 3-YEAR OLD BRED COWS FROM HERB HOLZAPFEL, WILLOWS, CA
LOT 7668-7669: 150-HEAD OF BRED HEIFERS FROM MCDONALD LUCCHESI CATTLE, INVERNESS, CA
LOT 7671: 44-HEAD OF BRED HEIFERS FROM DOUG & LOREE JONES, PLYMOUTH, CA

- VIEW VIDEOS OF THESE LOTS ON CLM SOCIALS -

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: 7/10/2025	Week Ago	Year Ago
Choice Fed Steers	227.01 ▼	229.17	192.88
CME Feeder Index	316.76 ▲	314.10	261.53
Boxed Beef Average	384.66 ▼	389.75	321.65
Average Dressed Steers	368.00 ▼	369.29	312.90
Live Slaughter Weight*	1,412 ▼	1,415	1,387
Weekly Slaughter**	474,000 ▼	560,000	517,000
Weekly Beef Production***	409.2 ▼	483.6	436.4
Hide/Offal Value	11.68 ▲	11.62	11.77
Corn Price	4.14 ▼	4.35	4.03

*Average weight for previous week. **Total slaughter for previous week. ***Estimated year-to-date figure in million pounds for previous week.

BEEF REPORT: Weekly Composite Boxed Beef												
WEEK ENDING	COMPREHENSIVE Loads/Price		PRIME Loads/Price		BRANDED Loads/Price		CHOICE Loads/Price		SELECT Loads/Price		UNGRADED Loads/Price	
July 4	5,571	388.64	187	414.84	1,021	396.06	1,612	386.35	619	375.36	2,132	361.34
June 27	5,921	385.34	212	410.33	1,137	392.11	1,742	382.89	632	371.78	2,198	355.71
June 20	7,354	375.95	283	397.71	1,143	381.55	2,046	373.29	704	362.90	3,177	344.55
June 13	6,223	367.51	245	387.67	1,144	373.00	1,709	366.48	678	356.52	2,447	335.31

Cutouts						FED BOXED BEEF					
DATE	CHOICE	SELECT	COW BEEF CUTOUT		50% LEAN	90% LEAN					
July 10	384.66	370.86	323.55		268.14	417.19					
July 9	386.45	373.27	321.48		N/A	N/A					
July 8	393.04	378.46	321.12		260.98	N/A					
July 7	390.98	377.53	320.29		262.75	N/A					
July 4	389.75	378.44	320.00		N/A	414.10					

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Live Cattle							
	7/4	7/7	7/8	7/9	7/10	High*	Low*
Aug.	N/A	21590	22025	22080	22250	22913	16853
Oct.	N/A	21295	21700	21795	22063	22063	16668
Dec.	N/A	21343	21670	21793	22093	22093	17005
Feb.	N/A	21360	21625	21760	22060	22060	18068

CATTLE FUTURES: CME Feeder Cattle							
	7/4	7/7	7/8	7/9	7/10	High*	Low*
Aug.	N/A	31373	31858	32100	32688	32688	21920
Sep.	N/A	31353	31863	32068	32658	32658	22268
Oct.	N/A	31135	31658	31873	32433	32433	22460
Nov.	N/A	30843	31355	31588	32105	32105	24118

*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	164	1,421	227.01
Live FOB Heifer	1,005	1,316	225.00
Dressed Del Steer	40	889	368.00
Dressed Del Heifer	55	803	360.00

SAME PERIOD LAST WEEK			
Live FOB Steer	14,067	1,472	229.17
Live FOB Heifer	5,299	1,324	227.49
Dressed Del Steer	3,844	965	369.29
Dressed Del Heifer	345	852	368.00

SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR			
Live FOB Steer	20,386	1,434	192.88
Live FOB Heifer	9,583	1,311	193.16
Dressed Del Steer	3,189	927	312.90
Dressed Del Heifer	977	847	312.07

NATIONAL WEEKLY FED BEEF SLAUGHTER VOLUME: JULY 6, 2025		
	Domestic	Imported
Forward Contract	26,513	2,240
Formula	214,666	1,783
Negotiated Cash	55,318	114
Negotiated Grid	39,730	1,321
Packer Owned	8,005	N/A
Total	344,232	5,458

SLAUGHTER FORWARD CONTRACTS		FORWARD BEEF SALES	
Delivery Month		Neg. Sales 0-21 days	1,457
Jul. '25	125,096	Neg. Sales 21+ days	744
Aug. '25	145,279	Formula sales	3,226
Sep. '25	104,879	Forward contract sales	144
Oct. '25	165,480	Domestic sales	4,998
Nov. '25	151,249	NAFTA Exports	85

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		218.57	+0.04
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		216.61	-0.12
Ontario Auctions			
Slaughter Steers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1300-1500 lbs		227.51	N/A
Slaughter Heifers, mostly Choice & Select 1-3, 1200-1400 lbs		225.61	N/A
Slaughter Cows, Cutter and Utility 1-3, 1100-1400 lbs		145.49	-3.83

*Price comparison from one week ago.

Average feeder cattle prices (CND) for week ending Tuesday, July 8, 2025			
Steers:	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Ontario
501-600 lbs	406.15	N/A	392.12
601-700 lbs	374.79	N/A	361.99
701-800 lbs	343.62	N/A	345.26
801-900 lbs	307.79	N/A	317.38
Heifers:			
401-500 lbs	403.37	N/A	374.40
501-600 lbs	374.30	N/A	364.85
601-700 lbs	336.17	N/A	336.81
701-800 lbs	313.80	N/A	303.01

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
Feeder Cattle	6/30/2025	6/23/2025		
	0	0	225,952	748,089

USDA WEEKLY IMPORTED FEEDER CATTLE			
July 10, 2025			
Mexico to United States Feeder Cattle Import Summary			
Receipts EST:	3,500	Week Ago EST:	N/A
		Year Ago Act:	8,900

THIS REPORT WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED AFTER MAY 12TH. THE BORDER WILL BE CLOSED FOR LIVESTOCK IMPORTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder heifers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	N/A
600-700 lbs	N/A	600-700 lbs	N/A
700-800 lbs	N/A	700-800 lbs	N/A
Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2		Feeder steers: Medium and large 1&2	
500-600 lbs	N/A	500-600 lbs	N/A
600-700 lbs	N/A	600-700 lbs	N/A
700-800 lbs	N/A	700-800 lbs	N/A

(slide 10 cents on steers and heifers basis 300 lbs. All sales fob port of entry.)

Selected Auctions Week Ending July 10, 2025

DATE MARKET	200-300 lb.	300-400 lb.	400-500 lb.	500-600 lb.	600-700 lb.	700-800 lb.	800 lb. -up	SLAUGHTER COWS	PAIRS
No report available Blackfoot, ID									
No report available Burley, ID									
No report available Emmett, ID									
No report available Eugene, OR									
No report available Madras, OR									
July 2 Vale, OR	200				290-307	283-308		157-175	178-200
No report available Davenport, WA									
July 3 Toppenish, WA	595		345*				250	169.50-172.50	185-194.50
No report available									
No report available									
July 2 Escalon, CA	N/A							100-137	90-177
No report available Famoso, CA									
No report available Galt, CA									
July 8 Turlock, CA	1,068	350-405	315-392.50	325-355	310-333	290-304	250-283.50	130-171	155-205.50
No report available Salina, UT									
July 7 Iowa	1,733	446-470	426-447.50	385-443	362.50-392.75	295-350	272-297		
July 8 Miles City, MT	604	417.50-445	397-420	415	344-391.50	303-328.50	246-257.50	130-168	3,950
July 9 Bassett, NE	9,630	500-505	491-515	410-466	365-434	350-389	285.50-339.25	149-221	
No report available Ericson, NE		430	440-451	381-428	329-386	305-343.75	292-325.50		
No report available Imperial, NE									
No report available Kearney, NE									
No report available Lexington, NE									
No report available Ogallala, NE									
July 10 Valentine, NE	2,000	486.50	462-487.50	372-456	355.50-391.50	285-348.75	288		
No report available Herreid, SD		450-461	398-429	330-355	312-218				
No report available Torrington, WY									
No report available Willcox, AZ									
July 7 Colorado	1,404								
No report available La Junta, CO									
No report available Loma, CO									
July 9 Dodge City, KS	804			335-351	314-319	324	304.85-318.50	137.50-179	2,975-4,325
July 10 Pratt, KS	1,459	395-430	382.50	369-387.50	335-357	316-327	181-206	181-206	1,900-3,075
July 10 Salina, KS	2,094	377.50-397.50	356	329-355	309-356	306.50-321	276-300	150-173	2,850
July 9 Clovis, NM	1,897	422	389-418	338-397	305-370	290-327.50	276-300	171-214	2,350-2,800
July 9 El Reno, OK	4,514	545-595	465-555	410-494	362-410	330-376	270-332	219-311	140-195
July 9 McAlester, OK	780	450-505	435-475	380-440	285-370	268-364	270-335	232-260	153.50-190.50
No report available Oklahoma City, OK		600-650	430-550	400-490	387.50-420	340-377.50	325-340	263.50-324	1,950-4,025
No report available Cuero, TX		420-470	380-480	340-380	305-335	295-308	260-299	1,335-2,800	
No report available Dalhart, TX		455-495	389-458	365-411	293-391	295-355	253	149-170	1,500-3,400
July 10 San Angelo, TX	448	403-433	368-423	315-409	275-339	288-303	233-253	173-202	1,500-2,575
No report available Tulia, TX									
No report available Alabama									
July 7 Lexington, KY	960	422.50-425*	380-427.50*	344-387*	320-387*	281-340*	219-300*	150-189	2,350-3,800
July 7 Joplin, MO	5,864	347.50-362.50*	330-390*	320-379*	315-366*	281-351*	220-245*	161-232	2,575
No report available Tennessee		480-500	390-475	360-415	332-390	314.50-345	281.50-321.50		
July 7 Virginia	479	425-439	350-395	332-371	310-342	298-324	290-307		
No report available									
July 7 Virginia	479	372.50	380	360	320-328.25	316			
		352.50	340-348	313	298-298.50	293			

CANADA									
July 9 Lethbridge, Alberta	246							210-227	240-310

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Summer brings increased risk of toxic cyanobacteria

Cyanobacteria, also known as blue-green algae, can produce toxins that are harmful to livestock, wildlife and people. North Dakota State University (NDSU) Extension specialists have received reports of cyanobacteria blooms in livestock water sources.

Miranda Meehan, NDSU Extension livestock environmental stewardship specialist, said the growth of this bacteria is facilitated by high temperatures.

"The hot, dry conditions projected for July are perfect for the production of cyanobacteria," said Meehan.

Additionally, the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality recently reported a cyanobacteria bloom on McDowell Dam.

Cyanobacteria is caused by an excess of nutrients, particularly nitrogen and phosphorus. Manure and commercial fertilizers are spread to enhance forage and crop production. When these products are misused, either by inappropriate rate or timing of

application, the potential for nutrient leaching to surface water is increased. When these nutrients enter surface water, they stimulate growth of cyanobacteria and other microorganisms.

Blue-green algae often occurs in stagnant ponds or dugouts with elevated nutrient levels, forming large colonies that appear as scum on or just below the water surface. Live cyanobacterial blooms can be green, but also red or yellow, and often turn blue after the bloom dies and dries on the surface or shoreline, according to Meehan.

Some species of cyanobacteria can be toxic when livestock and wildlife ingest them. Toxicity is dependent on the species consuming the water, the concentration of the toxin or toxins and the amount of water ingested.

Cyanobacteria can produce neurotoxins and liver toxins. Signs of neurotoxin poisoning can appear within five minutes to up to several hours after ingestion.

In animals, symptoms include weakness, staggering, muscle tremors, difficulty in breathing, convulsions and, ultimately, death.

Animals affected by liver toxins may exhibit weakness, pale-colored mucous membranes, mental derangement, bloody diarrhea and may ultimately die. Typically, livestock are found dead before producers observe symptoms. If cyanobacterial poisoning is suspected as the cause of death, producers should check the edges of ponds for dead wildlife.

Jake Galbreath, NDSU Extension veterinarian and livestock stewardship specialist, advises any farmer or rancher who suspects cyanobacteria poisoning as the cause of a livestock death to contact a veterinarian to conduct a necropsy.

"A veterinarian can determine which samples would be appropriate for each situation," said Galbreath.

When collecting a water sample, follow NDSU

Extension's livestock water testing guidelines at nds.uag/watertesting.

Be sure to wear gloves, as cyanobacteria can be toxic to humans. Collect a sample of the suspected cyanobacterial bloom from the surface of the water and deeper in the water. The sample should be kept cool, but not frozen, and submitted to the NDSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory or a commercial laboratory.

The sample can be evaluated microscopically for algae, or the water can be analyzed for several of the toxins at commercial labs at a higher cost.

For more information on sample collection and submission, contact your NDSU Extension agent.

Galbreath provides some ways farmers and ranchers can prevent cyanobacterial poisoning of livestock:

- Reduce nutrient levels entering the water source by implementing a nutrient management plan or establishing buffer strips with perennial plant species.

- Create a designated drinking area where the risk of cyanobacteria is minimal.

- Fence off the pond and pump water from the pond to the water tank.

- Use water from other sources following periods of hot, dry weather.

- Pump water from the center of the water body well below the surface, where the bacteria are unlikely to concentrate, to a water tank.

Unfortunately, unless steps are taken to reduce the nutrient load and minimize the potential for nutrients to enter the water body, there will continue to be a risk for cyanobacterial blooms.

Meehan provides management practices to consider to reduce nutrient loads:

- Properly apply nitrogen and phosphorus to fields.

- Rate, time and amount and type of nutrients applied need to be considered.

- Adapt soil conservation practices that reduce erosion.

- Install hay or graze buffer strips to reduce the release of phosphorus as plants decompose. — **NDSU Extension**

USDA ends programs, policies for 'socially disadvantaged' farmers

The USDA will no longer recognize race- or gender-based criteria when it comes to farm programs—dropping the "socially disadvantaged" designation despite the provision still being in federal law.

USDA published a final rule in the Federal Register announcing the "Removal of Unconstitutional Preferences Based on Race and Sex in Response to Court Ruling." The rule is effective immediately.

The rule will affect about 20% of USDA's total farm-loan volume and affect loans and programs for roughly 4.5% of ethnic producers and more than 1.2 million women farmers. The rule also will remove any special incentives for loans and conservation programs.

"Moving forward, USDA will no longer apply race- or sex-based criteria in its decision-making processes, ensuring that its programs are administered in a manner that upholds the principles of meritocracy, fairness, and equal opportunity for all participants," the Federal Register rule states.

The rule follows two presidential executive orders issued by President Donald Trump, including Executive Order 14173, "Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity." The order calls on agencies to "eliminate all discriminatory and illegal preferences, mandates, policies, programs and activities." Since then, the Trump administration has been focused on removing any funding tied to "diversity, equity or in-

clusion," or DEI initiatives.

The term "socially disadvantaged" was defined in the 1990 Farm Bill, which identified farmers and ranchers as members of a group who had been subjected to racial or ethnic discrimination. USDA's 1990 definition for socially disadvantaged farmers lists farmers who are Black, or African American, American Indians or Native Alaskans, Hispanics, Asians and Native Hawaiians or Pacific Islanders. Women were added to the definition in 1992 for loan programs.

USDA cited the department has faced a long history of litigation stemming from allegations of discrimination on farm loans and other programs. "However, over the past several decades, USDA has undertaken substantial efforts to redress past injustices, culminating in comprehensive settlements."

While citing multiple cases of discrimination against USDA such as *Pigford v. Glickman* and *Keepseagle v. Vilsack*, USDA also cites *Strickland v. USDA*, in which white farmers challenged USDA's pandemic relief programs that supported socially disadvantaged farmers.

Just last month, a white dairy farmer in Wisconsin sued the Trump administration claiming he was being denied assistance that was granted to socially disadvantaged farmers.

USDA has removed all of the Farm Service Agency loan data for socially disadvantaged farmers. The department had listed annual reports showing that data

by state.

Based on data DTN pulled back in January, USDA issued \$1 billion in loans to farmers who meet the definition of "socially disadvantaged" farmers in 2023, or just over 21% of all USDA loan volume. Oklahoma, with a large population of Native American farmers, accounted for \$222 million in socially disadvantaged loans, followed by Arkansas which had \$112 million. Texas, Louisiana and Missouri are typically the three next-highest states for farmers who qualified for socially disadvantaged farmer loans.

Rep. Shontel Brown (D-OH-11), the vice-ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee, quickly criticized USDA for ending programs supporting socially disadvantaged farmers.

"Trump's resegregation agenda has arrived at USDA," Brown stated in a news release. "It's no secret that the department has a long history of locking out and leaving behind Black, Brown, and Indigenous farmers. Now, this administration is taking a deliberate and disgraceful step backward on the path to attempt to right the historic wrongs. The 'socially disadvantaged' designation was a long overdue recognition of the barriers to land, credit, and opportunity that farmers of color have faced for generations. This move isn't about fairness or efficiency. It's about erasing the history and stripping the tools that help level the playing field." — **Chris Clayton, DTN ag policy editor**

Feeders soar higher on Mexico news

MARKETS (from page 1)

than domestic 90s.

"It's very possible that the market resolves at least part of this with imported prices narrowing the gap on the domestic prices or even going premium," Fish said. "It's happened before. Or perhaps the entire complex keeps driving higher."

Feeder cattle

The feeder cattle complex moved higher following the news that USDA was again closing the southern border to feeder cattle imports.

Feeder cattle futures soared higher, up more than \$10 apiece on the August and September contracts to \$321.27 and \$321.22, respectively.

The CME Feeder Cattle Index gained about \$2 to close at \$316.76.

"We know that domes-

tic supplies are tight, and buyer demand remains red hot, which is why traders remain confident in continuing to push the contracts higher," Stewart said.

Corn futures traded lower, down about 24 cents on the July contract to \$4.07 and down 21 cents on the September contract to \$3.99.

Several sale barns were closed for the Fourth of July holiday.

Missouri: Joplin Regional Stockyards in Carthage sold 5,864 head on Monday. Compared to a week earlier, feeder steers under 600 lbs. sold steady to \$8 lower. Heavier weights sold mostly steady to \$6 higher, with heavy eight-weights selling up to \$15 higher. Feeder heifers sold steady to \$5 higher, with seven- and eight-weights selling \$15 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 778 lbs. sold

from \$314.50-342.50, averaging \$320.47.

Oklahoma: Tulsa Livestock in Tulsa sold 1,259 head on Monday. Compared to the last auction, steer calves sold \$10-15 higher, with instances of up to \$20 higher. Heifer calves sold \$5-10 higher, with instances of up to \$15 higher. Benchmark steers averaging 702 lbs. sold for \$335-348.50, averaging \$345.60.

Texas: Lonestar Stockyards in Wildorado sold 1,082 head on Tuesday. Compared to the last auction two weeks earlier, steer calves traded mostly \$5 higher. Heifer calves traded mostly \$5 lower. There were not enough comparable sales on yearlings, but a lower undertone was noted. Benchmark steers averaging 703 lbs. sold for \$324-332, averaging \$326.16. — **Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor**

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Wolves cost ranchers \$128M annually

WOLF STUDY (from page 1)

with heavier wolf activity, where weight loss can reach 10%, losses climb past \$10,600 annually.

Ranchers also report spending an average of \$79 per cow—or about \$55 per calf—on conflict avoidance, including added labor and protective measures. Even without a single confirmed loss, those efforts alone reduce net returns by nearly 20%. When combined with modest depredation and weight loss, annual revenue for the average ranch can drop by 28%.

Nationally, these impacts add up. Using USDA data and wolf presence by county, AFBF estimates over \$128 million in annual costs to ranchers—\$60 million in management expenses, \$18 million in calf losses and \$50 million from reduced weights.

Despite the availability of state and federal compensation programs for livestock losses caused by wolves, ranchers often face significant barriers to accessing them. According to the University of Arizona study, 55% of surveyed ranchers reported at least one wolf depredation that went uncompensated. In many cases, the time required—six to 10 hours per incident for locating, reporting and documenting the loss—is uncompensated and adds to the burden.

Even when compensation is approved, it rarely covers the full economic impact. Munch noted the USDA's Livestock Indemnity Program typically reimburses only 75% of the animal's market value and doesn't account for future lost production, stress-induced weight loss, veterinary care or thousands of dollars in annual prevention efforts.

"For many ranching families, the return of wolves is not just a wildlife management question, it's a daily reality shaped by decisions made in distant urban centers, often by voters and officials who will never have to look into the eyes of a mother cow searching for her calf," Munch said. "Ranchers are the ones bearing the real-world costs of policies shaped far from the range. And they're doing so while continuing to care for livestock, steward the land and feed a growing world."

CDFW 10-year study

A decade after wolves began returning to California, the state's gray wolf population has grown to at least 50 individuals across seven packs, according to a new

10-year report from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Since 2011, 132 wolves have been detected, with most activity concentrated in the northeast region of the state. In 2023, the Yowlumni Pack in Tulare County became the first pack established outside that region. From 2015 to 2024, the state documented 21 litters and at least 115 pups.

The report also underscores the role of GPS collaring in tracking wolf behavior and mitigating conflicts. From 2017 to 2024, biologists deployed 12 collars across five packs to help monitor survival, dispersal and locate den sites.

Despite management efforts, wolf-livestock conflict remains a concern. Since

2015, 128 confirmed depredation events have resulted in 152 livestock deaths or injuries, most involving cattle, but include sheep and a llama. The Whaleback Pack alone was responsible for 70 incidents. In response, the state legislature allocated \$600,000 in 2024 to fund the Wolf-Livestock Compensation Program. As of year's end, CDFW received applications for 15 confirmed or probable losses totaling nearly \$55,000.

CO cattlemen request permit

On July 5, in a letter to Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), the Holy Cross Cattlemen's Association urged the issuance of a chronic depredation permit, stating that producers had met the re-

quirements by documenting recent wolf attacks, removing known attractants and using non-lethal deterrents.

"The pack's failure to change its behavior should not be surprising," the letter read, arguing that CPW must either relocate the Copper Creek Pack or give ranchers the authority to protect their livestock under the commission's framework.

CPW commissioners decided not to authorize the killing or relocation of the Copper Creek Pack, despite ongoing reports of livestock depredation in Pitkin County. The decision, made during a July 7 special meeting, followed expert testimony but resulted in no specific directive to the agency. — **Charles Wallace, WLJ contributing editor**

Alfalfa weevil found feeding on regrowth

Since the first cutting of alfalfa was completed in much of the state, Nebraska producers may be tempted to believe their troubles with alfalfa weevil are over.

Unfortunately, this may not be the case. Alfalfa weevil feeding on regrowth has been reported in some fields, so scouting is highly recommended, particularly if you notice that regrowth doesn't begin within four to five days after cutting.

Alfalfa plants usually suffer the most injury and economic damage before the first cutting, however, feeding on regrowth can have impacts as well. While larvae cause the most damage, adults can also cause damage by feeding along leaf margins and leaving irregular notches. Adult beetles are roughly 5 millimeters (mm) in length with a blunt snout and a brown body covered in golden hairs. Larvae are 1.5 mm to 8.5 mm long with a black head, wrinkled green body and white stripe along the back and will curl into a C-shape when dis-

turbed.

Scouting for alfalfa weevil is simple and can help mitigate economic losses. Randomly select five sites across the field and collect 10 stems at each site, cutting the stems at ground level. Beat the stems into a deep-sided white bucket and count the number of larvae to determine the average number per stem. Economic thresholds for alfalfa weevil can vary greatly from an average of one to seven larvae per stem, depending on a variety of factors.

While there are several insecticides labeled for alfalfa weevil management, in Nebraska, there have been reports of some products not performing as well as expected and resistant alfalfa weevil populations have recently been reported in several western states. Therefore, if you believe you have an infestation above the threshold, contact your county Extension office for further guidance. — **Samantha Daniel, Nebraska Extension**



SALE CALENDAR

Sale Calendar is a service to our advertisers. There is a minimum advertising requirement to be eligible to be listed in the Sale Calendar. Contact your fieldman for more information or to have your date added to the Sale Calendar. We will only run auction sale dates or private treaty start dates.

ALL BREEDS

Aug. 2 – Turlock Livestock, Female Sale, Turlock, CA

Aug. 9 – Cattlemen's Livestock Market, Female Sale, Galt, CA

Aug. 23 – Mobile Cattle Marketing, Bred Cow & Pair Sale, Petaluma, CA

Sep. 14 – Visalia Livestock Market, Bull Sale, Visalia, CA

Oct. 5 – Cal Poly Bull Test Sale, San Luis Obispo, CA

Oct. 18 – FAMOSA All Breeds, Bull Sale, McFarland, CA

ANGUS

Jul. 24 – Stellpflug

Cattle Company, Female Sale, Guernsey, WY

Sep. 4 – Vintage Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, La Grange, CA

Sep. 5 – Byrd Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Los Molinos, CA

Sep. 6 – Rhoades Angus, Bull & Ranch Horse Sale, Cambria, CA

Sep. 6 – Parnell's Dunipace Angus w/ Bar KJ Angus, Bull Sale, Farmington, CA

Sep. 7 – Heritage Bull Sale, Wilton, CA

Sep. 9 – O'Neal Ranch, Bull Sale, Madera, CA

Sep. 10 – Teixeira Cattle, Bull Sale, Pismo Beach, CA

Sep. 11 – Donati Ranch Bull Sale, Oroville, CA

Sep. 12 – Tehama Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Gerber, CA

Sep. 13 – Arellano Bravo Angus, Bull Sale, Galt, CA

Sep. 16 – Thomas Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Galt, CA

Sep. 17 – Bullseye Breeders, Bull Sale, Modesto, CA

Sep. 18 – Rancho Casino

& Dal Porto Livestock, Bull Sale, Denair, CA

Sep. 19 – Dixie Valley Angus w/ O'Connell Ranch, Bull Sale, Galt, CA

Sep. 20 – Ward Angus Ranch, Bull Sale, Gardnerville, NV

Sep. 25 – Beef Solutions, Bull Sale, Lone, CA

Sep. 28 – Traynham-Cox LLC, Production Sale, Fort Klamath, OR

Oct. 3 – Elwood Ranch, Bull Sale, Red Bluff, CA

Oct. 4 – Colyer Hereford & Angus, Female Sale, Bruneau, ID

Oct. 11 – Vintage Angus Ranch, Female Sale, Modesto, CA

Oct. 12 – Arellano Bravo Angus, Female Sale, Walnut Grove, CA

Oct. 14 – 9 Peaks Ranch, Bull Sale, Fort Rock, OR

Oct. 16 – Thomas Angus Ranch, Production Sale, Baker City, OR

Oct. 24 – Birch Creek Angus, Bull Sale, Ruby Valley, NV

HEREFORD

Jul. 24 – Stellpflug Cattle Company, Female

Sale, Guernsey, WY

Sep. 8 – Genoa Livestock, Bull Sale, Minden, NV

Oct. 4 – Colyer Hereford & Angus, Female Sale, Bruneau, ID

Oct. 18 – Lambert Ranch, Bull Sale, Oroville, CA

RED ANGUS

Sep. 21 – Stegall Cattle Co., Bull & Female Sale, Colusa, CA

Sep. 27 – McPhee Red Angus, Production Sale, Lodi, CA

SIMANGUS

Sep. 24 – Eagle Pass Ranch, Bull Sale, Dos Palos, CA

Sep. 28 – Traynham-Cox LLC, Production Sale, Fort Klamath, OR

HORSE

Sep. 6 – Rhoades Angus, Bull & Ranch Horse Sale, Cambria, CA

Sep. 13 – Reno Snaffle Bit Futurity, Horse Sale, Reno, NV

Oct. 12 – Will Gill & Sons, Horse Sale, Madera, CA



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.)

July 25 – The 2025 NILE Internship Program has three internship opportunities

available: competitive events with a livestock emphasis, competitive events with an equine emphasis and media relations. Details: thenile.org/events/youth/internships.

Sept. 15 – The Montana Stockgrowers Association is encouraging students to apply for its 2025 Annual Convention and Trade Show internship program. The internship will take place Dec. 8-13 in Billings, MT. Details: www.mtbeef.org.



COMING EVENTS

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

July 15-16 – Join the Family Farm Alliance and Idaho Water Users Association in Lewiston, ID, to examine the issues and challenges of managing the Columbia and lower Snake rivers for multiple uses.

Details: familyfarmalliance.org/watertour2025.

Sept. 16-18 – The Public Lands Council 57th Annual Meeting will be held in Flagstaff, AZ, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Flagstaff. Details: publiclandscouncil.org.

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July 23 | Lunch at Noon, Program at 1 p.m., Social at 4 p.m.

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Ian Wheal - CEO and Founder of Breedr, "Supply Chain Management for the Future"
Kelly Smith - RAAA Director of Commercial Marketing - "Sustainable Beef and the Opportunities at Hand" also -The new Angus Access- "What it really means!"
Doug Shepard - From a feeder's perspective

Please RSVP by July 16 to mtraasecretary@gmail.com



Cattle groups applaud decision to close the border

BORDER (from page 1)

released to mate with wild females, resulting in unfertilized eggs and a reduction in the fly population. The department also plans to build a domestic sterile fly production facility.

USDA said it will continue to have personnel conduct site visits in Mexico to ensure the government has adequate protocols and surveillance in place to combat the pest.

Industry reactions

Industry groups applauded Rollins' decision to close the border.

"American cattle producers and R-CALF USA have been sounding the alarm about what we viewed as a premature reopening, and it's clear the secretary has heard the voice of independent producers," said Ranchers-Cattlemen Action Legal Fund (R-CALF), USA CEO Bill Bullard.

The statement comes following a letter from R-CALF and 19 affiliate groups urging USDA to halt livestock imports until Mexico fully eradicates the pest.

"There is no justifiable reason to knowingly relax current protective measures that will result in increasing the risk of NWS introduction into the United States," the groups wrote in the July 3 letter to Rollins.

The National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) urged USDA to expedite the development of a sterile fly production facility. "Unfortunately, screwworm continues to move north through Mexico and it's clear that the United States needs a sterile fly facility of our own here at home," said NCBA CEO Colin Woodall.

Planned reopening

On June 30, USDA announced that cattle, bison and equine imports would resume as the agency reopened ports on the southern border. The earliest planned reopening was scheduled for July 7 in Douglas, AZ.

"We have made good progress with our counterparts in Mexico to increase vital pest surveillance efforts and have boosted sterile fly dispersal efforts," Rollins said at the time.

The Douglas port was selected as first to reopen because the USDA said it has the lowest risk based on the geography of bordering Mexican state Sonora, and that there is a long history of USDA and Sonoran officials collaborating on animal health issues.

Following the Douglas port reopening, the remaining ports were to reopen on the following schedule:

- Columbus, NM: July 14.
- Santa Teresa, NM: July 21.

- Del Rio, TX: Aug. 18.
- Laredo, TX: Sept. 15.

Cattle trade over the border

In 2023, which was the most recent complete year of border trade with Mexico, the Santa Teresa port was the largest port for cattle imports, accounting for about 43% of total Mexican cattle imports, according to Derrell S. Peel, Oklahoma State Uni-

versity Extension livestock marketing specialist. The New Mexico ports represented 53.4% of total Mexican cattle imports in 2023.

The Douglas, AZ, port was the second largest port, accounting for about 15% of total annual feeder cattle imports. In total, Arizona ports accounted for 27.5% of total imports of Mexican cattle in 2023.

Texas ports accounted for just under 20% of Mexican

cattle imports in 2023.

The list of ports scheduled to reopen before the border was closed again accounted for about 71% of total imports in 2023. From early February to mid-May, a total of 224,834 Mexican cattle crossed the border, according to Peel.

"Given the remaining weeks of the year and the likelihood that ports will not jump to historic capacity immediately, total possible im-

ports for the year are likely to be significantly reduced for the year," Peel said.

Cattle imports from Mexico have totaled well over 1 million head annually for the past 40 years. Peel predicted total cattle imports will be in the range of 400,000-700,000 head for 2025—although that number was calculated using estimates from the planned port reopenings. — Anna Miller Fortozo, WLJ managing editor

Impasse with China weighs on exports

Exports of U.S. pork and beef trended lower in May, due primarily to steep declines in shipments to China, according to data released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF). May exports of U.S. lamb cuts increased year-over-year, driven mainly by growing demand in Mexico.

In April and the first half of May, China's total tariff rate on U.S. pork peaked at 172%, while the rate for U.S. beef was 147%. Even following a May 14 joint announcement temporarily easing tariffs for 90 days, China's rates still stand at 57% for U.S. pork and 32% for U.S. beef. In addition, most U.S. beef production is ineligible due to China's failure—since February—to renew expiring beef plant and cold storage facility registra-

tions.

"The situation with China obviously had a severe impact on May exports, underscoring the importance of diversification and further development of alternative markets," said USMEF President and CEO Dan Halstrom. "The need for progress in the U.S.-China trade negotiations is extremely urgent because tariffs could soar again on Aug. 12. This deadline is already impacting exporters' decisions about whether to continue producing for the Chinese market. On the bright side, amid all this uncertainty, demand for U.S. red meat remains robust in many key regions."

Beef exports totaled 97,266 metric tons (mt) in May, down 12% and the lowest in nearly five years. Export val-

ue was \$798.7 million, down 11.5% and the lowest in 18 months. But exports to leading market South Korea were outstanding, posting the largest monthly volume in more than two years and the highest value in nearly three years. May beef exports also trended higher year-over-year to Central and South America, the Dominican Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Africa.

May beef exports to China plunged to just under 1,400 mt, down 91% from a year ago. Export value fell 90% to less than \$15 million.

January to May beef exports were down 5% from last year's pace at 508,293 mt, while value declined 3% to \$4.15 billion.

May exports of U.S. lamb muscle cuts reached a 2025

high of 363 mt, essentially doubling (up 99%) from a year ago, while value increased 71% to \$1.8 million. The increase was driven mainly by growth in Mexico, where exports were the largest since 2019 at nearly 200 mt. May shipments also rebounded to Canada.

January to May lamb exports were 44% above last year at 1,367 mt, while value climbed 25% to \$7.4 million. Exports to Mexico surged more than 80% in both volume (673 mt) and value (\$2.34 million), driven by growing demand for alternative cuts such as shoulder and breast meat. Exports to the Caribbean, which remains the leading value destination for U.S. lamb, also increased year-over-year. — USMEF

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